

**CITY OF READING, OHIO
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION
MARCH 5, 2024 – 7:30 PM**

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

CALL TO ORDER

President Mr. Mattscheck called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

OTHER CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion to approve February 20, 2024 (Legislative) Council Minutes made by Mr. Powell, seconded by Mr. Bronner. Motion carried by a voice vote.

AUDIENCE ASKING PARTICIPATION:

(1) Lee Koehler (Reported on behalf of "Rooted In Community" Group)

- (1) Reported great news about a grant that was applied for in December 2023.
Reading was awarded a \$50,000.00 grant from the Ohio Division of Forestry to replace the Pear Trees along Reading Road.
- (2) Teaming up with the Mill Creek Alliance group and have adopted the Reading Flood Plain Bench to remove invasive species & picking up litter.
- (3) March 24, 2024: Cherryfield from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. to remove invasive Honeysuckle.

COMMUNICATIONS:

- December 2023 Mayor's Court Monthly Disbursement Report

~ 83 Bench warrants Issued, 302 Cases Heard & \$13,482.00 Collected

- January 2024 Mayor's Court Monthly Disbursement Report

~ 132 Bench warrants Issued, 413 Cases Heard & \$17,332.00 Collected

GUEST SPEAKERS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

GUEST ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIAL REPORTS:

MAYOR: Robert "Bo" Bemmes:

- Please avoid leaving valuable items in your vehicle. Please lock your vehicles and take valuable items with you or if you have a trunk store items there.
- Please get to know your neighbors and look out for them and call 911 immediately if you see any suspicious or illegal activity including littering and vandalism.
- Please slow down as you drive and keep an eye out for our young students as they make their way to and from school. Speeding and distracted drivers remain as serious daily safety concerns for our City and everywhere.

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- Paving projects will begin soon with MSD's Reading Road project and Columbia Avenue (from Reading Road to our border with Lockland) starting 1st. Maple Drive, Koehler Ave and Landy Lane will follow. The Fuhrman Road project is ongoing with repaving to happen immediately after Columbia Avenue.

- Our Parks Restrooms do not open until after April 1st or when the threat of freezing temperatures is past. Our Parks Restrooms are not insulated, and the water lines freeze easily.

- Congrats to Kelly Stickney on being named Firefighter of the Year - Congrats to Eric Leininger on being named Police Officer of the year.

- Our Public Works Dept has two new employees in Cole Baker and Caden Conner and we are thrilled to have both of them.

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

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

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TREASURER: Brenda Owens

City of Reading
2024 February Income Tax Receipt Summary
With Prior Years Comparison

Individual Residents Income Taxes

	2021	2022	2023	2024	% Change 23 to 24
January	\$107,429	\$79,333	\$97,988	\$140,011	42.9%
February	\$45,896	\$37,035	\$62,179	\$73,859	18.8%
March	\$127,056	\$131,391	\$121,019		
April	\$221,576	\$457,756	\$441,112		
May	\$223,455	\$102,421	\$73,112		
June	\$134,637	\$107,043	\$117,960		
July	\$82,544	\$28,939	\$35,819		
August	\$39,361	\$36,571	\$34,271		
September	\$89,782	\$78,608	\$86,325		
October	\$56,061	\$63,966	\$52,893		
November	\$14,763	\$64,047	\$25,276		
December	\$86,298	\$46,897	\$49,879		
Yearly Totals	\$1,228,857	\$1,234,607	\$1,197,833	\$213,870	
YTD Progress	\$153,325	\$116,368	\$160,167	\$213,870	33.5%

Payroll Withholding Income Taxes

	2021	2022	2023	2024	% Change 23 to 24
January	\$717,952	\$689,143	\$699,906	\$721,376	3.1%
February	\$462,760	\$441,735	\$483,701	\$495,911	2.5%
March	\$413,361	\$434,394	\$477,447		
April	\$801,135	\$752,396	\$701,491		
May	\$490,963	\$534,911	\$480,917		
June	\$484,864	\$470,151	\$475,836		
July	\$507,334	\$501,087	\$671,451		
August	\$566,411	\$591,928	\$459,951		
September	\$411,837	\$464,052	\$491,289		
October	\$549,184	\$606,041	\$580,966		
November	\$543,750	\$493,632	\$482,419		
December	\$432,363	\$462,692	\$469,943		
Yearly Totals	\$6,383,913	\$6,442,162	\$6,475,316	\$1,217,286	
YTD Progress	\$1,186,711	\$1,130,878	\$1,183,607	\$1,217,286	2.8%

Business Profits Income Taxes

	2021	2022	2023	2024	% Change 23 to 24
January	\$11,981	\$48,907	\$21,712	\$72,579	234.3%
February	\$58,854	\$24,719	\$17,868	\$30,745	72.1%
March	\$23,641	\$210,097	\$100,630		
April	\$137,747	\$274,272	\$231,557		
May	\$60,812	\$42,806	\$13,048		
June	\$87,483	\$399,300	\$136,640		
July	\$43,735	\$15,804	\$32,265		
August	\$38,207	\$22,399	\$38,469		
September	\$85,263	\$337,399	\$118,498		
October	\$42,542	\$22,564	\$18,497		
November	\$22,412	\$15,798	\$76,898		
December	\$87,159	\$48,456	\$53,959		
Yearly Totals	\$699,835	\$1,462,520	\$860,041	\$103,324	
YTD Progress	\$70,835	\$73,625	\$39,580	\$103,324	161.1%

Total Income Taxes Collected

	2021	2022	2023	2024	% Change 23 to 24
January	\$837,361	\$817,383	\$819,606	\$933,966	14.0%
February	\$567,510	\$503,488	\$563,747	\$600,514	6.5%
March	\$564,058	\$775,881	\$699,095		
April	\$1,160,458	\$1,484,424	\$1,374,159		
May	\$775,230	\$680,137	\$567,077		
June	\$706,984	\$976,494	\$730,436		
July	\$633,613	\$545,830	\$739,534		
August	\$643,978	\$650,899	\$532,692		
September	\$586,882	\$880,060	\$696,112		
October	\$647,787	\$692,571	\$652,357		
November	\$582,925	\$573,477	\$584,593		
December	\$605,819	\$558,046	\$573,781		
Yearly Totals	\$8,312,605	\$9,138,690	\$8,533,190	\$1,534,480	
YTD Progress	\$1,404,871	\$1,320,871	\$1,383,353	\$1,534,480	10.9%

Total Refunds	2021	\$115,450	2022	\$169,800	2023	\$666,149	2024 YTD Refunds =	\$5,945
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Brenda A. Owens- City Treasurer 03/05/2024

AUDITOR: Sabrina Smith:

The State of Ohio 2022 & 2023 Audit is happening this week onsite at City Hall. Plattenburg is conducting the Audit for the State of Ohio. They will be here all week, digging in, asking questions, and gathering material items. They will schedule another time to come out for follow-ups.

Still working on the data conversion from the old to new software and this specifically deals with closing December 2023. We used to do reconciliations outside of our software via an excel spreadsheet. Now we reconcile within the system. We also involve payroll in this process, which is new. Right now, we have 7 bank statements for Income, General/Expenses, Water, and Payroll. As we smooth out this process, we are hopeful that this will become faster every month that we complete this.

GAAP Statements for 2023. All items have been requested from another group of Auditors with Plattenburg. We are still working on these items but cannot give a lot of them to Plattenburg until December 2023 is closed.

Payables are running smooth in the new system. We have added some new vendors and all staff is working on using the new account numbers. This process has completely changed from before with a decrease in the use of paper.

I received a scholarship to attend the Ohio Association of Public Treasurers Finance Officer Training in Sandusky, OH in June. I have attended this conference for many years. My scholarship includes the registration fee, most meals, and lodging. This

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completes a lot of my continued education courses needed for my term.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

FINANCE: Andy Bronner

There are 4 ordinances that will be read for the first time tonight that mention or relate to certain funds, of which, I will give a brief description.

The first ordinance is an agreement with MSD to allow Reading to continue to receive 7% of what MSD bills for sewer charges. This money goes directly into the 827 Sewer Service Fee Fund and can be used for matching funds for various grants and for projects as determined by council.

The second ordinance for purchase and installation of Flock cameras states that the 340 Capital Improvement Fund will be used to purchase the equipment and the annual service and maintenance fee will be made from the 101 General Fund. The 340 Capital Improvement Fund is fed by a portion of real estate taxes received from the County and can be used for Capital Improvements/debt service. The 101 General Fund receives funds which are transferred from the 220 City Earnings Tax Fund and finances the general operations of the city, including wages, benefits, materials and supplies.

The third ordinance is for the purchase of Personal Protective Equipment for the Fire Department. This expenditure will be made from the 242 Fire/EMS Capital Improvement Fund. This fund receives payments for EMS services and is used to purchase Fire Department equipment and trucks.

The fourth ordinance is for the purchase of Police and Fire Department radios. This will be paid for using a combination of Covid Relief Funds and money from the 340 Capital Improvement Fund. The Covid Relief funds must be designated for expenditure this year.

UTILITIES, LANDS & BUILDINGS: Mark Bishop

There will be a meeting of the Utilities, Lands and Buildings committee on Tuesday March 19 at 6pm in Council Chambers before our regular council meeting. The purpose is to discuss a project the Port is working on near Formica. Part of the project would involve road access because part of the road would be in Reading.

ZONING, PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT: Dave Powell

- I continue to look into concerns that have been raised about the McCluskey CRA. I have been in communication with Dan Brooks and our Law Director.

Ordinance 99-52 clearly designates the Zoning Administrator as the Housing Officer. I do still have some questions about other appointments that may be needed.

I will continue to pursue additional information on the matter and hope to wrap this up by our next meeting.

LAWS & CONTRACTS: Katie Eadicicco (No Report)

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY: Shelly Kroeger

Police Department run count for February, 2024

- Calls for service 1060
- Auto Accidents 29
- Booking Original Charges 103
- Total Criminal Charges 122

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Citations Issued

• Hamilton County	5
• Arlington Heights	33
• Juvenile	2
• Reading Mayor's	139

Total Citations **187**

Fire Departments run count for February, 2024

• EMS Responses	209
• Fire Responses	38

Total Responses **247**

For the Police Department for the month of February, there were stolen vehicles in which the keys were left in the ignition, breaking and entering, shoplifting, stolen firearms from unsecured vehicles, and several unlocked cars gone through. Please call 911 for emergencies and for non-emergencies, please call the county at (513)825-2280.

The fire department banquet was held on February 24th, congratulations to FF/P Kelly Stickney on receiving Firefighter of the Year.

SERVICE: Bob Boehner

Reading Public Works Council Report March 5, 2024

The Public Works Department has welcomed two new members Coleman Baker and Caden Conner, both individuals bring their special talents to the City and a thank you to the Administration and Council

City crews have been out patching potholes in the streets

The mulcher has been out collecting branches.

City crews leveled up the planter on Reading Rd for flowers

City crew installed new pads and benches at Koenig Park

City crew transplanted two Juniper trees from the flower pots

City crews replaced the water fountains in the parks

City crews have been out mapping new water mains throughout the City

The street sweeper has been out cleaning streets

The Service department was called out for two events for salting the roadways

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Crews repaired two catch basins on Reading Rd between Landy and Gahl Terrace

City crew ran a new vent pipe at the Historical building

City crew seeded Bemmes Field and repaired a water leak at the pit

City crews cleaned up the dead end on East North St

RECREATION: Scott Thamann

The service department has installed new water fountains and park benches at Koenig Park. We also have new water fountains at Hilltop and Vorhees Parks. Thanks to them for all of their hard work. We are also in the process of purchasing and replacing outdated playground equipment at Hilltop, Cherryfield, and Flege Parks.

The city of Reading will host our Easter Egg Hunt later this month, on Saturday, March 30. We will begin at 10:00 a.m. at Haffey Fieldhouse

OTHER BUSINESS: None

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

READING OF RESOLUTIONS: None

READING OF ORDINANCES:

- (1) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ESTABLISH THE POSITION OF PART-TIME ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT FOR BOTH THE POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. *(Third Reading)***

Motion made by Mr. Boehner, seconded by Mrs. Eadicicco to adopt the ordinance. Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2024-06

- (2) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH BRANDSTETTER CARROLL INC. FOR ENGINEERING AQUATIC DESIGN SERVICES FOR READING POOL, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. *(Third Reading)***

Motion made by Mr. Boehner, seconded by Mr. Bronner to adopt the ordinance. Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2024-07

- (3) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF CINCINNATI METROPOLITAN SEWER DISTRICT(MSD), AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Motion made by Mr. Thamann, seconded by Mrs. Kroeger to suspend the rule that requires a second and third

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reading. Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote. Motion made by Mrs. Kroeger, seconded by Mr. Bronner to adopt the ordinance. Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2024-08

(4) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY & SERVICE DIRECTOR PURCHASE AND INSTALL FOUR FLOCK CAMERA SYSTEMS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ordinance was declared a first reading only.

(5) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY/SERVICE DIRECTOR TO PURCHASE PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2024-09

(6) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY/SERVICE DIRECTOR TO PURCHASE PORTABLE, MOBILE, AND CENTRAL STATION RADIO EQUIPMENT FOR USE BY THE POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2024-10

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

Mark Bishop: Gave a presentation on problem areas of litter in Reading.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Boehner moved to adjourn. Mrs. Kroeger seconded. Motion carried by voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

X _____
Carla Albrinck
Clerk of Council

X _____
Kevin Mattscheck
President of Council