

**CITY OF READING, OHIO
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION
FEBRUARY 3, 2026 – 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. Bohner, Mr. Thamann, Mrs. Kroeger, & Mrs. Eadicicco.

OTHER CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Mayor Bo Bemmes, Law Director Dave Stevenson, Treasurer Brenda Owens, Auditor Sabrina Smith & Clerk of Council Carla Bronner.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Moved the approval of the January 20, 2026 Council Minutes to the next meeting.

AUDIENCE ASKING PARTICIPATION: None

COMMUNICATIONS:

(1) January 2026 Mayor's Court Monthly Disbursement Report

100 Bench warrants Issued, 204 Cases Heard & \$12,723.00 Collected

GUEST SPEAKERS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

GUEST ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIAL REPORTS:

MAYOR: Robert "Bo" Bemmes:

ODOT hosted a meeting on January 28 at 7:00pm in our Council Chambers and presented a power point program about their proposed plans for Reading Road. Council Chambers were filled with residents who vocalized their questions, comments and concerns. Reps for ODOT answered questions and took notes to address issues. ODOT will accept public comments until February 11, and anyone can go to www.readingohio.org to give ODOT your questions, comments or concerns. After ODOT reviews all public input, I will schedule another meeting with ODOT reps at a Council meeting.

Please do not leave any valuable items in your car and PLEASE lock your car when you get out of it.

Our Public Works Department used over 500 tons of salt during the last snow event at a cost of over \$43,000. We now have approximately 650 tons left in stock. 600 more tons of salt have been ordered with no delivery date guaranteed at this time. We will continue to use salt prudently to make sure as best we can that we continue to have salt available, especially for our hills and emergency routes. Our

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outstanding Public Works Department has also repaired several water mains in the past two weeks in freezing weather with some of them being addressed in the middle of the night.

Our Safety and Services Director Patrick Ross and Public Works/Water Department employee Jon Vance will meet with our City Engineers next week to discuss needed water main replacement and lateral line relocations on Reading Road. We want to get engineer estimates and have plans in place to complete this work as soon as we possibly can.

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

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

TREASURER: Brenda Owens:

City of Reading
January 2026 Income Tax Receipt Summary
With Prior Years Comparison

Individual Residents Income Taxes

	2023	2024	2025	2026	% Change 25 to 26
January	\$97,988	\$140,011	\$107,314	\$77,445	-27.8%
February	\$62,179	\$73,859	\$63,674		
March	\$120,959	\$127,546	\$133,559		
April	\$441,112	\$479,159	\$501,122		
May	\$73,112	\$73,028	\$45,617		
June	\$117,960	\$80,804	\$103,558		
July	\$35,819	\$29,749	\$18,836		
August	\$34,271	\$62,099	\$39,350		
September	\$86,325	\$77,164	\$71,634		
October	\$52,893	\$47,668	\$84,036		
November	\$25,276	\$66,383	\$74,229		
December	\$49,879	\$130,517	\$45,375		
Yearly Totals	\$1,197,773	\$1,387,987	\$1,288,304	\$77,445	
YTD Progress	\$97,988	\$140,011	\$107,314	\$77,445	-27.8%

Business Profits Income Taxes

	2023	2024	2025	2026	% Change 25 to 26
January	\$21,712	\$72,579	\$95,461	\$21,302	-77.7%
February	\$17,868	\$30,745	\$56,538		
March	\$100,690	\$58,593	\$58,013		
April	\$231,557	\$162,557	\$222,222		
May	\$13,048	\$26,006	\$29,170		
June	\$136,640	\$143,130	\$148,898		
July	\$32,265	\$70,851	\$59,569		
August	\$38,469	\$56,349	\$14,598		
September	\$118,498	\$108,430	\$158,586		
October	\$18,497	\$16,253	\$50,267		
November	\$76,898	\$57,636	\$2,299		
December	\$53,959	\$45,256	\$52,632		
Yearly Totals	\$860,101	\$848,385	\$948,252	\$21,302	
YTD Progress	\$21,712	\$72,579	\$95,461	\$21,302	-77.7%

Payroll Withholding Income Taxes

	2023	2024	2025	2026	% Change 25 to 26
January	\$699,906	\$721,376	\$667,033	\$662,030	-0.8%
February	\$483,701	\$495,911	\$565,608		
March	\$477,447	\$561,572	\$561,705		
April	\$701,491	\$733,139	\$732,277		
May	\$480,917	\$502,943	\$546,264		
June	\$475,836	\$585,100	\$645,009		
July	\$671,451	\$561,747	\$578,310		
August	\$459,951	\$547,775	\$544,493		
September	\$491,289	\$546,441	\$541,657		
October	\$580,966	\$575,534	\$584,812		
November	\$482,419	\$539,195	\$661,935		
December	\$469,943	\$605,426	\$518,050		
Yearly Totals	\$6,475,316	\$6,976,158	\$7,147,153	\$662,030	
YTD Progress	\$699,906	\$721,376	\$667,033	\$662,030	-0.8%

Total Income Taxes Collected

	2023	2024	2025	2026	% Change 25 to 26
January	\$819,606	\$933,966	\$869,808	\$760,777	-12.5%
February	\$563,747	\$600,514	\$685,820		
March	\$699,095	\$747,711	\$753,278		
April	\$1,374,159	\$1,374,855	\$1,455,621		
May	\$567,077	\$601,977	\$621,052		
June	\$730,436	\$809,034	\$897,460		
July	\$739,534	\$662,347	\$656,715		
August	\$532,692	\$666,223	\$598,441		
September	\$696,112	\$732,034	\$771,877		
October	\$652,357	\$639,455	\$719,115		
November	\$584,593	\$663,214	\$738,463		
December	\$573,781	\$781,199	\$616,057		
Yearly Totals	\$8,533,190	\$9,212,530	\$9,383,706	\$760,777	
YTD Progress	\$819,606	\$933,966	\$869,808	\$760,777	-12.5%

Total Refunds	2023	\$666,149	2024	\$104,275	2025	\$128,186	2026	\$508
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Brenda A. Owens- Treasurer 02/02/26

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NOTES:

Net Profit and Individual numbers were down significantly this month. For Net Profits, businesses have an option to remit their payments through the state using Ohio Business Gateway. We expected about \$30,000 more from them but didn't receive it; we anticipate it will be included next month. Lower Individual numbers are partly due to slow responses and timing of failed-to-file letters.

This drop looks more drastic since it's the first month of the year, and I am not concerned at this point. To a large degree, the receipt of earnings tax is beyond our control, and fluctuations are expected throughout the year.

AUDITOR: Sabrina Smith:

The Auditor's Office is currently working on the following items:

1. Closing January. We are waiting on some of the smaller bank accounts to be reconciled. Reports will be passed out when complete. After this the January information will be sent to Ohio Checkbook where we post all our expenses each month.
2. \$2 Million dollar movement for ordinance 2026-01 was completed on 2/2/26. This went from the CET Fund to the General Fund. Our general fund was close to \$500K which doesn't cover the amount of one months expenses.
3. 2025 GAAP Statements are under way with our third party audit firm Plattenburg. This is preparation and filing for our annual Hinkle System filing that needs to be completed each year for the State of Ohio. Think of this as a year in review but a mini audit as well since it is conducted by third party auditors.
4. The 2024 & 2025 audit will be conducted by the State of Ohio this year. It happens every 10 years and this is our 10th year. Since we have less than \$1 Million in Federal Funds and are in good standing with the State of Ohio we are audited every 2 years.
5. Check runs continue to run 1 to 2 times per week. At the end of the month or beginning of month or quarter this could happen more often.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

FINANCE: Andy Bronner *(No Report)*

UTILITIES, LANDS & BUILDINGS: Mark Bishop

Today or yesterday a Reading resident by the name of Anonymous made a statement on Facebook. Council and the administration get accused of a lot of things, including a lack of communication/transparency etc. Since City business gets transacted over time, in small increments, it's not always obvious what gets accomplished. Granted, the many ordinances and resolutions are hard to keep track of especially if you don't always watch our televised meetings. I'll provide a summary response. I apologize if I leave anything out. This is by no means a complete list.

The main part of the post reads:

[1] Where is all the tax money going that's been paid out over the years? [2] I only ask bc the city has been steadily going downhill since my family and I moved here. [3] We're understaffed on our police force, [4] the city building is dilapidated, the stadium that the city owns is dilapidated, [5] the streets aren't being re-paved, [6] it's seems as if we've become a hotspot for homeless people, and not the normal homeless people instead we get the screaming and cussing and taking craps on sidewalks homeless people.[7] The list goes on and on, and [8] while I watch the city crews try their best to get a handle on

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the situation, it seems to be too much for them to catch up before the seasons change and they have to focus on something like snow removal, and it starts all over again.

That's a lot to unpack. I tried to limit my response to those specific comments I hope my answers might brighten Anonymous's day a bit. Life in Reading is not as bad as you think:

- 1) For anyone who has not heard, our entire budget is accessible online on the Ohio Checkbook. Ms Smith can lead you to the information and Mr. Bronner, our finance committee chair would be happy to explain how the budget items work.
- 2) Downhill, that depends on your frame of reference. In the last 4 years, the City has actually made a lot of improvement and changes. Some improvements were years in the making, others are more recent. Here are a few:
 - a. More factories and business moving in. Givadaun, Chasing Cali, The Winey Bride, new apartments being built on Benson ST, are a few good examples thanks to years of effort by our Economic Development Director Ms Fitzgerald and local business leaders.
 - b. New building inspector and department, new Code Enforcement Officer, new regulations regarding vacant properties, etc, courtesy of Ms Eadicicco committee. And zoning issues have been addressed by Mr. Powell's committee. We're all working hard to get blighted properties removed, but that takes time.
 - c. We've hired additional City personnel as well as an assistant for Mr. Ross.
 - d. We have purchased Many New vehicles and equipment in all departments that were badly needed. From Mini track hoes to police cars, Ambulances and even a new fire truck arriving this Spring. Even a new valve exerciser if you're into that kind of thing.
 - e. We have new LED lights at Koenig Park, security cameras in our parks, new picnic tables, a new Dog park coming soon. We also purchased new playground equipment for several parks. I kindly refer you to Mr. Thaman's reports where you'll find all of this and more.
 - f. We also have new flooring, TV's and speakers in City hall and recently new blinds in Council chambers.
 - g. Our list also goes on.
- 3) Understaffed Police force: Like most police department, we are staffed well but it fluctuates. I would refer you to Ms. Kroeger's monthly reports for all up to date information.
- 4) City Hall Dilapidated: This building, while in need of repurposing and renovation is very old, but not exactly dilapidated. That's a pretty strong adjective. It's fair to say that the city has outgrown the building.
 - a. Stadium. While it's true maintenance, upgrades and improvements have been deferred for years, dilapidated is not the right term for it's condition either. If it were, the renovation cost estimates would be much higher.
 - b. The Administration presented Council with a plan to fix these long standing problems that you will be able to vote on in May.
- 5) Streets, Infact - many streets have been repaved in the last 4 years, lead water lines, sewers and water mains replaced. Granted it may not be your street this time, but it will be eventually. I'm sure the Mayor or Mr. Ross will be happy to provide the list of those that have been replaced. They are on a scheduled priority list established by the engineering firm and administration which coordinates the repairs with grants and local funding as applicable. We will always have streets on the list. Afterall, water lines break and weather and vehicles eventually cause wear. That too is a never-ending cycle.
- 6) Homelessness, unfortunately as hard as we try, we have not solved the homeless situation in this country. Maybe you have some suggestions.
- 7) City crews are always busy. Yes so true. They do different tasks in each season depending on need. Just like life, the seasons start over each year. New equipment and personnel have certainly helped. Mr Boehner's committee has

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been busy making sure they have what they need. Many of the purchases were delayed for years due primarily to budget reasons. We have a great Service dept. One call, they do it all...

- 8) Finally, Reading is home to an excellent public school system and several amazing private schools all within our 2.5 square miles of City limits, all generously supported by the people in Reading.

I learned long ago that If I'm hard on my own opinions, I can make educated rational decisions, not emotional ones. I may take a position so I can learn more but I'm not attempting to I support my first impression to protect my ego. I'm interested in the best outcome for the City and people who live in Reading. I know it's easy to get trapped in the Facebook universe, but so much of the information is laden with emotion and very little fact.

In summary, City Council, the administration, the business leaders and residents have a lot to be proud of. I hope some of this information reaches Mr or Mrs Anonymous. If there is anything we can do for you, please let us know.

ZONING, PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT: Dave Powell:

I reviewed the development plans for the proposed Skyworks project and the zoning issues that were referred to this committee. I have reached out to Randy Cook to review the matter.

LAWS & CONTRACTS: Katie Eadicicco

I held a Laws and Contracts committee meeting on Tuesday, January 27 at 6:30 PM, and we began discussions regarding hiring a grant writer. I'm looking into what other communities are doing and gathering more information right now. I would also like to meet with our city's administration just to get their thoughts. I did talk to Linda Fitzgerald about it, and talked to Sabrina and got some ideas about it, but some more work needs to be done. I'm also working on the Council Rules – there are just a couple of changes and rewording a couple things, but I should have those out to everyone soon and we can vote on those at our next meeting. And just a reminder for anyone watching, our Council Rules are not passed with an ordinance. They're just guidelines on how we conduct our meetings and they're in accordance with Ohio Revised Code and Robert's Rules of order.

REPORT

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY: Shelly Kroeger:

Police Department run count for January 2026

<i>Calls for service</i>	<i>1,251</i>
<i>Auto Accidents</i>	<i>35</i>
<i>Booking Original Charges</i>	<i>86</i>
<i>Total Criminal Charges</i>	<i>160</i>

<i>Citations Issued</i>	
<i>Hamilton County</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Arlington Heights</i>	<i>26</i>
<i>Juvenile</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Reading Mayor's</i>	<i>104</i>
<i>Total Citations</i>	<i>146</i>

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Fire Departments run count for January 2026

- EMS Responses	226
- Fire Responses	49
Total Responses	275

Police Runs

- Theft
- OVI
- Car stolen from Koehler Ave.
- Juvenile arrested for assaulting his mother
- Victim scammed out of \$14,000 after thinking she was posting a bond for missing jury duty
- Reports of shots fires on Sanborn Dr. Victim later drove himself to the hospital. Search warrant served same night on Sanborn Dr. Suspect charged and gun recovered.
- Vibes bars officers observed several subjects going into the bar after hours. Incident reported to Liquor Control. This is an ongoing investigation.
- Vibes bar for disorderly person; bar acted as everything was ok
- Two cars broken into at Lake Shore
- Theft of package from Reading Rd.
- Traffic stop of vehicle leaving Maple St. Both subjects arrested with open warrants & possession of felony drugs
- Southern Ave. female arrested for trespassing

SERVICE: Bob Boehner:

Reading Public Works Council Report February 3, 2026

-City crews have been cleaning catch basin tops during recent snow

City crews salted all the bridges and over passes

City crew repaired water main breaks on Siebenthaler, East Mechanic and Leonard and on JudiAnn Ct and East North St and at Pike and Market Sts

City crews have been picking up and brush and leaves

City crew repaired a water service line leak at 418 Pearl St

City crew removed old curtains from Council Chambers and replaced them with new blinds and will continue into the main office

City crews have been doing a complete make over on the council chambers

City crew repaired water leak on Dorian Dr and Alwil Dr

City crews have made asphalt repairs throughout the city

City crews were out for the snow events

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City has ordered 400 ton of road salt at \$86.70 per ton at a cost of \$34,680.00 and have used 500 ton of road salt in this last event, which leaves the City approximately 650 tons left in the barn and additional 600 ton of salt has been ordered on January 26, and waiting on delivery

City crew replaced the furnace at the Haffey Fieldhouse

City crews have made asphalt patches throughout the City

Next Service Committee Meeting scheduled for the first Tuesday, March 3.

RECREATION: Scott Thamann:

Looking ahead:

- On April 4, we will have our annual Easter Egg Hunt at the Haffey Fieldhouse, starting at 10:00 a.m.
- On April 25, we will have our Clean Up Day. If you want to participate and help clean an area of the city, please report to the small pavilion at Koenig Park at 10:00 a.m. Supplies will be provided.
- Sign-ups for pool passes and the first session of swim lessons will begin on Saturday,
- May 2. Sign up inside Haffey Fieldhouse. We will have sign-up opportunities on May 2, May 9, and May 16, from 10 a.m to noon each day.

OTHER BUSINESS: None

LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

READING OF RESOLUTIONS: None

READING OF ORDINANCES:

**(1) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR TO OBTAIN BID SPECIFICATIONS TO REPLACE THE CURBS & PAVING ON OBSERVATORY AVENUE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY
(Third Reading)**

Motion made by Mr. Boehner, seconded by Mr. Thamann to adopt the ordinance.

Adoption failed by a 2-5 roll call vote (Mr. Boehner & Mr. Thamann voting “yes,” and Mr. Powell, Mr. Bronner, Mr. Bishop, Mrs. Kroeger & Mrs. Eadicicco voting “no.”)

ORDINANCE FAILED

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

Katie Eadicicco

Motion made by Mrs. Eadicicco, seconded by Mrs. Kroeger to nominate Mr. Scott Thamann as “Sergeant In Arms” for Council. Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

President of Council, Kevin Mattscheck

Congratulated MND’s varsity dance team which competed in the UDA, Division 2, Dance Nationals in Orlando Florida. The UDA National Competition is for the top high school dance teams in the country. I want to congratulate the Mount Notre Dame varsity team on placing 4th in the nation in “Game Day,” which is the first time MND has competed in this category.

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They also competed and finished 4th in the nation in “Pom,” which is the highest place they’ve ever had. And they placed 3rd in the nation, which is a bronze medal, for “Jazz,” which is the first medal MND has ever received. They also, another first, was they got the direct bid from prelims to the finals. Congrats on a great season.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Boehner moved to adjourn. Mrs. Kroeger seconded. Motion carried by voice vote.
The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

X _____
Carla Bronner
Clerk of Council

X _____
Kevin Mattscheck
President of Council