

CITY OF READING, OHIO
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION
May 7, 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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion to approve April 26, 2024 (Special Meeting) Council Minutes made by Mr. Boehner, seconded by Mr. Bronner. Motion carried by a voice vote.

AUDIENCE ASKING PARTICIPATION:

(1) Debbie Morrissey Peak

Owner of Reading Floral Boutique and president of the Reading Bridal District, spoke of the recent incident where a car hit White Wisteria Bridal Boutique. She said that the city needs to figure something out in that area because of the number of accidents and problems with that intersection. Debbie also asked if the city could add a handicap parking space in the public lot next to her building. She said there are no handicap spaces there now and she has a lot of elderly customers that have nowhere to park..

(2) Nick Diederich

Owner of White Wisteria, spoke about the incident of a car running into their building. This driver had no driver's license and no insurance. Their building has been hit 5 times in 4 years. Nick said that intersection is a huge issue, a worker of theirs was hit crossing the street as was a child. There are a lot of accidents there. He's asking the city to looking into doing something whether its some sort of barrier by their building or changing the intersection.

- Mayor Bemmes said that the city is looking into doing a traffic study at that intersection and looking at the possibility of removing the left turn only lane on Benson St.

(3) Shera Taylor

Read her email about the proposed dog park:

Reading City Council,

As residents of Bernard Ave, we would like to express our concerns about the proposed dog park location behind Haffey Field House and adjacent to the Reading Community Pool.

While we agree that a dog park may be beneficial to the community, the proposed location is not optimal.

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

In the flyer we received, the proposed dog park is approximately 18 feet from anyone's property line. That is not close to our neighborhood, that *is* our neighborhood. Measuring 18 feet from our property line, *physically looking* at the space that would be on either side of the walking trail, the space would feel uninviting to members of the community who regularly use the trail.

On the walking trail side of Bernard, many of the houses have dogs who are often enjoying their own backyard spaces. The presence of unfamiliar dogs less than 20 feet from either side of the trail raises concern for the safety, wellbeing, and comfort of the community's canine companions. Sometimes the unthinkable happens and our canine friends wander outside the bounds of their backyards. This can happen in *any* neighborhood, and on multiple occasions on our street, dogs have accidentally gotten loose. We are concerned for the safety of all dogs in this area. While many of these dogs may be friendly, when confronted with an unfamiliar dog, many dogs react defensively. Being presented with this stressor regularly is certainly not comfortable or safe for the resident dogs of Bernard Avenue. We would not want to see any dog get injured or stressed because they accidentally got out of their yard or dog park.

Also considering the safety and welfare of our canine friends, have the loud noises from Haffey, the pool, the soccer fields, and the stadium been considered? Dogs that are not residents of the Bernard neighborhood may not be desensitized to all the sounds that come from these activities (particularly thinking about the buzzers from Haffey Field House, whistles from the community pool, and any community sporting event at the stadium). Would it not be in the best welfare of the canine patrons to place the park in a spot that would genuinely benefit them (somewhere that is regularly more peaceful)? There are also community events held near this location including the Easter Egg Hunt and Running Scared. This is additional noise that could impact the enjoyment of the community canine friends utilizing a dog park in this location.

For the patrons of the trail, on any given day, walking the trail includes encountering our neighbors' dogs enjoying the comfort of their own backyards. While this enrichment is undoubtedly beneficial for the dogs, the patrons of the trail experience multiple dogs rushing the fence loudly barking every time we walk it. This is often alarming. Now imagine something like this on **both** sides of the trail. It would be unwelcoming. I cannot imagine how stressful it may be for *any* dog, adult, or child to be walking the trail and be confronted with dogs suddenly rushing the fences on both sides. While the dogs may not be running to the fences to bark aggressively or defensively, they may do so excitedly to greet a passerby. This would be stressful, nonetheless.

Another concern is parking. The residents of Bernard Avenue have trouble parking in front of their own homes whenever there is a sporting event at the stadium. Our street is often overflow when there is community or sporting events at the stadium, baseball fields, Haffey Fieldhouse or even at Koenig Park. Haffey Fieldhouse is also voting/polling location. The parking lot at Haffey Fieldhouse and the pool is often full. With the addition of the dog park, how do you suppose that impacts the already frustrating parking situation for the residents of Bernard?

Next, enjoying the community pool may be impacted with the proposed dog park proximity. The community pool should be a place of enjoyment and even relaxation. The dog park being, quite literally, next to the pool raises concerns about the amount of noise (dog barking) and unwelcome fragrances drifting downwind. While the facility would have waste bags provided (a cost the City would be responsible for), it is unrealistic to expect every patron of the dog park to dispose of their dogs waste appropriately. Patrons of the trail often leave waste by our backyard fences.

In addition to the community pool impact, how will our community events be impacted near Haffey Field House such as Running Scared and the Easter Egg Hunt? Parking, noise and smell are potential problems for these event successes.

We are also concerned about the phrasing presented in the flyer we received: "As such, they are willing to donate the majority of the cost." There are still costs that fall to the City of Reading. While the dog park would likely be a beneficial amenity to the community and we support free amenities for Reading residents, the initial and long-term costs of a dog park should be considered. Should we spend any money on a potential dog park while greater community needs are not being met is perhaps

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

priority mismanagement. For example, Reading prides itself on the success of our sports teams and takes many measures to aid the success (such as the addition of the soccer fields and baseball fields where the elementary schools used to be) whereas the maintenance of the stadium does not appear to align with these values.

We are not opposed to a dog park being installed in our community at some point. We are opposed to the proposed location.

Sincerely,
Shera Taylor
Amber Taylor
Residents at 218 Bernard Avenue.

(4) Renee Michael

Resident of Bernard Ave. spoke about the proposed dog park. Said that they are not against a dog park in the city, but they are against the location.

(5) Lori Woodrum

Lives on Fuhrman Rd, spoke about the condition of her neighbor's house at 1314 Fuhrman and the issues that they have had trying to get the property cleaned up. Has a year's worth of emails with Patrick but the property is still a mess and infested with rodents and raccoons.

- Mr. Powell said it was the first time that we have heard about the issues.
- Mrs. Eadicicco pointed out that this property is on the list that she put together a couple years ago and she's received no follow up on the property.

(6) Jennifer Dick

Spoke about issues with enforcing the exterior property maintenance and of issues with overgrown weeds and run down properties on Galbraith Rd. She also spoke of the points system our police chief used and that she and others were upset with a comment the chief made saying that without the system some officers wouldn't do anything. She also asked if DORA has been a success.

- Mayor Bemmes and others explained the points system and understand how his comment was taken out of context. We asked for him to clarify.
- Mrs. Eadicicco said that as far as she has been told, DORA has been successful and was beneficial to the Fall in Love Bridal Show and the Holiday Walk events.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Mrs. Eadicicco read Mr. Ashbrock's letter:

April 30, 2024

Reading City Council
Pike and Market Street
Reading , Ohio 45215

Attention: Carla Albrink, council clerk

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

RE: Public comments and suggestion for use of CDBG funds

All,

This correspondence comes to you in response to a call for public comments regarding use of CDBG funds to be awarded the City in that program's 2024-2026 funding cycle. The legal notice announcing public hearings on this topic indicated that such hearings would occur on April 2, 2024 and April 16, 2024. A thirty-day public comment period was also associated with this public engagement process.

I addressed Council at these meetings with several suggestions (flood remediation project at Koenig Park and street improvement project at Ohio Circle Marion Ave.). An accompanying document headed "CDBG 2024-2026 Funding Cycle, public comments" provides greater detail on one of those and adds for consideration two other projects: ADA sidewalk improvements at The Reading Branch Public Library and improvements at Koehler Ave to augment the resurfacing that is already planned. This additional document is to be considered an integral part of my "public comments" as if it were printed directly herein. Please ensure its distribution and review by all and its inclusion as part of the public record.

It is acknowledged that the cost of each of these projects would likely exceed the Grant award. I believe that local funds are currently available to fill the funding gap and make any one of these highly worthwhile projects possible.

There was very little, if any, substantive discussion by any Council members during or following the mentioned public hearings. As such, the deliberations (that must occur in a meeting open to the public) leading to a decision are, apparently, yet to occur. I look forward to hearing those discussions and to Council reaching a decision regarding its request for funding from CDBG.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Ashbrock
221 Walnut Street
Reading, Ohio 45215

GUEST SPEAKERS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

GUEST ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIAL REPORTS:

SAFETY/SERVICE DIRECTOR: Patrick Ross (absent, report given by Mayor Bemmes)

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

ROBERT "BO" BEMMES
Mayor

PATRICK G. ROSS
Safety-Service Director

DAVID T. STEVENSON
Law Director

SABRINA A. SMITH
Auditor

BRENDA A. OWENS
Treasurer



KEVIN MATTSHECK
President of Council

KATIE EADICICCO
SCOTT V. THAMANN
SHELLY N. KROEGER
Council-At-Large

DAVID POWELL
Council Ward 1

ANDREW J. BRONNER
Council Ward 2

MARK A. BISHOP
Council Ward 3

ROBERT P. BOEHNER
Council Ward 4

CARLA D. KACHER
Clerk of Council

To: City of Reading Residents

From: City of Reading Administration & Council

Re: Construction Traffic and Traffic Pattern Changes

1. The City of Reading recently contracted with W.E. Smith for a project on Hunt Road to install a pier wall to fix an issue where the sidewalk is sliding eventually down into the adjacent creek. The project is scheduled to begin in early June and will take approximately two months to complete. For the safety of all involved, and to get the necessary work completed as quickly as possible, the section of Hunt Road between Fuhrman Road and Waxwing Drive will be closed completely for the duration of the project. The sidewalk will also be closed. We wanted to give all advance notice of this project so you may plan ahead any changes in your routes. We apologize for the inconvenience and appreciate everyone's patience during the project.
2. Reading and Columbia- After reviewing the intersection at Reading and Columbia with traffic engineers, there will be a change in the West Bound Traffic on Columbia. The right lane will be right only; and the left lane will be straight and left turns. There will be signage added warning of the upcoming change. This will go into effect this summer.
3. Hunt and Columbia- After receiving numerous complaints and again reviewing with our traffic engineers, police chief, fire chief, and chief of public works, there will no longer be a left turn permitted from Hunt Road onto Columbia. This change will also go into effect this summer.
4. Maple Drive- Maple Drive water main and road repair will begin approximately at the beginning of July. Final completion(final paving) will be spring of 2025.

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

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

TREASURER: Brenda Owens:

City of Reading
2024 April 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	\$479,159	8.6%
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	\$820,575	
YTD Progress	\$501,957	\$705,515	\$722,297	\$820,575	13.6%

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	\$733,139	4.5%
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	\$2,511,998	
YTD Progress	\$2,395,208	\$2,317,667	\$2,362,545	\$2,511,998	6.3%

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	\$162,557	-29.8%
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	\$324,474	
YTD Progress	\$232,222	\$557,994	\$371,766	\$324,474	-12.7%

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	\$1,374,855	0.1%
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	\$3,657,047	
YTD Progress	\$3,129,387	\$3,581,176	\$3,456,608	\$3,657,047	5.8%

Total Refunds	2021	\$115,450	2022	\$169,800	2023	\$666,149	2024 YTD Refunds =	\$49,726
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Brenda A. Owens- City Treasurer 05/07/2024

AUDITOR: Sabrina Smith (No Report, Absent)

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

FINANCE: Andy Bronner

I would like to give additional insight into an ordinance on the agenda tonight to award the Maple Drive improvement project. Adleta Construction gave the best price of the 5 companies to submit quotes. The city has procured a grant for \$633,500 which will cover half of the projected cost. The remaining cost will be paid using a 0% interest loan to be repaid with funds from the 2230 Streets and Curbs Fund.

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

ZONING, PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT: Dave Powell

Our committee met prior to our last regular council meeting to discuss changes to the zoning code. I have received comments

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

from multiple sources that I am working to incorporate. I also have been asked to look into regulations for Hookah lounges. I hope to have an ordinance drafted in the next month or so.

LAWS & CONTRACTS: Katie Eadicicco

I wanted to explain the ordinance amending section 624.24 of the city's code of ordinances. This is to add a section that will prohibit the sale of recreational marijuana in addition to the current moratorium.

The reason for this is that the State is currently working out the new law after the election last November. We would also like to update our city's zoning so that if in the future, the moratorium is overturned, a dispensary or such sales will be in a proper location and not in a residential area. And the reason for the emergency is so that this amendment can immediately go into effect while everything is ironed out.

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY: Shelly Kroeger

Health and Public Safety Report

Police Department run count for April, 2024

- Calls for service 1070
- Auto Accidents 3
- Booking Original Charges
- Total Criminal Charges 177

Citations Issued

- Hamilton County
- Arlington Heights
- Juvenile
- Reading Mayor's

Total Citations 144

Fire Departments run count for April, 2024

- EMS Responses 186
- Fire Responses 44

Total Responses 230

The shooting on Thurnridge was a domestic dispute. The wife is recovering, and husband is in jail. The shooting on Clark Rd. were 2 acquaintances who got into an argument. One was shot in the arm and the other was hit by a car. Both are recovering. There were various thefts reported. There was a search warrant executed on south terrace. 8 theft cases were solved due to that search warrant. There was also car break ins. 2 were arrested from the Cooper St SWAT incident. The police recovered several felony drugs and 2 stolen firearms. Both subjects were charged with additional charges.

Members of the fire department grilled for clean-up Reading Day participants. On-crew attended the Reading Elementary School spring carnival.

Spring servicing of hydrants continues.

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

SERVICE: Bob Boehner (*no report*)

RECREATION: Scott Thamann

We had swim lessons and family pass sign ups this past Saturday and will be held the next two Saturdays at the Field House, May 11 and May 18 from 10am to Noon. Pool opens officially June 1st at Noon and swim lessons begin on June 3rd. Also coming up we have the return of the Farmer's Market every Friday starting May 17 through September. May 17 will have live music and a taco truck. It's on the corner of Reading Rd and Vine Street and will run 4pm to 7pm. VYO festival May 24 -27 with the parade Monday morning at 9am.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Nerf Wars was discussed and it was reiterated that it is not a city or school sanctioned event. Regarding the incident at MND – Mrs. Eadicicco emailed the president directly and spoke with our chief and school resource officer and the our SRO handled the situation.

White Wisteria – Mrs. Eadicicco asked that the issue be taken into a committee. She suggested either public health and safety or the service committee. The service committee will look at what can be done. It was noted that there is underground power that could affect installing barriers into the ground and that the city is looking to do a traffic study at that intersection.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

READING OF RESOLUTIONS: None

READING OF ORDINANCES:

(1) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY & SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE SCHWORER FAMILY FOR THE CREATION OF A COMMUNITY DOG PARK, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

(Second reading)

Council voted to table the dog park ordinance until a new location can be found. Mr. Powell motioned, Mrs. Eadicicco seconded. Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

(2) AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 624.24 OF THE CITY OF READING'S CODE OF ORDINANCES TO INCLUDE PROHIBITIONS ON ADULT USE CANNABIS OPERATORS AND TESTING LABORATORIES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Bronner motioned to suspend the rules requiring a second and third reading, Mrs. Kroeger seconded. Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote. Mr. Boehner motioned to adopt, Mrs. Eadicicco seconded. Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2024-16

(3) AN ORDINANCE VACATING A PORTION OF PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY AT THE SOUTH END OF JEFFERSON AVENUE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

Mrs. Eadicicco motioned to suspend the rules requiring a second and third reading, Mrs. Kroeger seconded. Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote. Mrs. Kroeger motioned to adopt, Mr. Thamann seconded. Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2024-17

(4) AN ORDINANCE AWARDING A CONTRACT TO ADLETA CONTSTRUCTION FOR THE MAPLE DRIVE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED ONE MILLION THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Mr. Bronner motioned to amend the typos in the ordinance (misspelling of thousand and the repeated “and” in Section II), Mr. Thamann seconded. Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.. Mrs. Eadicicco motioned to suspend the rules requiring a second and third reading, Mrs. Kroeger seconded. Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote. Mrs. Kroeger motioned to adopt, Mr. Bronner seconded. Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2024-18

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

Mark Bishop: Mr. Bishop spoke about the Cincinnati Classical Academy’s plans to use the former Sts. Peter and Paul building for grades 6-12 for this upcoming school year.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Boehner moved to adjourn. Mrs. Kroeger seconded. Motion carried by voice vote.
The meeting was adjourned at 9:18 pm.

X _____
Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Mattscheck
Clerk of Council, Pro-Tem

X _____
Kevin Mattscheck
President of Council

CDBG 2024-2026 Funding Cycle, public comments

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the communities listed below will hold their first public hearing regarding the 2024-2026 Community Development Block Grant application. The purpose of the hearing is to encourage public input and discussion on CDBG eligible projects throughout the respective communities. A broad range of projects may be considered over this three year period, including but not limited to: housing, economic development, public facilities, public infrastructure, and planning activities, with the principal purpose of benefitting low/moderate income persons. Said public hearings will be held at:

Colerain Township: 4200 Springdale Rd., on 3/26/24 @ 6:00 PM
City of Deer Park: 7777 Blue Ash Rd., on 3/18/24 @ 7:00 PM
City of Reading: 1000 Market St., on 4/2/24 @ 7:30 PM
Village of Silverton: 6943 Montgomery Rd., on 4/4/24 @ 7:00 PM
Anderson Township: 7850 Five Mile Rd. on 4/3/2024 @ 10:00 AM
Elmwood Place: 6118 Vine Street, on 03/29/24 @ 6:00 PM
City of Forest Park: 1204 W. Kemper Rd., on 3/25/24 @ 6:15 PM
City of Lockland: 101 North Cooper, on 4/8/24 @ 6:00 PM
City of North Bend: 21 Taylor Ave, on 3/28/24 @ 5:00 PM

The following Communities will hold their 2nd Public hearing to give citizens and adequate opportunity to review and comment on the Community's proposed CDBG Application before the Community submits its application to Hamilton County.

Colerain Township: 4200 Springdale Rd., on 04/09/24
City of Deer Park: 7777 Blue Ash Rd., on 4/1/24 @ 7:00 PM
City of Reading: 1000 Market St., on 4/16/24 @ 7:30 PM
Village of Silverton: 6493 Montgomery Rd., on 4/18/24 @ 7:00 PM
Anderson Township: 7850 Five Mile Rd., on 4/11/24 @ 3:30 PM
Elmwood Place: 6118 Vine Street. on 4/17/24 @ 6:00 PM
City of Forest Park: 1201 W Kemper Rd., on 4/1/24 @ 6:45 PM
City of Lockland: 101 N Cooper, on 4/22/24 @ 6:00 PM
City of North Bend: 21 Taylor Ave, on 4/29/24 @ 5:45 PM

Please contact the community if you require reasonable accommodation.

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

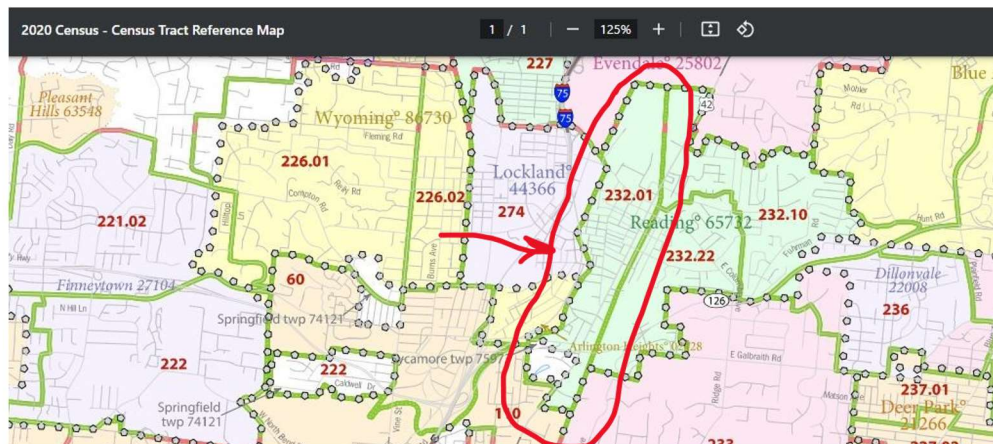
I. BASIC ACTIVITIES

- Acquisition of real property
- Disposition of property
- Public facilities:
 - senior citizens centers
 - parks, playgrounds
 - centers for handicapped
 - neighborhood facilities
 - solid waste disposal facilities (in target areas only)
 - fire protection facilities and equipment (in target areas only)
 - parking facilities (in target areas only)
 - public utilities other than water and sewer
 - street improvements
 - water and sewer facilities
 - foundations and platforms for air rights
 - pedestrian malls and walkways
 - flood and drainage facilities
 - other facilities and improvements approved by HUD
- Clearance and demolition
- Public services
- Interim assistance to alleviate hazardous conditions
- Payment of non-federal share of other Federal grant-in-aid program
- Completion of urban renewal programs
- Relocation payments
- Loss of rental income
- Removal of architectural barriers for handicapped

INELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

- Any public works, facilities, or site improvements not specifically listed as eligible, such as:
 - Buildings and facilities for the general conduct of government
 - Facilities used for exhibitions, spectator events, and cultural purposes
 - Schools and education facilities
 - Airports, subways, trolley lines, bus, or other transit terminals
 - Hospitals, nursing homes, and other medical facilities
 - Treatment works and interceptor lines for sanitary sewers
- Purchase of Equipment
 - Construction equipment
 - Furnishings and personal property
- Operating and maintenance expenses
- General government expenses
- Political activities
- New housing construction
- Income payments such as down payment or mortgages

Low and Moderate income census tract



Marion Ave. /Ohio Circle connection

This neighborhood was constructed in seemingly uncoordinated phases that never closed the roadway “circle”. The net result is that the two mentioned streets both “dead-end” with no provision for vehicles to turn around. This has long hampered the efficient delivery of public services as police, fire, EMS and public works snow removal vehicles all are forced to back-out of the area on these narrow residential streets. As our society embraces and relies upon home delivery of a wide array of consumer goods and services, the presence of vehicles from Amazon, UPS, Fedex, Uber Eats and others will add to the aggravation of the neighbors with blocked driveways, noise, and other indignities.

The blighting effect of this defective street layout deserves attention. This project proposes to correct these mentioned problems by eliminating the present road system disconnect and thus allow for orderly and predictable traffic movement to and within this lo/mod income neighborhood. While basic maintenance is not an eligible CDBG activity, this would be a more substantial road *improvement* that would greatly add to the quality of life for these residents. It is likely that the grant award may not cover the entire cost of the project. However, the financial help that it would provide could augment limited city resources to make all this possible.

(See illustrations that follow)

Marion Ave, Ohio Circle aerial view



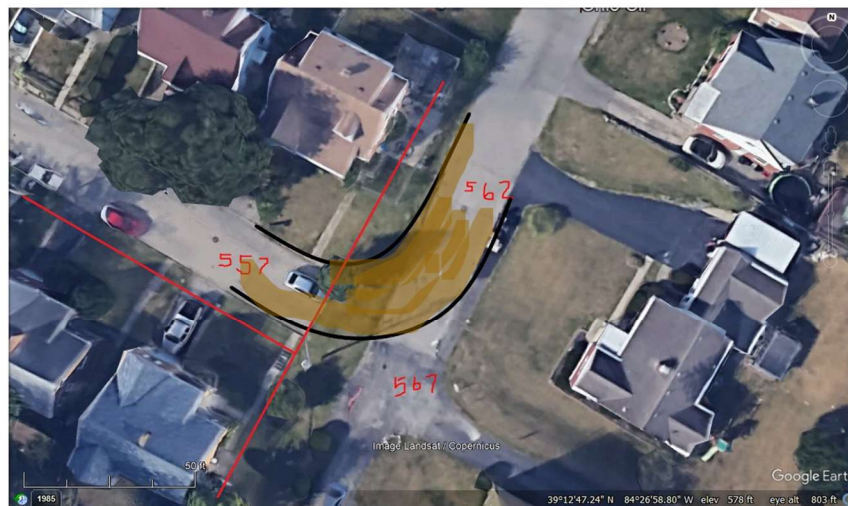
§ 1232.02 DEFINITIONS.

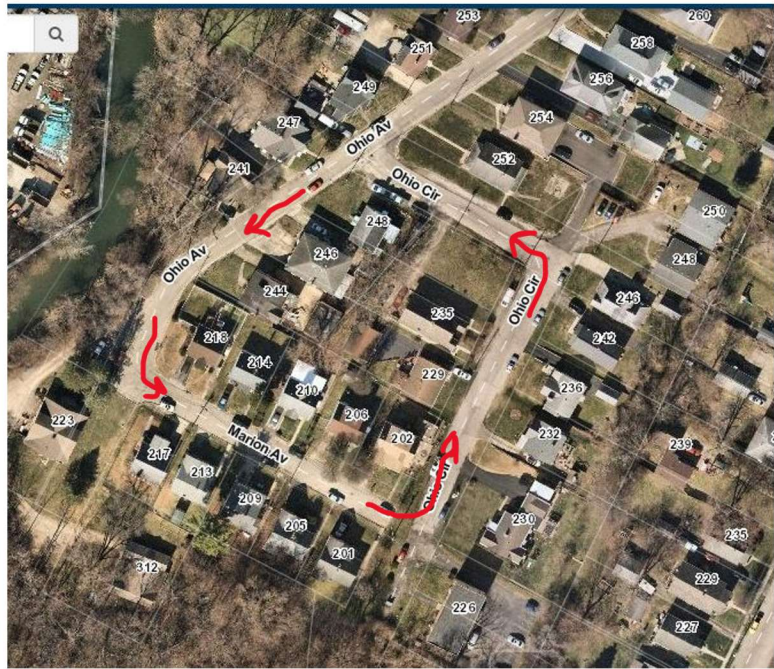


For the purpose of this chapter, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

BLIGHTED AREA. An area within the municipal corporation which by reason of the presence of a substantial number of slums, deteriorated or deteriorating structures, predominance of defective or inadequate street layout, faulty lot layout in relation to size, adequacy, accessibility, or usefulness, unsanitary or unsafe conditions, deterioration of site or other improvements, diversity of ownership, tax or special assessment delinquency exceeding the fair value of the land, defective or unusual conditions to title, or the existence of conditions which endanger life or property by fire and other causes, or any combination of such factors, substantially impairs or arrests the sound growth of the city, retards the provision of housing accommodations, or constitutes an economic or social liability and is a menace to the public health, safety, morals, or welfare in its present condition and use.

Marion Ave/ Ohio circle improvement





Benefits include :

- improved fire and ems access
- Improved Police access
- better opportunity for snow removal by public works
- simplified garbage pickup
- less disruption by UPS, FEDEX, Amazon and other delivery services

Reading Branch Public Library sidewalk ADA improvements

For reasons unknown, Reading's design review process failed to adequately detect or anticipate pedestrian shortcomings evident in the Library's site plan as submitted in 2014. For a new public facility to be built while lacking ADA compliant sidewalks along its frontage is a mystery; a condition that demands correction. This project would do just that by replacing the narrow, obstructed, water-ponding sidewalks serving the library (and the associated Metro bus-stop) in a manner that directly addresses these concerns and simultaneously advances Reading's Streetscape improvement plans.

An attempt was made to address the lack of a proper pedestrian crossing by constructing curb extensions and installing a rectangular rapid flashing beacon. However, those extensions were not expansive enough to establish adequate room between the crosswalk light and the curb. (It is assumed that the precise design was dictated by a desire to avoid the expense associated with moving/altering nearby catch basins). As a result, vehicles have frequently jumped the curb and damaged this equipment.

A properly engineered, small-scale Streetscape improvement to address all these would be a very worthy project to be funded, at least in part, by this round of CDBG dollars.

(see illustrations that follow)

Reading Branch Library Sidewalk ADA improvements





Koehler Ave

Koehler Ave was platted long before the adoption of modern subdivision regulations or street acceptance standards. It falls short in many ways: a very narrow (30') dedicated ROW, inadequate street drainage, no curbs thus poor access management. With no storm sewer catch basins, pooling storm water has greatly contributed to pavement deterioration. The lack of curbing on the north side has allowed or encouraged the tenants in abutting apartment buildings to park in a manner that violates multiple city ordinances relating to zoning and parking.

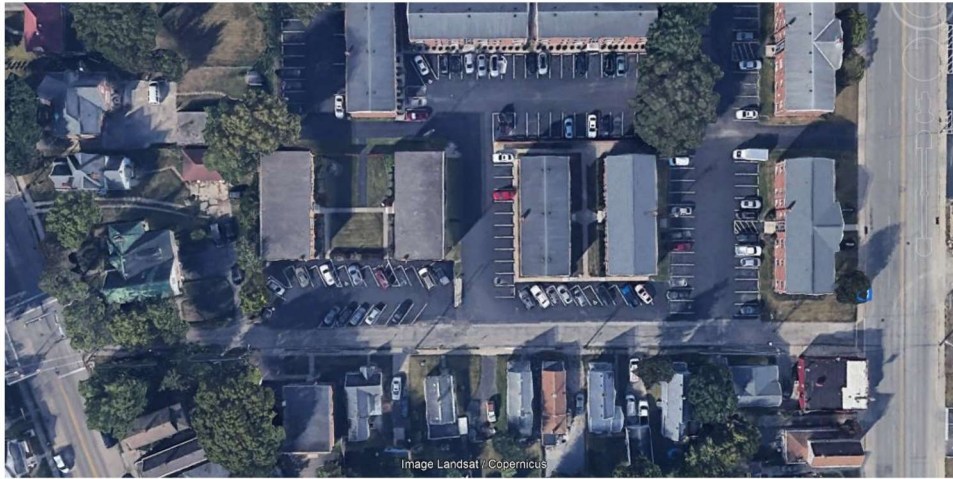
The city is planning to re-pave this area using funds obtained through SORTA. This is the opportune time to remedy as many of these deficiencies as practicable by utilizing CDBG funding for a companion *improvement* project that goes far beyond the planned maintenance.

As envisioned, this project would establish traffic control islands/curbing/ tree planting areas using green infrastructure methods that would achieve the following: 1) make clear the limits of the public ROW so that abutting property owners would know the area for which they have maintenance responsibilities 2) make traffic movements more predictable by eliminating the continuous curb cuts and creating a condition whereby most cars would be entering the street moving in a forward direction 3) detain and control the release of storm water from "tree trenches" or bioswales to assist with storm water management 4) improve the City's tree canopy- something specifically called for in the City's adopted comprehensive plan 5) add a

raised mid-block crosswalk to facilitate safe pedestrian travel from the many apartment buildings to the nearby bus stop (it seems that a condition for accepting the SORTA funds would be that they be spent in a manner that helps transit users). – see illustrations that follow.

This project would repair problems resulting from past land management decisions that are affecting both public owned and privately owned parcels. Communication with and participation by these private land holders would be essential to design, engineer, and ultimately construct a successful project.

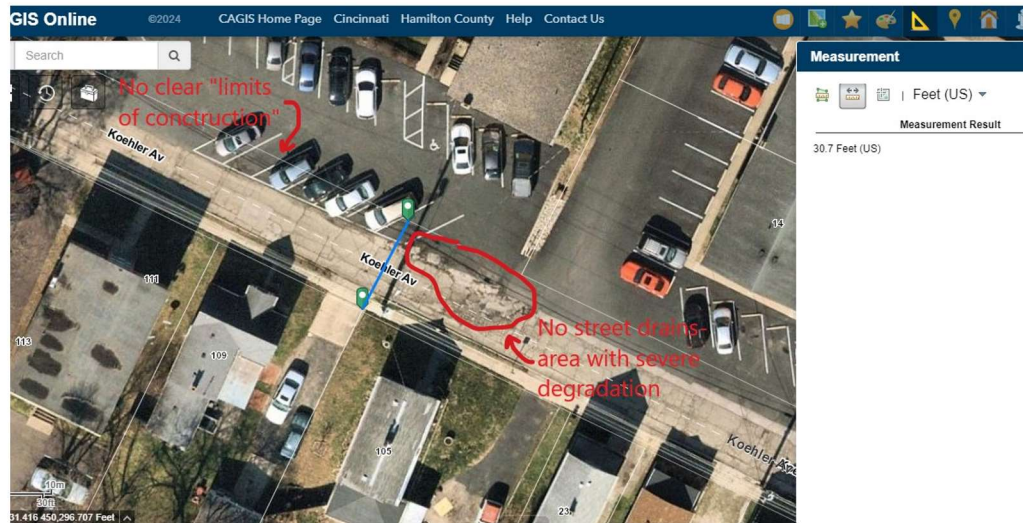
Koehler Ave street improvements



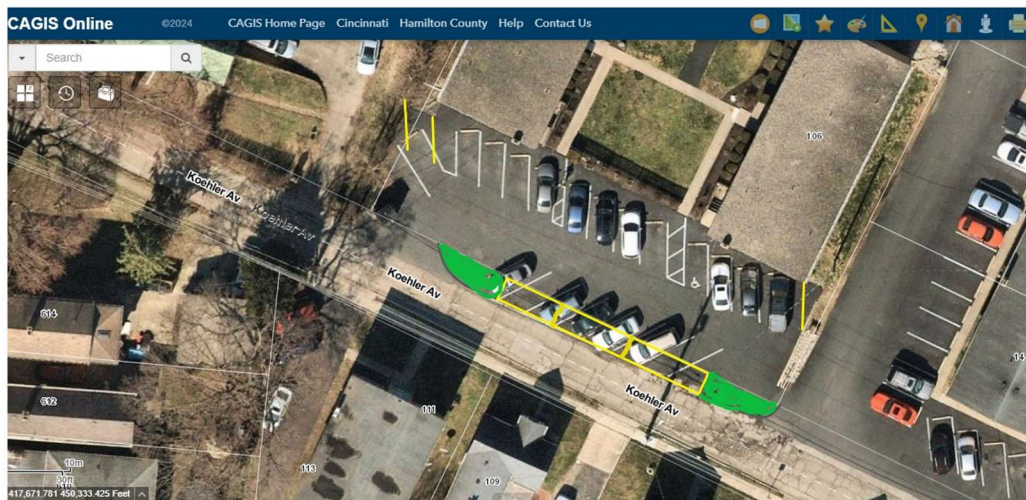
Problems:

- Drainage
- Parking
- Encroachment
- Lack of pedestrian facility
- Impervious cover
- Access management

Present conditions



West end improvement, conceptual drawing



Mid block improvements, conceptual drawing



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