

CITY OF READING, OHIO
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – LEGISLATIVE SESSION
May 20, 2025 – 7:30 PM

For the full detail of this evening's Council Meeting, please visit www.watchreadingohio.com

CALL TO ORDER

President of Council, Mr. Mattscheck called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President of Council, 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 & Law Director David Stevenson

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to approve May 6, 2025 (Regular) Council Meeting Minutes made by Mr. Boehner seconded by Mr. Bronner.
Motion carried by voice vote.

GUEST SPEAKERS: None

AUDIENCE ASKING PARTICIPATION:

Mr. Aaron Tiernan, 2908 Mapletree Court. Requesting that the city, school and youth sports come together to resolve repair issues with the stadium. Asking why Reading Hilltop stadium is not open to the public and other sports for use of the facilities.

- Mr. Powell responded that the repairs to the stadium is a multimillion dollar project and would have to be a tax levy which would be difficult to pass. The Reading Hilltop stadium issue should be brought to the Reading school board.
- Mayor Bemmes responded that the city has been working with the school on a new proposition over the past 6 months. The school has been offered to take over the stadium for free in the past but they have declined.
- Mrs. Eadicicco agreed with Mr. Powell and Mayor Bemmes that the city would like to be out of the stadium business. It will take a big effort and a large group of parents to motivate the school.
- Mr. Boehner noted that the city is not eligible to get grants for repairs like the school. The city is willing to meet with the school to discuss. Mr. Tiernan should go to the school board.
- Mr. Thamann will look into field use options for Mr. Tiernan.

Mr. Bob Ashbrock, 221 Walnut Street. Bringing up a public safety issue with a fence that was installed in front of "Winey Bride" which violates section 660.10 and other ordinances. BZA has granted permission, but he feels it's

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beyond the scope of the BZA and should have been brought to council. The DORA complicates the issue with extension of the lease line. Mr. Ashbrock emailed information to council from a number of other agencies.

President Mattscheck noted that Mr. Ashbrock was out of time, to which Mr. Ashbrock requested additional time. Mr. Boehner made a motion to give Mr. Ashbrock another 5 minutes, seconded by Mr. Thamann. President Mattscheck made a roll call vote. Passed by a 6-1 vote (Mrs. Eadicicco was the 'no' vote).

Mr. Ashbrock continued with mention of a number of items intended for use in the buffer zone and that the fence requires pedestrians to walk around the obstacle in the buffer zone and discouraging use of the sidewalk. Calling for removal of the fence.

- Mr. Boehner noted a complaint had been received and is unsure about how it was approved by the BZA. Complaint was forwarded to Safety Services Director Patrick Ross for follow-up.
- Mr. Powell questioned how other communities can implement similar areas. Noted that he did not have enough lead time to look into the issue.
- Mrs. Eadicicco noted that the fence was approved by the BZA, who approves variances such as fences. The fence is beyond the required distance and DORA should not impact the regulations.
- Mayor Bemmes noted that a company that is well aware of ADA regulations installed the fence. The fence is not unlike sandwich board signs along the sidewalks in front of businesses.

READING OF COMMUNICATIONS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

READING OF RESOLUTIONS:

(1) A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF READING TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE METRO TRANSIT INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDS GRANT AND TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS AS REQUIRED AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. (First Reading)

Discussion: Mr. Bronner noted that the grant would be to resurface Koehler south on Jefferson to Reading Road, using SORTA funds to do so.

Motion made by Mr. Thamann, seconded by Mrs. Kroeger to suspend the rules requiring a second and third reading. Motion carried by a 6-1 roll call vote (Mr. Boehner was a 'no' vote). Motion to adopt by Mrs. Kroeger, seconded by Mr. Bronner. Motion carried by a 6-1 roll call vote (Mr. Boehner was a 'no' vote).

RESOLUTION ADOPTED

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2025-23R

READING OF ORDINANCES:

(1) AN ORDINANCE AWARDED A CONTRACT TO JOHN R. JURGENSEN COMPANY FOR THE HARVEST LANE

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IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED SEVEN HUNDRED THOUSAND (\$700,000) DOLLARS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. (First Reading)

Discussion: Mr. Bronner noted that project is being paid 50% grant and 50% loan. It's long overdue. Mr. Powell noted that the project is much needed and glad to see it moving forward. Mr. Bishop stated that the project will increase truck accessibility and is much needed.

Motion made by Mr. Bronner, seconded by Mr. Bishop to suspend the rules requiring 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 2025-24

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS *(Brief discussion of any other information)*

Mayor Bemmes mentioned recent death of Dee Lynd along with Tom and Dee Lynd's impact in the community. Wishes thanks and the best in his retirement to Dan Lattire for his 22 years of service on the Reading Police Department. New lights have been installed at Koenig Park allowing for nighttime games. Thanks to everyone who has made it possible. VYO annual festival will be held on May 23 – 26 with games, food and beverages, rides and music. Parade on Monday morning ending in a remembrance at the cemetery and thanks to all those who have served. Mayor Bemmes provided his cell number for any communication or complaints (513) 509-8619 and all can be emailed first initial and last name @readingohio.org.

Mrs. Kroeger requests support this weekend at the VYO festival which helps fund the organization that keeps youth active and out of trouble and develops local youth in sports.

President Mattscheck noted that Hamilton County Auditor Jessica Miranda has requested to attend the council meeting on August 5 to speak about property tax and asked if anyone on council objects. No objection.

Mr. Boehner announced a service committee meeting on June 17 at 6:30pm at council chambers to discuss a 5 year plan for paving and curb replacement. Several resident complaints have been forwarded to Mr. Courtney and Mr. Ross.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

X _____
Kevin Mattscheck
President of Council