

**CITY OF READING, OHIO
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION
MAY 2, 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. Bohner, Mr. Thamann, Mrs. Kroeger & Mrs. Eadicicco.

OTHER CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Mayor Bo Bemmes, Treasurer Brenda Owens, Auditor Sabrina Smith & Clerk of Council Carla Kacher.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: None

AUDIENCE ASKING PARTICIPATION:

(1) Pat Ormond (2720 Mapletree Ct.)

Gave update on Reading Recycling numbers: 2022 14.94% Diversion Rate, up from 2021 at 5.20%.
The City of Reading will be receiving a check for \$8,840.00 (2021 received a check for \$4,685.00).

(2) Sue Rinderle (Resident of Siebenthaler)

Spoke about Classical Academy expanding their campus

- Mr. Thamann commented: No decisions made by the Classical Academy until November 2023. It's between our location and a Wards Corner location. Mr. Thamann thinks the Wards Corner location would be better suited to their needs, especially to add 1,000 students to the already heavy traffic area.

- Mr. Bemmes commented: We can't just say "no" if they decide to proceed forward with this as long as they are in the proper zoning.

Sue Rinderle asked if another speed sign can be placed on Siebenthaler

- Mr. Bohner commented: Speeding coming up Siebenthaler is worse coming up the hill than it is going down the hill.

(3) Cheryl (Ladies Auxiliary): Presented a \$4,000.00 check for the City of Reading Fireworks fund.

COMMUNICATIONS: None

GUEST SPEAKERS:

(1) Wade Johnson (Speaking on behalf of Tri-State Trails)

- Discussed "Mill Creek Triangle Feasibility Study." Asking for financial support from the City of Reading to support this project.

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PO Box 14270
Cincinnati, OH 45250

513.655.3981
www.tristatetrails.org

April 24, 2023

Mayor Robert Bemmes and Reading City Council
City of Reading
1000 Market Street
Reading, OH 45215-3209

Dear Mayor Bemmes and Esteemed Council Members,

Tri-State Trails, Mill Creek Alliance, Great Parks of Hamilton County, and several local governments involved in the Connecting Active Communities Coalition have been convening for nearly eight years through the Mill Creek Collaborative to advance the vision for the Mill Creek Triangle Trail. Following Great Parks' recent acquisition of a former rail line along Sharon Creek in Sharonville and Evendale, our team is ready to organize a multi-jurisdictional feasibility study to formalize the vision for the Mill Creek Triangle Trail. The objectives of this study are as follows:

- Explore trail alignment options and recommend a preferred route;
- Partner with a qualified engineering firm to develop cost estimates for the preferred route and alternatives;
- Conduct public engagement for the Mill Creek Triangle Trail; and
- Position trail segments to apply for federal and state grant funding for construction.

Because your community is along the proposed route for the Mill Creek Triangle Trail, we invite your organization to contribute financially to support the feasibility study. Enclosed are some additional materials about the study, including the scope of work, trail maps, and our collaborative fundraising strategy. Phase 2 of the feasibility study will directly benefit the City of Reading with a detailed engineering study to explore trail alignments from Glendale-Milford Road to Benson Street, connecting to Reading's existing trail in Koenig Park. In addition, Phase 1 will explore a trail connection from Glendale-Milford Road to Sharon Woods, and Phase 3 proposes to explore a connection from the City of Reading to the West Fork of the Mill Creek Greenway in Wyoming. To explore these routes, we respectfully request \$5,000 from the City of Reading to support the feasibility study.

Our team would welcome the opportunity to present on this matter to your council or decision-making body. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or to discuss next steps.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wade Johnston".

Wade Johnston, AICP
Executive Director
Tri-State Trails
wade@tristatetrails.org

Tri-State Trails is an alliance of community advocates advancing a vision to connect and expand our region's trail network. We connect people and places with walkable and bikeable trails to enhance the vibrancy, equity and health of our communities.

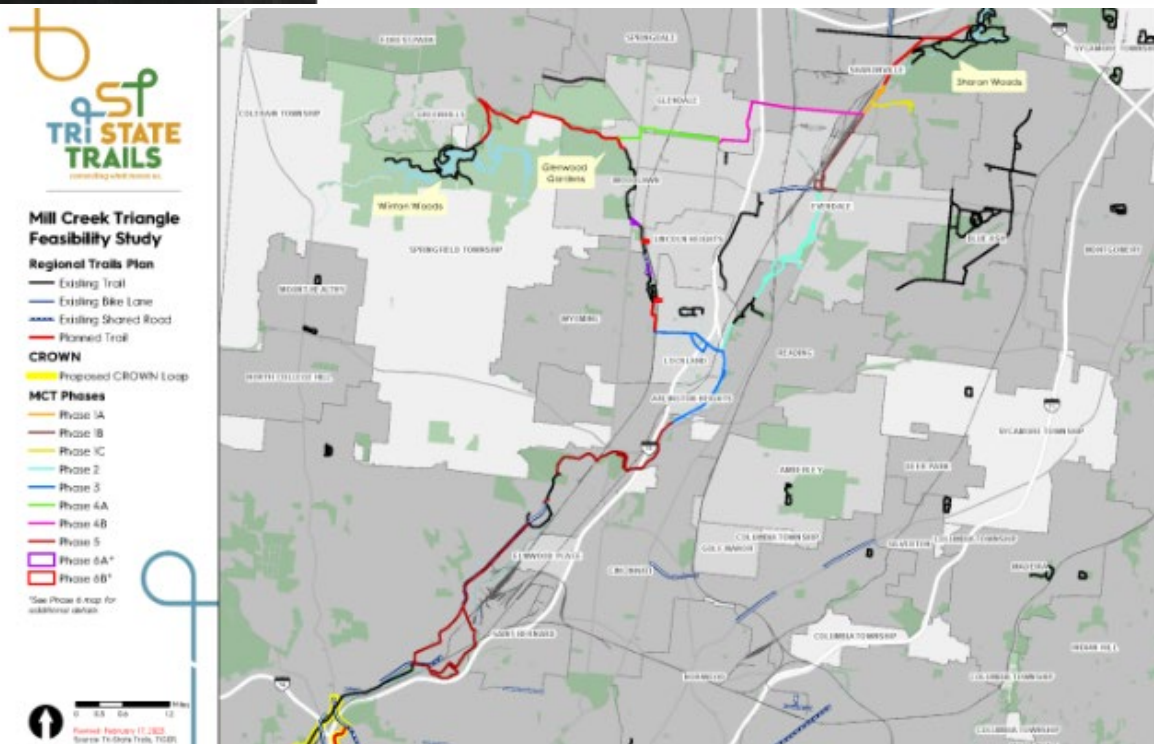
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Connecting Active Communities Coalition

Mission: Coordinate and integrate a multijurisdictional approach to active transportation initiatives in an effort to improve community outcomes (health, recreation, safety, environment and economic) through collaborative efforts.

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| • Amberley Village | • Alloy Development |
| • Arlington Heights | • First Suburbs Consortium |
| • Blue Ash | • Great Parks |
| • Evendale | • Hamilton County Planning + Development |
| • Forest Park | • Hamilton County Public Health / WeTHRIVE! |
| • Glendale | • Mill Creek Alliance |
| • Lincoln Heights | • Mill Creek Valley Conservancy District |
| • Lockland | • Tri-State Trails |
| • Montgomery | |
| • Reading | |
| • Sharonville | |
| • Woodlawn | |
| • Wyoming | |



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(2) Linda Fitzgerald (Economic Development Director), Colleen Kemp & Debbie Peak (RBD Board Members)

- Discussed DORA Application & thanked everyone for their incredible partnership and hard work on this.

After Linda's presentation Mayor Bemmes formally submitted the application to Council.

Motion made by Mrs. Eadicicco, seconded by Mr. Powell to accept the application. Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

Motion made by Mrs. Eadicicco, seconded by Mr. Boehner to hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, June 6, during Council Meeting. Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

Motion made by Mrs. Eadicicco, seconded by Mr. Bronner to have the Clerk of Council publish the Public Notice. Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

GUEST ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIAL REPORTS:

MAYOR: Robert "Bo" Bemmes:

- We as a City must live, by law, within our means and therefore must prioritize all spending. With Public Safety being our top priority, we must always make sure, while not spend more than we bring in, that we have enough employees for each of our departments to carry out their responsibilities and duties. Each department needs to have the best equipment we can afford and our employees the proper training that they need. To accomplish those goals, we need to have dollars to invest in economic development. We need to do all that we can to keep the businesses we have, encourage them to grow here and to attract new businesses. We need to establish and maintain a rainy-day fund (State Auditors suggest at least 15% of our General Fund or approximately \$1.5 million) so we can continue to operate in case of an economic downturn or an emergency. We have an aging pool that we have been told will need to be replaced within the next 3 to 5 years at an estimated cost of over \$2 million. We will always have an ongoing list of residential roads that need to be repaved and maintained (within the last 20 years, using millions of grant dollars, we have accomplished over 40 major road renovations, replaced two aging box culverts, had a bridge replaced and others repaired). We will continue to have water mains and sewer

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lines that need to be maintained and eventually replaced. We will need to continue maintenance of our parks and Veterans Memorial Stadium. We have alleys and parking lots we must continue to maintain.

- During the last month our Public Works Department has spent a lot of their time on filling potholes, preparing our Parks for our citizens to use, preparing ballfields for our youth to use, operating the street sweeper and vac-all to help keep our storm water catch basins and pipes unclogged, replacing old signage to help with traffic control, mapping lead water lines in our City using a grant we received, opening park restrooms which is time consuming and must wait until the threat of freezing temperatures is behind us, repairing/replacing fire hydrants where necessary.

- If anyone opted out of our electric aggregation program and would like to be back in, please call Energy Alliance at 513-794-5555. For the average home you can save approx. \$30.00 per month.

- On Saturday April 22 we had Clean up Reading Day. Over 60 volunteers helped remove a lot of trash from our City Streets, our Parks, along the railroad tracks, and from Saints Peter and Paul Cemetery. I would like to thank the many individuals who have picked up litter throughout our city for many years and Diane Brown, Lisa Schoenberger and our Girl Scouts who have been keeping our City neat for over 30 years. I would also like to thank Pat and Tracy Ormond and WeThrivers and Bruce Koehler and the Mill Creek Yacht Club for their incredible efforts to remove litter as well.

- PLEASE SLOW DOWN AS YOU DRIVE AND KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN FOR PEDESTRIANS, ESPECIALLY OUR YOUNG CHILDREN. PLEASE CALL OUR POLICE WHEN YOU WITNESS ANY SPEEDING OR RECKLESS DRIVING AS CATCHING DRIVERS IN THE ACT IS THE WAY TO CORRECT THIS DANGEROUS PROBLEM.

- Pool signups are on the first three Saturdays in May from 10am till noon at the Haffey Fieldhouse. Our Pool membership costs remain as economical as we can keep them with a family membership at \$120.00 an individual at \$90 and senior citizens at \$25 if you get them before June 1. After June 1 the family cost goes up to \$140, individuals \$120 and seniors to \$30. You can also get membership if you work full time in Reading.

- The VYO's Memorial weekend festival is on May 26, 27, 28 and 29 with excellent food, drinks, entertainment, rides, softball games and a lot of awesome people. Please come to Koenig Park and support an incredible all volunteer organization that keeps close to 300 boys and girls busy each year playing basketball, softball, and baseball. All kids are given an opportunity to be on a team and learn the fundamentals of the game while being taught teamwork and sportsmanship.

- The Memorial Day Parade is on May 29 starting at 9am at the Arlington Heights City Hall.

- Our American Legions festival will be on July 1st and 2nd from 5 till 10pm with the Fireworks going off at 10pm on July 2. The Legions festival committee is determined to make this year's festival better with kids' rides coming back as well as three Food Trucks an expanded men's and women's softball tournament Bingo and more.

- The Taste of Reading will be held on August 26 with food trucks, crafts, performances by Reading High Schools Band and Dance Team.

- MSD's sewer project on Reading Road that has traffic down to one lane each way is projected to go on for the remainder of this year.

- Our City Engineers are putting together several options and estimates for the Hunt Road landslide between Fuhrman and Waxwing.

- 3rd Street repaving, using \$465,000 from Duke energy as a part of the pipeline project, has been completed. I want to thank

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3rd Street and all adjoining Streets residents for your patience through this long, disruptive project.

- The West Columbia Road project bid opening will be on May 15. We hope Council will award the bid ASAP so we can complete this project where we received a \$260k grant from SORTA.

- On May 1 I administered the oath of office to our new Police/Mayors Court Clerk Kirk Terrell.

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

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

TREASURER: Brenda Owens

City of Reading
2023 April 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	\$97,988	23.5%
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	\$441,112	-3.6%
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	\$722,297	
YTD Progress	\$377,623	\$501,957	\$705,515	\$722,297	2.4%

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	\$701,491	-6.8%
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	\$2,362,545	
YTD Progress	\$2,080,295	\$2,395,208	\$2,317,667	\$2,362,545	1.9%

Business Profits Income Taxes

	2020	2021	2022	2023	% Change 22 to 23
January	\$22,258	\$11,981	\$48,907	\$21,712	-55.6%
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	\$231,557	-15.6%
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	\$371,766	
YTD Progress	\$144,753	\$232,222	\$557,994	\$371,766	-33.4%

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	\$1,374,159	-7.4%
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	\$3,456,608	
YTD Progress	\$2,602,672	\$3,129,387	\$3,581,176	\$3,456,608	-3.5%

Total Refunds 2020 = \$132,162 2021 = \$115,450

2022 = \$169,800 2023 YTD Refunds = \$65,095

Brenda A. Owens- City Treasurer 05/01/2023

AUDITOR: Sabrina Smith: *(No Report)*

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COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

FINANCE: Andy Bronner

- The Treasurer and Auditor met with the City's Relationship Manager from 5/3 Bank today. At this meeting both parties share updates on their business, what is upcoming as far as projects, shared resources and needs for the present and future.
- The Auditors office is working diligently to coordinate the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles statements for 2022. Final requests have been made by the Audit Team and they are hoping to finish all items soon. Thank you to the City of Reading staff for helping with each of their pieces which contribute to the audit.

UTILITIES, LANDS & BUILDINGS: Mark Bishop

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

Reading April 18 Meeting Analytics Update

Live unique viewers: **48**

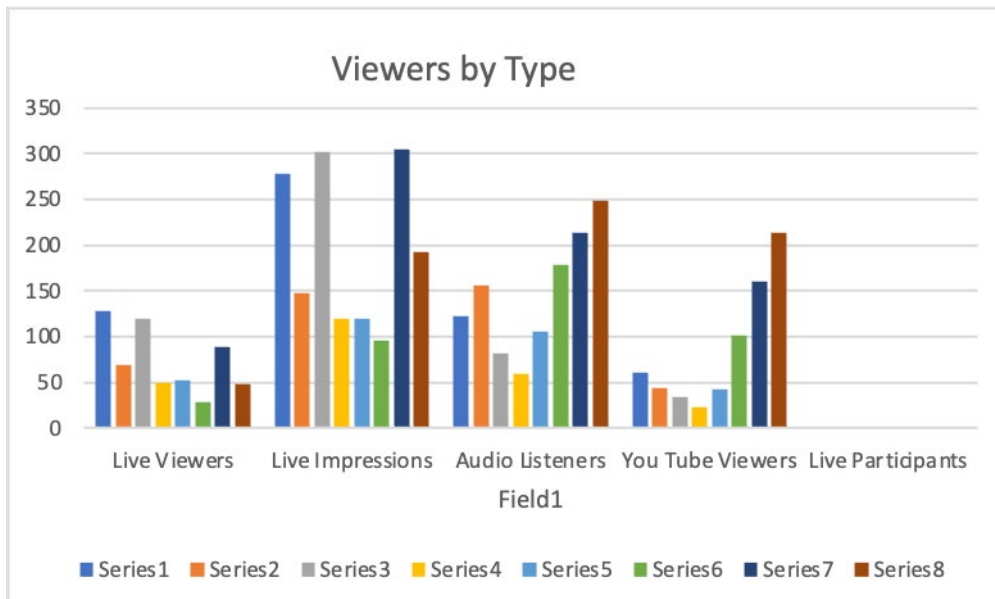
Impressions of live broadcast: **192**

Archived views on YouTube: **213**

Listeners to this meeting on (16) audio podcast platforms: **249**

History (2023)

	1/3/23	1/17/23	2/7/23	2/21/23	3/7/23	3/21/23	4/4/23	4/18/23
Live Viewers	128	69	120	49	52	28	89	48
Live Impressions	278	147	302	119	120	96	305	192
Audio Listeners	122	156	82	60	105	178	213	249
You Tube Viewers	61	44	34	23	42	101	160	213
Live Participants				2	2			



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

ZONING, PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT: Dave Powell

I will have an ordinance on the floor at our next regular council meeting to fund Reading's portion of the Triangle Trail feasibility study.

I received an email from a constituent about a pothole on Reading Road near Galbraith Road. I drove the road over the weekend to observe the pothole and have asked that it be filled the next time our service department has a crew out filling potholes.

LAWS & CONTRACTS: Katie Eadicicco

First, I want to start by saying I've had a couple really great committee meetings over the few months, and I feel like we've accomplished a lot.

I received the final draft of the updated Property Maintenance Codes from Paul Culter that have all the changes and revisions we made included, and now has the section for condemning and demolishing properties added. I sent copies to each council member to review, and I will have an ordinance at our next meeting regarding implementing the updated codes.

Also, I'm happy to see the DORA application come together and I would like to thank everyone for their hard work on this, including Linda Fitzgerald, Nick Diedrich, and the rest of the Bridal District board members, as well as my committee members and Mr. Stevenson.

Just a reminder, the public hearing for DORA will be during our June 6th council meeting and the application is available for public review.

I would like to get the application on the city's website, if possible, as well as the city's Facebook page.

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY: Shelly Kroeger

Police Department run count for April, 2023

- Calls for service 1027
- Auto Accidents 28
- Booking Original Charges 106
- Total Criminal Charges 145

Citations Issued

- Hamilton County 4
- Arlington Heights 15
- Juvenile 2
- Reading Mayor's 81

Total Citations 102

For the month of April, there were several OVIs, some theft reports, stolen cars, a couple overdoes and a few domestic violence charges.

There has been some concern with the south end of Reading. I can assure you that our police department are doing everything they can with what they've got. A resident has reached out to me and to the We Thrive group about the purchasing of Flock

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cameras, which to my understand are cameras that read license plates and alert the police if anything suspicious pops up from that license plate. I haven't had the chance to speak with Chief Edens about them yet, but I plan to hold a safety committee meeting in the near future. And just for the record, We Thrive wouldn't have anything to do with the purchasing of cameras. My take on We Thrive is that their group is to make Reading clean, which is why they work with Walk for a Purpose, to make Reading Healthy, which is why they hold the farmer's market in the fall and to make Reading fun and get people involved in the city, which is why they do the park passport and adopt-a-pot.

Fire Departments run count for April, 2023

- EMS Responses 187
- Fire Responses 29

Total Responses 216

Thanks to the fire department for attending the Reading Elementary Carnival and their help with Clean Up Reading Day.

SERVICE: Bob Boehner

Reading Public Works Council Report May 2 2023

City crew have been out patching potholes in the streets

The mulcher has been out collecting branches.

City crew made repaired a toilet in Police Dept

City crew cleaned up the old incinerator, which was used for storage

City crew repaired the irrigation system at Bemmes Park

City crew painted pickleball courts at Koenig Park

City crews have gone back and repaired several locations throughout the City where water main breaks have occurred and repaired concrete and put dirt in behind curbs and grass seed

City crews replace a Fire Hydrant at 8400 block of Reading Rd near the BP Station

City crew repaired the fence at Bemmes Field from doing repairs on valve for the water line at West North & Market Sts

Vacall was out cleaning catch basins

City crews are getting ready to start water lead line identification and exercising street valves

City crew replaced a door at the Hilltop Fire station

City crews have been painting soccer fields throughout the City

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RECREATION: Scott Thamann

- Pool sign-ups begin this Saturday at the Haffey Field House from 10 a.m. to noon. We will host sign-ups for the following 2 weeks as well, on May 13 and 20th. Opening day for the pool will be Saturday, June 3. Plus, we will have three additional evenings, on May 22, 23, and 24 from 6:00 pm-8:00 pm,, again at Haffey Fieldhouse.
- On Saturday, the Chad Richmond / Hilltop Basketball Court restoration project is hosting a fundraiser this Saturday at the UAW in Evendale. They will be hosting a Cornhole Tournament, a Euchre Tournament, with other games and prizes. They will also have a food truck. Registration is from 6:00 pm to 6:30. For more information, please go to their facebook page: Hilltop Basketball Restoration in Memory of Chad Richmond.

OTHER BUSINESS: None

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

READING OF RESOLUTIONS: None

READING OF ORDINANCES: None

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Boehner moved to adjourn. Mrs. Kroeger seconded. Motion carried by voice vote.
The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 pm.

X _____
Carla Kacher
Clerk of Council

X _____
Dwight Daum
President of Council