

**READING CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, March 11, 2025
City Hall Council Chambers**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY MAYOR PENNEY AT 6:30 P.M.

PLEDGE TO ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: George, Crank, Gary, Matz & Penney are present. Also present, Kimberly Blythe, City Manager/Clerk/Treasurer and Sgt. Cooley

Guests: Simon Clabaugh, Chris Clabaugh, Melani Matthews, Dave Cleveland, and Steve Nemeth

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

-Matz moved, Crank seconded to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion Carried (5-0)

CONSENT AGENDA

-Matz moved, Crank seconded to approve the Consent Agenda, which includes the minutes from the Regular Meeting of February 11, 2025, as well as the Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements for January 2025, payment of operating bills for February 2025 in the amount of 51,565.98, as well as receive, and file the TIFA/PC Packet for February 24, 2025.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Yeas- George, Crank, Gary, Matz and Penney

Absent-None, Nays- None. Motion Carried (5-0)

Communications with the Council

N/A

First Call to Public:

No Comments

OLD BUSINESS/ONGOING BUSINESS

MELS (Michigan/East/Lynn/Strong) Project Updates -Press Release was sent out on February 28, 2025, that announced the Project Area, start date of March 31, 2025, as well as shared the project funding and scope that includes a total project cost of \$4,765,700 that is made possible through multiple funding sources, including, **\$950,000** in capital improvement bonds, **\$1,611,000** in USDA revenue bonds, **\$250,000** grant from the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), **\$1,750,000** grant from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) and **\$257,200** match from the City. The project includes comprehensive renovations across multiple streets: **Michigan & Strong Streets:** Full reconstruction, including new watermain, hydrants, valves, water service lines (from main to eighteen inches inside residences), new curb and gutter, sidewalks, storm sewer upgrades, and a complete street base and asphalt replacement. **East Street:** Installation of a new watermain, hydrants, valves, water services (from main to eighteen inches inside residences), new sidewalks, edge drains, and a milling and repaving of the street. **Lynn Street:** Replacement of water service lines (from main to eighteen inches inside residences), new sidewalks, edge drains, and a milling and repaving of the street.

These water service line replacements are being conducted in accordance with the **Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes & Energy (EGLE)** under its updated **Lead and Copper Rules**.

NEW BUSINESS

VYBE-Conditional Authorization MRTMA Retailer

-Crank moved, Matz seconded to approve the Conditional Authorization for VYBE to operate as a Marihuana Retailer at 126 S. Main Street, and that part of the conditional authorization is that closing on the property needs to be done in 45 days.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Yeas- George, Crank, Gary, Matz and Penney

Absent-None, Nays- None. Motion Carried (5-0)

Native Leaf -Class C Grow License and Processor License Renewal

-Matz moved, Gary seconded to approve the renewal of the Adult Use Class C Grow License and the Adult Use Processor License for Native Leaf LLC for the period of March 20, 2025 – March 20, 2026.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Yeas- George, Crank, Gary, Matz and Penney

Absent-None, Nays- None. Motion Carried (5-0)

Domestic Harmony Contract 2025

-Matz moved, George seconded to approve the contract with Domestic Harmony for 2025 in the amount of \$2000.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Yeas- George, Crank, Gary, Matz, and Penney

Absent-None, Nays- None. Motion Carried (5-0)

Letter of Resignation – Fire Board

-Matz moved, Crank seconded to accept, with regrets, the resignation of Charles George from the Reading Fire Board, effective immediately. Motion Carried (5-0)

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 8, 2025, at 6:30 pm

Letter of Support-DMCI Broadband, LLC- Bead Program

-George moved, Matz seconded to approve the letter of support for DMCI Broadband LLC's Michigan BEAD broadband deployment project. Motion Carried (5-0)

The deployment of high-speed broadband internet will bring numerous benefits to our community, including **Enhanced Educational Opportunities**: Students of all ages will have access to online resources and tools that are essential for modern education. **Economic Growth**: Reliable internet access is crucial for local businesses to thrive. It allows them to reach new markets, improve operational efficiencies, and compete more effectively in a digital economy. **Improved Healthcare Services**: Telemedicine and online health resources can significantly enhance healthcare delivery in our community. Residents will be able to consult with healthcare providers remotely, access medical information, and manage their health more effectively. **Social Connectivity**: Broadband internet will help bridge the digital divide, ensuring that all members of our community, including seniors and low-

income families, can stay connected with friends and family, access essential services, and participate fully in society.

SLC Meter Quote- Software-Billing Integration -Phase #1

-Gary moved, Matz seconded to approve the proposal from SLC Meter for purchasing Badger Meter Cellular AMI Metering System in the amount of \$46,848.70 for Phase #1 of the meter reading system upgrades. ROLL CALL VOTE: Yeas- George, Crank, Gary, Matz, and Penney
Absent-None, Nays- None. Motion Carried (5-0)

Phase 1 of the meter reading system upgrades will include the purchase and integration of new software with the City's current billing system, staff training, and the acquisition of one hundred meters with cellular endpoints. Purchasing and installing the meters in phases will allow for a smoother transition to the new software system. Additionally, properties involved in the MELS project may have their meters installed simultaneously with service line replacements, reducing the need for separate appointments with residents in the project area.

SECOND CALL TO PUBLIC

It was mentioned that there are requirements for a disposal plan, per discussion regarding Native Leaf's renewal.

- Crank moved, Matz seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion Carried (5-0)
Meeting adjourned at 7:17 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kimberly Blythe, City Manager/Clerk/Treasurer