

**CITY OF READING, OHIO
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION
MARCH 3, 2026 – 7:30 PM**

For the full detail of this evening's Council Meeting, please visit www.watchreadingohio.com.

CALL TO ORDER

President Pro-Tem, Katie Eadicicco, called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Pro-Tem, Katie Eadicicco, 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:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion to approve the February 17, 2026, Council Minutes Meeting made by Mr. Boehner, seconded by Mr. Bishop. Motion carried by voice vote.

AUDIENCE ASKING PARTICIPATION:

(1) Bob Ashbrock (221 Walnut Street)

"There are multiple hot button issues that are getting the attention of a significant portion of our community this evening. I'd like to address one for which I think there might be a fair amount of urgency, specifically the issue of the road diet on Reading road. As all of you know, representatives from ODOT we're here five weeks ago, and that was their second or third visit with kind of a pronouncement that the matter was hopefully going to be "put the bed," and a project finished in 2027 if it's authorized to proceed. Since there has been some confusion as to whether or not this is a so-called "done-deal," and there was an opportunity for a significant number of people to weigh-in, in a non-favorable way last month, I'm curious what the next step is with regard to Council's consideration of those public comments, and any deliberation that might be taking place before any kind of a vote or resolution of approval would be forthcoming."

Scott Thamann's Response: *"I've not heard anything else further. I certainly don't think it's a "done deal" from what I've been told. There are many aspects of the plan that I am, in fact, not in favor of. But I have not heard anything since the last presentation."*

Bo Bemmes' Response: *"I'll address it in my report."*

COMMUNICATIONS: None

GUEST SPEAKERS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

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GUEST ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIAL REPORTS:

MAYOR: Robert “Bo” Bemmes:

I am calling for a Special Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday March 24 at 7:30 in our City Council Chambers. ODOT reps will present their adjustments from the Public input that they have received, both from our January 28 ODOT Public input meeting and input from online comments from residents and businesses. City Council members will then have the opportunity to present comments and concerns. AGAIN, this PROPOSED project is not a DONE DEAL.

I want to thank our Chief of Police Brian Edens for coordinating an effort with other law enforcement agencies to put an end to illegal drug dealing at a house in our City. Four individuals involved in this illegal activity were arrested. The property is presently condemned until improvements are made to bring it up to code. Thanks again to Chief Edens and our entire dedicated Police Department. Our Safety and Services Director Patrick Ross and myself, along with our Chief of Police with input from our Police Lieutenants and Officers, have been addressing issues identified from the Crosden Report from the moment we received it and are continuing with suggestions identified. Administration is also working with Civil Service on implementing changes as well.

Our Public Works Department at this point will only pick up leaves that are secured in bags. Administration totally supports the purchase of a new Leaf Vac Machine.

Litter clean-up day will be on Saturday April 25, and we are asking that interested residents come to Koenig Parks small pavilion at 10 am where we will hand out gloves and litter bags. Our Public Works Garage will be open from 8am till 2pm on April 25 for Reading residents to bring old household items. Please no lithium batteries or paint or any hazardous materials. We will also have a dumpster for old tires.

For the year 2025 Ninety-Eight homes were sold in our City. The average sales price was \$240,000 with the average days for these homes being on the market being Five Days. These incredible stats are in large part due to the excellent public services that we provide every minute of every day, the excellent Schools that we have and the outstanding organizations we have that with the City’s help offer many great opportunities for our youth. Three long known, often discussed and debated issues that would be excellent additions for our City are, a modern facility to house our excellent Fire/EMS Department and their life saving VERY EXPENSIVE equipment, much needed room for our outstanding Police Department (The Police Departments area at City Hall would triple including their Police cruisers being parked inside when not in use, and much needed space for crime prevention, lifesaving trainings) and finally addressing our very dilapidated Stadium. We now have an issue on the ballot that would address all three. While it is never a good time to ask our residents and businesses for more of your hard-earned money, allowing our facilities that directly affect all of us every day to become more outdated, poor functioning and more costly to improve is not a wise approach for us to take. Thankfully our forefathers sacrificed and accomplished major improvements for all of us that improved our daily lives and now it is our turn.

Please call me anytime at 513-509-8619

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

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

TREASURER: Brenda Owens:

**City of Reading
February 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	\$76,725	20.5%
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	\$154,170	
YTD Progress	\$160,167	\$213,870	\$170,988	\$154,170	-9.8%

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	\$582,773	3.0%
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	\$1,244,803	
YTD Progress	\$1,183,607	\$1,217,286	\$1,232,641	\$1,244,803	1.0%

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	\$23,752	-58.0%
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	\$45,053	
YTD Progress	\$39,580	\$103,324	\$151,999	\$45,053	-70.4%

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	\$683,250	-0.4%
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	\$1,444,027	
YTD Progress	\$1,383,353	\$1,534,480	\$1,555,628	\$1,444,027	-7.2%

Total Refunds	2023	2024	2025	2026
	\$666,149	\$104,275	\$128,186	\$508

Brenda A. Owens- Treasurer 03/02/26

NOTES:

Net profits numbers are still down considerably here. We don't know of any specific reason, sometimes it's just about the timing of payments. Shannon has talked with deputies from several other cities, and they are experiencing the same issue mainly with net profits.

AUDITOR: Sabrina Smith:

The Auditor's Office will be reaching out to the Auditor of State's office regarding our 2024 & 2025 Audit. They

03-03-2026 Reading Council Minutes

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asked us to reach out in mid-March. This will be to determine when we will have our onsite Audit. We are currently working with Plattenburg CPAs on our GAAP Statement for 2025.

All payables are up-to-date. Thank you to all staff that helps with this.

**City of Reading
Monthly Statement of Cash**

As Of: 2/28/2026

Funds: 1101 to 9999

Include Inactive Accounts: No

Fund	Description	Beginning Bal.	MTD Increases	MTD Decreases	Ending Bal.
1101	GENERAL FUND	\$575,417.30	\$2,263,006.00	\$910,393.74	\$1,928,029.56
1220	CITY EARNINGS TAX	\$6,555,520.97	\$683,249.89	\$2,066,073.09	\$5,172,697.77
1801	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCY	\$11,621.13	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$11,621.13
1827	SEWER SERVICE FEE	\$636,641.43	\$33,890.86	\$3,389.08	\$667,143.21
1835	ACCRUED SICK & VAC PAY	\$166,324.46	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$166,324.46
2210	STREET MAINTENANCE	\$850,011.20	\$67,554.62	\$121,051.25	\$796,514.57
2215	STATE HIGHWAY	\$256,634.91	\$14,950.08	\$0.00	\$271,584.99
2222	MAYORS COURT COMPUTER	\$1,573.18	\$904.00	\$338.33	\$2,138.85
2223	DUI ENFORCEMENT	\$14,907.00	\$0.00	\$265.00	\$14,642.00
2225	EPA BROWNSFIELD GRANT	\$77,818.78	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$77,818.78
2230	Streets & Curbs	\$698,557.40	\$37,975.59	\$0.00	\$736,532.99
2245	DRUG ENFORCEMENT	\$80,246.54	\$50.00	\$880.00	\$79,416.54
2260	MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE	\$303,860.76	\$8,351.25	\$0.00	\$312,212.01
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	\$241,272.00	\$0.00	\$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	\$791,909.33	\$13,060.53	\$273,840.14	\$531,129.72
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	\$3,389.08	\$0.00	\$674,552.57
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	\$291,815.44	\$180,350.86	\$198,810.45	\$273,355.85
5608	WATER TRUST	\$143,873.86	\$850.00	\$1,008.61	\$143,715.25
8825	SEWAGE DISP TRUST	\$1,402,505.62	\$236,069.89	\$264,063.48	\$1,374,512.03
9999	Payroll Clearing Fund	\$59,690.49	\$502,904.68	\$508,651.65	\$53,943.52
Grand Total:		\$15,023,067.71	\$4,046,557.33	\$4,348,764.82	\$14,720,860.22

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COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

FINANCE: Andy Bronner

I would like to give more information about the 2 ordinances on tonight's agenda.

The first Ordinance is a second reading authorizing a pay raise of 4% for certain non-bargaining employees. The full-time employees include The Chief of Public Works, Swing Clerk, Code Enforcement Official, Safety Service Director, 2 Deputy Treasurers, and our Tax Clerk. Part time positions include Payroll/HR Clerk, Parks/Liability insurance Admin Assistant, Water Meter Reader, 2 Parks employees and 15 PT Fire/EMS employees. The Fire Chief, Assistant Fire Chief and Police Chief are non-bargaining positions but are not included in this ordinance. They are included in separate Ordinances tied to the Fire and Police Unions which dictate automatic pay increases.

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The second Ordinance we are considering tonight authorizes the Safety Service Director to purchase a new leaf vac machine. If passed, this expenditure will not exceed \$80,000 and will be paid from the Capital Improvement Fund (4340).

The last thing I would like to include is that we will have a Finance Committee meeting on March 16th at 6:30 here in Council chambers.

UTILITIES, LANDS & BUILDINGS: Mark Bishop

**UTILITIES, LANDS & BUILDINGS COMMITTEE
REPORT – March 3, 2026
Reading Municipal Building, 1000 Market Street, Reading, Ohio**

UL&B Report:

Summary of Viewership of Council Meetings

January, 2025 - March, 2026

Average Numbers

Live Viewers (on-line): 91

Impressions: 184

Archive Viewers: 127

Audio Listeners: 144

Notes:

Social media terminology:

Impressions:

The number of times your Vimeo post appeared on screen, regardless of clicks.

Archived:

The number of times your Vimeo video was viewed after the meeting was completed. (Not Live)

Audio:

The number of times the audio only version of your meeting was listened to on one of the 16 podcast platforms.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Bishop, Chairman
UL&B Committee
Councilman, Ward 3

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ZONING, PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT: Dave Powell:

Several issues with the site plan for the Skyworks development were assigned to this committee to look into.

I reached out to Randy Cook in the zoning department who concurred with the issues and confirmed the site plan was reviewed and approved prior to his appointment.

I reached out to our safety service director Patrick Ross to find out what could be done. He conferred with our law Director Dave Stevenson who confirmed that nothing could be done because the site plan had been approved by Reading.

Hopefully this can serve as a lesson moving forward to be more diligent with site plan review in the future.

LAWS & CONTRACTS: Katie Eadicicco (No Report)

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY: Shelly Kroeger:

Police Department run count for February 2026

<i>Calls for service</i>	<i>1,077</i>
<i>Auto Accidents</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>Booking Original Charges</i>	<i>91</i>
<i>Total Criminal Charges</i>	<i>151</i>

Citations Issued

<i>Hamilton County</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>Arlington Heights</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Juvenile</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Reading Mayor's</i>	<i>113</i>
<i>Total Citations</i>	<i>139</i>

Fire Departments run count for January 2026

<i>EMS Responses</i>	<i>181</i>
<i>Fire Responses</i>	<i>45</i>
<i>Total Responses</i>	<i>226</i>

Police Runs

- Robbery of VIP Smoke Shop. Vehicle used has been identified, and investigation continues.
- Guise Ct. Theft from an unsecured motor vehicle of two firearms.
- Leelanau vehicle entered, nothing was missing.
- 9178 Reading Smoke Shop robbed, investigation continues
- 9203 Reading UDF, theft of food items. One suspect was located and arrested... Also had open warrants.
- Traffic stop Reading and Mechanic. Driver found to be OVI. Charged with same.

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- Third St., complainant reported several handgun magazines stolen from an unsecured vehicle overnight
- 8400 Reading Rd. FLOCK hit on stolen plate. Recovered plate and vehicle. Subject charged & transported to CJC.
- Fuhrman Rd. Reported two mask men had trespassed on the property, both fled after being seen.
- Voorhees Park, Person shot. Investigation revealed the person believed to have shot himself.
Subject died two days later.
- Maple Dr. victim reported copper wire stolen from property. Investigation continues.
- W. Benson stolen vehicle recovered with two arrested
- Maple St. Department served a search warrant with DART and the county SWAT Team. Four subjects arrested open various charges including possession of drugs, and open warrants. The building, with the assistance of the Zoning Department, and the Fire Department along with the Hamilton County Health Department, condemned the property
- Several OVIs

UPDATE ON THE CROSDEN REPORT:

A while back, after the cross report came out, it was sent to my committee to be reviewed. I have since received the strategic plan, and some of the things that are in place, and working to be in place, within the police department.

I'll start with the strategic vision:

Strategic Vision

The Reading Police Department is committed to providing professional, fair, and community-oriented policing that ensures the safety, security, and quality of life for all residents, businesses, and visitors of the City of Reading. Our vision is to build and maintain public trust through integrity, accountability, transparency, and continuous improvement while supporting the well-being, professionalism, and morale of our personnel.

We will strive to be a modern, well-trained, and well-equipped police department that values teamwork, communication, and proactive problem-solving, while fostering a positive internal culture and strong partnerships within the community.

Strategic Goals and Objectives

1. Professional Development and Training

Goal: *Ensure all personnel are properly trained, confident, and prepared to meet current and future policing challenges.*

Internal Training Initiatives:

- Annual in-service training
- Regular roll-call or shift-level training focusing on policy updates, officer safety,

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communication, and problem-solving.

- Supervisor and leadership development training lieutenants, OIC, FTO's and Chief.

External Training Opportunities:

- Specialized training in crisis intervention (CIT), de-escalation, and dealing with individuals experiencing mental health crises.
- Advanced traffic enforcement and impaired driving detection training.
- Instructor-level certifications to allow in-house training when feasible.

2. Equipment and Technology Modernization

Objective: Upgrade and maintain essential technology to meet current law enforcement standards.

Key Equipment Priorities:

- (1) In-Car Camera Systems***
- (2) Body-Worn Cameras***
- (3) Intoxilyzer Equipment***

3. Employee Morale and Workplace Culture

Goal: Improve morale, reduce negativity, and promote a positive, professional work environment.

Objectives:

- Foster open communication between command staff, supervisors, and line personnel.
- Promote fairness, consistency, and transparency in decision-making.

4. Accountability and Professional Standards

Goal: Maintain high ethical standards and accountability within the department.

Action Steps:

- Regular review and updates of department policies.
- Continued emphasis on early intervention, supervision, and documentation.
- Use technology such as body cameras and in-car cameras to support accountability and transparency.

5. Community Engagement and Trust

Goal: Strengthen relationships with the community through visibility, communication, and partnership.

Action Steps:

- Continued participation in community events and outreach programs.
- Open communication with city leadership, schools, and community organizations.

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SERVICE: Bob Boehner:

Reading Public Works Council Report March 3, 2026

City crews have been picking up brush and leaves

City crews have been doing a complete make over on the council chambers and other offices at City hall

City crews have made asphalt repairs throughout the city

City crew replaced the furnace at the Haffey Fieldhouse

City crews were opening curb line drains from all the snow

City crew cleaned out the roof drain at City hall

Daniel Robbins has completed his CDL training and passed his testing

City of Cincinnati water works was notified of a water leak on East Galbraith Rd 2300 block

City crews repaired water leaks on JudiAnn Ct and Shirljune also on Siebenthale R

City crew replaced ceiling tile and lighting at City hall

City crews have been repairing street signs throughout the City

City crew poured curbing back on JudiAnn Ct

City crews repaired water main break on South Kathwood

City crew repaired the road way at Reading & Illinois Ave

MINOR REPAIRS OR POT HOLES -

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.

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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 A PAY RAISE OF 4% FOR CERTAIN NON BARGAINING EMPLOYEES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY (*Second Reading*)

Motion made by Mr. Boehner, seconded by Mr. Kroeger to amend the last sentence in section 1 to read, *“The increase shall go into effect retroactively to include the fifth pay period of 2026, dated 02-08-2026 through 02-21-2026, and going forward.”* Motion passed by 7-0 roll call vote.

Motion made by Mr. Boehner, seconded by Mr. Powell, to suspend the rule that requires a third reading. Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote. Motion made by Mr. Bronner, seconded by Mr. Thamann to adopt the ordinance as amended. Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2026-08

(2) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY & SERVICE DIRECTOR PURCHASE AN "X-TREME VAC BY ODB MODEL LCT600" FROM BEST EQUIPMENT CO. AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Motion made by Mr. Boehner, seconded by Mrs. Kroeger to suspend the rule that requires a second & third reading. Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote. Motion made by Mr. Bronner, seconded by Mr. Bishop to adopt the ordinance. Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2026-09

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

Bob Boehner

Identified an absentee landlord that owes a couple properties at the west side of Thurnridge.

Katie Eadicicco

We have a lot of exciting projects and new development happening right now in Reading. And while this is exciting, I’ve been contacted by some of the companies or project managers, and I want to remind everyone that you should not walk on to these active job sites as a citizen, and certainly not when you are not invited to enter the job site.

This is very dangerous, these sites are often hard hat zones, and it’s not safe to come on to the site without the proper PPE. These companies have rules, laws, and liabilities they must follow, and rest assured they are also working with the city, our city’s building official, and following their guidance. These companies also have their own engineers and architects, and the project plans and PPDs are reviewed by our building department & city officials. All codes & regulations are being followed.

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Again, please do not enter these active job sites.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Boehner moved to adjourn. Mrs. Kroeger seconded. Motion carried by voice vote.
The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 pm.

X _____
Carla Bronner
Clerk of Council

X _____
Katie Eadicicco
President of Council, Pro-Tem