

**CITY OF READING, OHIO
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION
JUNE 03, 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. Boehner, Mrs. Kroeger, Mr. Thamann & Mrs. Eadicicco.
Motion to excuse Mr. Bishop made by Mr. Powell, seconded by Mr. Bronner. Motion carried by 6-0 roll call vote.

OTHER CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Treasurer Brenda Owens & Clerk of Council Carla Bronner.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion to approve May 20, 2025 (Regular) Council Minutes Meeting made by Mr. Powell, seconded by Mr. Bronner carried by voice vote.

AUDIENCE ASKING PARTICIPATION: None

COMMUNICATIONS:

(1) April 202 Mayor's Court Monthly Disbursement Report

164 Bench warrants Issued, 206 Cases Heard & \$17,679.00 Collected

(2) Email Received from Anthony M Mapes, Jr:

"Recently while walking on the sidewalk of Benson Street, I encountered something I found concerning. A recently-opened restaurant ("The Winey Bride" at 218 W Benson St, <https://maps.app.goo.gl/Hxkoznc9fAEUcjnd7>) has placed up a fence obstructing the general public from walking freely on the sidewalks.

As a Reading resident for over two years, I see tremendous benefit from maintaining freely walkable sidewalks. The Bridal District on Benson Street has a unique character not found elsewhere, and its wide open sidewalks contribute significantly to its charm and appeal. The bridal district, by its nature, tends to attract bridal parties who are often seen walking together in a large group down the sidewalk. This obstruction placed by The Winey Bride constrains groups of any size to break into a single-file line to pass by, and detracts significantly from the otherwise-pleasant experience of walking down Benson Street.

Furthermore, the obstruction appears to be in violation of several municipal and state codes, including:

- *Reading, Ohio Code of Ordinances § 1022.02(A): Sidewalks shall be a minimum of five feet wide in non-residential areas*
- *Reading, Ohio Code of Ordinances § 660.10(C): No person shall place, deposit or maintain any merchandise, goods, material or equipment upon any sidewalk so as to obstruct pedestrian traffic thereon except for such reasonable time as may be actually necessary for the delivery or pickup of such articles. In no case shall the obstruction remain on such sidewalk for more than one hour.*
- *Ohio Revised Code § 5589.01: No person shall obstruct or encumber **by fences**, buildings, structures, or otherwise, **a public ground**, highway, street, or alley of a municipal corporation. (emphasis added)*

Additionally, this obstruction appears to go against the spirit of Reading, Ohio Code of Ordinances § 1273.06 WEST BENSON STREET MIXED USE DISTRICT: The historic fabric of a community is recognized as an asset of the city and is a

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principal focal point of the community providing a distinct economic resource and a center for community orientation. It is in the interest of the city to protect and enhance these features of public interest...

I encourage the city to investigate this matter and to take any corrective or remedial actions necessary to bring the sidewalk in front of The Winey Bride into compliance with the relevant city and state laws and to preserve the unique character of Benson Street and the Reading Bridal District.

*Sincerely,
Anthony M Mapes, Jr”*

GUEST SPEAKERS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion made by Mrs. Eadicicco, to enter Executive Session, for the purpose of considering confidential information related to the marketing plans, specific business strategy, production techniques, trade secrets, or personal financial statements of an applicant for economic development assistance, or to negotiations with other political subdivisions respecting requests for economic development assistance, seconded by Mrs. Kroeger. Motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote. Executive Session started at 7:37 pm.

Motion made by Mr. Bronner, seconded by Mr. Boehner, to come back into regular session from Executive Session at 8:24 pm. Motion carried by a roll call vote.

GUEST ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIAL REPORTS:

MAYOR: Robert “Bo” Bemmes: *(No Report, Absent)*

SAFETY/SERVICE DIRECTOR: Patrick Ross: *(Absent, report given by Clerk of Council, Carla Bronner)*

- Maple Drive Nearing completion- 3 speed humps to be installed, traffic loop at Columbia and any other punch list items
- Pre Construction meeting for Harvest Lane next Tuesday – will share schedule and any other details after completion
- Pool is now open for the summer. Hours of Operation: Monday – Friday 12-8PM Saturday/Sunday- 12-6PM
Phone at pool (513) 769-5085
- New Full Time Code/Zoning Official Randy Cook started Monday June 2. Email is RCOOK@READINGOHIO.ORG
- Thank VYO and all volunteers for an excellent Festival last weekend
- Congratulations to all graduates from our excellent schools and congratulations to our residents that graduated from schools outside the city
- American Legion to celebrate our nation’s Independence Day with fireworks and festival June 28.

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

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TREASURER: Brenda Owens

**City of Reading
May 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	\$501,122	4.6%
May	\$102,421	\$73,112	\$73,028	\$45,617	-37.5%
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	\$851,286	
YTD Progress	\$807,936	\$795,350	\$893,603	\$851,286	-4.7%

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	\$732,277	-0.1%
May	\$534,911	\$480,917	\$502,943	\$546,264	8.6%
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	\$3,072,887	
YTD Progress	\$2,852,578	\$2,843,461	\$3,014,941	\$3,072,887	1.9%

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	\$222,222	36.7%
May	\$42,806	\$13,048	\$26,006	\$29,170	12.2%
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	\$461,404	
YTD Progress	\$600,800	\$384,874	\$350,480	\$461,404	31.6%

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	\$1,455,621	5.9%
May	\$680,137	\$567,077	\$601,977	\$621,052	3.2%
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	\$4,385,579	
YTD Progress	\$4,261,313	\$4,023,685	\$4,259,024	\$4,385,579	3.0%

Total Refunds	2022	\$169,800	2023	\$666,149	2024	\$104,275	2025 Refunds =	\$84,678
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Brenda A. Owens- City Treasurer 06/02/25

AUDITOR: Sabrina Smith: (No Report, Absent)

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

FINANCE: Andy Bronner

- Finance Committee meeting on Tuesday, June 24th at 6:00 in the Caucus room to discuss the budget.

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

ZONING, PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT: Dave Powell

Applicant submitted for design review of the fence

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1273.06 (3)(b) (West Benson Street Mixed Use District)

(3) Conditionally permitted uses. The following uses shall be conditionally permitted in this District:

(a) Tavern.

(b) Fences; subject to design review. Chain link, stockade, split rail and barbed wire fencing shall not be permitted in this district.

I do not believe the BZA had the authority to grant permission for the fence to be installed within the right-of-way of Benson Street. I believe their authority is limited to the design, height, placement, features, etc. of the fence on the applicant's property.

Since the applicant appears to have done everything that was asked of him, I do not feel it appropriate to ask him to take any remedial action at this time while this is figured out.

My suggestion is for the committee I chair to take up the topic of sidewalk dining and work to come up with appropriate legislation to address it.

After our last meeting, I spent time researching the process other communities in the area (Milford, Loveland, Cincinnati) use to handle sidewalk dining.

Here is an excerpt from the City of Milford Code 1167.11

(k) Outdoor Eating Establishments. The regulations set forth in this section refer to sidewalk dining areas proposed to be located within the public right-of-way:

(1) The Planning Commission shall approve all locations and dimensions for outdoor dining areas proposed for placement in either the public right-of-way or dining area proposed to be located on public or private property.

(2) When proposing a location in the public right-of-way, all outdoor furniture and table umbrella materials and styles must be approved by the Planning Commission.

(3) A minimum unobstructed sidewalk width of four (4) feet measured from the edge of curb or edge of pavement must be maintained for outdoor dining areas located within the public right-of-way.

(4) No permanent structure shall be placed in the public right-of-way.

(5) When proposing a location in the public right-of-way, any proposed fencing or other separation materials and styles shall be approved by the Planning Commission.

LAWS & CONTRACTS: Katie Eadicicco

First, I want to announce that I will be having a Laws and Contracts committee meeting on Monday, June 9th at 6:30 PM in the caucus room.

And second, as a member of the finance committee with our school, there has been a lot of discussion regarding HB 96. I attended the public meeting at the school last night and I ask that everyone go to the school's website and Facebook page to see the information regarding this bill and how it will affect our school's funding. This bill also will have an effect on our property taxes.

The school's administration, and their treasurer Ms. Burke have been very transparent about the school's budget and have worked hard to watch every cent the school spends. Please check out the information they have provided.

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I posted a link to the public meeting on my Facebook page, and I believe a link can be found on the school's website, as well. In the meantime, if you have any questions you can contact Jburke@readingschools.org or ddavis@readingschools.org.

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY: Shelly Kroeger

Police Department run count for May, 2025

· Calls for service	1229
· Auto Accidents	45
· Booking Original Charges	104
· Total Criminal Charges	139

Citations Issued

· Hamilton County	1
· Arlington Heights	27
· Juvenile	2
· Reading Mayor's	115
Total Citations	147

Fire Departments run count for May, 2025

· EMS Responses	229
· Fire Responses	41
Total Responses	270

For the Police Department for the month of May there were reports of tires slashed by a known suspect, juvenile assault, theft, disorderly conduct, domestic violence and breaking and entering. As always, if you see something, say something. Nothing is too small to report. Please call 911 for immediate response and for non-emergencies, please call the county at (513)825-2280.

- Spring service of fire hydrants continues.
- Reading High School history class toured the firehouse on May 2nd
- Fire safety/prevention presentation provided for Serendipity on May 5th
- Chief Owens assisted Turtle Creek Twp. with their Battalion Chief promotional process on May 9th
- Fire extinguisher training was provided for General Tool on May 12th
- The on-duty crew attended a May Day event hosted by the Srs. of Notre Dame on May 13th
- Members attended GE family day in Evendale on May 17th
- Members participated in the Memorial Day parade on May 26th
- Chief Owens presented at the Jewish Hospital Magnet re-accreditation process on May 29th

SERVICE: Bob Boehner

Reading Public Works Council Report June 3, 2025

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City crews have been out cleaning catch basins

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

City crews have been replacing side walk blocks along Reading Rd that were trip hazards

City crews repaired all the dirt work that needed to be redone at Koenig Park and the pouring of new concrete pad around restrooms and electrical box

City crews removed a tree that fell on Mill St

City crews cleaned up around Monument and Quiet Park and the surrounding area for Memorial Day weekend and replaced cabling at the dead end of McWhorter Ave so cars cannot drive on to the baseball diamonds on small field at Koenig Park

City crews have started painting street lines on roadways

City crew repaired the concrete apron at the Fire House

City crew repaired the door latch at the city pool and the fountain at Quiet Park

City crews repaired the brick wall at Koenig Park

City crews repaired the catch basin at North and Market and at Clark and Illinois

RECREATION: Scott Thamann

- The community pool will host our first Ladies Night on Thursday, June 19, and it will run from 6:00-9:30 pm.

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- The community pool will host sign-ups for our second session of swim lessons.
You can sign up for those lessons at the pool, and those lessons will begin on Monday, June 30.
- On Saturday, June 28, the American Legion will be hosting their annual festival at Koenig Park, and the fireworks display will begin at 10:00 pm

OTHER BUSINESS: Motion made by Mrs. Eadicicco, seconded by Mr. Boehner to move the investigation into outdoor dining regulations into Mr. Powell’s committee. Motion was approved by a 6-0 roll call vote.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

READING OF RESOLUTIONS: NONE

READING OF ORDINANCES: NONE

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

Email Received from Allen Hill (“The Winey Bride” Business Owner) Read by Katie Eadicicco

“Hello, respected council members and the mayor. I took the time to watch the last council meeting and noticed that there was a discussion about my fence in front of The Winey Bride. I genuinely appreciate the concern to ensure that I am ADA compliant.

Ohio: 1. Sidewalk Width:

- **Minimum:** Sidewalks generally need a minimum width of 36 inches (3 feet).
- **Passing Spaces:** If the sidewalk is less than 60 inches (5 feet) wide, passing spaces (60 inches x 60 inches) must be provided every 200 feet.

Ohio: In Ohio, the minimum clear width for accessible routes, including sidewalks, is 36 inches (915 mm). However, there's an exception: the width can be reduced to 32 inches (815 mm) for a short distance (24 inches or 610 mm maximum) if those reduced sections are separated by sections that are at least 48 inches (1220 mm) long and 36 inches (915 mm) wide. If a sidewalk is less than 5 feet (60 inches) wide, passing spaces must be provided every 200 feet.

As you can see by the photos, I am way beyond what is required.

I truly respect the process that Reading has, and I would never imagine skirting the correct process.

I fully understand that change is an adjustment, and I will discuss this further this evening if needed. I always appreciate your support and all of your love for my hometown, Reading.”

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Bronner moved to adjourn. Mr. Boehner seconded. Motion carried by voice vote.
The meeting was adjourned at 9:14 pm.

X _____
Carla Bronner
Clerk of Council

X _____
Kevin Mattscheck
President of Council