

**CITY OF READING, OHIO
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION
SEPTEMBER 6, 2022 – 7:30 PM**

For the full detail of this evening's Council Meeting, please visit <http://www.icrctv.com/communities>, click on "Reading," and then click "Reading City Council 09-06-2022."

CALL TO ORDER

President Mr. Daum called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Mr. Daum led those in attendance in a prayer and then the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Council Members Present: Mr. Powell, Mr. Bronner, Mr. Bishop, Mr. Boehner, Mrs. Kroeger & Mrs. Eadicicco.
Motion to excuse Mr. Bishop made by Mr. Powell, seconded by Boehner. Motion carried by voice vote.

OTHER CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Mayor Bo Bemmes, Law Director Dave Stevenson, Treasurer Brenda Owens & Clerk of Council Carla Kacher

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion to approve August 16 (Legislative) Council Minutes made by Mr. Boehner, seconded by Mr. Bronner. Motion carried by a voice vote.

AUDIENCE ASKING PARTICIPATION: None

COMMUNICATIONS: None

GUEST SPEAKERS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

GUEST ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIAL REPORTS:

MAYOR: Robert "Bo" Bemmes:

- PLEASE REMEMBER TO DIAL 911 FOR ANY POLICE, FIRE, or EMS EMERGENCY
- Our Parks and Recreation Director and I met with our only full-time parks employee to go over the many improvements/additions that our parks need. One of our major challenges with improvements to our parks is manpower. With only one full-time employee and few part-timers it is a challenge to keep up with daily necessities especially during our busy summer months. Factor in the pressing needs of our Police, Fire EMS and Public Works Departments funding for our parks can become a challenge
- I attended the Recreation committee meeting on 9/8 where we had meaningful conversations about needs for our parks including the need for an additional full time parks employee
- Please shop in Reading and support our outstanding local businesses as they support our City our Schools and our Organizations
- We remain very busy as a City with multiple events coming up and here at City Hall with multiple issues. Within the last several weeks I and my Administrative team have met with reps from Rumpke to address recycling issues, State Senator Bill Blessing to get updates on State issues that affect us, School leaders to address traffic and safety issues, Reading Youth Football and Cheerleading, Reading Youth Soccer, Reading High Schools Athletic Director and Coaches, contractors and utilities to go over upcoming projects and other issues as well. I and my Administrative team also made sure Council and our residents had the opportunity to get updates and see future plans on South Reading Road improvements, Port Authority updates on the former Dow/Rohm and Haas property including the \$5.3 million dollar State of Ohio Grant that will allow demolition of the dilapidated buildings and environmental issues to be addressed so that new buildings and new jobs can happen in our City.
- I sent a Mayors Proclamation with our SSD Patrick Ross to read at the new Cincinnati Classical Academy's grand opening and we welcome them and wish them success

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- Our Exterior Property Maintenance Code Enforcement Officer continues to address property issues with the goal of identifying violations and finding solutions. Please call City Hall at 733-3725 or contact Rick Martin at rmartin@readingohio.org to report any issues you feel we need to address
- Our Reading Historical Societies 33rd annual Settlement Day Dinner will be held at the VYO Haffey Fieldhouse on October 1. Doors open at 5:30, dinner at 6:30 and the program starts at 7:30. Adults \$20 kids \$15. Please support our incredible Historical Society
- PLEASE SIGN UP FOR HAMILTON COUNTIES FREE EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM. In addition to area wide notifications we as a city can utilize it for Reading specific notifications in case of an emergency. Please go to Smart911.com to sign up
- Please get out and support all of our outstanding Schools and athletic organizations. Reading Youth Football and Cheerleading, Reading Youth Soccer and each of our School teams deserve our support. Our RHS Football team is off to a 3-0 start and have a huge game against Deer Park at Veterans Memorial Stadium this Friday at 7pm
- We continue to do very well in our Economic Development. The former Nivison property, which we acquired using a \$2.3 million dollar State of Ohio Jobs Ready Site Grant and \$800,000 in other Grant dollars, has been acquired by Nitto Avecia with the goal of adding new research and development jobs within the next two years. With our encouragement and help The Port Authority purchased the former Dow Chemical plant and now with over \$5 million in State of Ohio grant dollars they will demo the dilapidated buildings and address environmental issues. If all goes well they will begin to build new buildings by late 2023 or early 2024 that will house new jobs in our City
- We were awarded a 30 year 0% interest loan to install a new 8 inch in diameter water main (replacing an old 3 inch in diameter main), new fire hydrants, catch basins and install all new curbing, aprons and total repaving of 3rd Street. To remind everyone we received \$461,000 from Duke Energy to complete this project. We expect work to begin in February and be completed by September of next year
- In 2019, and in most of my years as our Mayor, we have been one of the busiest Mayors Courts in the State of Ohio for the number of Cases heard. We were the second busiest in 2019. The Ohio Supreme Court website has not updated Mayors Court stats for the past two years yet
- In the month of August our Police Department received 1346 calls for service. An average of 180 citations are written each month for speeding, illegal parking and red-light violations
- Our VYO will have basketball sign ups on Saturdays September 10, 17 and 24 at the Haffey Fieldhouse from 10am till noon
- Our Farmers Market will be open every Friday 4-7pm thru late September
- Our annual Antique Car Show will be at our Reading Community Schools parking lot on September 11
- Our RBD Bridal Fall in Love event will be on September 21 On Benson street from 6-9pm with the reminder Benson will be closed from 5:30-9:30pm from Wachendorf to Reading Road
- We were awarded \$196,000 in Grant and 0% interest loan dollars to repave North Street. Work will start by the end of this month
- Our Reading Community Fine Arts Center is open and hoping that everyone will come and see and support this incredible addition to our City. The Hall of Grace, named in memory of Gracie Lynn Rack, will provide a unique venue with elegant ambiance in which host weddings, receptions and other public gatherings The Reading Fine Arts Center will offer private and group lessons for dance, voice and theater as well as weekly piano and strings lessons. To get more information call 513-709-7464 or go to readingcommunityartscenter.org
- Our excellent schools opened their doors PLEASE SLOW DOWN AS YOU DRIVE AND KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR ALL PEDESTRIANS
- If we as a City are going to be as safe as we can be it will take all of us doing our part. Please get to know your neighbors and look out for them and please call our Police at 513-733-4122 anytime you see suspicious or illegal activity or dial 911 if you feel it is an emergency. If anyone wants to become involved in a neighborhood watch program please contact me at 513-509-8619
- I want to thank everyone who work so hard to make our city better. Reading continues to be home for a lot of wonderful individuals and families who do incredible things day in out
- If you have any questions or concerns please contact me at 513-509-8619 or at

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rbemmes@readingohio.org. PLEASE JOIN MY FACEBOOK GROUP AT ROBERT “BO” BEMMES MAYOR OF CITY OF READING OHIO

Our condolences go out to our Economic Development Director Linda Fitzgerald on the passing of her mom. Also condolences to Rob and Rick Huneck on the passing of their dad and their aunt Billie Stall

SAFETY/SERVICE DIRECTOR: Patrick Ross: (Absent, No Report)

LAW DIRECTOR: Dave Stevenson: (No Report)

TREASURER: Brenda Owens

City of Reading
August 2022 Income Tax Receipt Summary
With Prior Years Comparison

Individual Residents Income Taxes

	2019	2020	2021	2022	% Change 21 to 22
January	\$96,093	\$110,812	\$107,429	\$79,333	-26.2%
February	\$68,356	\$67,807	\$45,896	\$37,035	-19.3%
March	\$117,226	\$89,577	\$127,056	\$131,391	3.4%
April	\$415,198	\$109,428	\$221,576	\$457,756	106.6%
May	\$77,836	\$48,987	\$223,455	\$102,421	-54.2%
June	\$115,093	\$99,289	\$134,637	\$107,043	-20.5%
July	\$53,556	\$337,009	\$82,544	\$28,939	-64.9%
August	\$70,483	\$71,990	\$39,361	\$36,571	-7.1%
September	\$102,017	\$106,778	\$89,782		
October	\$38,131	\$93,081	\$56,061		
November	\$54,158	\$76,487	\$14,763		
December	\$58,151	\$96,708	\$86,298		
Yearly Totals	\$1,266,298	\$1,307,953	\$1,228,857	\$980,489	
YTD Progress	\$1,013,840	\$934,898	\$981,954	\$980,489	-0.1%

Payroll Withholding Income Taxes

	2019	2020	2021	2022	% Change 21 to 22
January	\$555,799	\$539,671	\$717,952	\$689,143	-4.0%
February	\$418,114	\$530,926	\$462,760	\$441,735	-4.5%
March	\$403,816	\$419,609	\$413,361	\$434,394	5.1%
April	\$718,041	\$590,089	\$801,135	\$752,396	-6.1%
May	\$464,702	\$453,000	\$490,963	\$534,911	9.0%
June	\$463,205	\$441,487	\$484,864	\$470,151	-3.0%
July	\$474,774	\$433,643	\$507,334	\$501,087	-1.2%
August	\$410,495	\$519,886	\$566,411	\$591,928	4.5%
September	\$519,714	\$392,475	\$411,837		
October	\$457,049	\$449,639	\$549,184		
November	\$454,636	\$483,331	\$545,750		
December	\$458,688	\$429,457	\$432,363		
Yearly Totals	\$5,799,031	\$5,683,214	\$6,383,913	\$4,415,744	
YTD Progress	\$3,908,945	\$3,928,312	\$4,444,779	\$4,415,744	-0.7%

Business Profits Income Taxes

	2019	2020	2021	2022	% Change 21 to 22
January	\$14,888	\$22,258	\$11,981	\$48,907	308.2%
February	\$37,357	\$18,896	\$58,854	\$24,719	-58.0%
March	\$44,127	\$77,585	\$23,641	\$210,097	788.7%
April	\$146,628	\$26,014	\$137,747	\$274,272	99.1%
May	\$22,169	\$21,905	\$60,812	\$42,806	-29.6%
June	\$87,523	\$39,477	\$87,483	\$399,300	356.4%
July	\$7,829	\$95,430	\$43,735	\$15,804	-63.9%
August	\$50,022	\$80,398	\$38,207	\$22,399	-41.4%
September	\$61,612	\$77,959	\$85,263		
October	\$16,216	\$32,831	\$42,542		
November	\$13,642	\$17,874	\$22,412		
December	\$63,553	\$26,952	\$87,159		
Yearly Totals	\$565,565	\$537,579	\$699,835	\$1,038,303	
YTD Progress	\$410,541	\$381,963	\$462,459	\$1,038,303	124.5%

Total Income Taxes Collected

	2019	2020	2021	2022	% Change 21 to 22
January	\$666,780	\$672,741	\$837,361	\$817,383	-2.4%
February	\$523,826	\$617,629	\$567,510	\$503,488	-11.3%
March	\$565,169	\$586,771	\$564,058	\$775,881	37.6%
April	\$1,279,867	\$725,531	\$1,160,458	\$1,484,424	27.9%
May	\$564,707	\$523,892	\$775,230	\$680,137	-12.3%
June	\$665,820	\$580,253	\$706,984	\$976,494	38.1%
July	\$536,158	\$866,082	\$633,613	\$545,830	-13.9%
August	\$531,000	\$672,274	\$643,978	\$650,899	1.1%
September	\$683,343	\$577,213	\$586,882		
October	\$511,396	\$575,551	\$647,787		
November	\$522,436	\$577,693	\$582,925		
December	\$580,392	\$553,117	\$605,819		
Yearly Totals	\$7,630,893	\$7,528,746	\$8,312,605	\$6,434,536	
YTD Progress	\$5,333,327	\$5,245,172	\$5,889,192	\$6,434,536	9.3%

Total Refunds	2019 =	\$135,343	2020 =	\$132,162	2021 =	\$115,450	2022 YTD Refunds =	\$154,061
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Brenda A. Owens- City Treasurer 09/01/2022

Also, I wanted to add some additional information regarding Dave’s question about the extraordinary business net profits numbers this year. As I said in the 8/2 meeting, these numbers are attributed to several large estimated tax payments made in both March and June. I pulled these payments out of the calculations to see the actual affect. With the numbers included, the net profits and total collected are 124.5% and 9.3% ahead of 2021. Removing these payments takes the numbers to 48.8% and 3.3% respectively. Still good numbers but more in line with the prior year.

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AUDITOR: Sabrina Smith: *(Absent, No Report)*

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

FINANCE: Andy Bronner

- I would like to give a report on the 230 Streets and Curbs fund. The fund was established when the latest one half of a percentage point income tax increase was passed by voters. Twenty percent of that tax increase goes into the 230 Streets and Curbs fund. The following is a list of road projects currently being paid for from this fund, the yearly cost and the last year of payments:

Waxwing(\$14,233)(2031)
Jefferson (\$34,101)(2032)
Krylon/Trillium (\$18,372)(2032)
Jefferson/Vorhees/Willow(\$15,973)(2034)
Julie Terrace (\$5,194)(2034)
Alwil(\$12,322)(2036)
5th&Flora (\$7,122)(2036)
Leonard (\$4,826)(2036)
Brown (\$6,997)(2036)
Bolser (\$11,133)(2037)
Benson (\$7,061)(2038)
Galbraith (\$9,791)(2038)
Reisenberg (\$60,000)(2023)
Benson at Columbia (\$93,221)(2029)
Hunt Road (\$21,250)(2041)
Thurnridge (est \$50,000)(2041)

The total yearly cost of these projects is \$371,601. The projected yearly revenue to the 230 fund is \$400,000 and the projected year end fund balance is \$1,000,000. This is a current snapshot of an ever-changing spreadsheet. East North Street and 3rd Street will hit the books next year at an estimated yearly cost of \$26,000 through 2042. Also, our Safety Service Director is preparing to apply for financial assistance from the Ohio Public Works Commission for the refurbishment of Fuhrman, Harvest, Maple and Sunnybrook.

I would also like to announce that we are having a committee meeting on Monday, September 12th at 7:30pm which will be following a Utilities, Lands and Buildings meeting.

UTILITIES, LANDS & BUILDINGS: Mark Bishop *(Absent, Report Given By Clerk of Council, Carla Kacher)*

1. Rumpke hits and misses. (Last meeting with Rumpke, Aug. 4)
 - a. Mr. Ferrier reports 31 Trash and 24 recycling missed for the month of August.
2. Meeting UL&B August 18, 6:30
 - a. Topic: Interview ESP Media as an alternative to ICRC.
 - i. May provide services at a lower cost, higher quality. Also provide podcasts as well as promotional videos to inform residents of services the city offers, etc.
3. NEXT MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT:
 - a. September 12, 2022, 6:30pm.

ZONING, PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT: Dave Powell *(No Report)*

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LAWS & CONTRACTS: Katie Eadicicco

First, the Bridal District and chamber of Commerce are completing the process for the DORA application. They're in the final stages of gathering all the needed information and requirements and it will go to the Chamber president for him to sign off on and then be submitted to council. I've been working on drafting up the legislation and will review that with my committee and the law director once we receive the application. The application, once presented, will be available for public review between 30 to 60 days before council votes on an ordinance.

Second, a few weeks ago I compiled a list of abandoned properties throughout the city and sent the list to Dan Brooks, our city's Building Official. I've been in contact with Mr. Brooks over the last few weeks about some of these properties and we're working to get them either cleaned up or condemned.

Mr. Brooks said that he went to each property on my list and spoke with Rick Martin about each of them as well. I've received an update on a property on Hunt Rd. today and am waiting for updates on the rest. Mr. Brooks said he's putting a report together for me and I should have that soon.

On August 11th I met with Patrick Ross and Paul Culter from Jacobs Engineering about updating our building structure and property maintenance codes and adding a section that includes condemning and demolishing properties. This is something the city currently does not have in our codes. Hopefully, adding a section like this in our books will streamline the process to get blighted and nuisance properties dealt with quicker. Mr. Culter contacted Patrick and me to say he's almost done updating the codes and once I receive the updates, I'll schedule a committee meeting to review the changes and additions.

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY: Shelly Kroeger

Police Department run count for August, 2022

- Calls for service 1,346
- Auto Accidents 34
- Booking Original Charges 146
- Total Criminal Charges 205

Citations Issued

- Hamilton County 9
- Arlington Heights 17
- Juvenile 0
- Reading Mayor's 144

Total Citations 172

For the month of August, there were arrests for domestic violence, OVI, assault, theft, with most of those ending in arrest and property damage. Vandalism is still happening throughout the city. Voorhees Park was vandalized again. We have also had a couple cases of identity theft and theft from mailboxes. Please be vigilant, and if you see something, say something. Remember you need to call 911 as we only have a dispatcher during certain hours. You can still call the non-emergency number at (513)733-4122 and it will be transferred to the county who will then dispatch officers if needed.

Fire Departments run count for August, 2022

- EMS Responses 182
- Fire Responses 59 (8 all-call)

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Total Responses 241

SERVICE: Bob Boehner

Reading Public Works Council Report September 6, 2022

City crew was out patching potholes in the streets

The Mulcher has been out collecting branches.

✓ City street sweeper has been out.

City crews have been out cleaning out catch basins with the vac all

City crews have been doing water shutoffs.

City crews have been replacing street signage throughout the city that has been damaged.

✓ City crews cut down trees on Halker Ave and Columbia & Bonnell Ave

City crew repaired concrete at the pool

City crew repaired water leak in stadium locker room

✓ City crew repaired water main breaks on East Crest and Koehler Ave
and Pleasant St

City crews painted Soccer and Football fields

✓ City paint crews were out painting cross walks and stop bars and yellow
curbing throughout the city

✓ City repaired the dug outs at Koenig Park with new trim boards

Brian L. East 9/21/22

*FALL CLEANUP OCT 1ST 2022 from 0800-1400
hrs*

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- Next Service Committee Meeting will be Tuesday, September 20, at 7:00 p.m. in the Caucus Room.

RECREATION: Scott Thamann

- We had a great summer season at the pool this year. I want to thank all the pool staff for their hard work. Our attendance and memberships were the highest in years. Concrete repairs at the pool have been completed.
- We are in need of new aluminum picnic tables at Koenig Park (approximately 20). They have not been replaced in years, and their age is showing. We also need to look at replacing some of the bleachers at the Koenig Park ball fields. On Wednesday, Aug. 31, I met with Seth Redwine to discuss the most pressing needs for the Parks Department. We have begun the process of applying for a grant through the Department of Natural Resources.

In the meantime, 4 new grills have already been ordered for our pavilions, to replace the ones that are rusted beyond repair.

- ***We Thrive***, in conjunction with our city administration, is in the process of converting the tennis courts at Koenig Park into a pickleball courts. The equipment is currently on back order, but, worst case scenario, we will have active pickleboard courts ready in the spring. The sport is growing popularity, and we want to offer our citizens activities that they might use. To learn more about the sport, or buy equipment, you can go to: cincinnatipickleballclub.com
- We will have a Recreation Committee meeting on Thursday, Sept. 8 at 6:00 pm to discuss the grant, and to discuss potential improvements to Cherryfield Park. We would love to hear from residents from the Cherryfield and Mapletree neighborhoods to see how we could best meet your needs. The meeting will be held here in council chambers.

OTHER BUSINESS: (None)

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

READING OF RESOLUTIONS: None

(1) A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF READING TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION(OPWC) STATE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT(SCIP) AND OR LOCAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT(LTIP) PROGRAM(S) AND TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS AS REQUIRED AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion made by Mr. Thamann, seconded by Mr. Bronner to suspend the rule that requires a third reading. Motion carried by 6-0 roll call vote. Motion made by Mrs. Eadicicco, seconded by Mr. Kroeger to adopt the resolution. Motion carried by 5-1 roll call vote (Mr. Powell, Mr. Bronner, Mr. Thamann, Mrs. Kroeger & Mrs. Eadicicco voting “Yes,” and Mr. Boehner voting “No”).

RESOLUTION ADOPTED

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2022-25R

READING OF ORDINANCES:

(1) AN ORDINANCE AWARDDING A CONTRACT TO RACK AND BALLAUER EXCAVATING FOR THE THIRD STREET

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***IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED NINE HUNDRED FIFTY-EIGHT THOUSAND,
FOUR HUNDRED EIGHTY-EIGHT DOLLARS AND TEN CENTS (\$958,488.10), AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY***

Motion made by Mr. Boehner, seconded by Mrs. Kroeger to suspend the rule that requires a third reading.
Motion carried by 6-0 roll call vote. Motion made by Mrs. Boehner, seconded by Mr. Bronner to adopt the ordinance.
Motion carried by 6-0 roll call vote

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2022-26

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS: None

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Boehner moved to adjourn. Mr. Thamann seconded. Motion carried by voice vote.
The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 pm.

X _____
Carla Kacher
Clerk of Council

X _____
Dwight Daum
President of Council