

**CITY OF READING, OHIO
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION
JULY 01, 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, Law Director Dave Stevenson, Treasurer Brenda Owens & Clerk of Council Carla Bronner.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion to approve June 17, 2025 (Legislative) Council Minutes Meeting made by Mrs. Kroeger, seconded by Mr. Boehner carried by voice vote.

AUDIENCE ASKING PARTICIPATION: None

COMMUNICATIONS:

(1) June 2025 Mayor's Court Monthly Disbursement Report

96 Bench warrants Issued, 245 Cases Heard & \$17,670.00 Collected

GUEST SPEAKERS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

GUEST ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIAL REPORTS:

MAYOR: Robert "Bo" Bemmes:

This Friday, July 4th marks the 249th anniversary of the birth of our Great Nation, the greatest Country ever. We are able to enjoy our God given freedoms as in LIFE LIBERTY and the PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS because we have had and continue to have incredibly brave men and women who have fought to defend those freedoms with many giving their lives. We received many compliments on this years American Legion/City fireworks and we are working on having the fireworks on the 4th of July next year.

On June 23 I administered the oath of office to Lyric Hamblin as he became a member of our Police department.

We were awarded \$105,000 in MRF funds that we will use to repave Hunt Road from Fuhrman to Blue Ash.

Landy Lane and Koehler Ave are being paved using SORTA Grant dollars that paid for half of the total cost. The Harvest Lane Road project will begin mid-August with sewer repairs; new curbs and the street will be widened where possibly half paid for using hard earned SCIP Grant dollars.

The \$1.3 million-dollar Maple Drive road project is finished including the installation of a new 8" in diameter water main (replacing an old 3" in diameter pipe) that will help future Economic Development tremendously

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We continue to do very well with Economic Development in the past year as Givaudin will begin building a \$130 million dollar facility that will bring 300 new jobs to our City in the next ten years. Nitto Avecia is also expanding again with major capital improvements in our City.

Our Police Department was recognized by Lexipol, the leading provider of solutions that empower performance excellence in Public Safety. This is the 6th consecutive year that our excellent Police Department received the Gold award, which is the highest ranking 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 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

Call me at 513-509-8619 with any questions, comments or concerns

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

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

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TREASURER: Brenda Owens

**City of Reading
June 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	\$103,558	28.2%
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	\$954,844	
YTD Progress	\$914,979	\$913,309	\$974,407	\$954,844	-2.0%

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	\$645,009	10.2%
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	\$3,717,896	
YTD Progress	\$3,322,729	\$3,319,297	\$3,600,040	\$3,717,896	3.3%

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	\$148,898	4.0%
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	\$610,302	
YTD Progress	\$1,000,100	\$521,514	\$493,610	\$610,302	23.6%

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	\$897,460	10.9%
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	\$5,283,038	
YTD Progress	\$5,237,807	\$4,754,121	\$5,068,058	\$5,283,038	4.2%

Total Refunds	2022	\$169,800	2023	\$666,149	2024	\$104,275	2025 Refunds =	\$85,697
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Brenda A. Owens- City Treasurer 07/01/25

AUDITOR: Sabrina Smith: (No Report, Absent, report given by Clerk of Council, Carla Bronner)

- Sabrina Smith will get the month end reports out when June is closed.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

FINANCE: Andy Bronner

- The Finance Committee met on June 24th. In attendance were Councilman Bishop, Safety Service Director Ross and myself. Mr. Ross presented his 2026 Budget draft for review. Total estimated revenue is \$11,258,469.00. Total estimated expenditures are \$10,986,000.00. The Committee recommended the budget ordinance be distributed to Council for consideration. There will be a first reading tonight and a public hearing will be held at our July 15th legislative session.

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We also discussed making 3 transfers from the City Earnings Tax Fund. \$500,00.00 to the Growth Fund to provide financial reserves, \$250,000.00 to the Capital Improvement Fund providing reserves for future capital needs and \$150,000.00 to the Accrued Sick and Vacation Pay Fund to account for future retirement payouts.

Lastly, under finance, council will be considering an Ordinance tonight to purchase new playground equipment for Flege, Cherryfield and Carnevale parks for an amount not to exceed \$130,000.00 to be paid from the Capital Improvement Fund.

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

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

LAWS & CONTRACTS: Katie Eadicicco

I held a Laws and Contracts Committee meeting on June 9 with my committee members and Mr. Stevenson in attendance. We discussed the possibility of creating a Vacant Building Registration similar to what the City of Cincinnati and other cities have done. This is in an effort to control the blight in our city and would possibly require owners of buildings that have been vacant for longer than 6 months to register with the city, give the name of someone responsible for the building that's within approximately 100 miles, and have the building inspected at least once a year. We're still working out a lot of the details that would go in the ordinance and I plan on scheduling another committee meeting soon and announcing it at our next meeting.

I also want to remind everyone that, even though it's July, we're already planning this year's Holiday Walk. It will be Saturday, December 6 at 6:00 PM. We're beginning to book craft and food vendors for the event now, so if you're interested in joining, please feel free to reach out to me.

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY: Shelly Kroeger

Police Department run count for June, 2025

· Calls for service	1027
· Auto Accidents	33
· Booking Original Charges	83
Total Criminal Charges	120

Citations Issued

· Hamilton County	1
· Arlington Heights	25
· Juvenile	1
· Reading Mayor's	156
Total Citations	187

Fire Departments run count for June, 2025

· EMS Responses	244
· Fire Responses	50
Total Responses	294

For the Police Department for the month of June, there were runs for disorderly conduct, overdose, theft, curfew violations, shots fired, and trespassing.

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SERVICE: Bob Boehner

Reading Public Works Council Report July 1, 2025

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 pavers on West Benson St that were trip hazards

City crews have started painting street Lines on roadways

City crews have been doing some roadside trimming

City crews are repairing some fire hydrants throughout the city

City crews have been checking catch basins for repair

City pool started up and everyone appears to be enjoying it

The old incinerator tower has been torn down at the city garage

City crews painted all the railing at the Stadium and the doors

City crews dug up several water boxes and replaced all the concrete

City crew pulled camera wire at Koenig Park

City crew moved all of the utilities around the incinerator before demolition

RECREATION: Scott Thamann *(No Report)*

OTHER BUSINESS:

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LEGISLATIVE SESSION

READING OF RESOLUTIONS: NONE

READING OF ORDINANCES:

- (1) *THE FOLLOWING BUDGET FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2026 HAS BEEN ADOPTED BY COUNCIL AND IS HEREBY SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE HAMILTON COUNTY BUDGET COMMISSION***

Ordinance was declared a “First Reading” only.

- (2) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE AUDITOR TO TRANSFER \$150,000.00 FROM THE EARNINGS TAX FUND (1220) TO THE ACCRUED SICK AND VACATION PAY FUND (1835).**

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

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2025-28

- (3) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE AUDITOR TO TRANSFER \$250,000.00 FROM THE EARNINGS TAX FUND (1220) TO THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND (4340).**

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

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2025-29

- (4) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE AUDITOR TO TRANSFER \$500,000.00 FROM THE EARNINGS TAX FUND (1220) TO THE GROWTH FUND (4343).**

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

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2025-30

- (5) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY & SERVICE DIRECTOR TO PURCHASE AND INSTALL ADA COMPLIANT PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT FOR FLEGE, CHERRYFIELD,**

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**AND CARNEVALE PARKS FROM GAMETIME FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED
\$130,000.00 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

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

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2025-31

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

Bob Boehner:

- (1) Questioned Mr. Bishop as to when the Cable Franchise ordinance will be discussed.
Mr. Bishop answered that it will be presented and discussed at the next Utilities, Lands & Buildings Committee meeting.
- (2) Pointed out that the Rules for blighted and vacant properties should be on building commissioner.
Mrs. Eadicicco confirmed that it is.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Boehner moved to adjourn. Mrs. Kroeger seconded. Motion carried by voice vote.
The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.

X _____
Carla Bronner
Clerk of Council

X _____
Kevin Mattscheck
President of Council