

**CITY OF READING, OHIO
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION
SEPTEMBER 02, 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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: NONE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion to approve August 19, 2025 (Legislative) Council Minutes Meeting made by Mr. Boehner, seconded by Mr. Bishop carried by voice vote.

AUDIENCE ASKING PARTICIPATION:

Donald Bembo (117 Siebenthaler Ave)

(1) Commended Debbie Gertz for solving his water bill

(2) 47 year resident of Siebenthaler. New driveway. Cut the old driveway to run a drain line underneath it. New wiring for new driveway light. New Building inspector visited and said he need an electrical permit for this work. Asked Bob Boehner to provide him with the name of the person/neighbor who complained. Mr. Boehner refused. Asked Mr. Stevenson if Mr. Boehner is being lawful in not providing the name.

COMMUNICATIONS:

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

146 Bench warrants Issued, 246 Cases Heard & \$14,202.55 Collected

(2) August 2025 Mayor's Court Monthly Disbursement Report

98 Bench warrants Issued, 314 Cases Heard & \$18,535.00 Collected

GUEST SPEAKERS: NONE

GUEST ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIAL REPORTS:

MAYOR: Robert "Bo" Bemmes:

Our Reading Historical Society will hold their annual Settlement Day Dinner on October 11 with Dennis Albrinck, Barb Hutzler and Valley Pest control being recognized.

Our excellent schools are open 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.

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I want to again thank the many volunteers who give so generously of their time, talents and in many cases a lot of money to serve the youth of our community as volunteers

The Fall in Love Bridal show will be held on September 4 from 6pm-9pm on Benson Street. Benson Street 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

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

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

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TREASURER: Brenda Owens

**City of Reading
August 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	\$18,836	-36.7%
August	\$36,571	\$34,271	\$62,099	\$39,350	-36.6%
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	\$1,013,031	
YTD Progress	\$980,489	\$983,399	\$1,066,255	\$1,013,031	-5.0%

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	\$578,310	2.9%
August	\$591,028	\$459,951	\$547,775	\$544,493	-0.6%
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	\$4,840,699	
YTD Progress	\$4,415,744	\$4,450,099	\$4,709,562	\$4,840,699	2.8%

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	\$59,569	-15.9%
August	\$22,399	\$38,469	\$56,349	\$14,598	-74.1%
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	\$684,469	
YTD Progress	\$1,838,303	\$592,248	\$620,811	\$684,469	10.3%

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	\$656,715	-0.9%
August	\$650,899	\$532,692	\$666,223	\$598,441	-10.2%
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	\$6,538,194	
YTD Progress	\$6,434,536	\$6,026,347	\$6,396,628	\$6,538,194	2.2%

Total Refunds	2022	\$169,800	2023	\$666,149	2024	\$104,275	2025 Refunds =	\$87,406
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Brenda A. Owens- City Treasurer 09/02/25

AUDITOR: Sabrina Smith: (Abesnt, No Report)

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

FINANCE: Andy Bronner (No Report)

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UTILITIES, LANDS & BUILDINGS: Mark Bishop

Dear Mr. Mattscheck,

I recently attended a lecture by Eric Russo of The Hillside Trust, which is a non-profit dedicated to preserving local hillsides and preventing landslides. He mentioned that some local municipalities have no regulations regarding preventative measures to be taken before starting new construction, and that once a project has begun, there is often little to no recourse to be sure the builder is using appropriate measures to stabilize hillsides.

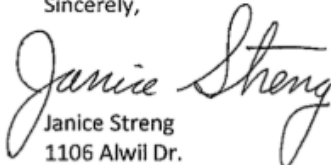
I don't have to tell you that Reading has its share of hills.

Do we have ordinances that ensure modern methods are used to stabilize new builds or additions? I am enclosing several of The Hillside Trust's brochures that you can share with members of council. Their website www.hillsidetrust.org also has several videos that detail the causes of landslides, and the difficulty and expense with stabilizing the property after buildings are on the hills.

Perhaps the City of Reading can review their regulations regarding landslide protection.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,


Janice Streng
1106 Alwil Dr.
Reading, OH 45215

ZONING, PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT: Dave Powell

Next committee meeting on Wednesday, September 10 at 6:30 pm in Council Chambers

LAWS & CONTRACTS: Katie Eadicicco (No Report)

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY: Shelly Kroeger

Police Department run count for August, 2025

Calls for service	1108
Auto Accidents	31
Booking Original Charges	97
Total Criminal Charges	129

Citations Issued

Hamilton County	4
Arlington Heights	33
Juvenile	0
Reading Mayor's	134
Total Citations	180

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Fire Departments run count for August, 2025

EMS Responses	209
Fire Responses	47
Total Responses	256

The police department has been busy this month with attempted breaking and entering, domestic disputes, license plate stolen from an RV which was used in several thefts in the Fairfield area, theft from UDF, stolen car, and theft from Circle K.

- Department participated in the National Night Out event on August 5th
- Provided CPR/AED training for local Boy Scout troop, Reading pre-school, and Cincinnati Classical Academy staff.
- Unit attended annual ice cream social event at Amberley Village.
- Members attended the Agape Ministries Back-to-School carnival event.

SERVICE: Bob Boehner

Reading Public Works Council Report September 2, 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 checking catch basins for repair

City crew installed a new drop box across from city hall for payments

City crews repaired a large water main break on Fuhrman near Hunt Rd

City crews cut down a tree in the row on Genoma Dr as it was dead

City crews repaired a water service on Sylvia Dr

City crews repaired a water leak on the second floor of city hall, near the Auditor's office

City crew repaired a water main break at Reading at Mechanic sts

City crew made a maintenance repair at the Millcreek alliance building

City crews have been painting the soccer and football fields

City crews have cleaned up the alleyway between Benson and Vorhees on Second St

City crews repaired a storm line on West Crest at Shirljune Dr

City crews moved spoils into the old incinerator hole at the Service garage

RECREATION: Scott Thamann (No Report)

OTHER BUSINESS: NONE

President of Council, Kevin Mattscheck: Asked if the City of Reading has ever considered hiring a full-time grant writer for the City? Mr. Mattscheck pointed out that even though it is expensive to apply for grants, it would honestly pay for itself

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since there is a grant available for almost anything. Motion to put this into Katie Eadicicco's committee so it can be explored further made by Mr. Bronner, seconded by Mrs. Kroeger. Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

READING OF RESOLUTIONS: NONE

READING OF ORDINANCES:

Mr. Thamann brought up his Dog park ordinance that was on the agenda for consideration two weeks earlier. Due to needing to obtain more information for the ordinance, Mr. Thamann motioned to table the ordinance. Motion was seconded by Mr. Bishop. Motion carried 7-0 roll call vote.

**(1) AN ORDINANCE RETAINING JOSEPH J. BRAUN AND STRAUSS TROY TO PURSUE A
NUISANCE ABATEMENT ACTION AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

Motion made by Mr. Boehner, seconded by Mr. Bronner, to suspend the rule that requires a second and 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 2025-39

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS: NONE

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Boehner moved to adjourn. Mrs. Kroeger seconded. Motion carried by voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 pm.

X _____
Carla Bronner
Clerk of Council

X _____
Kevin Mattscheck
President of Council