

**CITY OF READING, OHIO
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION
DECEMBER 05, 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:

Mayor Bo Bemmes, Safety Service Director Patrick Ross, Auditor Sabrina Smith & Clerk of Council Carla Kacher

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion to approve the November 14 & November 21 Council Minutes made by Mr. Boehner, seconded by Mr. Thamann. Motion carried by a voice vote.

AUDIENCE ASKING PARTICIPATION:

Annie Hess (Representing "Rooted in Community" Group) – Gave background on tonight's resolution - there is an available Urban Foresgrant in which the application is due on December 29, 2023. This grant amount can range anywhere from \$15,000 to \$50,000. This would cover street scaping for Reading Road.

READING OF COMMUNICATIONS: None

GUEST SPEAKERS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion to add an Executive Session to the agenda after the Safety Service Director's Report made by Mr. Bronner, seconded by Mrs. Eadicicco. The purpose of the Executive Session is to discuss contract negotiations. Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

GUEST ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIAL REPORTS:

MAYOR: Robert "Bo" Bemmes:

Please call our Police when you see any suspicious or illegal activity and report any vandalism immediately.

On December the 4th, our Reading Chamber of Commerce held our annual Christmas party at the beautiful Reading Community Arts center where we recognized outstanding individuals and businesses. Our City employee of the year is Linda Fitzgerald, Allen Rettberg was given the Community Service award, Aluchem was given the Manufacturer award, Rob Eberhardt was given the Community achievement award and Debbie Peak, Melissa Lohr and Colleen Kemp received the Entrepreneur Extraordinaire award. It was an awesome event at an amazing place.

We were just awarded a \$385,000 SCIP Grant to make repairs and to repave Harvest Lane. This will add to the road projects that are already slated for 2024, Columbia Avenue from Reading Road to our boundary with Lockland (\$265,000 SORTA Grant), Maple Drive (\$700,000 SCIP Grant), Koehler Avenue, Landy Lane (we were awarded \$200,000 thru SORTA Grants to repave Koehler and Landy)) and Fuhrman Road from Columbia to Sanborn Court (\$100,000 MRF Grant).

The fund raising for the Hilltop basketball court renovation in honor of Chad Richmond is ongoing.

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Council passed an ordinance to hire two fulltime Public Works employees that are very much needed as well as a much needed employee for our Treasurer. We are also discussing putting more money into exterior property maintenance and a Full Time City Clerk..

Our Community Christmas Tree lighting and Crib Dedication went very well and our Holiday Walk was a success as well. I want to thank Susan Slavey, Diane Brown and our Girl Scouts, members of We Thrive, Saint Pauls Lutheran and Saint Johns UCC and Father McCullough of our Lady of the Valley and my administrative team and our City departments

Please call me anytime at 513-509-8619 with any questions, comments, or concerns

SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR: Patrick Ross:

- New Payroll software went live officially as of yesterday. Finance/AP will be live citywide as of January 1 for rest of the city departments
- Hunt Road wall plans are still being finalized
- Columbia concrete work and aprons ongoing-paving will commence in spring
- Thank you to all the volunteers that put time into last weekend's Holiday Walk
- Held a meeting with Avecia with their internal team, their engineers and architects regarding future plans for the site.
- Fund cleanup with Auditor's office

Motion to enter into Executive Session for purposes of contract negotiations made by Mr. Bronner, seconded by Mrs. Kroeger. Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote. Executive session began at 8:07 p.m. Motion to come back from Executive Session at 8:29 p.m. made by Mrs. Eadicicco, seconded by Mr. Boehner . Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

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

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TREASURER: Brenda Owens (*Absent – Report Communicated by Finance Chair, Andy Bronner*)

City of Reading
2023 November 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	\$52,893	-17.3%
November	\$76,487	\$14,763	\$64,047	\$25,253	-60.6%
December	\$96,708	\$86,298	\$46,897		
Yearly Totals	\$1,307,953	\$1,228,857	\$1,234,807	\$1,147,931	
YTD Progress	\$1,211,245	\$1,142,560	\$1,187,110	\$1,147,931	-3.3%

Payroll Withholding Income Taxes

	2020	2021	2022	2023	% Change 22 to 23
January	\$539,671	\$717,952	\$689,143	\$699,906	1.6%
February	\$510,926	\$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	\$581,556	-4.0%
November	\$483,331	\$545,750	\$493,632	\$482,419	-2.3%
December	\$429,457	\$432,363	\$462,692		
Yearly Totals	\$5,683,214	\$6,383,913	\$6,442,162	\$6,005,963	
YTD Progress	\$5,253,757	\$5,951,550	\$5,979,470	\$6,005,963	0.4%

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	\$18,497	-18.0%
November	\$17,874	\$22,412	\$15,798	\$76,921	386.9%
December	\$26,952	\$87,159	\$48,456		
Yearly Totals	\$537,579	\$699,835	\$1,462,520	\$806,105	
YTD Progress	\$510,627	\$612,676	\$1,414,064	\$806,105	-43.8%

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	\$652,946	-5.7%
November	\$577,693	\$582,925	\$573,477	\$584,593	1.9%
December	\$553,117	\$605,819	\$558,046		
Yearly Totals	\$7,528,746	\$8,312,605	\$9,138,690	\$7,959,998	
YTD Progress	\$6,400,878	\$7,706,786	\$8,580,644	\$7,959,998	-7.2%

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 12/01/2023

AUDITOR: Sabrina Smith:

- The new software for accounting and payroll is live as of December 1, 2023. Patrick and I can already see where this new software will speed up our processes. This year we are cutting off purchases as of Thursday, December 14. This is vital because we have to amend our appropriations in time for our December 19 meeting. All departments have been very helpful with this new accounting and payroll software. Finishing the year strong, making all payments and gearing up for our 2-year audit is the main part of December for the Auditor's Office. Thank you to everyone who made the Holiday Walk a huge success. The weather was fantastic. I would also like to thank all the city departments for a wonderful 2023. Reading is lucky to have so many amazing residents and businesses.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

FINANCE: Andy Bronner

- I will be looking to schedule a meeting once committee member assignments are finalized. Topics will include the impact of recently approved new hire salaries and pay increases on our budget, possible capital improvement projects and the best use of

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the remaining 501 Covid Relief Fund which has to be spent by the end of next year. Also, \$2 million was transferred from the 220 City Earnings Tax Fund to the 101 General Fund. This was the final transfer this year.

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

ZONING, PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT: Dave Powell

- The zoning, planning, and environment committee met on November 21 and continued or discussions on short term rentals. I will continue to gather data on the matter. The committee discussed meeting again after the first of the year to continue our discussions. The committee also discussed committee assignments for the next term, I expressed my interest continuing as chair, Mr. Thamann and Mrs. Eadicicco expressed their interest continuing to serve of the committee.

LAWS & CONTRACTS: Katie Eadicicco

- I had a short committee meeting in October with Mr. Powell in attendance. We discussed expanding the DORA and which areas to include. In order to do so, per the State, we need to have the area re-surveyed and council will have to vote on an ordinance. If passed, only the new survey and the ordinance would be sent to the state for approval.

I received the information regarding the original survey and the company used from Linda Fitzgerald and I'm looking to get moving on this after the first of the year.

Also, after the first of the year, once the committees are established, I would like to schedule a meeting to discuss goals for the year. I would like to continue to be the chair of the Laws and Contracts committee and continue to serve on the Zoning, Planning & Environment Committee but I am interested in joining the Recreation Committee.

I would also like to thank everyone who came out to the Holiday Walk on Saturday. I believe it was a huge success and I've heard a lot of great feedback from people. I believe we doubled the size of the event and the attendance from last year. We're already looking ahead to planning year's event.

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY: Shelly Kroeger

Police Department run count for November, 2023

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------|
| • Calls for service | 1028 |
| • Auto Accidents | 34 |
| • Booking Original Charges | 115 |
| • Total Criminal Charges | 157 |

Citations Issued

- | | |
|---------------------|-----|
| • Hamilton County | 6 |
| • Arlington Heights | 37 |
| • Juvenile | 2 |
| • Reading Mayor's | 133 |

Total Citations	181
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Fire Departments run count for November, 2023

- | | |
|------------------|-----|
| • EMS Responses | 203 |
| • Fire Responses | 44 |

Total Responses	247
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For the police department for the month of November, there was theft from Family Dollar and UDF. One lead to an arrest and the other to a warrant being issued. There were a couple car thefts from people leaving the keys in the ignition. There were

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traffic stops that also lead to citations for marijuana. There was arrests made in domestic violence calls, OVIs and some of the theft calls. Officers observed graffiti on the walls and tables at Koenig Park. Four juveniles identified with the newly installed cameras.

In the month of November the fire department provided CPR/AED classes to Reading High School 9th grade health classes, attended the Sisters of Notre Dame chili cook-off, held the annual turkey raffle and helped with traffic control for the holiday walk. They were also involved in several trainings in house and with other departments.

SERVICE: Bob Boehner

Reading :Public Works Council Report December 5, 2023

City crew have been out patching potholes in the streets

The mulcher has been out collecting branches.

City crews have been out picking up leaves throughout the City

City crews replaced the roof at Vorhees park with a metal roof and new flashing as well as ice guard protection

City crews install a new electronic speed sign on East Galbraith Rd near the Corp line West bound from Amberly Village

City crews are putting Christmas lights and decoration up throughout the City and getting ready for the Christmas tree lighting along with the crib for the Holiday walk

City crew has cleaned the City parking lot behind the Police Dept in reference the oil spill from a neighbors mishap

City replaced the faucets at the field house in the restrooms as they were failing

City crews have winterized all outside restrooms and the stadium and are all closed down for the winter

New partitions have been installed in restrooms of the men and women's facilities at the stadium

City crew repaired a water main leak on Fuhrman Rd near Georgia Ln and road repaired

City crews are cleaning up the Bridal District for the Holiday walk

RECREATION: Scott Thamann

The city will begin accepting applications for pool employees beginning January 2nd. Applicants for the concession stand must be at least 14 years of age, and applicants for lifeguard positions must be at least 15. Those wishing to be a lifeguard must also have their certification by the time the pool opens in late May.

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The Tree Lighting and Holiday Walk was a successful event. We want to thank all of the organizers, businesses, and community members who made it such a great experience.

We will have a Recreational Committee meeting next week, on Monday, December 11, at 6:00 pm in the Caucus room.

OTHER BUSINESS:

2024 Committee Selections:

- All Committee Chairs will remain the same but some of the Committee members will be changing to:
 - **Finance:** Chairman, **Andy Bronner**, members Mr. Bishop & Mr. Boehner
 - **Utilities, Lands & Buildings:** Chairman, **Mark Bishop**, members Mr. Bronner & Mr. Powell
 - **Zoning, Planning & Environment:** Chairman, **Dave Powell**, members Mr. Thamann & Mrs. Eadicicco
 - **Laws and Contracts:** Chairwoman, **Katie Eadicicco**, members Mr. Powell & Mr. Bronner
 - **Public Health & Safety:** Chairwoman, **Shelly Kroeger**, members Mr. Boehner & Mr. Bishop
 - **Service:** Chairman, **Bob Boehner**, members Mr. Thamann & Mrs. Kroeger
 - **Recreation:** Chairman, **Scott Thamann**, members Mrs. Eadicicco & Mrs. Kroeger

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

READING OF RESOLUTIONS:

***(1) A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR AN APPLICATION TO ODNR FOR AN URBAN FORESTRY GRANT
AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY***

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

RESOLUTION ADOPTED

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2023-41R

READING OF ORDINANCES: NONE

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS: None

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Boehner moved to adjourn. Mrs. Kroeger seconded. Motion carried by voice vote.
The meeting was adjourned at 9:01 pm.

X_____

Carla Kacher
Clerk of Council

X_____

Dwight Daum
President of Council