

**CITY OF READING, OHIO
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – LEGISLATIVE SESSION
APRIL 21, 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:

Mayor Bo Bemmes, Safety Service Director Patrick Ross, Auditor Sabrina Smith & Clerk of Council Carla Bronner

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion to approve March 17, 2026 (Legislative), Council Meeting Minutes. Mr. Boehner first thanked Clerk of Council, Carla Bronner, for adding his comments to the March 17th meeting minutes, but made a motion to amend the minutes to read, "Bo, that postcard that you got was from me and my committee, and all the info was sent to me from you. In fact, if this info is now deemed to be inaccurate, maybe you need to go back to the people who sent me the info." Mr. Boehner said it needed to be added because that is what he said at that meeting.

Clerk of Council, Carla Bronner, clarified that what she actually added to the minutes were what he said, verbatim, from the recording of the March 17th meeting.

Mr. Boehner then responded, "Well, that's what I said first, before I said anything."

Mr. Mattscheck replied, "Well, it's not an exact word for word."

Mr. Boehner said, "It was pretty close to what I said. It's on page 5 of what Carla sent, added what I had said, the paragraph or whatever it was."

Mr. Mattscheck acknowledged, "I understand, and I've read it too. Are you making a motion to amend the minutes?"

Mr. Boehner answered, "Yes, I'll make a motion we add those two sentences."

Motion made by Mr. Boehner, seconded by Mr. Thamann to add the two sentences as mentioned above. Motion carried by voice vote.

Motion to approve the April 7, 2026 (Regular), Council Meeting Minutes made by Mrs. Kroeger, seconded by Mrs. Eadicicco. Motion carried by voice vote.

MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION & PRESENTATION:

READING MOCK TRIAL TEAM

"Whereas, it is with great honor that we acknowledge Reading Community City Schools' Mock Trial Program and Team;

Whereas, Mock Trial is the number one academic program in the State of Ohio; Reading's Mock Trial Program was started 30 years ago under Coach Janig, and Coach McClellan has been coaching for 9 years;

Whereas, students participating in Mock Trial learn roles of attorneys, witnesses, bailiffs and judges. The students use their knowledge and skills to simulate court cases, arguing cases against students from other schools throughout the state, of which there are between 250-400 teams across Ohio.

Whereas, as part of a team, students use and develop speaking and analytical skills, memorization and improvisation. They learn leadership qualities that benefit students well beyond their high school careers and they learn to become active and engaged citizens as they learn more about America's judicial system.

Whereas, the Mock Trial Program has had a long history of success including: 2-time state final four, 5-time state elite eight, 8-time state top ten, 14-time state qualifier, 18-time regional qualifier, 3-time regional champion and 4-time regional runner-up, 14-time district champion, 6-time district runner-up, 4-time University of Cincinnati Invitational Champion, 4-time Miami MockHawk Undeclared Champion, 2-time Buckeye Brawl Undeclared runner-up, Empire Atlanta Elite Eight, MockOn Golden Gavel Classic Sweet 16, and 4 Mock Gladiators;

Whereas, Reading had two teams. Team 1 finished first at UC, winning the Giant Gavel for the 4th time; 2nd at Ohio State's Buckeye Brawl; 2nd at Miami's Mock Hawk; won districts, and was a regional qualifier. This team went undefeated in the invitational season, dropping only three ballots all season. Team members included: Mohamadou Ndiaye, Nour Yousef, James Wooten, Giovanni Escobedo-Arreola, Kaitlyn Kane, Grace Zander, Nada Yousef, Katherine Clark, Eddie Thompson, and Alyssa Morris.

Team 2 placed third at UC, top 4 at OSU's Buckeye Brawl, won districts and regionals, went undefeated in the first two rounds at the state championships (1 of 7 teams to achieve that) with a perfect 6-0 ballot record. They made it to the Elite 8 of the state championships. Team members included: William Moeggenberg, Lorena Zander, Cameron Millette, Ariel Baston, Kiersten Kleehamer, Kaine Colvard, and Alan Noffsinger.

Whereas, both teams had many Best Witness and Outstanding Attorney awards.

Therefore, be it proclaimed, on this date, this 21st day of April, in the year 2026, that Mayor Bemmes and the City of Reading council extends its congratulations to all the students and coaches of Reading High School's current and past Mock Trial teams for all their hard work and success;

In witness whereof, we, the City of Reading, do hereby honor and salute Reading High School's Mock Trial Teams”.

GUEST SPEAKERS: NONE

AUDIENCE ASKING PARTICIPATION:

(1) Dwight Daum: “Thank you. You all know who I am, Dwight Daum. Been here before, a couple of times. So, I wanted to talk about some of the legal issues surrounding the bond levy. The primary one that's in my mind is the lack of constraint in the issue. I'm going to read the issue as it appears on the ballot.

"Shall bonds be issued by the City of Reading for the purpose of site acquisition, new construction, improvements, renovations, and additions to municipal facilities, and providing equipment, furnishings, and sign improvements therefore, in the principal amount of \$27 million dollars to be repaid annually over a maximum period of 28 years, and an annual levy of property taxes be made outside the 10 mil limitation, estimated by the county auditor to average over the repayment period of the bond issue 5.89 mils for each \$1 of taxable value, which amounts to \$206 for each \$100,000 of the county auditor's market value. Commencing in 2026, first due in calendar year 2027, to pay the annual debt charges on the bonds and to pay debt charges on any notes issued in anticipation of these bonds."

That doesn't address any of the three stated purposes for this bond issue. Patrick Ross has a nice blurb on the city website that says what it's for, supposedly. But here's the thing, Article 12, Section 5 of the Ohio Constitution, which was effective 175 years ago, they foresaw this then, states that, "No tax shall be levied except in pursuance of a law, and every law imposing a tax shall state distinctly the object of the same, to which only it shall be applied." I don't see any distinctly in here. In my opinion, if the bond issue actually becomes law, it will not meet the requirement of distinctly stating the object of the tax and its limitations. However, council could, it's an option for you to do, pass an ordinance that limits the use of the bond and make that public.

Also, I've heard discussion that the bond issue is rushed to the May ballot because there's an upcoming constitutional question in November, an amendment to the Ohio Constitution that eliminates property taxes entirely.

Now, the argument is that once it passes, assuming it does, that existing property taxes will continue. That is not at all what that says. Let me read it to you. This is the text of the amendment that's going to be on the ballot this November 3rd.

"Be it resolved by the people of the State of Ohio that the Constitution of the State of Ohio is hereby amended to add Section 14 to Article 12 to read as follows. Section 14, abolishment of taxes on real property.

A, no real property shall be taxed, and no law shall impose any taxes on real property.

B, no other provision of the Constitution shall impose any tax on real property.

C, as used in this section, real property includes the land itself, all growing crops therein, and all buildings, structures, and improvements permanently attached to the land.

This amendment shall take effect the first day of the year after it passes."

So, if it passes this November, in 2027 it takes effect and no property taxes can continue.

So, I'm going to move on. I'm going to close this out a little quicker than I had anticipated. The question is, why it's on the ballot in May? It's an election tactic. Only motivated voters usually show up to vote during primary elections. So unfortunately, all too often, a small percentage of the population chooses whether a levy succeeds or fails, and I hope the history, or actually what's going on surrounding this levy, that I've brought here can bring clarity to the subject. And my real message to the people who are watching, go vote on May 5th. Or, actually, we're halfway into voting month. It's been two weeks. Thank you."

COMMUNICATIONS: NONE

EXECUTIVE SESSION: NONE

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

READING OF RESOLUTIONS:

(1) A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR OR SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A JOINT MEMORANDUM OF INTENT WITH READING COMMUNITY CITY SCHOOLS IN REGARDS TO RECREATION IMPROVEMENTS AT THE STADIUM AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. (Third Reading)

Question from Mr. Boehner, *"Katie, has this agreement gone through your committee?"*

Mrs. Eadicicco's response, *"You asked that at our last meeting and yeah, we discussed this was reviewed by the lawyer. This is just a memorandum. Should the levy pass, then a more official contract will be drafted with the lawyers and signed by the city and the school."*

Second question from Mr. Boehner, *"One other question, and this has come up quite often. On the second page on the memorandum, 'After the improvements are made, the city will remain the owner of the of the property until the applicable bonds are paid off.' How many bonds are we floating? Two, three, four? I thought it was just one bond."*

Mrs. Eadicicco's response, *"That would depend. I believe Patrick's explained, it's hard to say unless it passes, and then we get final estimates, correct? You can't get the exact numbers and take out the exact bonds unless it passes."*

Mr. Boehner continued, *"Well, I guess what I'm saying... I should've been a little more clear. There'll be one bond just for the stadium project."*

Mrs. Eadicicco's reply, *"It would be separate bonds for each project, yes."*

Mr. Boehner continued, *"That part hasn't been made clear. I think we're a little early on this, though. This is a what if scenario. What this is all about."*

Mrs. Eadicicco stated, *"I think it's good to have in place so that it is stated, and I know Patrick's wanted to make sure that it's stated that it will continue to be used for public use. And scheduling the games, practices, and other uses will be jointly approved by both Reading City Schools and the City of Reading to ensure non-school teams have access to the facility year-round, regardless of who owns the stadium complex. So I think it's something good to have in place. It was recommended by our city's legal counsel to do this."*

Mr. Boehner went on, *"Well, I think really it's more plain Jane. The last two or three paragraphs make sense, but to me, it's kind of open-ended. It's not very specific as far as agreement goes."*

Mrs. Eadicicco responded, *"Well, it's not specific because the bond hasn't passed, so we don't have that specific language in a contract."*

Mr. Boehner, *"That answers my question. So why should we pass something that's not...Just because the voter-"*
 Katie Eadicicco, *"On the recommendation of our lawyer."*
 Mr. Bishop added, *"And that's why the language on the ballot is what it is, because the lawyer telling us that's what it has to be. Otherwise it would be more specific."*
 Mr. Boehner, *"I just don't see the rush to get this passed, that's all."*
 Mr. Bishop, *"We did three readings. It's not a rush. That's slow."*
 Mrs. Kroeger added, *"I think it's more, Bob, just to let the community know that we will have an agreement in place. This is, quote-unquote, 'The gentleman's handshake,' that will then be followed up with a formal contract, if the bond passes."*
 Mrs. Eadicicco, *"There's no reason to spend the time, and lawyer fees and all of that. That would be a waste of taxpayer money to do that, if the bond has not passed. This, on recommendation of our lawyer, being just a memorandum, as Shelly said, to just let everyone know that there is an agreement between the city and the school, and that there will be an official agreement going forward."*

Motion made by Mrs. Eadicicco, seconded by Mr. Thamann, to adopt the resolution. Motion carried by a 6-1 roll call vote (Mr. Powell, Mr. Bronner, Mr. Bishop, Mr. Thamann, Mrs. Kroeger & Mrs. Eadicicco voting, "Yes." Mr. Boehner voting, "No.").

RESOLUTION ADOPTED
RESOLUTION NUMBER 2026-14R

READING OF ORDINANCES: NONE

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

Bo Bemmes –
 - Clean up Reading, Sat. April 25, Service Garage open 8:30 – 2:30 pm. The dumpster can be used for old tires. No electronic things, no hazardous materials, the usual things. This is to be used by Reading residents.
 - Pool Sign-ups will be the first 3 Saturdays in May. May 2, 9 & 16 from 10am-12:00 pm.

Bob Boehner – Warned Reading residents of vultures that have been spotted in the City recently. Watch your pets, especially the little ones, when you let them out.

Katie Eadicicco – Suggested to have an annual “Shred Day.” Mayor Bo Bemmes confirmed that Reading already has 2, but the dates are determined by when there has been enough requests to make it worthwhile for someone to come in.

Mark Bishop – *"We had a good meeting of the Utilities, Lands, and Building Committee tonight. We discussed a path forward for the website, improving it to make it more user-friendly for the residents, especially, to find what they need to be able to actually do what they need to do on the website. And, we also talked about the lighted sign for downtown Reading, possibly putting that up. So we'll follow up on that."*

Scott Thamann – *"Having coached Reading Football for the better part of 30 years, I think it's worth noting those mock trial kids work every bit as hard as any athlete we have in the school, and it's really impressive the time and commitment they put in year-round. William Mogenberg suggested an additional competition in the summer, when they went to Atlanta in the summer. They're volunteering for extra work. It's really remarkable what they do and what they have done. So, I'm very proud that we're able to honor them tonight."*

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 8:00 pm.

X _____	X _____
Carla Bronner Clerk of Council	Kevin Mattscheck President of Council