

CITY OF READING, OHIO15
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – LEGISLATIVE SESSION
FEBRUARY 17, 2026 – 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, Mr. Thamann, Mrs. Kroeger, & Mrs. Eadicicco.

OTHER CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Safety Service Director Patrick Ross & Clerk of Council Carla Bronner

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion to approve January 20, 2026 (Legislative), January 27, 2026 (Special), January 29, 2026 (Special) & February 3, 2026 (Regular), Council Minutes Meeting made by Mrs. Kroeger, seconded by Mr. Bronner. Motion carried by voice vote.

GUEST SPEAKERS: NONE

AUDIENCE ASKING PARTICIPATION:

(1) Liza Durbin –

(1) Asked for an update from Shelly Kroeger regarding the police report.

Shelly Kroeger response: At the last Public Health & Safety meeting, Chief Edens wasn't in attendance. She is expecting an email from him tomorrow with some updates, and Shelly will share that at the next Council meeting.

(2) The Levy Bond letter that was mailed to the residents, while she appreciated the letter, it wasn't as informative as she hoped it would be.

Mark Bishop Response: "The letter, I thought, was pretty good. As far as additional information goes, the tours that are being offered, you can ask a lot of questions. They encompass the tour of the building, the stadium, everything to describe what the entire project is. They're good, they're worthwhile."

Kevin Mattscheck brought up the question regarding the cost to send out the letters to the residents. Mr. Powell stated that it was approximately \$4,700 for the city to send out.

(3) Asked again for clarification as to why the Emergency Clause is listed on tonight's ordinance regarding a pay raise for the non-bargaining employees.

Shelly Kroger explained that the Emergency Clause allows the ordinance, should it pass, the ability to be put into effect immediately, as opposed to having to wait a 30 day period before it goes into effect. Mrs. Kroeger went on to further explain that sometimes the Emergency Clause is needed due to a pricing timeline we've offered for the purchase of equipment. In that scenario, if the ordinance did not have the Emergency Clause, the City would miss

out on the opportunity of better pricing.

President of Council, Kevin Mattscheck also explained, *"I think a lot of people are confusing the 'suspending the rules requiring a second and third reading,' and the Emergency Clause. If they rule, to suspend the rules requiring a second and third reading, that means there'll only be one reading, and it'll be voted on. With Emergency Clause, it's still expected to have three readings. So, if we do a reading tonight, that's a first reading, and the next meeting it be a second reading, and a third meeting, and if it passes then, they will go in effect immediately then... The Emergency Clause is just for it to go in effect immediately when it gets voted on, and if it passes."*

Katie Eadicicco also commented, *"I'll add, that as far as tonight's ordinance, it's for a pay increase for a non-bargaining employees, which is non-union office workers, any part-time workers. I know at this point we'll be hiring, I believe, for the pool, and decisions like that, so there's a lot of budget review and things that go into play with that too. So that's why that has an Emergency Clause on it, so that, again, it'll go into immediate effect."*

COMMUNICATIONS:

(1) Division of Liquor Control

We received a letter from the Ohio Division of Liquor control wanting to know if we request a hearing for the transfer of the "Akaur Foodmart Inc" to be transferred to the "Roselawn Food Mart LLC Rubix," both for the same address of 7900 Reading Road, Reading, Ohio 45237. Council did not wish to request a hearing.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: NONE

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

READING OF RESOLUTIONS: NONE

READING OF ORDINANCES:

(1) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A PAY RAISE OF 4% FOR CERTAIN NON BARGAINING EMPLOYEES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Mrs. Eadicicco added, *"the 4% raise is equivalent to what has already been increased in our bargaining employees too. So this is pretty much just matching what everyone else has already received."*

Mr. Powell commented that while the employees are certainly deserving of a raise, he would like to see what next month's earnings tax report says before passing this ordinance.

Mr. Bronner, while agreeing with Mr. Powell in wanting to see another month's worth of the earnings report, asked to how the "pay period five," stipulation would play out with this should it be read a second and/or third reading. Mr. Ross didn't know the specifics, as he didn't want to speak for the Law Director, but it was his assumption that there may need to be an amendment to the ordinance at the next reading that states it can be paid retroactively.

Ordinance was declared a second reading only.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

Auditor, Sabrina Smith, was not present at the Council Meeting, but did request that the following January 2026 Financial Report be included in the Council Minutes:

City of Reading Monthly Statement of Cash

As Of: 1/31/2026

Funds: 1101 to 9999

Include Inactive Accounts: No

Fund	Description	Beginning Bal.	MTD Increases	MTD Decreases	Ending Bal.
1101	GENERAL FUND	\$1,578,512.76	\$219,826.67	\$1,222,922.13	\$575,417.30
1220	CITY EARNINGS TAX	\$5,865,890.77	\$760,776.63	\$71,146.43	\$6,555,520.97
1801	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCY	\$11,621.13	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$11,621.13
1827	SEWER SERVICE FEE	\$636,641.43	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$636,641.43
1835	ACCURED SICK & VAC PAY	\$166,324.46	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$166,324.46
2210	STREET MAINTENANCE	\$898,535.37	\$71,059.03	\$119,583.20	\$850,011.20
2215	STATE HIGHWAY	\$250,873.37	\$5,761.54	\$0.00	\$256,634.91
2222	MAYORS COURT COMPUTER	\$870.59	\$919.00	\$216.41	\$1,573.18
2223	DUI ENFORCEMENT	\$14,907.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$14,907.00
2225	EPA BROWNSFIELD GRANT	\$77,818.78	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$77,818.78
2230	Streets & Curbs	\$803,205.78	\$30,879.78	\$135,528.16	\$698,557.40
2245	DRUG ENFORCEMENT	\$81,675.54	\$128.00	\$1,557.00	\$80,246.54
2260	MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE	\$297,213.84	\$8,596.92	\$1,950.00	\$303,860.76
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	\$238,564.26	\$2,707.74	\$0.00	\$241,272.00
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	\$239,547.76	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$239,547.76
4242	FIRE/EMS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT	\$873,078.23	\$34,022.31	\$115,191.21	\$791,909.33
4243	POLICE & FIRE COMMUNICATIONS	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
4340	CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT	\$918,495.28	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$918,495.28
4341	STADIUM TRACK IMPROVEMENT	\$273.85	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$273.85
4343	GROWTH FUND	\$671,163.49	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$671,163.49
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	\$271,755.42	\$189,909.58	\$169,849.56	\$291,815.44
5608	WATER TRUST	\$146,113.60	\$0.00	\$2,239.74	\$143,873.86
8825	SEWAGE DISP TRUST	\$1,373,725.99	\$248,871.34	\$220,091.71	\$1,402,505.62
9999	Payroll Clearing Fund	\$27,383.80	\$842,967.91	\$810,661.22	\$59,690.49
Grand Total:		\$15,477,578.03	\$2,416,426.45	\$2,870,936.77	\$15,023,067.71

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Katie Eadicicco – Asked if any of the Council Members have questions, concerns or suggestions for the 2026 -2027 Council Rules that were distributed to the Council Members.

Mark Bishop – Congratulated Reading residents, Melanie Brandt & Aiko Wolfgang Lorbach, who officially became United States citizens, after 16 long years of following the legal process.

Andy Bronner – Mentioned that a new Economic Development project at the old Emery Theater on Benson street has begun with the construction and demolition.

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 7:47 pm.

X _____
Carla Bronner
Clerk of Council

X _____
Kevin Mattscheck
President of Council