

**CITY OF READING, OHIO
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION
JANUARY 7, 2025 – 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. Bohner, Mrs. Kroeger, Mr. Thamann, & Mrs. Eadicicco.

OTHER CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion to approve December 19, 2024 (Special) Council Minutes made by Mr. Bohner, seconded by Mrs. Eadicicco. Motion carried by a voice vote.

AUDIENCE ASKING PARTICIPATION: None

COMMUNICATIONS: None

- October 2024 Mayor's Court Monthly Disbursement Report

~ 145 Bench warrants Issued, 445 Cases Heard & \$20,159.00 Collected

GUEST SPEAKERS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

GUEST ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIAL REPORTS:|

MAYOR: Robert "Bo" Bemmes:

- Hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and holiday. We need to keep all in our prayers who need help.
- Thank you to everyone who removed cars from the streets, stayed home, took care of neighbors who needed help and cleared fire hydrants. Thank you to all who work for our City - Dedicated City employees who care.
- I and the administrative team work hard to maintain a great work environment and get our departments and employees the training and equipment they need to serve us well.
- To maintain excellent city services takes having resources to fund them. At City Hall we work very hard on economic development and have done very well at keeping businesses and encouraging them to grow here and attracting new businesses and as their tax dollars fund our city services we use every dollar wisely so that our departments serve our residents, businesses, schools and organizations well.
- Thanks to Pat, Todd, Darrell, Brian, Susan, Linda Fitzgerald for all their hard work in 2024.
- Thanks to Council, Law Director, Mayors Court, Michelle Cranmer for 34 plus years of service. Thanks also to the Water Department, the New Building Department, Gerry Stoker, our City Engineers, and Dan Brooks for 30 years of service.
- It takes all of us working together and I and my administrative team spend hours planning, discussing issues, communicating, prioritizing and striving to provide better services every day.
- In 2025 - more paving projects - Koehler, Landy Lane, Maple Drive, and Harvest Lane and Improvements on Reading Road using \$2 million from ODOT. We also received \$860,000 in grant dollars to pave E Crest, Crestmont and part of W Crest.
- In 2025 new lights will be installed at Koenig Park (using \$50K from VYO, \$15 K from Parks Foundation) keeping VYO activities alive and helping 300 boys and girls active with healthy activities for 6 months each year.

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- Other plans for 2025 include new diving boards and other improvements at the city pool, a new track at the stadium, and a new plow truck. We have also begun to study the feasibility of a levy for a new firehouse and city hall.

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

TREASURER: Brenda Owens

- A note about the December Individual numbers: as you can see, they are quite different from recent years. We were able to get our “failed to file” letters out in early December and had a nice response to them (The prior year we were not able to get them out until January 2024, which boosted the January numbers). This will unfortunately make comparisons a bit skewed for the current period and for 2025 (Both for December 2024 and January 2025—possibly even December 2025). Overall, I think 2024 was a great, steady year! Looking forward to another great one in 2025!

City of Reading
2024 December 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	\$120,959	\$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	\$62,099	81.2%
September	\$89,782	\$78,608	\$86,325	\$77,164	-10.6%
October	\$56,061	\$63,966	\$52,893	\$47,668	-9.9%
November	\$14,763	\$64,047	\$25,276	\$66,383	162.6%
December	\$86,298	\$46,897	\$49,879	\$130,517	161.7%
Yearly Totals	\$1,228,857	\$1,234,007	\$1,197,773	\$1,387,986	
YTD Progress	\$1,228,857	\$1,234,007	\$1,197,773	\$1,387,986	15.9%

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	\$547,775	19.1%
September	\$411,837	\$464,052	\$491,289	\$546,441	11.2%
October	\$549,184	\$606,041	\$580,966	\$575,534	-0.9%
November	\$545,750	\$493,632	\$482,419	\$539,195	11.8%
December	\$432,363	\$462,692	\$469,943	\$605,426	28.8%
Yearly Totals	\$6,383,913	\$6,442,162	\$6,475,316	\$6,976,158	
YTD Progress	\$6,383,913	\$6,442,162	\$6,475,316	\$6,976,158	7.7%

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	\$100,690	\$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	\$56,349	46.5%
September	\$85,263	\$337,399	\$118,498	\$108,430	-8.5%
October	\$42,542	\$22,564	\$18,497	\$16,253	-12.1%
November	\$22,412	\$15,798	\$76,898	\$57,636	-25.0%
December	\$87,159	\$48,456	\$53,959	\$45,256	-16.1%
Yearly Totals	\$699,835	\$1,462,520	\$860,101	\$848,386	
YTD Progress	\$699,835	\$1,462,520	\$860,101	\$848,386	-1.4%

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	\$666,223	25.1%
September	\$586,882	\$880,060	\$696,112	\$732,034	5.2%
October	\$647,787	\$692,571	\$652,357	\$639,455	-2.0%
November	\$582,925	\$573,477	\$584,593	\$663,214	13.4%
December	\$605,819	\$558,046	\$573,781	\$781,199	36.1%
Yearly Totals	\$8,312,605	\$9,138,690	\$8,533,190	\$9,212,530	
YTD Progress	\$8,312,605	\$9,138,690	\$8,533,190	\$9,212,530	8.0%

Total Refunds	2021	\$115,450	2022	\$169,800	2023	\$666,149	2024 YTD Refunds =	\$104,275
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Brenda A. Owens- City Treasurer 01/07/2025

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AUDITOR: Sabrina Smith:

- I am happy to report that we are completely reconciled for 2024. It took a lot of work to get to this point and I can't say enough how amazing our staff is.
- Looking back in 2023 we started with just under \$14M. In 2024 just over \$14M.
- For 2025 we are starting the year with just over \$15M.
- Please take a look at our balances in the different funds when you have time.
- Tonight, I am asking for 4 transfer ordinances not to exceed \$8M over the course of the year from the City Earnings Tax Fund to the General Fund.
- On the Month to Date Report for January you will see some MTD Increases. This only includes transfer for Streets and Curbs and all the transfers for the water collection and sewer bills for October-December 2024.
- We've already started the GAAP Statements for 2024. I have sent an Audit File of many reports to our Auditors. This is a yearly filing that is due by the state of Ohio by the end of May 2025.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

FINANCE: Andy Bronner

- Next committee meeting will be held on Thursday, January 23 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

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

ZONING, PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT: Dave Powell

My top priority for the planning, zoning, and environment committee this year is to finalize the rework of our zoning code. When I became aware that there will be a new zoning administrator appointed, I paused our work on the matter. Once the new zoning administrator has been appointed, I want to get their input and host another committee meeting on the matter.

Another topic I would like to tackle is food trucks. I have reached out to the Cincinnati Food Truck Association, and I have been researching how other communities in the area regulate food trucks. Input on this matter from citizens, fellow council members, and members of the administration would be appreciated.

LAWS & CONTRACTS: Katie Eadicicco

There's a couple of hires I wanted to follow up on. First, have we hired a new Code Enforcement Officer? *If so*, I would like to invite them to a council meeting so we can meet them and introduce ourselves. Same goes for a new Building Department Official. We were told last year that Mr. Brooks was retiring, and I would like to invite his replacement to a council meeting. I hope these two new hires lead to some proactive changes and improvements in the city.

Lastly, I will be having a Laws and Contracts committee meeting on Tuesday, January 28TH at 6:30 PM in the caucus room.

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY: Shelly Kroeger

Police Department run count for December 2024

- Calls for service 886
- 314Auto Accidents 32

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· Booking Original Charges	94
Total Criminal Charges	119

Citations Issued

· Hamilton County	10
· Arlington Heights	28
· Juvenile	4
· Reading Mayor's	94
Total Citations	139

Fire Departments run count for December 2024

· EMS Responses	203
· Fire Responses	42
Total Responses	245

Total run counts for 2024

EMS Responses	2,502
Fire Responses	640
Total Responses	3,142 (3.6% increase from 2023)

For the month of December, the FLOCK cameras hit for 2 stolen vehicles. Both vehicles were found and both suspects were arrested. There were packages stolen from porches, forged checks, disorderly conduct, theft and OVI. Even though temperatures are colder, we are still seeing car breaks ins. Please remember to lock your vehicles or remove all valuables.

- Members assisted with traffic control at the Reading Holiday Walk event on 12/6.
- RFD Christmas Party was held on 12/14.
- Multiple members attended Michelle Cranmer's retirement luncheon on 12/30.

SERVICE: Bob Boehner

- Will pass along the compliments to the Service Department regarding the recent Snow Removal.
We still have PLENTY of salt for us to use this year for any snow events.
- Water Mane break in front of the Reading Feed Mill ... this could be a big one.
- Next committee meeting will be held sometime in late February.

RECREATION: Scott Thamann

We are accepting applications for pool employees this summer. We have an ordinance on the agenda to increase the wages for all staff, so please pick up applications at city hall if interested.

For the year ahead for the Recreation Committee, we are looking to replace playground equipment at three of our parks. We are still working on the creation of a leash-free dog park, and we are hoping to replace the filtration system at the community pool. We should have the plans in a few days. I would like to schedule a Recreation Committee meeting for Tuesday, January 21 at 6:30 in Council Chambers.

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OTHER BUSINESS: None

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

READING OF RESOLUTIONS: None

READING OF ORDINANCES:

- (1) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE AUDITOR TO MAKE TRANSFERS NOT TO EXCEED \$2,000,000.00 FROM THE CITY EARNINGS TAX FUND TO THE GENERAL FUND FROM JANUARY 1, 2025 – MARCH 31, 2025.**

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

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2025-01

- (2) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE AUDITOR TO MAKE TRANSFERS NOT TO EXCEED \$2,000,000.00 FROM THE CITY EARNINGS TAX FUND TO THE GENERAL FUND FROM APRIL 1, 2025 – JUNE 30, 2025.**

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

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2025-02

- (3) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE AUDITOR TO MAKE TRANSFERS NOT TO EXCEED \$2,000,000.00 FROM THE CITY EARNINGS TAX FUND TO THE GENERAL FUND FROM JULY 1, 2025 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2025.**

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

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2025-03

- (4) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE AUDITOR TO MAKE TRANSFERS NOT TO EXCEED \$2,000,000.00 FROM THE CITY EARNINGS TAX FUND TO THE GENERAL FUND FROM OCTOBER 1, 2025 – DECEMBER 31, 2025.**

Motion made by Mr. Boehner, seconded by Mr. Bronner 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 2025-04

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(5) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF A 2026 INTERNATIONAL PLOW TRUCK FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$220,000.00 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 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 2025-05

(6) AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2023 - 47 WHICH AUTHORIZES THE SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR TO EMPLOY CERTAIN TEMPORARY; SEASONAL AND PART-TIME HELP 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. Kroeger, seconded by Mrs. Eadicicco to adopt the ordinance. Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2025-06

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS: None

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Boehner moved to adjourn. Mr. Bronner seconded. Motion carried by voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:19 pm.

X _____
Carla Albrinck
Clerk of Council

X _____
Kevin Mattscheck
President of Council