

**CITY OF READING, OHIO
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – LEGISLATIVE SESSION
NOVEMBER 18, 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, Kevin Mattscheck called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President of Council, Kevin 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 November 4, 2025 (Regular) Council Minutes Meeting made by Mrs. Eadicicco, seconded by Mrs. Kroeger. Motion carried by voice vote.

GUEST SPEAKERS: NONE

AUDIENCE ASKING PARTICIPATION:

(1) Rooted in Community: Gary Kurtz (1317 Thurnridge Drive, Retired Landscape Architect)

Member of Rooted in Community, a group of concerned Reading citizens promoting the planting of trees to increase the much needed tree canopy in Reading, which creates a more attractive and livable city.

We are here tonight to express our concerns regarding the Skyworks development on the south side of Reading Rd, a major entrance into our city.

This business is in the South Reading Road Commercial District and is subject to design review by the city since it is situated in the Design Review District.

Our zoning codes outline specific requirements regarding site development, impervious surface to green space ratios, fencing locations and type, and overall landscape requirements. Our Comprehensive Plan for the city recommends guidelines for improving the attractiveness and vitality of our city, including the planting of trees. We would hope that the City would take advantage of the good advice and guidance for existing and future projects provided by these documents.

It appears to us, after reviewing the available construction drawings and doing several site visits, that the development is not meeting the site and landscape requirements according to our own zoning, the recommendations from our Comprehensive Plan, and the details shown on the Reading Road Streetscape Plan, which you have before you.

Planned fencing locations are too close to the right of way and are not indicated as being of a decorative style. Interior landscaping requirements for parking areas and overall site development are lacking and do not appear to have been met. No street trees are indicated on any plans as detailed by the Reading Road Streetscape Plan, designed by another Landscape Architect, and accepted by the city.

We are here tonight to encourage the City to perform a more thorough design review of this project, especially the zoning requirements for this business and to address the shortcomings with the developer, builder and owner.

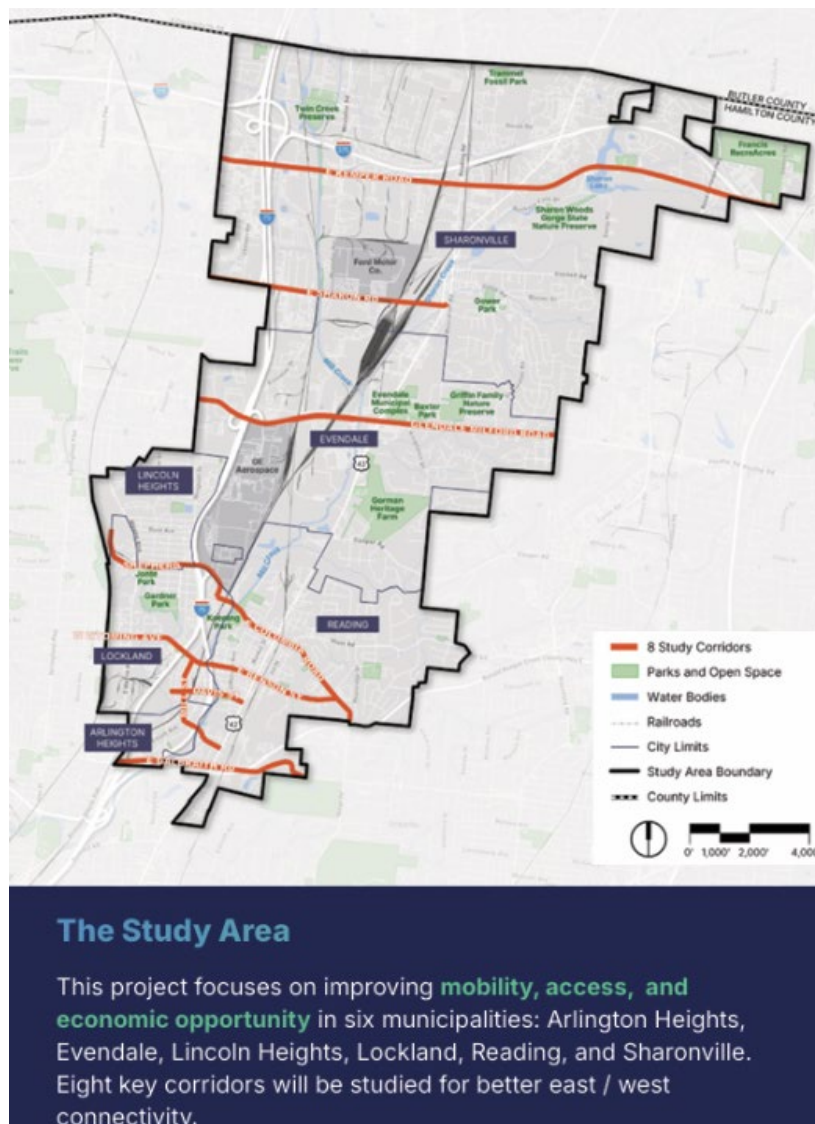
If the City is willing to address these shortcomings, we are offering our assistance, as we have done in the recent past. Rooted in Community initiated the grant application and eventual award for the funding of the newly planted street trees on Reading Road. We notified the city of another grant for the funding of additional street trees, of which the city never applied, a true lost opportunity. We have provided ideas for new tree plantings around the city and have sparked interest in development of a mini-park in the popular Bridal District.

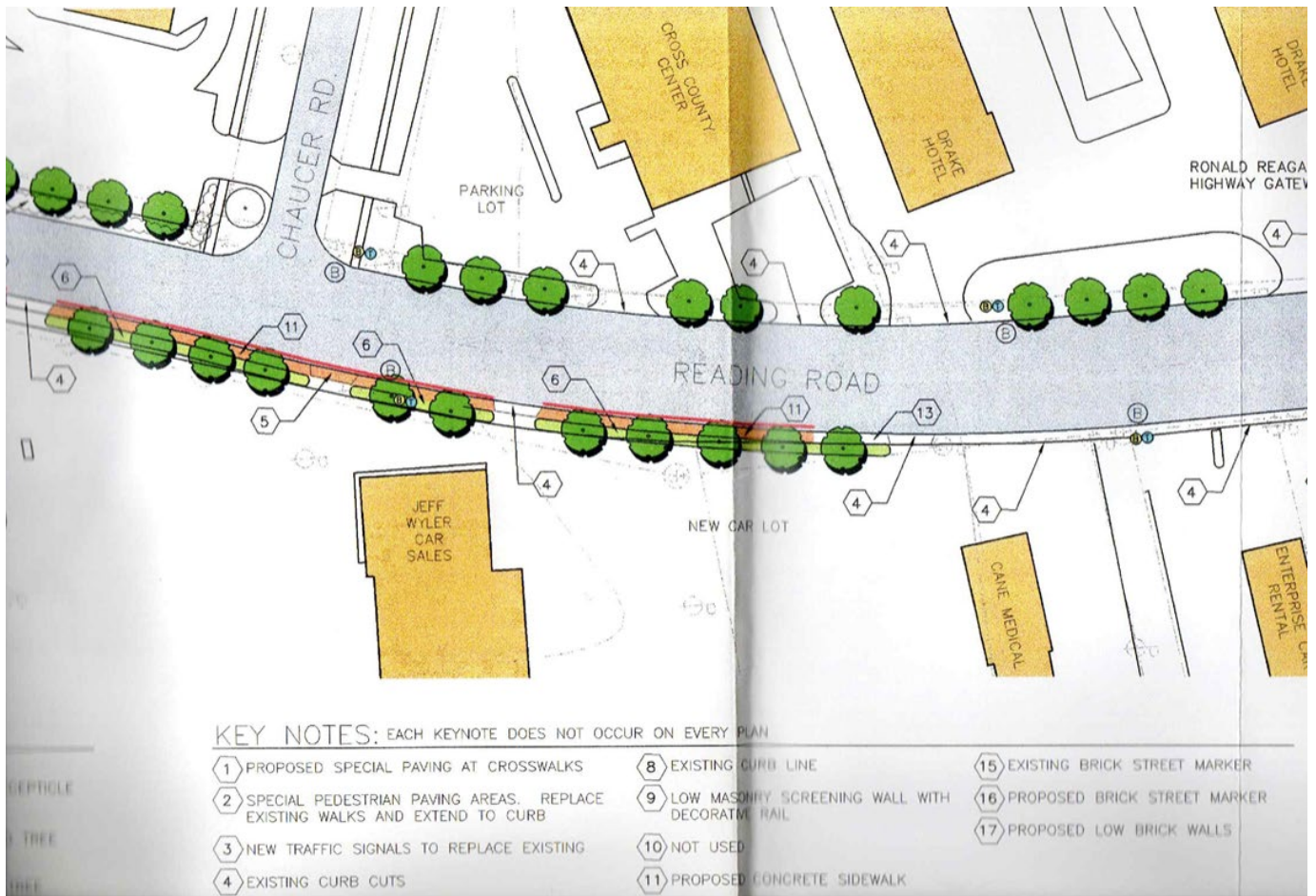
We have seen the site and landscape drawings for the Givaudan campus and are thrilled to see such extensive adherence to zoning and landscaping codes....even as it is off the beaten path. Cannot we see the same sort of respect for these codes at Skyworks, which is on a major road with great visibility?

Again, we would be happy to work with the parties involved, to bring the Skyworks project closer to a more conforming and attractive development. If anything, please enforce the planting of street trees and parking lot trees. That alone would be a substantial and impactful improvement.

Can we do this ? How can we help?
Thank you for hearing us.

Rooted in Community





COMMUNICATIONS:

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

196 Bench warrants Issued, 264 Cases Heard & \$14,415.00 Collected

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

READING OF RESOLUTIONS: NONE

READING OF ORDINANCES:

(1) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF READING AND THE BOARD OF HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS RELATIVE TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF HUNT ROAD

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

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2025-46

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

Bo Bemmes:

To be clear and accurate concerning how we as a City go about installing a new Police Chief or Fire Chief I received the following from our Civil Service Board. Reading is a Statutory City and must, BY Law, adhere to the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) specifically chapter 124 for hiring and promotional processes. CHIEF EDENS WAS NOT APPOINTED BY THE

MAYOR OR SAFETY AND SERVICES DIRECTOR. He was promoted in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Statutes and the rules of the Reading Civil Service Commission. Our Reading Civil Service Commission hired the Ohio Police Association to conduct the test, and this entity provided the results.

On November 12 representatives from ODOT came to City Hall to discuss the proposed/already being designed Target Speed traffic pattern changes on Reading Road. The reminder that ODOT contacted us (not us them) about these changes on Reading Road which is a STATE ROUTE. This project is a pilot/first time program, and our area of Reading Road was identified as one of seven different areas of State Routes that were identified as areas in most need of changes to IMPROVE SAFETY FOR MOTORISTS AND PEDESTRIANS. **We are set to have a Public Hearing with ODOT on December 16 at 7:30pm in our Council Chambers.** ODOT currently estimates that \$2.95 million dollars will be spent by the State of Ohio for these improvements with no financial contribution from us.

Randy Cook as our EPMCEO, working with our FD and our Building Department are serving our City very well

Our Reading Fire Departments annual turkey raffle will be held on November 21 and 22 starting at 7pm both nights at the Haffey Fieldhouse. The proceeds from the raffle supplement operational expenses, training and fire prevention/safety education programs.

Our Public Works Department have winterized our Parks which means our restrooms will be shut down until the threat of freezing temperatures passes us next spring. Leaf pickup started and will continue until we prepare our City trucks for snow/ice removal usually early in December. Please do not park in front of your leaf pile and please do not put leaves in the street.

Knights of Saint John's Ham raffle will be held on December 6th and 7th starting at 7pm at the Knights Hall at 423 Pearl Street.

Our annual Christmas tree lighting and Crib Dedication along with the annual Holiday Walk will be on December 6.

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.

Please get to know your neighbors and look out for them and call 911 immediately if you see any suspicious or illegal activity.

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

President of Council, Kevin Mattscheck comments: I couldn't agree more with you about our Police Department, how great they are, police officers and everything, but the report that was done was about retention of our great officers and why we're not retaining them. There is a lot of troublesome information in this report that I think needs to be more addressed than just how great officers are; nobody complains about them because they are great, and we need to keep them. We've lost a lot over the years. We've lost a couple this past year that, I wish we could have them back. I know we just hired a couple new ones that will be fabulous officers as well. I do feel that something needs to be addressed about the retention issue. I brought it up a couple months ago, *'why are we losing so many officers?'* and it came back as a leadership issue. I've read it several times. It is 30 pages long and I keep coming back to the same thing: leadership, leadership, leadership. It's been out about a month, when I finally got the report. How are we moving forward? Are we moving forward with the report? How is this handled?

Mayor Bemmes Response: Absolutely.

Katie Eadicicco:

I want to talk about the third-party report regarding our police department. I hope everyone on council has had a chance to review it.

It's obvious that there are some serious issues there and have been for a while. I will say that personally, I like Chief Edens. He's always been very responsive and helpful when I've asked questions or had an issue. However, I don't work for him, and I know that we've lost a lot of police officers over the years.

Inaction is action and by doing nothing or not responding to this report properly, we are damaging the reputation of our police department, our officers, and our city.

I would like to make a motion to move this issue into the Public Health and Safety Committee and request a follow-up from the committee and/or the administration with action items as to what the most appropriate action of the administration should be in light of this report.

Motion made by Mrs. Eadicicco, seconded by Mr. Bronner, to move this issue into the Public Health & Safety committee.
Motion carried 7-0 by voice vote.

Dave Powell: Was asked:

How much did the study cost?

- Answer from Mayor Bo Bemmes: \$26,000.00

What actions have been taken as a result of the study?

- Answer from Mayor Bo Bemmes: 2 staff Lieutenant meetings where they need to provide in writing their needs, 2 officers have agreed to take courses.

Mr. Powell commented that he knows the officers can legally get in trouble in the department if they go outside the “chain of command.”

Shelly Kroeger – The issue was brought to Mrs. Kroeger September of 2023 after several of the officers spoke freely to her about their unhappiness within the department, and that is when she went to Mayor Bo Bemmes to discuss. Mrs. Kroeger pointed out that from September 2023 until November 2025, no officers have come to the Mayor or to Council to complain. She stated that it is hard to fix something when they are not coming to the person who has to fix it (referring to Mayor Bemmes). She went on to state that she feels the officers all hid behind the report, and that statement is not meant to be said in a negative way. She feels that if there is an issue, it needs to be dealt with in person. Mayor Bemmes further commented that he is happy to take the time and go through the report page by page. He wants the officers to be happy working for the City of Reading. Mrs. Eadicicco agreed, while promising this issue will get looked into so that we can see how to move forward.

Mark Bishop – Spoke to the “leadership in the department” that was the focus within the report. Mr. Bishop pointed out that when new leaders are appointed, there will be turnover. Not everyone will be a dynamic leader, but time is needed for each new leader to make improvements. Mr. Bishop mentioned that he has seen how a lot of good leaders have been taken down by “organizational sabotage,” because they weren’t given a chance to improve, and they weren’t given feedback immediately. With productive input, many of those things can be improved dramatically. He is encouraged to take this into the committee and see how they can help.

Bob Boehner – Gave his support of Chief Edens, even though he has heard the complaints from people since 2021. In those situations, the first thing Mr. Boehner says to them is, “You need to go talk to the Mayor.” That is not Council’s position. We should not be a sounding board for somebody that’s got a problem with the Chief, or the Fire Chief, or the Chief of Public Works. That’s not our job. They gotta go to Bo. If they don’t wanna go to Bo then learn to live with it and that’s it.

Shelly Kroeger - Next Public Health & Safety committee meeting will be held this Thursday, November 18 at 6:30 pm in Council Chambers to discuss purchase items needed for the Fire Department the have a purchasing pricing deadline.

- Turkey Raffle this weekend

Bob Boehner – Asked Mayor Bo Bemmes if the residents on Reading Road would be notified of the ODOT meeting being held on Tuesday, December 16?

- Answer from Mayor Bo Bemmes: Yes. They will get letters out. ODOT does want a webpage out first so everybody can start taking a good look, so there is a slight chance that the Mayor may cancel the December 16th meeting if the webpage isn’t

up and available before then. Mayor Bemmes also mentioned that when he was speaking with ODOT he informed them the 3 million dollars is earmarked and needs to be spent in the year 2027. They (ODOT) have a lot to do before the construction season and they called for this meeting to occur this December, 2025.

Mr. Boehner mentioned that a friend of his that lives in Columbus said, “You don’t want this project. The did it in Columbus and it’s a disaster.” Mr. Boehner also gave his opinion that if the Reading Road lanes are cut down to one lane, the traffic will be worse than what it is currently.

Mr. Bemmes stated that he is not an engineer, and ODOT has traffic engineers that work all day every day throughout the state, and at least we have to listen. He’s not saying he agrees with them, but he does request that people come ready to listen with their questions & concerns, because ODOT is ready to move forward.

Mr. Bishop requested that if folks planning on attending, or even folks who cannot attend, could submit their questions ahead of time to the webpage, that way they have a chance to address those comments. Putting them on the spot doesn’t help them or you.

If you are unable to submit your questions via the ODOT webpage, please send them to anyone on Council, and of course, the Clerk, Carla Bronner. Council email addresses can all be found on the City of Reading website (<https://www.readingohio.org/>) under the Government tab, and then selecting “Contact Council.” For convenience, the Council email addresses are also listed below:

2025 Reading City Council Members		
President of Council	Kevin Mattscheck	kmattscheck@readingohio.org
Ward 1 Councilman	Dave Powell	dpowell@readingohio.org
Ward 2 Councilman	Andy Bronner	abronner@readingohio.org
Ward 3 Councilman	Mark Bishop	mbishop@readingohio.org
Ward 4 Councilman	Bob Boehner	rboehner@readingohio.org
Council At Large	Scott Thamann	sthamann@readingohio.org
Council At Large	Shelly Kroeger	skroeger@readingohio.org
Council At Large	Katie Eadicicco	keadicicco@readingohio.org
Treasurer	Brenda Owens	bowens@readingohio.org
Auditor	Sabrina Smith	ssmith@readingohio.org
Safety Service Director	Patrick Ross	pross@readingohio.org
Mayor	Robert "Bo" Bemmes	rbemmes@readingohio.org
Clerk of Council	Carla Bronner	Carla.Albrinck@gmail.com

Scott Thamann – I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the literary efforts of RHS graduates and one current student. I’m sure many are unaware of their accomplishments. Kailynn McComas, class of 2016, has published a children’s book titled *We Rise by Lifting Others*. In 2025, Evanne Anderson, RHS class of 2021, published her children’s book titled *The Worry Wasp*. Brendan Eadicicco, or Brendan James, class of 2016, recently published his first novel titled *Room 301*. And just last week, current senior Bayleigh Thompson, or T.R. Bayleigh, just published a book of short stories, titled *Intertwined*. Having taught all of these students, I am obviously very proud of their accomplishments, but I invite all Reading citizens to support the hard work, dedication, and creativity of these four individuals, as well as many more talented people in our community.

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 8:19 pm.

X _____
Carla Bronner
Clerk of Council

X _____
Kevin Mattscheck
President of Council