

**CITY OF READING, OHIO
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION
APRIL 1, 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. 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.

PROCLAMATION:

Mayor Bo Bemmes presented Gage Murphy with a Proclamation for his State Wrestling Championship. Gage is Reading's 5th State Champion.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion to approve March 18, 2025 (Regular) Council Minutes Meeting made by Mr. Boehner, seconded by Mr. Bronner carried by voice vote.

AUDIENCE ASKING PARTICIPATION:

Kevin Parker (Eagleview Way)– (1) The alleyways in Ward 2 are in bad shape. Questioned if there is any money that can be used to fix these up? Mayor Bemmes responded that now that we have a little bit of money this can be discussed. (2) Market Street & Jefferson Avenue will back up if/when the proposed ODOT project comes to fruition. Can money be set aside to keep those streets kept up so it will meet the demand of additional traffic? Mayor Bemmes response – yes, that will be considered as well

COMMUNICATIONS: None

GUEST SPEAKERS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

GUEST ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIAL REPORTS:

MAYOR: Robert "Bo" Bemmes:

I want to say congratulations to Reading High School senior Gage Murphy who won the 165-pound State of Ohio wrestling championship. Gage was undefeated this year winning 55 matches without a single loss, becoming the 5th State Champion in RHS wrestling history.

Every day I, my administrative team, and each of our dedicated employees work very hard to provide the best possible City Services with the resources we are given. We do this by making sure, to the best of our abilities, that we maintain adequate

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staffing in each of our departments and providing them with the equipment and training that they need to do their jobs while living within each department's budget. Our constant goal is to protect life and property and through preparation and education prevent as many potential mishaps as is possible.

Through our District 2 Integrating Committee that distributes Ohio Public Works funding for infrastructure improvements we were awarded \$826,400 in grant dollars to improve all of East Crest Drive (including water main improvements) all of Crestmont Drive and West Crest from Crestmont to Keith Drive. We were also awarded \$826,400 in interest free loan dollars to be able to complete the \$1,652,800 project.

I want to urge everyone to vote yes on State Issue 2 during the May 6 Primary Election. Passing this issue will allow for continued funding for the State Capital Improvement Program from which we have received dozens of 50% Grants to repave our residential streets, replace aging water mains, replace curbs and install new driveway aprons.

I want to thank our Reading Chamber of Commerce and our Reading Bridal district for all that they do to help keep the businesses that we have and their help in attracting new businesses to locate here.

Please get to know your neighbors and look out for them and call 911 immediately if you see any suspicious or illegal activity.

Please sign up for emergency alerts and warnings from Hamilton County Alert and Smart 911 at AlertHC.org

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

SAFETY/SERVICE DIRECTOR: Patrick Ross:

- SCIP Program – Please vote “Yes” on Issue 2.
- Annual Ohio EPA MS4 report submitted
- Code of Ordinances updated on American Legal
- Appropriations will be submitted to County upon completion
- Will be implementing new software for Mass Notifications, Code Enforcement & Zoning/Planning.

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

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

City of Reading
March 2025 Income Tax Receipt Summary
With Prior Years Comparison

Individual Residents Income Taxes

	2022	2023	2024	2025	% Change 24 to 25
January	\$79,333	\$97,988	\$140,011	\$107,314	-23.4%
February	\$37,035	\$62,179	\$73,859	\$63,674	-13.8%
March	\$131,391	\$120,959	\$127,546	\$133,559	4.7%
April	\$457,756	\$441,112	\$479,159		
May	\$102,421	\$73,112	\$73,028		
June	\$107,043	\$117,960	\$80,804		
July	\$28,939	\$35,819	\$29,749		
August	\$36,571	\$34,271	\$62,099		
September	\$78,608	\$86,325	\$77,164		
October	\$63,966	\$52,893	\$47,668		
November	\$64,047	\$25,276	\$66,383		
December	\$46,897	\$49,879	\$130,517		
Yearly Totals	\$1,234,007	\$1,197,773	\$1,387,987	\$304,547	
YTD Progress	\$247,769	\$281,125	\$341,416	\$304,547	-10.8%

Payroll Withholding Income Taxes

	2022	2023	2024	2025	% Change 24 to 25
January	\$689,143	\$699,906	\$721,376	\$667,033	-7.5%
February	\$441,735	\$483,701	\$495,911	\$565,608	14.1%
March	\$434,394	\$477,447	\$561,572	\$561,705	0.0%
April	\$752,396	\$701,491	\$733,139		
May	\$534,911	\$480,917	\$502,943		
June	\$470,151	\$475,836	\$585,100		
July	\$501,087	\$671,451	\$561,747		
August	\$591,928	\$459,951	\$547,775		
September	\$464,052	\$491,289	\$546,441		
October	\$606,041	\$580,966	\$575,534		
November	\$493,632	\$482,419	\$539,195		
December	\$462,692	\$469,943	\$605,426		
Yearly Totals	\$6,442,162	\$6,475,316	\$6,976,158	\$1,794,346	
YTD Progress	\$1,565,272	\$1,661,054	\$1,778,868	\$1,794,346	0.9%

Business Profits Income Taxes

	2022	2023	2024	2025	% Change 24 to 25
January	\$48,907	\$21,712	\$72,579	\$95,461	31.5%
February	\$24,719	\$17,868	\$30,745	\$56,538	83.9%
March	\$210,097	\$100,690	\$58,593	\$58,013	-1.0%
April	\$274,272	\$231,557	\$162,557		
May	\$42,806	\$13,048	\$26,006		
June	\$399,300	\$136,640	\$143,130		
July	\$15,804	\$32,265	\$70,851		
August	\$22,399	\$38,469	\$56,349		
September	\$337,399	\$118,498	\$108,430		
October	\$22,564	\$18,497	\$16,253		
November	\$15,798	\$76,898	\$57,636		
December	\$48,456	\$53,959	\$45,256		
Yearly Totals	\$1,462,520	\$860,101	\$848,385	\$210,012	
YTD Progress	\$283,722	\$140,269	\$161,918	\$210,012	29.7%

Total Income Taxes Collected

	2022	2023	2024	2025	% Change 24 to 25
January	\$817,383	\$819,606	\$933,966	\$869,808	-6.9%
February	\$503,488	\$563,747	\$600,514	\$685,820	14.2%
March	\$775,881	\$699,095	\$747,711	\$753,278	0.7%
April	\$1,484,424	\$1,374,159	\$1,374,855		
May	\$680,137	\$567,077	\$601,977		
June	\$976,494	\$730,436	\$809,034		
July	\$545,830	\$739,534	\$662,347		
August	\$650,899	\$532,692	\$666,223		
September	\$880,060	\$696,112	\$732,034		
October	\$692,571	\$652,357	\$639,455		
November	\$573,477	\$584,593	\$663,214		
December	\$558,046	\$573,781	\$781,199		
Yearly Totals	\$9,138,690	\$8,533,190	\$9,212,530	\$2,308,906	
YTD Progress	\$2,096,752	\$2,082,448	\$2,282,192	\$2,308,906	1.2%

Total Refunds	2022	2023	2024	2025	Refunds =
	\$169,800	\$666,149	\$104,275		\$38,489

Brenda A. Owens- City Treasurer 04/01/25

AUDITOR: Sabrina Smith:

Currently working in the back office closing the end of the month since it's April 1.

Will get the monthly report to everyone once it is reconciled.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

FINANCE: Andy Bronner *(No Report)*

UTILITIES, LANDS & BUILDINGS: Mark Bishop

UL&B Report: A meeting of the Utilities, Lands and Buildings committee was held on Wednesday March 12 at 6pm in Council Chambers regarding the development of a parking lot and possible pocket park at Benson and Market. I reported this information in this report in its entirety last meeting, but submitting the report tonight for the record.

Topics discussed:

- A discussion about the planned parking lot design, specifically regarding greenspace.
- Discussion regarding potential greenspace on Market and Benson streets.

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- c. Discussion of other potential opportunities for greenspace or improvements in the City.

See attached related document provided by members of Rooted in Community. Our previous report on 3/4/25 included all pages sent by R.I.C. Here we focused on the Pocket Park.

Notes from discussion:

1. Need to have the area surveyed including the parking area for park when the parking lot is surveyed.
2. Adding pole lamps on Market would be cost prohibitive, but lights for the new parking lot will be upgraded per Mr. Ross.
3. Eliminate the curb cut on Benson.
4. Design of the pocket park.
5. Discussion of the need to discuss concept only at this time.
6. Some discussion of the new parking lot took place, but we are leaving that up to JMA at this stage. Design concepts were forwarded for the park and parking lot.

On 3/17 Mr. Ross wrote:

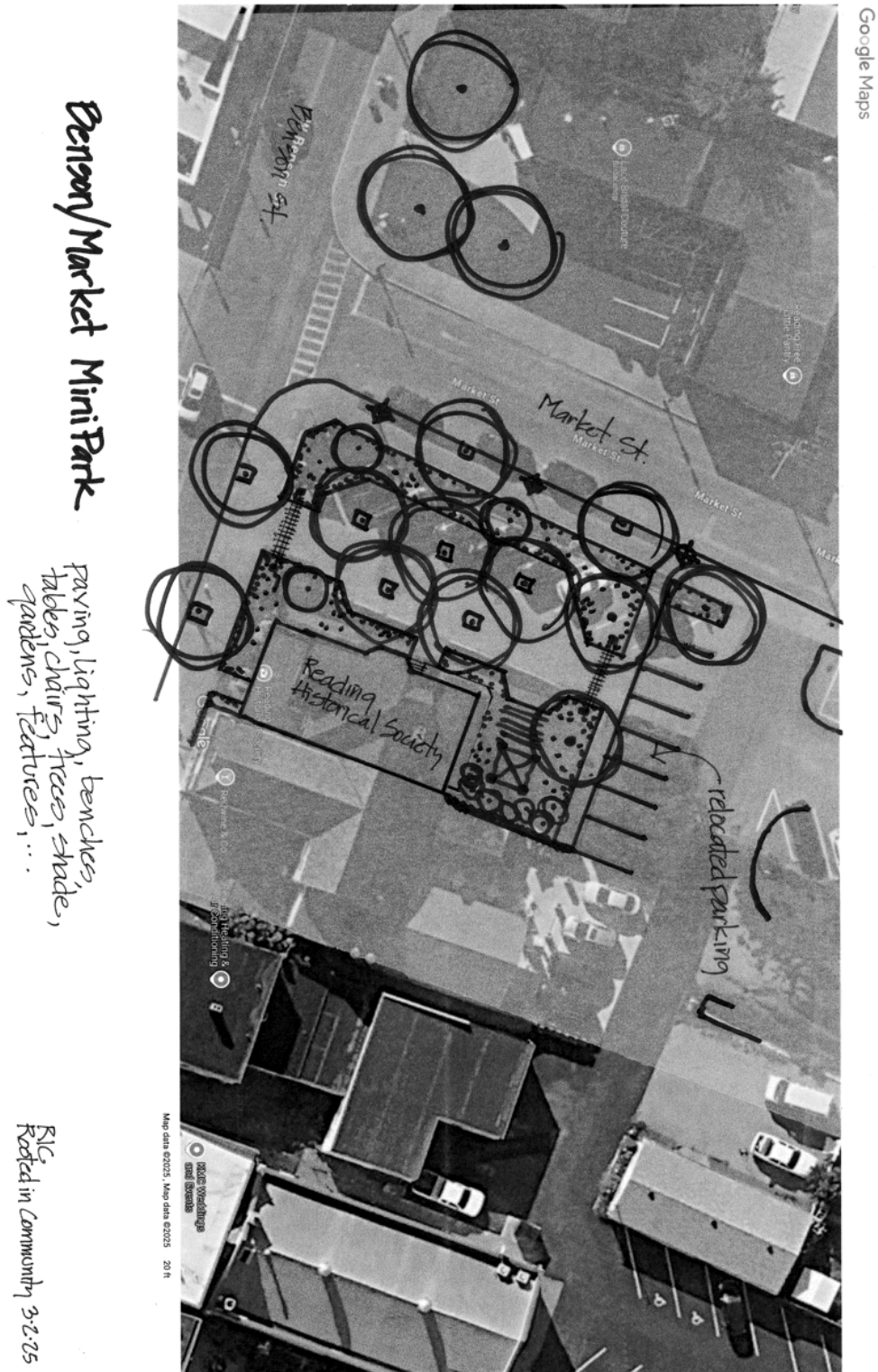
JMA going to provide estimate for repaving as is and other one to take out asphalt, get rid of curb cut on Benson and leave basically open grass area.

They aren't landscape architects to pick right trees etc. they are going to try similar space to the one drawing you had provided.

If that's the way we move forward then we would just have to pick trees, plants, benches, tables etc.

Followed by: Our public works could easily pour a concrete walkway when that aspect would be determined.

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ZONING, PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT: Dave Powell

The safety service director emailed the map for the proposed CRA yesterday to myself and our economic development consultant. The next step is the building study will be conducted in the area.

LAWS & CONTRACTS: Katie Eadicicco (No Report)

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY: Shelly Kroeger

Police Department run count for March 2025

· Calls for service	1148
· Auto Accidents	33
· Booking Original Charges	106
· Total Criminal Charges	155

Citations Issued

· Hamilton County	7
· Arlington Heights	33
· Juvenile	1
· Reading Mayor's	146

Total Citations **187**

Fire Departments run count for March 2025

· EMS Responses	216
· Fire Responses	35

Total Responses **251**

March was a busy month for our officers. **After an alert from the FLOCK System, a stolen vehicle was stopped, and the driver was arrested for an open felony warrant.** There was an assault by a known suspect and charges were filed. There were several calls for theft, criminal damaging, OVI, overdose, trespassing and disorderly conduct. There were two subjects found to have gun shot wounds. Both subjects were treated at UC hospital and released. There was also a victim that reported being scammed out of \$90,000 after turning money into Bitcoin and giving information to an unknown suspect over the phone. Please talk to the older people in your life about giving out information to people they don't know. The scammers are getting better and better.

As a continued reminder, please remember to lock your vehicles or remove all valuables. Also, if you are having packages delivered and you won't be home, please ask a neighbor or someone you trust to pick up the package for you. More and more packages are being stolen from porches, and it will only get worse with the warmer weather.

The Public Health and Safety committee met to discuss upcoming needs of both the fire department and the police department. The police department has opted to forgo their yearly 2 new cruisers to purchase much need equipment. The equipment needing to be purchased is new Intoxilyzers, as the current ones will be going out of service, a new camera for the detectives office to use on crime scenes, the old one is falling apart and very old and outdated, a new evidence refrigerator, the current one is 20 years old, pepper ball weapons system with supplies, these are needed for another less than lethal weapons system and 3 police vehicles will be getting new window tint.

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The fire department got word that the new engine has an estimated finish build date of March 2026, which is 6 months ahead of schedule. They are also looking to do a remount on an ambulance. The savings of a remount compared to a new one is about \$100,000. Body armour for active shooter response and new turn out gear for new hires were two other items they would need to purchase soon.

- Presented life-saving award to Reading High School student following choking incident at Reading Skyline .
- Conducted Touch-A-Truck and career day events at Reading Schools.
- CPR/AED training provided for the staff at Mt Notre Dame Health Care.
- Provided CPR, AED, and tourniquet training to members of the Reading Police department.

SERVICE: Bob Boehner

City crews have been out patching potholes in the streets throughout the city

City crews have cleaned the pressure line at the pump house

City street Sweeper has been out cleaning streets

All the soccer goals have been moved and in place for the coming season at the different locations in the valley and hilltop area and the painting of soccer fields has begun

City crew replaced a wooded fence at the ^{QUIET} ~~quite~~ park on the north side that needed attention

City crews have repaired the concrete work at all the locations where water main breaks have occurred Lobelia, Pearl St and East Benson St

Service Department participated in (touch a truck) at the Reading High School parking lot

City crews loaded leaves and mulch for Evans to remove from the Service garage site

All restrooms are open at the athletic fields throughout the city

City crews have been mulching the tree beds on Reading Rd

City crews are removing plows and V- boxes and spreaders from trucks as we hope there is no more SNOW.....

SERVICE DEPT. IS GETTING QUOTES TO REMOVE ALL THE REMAINING INCINERATOR TOWER & BLDG

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RECREATION: Scott Thamann

Looking ahead:

- We will host our annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 19 at the Haffey Fieldhouse.
The fun begins at 10:00 a.m.
- Reading Clean-up Day is scheduled for Saturday, April 26, from 10-noon.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Andy Bronner – Would like us to look into implementing a Vacant Building Registration ordinance. This was put into the Laws & Contracts committee.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

READING OF ORDINANCES:

(1) AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF READING, STATE OF OHIO, DURING THE PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2025. (Second Reading)

Motion made by Mrs. Eadicicco, seconded by Mr. Bronner, to suspend the rule that requires a 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 2025-15

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Boehner moved to adjourn. Mrs. Kroeger seconded. Motion carried by voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 pm.

X _____
Carla Albrinck
Clerk of Council

X _____
Kevin Mattscheck
President of Council