

**CITY OF READING, OHIO
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION
APRIL 4, 2023 – 7:30 PM**

For the full detail of this evening's Council Meeting, please visit www.watchreadingohio.com.

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, Mr. Thamann, Mrs. Kroeger & Mrs. Eadicicco.

OTHER CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Safety Service Director, Patrick Ross, Law Director Dave Stevenson, Treasurer Brenda Owens & Clerk of Council Carla Kacher.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion to approve February 21, 2023 (Legislative) Council Minutes made by Mr. Thamann, seconded by Mr. Powell. Motion carried by a voice vote.

AUDIENCE ASKING PARTICIPATION:

(1) Paul Kennedy (9446 Waxwing Drive, Blue Ash): Issues with the new traffic pattern through Blue Ash into Reading via the newly opened barrier on Waxwing drive. Called the Mayor of Blue Ash, Walt Roosher. On March 27, landslide issue on Hunt Road was addressed and Hunt Road was closed. Received letter from Will Davis saying the fire chief from Blue Ash and the Fire Chief of Reading decided to open the barrier. Paul conducted his own observation of the increased traffic and considers the amount of traffic too be too many and a danger to the children living on the street. Only Safety and Emergency vehicles have the keys to open the barrier gate. Paul considers this "convenience" traffic and not "emergency" traffic. Formally requested that the barrier gate be closed again due to the lack of Blue Ash police presence.

Motion by Mr. Thamann, seconded by Mr. Boehner to extend the 5-minute rule regarding audience participation. Motion carried by voice vote.

Paul asked, "who makes the final decision?" He stated there were no letters sent to residents and he would like to know what part he can play in future decisions.

Mr. Boehner response: Blue Ash controls that gate. Reading cannot do anything with that gate. Blue Ash locks and opens this gate up. The only other way to bypass the Hunt Road closure is to turn around, turn left onto Fuhrman, turn left onto Columbia and access Cross County Highway.

Mr. Ross' response: Reading (Chief of Public Works) wasn't notified until February 27. After several conversations, Reading drafted and hand delivered letters to all residents in Cherryfield. We were not consulted at all with a detour route. This is frustrating because we want to be neighborly but there is only so much we can do. Mr. Ross has a scheduled call with Blue Ash tomorrow in which he will ask for a larger Police presence on the Blue Ash side.

Paul Kennedy says he'd like to see the Blue Ash Police presence to send a message to all traffic to "watch it."

(2) William Tucker (9460 Waxwing Drive, Blue Ash) – received letter that the barrier was for Emergency

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vehicles only. Gave detailed numbers on increased amount of traffic. The increased traffic is during school hours and it concerns him greatly. He has researched the Hamilton County Auditor.

(3) Scott Garten (9403 Waxwing Drive, Blue Ash) – Mirrored his information that is being read during Communications. Safety of his children and pets (and all residents on Waxwing) is the top concern.

(4) Dave Derubus (9418 Waxwing Drive, Blue Ash) – supported the previous Waxwing neighbor comments.

(5) Liza Durbin (196 Waxwing Drive, Reading) – Has lived at her resident for over 20 years and was told the barriers would only be open for emergencies and snow removal. Was told both Blue Ash and Reading had keys to the barrier gate. Is concerned for the gate being closed afterwards because folks who are now using this new route may cause folks speeding

Mr. Ross said he will ask the Reading Public Works to put a sign there warning drivers that the barrier has been closed.

Mr. Bronner asked Mr. Ross for confirmation on the length of the Hunt Road project. Mr. Ross said he was told it is a 2 month project. Mr. Bronner also asked Mr. Ross to confirm that this is not a trial run to keep the gate open and Mr. Ross confirmed this is not.

(6) Mike Durbin (196 Waxwing Drive, Reading) – Reminded everyone that when the barrier gate was open for 3 days years ago, a little girl was hurt. After that incident, the barrier gate was closed again.

(7) James Shelton (2401 Carol Drive, Reading) – Received a complaint for the exterior maintenance on the property he lives at. The house is owned by his sister, he is not technically a tenant he's just "living there." The letters are addressed to James Shelton. Mr. Shelton listed several examples from the letters he's received and acknowledged that these are items he is planning to correct. Mr. Shelton's main issue is with the how the property maintenance law/code applies to occupants as well as the owner. Is everyone being held to these laws/codes or are these being investigated and followed up on whenever there is a complaint? He is committed to correcting the outlined issues but requested that these laws be reviewed and updated.

Law Director, Dave Stevenson, confirmed that the property exterior maintenance laws apply to occupants as well as owners/tenants.

Mrs. Eadicicco will look into this matter.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Email from Scott Garten regarding Waxwing:

"My name is Scott Garten and I live at 9403 waxwing dr at the bottom of the hill. I understand that you grew up on this street and are very familiar with the value of the gate. My wife and I also own a house on guise ct so we are Reading folks too.

We are very frustrated by the opening of the gate with no forewarning or chance to share our concerns. I have 4 young kids who are used to playing in the dead end cul-de-sac which turned into a main road over the weekend. The traffic has picked up to be over 60 cars an hour on a Sunday afternoon with few stopping at the stop sign and cars speeding down the hill. Traffic will be much heavier during the week as well. We were told it would be

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monitored by police and fire but I haven't seen any police cars the past few days. We were also told that it would be shut again if traffic had become more than a trickle which it has for sure but the gate remains open. I'm afraid there will be an accident, and I understand that there was a girl hit on this street some time back which led to the gate.

I understand that your Father was a part of the waxwing beautification committee that managed gate but that committee has fallen away. I wanted to see if you had any details on the committee, I believe the Tuckers now have the deed.

Thank you for your help. My number is 513-785-9541. Scott Garten"

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

Motion made by Mr. Powell, seconded by Mrs. Eadicicco to open the discussion regarding the Waxwing barrier gate. Motion carried by voice vote.

Response from Mr Powell:

- The north portion of Waxwing Drive in the City of Reading was dedicated by the Cherryfield Acres, Section "B" subdivision plat recorded in Registered Land Plat Book 7 Page 35.
- Waxwing Drive in the City of Reading was accepted on 11-7-60 by Ordinance 60-47.
- The north 5 ft of Waxwing Dr in Reading was vacated by the City of Reading on 10-15-62 by Ordinance 62-42.
- Domestic Articles of Incorporation for the Waxwing Beautification Association, Inc. were approved by the State of Ohio of February 26, 1975. With the following individuals being listed as trustees:
 - Arnold E. Engle 9403 Waxwing Drive in Blue Ash
 - Richard M. Daum 9460 Waxwing Drive in Blue Ash
 - Roy A. Wiehe 9629 Petworth Court in Reading
 - Donald E. Kolda 184 Waxwing Drive in Reading
 - Mr. Daum was also appointed as the agent for the corporation.

The records of Hamilton County indicate the Waxwing Beautification Association, Inc. is the owner of the portion of Waxwing Drive vacated by the City of Reading with a transfer date of March 28, 1975. During my brief search I did not find a Deed or Registered land Certificate in the name of Waxwing Beautification Association, Inc.

The registration for Waxwing Beautification Association was cancelled by the State of Ohio on June 3, 1996, for failing to file a statement of continuing existence.

All of the trustees of the corporation appear to be deceased.

A lengthy discussion followed with participation from both audience members as well as Council.

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Tony Gertz (Pike Street, Reading) – Hired legal representation of Liza & Mike Durbin on this issue. Mr. Gertz asked a rhetorical question - why was it ever put up to begin with? Residents of Reading didn't want it. What is the advantage of taking it down? Convenience. If convenience is more important than the safety of Reading residents, that is a problem. To Mr. Gertz, the solution is not difficult. Protect the citizens of Reading and put the barrier back up.

Susan Slavey (832 Maple Drive, Reading) – This issue is about protecting ALL children and residents within Reading – not just Waxwing. With the closure of Hunt Road for this project, now the increased, rerouted traffic has drivers speeding and clogging up Hunt, Fuhrman, Columbia, causing additional traffic issues on those roads as well. There are walkers, pets, and children that play on those streets as well that can also be hurt.

GUEST SPEAKERS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion made by Mr. Powell, seconded by Mrs. Eadicicco to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a potential purchase and potential sale that the CIC is considering. Mr. Powell also invited Linda Fitzgerald & Susan Slavey into the Executive session. Motion carried by 7-0 roll call vote. Entered into Executive Session at 8:54 p.m. Motion made by Mr. Powell, seconded by Mrs. Kroegeer to come back from Executive Session at 9:16 p.m. Motion carried by 7-0 roll call vote.

GUEST ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIAL REPORTS:

MAYOR: Robert "Bo" Bemmes: *(No Report, Absent)*

SAFETY/SERVICE DIRECTOR: Patrick Ross:

- Condolences to family of Michelle Naish, who lost her father and longtime Reading resident Al Kroth
- Congratulations to Ryan Androne and Tyler Strole on their promotions to Asst. Chief and Lt.
- Thank you Lady Auxiliary for Monte Carlo night which helps fund 4th of July Fireworks
- Third Street Completion began today
- Reading Road is ongoing. MSD Rep confirmed there will be traffic direction at East North for the detour from Eagleview and Gahl Terrace
- Easter Egg Hunt this weekend 10 AM
- Pool signups : First 3 Saturdays in May 10-Noon
- Clean Up Day April 22 10-Noon (Small Shelter or St. Petes Cemetery)
- Signed SORTA Transit Infrastructure Fund documents for paving of Columbia from Reading Road to WB border with Lockland
- Looking into applying for 3 potential projects for next round: Landy Lane, Koehler(B/W Reading and Jefferson), and Roth/Anna. Projects must be within Metro's route
- Police assist Springfield Township

LAW DIRECTOR: Dave Stevenson: *(No Report)*

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TREASURER: Brenda Owens

**City of Reading
2023 March Income Tax Receipt Summary
With Prior Years Comparison**

Individual Residents Income Taxes

	2020	2021	2022	2023	% Change 22 to 23
January	\$110,812	\$107,429	\$79,333	\$98,388	24.0%
February	\$67,807	\$45,896	\$37,035	\$62,179	67.9%
March	\$89,577	\$127,056	\$131,391	\$121,019	-7.9%
April	\$109,428	\$221,576	\$457,756		
May	\$48,987	\$223,455	\$102,421		
June	\$99,289	\$134,637	\$107,043		
July	\$337,009	\$82,544	\$28,939		
August	\$71,990	\$39,361	\$36,571		
September	\$106,778	\$89,782	\$79,408		
October	\$93,081	\$56,061	\$63,966		
November	\$76,487	\$14,763	\$64,047		
December	\$96,708	\$86,298	\$46,897		
Yearly Totals	\$1,307,953	\$1,228,857	\$1,234,807	\$281,585	
YTD Progress	\$268,196	\$280,381	\$247,759	\$281,585	13.7%

Payroll Withholding Income Taxes

	2020	2021	2022	2023	% Change 22 to 23
January	\$539,671	\$717,952	\$689,143	\$699,906	1.6%
February	\$530,926	\$462,760	\$441,735	\$483,701	9.5%
March	\$419,609	\$413,361	\$434,394	\$477,447	9.9%
April	\$590,089	\$801,135	\$752,396		
May	\$453,000	\$490,963	\$534,911		
June	\$441,487	\$484,864	\$470,151		
July	\$433,643	\$507,334	\$501,087		
August	\$519,886	\$566,411	\$591,928		
September	\$392,475	\$411,837	\$464,052		
October	\$449,639	\$549,184	\$606,041		
November	\$483,331	\$545,750	\$493,632		
December	\$429,457	\$432,363	\$462,692		
Yearly Totals	\$5,683,214	\$6,383,913	\$6,442,162	\$1,661,054	
YTD Progress	\$1,490,206	\$1,594,072	\$1,565,272	\$1,661,054	6.1%

Business Profits Income Taxes

	2020	2021	2022	2023	% Change 22 to 23
January	\$22,258	\$11,981	\$48,907	\$21,312	-56.4%
February	\$18,896	\$58,854	\$24,719	\$17,868	-27.7%
March	\$77,585	\$23,641	\$210,097	\$100,630	-52.1%
April	\$26,014	\$137,747	\$274,272		
May	\$21,905	\$60,812	\$42,806		
June	\$39,477	\$87,483	\$399,300		
July	\$95,430	\$43,735	\$15,804		
August	\$80,398	\$38,207	\$22,399		
September	\$77,959	\$85,263	\$336,599		
October	\$32,831	\$42,542	\$22,564		
November	\$17,874	\$22,412	\$15,798		
December	\$26,952	\$87,159	\$48,456		
Yearly Totals	\$537,579	\$699,835	\$1,461,720	\$139,809	
YTD Progress	\$118,739	\$94,476	\$283,722	\$139,809	-50.7%

Total Income Taxes Collected

	2020	2021	2022	2023	% Change 22 to 23
January	\$672,741	\$837,361	\$817,383	\$819,606	0.3%
February	\$617,629	\$567,510	\$503,488	\$563,747	12.0%
March	\$586,771	\$564,058	\$775,881	\$699,095	-9.9%
April	\$725,531	\$1,160,458	\$1,484,424		
May	\$523,892	\$775,230	\$680,137		
June	\$580,253	\$706,984	\$976,494		
July	\$866,082	\$633,613	\$545,830		
August	\$672,274	\$643,978	\$650,899		
September	\$577,213	\$586,882	\$880,060		
October	\$575,551	\$647,787	\$692,571		
November	\$577,693	\$582,925	\$573,477		
December	\$553,117	\$605,819	\$558,046		
Yearly Totals	\$7,528,746	\$8,312,605	\$9,138,690	\$2,082,448	
YTD Progress	\$1,877,141	\$1,968,929	\$2,096,752	\$2,082,448	-0.7%

Total Refunds	2020 =	\$132,162	2021 =	\$115,450	2022 =	\$169,800	2023 YTD Refunds =	\$31,818
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Brenda A. Owens- City Treasurer 04/03/2023

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

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

FINANCE: Andy Bronner *(No Report)*

UTILITIES, LANDS & BUILDINGS: Mark Bishop

The following statistics on viewership of the City Council meeting from the previous meeting:

Reading March 21 Meeting Analytics Update

Live unique viewers: **28**

Impressions of live broadcast: **96**

Archived views on YouTube: **101**

Listeners to this meeting on (16) audio podcast platforms: **178**

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(Stats Provided by Rob Ebel, ESP Media, LLC.)

See also: Attached Information regarding Hunt Road closure.



Ross Patrick <pross@readingohio.org>

Hunt Road

To: Albrinck Kacher Carla <carla.albrinck@gmail.com> & 12 more

March 30, 2023 at 12:18 PM

[Details](#)

All,

We just wanted to make you aware of things our administrative team and departments have done since finding out about Blue Ash's project. I also want to let you know that no Reading officials were invited to any pre construction meetings which likely occurred months ago and we were notified less than a month before this major closure.

We know you may be receiving questions or comments from residents so just wanted to keep you all informed of what we've been doing before the closure and over the past few days since it's been closed.

Any questions let me know.

Patrick Ross

Safety Service Director

513-376-2501

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Hunt Road Closure Notes

- First time notified of project and closure on February 27 by Blue Ash Public Works Chief to Reading CPW Courtney with start date of March 20
- SSD Ross made contact with Blue Ash over to follow up questions such as full closure, length, scope of work, detour plan etc.
- Held multiple meetings with Police Chief, Fire Chief, Chief of Public Works discussing this topic alone and ensuring safety of neighborhood and traffic during Hunt's closure
- SSD Ross notified start date delayed due to Duke Delay in getting poles
- Blue Ash Fire Chief and Chief Owens spoke regarding Fire Response to Waxwing Subdivisions(Blue Ash is automatically dispatched to Reading) To allow for timely response from BA Fire Dept. from Cooper Road it was agreed that the gate on Waxwing b/w Reading and Blue Ash would be open during the Hunt Road closure, but primary detour route would not be through this route
- Mayor Bemmes primary concern with gate open is traffic safety and ensuring cars not speeding through Waxwing. Reading committed to put speed trailer on Waxwing, authorize overtime targeted speed enforcement in the area and asked Blue Ash to do the same. Blue Ash installed 2 temporary Stop Signs
- Administration drafted letter to be delivered to all homes in Cherryfield Subdivision, primarily to make them aware why the gate is open during construction and closed upon completion.
- March 17-notified by Blue Ash of March 27 start date.
- March 21- Letters hand delivered to Cherryfield residents
- March 27- Road closed(Waxwing Gate not opened as was discussed) B.A. said wanted to wait a few days, but didn't communicate that
- March 27- SSD Ross contacted TEC Engineers regarding adjusting timing of intersection at Fuhrman due to increased traffic at Fuhrman and WB RR Exit
- March 28- Gate opened end of Day
- March 29- TEC said could adjust signals into Free and change max times. This will allow flexibility to make changes if need be. Will make changes by end of week(31st of March)
- March 29- Asked Blue Ash to add signage on RR warning of stopped traffic on WB RR prior to Ridge Road exit

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

I had a citizen referred to me to look into an issue about light pollution from a neighboring property in a residential area. I suggest that this matter be put into my committee and also the Laws and Contracts committee.

I had a constituent reach out to me to get an idea if a certain type of housing would be allowed on several of his properties.

The same constituent also reached out about a possible way to reduce truck traffic in Reading. I am currently gathering information on the matter to see if it something that could possibly be pursued.

LAWS & CONTRACTS: Katie Eadicicco

I met with Linda Fitzgerald before the meeting. She is assisting the DORA committee and Reading Bridal District in getting the application written and submitted. The goal is to have DORA in place before the Fall in Love Bridal Show and that will be on September 14.

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These dates are tentative, but these are the goals as of right now: Linda plans to have the application completed and submitted to the mayor by May 16. Mr. Bemmes will file the application with the state.

Advertising and public notice will be on May 22 and May 29 and will be published in the Cincinnati Court Index and also on the city's website and on Facebook.

The public hearing will be during our council meeting on Tuesday, June 6.

The legislation will be presented to council on July 11. It is recommended to add an emergency clause to allow time for the State of Ohio to sign off on the DORA in order to have it in place by the Fall in Love show in September.

Linda and I want to remind everyone that this is a joint initiative between the Reading Bridal District, the City of Reading and the Laws and Contracts Committee.

I would like to schedule a committee meeting for Wednesday, April 12 at 6:30 PM in the caucus room. There's a lot to work on including the property maintenance updates and DORA along with the light pollution issues that Mr. Powell mentioned.

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY: Shelly Kroeger

Police Department run count for March, 2023

• Calls for service	916
• Auto Accidents	29
• Booking Original Charges	110
• Total Criminal Charges	153

Citations Issued

• Hamilton County	9
• Arlington Heights	11
• Juvenile	0
• Reading Mayor's	110

Total Citations	135
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Fire Departments run count for March, 2023

• EMS Responses	210
• Fire Responses	49

Total Responses	259
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In the month of March, the police department had several OVIs, auto accidents, several traffic stops that also resulted in citations for marijuana, domestic violence, criminal damaging at Observatory Park, Suspect charged with throwing rocks at passing cars, theft from CVS and UDF. The department completed several hours of extra patrols in the south end of Reading Rd. due to ongoing issues.

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The next “Drug Take Back” is scheduled for April 22, 2023, at the Reading Police Station. No liquids or needles.

Congratulations to Ryan Androne who was promoted to Assistant Fire Chief and to Tyler Strole who was promoted to Lieutenant.

SERVICE: Bob Boehner *(Will Give Report Next Week)*

RECREATION: Scott Thamann

- Easter Egg Hunt will be April 8 at the Fieldhouse @ 10 am.
- Clean Up Reading Day has been scheduled for April 22. More details to follow.
- Pool Pass sign-ups will be May 6, 13 & 20 from 10-Noon at the Fieldhouse.
- Opening day for the pool will be Saturday, June 3.
- The Reading Hilltop Basketball Court Restoration Project will be hosting a Cornhole Tournament and a Euchre Tournament in order to raise funds. The event will be on Saturday, May 6 at the UAW Local 683. Registration begins at 6:00 pm, and it should be a great time. Please call Regina Richmond if you have any questions or would like to help out: 254-1730.

OTHER BUSINESS: None

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

READING OF RESOLUTIONS:

READING OF ORDINANCES:

- (1) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR TO PURCHASE EQUIPMENT AND LABOR TO INSTALL CAMERAS, WIRELESS INTERNET AND NEW KEYLESS ENTRY SYSTEM FOR THE HAFHEY FIELDHOUSE, POOL, AND PARKING LOT AREA FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$25,000.00 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Ordinance was declared a first reading only.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

ADJOURNMENT:

Mrs. Eadicicco moved to adjourn. Mr. Bishop seconded. Motion carried by voice vote.
The meeting was adjourned at 9:47 pm.

X_____
Carla Kacher
Clerk of Council

X_____
Dwight Daum
President of Council