

**CITY OF READING, OHIO
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION
AUGUST 06, 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. Bonner, Mr. Bishop, Mr. Boehner, Mrs. Kroeger, Mr. Thamann & Mrs. Eadicicco.

OTHER CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion to approve July 16, 2024 (Legislative) Council Minutes Meeting made by Mr. Powell, seconded by Mr. Bronner. Motion carried by voice vote.

AUDIENCE ASKING PARTICIPATION:

Bob Ashbrock (221 Walnut Street): On April 3, 2024, the City Council held one of two required Public Hearings for its participation in the CDGB program. On April 16, 2024, the second of those hearings was held. Following those, I submitted to the Council Clerk, written documentation suggesting the items that I found the City might do well to consider. On May 7, a cover letter that I submitted as part of my public comments was read and is posted on the public record. But the balance of it, which actually described the improvements, was not, and I feel as though keeping that detailed document out of the public record is a distortion of what was actually presented. So I would ask Council to consider amending those meeting minutes to ensure a publication of that accompanying document.

On a related matter, in the past there has always been a resolution from Council authorizing the Safety Service Director to participate in the CDBG program. As of yet, I have not found that such a resolution has been passed and I don't recall that there has been any deliberation about the matter either. So that seems to be an item that needs your attention.

COMMUNICATIONS: None

GUEST SPEAKERS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

GUEST ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIAL REPORTS:

MAYOR: Robert "Bo" Bemmes:

- Last Wednesday we as a City lost an incredible resident and former Public Works employee in Jim "Bimbo" Rack. Bimbo was a dedicated husband, father, brother and friend to many of us here in Reading. He was a hardworking, dedicated, caring, loyal, talented and responsible employee who simply wouldn't quit until a job was done right and if the workday ended before the job was complete, he would stay and finish on his own time. Countless VYO softball and baseball games, Reading Youth Football games and other Youth activities and City events were held and were successful because of Jims efforts and again many of them because he was willing to give freely of his time as a caring volunteer.

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- Our Reading Police Department hosted another National Night Out where our residents get the opportunity to get to know our Police Officers and Fire/EMS employees better and see many of the resources that are available to us to keep our Community as safe as we possibly can.
- I administered the oath of office to Brian Berigan who is now a Police Officer for our City.
- 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.
- The Hunt Road landslide/pier wall project was completed three weeks ahead of schedule, \$35,000 under budget and looks great.
- The MSD Reading Road Storm Water project is finally complete which will result in less pollutants getting into the Mill Creek.
- We were chosen along with 7 other communities in our State to receive State funding to complete a study and make improvements on State routes to improve safety. Patrick Ross and I are working with ODOT to identify and complete improvements on Reading road between Galbraith and North Street. \$2 million dollars have been allocated for this project.
- The reminder that no left turn from Hunt road onto Columbia Ave is now in effect for safety reasons.
- Traffic patterns going west bound on Columbia Ave at Reading Road will change as soon as our traffic engineers give us final approval. The right-hand lane will be right turn only with the left lane being straight or left turn. Traffic going eastbound will remain the same.
- Major improvements, approximately \$1.3 million dollars including \$650,000 in Grant dollars, will begin on Maple Drive starting August 26. A new 8 inch in diameter water main, replacing an old 3 inch in diameter pipe, along with new curbs, aprons, one or two speed humps and new paving are all a part of this project.
- The bid openings for the Landy Lane and Koehler Avenue projects (50% of which will be paid for through grant dollars) happened on June 27. Rack Ballauer was our lowest/best bidder.
- The stadium bleachers have been resealed with our Reading Schools paying half the cost.
- Our excellent schools will be opening their doors for another school year soon.
 - Reading High School starts Tuesday, August 20
 - MND & St Peter & Paul Academy on Wednesday, August 21
 - Classical Academy on Tuesday, August 27 (Grades 5-8 will be down at the old St. Pete's school building)Please slow down as you drive and keep an eye out for our young students as they make their way to and from school.
- The Taste of Reading will be at Koenig Park on Saturday, August 24 from noon until 11pm.

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- Please contact me anytime with any questions, comments, complaints or concerns at rbemmes@readingohio.org or 513-509-8619

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

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

TREASURER: Brenda Owens *(Absent, Report given by Finance Chairman, Andy Bronner)*

City of Reading
2024 July 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	\$73,028	-0.1%
June	\$134,637	\$107,043	\$117,960	\$80,804	-31.5%
July	\$82,544	\$28,939	\$35,819	\$29,749	-16.9%
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	\$1,004,156	
YTD Progress	\$942,594	\$943,918	\$949,188	\$1,004,156	5.8%

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	\$502,943	4.6%
June	\$484,864	\$470,151	\$475,836	\$585,100	23.0%
July	\$507,334	\$501,087	\$671,451	\$561,747	-16.3%
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	\$4,161,787	
YTD Progress	\$3,878,368	\$3,823,816	\$3,990,748	\$4,161,787	4.3%

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	\$26,006	99.3%
June	\$87,483	\$399,300	\$136,640	\$143,130	4.7%
July	\$43,735	\$15,804	\$32,265	\$70,851	119.6%
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	\$564,462	
YTD Progress	\$424,252	\$1,015,904	\$553,719	\$564,462	1.9%

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	\$601,977	6.2%
June	\$706,984	\$976,494	\$730,436	\$809,034	10.8%
July	\$633,613	\$545,830	\$739,534	\$662,347	-10.4%
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	\$5,730,404	
YTD Progress	\$5,245,214	\$5,783,637	\$5,493,655	\$5,730,404	4.3%

Total Refunds	2021	\$115,450	2022	\$169,800	2023	\$666,149	2024 YTD Refunds =	\$86,429
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Brenda A. Owens- City Treasurer 08/01/2024

AUDITOR: Sabrina Smith:

The Audit is complete for the City of Reading for 2022 and 2023. We received no findings. This is great news. The Audit goes through a desk review by the State of Ohio and that has comeback certified. Once the Audit is posted online I will share the link with Council and have it put in the meeting minutes.

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The entire City and part-time and seasonal employees are required to do a fraud training and a form. This has to happen at a minimum of every 4 years. If your election year is a two year term you might have to do it every 2 years. Lots of moving parts. Thanks to Diane in the main office for collecting the forms.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

FINANCE: Andy Bronner (*No Report*)

UTILITIES, LANDS & BUILDINGS: Mark Bishop

- A meeting of the Utilities, Lands and Buildings committee was held Tuesday July 16 at 6pm in Council Chambers.

Attendees: David Powell, Andy Bronner, Mark Bishop

- a. A discussion (was) had over the replacement of the tree canopy along Reading Road roughly from Vorhees ST to North ST.
- b. 80 trees will be removed, 90 will be planted
- c. Service will be contracted out.
- d. Trees are paid for by a grant. Several species have been chosen to replace the Bradford Pears that are now considered an invasive species.
 - i. 6 Species chosen of 11 considered include: Elm, Blackgum, Zelkova, Honeylocust, and Lilac.
 - ii. Noted that some trees grow more vertically, others wider. Each selected for a specific location.
- e. Discussion included cleaning up the sidewalks of obstacles.

ZONING, PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT: Dave Powell (*No Report*)

LAWS & CONTRACTS: Katie Eadicicco

I have a Resolution and 2 Ordinances on the agenda tonight.

The first is a Resolution to expand the DORA boundaries. This is a first reading only.

I've been in contact with the Ohio Division of Liquor Control and in order to expand the DORA we needed to have the area resurveyed including the additional areas and submit that with a list of the addresses included in the expansion and our resolution, once passed. We have the completed survey with the certified acreage of the DORA, which is 9.30 acres, and I have the list of addresses put together. That all is included with the resolution along with the current addresses and liquor license holder for additional information. While it's not required that we hold a public hearing to expand the DORA, I would like to do so just to give the public a chance to speak if they would like. I would like that to take place during our next meeting on August 20th.

From what I hear, the DORA has been very successful. I, myself, have seen groups of wedding parties and shoppers in the area with the DORA cups and I know it was great to have during the Fall In Love Bridal Show and the Holiday Walk last year. I've not heard any complaints and I ask our police chief a lot if there has been any issues, and so far so good.

Next, we have the ordinance for the city to enter into an agreement with the school for use of the stadium. This is replacing the previous contract that expired this year. It's similar to the previous contract with the exception of Koenig Park, which the school no longer uses because they now have the Hilltop Baseball Complex. The rental cost covers the yearly maintenance from the city for the stadium and practice fields.

And finally, we have the ordinance authorizing the administration to hire a full-time code enforcement officer. I want to thank the administration for working with my committee and myself on this and it's great to have that open line of communication. This is something that I feel is a positive step for the city and my committee did a lot of work and research to make sure we covered everything we were looking for. I think it's important for the citizens to know that we have heard

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you and this ordinance is a direct result of that.

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY: Shelly Kroeger

Police Department run count for July 2024

·	Calls for service	1280
·	Auto Accidents	38
·	Booking Original Charges	127

Total Criminal Charges 168

Citations Issued

·	Hamilton County	8
·	Arlington Heights	46
·	Juvenile	6
·	Reading Mayor's	244

Total Citations 308

Fire Departments run count for July 2024

·	EMS Responses	215
·	Fire Responses	58

Total Responses 273

For the month of July, there were several car break-ins, drug arrests, OVI, theft and domestic abuse. There was a hit skip reported. Officers were able to locate the car via the FLOCK cameras. Officers also used the FLOCK cameras to located suspicious subjects at a home on Galbraith Rd, with the description of the vehicle and a vehicle for Lockland after suspects used some kind of ice gun to fire at several victims in Lockland. If you joined us for National Night Out tonight, Thank you! We hope you enjoyed this event.

The fire department held a touch-a-truck event at Don's Creamy Whip.

CPR/AED training provided for Meals on Wheels drivers at the JCC.

Vehicle and equipment demonstrations provided for Camp Chabad at Koenig Park.

Fire house and equipment demonstration provided to local Girl Scout troop.

SERVICE: Bob Boehner

Reading Public Works Council Report August 6,2024

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City crews have been out patching potholes in the streets

The mulcher has been out collecting branches.

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 crews have been painting cross walks throughout the City

City crews have been out trimming low hanging branches on Hunt Rd, Fuhrman Rd, East Benson and Mapletree

City crews pressured washed the Stadium

City crews repaired a rock swale on Sugar Maple

City crews Mow trimmed the following streets Hunt Rd, Fuhrman Rd, Cavett Dr

City crews repaired catch basins on Becky Ct, Siebenthaler Dr and West Crest Dr

City crews repaired a water leak on Jefferson at Columbia Ave and Cavett Dr as well resetting the valve in front of the Haffey Fieldhouse

City crews have patched back all basin repairs and water main breaks

City crew have also cleaned the hill side on East Benson St from the mow trim clearing

RECREATION: Scott Thamann

The Ladies Auxiliary will be hosting their Taste of Reading on Saturday, Aug. 24 at Koenig Park. It is always a great time with a wide variety of food, crafts, and entertainment. We hope to see you there.

OTHER BUSINESS: NONE

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LEGISLATIVE SESSION

READING OF RESOLUTIONS:

- (1) A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF READING TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION(OPWC) STATE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT(SCIP) AND OR LOCAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT(LTIP) PROGRAM(S) AND TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS AS REQUIRED AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Motion made by Mrs. Eadicicco, seconded by Mrs. Kroeger to suspend the rule that requires a second and third reading. Motion carried by a 6-1 roll call vote (Mr. Powell, Mr. Bronner, Mr. Bishop, Mrs. Kroeger, Mr. Thamann & Mrs. Eadicicco voting “Yes,” and Mr. Boehner voting “No”). Motion made by Mrs. Kroeger, seconded by Mrs. Eadicicco to adopt the resolution. Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2024-25R

- (2) A RESOLUTION EXPANDING THE DESIGNATED OUTDOOR REFRESHMENT AREA (DORA) FOR THE CITY OF READING AND ENACTING THE CURRENT DORA REGULATIONS IN THE EXPANDED AREAS.**

Resolution was declared a first reading only.

READING OF ORDINANCES:

- (1) AN ORDINANCE ADDING CHAPTER 863 TO THE CITY OF READING’S CODE OF ORDINANCES TO REGULATE HOOKAH BARS. (3rd Reading)**

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

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2024-26

- (2) AN ORDINANCE AWARDING A CONTRACT TO RACK AND BALLAUER EXCAVATION FOR THE LANDY LANE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT FOR TWO HUNDRED THREE THOUSAND, EIGHT HUNDRED FIFTEEN DOLLARS AND FIFTY CENTS (\$203,815.50), AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

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

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2024-27

- (3) AN ORDINANCE AWARDING A CONTRACT TO RACK AND BALLAUER EXCAVATION FOR THE KOEHLER AVENUE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT FOR ONE HUNDRED FORTY EIGHT THOUSAND, THREE HUNDRED FIFTY SIX DOLLARS AND FORTY CENTS (\$148,356.40), AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

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

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2024-28

(4) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION(CIC) TO NEGOTIATE THE PURCHASE OF PROPERTY ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF READING AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2024-29

(5) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND/OR SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR TO HIRE A FULL-TIME CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER, FOR THE CITY OF READING, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Motion made by Mr. Thamann, seconded by Mr. Bronner to suspend the rule that requires a second and third reading. Motion carried by a 6-1 roll call vote (Mr. Powell, Mr. Bronner, Mr. Bishop, Mrs. Kroeger, Mr. Thamann & Mrs. Eadicicco voting “Yes,” and Mr. Boehner voting “No”). Motion made by Mr. Bronner, seconded by Mrs. Eadicicco to adopt the ordinance. Motion carried by a 6-1 roll call vote (Mr. Powell, Mr. Bronner, Mr. Bishop, Mrs. Kroeger, Mr. Thamann & Mrs. Eadicicco voting “Yes,” and Mr. Boehner voting “No”).

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2024-30

(6) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OR SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH READING COMMUNITY CITY SCHOOLS DISTRICT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion made by Mrs. Eadicicco, seconded by Mrs. Kroeger to suspend the rule that requires a second and third reading. Motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote (as a member and employee of the Reading Community Schools, Mr. Thamann recused himself from the vote). Motion made by Mr. Bronner, seconded by Mrs. Kroeger to adopt the ordinance. Motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote (as a member and employee of the Reading Community Schools, Mr. Thamann recused himself from the vote).

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2024-31

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

President of Council, Kevin Mattscheck, confirmed that Mr. Brooks will be in attendance at the 08-20-24 Council Meeting as a Guest Speaker to address a number of topics.

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Shelly Kroeger announced that Dean Ferrier is going to take the City of Reading under his control and oversee our recycling program. If your recycling or garbage pick-up is missed, please contact the Rumpke office at 800-828-8171 ext. 5273. They are trying very hard to remediate the issues. Mr. Powell mentioned that it is imperative for the City of Reading residents to keep calling the Rumpke number to report missed pick-ups so that they (Rumpke) can understand the full extent of the issue. If you don't call, they don't know about it and it can't be addressed. Dean Ferrier plans to attend an upcoming Council meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Bronner moved to adjourn. Mrs. Kroeger seconded. Motion carried by voice vote.
The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

X _____
Carla Albrinck
Clerk of Council

X _____
Kevin Mattscheck
President of Council