

**CITY OF READING, OHIO
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION
SEPTEMBER 5, 2023 – 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. Boehner, Mr. Thamann, Mrs. Kroeger & Mrs. Eadicicco.

OTHER CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT: Mayor Bo Bemmes and Treasurer Brenda Owens

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: None

AUDIENCE ASKING PARTICIPATION:

Bob Ashbrock spoke of railroad crossings being blocked by trains and reminded council that the resolution on tonight's agenda was about finding a better way to connect the east side of the county with the west side of the county and that it was the same resolution passed by council last year. He encouraged council to support it again.

COMMUNICATIONS: None

GUEST SPEAKERS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

GUEST ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIAL REPORTS

MAYOR: Robert "Bo" Bemmes

The mayor indicated that people should call the police when they see suspicious or illegal activity. He asked people to slow their vehicles down in school zones, since schools are now open. The city's traffic study for Siebenthaler and Dorian is in progress. The Classical Academy is commissioning their own traffic study to be done soon. The farmers' market is open every Friday until September 29th. Columbia Avenue, Maple Drive, and Fuhrman Road will be paved in 2024. The city has applied for SORTA fund grants for paving Landy Lane and Koehler Avenue. The city has already been awarded money to pave Columbia Avenue from Reading Road to Lockland. The DORA grand opening is on Friday, September 8. The DORA is in effect from noon to 10 pm daily. The bridal district's fall in love event will be on Thursday, September 14. Benson Street will be closed that day from Reading Road to Wachendorf from 5 pm to 10 pm. Our Lady of the Valley Septemberfest will be on the 16th and 17th. Fundraising for the Hilltop basketball court renovation in honor of Chad Richmond is ongoing. The city is waiting on results of the SCIP applications for repaving Burkhardt Avenue and Harvest Lane and repairs due to the Hunt Road landslide. The mayor thanked volunteers for cleaning up the stadium after events.

Mr Boehner mentioned an ongoing problem at the Classical academy with busses travelling left of center. This is causing major backups and traffic disruption. The mayor responded with discussion of removing parking on one side of the street, which was very unpopular with the residents. Discussion ensued.

CITY OF READING, OHIO

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION

SEPTEMBER 5, 2023 – 7:30 PM

Mr. Powell mentioned that council had authorized a traffic study for Galbraith Road and asked when that would be completed. The mayor replied that he did not have dates for that study, but that he would find out.

Mr. Bronner asked Mr. Boehner if he had been able to get a bus company name from any of the busses that had used the wrong lane. Mr. Boehner replied that he had not.

Mr. Thamann asked the mayor when repaving of Reading Road might begin. The mayor replied that progress has stopped, because Duke Energy has to do some work first. Mr. Boehner indicated that the contractor was delayed in arriving. He also said that Reading Road would be complete by the end of November. The mayor indicated that the contract gives the contractors until early spring to complete the work, and that they had been delayed due to the inability to get materials.

Mr. Bishop asked whether there is a human on site during the traffic study or if it is all automated. The mayor indicated that there would be human involvement as well as 24/7 surveillance during the study.

The president asked the mayor about the rough condition of the north end of Reading Road. The mayor responded by saying that the contractor who did that work would not be used in the future.

Mrs. Eadicicco asked whether the heat has pushed out the repaving process, and the mayor indicated that Duke still has work to do in the area prior to repaving.

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

LAW DIRECTOR: Dave Stevenson (No Report, Absent)

TREASURER: Brenda Owens

Written report of YOY August and YTD revenues versus previous years follows.

City of Reading 2023 August 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	\$73,112	-28.6%
June	\$99,299	\$134,637	\$107,043	\$117,960	10.2%
July	\$337,009	\$82,544	\$28,939	\$35,819	23.8%
August	\$71,990	\$39,361	\$36,571	\$34,271	-6.3%
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	\$983,459	
YTD Progress	\$934,898	\$981,954	\$980,489	\$983,459	0.3%

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	\$480,917	-10.1%
June	\$441,487	\$484,864	\$470,151	\$475,836	1.2%
July	\$433,643	\$507,334	\$501,087	\$671,451	34.0%
August	\$519,886	\$566,411	\$591,928	\$459,951	-22.3%
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	\$4,450,699	
YTD Progress	\$3,928,312	\$4,444,779	\$4,415,744	\$4,450,699	0.8%

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	\$13,048	-69.5%
June	\$39,477	\$87,483	\$399,300	\$136,640	-65.8%
July	\$95,430	\$43,735	\$15,804	\$32,265	104.2%
August	\$80,398	\$38,207	\$22,399	\$38,469	71.7%
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	\$592,188	
YTD Progress	\$381,963	\$462,459	\$1,038,303	\$592,188	-43.0%

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	\$567,077	-16.6%
June	\$580,253	\$706,984	\$976,494	\$730,436	-25.2%
July	\$866,082	\$633,613	\$545,830	\$739,534	35.5%
August	\$672,274	\$643,978	\$650,899	\$532,692	-18.2%
September	\$577,213	\$586,882	\$880,060		
October	\$575,551	\$647,787	\$662,571		
November	\$577,693	\$582,925	\$573,477		
December	\$553,117	\$605,819	\$558,046		
Yearly Totals	\$7,528,746	\$8,312,685	\$9,138,690	\$6,826,347	
YTD Progress	\$5,245,172	\$5,889,192	\$6,434,536	\$6,826,347	-6.3%

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

2022 = \$169,809 2023 YTD Refunds = \$125,198

Brenda A. Owens- City Treasurer 09/01/2023

**CITY OF READING, OHIO
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION
SEPTEMBER 5, 2023 – 7:30 PM**

Mr. Powell asked whether the anemic growth in revenues was related to inflation or any other assignable factor. The treasurer indicated that there she could not assign a cause. Mr. Powell expressed concern regarding a 3% increase in revenues having been used for budgeting purposes when the growth was much less. The treasurer brought up the fact that tax extensions are due in October, but could not estimate what the effect would be.

AUDITOR: Sabrina Smith (Absent)

The written report provided follows.

The following is a Financial Statement of receipts and disbursements for the month of July and the balances in the following funds at the close of business July 31, 2023 as disclosed by the records and the accounts in the respective departments.

Fund	Description.....	Beg Mo Bal.....	Mtd Receipts..	Mtd Expenses..	Unexp bal.....	Encumbrances..	Unenc bal.....
101	GENERAL FUND	1,081,093.78	180,160.64	687,366.68	573,887.74	-	573,887.74
210	STREET MAINTENANCE	862,622.35	65,752.51	52,857.11	875,517.75	-	875,517.75
215	STATE HIGHWAY	254,223.44	5,331.28	-	259,554.72	-	259,554.72
220	CITY EARNINGS TAX	5,396,040.81	742,638.81	30,244.62	6,108,435.00	-	6,108,435.00
222	MAYORS COURT COMPUTER	16,308.16	1,139.00	161.51	17,285.65	-	17,285.65
223	DUI ENFORCEMENT	14,357.00	118.00	385.00	14,090.00	-	14,090.00
225	EPA BROWNSFIELD GRANT	77,818.78	-	-	77,818.78	-	77,818.78
230	Streets & Curbs	662,560.74	-	108,838.49	553,722.25	-	553,722.25
240	STADIUM	163,686.36	28,286.40	-	191,972.76	-	191,972.76
242	FIRE/EMS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT	772,879.62	26,032.76	5,580.37	793,332.01	-	793,332.01
243	POLICE & FIRE COMMUNICATIONS	-	-	-	-	-	-
245	DRUG ENFORCEMENT	91,655.76	150.00	-	91,805.76	-	91,805.76
260	MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE	195,423.82	7,026.18	-	202,450.00	-	202,450.00
265	ALCOHOL EDUCATION	12,715.28	-	-	12,715.28	-	12,715.28
275	MUNICIPAL ROAD	131,653.63	-	-	131,653.63	-	131,653.63
340	CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT	597,833.12	-	-	597,833.12	-	597,833.12
341	STADIUM TRACK IMPROVEMENT	273.85	-	-	273.85	-	273.85
343	GROWTH FUND	104,569.76	-	-	104,569.76	-	104,569.76
370	READING ROAD DEV	494.70	-	-	494.70	-	494.70
380	OPWC SCIP	2,306.02	-	-	2,306.02	-	2,306.02
401	FEMA	146,686.95	-	-	146,686.95	-	146,686.95
430	GENERAL SINKING	5,102.95	-	-	5,102.95	-	5,102.95
432	SPECIAL ASSESSMENT	384.72	-	-	384.72	-	384.72
433	WATER NOTE	728.23	-	-	728.23	-	728.23
501	COVID RELIEF FUND	525,933.15	-	-	525,933.15	-	525,933.15
605	WATER	429,206.86	168,913.42	163,043.40	435,076.88	-	435,076.88
608	WATER TRUST	127,089.05	-	-	127,089.05	-	127,089.05
801	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCY	11,621.13	-	-	11,621.13	-	11,621.13
825	SEWAGE DISP TRUST	1,340,613.21	223,648.51	209,297.29	1,354,964.43	-	1,354,964.43
827	SEWER SERVICE FEE	696,788.12	-	-	696,788.12	-	696,788.12
835	ACCRUED SICK & VAC PAY	16,324.46	-	-	16,324.46	-	16,324.46
		13,738,995.81	1,449,197.51	1,257,774.47	13,930,418.85	-	13,930,418.85

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE: Andy Bronner

Costs of the 3 traffic studies are as follows: Siebenthaler and Dorian, \$2,070; East Galbraith Road, \$3,500; Reading and Columbia, \$2,300. The auditor has transferred \$2 million from the City Earnings Tax Fund to the 101 General Fund. Balances in each fund before the transfer were \$6,615,611.54 in the 202 fund and a negative \$246,634.92 in the 101 fund. There is a finance committee meeting Thursday, September 7, 2023 at 7 pm in Council Chambers.

UTILITIES, LANDS & BUILDINGS: Mark Bishop (No report)

ZONING, PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT: Dave Powell

Mr. Powell indicated that short-term rental companies such as Air Bnb have listings in our community, so the city zoning code could use some updating in that regard. Mr. Powell would like to schedule a committee meeting for the first part of next month (date TBD) to discuss short-

**CITY OF READING, OHIO
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION
SEPTEMBER 5, 2023 – 7:30 PM**

term rentals and the need to regulate them. He asked the other committee members to check their schedules, so they could arrange a meeting date at the next council meeting.

LAWS & CONTRACTS: Katie Eadicicco

DORA signs are up, and cups are in. Permit holders can purchase the cups from the city for \$1.00 each. The DORA is in effect, and the kickoff is Friday, September 8th.

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY: Shelly Kroeger

Police Department run count for August, 2023

Calls for service	1153
Auto Accidents	23
Booking Original Charges	149
Total Criminal Charges	202

Citations Issued

Hamilton County	10
Arlington Heights	36
Juvenile	0
Reading Mayor's	107
Total Citations	202

Fire Departments run count for August, 2023

EMS Responses	225
Fire Responses	37
Total Responses	262

For the month of August, there were theft of packages, license plates, property from a storage unit and vehicles. There were several OVIs. There were arrests for drug paraphernalia, domestic violence, and assault. This is a reminder that if you have an emergency, please dial 911. If you have a non emergent issue, please call the county non emergency line at 513-825-2280.

The fire department attended National Night Out, which was a great event. Members attended the Amberly Village ice cream social. Medics provided coverage for the Reading high School football games, and the department provided CPR training for St. Paul Lutheran and Cincinnati Classical Academy.

The president inquired of Mrs. Kroeger whether she had followed up with the RPD and RFD regarding situations like East Palestine. There is no written plan. They simply secure the scene and call federal agencies to take it from there. Discussion ensued.

SERVICE: Bob Boehner

City crews have been out fixing potholes in the streets. The mulcher has been out collecting branches. The VacAll has been out cleaning catch basins. City crews have been doing a lot of tree and brush trimming in city parks and laid out a soccer field on Bonnell and Halker Avenue.

**CITY OF READING, OHIO
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION
SEPTEMBER 5, 2023 – 7:30 PM**

They have been repairing catch basins throughout the city and a water leak in Blue Ash on Waxwing that is owned by the Reading Water Works and the roadway in the work area. City crews repaired a roof drain at City Hall that was leaking in the storage area in the auditor's office. They put up new DORA signage on West Benson Street and painted all the football and soccer fields in the city. Crews performed two water digs on Sanborn Court and Lenore Drive. They repaired a water drain on Petworth Court. There will be a service committee meeting next Tuesday at 7 pm in council chambers. Service Department Chief Darryl Courtney will be there to provide information regarding adding two more service department employees. Mr. Boehner asked that the mayor and safety service director attend.

Mrs. Eadicicco asked Mr. Boehner how the presence of lead pipes is determined, since some of her neighbors have come home to holes in their yards. Mr. Bronner explained the process that he observed. Mr. Boehner indicated that the state requires a visual confirmation of the presence of lead pipes. Discussion ensued.

RECREATION: Scott Thamann

The pool is closed for the winter. Reminder that we will start taking applications beginning January 2.

Our service department is currently working on finding the leak for the baby pool.

Last week, the city purchased new park benches for Koenig Park to replace the old ones around the playground equipment.

If you want to mark you calendars now:

Holiday Walk on Benson Street will be Saturday, December 2.

Halloween Trick-or-Treating will be on October 31 from 6-8pm

OTHER BUSINESS:

Mrs. Eadicicco brought up the issue of tractor trailers driving up and down Columbia Avenue, which is prohibited due to the steep incline. Discussion ensued. She also asked about the status of the Rally's building. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Powell mentioned an email about mini grants from Hamilton County and asked council members to consider how to use these funds with regard to the covid pandemic. Discussion ensued.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

READING OF RESOLUTIONS:

A Resolution of Support for the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) Grant Application by Hamilton County Planning and Development in partnership with First Suburbs Consortium of Southwest Ohio to Secure Funding for a Planning Study to Identify Ways and Means of Evaluating East-to-West Mobility and Connectivity Problems in Central Hamilton County.

Discussion: Mr. Bishop, reminded council that this application scored high marks and the county was encouraged to resubmit it. It also has no out-of-pocket expenses for Reading, and is the same resolution that council passed last year.

A motion to suspend the rules requiring a second and third reading was made by Mr. Boehner and seconded by Mr. Powell. Roll call vote: Mr. Powell, yes; Mr. Bronner, yes; Mr. Bishop, yes; Mr. Boehner, yes; Mr. Thamann, yes; Mrs. Kroeger, yes; Mrs. Eadicicco, yes. The rules are suspended.

A motion to adopt the resolution was made by Mr. Powell and seconded by Mr. Bishop. Roll call vote: Mr. Powell, yes; Mr. Bronner, yes; Mr. Bishop, yes; Mr. Boehner, yes; Mr. Thamann, yes; Mrs. Kroeger, yes; Mrs. Eadicicco, yes. The resolution is adopted. Resolution number 2023-30(R).

**CITY OF READING, OHIO
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION
SEPTEMBER 5, 2023 – 7:30 PM**

READING OF ORDINANCES:

- 1. AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING SALARIES FOR THE POLICE CHIEF, FIRE, CHIEF, AND ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF; THIS ORDINANCE SUPERCEDES AND REPLACES ORDINANCE NUMBERS 2015-93 AND 2018-18.**

A motion to suspend the rules requiring a second and third reading was made by Mr. Thamann and seconded by Mr. Bishop. Roll call vote: Mr. Powell, yes; Mr. Bronner, yes; Mr. Bishop, yes; Mr. Boehner, yes; Mr. Thamann, yes; Mrs. Kroeger, yes; Mrs. Eadicicco, yes. The rules are suspended.

A motion to adopt the ordinance was made by Mr. Bishop and seconded by Mrs. Kroeger. Roll call vote: Mr. Powell, yes; Mr. Bronner, yes; Mr. Bishop, yes; Mr. Boehner, yes; Mrs. Thamann, yes; Mrs. Kroeger, yes; Mrs. Eadicicco, yes. The ordinance is adopted. Resolution number 2023-31.

- 2. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE UPGRADE OF THE MAYOR'S COURT SOFTWARE AD SUPPORT FROM THE BALDWIN GROUP AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Discussion: The president asked for discussion regarding the emergency clause. Some council members indicated that the current software was outdated and training on the new software was included. Money was coming from the covid relief fund.

Mr. Powell made a motion to correct the typographical error in the ordinance title to change AD to the word AND. Mr. Bishop seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Powell, yes; Mr. Bronner, yes; Mr. Bishop, yes; Mr. Boehner, yes; Mr. Thamann, yes; Mrs. Kroeger, yes; Mrs. Eadicicco, yes. The correction is adopted.

A motion to suspend the rules requiring a second and third reading was made by Mr. Boehner and seconded by Mr. Bronner. Roll call vote: Mr. Powell, yes; Mr. Bronner, yes; Mr. Bishop, yes; Mr. Boehner, yes; Mr. Thamann, yes; Mrs. Kroeger, yes; Mrs. Eadicicco, yes. The rules are suspended.

A motion to adopt the ordinance was made by Mrs. Eadicicco and seconded by Mr. Bishop. Roll call vote: Mr. Powell, yes; Mr. Bronner, yes; Mr. Bishop, yes; Mr. Boehner, yes; Mrs. Thamann, yes; Mrs. Kroeger, yes; Mrs. Eadicicco, yes. The ordinance is adopted. Resolution number 2023-32.

- 3. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR TO PURCHASE AND INSTALL ALL EQUIPMENT AND LABOR NECESSARY TO INSTALL SECURITY CAMERA SYSTEMS AND DECLARING AND EMERGENCY.**

Discussion: Mr. Bishop mentioned that the ordinance says, "not to exceed \$20,000." He provided the cost by city park and stated that the uncertainty regarding cost depends on who digs the trenches for wire connections. The reason for the emergency is to get the work done before snow falls.

A motion to suspend the rules requiring a second and third reading was made by Mr. Boehner and seconded by Mrs. Kroeger. Roll call vote: Mr. Powell, yes; Mr. Bronner, yes; Mr. Bishop, yes; Mr. Boehner, yes; Mr. Thamann, yes; Mrs. Kroeger, yes; Mrs. Eadicicco, yes. The rules are suspended.

A motion to adopt the ordinance was made by Mr. Bronner and seconded by Mr. Boehner. Roll call vote: Mr. Powell, yes; Mr. Bronner, yes; Mr. Bishop, yes; Mr. Boehner, yes; Mrs. Thamann, yes; Mrs. Kroeger, yes; Mrs. Eadicicco, yes. The ordinance is adopted. Resolution number 2023-33.

- 4. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE TREASURER TO APPOINT AN ADDITIONAL FULL-TIME DEPUTY TREASURER, NOT TO EXCEED ONE, FOR THE CITY OF READING, OHIO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

**CITY OF READING, OHIO
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION
SEPTEMBER 5, 2023 – 7:30 PM**

Discussion: Mr. Bronner indicated we do need an additional deputy treasurer, and that the topic would be addressed at the upcoming finance committee meeting, so he would like to leave it as a first reading only. The treasurer agreed. The ordinance remains in first reading status.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS: None

Mr. Bishop mentioned an article about the Greyhound bus terminal having more Metro connections in order to get people away from the Greyhound terminal.

The president asked Mr. Bronner specifically and council as a group why council was not notified of large payouts in July of 2022 as required by Ohio law and City ordinance. Discussion ensued. He also reminded the public that the current council would not require the masking for covid19 certain organizations are pushing.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Bronner moved to adjourn. Mrs. Kroeger seconded. Motion carried by voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 pm.

X _____
Dwight Daum
Clerk of Council Pro-Tem

X _____
Dwight Daum
President of Council