

**CITY OF READING, OHIO
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION
OCTOBER 07, 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 & Clerk of Council Carla Bronner.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion to approve September 16, 2025 (Legislative) Council Minutes Meeting made by Mr. Bishop, seconded by Mr. Bronner carried by voice vote.

AUDIENCE ASKING PARTICIPATION:

Lee Koehler (2328 Hunt Road):

5 reasons why improving the streetscape across from Skyworks Equipment Facility would benefit the City of Reading:

- (1) The sidewalks are already there and an attractive streetscape (trees) would enhance the look
- (2) Visual demarcation between Reading and Roselawn
- (3) Extending the treeline would keep with Reading's Masterplan
- (4) An attractive streetscape could help attract a new business to the vacant land across from Skyworks Equipment Facility
- (5) Possible grants available for funding this action

COMMUNICATIONS:

(1) Letter of Support for Dog Park from Michele Gottschlich

Dear Reading Council,

I am writing to express support for the proposal to establish a designated dog park along Reading's pedestrian trail. The proposal has been vetted by environmental and active transportation specialists at Mill Creek Alliance and the Mill Creek Collaborative (a multijurisdictional trail collaborative). The plan was determined to be environmentally sound and likely to bring social and recreational benefits to the Reading community.

Dog parks serve as vital gathering spaces for both dogs and their owners. By providing a safe, enclosed area for off-leash play, the proposed dog park would promote responsible pet ownership, reduce conflicts on the main trail, and help protect natural habitats from off-path wandering. This initiative would not only enhance the usability of the trail system but also encourage more community members to engage in outdoor activity, fostering a healthier and more connected neighborhood.

Locating the dog park along the existing pedestrian trail (and future Triangle Trail) is a smart, accessible choice that would make it easy for walkers, runners, and cyclists who also have dogs to enjoy both amenities simultaneously. It's a natural intersection of two community needs—safe, recreational space for pets and vibrant, multi-use public trails.

I urge the Reading City Council to support this project and help move it forward. The investment in this space will undoubtedly be returned through increased community engagement, improved public safety, and enhanced quality of life for both two- and four-legged residents.

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Thank you for your attention and your continued commitment to building a vibrant, inclusive, and active community.

Sincerely,

Michele

Michele Gottschlich
Chair, Mill Creek Collaborative/Connecting Active Communities Coalition
Board Chair, Mill Creek Alliance
513.509.9847
mmgottschlich@yahoo.com

(2) September 2025 Mayor's Court Monthly Disbursement Report
216 Bench warrants Issued, 225 Cases Heard & \$11,385.00 Collected

GUEST SPEAKERS: NONE
EXECUTIVE SESSION: NONE

GUEST ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIAL REPORTS:

MAYOR: Robert "Bo" Bemmes:

The grand opening for Givaudan was held today with the reminder that they are going to construct a \$130 million dollar facility that when totally completed will bring over 300 new jobs to our city with substantial new revenue for our City and our Reading Community Schools. This exciting new development is the result of years of hard work from my administrative team with special thanks to our Safety and Services Director Patrick Ross, our Economic Development Consultant Linda Fitzgerald, the Port Authority, Jobs Ohio, Redi Cincinnati, our Fire and Public Works Departments and our City Council.

Starting the 1st week of November, our Public Works Department will begin winterizing our Parks which means our restrooms will be shut down until the threat of freezing temperatures is past us next spring. Leaf pick up will begin next week and continue until we prepare our City trucks for snow/ice removal usually early in December.

I attended a Hamilton County Municipal League Meeting where proposed changes to property taxes in Ohio were discussed including the potential for a vote of the people to eliminate property taxes entirely to be placed on the ballot next year if enough signatures are collected. It has been estimated that if property taxes were eliminated entirely that the taxes on earnings would have to go to 10.2% or sales tax to 20% to make up for the lost revenue. Approximately 67% of property taxes go to fund schools and 3.52% go to fund our City operations (approximately \$940,000 per year).

Our Reading Fire/EMS Department is offering CPR and AED Training on Saturday November 8 from 10am till 11:30am in our City of Reading Council Chamber. The cost for certification is \$20. Class size is limited to 25 people and is only for residents of Reading, Arlington Heights and Amberly Village.

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.

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.

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

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.

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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)

Offered condolences to the Gertz family on the recent passing of Mary Jane Gertz.

TREASURER: Brenda Owens

**City of Reading
September 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	\$71,634	-7.2%
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	\$1,084,665	
YTD Progress	\$1,059,098	\$1,069,724	\$1,143,419	\$1,084,665	-8.1%

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	\$591,928	\$459,951	\$547,775	\$544,493	-0.6%
September	\$464,052	\$491,289	\$546,441	\$541,657	-0.9%
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	\$5,382,356	
YTD Progress	\$4,879,797	\$4,941,988	\$5,256,003	\$5,382,356	2.4%

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	\$158,586	46.3%
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	\$843,055	
YTD Progress	\$1,375,702	\$710,746	\$729,240	\$843,055	15.6%

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	\$656,715	-0.9%
August	\$650,899	\$532,692	\$666,223	\$598,441	-10.2%
September	\$880,060	\$696,112	\$732,034	\$771,877	5.4%
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	\$7,310,071	
YTD Progress	\$7,314,596	\$6,722,459	\$7,128,662	\$7,310,071	2.5%

Total Refunds:	2022	\$169,800	2023	\$666,149	2024	\$104,275	2025 Refunds =	\$88,839
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Brenda A. Owens- City Treasurer 10/01/25

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AUDITOR: Sabrina Smith: *(Absent, Report submitted prior to meeting for inclusion into the Minutes)*

**City of Reading
Monthly Statement of Cash**

As Of: 9/30/2025

Funds: 1101 to 9999

Include Inactive Accounts: No

Fund	Description	Beginning Bal.	MTD Increases	MTD Decreases	Ending Bal.
1101	GENERAL FUND	\$1,851,149.90	\$480,017.87	\$787,952.81	\$1,523,214.76
1220	CITY EARNINGS TAX	\$5,407,577.14	\$771,876.69	\$21,376.08	\$6,158,077.77
1801	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCY	\$11,621.13	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$11,621.13
1827	SEWER SERVICE FEE	\$513,915.41	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$513,915.41
1835	ACCRUED SICK & VAC PAY	\$166,324.46	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$166,324.46
2210	STREET MAINTENANCE	\$870,724.85	\$77,403.82	\$96,751.99	\$851,376.68
2215	STATE HIGHWAY	\$373,994.19	\$6,275.99	\$0.00	\$380,270.18
2222	MAYORS COURT COMPUTER	\$3,761.63	\$1,523.00	\$186.90	\$5,097.73
2223	DUI ENFORCEMENT	\$14,574.00	\$75.00	\$0.00	\$14,649.00
2225	EPA BROWNSFIELD GRANT	\$77,818.78	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$77,818.78
2230	Streets & Curbs	\$675,835.85	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$675,835.85
2245	DRUG ENFORCEMENT	\$84,302.54	\$18.00	\$330.00	\$83,990.54
2280	MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE	\$257,155.37	\$7,672.50	\$3,725.00	\$261,102.87
2285	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	\$206,547.76	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$206,547.76
4242	FIRE/EMS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT	\$764,872.26	\$50,427.76	\$8,438.55	\$806,861.47
4243	POLICE & FIRE COMMUNICATIONS	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
4340	CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT	\$738,127.80	\$208,568.42	\$33,128.88	\$913,567.34
4341	STADIUM TRACK IMPROVEMENT	\$273.85	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$273.85
4343	GROWTH FUND	\$657,527.26	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$657,527.26
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	\$273,137.19	\$184,406.04	\$158,742.04	\$298,801.19
5608	WATER TRUST	\$142,015.66	\$750.00	\$1,137.62	\$141,628.04
8825	SEWAGE DISP TRUST	\$1,414,938.98	\$246,249.43	\$0.00	\$1,661,188.41
9999	Payroll Clearing Fund	\$54,618.22	\$510,808.06	\$510,122.99	\$55,303.29
Grand Total:		\$14,795,483.60	\$2,526,072.38	\$1,621,892.84	\$15,699,663.14

10/3/2025 10:01 AM

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COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

FINANCE: Andy Bronner

The City of Reading portion of the Local Government Fund from Hamilton County for 2026 is projected to be \$143,789.65.

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

ZONING, PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT: Dave Powell

The committee met on September 10th. We discussed proposed changes to the zoning code, sidewalk dining, and commercial vehicle parking. I will have more on these items in the coming weeks.

LAWS & CONTRACTS: Katie Eadicicco *(No Report)*

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY: Shelly Kroeger

Police Department Run Count for September, 2025

· Calls for service 1,097

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· Auto Accidents	31
· Booking Original Charges	121
· Total Criminal Charges	211

Citations Issued

· Hamilton County	12
· Arlington Heights	12
· Juvenile	2
· Reading Mayor's	65

Total Citations **92**

Fire Departments run count for September, 2025

· EMS Responses	220
· Fire Responses	52

Total Responses **272**

In the month of September, the police department had runs for drug possession, OVI, criminal damaging, disorderly conduct at Vybes Bar, sexual assault with a know suspect, domestic violence, and aggravated menacing.

The police department has received their pepper ball systems and were put into place in September.

Fire Department:

- Members attended the Srs. of Notre Dame Oktoberfest event on September 16th .
- On-duty crew attended touch-a-truck event at Sts. Peter & Paul Academy.
- CPR/AED training scheduled for November 8th, more information available at www.readingfdohio.org

Next committee meeting is scheduled for October 14, 6:30 in Council Chambers

SERVICE: Bob Boehner

Reading Public Works Council Report October 7, 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 checking catch basins for repair Genoma Dr and Shirljune

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 and on Calico Ct

City crew made a maintenance repair at the Millcreek alliance building

City crews have been painting the soccer and football fields

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

City crew repaired a water service line on West Benson at Geno's and repaired the pavers

City crew installed a new door on the West Bay at the garage and on the pole barn East side

City crews tore out and rebuild new catch basins at 313 & 339 Elm St

City crew repaired a water heater leak at Vorhees Park

City crew repaired a guardrail that was damaged on Fuhrman near Thurnridge Dr

City crew repaired a water main break on Jefferson at St John's Church

RECREATION: Scott Thamann

We are expecting bids within the next week for a new filtration system at the community pool. Once we have the bids, we will need council approval to proceed with the necessary upgrades to the facility.

On Oct. 21, Michele Gottschlich will be coming to council to discuss the Trail Feasibility Study. We committed funds to this study. This will serve as the next step in the Triangle Trail plan, involving the Mill Creek Alliance, Tri-State Trails, Great Parks, Hamilton County Public Health, Ohio Department of Transportation, and 12 municipalities.

We also have an ordinance on tonight's agenda regarding the creation of a leash-free dog park on the north end of Riesenberg Ave. Earlier in the year, council agreed to hire Joe Morganroth of Stephen A Smith Associates to draw plans for this site. He has completed his work, and I have acquired bids from contractors. I love the site as it is along the Bill Elfers walking trail and is not adjacent to any homes. I feel this would be an excellent new amenity for our community and a worthy investment.

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We will be adding more functional green space for our community.

OTHER BUSINESS: NONE

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

READING OF RESOLUTIONS: NONE

READING OF ORDINANCES:

(1) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT WITH HYDE PARK LANDSCAPING AND BEST FENCE CINCINNATI FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A COMMUNITY DOG PARK, AND NOT TO EXCEED \$64,000.00.

Ordinance was declared a “First Reading Only.”

(2) AN ORDINANCE AMENDING READING CODIFIED ORDINANCES SECTION 280.01 INCREASING LOCAL COURT COSTS FROM \$30.00 TO \$50.00 EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2026.

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

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2025-40

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

Bob Boehner:

(1) Asked Mr. Powell If anything further has come from the food truck ordinance that was mentioned months ago. Mr. Powell communicated that the conversation fizzled down but he can bring it up again next committee meeting.

(2) The chief of Police was called for a complaint regarding a trailer on Hunt Road. The owner was contacted, and they have until midnight tonight to get it removed from the street.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mrs. Kroeger moved to adjourn. Mr. Bishop seconded. Motion carried by voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 pm.

X _____
Carla Bronner
Clerk of Council

X _____
Kevin Mattscheck
President of Council