

**CITY OF READING, OHIO
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – LEGISLATIVE SESSION
AUGUST 19, 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 & Clerk of Council Carla Bronner

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion to approve August 5, 2025 (Regular) Council Minutes Meeting made by Mr. Powell, seconded by Mr. Bronner. Motion carried by voice vote.

SWEARING IN CEREMONY

Mayor Bo Bemmes performed the swearing in ceremony for Det. Eric Leininger who has been promoted to Lieutenant.

GUEST SPEAKERS: NONE

AUDIENCE ASKING PARTICIPATION: NONE

(1) Rachel Baker (State Representative House District 27): Introduced herself to Council as our new State Representative (House District 27).

COMMUNICATIONS: NONE

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

READING OF RESOLUTIONS: NONE

(1) A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF READING TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION(OPWC) STATE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT(SCIP) AND OR LOCAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT(LTIP) PROGRAM(S) AND TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS AS REQUIRED AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2025-36R

READING OF ORDINANCES:

(1) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY/SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO AN

AGREEMENT WITH THE VILLAGE OF ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, OHIO *(Second Reading)*

Motion made by Mr. Thamann, seconded by Mrs. Kroeger, to suspend the rule that requires a third reading. Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote. Motion made by Mrs. Kroeger, seconded by Mr. Bronner to adopt the ordinance. Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2025-37

(2) AN ORDINANCE ENACTING A VACANT BUILDING REGISTRATION FOR THE CITY OF READING, AND TO PROVIDE A SYSTEM FOR THE REGISTRATION OF VACANT RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS WITHIN THE CITY *(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. Bronner, seconded by Mr. Boehner to adopt the ordinance. Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2025-38

(3) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR TO OBTAIN BID SPECIFICATIONS TO REPLACE THE CURBS AND PAVING ON OBSERVATORY AVENUE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Motion made by Mr. Bronner, seconded by Mrs. Kroeger, to table the ordinance until December 2025. Motion carried by a 6-1 roll call vote (Mr. Powell, Mr. Bronner, Mr. Bishop, Mrs. Kroeger, Mr. Thamann & Mrs. Eadicicco voting “yes,” and Mr. Boehner voting “no.”).

ORDINANCE TABLED

(4) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT WITH A LANDSCAPING CONTRACTOR FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A COMMUNITY DOG PARK, AND NOT TO EXCEED \$74,000.

Ordinance was declared a first reading only.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

Bo Bemmes: It is an incredible honor for me to administer the oath of office for our newest lieutenant Eric Leininger. Eric has been an outstanding member of our outstanding Police Department for years. I want to take this opportunity to thank each member of our PD for their willingness to protect and serve all of us who live, work, run a business, go to school here or simply pass through.

Later this week there will be another joint communication from our City and our Reading Community Schools with more information regarding the stadium improvements/new fire department station that we hope to accomplish.

On August 7 at around 6:30pm after a torrential downpour of rain I received a call from our Civil Service Commission, who were holding their monthly meeting, that buckets of rainwater was spilling into our Caucus room and the attached storage room. Upon being alerted by members of our Civil Service Commission our Fire/EMS department responded immediately to save our Caucus room floor and boxes of old records. On many occasions,

involving a multitude of different issues our Fire/EMS personnel go above and beyond their normal duties, as do members of our Police and Public Works department employees, to serve our city very well. I want to thank Fire/EMS Captain Tyler Stroll and his on duty team for their prompt, timely, efficient response that again saved us at City Hall what could have been a far worse outcome.

Our last day, and only remaining day for this season, for our city pool to be open will be August 24 from noon until 6pm due to our pool employees playing sports and heading back to school.

Our excellent schools will be opening soon and as always, we ask everyone to SLOW DOWN as you drive and keep an eye out for our young students as they try to make their way to and from school.

The Taste of Reading will be on August 23 at Koenig Park from noon till 11pm.

The Fall in Love Bridal show will be held on September 4 from 6pm-9pm on Benson Street. Benson Streret will be closed from 5pm till 10pm from Wachendorf to Reading Road

Our Lady of the Valley's festival will be on September 12, 13 and 14

We were awarded \$105,000 in MRF funds that we will use to repave Hunt Road from Fuhrman to Blue Ash. The Harvest Lane Road project will begin mid-August with sewer repairs; new curbs and the street will be widened where possible with half of the total cost being paid for using hard earned SCIP Grant dollars.

We were awarded another SORTA grant for \$385,000 to pave Jefferson avenue from Koehler to Reading road

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

Please continue to pray for all who are in need

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

Report from Sabrina Smith (Absent):

Monthly Statement of Cash

As Of: 7/31/2025

Funds: 1101 to 9999

Include Inactive Accounts: No

Fund	Description	Beginning Bal.	MTD Increases	MTD Decreases	Ending Bal.
1101	GENERAL FUND	\$1,420,831.59	\$199,721.23	\$826,630.80	\$793,922.02
1220	CITY EARNINGS TAX	\$7,110,644.24	\$656,714.66	\$21,072.41	\$7,746,286.49
1801	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCY	\$11,621.13	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$11,621.13
1827	SEWER SERVICE FEE	\$599,105.41	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$599,105.41
1835	ACCRUED SICK & VAC PAY	\$16,324.46	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$16,324.46
2210	STREET MAINTENANCE	\$890,078.45	\$67,539.59	\$56,501.03	\$901,117.01
2215	STATE HIGHWAY	\$353,337.03	\$5,476.18	\$0.00	\$358,813.21
2222	MAYORS COURT COMPUTER	\$2,530.86	\$1,387.00	\$215.37	\$3,702.49
2223	DUI ENFORCEMENT	\$14,401.00	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$14,451.00
2225	EPA BROWNSFIELD GRANT	\$77,818.78	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$77,818.78
2230	Streets & Curbs	\$833,651.34	\$0.00	\$157,815.49	\$675,835.85
2245	DRUG ENFORCEMENT	\$84,739.54	\$58.00	\$0.00	\$84,797.54
2260	MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE	\$278,071.26	\$6,984.11	\$27,900.00	\$257,155.37
2265	ALCOHOL EDUCATION	\$12,715.28	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12,715.28
2275	MUNICIPAL ROAD	\$11,653.63	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$11,653.63
2401	FEMA	\$201,283.84	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$201,283.84
2501	COVID RELIEF FUND	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
3430	GENERAL SINKING	\$5,102.95	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,102.95
3432	SPECIAL ASSESSMENT	\$384.72	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$384.72
4240	STADIUM	\$205,547.76	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$205,547.76
4242	FIRE/EMS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT	\$744,993.45	\$49,882.83	\$13,840.45	\$781,035.83
4243	POLICE & FIRE COMMUNICATIONS	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
4340	CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT	\$524,815.36	\$0.00	\$1,350.00	\$523,465.36
4341	STADIUM TRACK IMPROVEMENT	\$273.85	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$273.85
4343	GROWTH FUND	\$157,527.26	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$157,527.26
4370	READING ROAD DEV	\$494.70	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$494.70
4380	OPWC SCIP	\$2,306.02	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,306.02
5433	WATER NOTE	\$728.23	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$728.23
5605	WATER	\$222,625.50	\$192,775.26	\$148,252.46	\$267,148.30
5608	WATER TRUST	\$143,887.99	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$143,887.99
8825	SEWAGE DISP TRUST	\$1,375,054.53	\$246,244.20	\$232,752.94	\$1,388,545.79
9999	Payroll Clearing Fund	\$28,181.18	\$540,400.77	\$537,210.11	\$31,371.84
Grand Total:		\$15,330,731.34	\$1,967,233.83	\$2,023,541.06	\$15,274,424.11

Scott Thamann: Last day for the Reading pool is Sunday, August 24.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn came from Mr. Boehner, and was seconded by Mrs. Kroeger. Motion carried by voice vote. There being no further business, the meeting was declared adjourned at 7:59 pm.

X _____
Carla Bronner
 Clerk of Council

X _____
Kevin Mattscheck
 President of Council