

**CITY OF READING, OHIO
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION
OCTOBER 3, 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: Law Director Dave Stevenson, Treasurer Brenda Owens, Mayor Bo Bemmes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: September 18, 2023

Mr. Thamann made a motion to change all instances of “quick claim” to read “quit claim.” The motion was 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 motion carries unanimously.

Mr. Boehner moved to adopt the minutes as corrected. Mr. Bishop seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by voice vote.

AUDIENCE ASKING PARTICIPATION:

Don Lykins of 8415 Reading Road spoke regarding policing issues and an increased crime rate within the city. He indicated that the mayoral administration was unresponsive to his calls.

Mr. Boehner responded that campaigning at council is not a good practice.

The mayor said that he would respond during his regular report.

READING OF COMMUNICATIONS: None

GUEST SPEAKERS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

GUEST ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIAL REPORTS

MAYOR: Robert “Bo” Bemmes:

The mayor responded to Don Lykins’ concerns. He asked that residents report illegal activity immediately. He indicated that this was a very safe community and read a rebuttal statement from Police Chief Edens. The mayor spoke of new keys and security measures at Hafey Fieldhouse and Voorhees Park. The mayor spoke of the business roundtable and indicated that the top companies inside Reading were planning on hiring. He spoke of the MSD project on Reading Road and paving on Furhman. Two of three traffic studies are complete, and reports are being prepared. There was a meeting with the Pristine Site Trustees where it was shown that no major changes to the site have occurred, but one or more monitoring wells may need to be installed.

SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR: Patrick Ross – absent; report incorporated into the mayor’s report

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LAW DIRECTOR: Dave Stevenson: no report

TREASURER: Brenda Owens: Report attached

**City of Reading
2023 September 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	\$99,289	\$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	\$78,608	\$86,325	9.8%
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	\$1,234,007	\$1,069,784	
YTD Progress	\$1,041,676	\$1,071,736	\$1,059,098	\$1,069,784	1.0%

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	\$491,289	5.9%
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	\$4,941,988	
YTD Progress	\$4,320,787	\$4,856,616	\$4,879,797	\$4,941,988	1.3%

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	\$337,399	\$118,498	-64.9%
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	\$1,462,520	\$710,686	
YTD Progress	\$459,922	\$547,722	\$1,375,702	\$710,686	-48.3%

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	\$696,112	-20.9%
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	\$6,722,459	
YTD Progress	\$5,822,385	\$6,476,074	\$7,314,596	\$6,722,459	-8.1%

Total Refunds	2020 =	\$132,162	2021 =	\$115,450	2022 =	\$169,800	2023 YTD Refunds =	\$134,833
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Brenda A. Owens- City Treasurer 10/02/2023

AUDITOR: Sabrina Smith: - absent, no report

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE: Andy Bronner:

We had a Finance Committee meeting on September 7th. In attendance were Committee members Mark Bishop and Bob Boehner, Auditor Sabrina Smith and Treasurer Brenda Owens. We discussed the potential new hire ordinances for the Treasurers office and the Service Department. These were voted on and passed by Council at our last meeting. We decided that a 5-10-15-20 year breakdown of needed Service Department equipment, with cost estimates, would be beneficial to help our Auditor plan for these expenses. Service Department leaders have provided the equipment list and are currently looking into

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associated costs for each piece of equipment. Sabrina gave a brief update on the new computer software. She is ready to go live, but other departments are still training. We talked about a Hamilton County Public Health mini-grant opportunity. It was determined that we do not have the necessary personnel to dedicate to the scope of this mini-grant to accomplish the deliverables required. This led to discussion about the possible benefits of hiring a full time grant writer. The idea has merit and will be revisited in the future. Finally, our Treasurer briefed the Committee on an opportunity to transfer city funds to an account at a different bank with an interest rate 10 times higher than we currently receive. This could potentially generate an additional \$40k per month for the city!

I would also like to report that our 3 ordained monthly transfers have been recently processed and are up to date.

UTILITIES, LANDS & BUILDINGS: Mark Bishop – no report

ZONING, PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT: Dave Powell

Our committee met this evening to discuss short term rentals. I put together a spreadsheet of all of the AirBNB listings in Reading. We are gathering additional information and have scheduled our next committee meeting for 6:30 PM on November 21, 2023 in the caucus room.

LAWS & CONTRACTS: Katie Eadicicco

I would like to schedule a Laws and Contracts Committee meeting for Wednesday, October 11 at 6:30 PM in the Caucus Room. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss expanding the DORA boundaries. So far, DORA has been a success and is attracting interested businesses to our city. We've been contacted by one current business owner about expanding the area to include more space for their patrons and another potential business looking to come to our city that would like to be included in the DORA boundaries. We're well under the acreage for DORA and we have the room to expand. I think this has a lot of potential for new businesses and growing businesses in our area. So again, Wednesday, October 11. 6:30PM. Caucus Room.

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY: Shelly Kroeger

Police Department run count for September, 2023

Calls for service 1004

- Auto Accidents 28
- Booking Original Charges 92
- Total Criminal Charges 113

Citations Issued

- Hamilton County 7
- Arlington Heights 30
- Juvenile 2
- Reading Mayor's 97

Total Citations 141

Fire Departments run count for September, 2023

- EMS Responses 206
- Fire Responses 46

Total Responses 252

For the month of September, there were theft of cars, specifically Kia and Hyundais, property from a storage unit and catalytic converters. There were several car accidents. Multiple traffic stops that also resulted in charges for drug paraphernalia. OVIs, 2 dog attacks on other dogs and domestic violence. As always, if you see something, say something.

Congratulations to our newly sworn in firefighter/paramedics, Lieutenants and Captains. Chief Owens and

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Asst. Chief Androne met with fire truck manufacture Pierce. Members attended Oktoberfest celebration at Notre Dame Convent, assisted UC Health with hands on CPR at Our Lady of the Valley and attended parish event at St. Paul Lutheran Church. Members grilled food for the Arlington Heights car show and attended General Tools employee event.

Reminder there is Health and Public Safety meeting scheduled for October 17 at 6pm here in council chambers. The main discussion point will be the future purchase of a new fire engine.

SERVICE: Bob Boehner

Mr. Boehner read a list of the service department's activities for the previous month.

RECREATION: Scott Thamann

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

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

OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. Boehner spoke about a meeting he had with the Cincinnati Classical Academy to move the 7th and 8th grades to a different site and return the Reading site to K through 6. The Academy has also agreed to hire a part-time off-duty sheriff' deputy to work traffic control during arrival and departure times. There is still a problem with school busses driving left of center to pass cars that are stopped in traffic. The Academy is also working on acquiring another site for high school.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

READING OF RESOLUTIONS:

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR (first reading)

Discussion: Mrs. Eadicicco said that she had spoken with the safety service director earlier that day and found out that he hadn't received the email until last week. The due date is October 25th. She asked for a first reading only due to the clerk's absence. Mr. Boehner suggested that the draft resolution be cleaned up prior to passage of the resolution. The resolution was left in first-reading status.

READING OF ORDINANCES: None

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

The mayor spoke of the Reading Historical Society's banquet scheduled for Saturday.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Bronner moved to adjourn. Mrs Kroger seconded. Motion carried by voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 pm.

X _____
Dwight Daum
Clerk of Council Pro Tem

X _____
Dwight Daum
President of Council

Reading Public Works Council Report October 3, 2023

City crew have been out patching potholes in the streets

The mulcher has been out collecting branches.

City crews have been repairing catch basins throughout the City

City crews have been painting all of the soccer and Football fields in the City

City crews repaired a water main break on East Benson near Bunny Ct and repaired the roadway

City crew repaired water issue in the Ladies restroom at City Hall

City electrician is retro fitting the doors at city hall and running electric so that they can all use codes to gain entry into certain area's

City crews have been trimming tree's on East Galbraith Rd ,East Benson and in the parks

Street sweeper has been out cleaning streets

Public Works assisted with the Bridal Bash for set up and traffic control and tree lighting

City crews rebuild a catch basin on East Galbraith at Lakeshore Dr

Matt & Brent attended traffic training in Columbus Ohio

City crews have been out with the Hydro excavator checking for lead water lines

City crews repaired a man hole at Valley Sheet Metal

SERVICE PERSONNEL WORKING ON A 54R EQUIP. PLAN TO PURCHASE WITH ESTIMATED COSTS.