

**CITY OF READING, OHIO
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION
NOVEMBER 1, 2022 – 7:30 PM**

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. Bohner, Mrs. Kroeger & Mrs. Eadicicco.

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 October 18 (Legislative) Council Minutes made by Mr. Bohner, seconded by Mr. Bronner. Motion carried by a voice vote.

AUDIENCE ASKING PARTICIPATION:

Donald Benbow – Requested that a process/procedure be created regarding residents requesting credits to their water bills for sewer charges when water was not placed in their sewer. Mr. Benbow handed out documentation to Council outlining his communication with both the City of Reading and MSD and the struggle he is still enduring trying to get his request fulfilled by either party.

Regina Richmond – Gave further detail regarding the “Hilltop Basketball Court Restoration” (Memory of Chad Richmond) Donations can be made at Valley Central Bank or on their GoFundMe page.
Walk-A-Thon on Veterans Day (November 11) for awareness of the Restoration of the Basketball Court and for fundraising

COMMUNICATIONS:

Email from Renee Salyers Velie:

My name is Renee Salyers Velie. I am Regina Richmond’s sister as well as Chad Richmond’s aunt. As you have heard our family is in the process of raising money to restore the Hilltop basketball court in Chad’s honor and for the betterment of the community. We wanted to reach out to you out of respect to make sure you were aware of the project.

The family would appreciate any suggestion on promoting our project. Attached is a flyer to our first fundraising event. We also have a GoFundMe page and plans for a dodge ball tourney in the spring. This is a family and grass root effort. We are doing our very best to do an excellent job but feel free to give any advice.

Thank you for your consideration and look forward to meeting you soon.

*Renee Salyers Velie
513-600-7658*

*Regina Richmond
513-254-1730*

Motion made by Mr. Bohner, seconded by Mr. Bishop to mark the communication received and filed.
Motion carried by voice vote.

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GUEST SPEAKERS:

(1) WeThrive:

Tracy Ormond discussed “Walk with Purpose,” Donna Wiggins discussed “Farmer’s Market,” Annie Hess discussed “Adopt-A-Pot,” Mary Zander discussed “Park Passport Program,” Elise Cappacio discussed “WeThrive Website: WeThriveReading.org,” Ken Wietmarschen discussed the upcoming Pickleball Courts in Reading, Donna Wiggins discussed the first “City of Reading Holiday Walk - readingholidaywalk.com,” December 2, 2022: 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm Benson Street, kids activities, carolers, etc.

Walk With Purpose - Residents have signed up to cover over 30 streets! 57 current members. - Lead the way to help make Reading a Target Community with Hamilton County R3Source. - Awarded \$500 from Rumpke (more grants in the works!) 800+ trash bags picked up!    We THRIVE! in Reading	Farmer's Market - Started small in 2017, expanded to a LLC in 2019. - Provides access to groceries in Reading - Wide variety of vendors - Accepts SNAP/EBT, Senior Farmer's Market Vouchers & Produce Perks.   Fridays May - Sept Corner of Vine & Reading! We THRIVE! in Reading
Adopt-A-Pot - The Adopt-A-Pot program was created to bring community residents and businesses together to beautify Reading. - All 63 pots adopted yearly! - Thanks to the city for doing the     We THRIVE! in Reading	Park Passport Program - A way to increase the awareness of many green spaces and sites throughout the City, while encouraging kids to be outside and be more active. 14 parks & community landmarks. - At least 212 past participants! - Become a sponsor! - Link on our website or pick up at city hall, library, and Farmer's market.   We THRIVE! in Reading

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Website
www.wethrivereading.org

- Homebase for all of our projects, past and present!
- WeTHRIVE! event calendar to keep people informed.
- 126 visits in the first month!

More to Come!

- Pickleball lines and nets at Koenig Park
- Holiday Walk along Benson St.

Neither of these projects would be possible without the close partnership of the city.
Thank you!

(2) Tim Nuemann (ICRC):

Gave final remarks to Council pertaining to why the City of Reading should not cancel their contract with ICRC, listing multiple positive benefits ICRC offers to Reading and its businesses,

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

GUEST ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIAL REPORTS:

MAYOR: Robert “Bo” Bemmes:

- PLEASE REMEMBER TO DIAL 911 FOR ANY POLICE, FIRE, or EMS EMERGENCY
- Next Tuesday November 8 is another incredibly important ELECTION day with Federal and State Reps and Judges being elected. These officials make decisions that affect all of us daily. PLEASE VOTE and please consider voting for candidates who support Law Enforcement. Please remember without Law and Order there will be no Liberties for any of us.
- 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 with a Community Tailgate party this Sunday November 6 starting at 12:30 at the Haffey Fieldhouse parking lot bring your own drinks and food to share, Veterans day is on November 11 with ceremonies at Reading High School, Cincinnati Classical Academy, SPPA Mass at 2:15pm and at the American Legion at 5pm where they will properly take care of old American flags if you have one. Our Fire/EMS department will have their annual Turkey Disposal on November 18 and 19 at 7pm at the Haffey fieldhouse, our Girl Scouts will host the Christmas tree lighting and Crib Dedication on December 2 at 6:30pm at the corner of Reading Road and Benson with Santa Claus hopefully appearing at Redwine and Company on Benson Street after the tree lighting followed by a Benson street walk where businesses will have booths and prizes. The Knights of Saint John will have their annual ham raffle on December 10 and 11 starting at 7pm with the best turtle soup on earth, and our American Legion will host the Army vs Navy game on December 10 at 3pm
- 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
- 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
- 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

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

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

LAW DIRECTOR: Dave Stevenson: (No Report)

TREASURER: Brenda Owens

City of Reading October 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	\$79,408	-11.6%
October	\$38,131	\$93,081	\$56,061	\$63,966	14.1%
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	\$1,123,863	
YTD Progress	\$1,153,989	\$1,134,758	\$1,127,797	\$1,123,863	-0.3%
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	\$507,354	\$501,087	-1.2%
August	\$410,495	\$519,886	\$566,411	\$591,928	4.5%
September	\$519,714	\$392,475	\$411,837	\$464,052	12.7%
October	\$457,049	\$449,639	\$549,184	\$606,041	10.4%
November	\$454,636	\$483,331	\$545,750		
December	\$458,688	\$429,457	\$432,363		
Yearly Totals	\$5,799,831	\$5,683,214	\$6,383,913	\$5,485,837	
YTD Progress	\$4,885,708	\$4,770,426	\$5,405,800	\$5,485,837	1.5%
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	\$50,822	\$80,398	\$38,207	\$22,399	-41.4%
September	\$61,612	\$77,959	\$85,263	\$336,599	294.8%
October	\$16,216	\$32,831	\$42,542	\$22,564	-47.0%
November	\$13,642	\$17,874	\$22,412		
December	\$63,553	\$26,952	\$87,159		
Yearly Totals	\$565,565	\$537,579	\$609,835	\$1,397,466	
YTD Progress	\$488,369	\$492,753	\$596,264	\$1,397,466	136.8%
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	\$880,060	50.0%
October	\$511,396	\$575,551	\$647,787	\$692,571	6.9%
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	\$8,807,167	
YTD Progress	\$6,528,065	\$6,397,936	\$7,123,861	\$8,807,167	12.4%
Total Refunds					
	2019 =	\$135,343	2020 =	\$132,162	2021 = \$115,450 2022 YTD Refunds = \$169,800

Brenda A. Owens- City Treasurer 11/01/2022

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

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

FINANCE: Andy Bronner

- The Finance Committee met on October 25th to discuss a request by the Reading Community Improvement Corporation Board that the net proceeds of the Nivison property sale remain in their account. That amount is \$392,848.26. The money will capitalize the CIC for economic development purposes and ongoing expenses. Any expenditure would still need to be approved by Council. Finance Committee agreed this is a good idea and Dave Stevenson is drafting an ordinance for full City Council approval.

UTILITIES, LANDS & BUILDINGS: Mark Bishop *(No Report)*

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

LAWS & CONTRACTS: Katie Eadicicco

I held a Laws and Contracts Committee meeting on Monday, October 24 to discuss overturning section 624.24 in our city's code of ordinances that prohibits processing facilities and dispensaries for cannabis.

As I mentioned during my report on October 4, the city has been approached by Chris Fox of Black Fox Gardens who has a letter of intent to purchase 10 acres of the Hill Street property and would like to build a medical marijuana processing facility and dispensary.

I was hoping to have the ordinance and first reading ready for tonight, but our committee is still waiting on some answers.

We would like to limit the number of dispensaries to one within the city limits and limit them to conditional use only light industrial zones. I'm waiting to hear back from Dan Brooks about whether or not this would have to go through zoning and planning.

If that is the case, Mr. Powell suggested having separate ordinances. One to overturn the moratorium and one to limit the number and areas where allowed. This might be the best way to get the ball rolling.

Hopefully, I'll have some more answers soon and I plan to have the ordinance or ordinances ready for a first reading by our November 15 meeting.

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY: Shelly Kroeger

Police Department run count for October, 2022

- Calls for service 963
- Auto Accidents 37
- Booking Original Charges 102
- Total Criminal Charges 132

Citations Issued

- Hamilton County 5
- Arlington Heights 13
- Juvenile 3
- Reading Mayor's 66

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Total Citations 88

For the month of October, we had a few theft charges, most of which have ended in an arrest or the recovery of the stolen items, some overdoses, and several auto accidents, some of which were charged with OVI.

Fire Departments run count for October, 2022

- EMS Responses 196
- Fire Responses 68

Total Responses 264

The fire department provided ambulance coverage for several Reading High School football games, provided a fire prevention program for Reading Kindergarten & pre-school classes, and attended the Reading Schools Halloween parade.

SERVICE: Bob Boehner

Reading Public Works Council Report November 1, 2022

City crew have been out patching potholes in the streets

The Mulcher has been out collecting branches.

City crews painted soccer and Football fields

City crew repaired water main breaks on Pleasant St near Vonderhaar's and repaired two catch basins one on Pleasant and the other at Market and Pleasant Sts

City crew have been going around town grinding and repairing roadways that need repair

City crew repaired roadway on Breezy Vista at two locations

City crew repaired a water service line on Southern Ave btw Jefferson & Reading Rd

City crew repaired catch basins at West St and Bernard and Second St and the alleyway and on Fenton and Walnut Sts

City crews have trimmed trees on Maptree subdivision that were over hanging the roadway

City crews have started picking up leaves throughout the city

City crew repaired the curb line at Reading and Mechanic

City crew painted turn arrows on West Columbia for North bound Reading Rd traffic

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RECREATION: Scott Thamann

- On Sunday, Nov. 6, we will be hosting a Tailgate Party in the parking lot in front of the Reading Community Pool. We will get started around 12:30. Please bring a dish to share and your own beverages.

Regina Richmond and her family are attempting to raise funds for the Hilltop Basketball Restoration Project. This project is in memory of Chad Richmond. As part of their efforts, they will be hosting a Veterans' Day Walkathon on Nov. 11 at the Hilltop Basketball Court. The walk opens at 7:00 a.m. The Opening Ceremony will begin at noon, and the Closing Ceremony will be at 7:00 pm. Feel free to contact Regina Richmond for more information. You can call her at 513-254-1730, or email her at richmo6@yahoo.com. If you are unable to attend, but would still like to contribute, they do have a Go Fund Me page, or they accept Venmo at rrichmo6. They are trying to honor Chad's memory, a veteran who served in Afghanistan, while at the same time, raise PTSD Awareness.

And on Friday, Dec. 2, we will host our Holiday Walk/ Crib Dedication / Tree Lighting on Benson St, from 6:30 - 9:00 pm. For more information, please go to ReadingHolidayWalk.com

OTHER BUSINESS: (None)

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

READING OF RESOLUTIONS: None

(1) RESOLUTION APPROVING THE READING ROAD CORRIDOR PLAN

Motion made by Mrs. Eadicicco, seconded by Mrs. Kroeger to suspend the rule that requires a second and third reading. Motion failed by a 5-2 roll call vote (Mr. Bronner, Mr. Bishop, Mr. Thamann, Mrs. Kroeger & Mrs. Eadicicco voting "yes," and Mr. Powell and Mr. Boehner voting "no.") Resolution was declared a first reading only.

**(2) RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION
& AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR**

Motion made by Mr. Boehner, seconded by Mrs. Kroeger to suspend the rule that requires a second and third reading. Motion carried by 7-0 roll call vote. Motion made by Mrs. Eadicicco, seconded by Mr. Bronner to adopt the ordinance. Motion carried by 7-0 roll call vote

RESOLUTION ADOPTED

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2022-31R

READING OF ORDINANCES:

**(1) AN ORDINANCE DIRECTING THE SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR TO TERMINATE THE AGREEMENT WITH THE
INTERCOMMUNITY CABLE REGULATORY COMMISSION (ICRC) FOR VIDEO AND BROADCASTING SERVICES
FOR THE CITY OF READING AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. (THIRD READING)**

Motion made by Mr. Bishop, seconded by Mr. Bronner to adopt the ordinance. Motion carried by 6-1 roll call vote (Mr. Powell, Mr. Bronner, Mr. Bishop, Mr. Thamann, Mrs. Kroeger & Mrs. Eadicicco voting "yes," and Mr. Boehner voting "no.")

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2022-32

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(2) AN ORDINANCE DIRECTING THE SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A TWO (2) YEAR AGREEMENT WITH ESP MEDIA TO PROVIDE VIDEO AND STREAMING SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF READING BEGINNING ON JANUARY 1, 2023 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. (THIRD READING)

Motion made by Mr. Bishop, seconded by Mr. Kroeger to adopt the ordinance. Motion carried by 6-1 roll call vote (Mr. Powell, Mr. Bronner, Mr. Bishop, Mr. Thamann, Mrs. Kroeger & Mrs. Eadicicco voting “yes,” and Mr. Boehner voting “no.”)

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2022-33

Mr. Boehner moved to rescind Ordinance 82-62. There was no second motion. Mr. Boehner will bring a formal ordinance to rescind Ordinance 82-62 at the next meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS: None

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Boehner moved to adjourn. Mrs. Kroeger seconded. Motion carried by voice vote.
The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 pm.

X _____
Carla Kacher
Clerk of Council

X _____
Dwight Daum
President of Council