

**CITY OF READING, OHIO
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION
APRIL 03, 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, Safety Service Director Patrick Ross, Auditor Sabrina Smith & Clerk of Council Carla Albrinck.

Motion to amend the agenda to reflect the postponed Council meeting date from April 2, 2024 to April 3, 2024 (due to inclement weather) made by Mr. Powell, seconded by Mr. Boehner. Motion carried by a voice vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion to approve March 19, 2024 (Legislative) Council Minutes made by Mr. Boehner, seconded by Mr. Bronner. Motion carried by a voice vote.

PUBLIC HEARING

President of Council, Kevin Mattscheck begin the Public Hearing at 7:31 p.m.

Safety Service Director, Patrick Ross, gave general overview of the CDGB program.

Bob Ashbrock (221 Walnut Street): Restrooms at Koenig Part are not ADA compliant and recognized it as a potential use for the CDBG dollars. Mr. Ashbrock would like to see this round of CDGB money be used to lower the outfield creating flood storage and, at the same time, flood remediation. Will discuss the project on Pike Street at the next Public Hearing.

Melia Bowman: Would like to see the CDGB money used to repair of the Be-Fit Trail.

President of Council, Kevin Mattscheck closed the Public Hearing at 7:46 p.m.

AUDIENCE ASKING PARTICIPATION:

(1) Chris Smith

Would like to encourage that the discussion of the High School Football Stadium is brought back up again.

(2) Melia Bowman

Discussed issues lasting 3 years long with property maintenance of her neighbors. The major problem is junk accumulated on their lawns. It's an incredible eyesore and there are health concerns with the items on the property. Melia would like to see significant improvement with the Property Maintenance not only with her neighbors but all around the City of Reading.

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COMMUNICATIONS:

- February 2024 Mayor's Court Monthly Disbursement Report

~ 165 Bench warrants Issued, 482 Cases Heard & \$23,152.00 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.

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

On 3/21 I met with Dave Stevenson, Linda Fitzgerald, Dan Brooks and Patrick Ross to discuss Zoning issues

Clean Up Reading will be on April 27 starting at 10am. Meet at either Koenig parks small shelter or at Sts Peter and Paul Cemetery.

We are in the process of opening our parks restrooms.

SAFETY/SERVICE DIRECTOR: Patrick Ross:

- Appropriations 2024
- CDBG Admin. Recs
- Road Projects
- MSD-Anticipate to complete end of May
- Columbia / Fuhrman- Same Contractor- Start 3-4 weeks
- Hunt Road Pier Wall- Plans completed- Bid opening in week and half. LOE for 4-5 property owners.
Duke has to move some utility poles prior to contractor beginning
- Koehler/Landy Engineering underway
- Flock Cameras authorized by Council will be installed by end of the month
- Clean Up – April 27 – Organized Participants meet at Koenig Small Shelter, Garage open to Residents 8-2
NO HAZMAT
- Next Month Pool Sign ups first 3 Saturdays in May 10-Noon

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

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TREASURER: Brenda Owens (Absent, Report Given by Safety Service Director Patrick Ross)

City of Reading
2024 March 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	\$127,546	5.4%
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	\$1,234,007	\$1,197,833	\$341,416	
YTD Progress	\$280,381	\$247,759	\$281,185	\$341,416	21.4%

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	\$561,572	17.6%
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	\$545,750	\$493,632	\$482,419		
December	\$432,363	\$462,692	\$469,943		
Yearly Totals	\$6,383,913	\$6,442,162	\$6,475,316	\$1,778,858	
YTD Progress	\$1,594,072	\$1,565,272	\$1,661,054	\$1,778,858	7.1%

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	\$58,593	-41.8%
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	\$161,918	
YTD Progress	\$94,476	\$283,722	\$140,209	\$161,918	15.5%

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	\$747,711	7.0%
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	\$2,282,192	
YTD Progress	\$1,968,929	\$2,096,752	\$2,082,448	\$2,282,192	9.6%

Total Refunds	2021	\$115,450	2022	\$169,800	2023	\$666,149	2024 YTD Refunds =	\$18,862
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Brenda A. Owens- City Treasurer 04/01/2024

AUDITOR: Sabrina Smith:

1. The State of Ohio 2022 & 2023 Audit is going well. The Auditor's are working on the GAAP 2023 and then they will schedule their Audit Team out for another week of auditing onsite.
2. Appropriation style has changed. After its passage I will need to work with our software company for the best way to push the numbers through.
3. Working on Reconciliations for January 2024 – March 2024. The Treasurer's Department is working to make all the bank transfers happen in our software system. I will also be doing an Excel Spreadsheet version to make sure everything matches.

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COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

FINANCE: Andy Bronner

At our Finance Committee meeting on March 27th our Safety Service Director presented his appropriations draft. After discussion, the committee recommended the draft for distribution to Council for approval.

We also talked about compiling a list of questions or comments pertaining to the various City funds that would aid in the consolidation or elimination of funds that may be unused or unnecessary.

UTILITIES, LANDS & BUILDINGS: Mark Bishop

Committee met on March 19 to discuss proposed roadway access to the Port of Greater Cincinnati Redevelopment Authority's Project Forge" planned industrial development site (generally known as the Formica site). Project would require roadway construction within the city limits of the City of Reading to provide access to property located within the bounds of the Village of Evendale. A presentation was given by Zach Imbus, review of PowerPoint information.

Notes:

Attendees: David Powell, Andy Bronner, Mark Bishop, Chm, Zach Imbus (PORT)

Property being discussed begins at the property line of the mobile home/trailer park on Reading Road and runs to the City line.

According to the PORT, the property in question was used as a landfill by General Electric so use is limited to a roadway. He cited a "no-build" order on the property. It is also the location of a small Duke Energy natural gas pressure station. Area has a lot of fill present.

We are discussing a possible intergovernmental agreement between Reading and Evendale.

Discussion: The PORT has 4 local projects all competing for development and tenants. Carousell inn (Sycamore Twp.), Gibson Greetings (Amberly Village), Dow (in Reading) and the Formica property discussed herein. Formica property will be a 315,000SF Facility, Currently exists a \$12m funding gap.

Concerns:

1. acquire best tenant for the property we are developing in Reading.
2. concern over truck and vehicular traffic on Reading Road
3. maintenance and upkeep including snow removal on the new road.
4. construction access – Approved access through Formica's property

Added benefit:

1. Trail to be located on west side of the access drive and bridge over the Mill Creek.

Next Step: Waiting on more information from the PORT on the progress.

ZONING, PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT: Dave Powell

- Next Committee Meeting will be held Tuesday, April 16 @ 6:30 p.m. in the Caucus Room.

LAWS & CONTRACTS: Katie Eadicicco

I sent out the updated Rules and Regulations Regarding Council Procedures. These include the changes that were discussed during my last committee meeting, as well as what has been suggested by members of the administration and some members of council and our community.

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I hope everyone has had a chance to review them.

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY: Shelly Kroeger

Police Department run count for March, 2024

- Calls for service 1128
- Auto Accidents 26
- Booking Original Charges 95
- Total Criminal Charges 116

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 195
- Fire Responses 48

Total Responses 243

For the Police Department for the month of March, there were stolen vehicles in which the keys were left in the ignition, breaking and entering, shoplifting, items stolen from unsecure cars, OVI's, domestic violence, stolen credit card and forgery. With the weather getting nicer, please remember to take all valuables inside and lock you cars. Please call 911 for emergencies and for non-emergencies, please call the county at (513)825-2280.

SERVICE: Bob Boehner

Reading Public Works Council Report April 2,2024

City crews have been out patching potholes in the streets

The mulcher has been out collecting branches.

City crew installed new pads and benches at Koenig Park

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

City crews have been out cleaning catch basins throughout the City

City crews have been laying out and painting soccer fields throughout the City

City crew rebuilt catch basins at Market & Columbia Ave and Market & Pleasant St

City crew repaired shingles at the following locations Hilltop pavilion, Carson St garage, and a screen at the Pool

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City crew repaired a Fire Hydrant in front of the Reading High School

City crew is in the process of removing a dead tree at Market & Pleasant ST

City crew repaired a water leak near 14 Lenore

City crews made concrete repairs at Market & Pleasant, Market & Columbia Ave after the catch basins were repaired

*OPENING ALL PARK RESTROOMS
REDO HANDY CAP RAMP ON TUNHAMAN RD NEXT
WEEK*

- Next committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 16 at 7:00 p.m.in Council Chambers.

RECREATION: Scott Thamann

On April 27, We will have our Clean Up Reading Day. We would love to see as many volunteers as possible. We will meet at two different locations: Koenig Park at the small shelter and at the Sts Peter and Paul Cemetery on Reading Rd. We will clean up from 10:00 - noon.

All participants will be given the necessary provisions. After the clean up, lunch will be provided back at Koenig Park. If you are unable to participate with us on this day, or at this time, please try to help by cleaning up your street or neighborhood.

Also, the city garage will be open the same day, April 27, from 8:00 – 2:00. This is for Reading residents only to drop off non-hazardous materials, so, no batteries, pain, oil, or freon. There will also be a separate dumpster designated for tires.

If you have any questions, please call Susan Slavey at 513-623-4145.

We will also have Pool Sign-ups, for season passes and swim lessons, on Saturday, May 4 at the Haffey Fieldhouse, from 10:00 am - noon. We will also have sign-ups on May 11 and May 18 at the same times.

Our public restrooms should be open within a week or two, once the water is turned on. We ask that everyone take great care to keep them clean and functional.

OTHER BUSINESS: None

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

READING OF RESOLUTIONS:

**(1) A RESOLUTION DEDICATING CITY OF READING PROPERTY FOR THE CREATION OF THE
“DAVID SCHWORER AND BANJO MEMORIAL DOG PARK.”**

Resolution was declared a first reading only.

READING OF ORDINANCES:

**(1) AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES
OF THE CITY OF READING, STATE OF OHIO, DURING THE PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 2024.**

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

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2024-12

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

Mark Bishop: Discussed the orange bags that can be used in Recycling.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mrs. Kroeger moved to adjourn. Mr. Boehner seconded. Motion carried by voice vote.
The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 pm.

X _____
Carla Albrinck
Clerk of Council

X _____
Kevin Mattscheck
President of Council