

**CITY OF READING, OHIO
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION
JUNE 02, 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, 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, Mr. Thamann, Mrs. Kroeger, & Mrs. Eadicicco.

OTHER CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

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

Motion made by Mr. Powell, seconded by Mr. Bronner to amend the agenda to add the Oath of Office after the Approval of Minutes. Motion carried by voice vote.

Motion made by Mrs. Kroeger, seconded by Mrs. Eadicicco to amend the agenda to add An Executive Session (for purpose of “to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion or compensation of a public employee or official, or the investigation of charges or complaints against a public employee, official, licensee, or regulated individual, unless the employee, official, licensee, or regulated individual requests a public hearing by division (G)(1) of section 121.22 of the Revised Code.”) to the agenda to immediately follow the Oath of Office. Motion carried by voice vote.

OATH OF OFFICE: Mayor Bemmes Administered The Oath of Office to Lt. Chris Manis

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion made by Mrs. Kroeger, seconded by Mrs. Eadicicco, to enter into Executive Session, for purpose of “to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion or compensation of a public employee or official, or the investigation of charges or complaints against a public employee, official, licensee, or regulated individual, unless the employee, official, licensee, or regulated individual requests a public hearing by division (G)(1) of section 121.22 of the Revised Code.” Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote. Council entered Executive Session at 7:35 p.m.

Motion made by Mr. Boehner, seconded by Mrs. Bronner, to come out of Executive Session at 7:50 p.m. and enter back into Regular Session. Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion to approve the May 5, 2026, and the May 19, 2026, Council Meeting Minutes made by Mr. Boehner, seconded by Mrs. Kroeger. Motion carried by voice vote.

AUDIENCE ASKING PARTICIPATION:

(1) Bob Wimmers: Expressed concerns about the Reading Road project, stating that the proposal appears counterintuitive

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from a traffic-flow perspective. He compared the situation to reducing the size of a drainage pipe and argued that narrowing roadway capacity would likely create congestion and backups.

Mr. Wimmers referenced information from the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) website, which described the initiative as a "target speed pilot program." After researching the meaning of a pilot project, he cited common definitions indicating that pilot projects are intended to test concepts, identify flaws, verify effectiveness, and gather stakeholder feedback before wider implementation.

Based on that understanding, he questioned whether Reading was being used as a testing ground for an unproven traffic-management system. He expressed concern that residents could be left dealing with the consequences if the project fails and suggested that ODOT may be using a smaller community to evaluate the approach before expanding it elsewhere.

Councilman, Scott Thamann, thanked the resident for his research and noted that similar concerns had been raised by other community members. Discussion followed by Councilman Andy Bronner, regarding ODOT's use of the term "pilot." He indicated that ODOT representatives had previously explained that the pilot designation related more to the funding structure than to the road-diet concept itself, which has reportedly been implemented successfully in other locations.

Several council members encouraged residents to review recordings of prior public-input sessions with ODOT, where many related questions had been addressed.

(2) Patrick McCarty: Raised questions about the traffic data used to support the Reading Road project. He asked how many vehicles travel through the corridor each day and whether ODOT had provided case studies from similar projects.

Councilman, Bob Boehner, responded that traffic volumes were reported to be approximately 15,000 to 16,000 vehicles per day. Discussion followed regarding when and how those traffic counts were conducted. Some participants expressed concern that data collected during summer months may not accurately reflect school-year traffic patterns and rush-hour conditions.

President of Council, Kevin Mattscheck, noted that these issues had been discussed during prior meetings with ODOT representatives. Questions had been raised about whether traffic studies accounted for school traffic and peak travel periods. Councilwoman, Katie Eadicicco, felt the answers ODOT provided were incomplete.

Mr. McCarthy also voiced concerns about reducing a four-lane roadway to two travel lanes with a center turn lane. He questioned whether such a design could create safety issues and suggested that additional review was warranted.

Mr. McCarthy shared research regarding fire station sizes in Ohio communities with populations under 15,000 residents.

According to his findings, fire stations serving communities of that size typically range from approximately 6,000 square feet to 12,000 square feet, depending on whether emergency medical services are housed within the same facility. He contrasted those figures with a proposed facility size of roughly 23,000 square feet and suggested that the comparison warranted further discussion.

Mr. McCarthy also raised questions regarding bicycle facilities in the community and how they relate to the Reading Road project.

Councilwoman, Katie Eadicicco, explained that portions of the local trail system currently connect to the Mill Creek area and that there are long-term plans to work with regional trail organizations to expand connections throughout the area. Some of those plans depend on future infrastructure projects, including improvements associated with Interstate 75.

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Councilman, Dave Powell, clarified that the Reading Road project does not include dedicated bicycle lanes. Rather, the roadway would remain a shared-use environment where motorists and cyclists share the road.

Additional discussion centered on previous traffic and speed studies, including when they were conducted and whether they accurately reflected typical traffic conditions throughout the year.

(3) Dwight Daum: Addressed council regarding adherence to council rules and procedures.

He noted what he believed were departures from established procedures during recent meetings, including discussions that extended beyond agenda items and inconsistencies in how public participation rules were applied. While acknowledging those departures, he stated that he appreciated increased flexibility and public engagement.

Mr. Daum also questioned whether a January 29, 2026, meeting had been announced/published to the public. He expressed concern that insufficient public notice could have potentially created legal issues for the city.

Councilman, Dave Powell, responded that the January 29, 2026, meeting had been announced by Mayor Bo Bemmes during the January 27, 2026, meeting. Councilwoman, Shelley Kroeger, stated she believes it may have been posted on the city's website. Councilwoman, Katie Eadicicco, commented that she was going to reiterate Mr. Powell's comments.

(4) Maggie Wilson: Addressed council regarding a float that appeared in the city's Memorial Day parade.

She explained that, although the parade is organized by the American Legion rather than the city, the event reflects on the community as a whole. She stated that she had previously attempted to contact the American Legion regarding her concerns but had not received a response.

Her concerns focused on three primary issues:

(1) Violent Imagery: The resident objected to video content displayed on the float, describing scenes that she believed were inappropriate for a family-oriented event attended by children. She argued that graphic and violent imagery should not be included in a Memorial Day parade.

(2) Flag Display: She also raised concerns about the arrangement of flags displayed on the float. Referencing the U.S. Flag Code, she argued that the positioning of the American flag relative to other flags was inappropriate and showed insufficient respect for the nation's flag and the service members being honored.

(3) Extremist Messaging: The resident further argued that the messaging presented on the float promoted religious extremism and normalized coercive or threatening rhetoric. She expressed concern about the influence such messages could have on community members, particularly young people.

At this time, President of Council, Kevin Mattscheck alerted Ms. Wilson that her 5 minutes were up. Motion made by Mr. Boehner, seconded by Mr. Thamann to allow Maggie Smith an additional 5 minutes to speak. Motion carried by voice vote.

After receiving additional speaking time from council, she clarified that her criticism was not directed at veterans or religion in general. She emphasized her support for military service members and their sacrifices while maintaining that violent religious messaging was inappropriate for a Memorial Day event.

She concluded by stating that she intends to participate constructively in future parades and requested that the American Legion engage with community concerns regarding the float.

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Councilman, Bob Boehner, stated that he would contact members of the parade committee and encourage them to communicate directly with the resident.

Councilwoman, Katie Eadicicco, noted that she was not the first person to raise concerns about the float.

Councilman, Dave Powell, acknowledged the concerns but cautioned that, as a public entity, the city must be careful about restricting speech or expression, noting that issues involving censorship can be complex.

Mayor, Bo Bemmes, encouraged the resident to become involved with the American Legion, suggesting that additional community participation could help strengthen parade planning and provide opportunities for constructive input.

COMMUNICATIONS:

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

120 Bench warrants Issued, 316 Cases Heard & \$21,414.78 Collected

(2) May 2026 Mayor's Court Monthly Disbursement Report

145 Bench warrants Issued, 236 Cases Heard & \$19,008.00 Collected

GUEST SPEAKERS: NONE

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion made by Mrs. Kroeger, seconded by Mrs. Eadicicco, to enter into Executive Session, for purpose of "to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion or compensation of a public employee or official, or the investigation of charges or complaints against a public employee, official, licensee, or regulated individual, unless the employee, official, licensee, or regulated individual requests a public hearing by division (G)(1) of section 121.22 of the Revised Code." Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote. Council entered Executive Session at 7:35 p.m.

Motion made by Mr. Boehner, seconded by Mrs. Bronner, to come out of Executive Session at 7:50 p.m. and enter back into Regular Session. Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

GUEST ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIAL REPORTS:

MAYOR: Robert "Bo" Bemmes:

It is an honor for me tonight to administer the oath of office promoting Police Officer Chris Manis to the position of Lieutenant. Chris has been a member of our Reading Police Department for 18 years. I want to thank Chris and each member of our Police Department for their willingness to serve our City. Also congratulations to Officer Marc Christensen and his wife on the birth of their newest baby and all five of their children are girls.

Our American Legions Independence Day festival will be held on July 3rd and 4th at Koenig Park with fireworks going off at 10pm on the 4th. As with the fireworks display over our Memorial weekend festival the fireworks will be paid for by our Reading Parks Foundation thanks to donations from the American Legion. Please come to

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Koenig Park and support our American Legion as we celebrate the 175th anniversary of our Cities incorporation and the 250th anniversary of our Nation's founding.

The East Crest, Crestmont, West Crest (from Crestmont to Keith) road project that will be 50% funded with SCIP grant dollars ordinance tonight will award a contract to Rack and Ballaeur who has done several road projects in our City. The majority of the work if not all will begin early next year as we don't want a half-finished project to sit over the winter.

Our first farmers market for this year will be on Friday June 12 from 4pm till 7pm at the corner of Vine Street and Reading Road.

Although the weather was not the best, our incredible all volunteer Valley Youth Organization, that keeps approximately 300 boys and girls busy every year playing organized softball, baseball, volleyball and basketball, still had a successful festival that helps fund their very positive and productive youth activities and is always an incredible community event. Our VYO has always been a major contributor both financially and with volunteer time on many major improvements for our City. Just in recent years our VYO paid for a new roof for the Haffey Fieldhouse as well as new bleachers and a new floor at the Fieldhouse as well as a substantial monetary contribution for the new lights at Koenig Park totaling over \$150,000 in contributions. When the company that supplied the rides for this years festival left some tire ruts at Koenig Park as they removed their equipment our VYO will be paying 100% for the repairs, which includes our manpower. Also the reminder that the VYO pays 100% of security details for the entire festival and pays an employee for help cleaning all weekend.

Please call 911 to report any suspicious or illegal activity.

Please contact me anytime with any questions, comments or concerns on City issues at rbemmes@readingohio.org or call me at 513-509-8619.

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

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

TREASURER: Brenda Owens:

- May was a good month. We are up nearly 5% for the month and are continuing to make good progress on the year.

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**City of Reading
May 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	\$175,888	31.7%
April	\$441,112	\$479,159	\$501,122	\$480,695	-4.1%
May	\$73,112	\$73,028	\$45,617	\$65,046	42.6%
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	\$875,800	
YTD Progress	\$795,350	\$893,603	\$851,286	\$875,800	2.9%

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	\$532,355	-5.2%
April	\$701,491	\$733,139	\$732,277	\$730,171	-0.3%
May	\$480,917	\$502,943	\$546,264	\$555,166	1.6%
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	\$3,062,495	
YTD Progress	\$2,843,461	\$3,014,941	\$3,072,887	\$3,062,495	-0.3%

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	\$36,568	-37.0%
April	\$231,557	\$162,557	\$222,222	\$238,651	7.4%
May	\$13,048	\$26,006	\$29,170	\$31,359	7.5%
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	\$351,632	
YTD Progress	\$384,874	\$350,480	\$461,404	\$351,632	-23.8%

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	\$683,250	-0.4%
March	\$699,095	\$747,711	\$753,278	\$744,811	-1.1%
April	\$1,374,159	\$1,374,855	\$1,455,621	\$1,449,518	-0.4%
May	\$567,077	\$601,977	\$621,052	\$651,572	4.9%
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	\$4,289,927	
YTD Progress	\$4,023,685	\$4,259,024	\$4,385,579	\$4,289,927	-2.2%

Total Refunds	2023	\$666,149	2024	\$104,275	2025	\$128,186	2026	\$95,922
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Brenda A. Owens- Treasurer 06/01/26

AUDITOR: Sabrina Smith: (No Report, Absent)

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

FINANCE: Andy Bronner

Finance Committee meeting on Wednesday June 10th at 6:30 in the Caucus room to review the 2027 budget draft. We'll be looking to have a budget first reading on June 16, with a Public Hearing on July 7.

UTILITIES, LANDS & BUILDINGS: Mark Bishop

Stats for the May 19 meeting:

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Live viewership: 537

Archived viewership: 224

Audio only listeners: 324

An update was provided regarding the audio disruption that occurred during the previous meeting's livestream. At the time, it was initially believed that the issue may have been caused by severe weather conditions, as the building occasionally experiences internet connectivity problems during storms.

Following further investigation, it was determined that the issue originated with Vimeo, the platform used for streaming and hosting the meeting broadcast. Vimeo updated its software and changed the destination address for the audio feed during the meeting. Although the system had been properly configured and tested beforehand, the midstream change prevented the audio from being uploaded correctly.

The issue was identified and corrected shortly afterward. By the following morning, the complete video, including audio, had been restored and made available online.

Councilman, Mark Bishop, also addressed concerns regarding residents contacting city contractors and vendors directly about technical or operational issues. He asked residents not to contact vendors directly, as city staff are generally aware of issues as they arise and work with vendors to resolve them. Those seeking information about ongoing issues were encouraged to contact Safety Service Director, Patrick Ross, instead, who can provide updates and explanations when appropriate. Mr. Bishop expressed appreciation for the work performed by the city's contractors and vendors and emphasized the importance of allowing them to focus on their responsibilities without unnecessary interruptions.

ZONING, PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT: Dave Powell: *(No Report)*

LAWS & CONTRACTS: Katie Eadicicco

First I would like to announce that I will be having a Laws and Contracts Committee meeting next Wednesday, June 10 at 6:30 PM in council chambers.

I also wanted to address Mr. Daum's comments from our last meeting, which I was not present, saying that there was an email that I sent to several people with 3 attachments on November 23rd. I'm not sure what email Mr. Daum is referring to. I looked back through my email. November 23rd was a Sunday and the Sunday before Thanksgiving so I'm sure I was busy cleaning and preparing to host almost 40 people at my house that Thursday. However, there were 3 emails that I sent that day. For context, I did email everyone on council and some in the administration on November 19th suggesting that council comment after ODOT's presentation during their public forum. On November 23rd, Mr. Boehner emailed me saying "This sounds good to me, can we get Kevin on board with these ground rules?" To which I replied: "I'll ask him, but I don't think it'll be a problem." Of course, this became null after I talked to Patrick on the phone and was told that council will have our own meeting to discuss the ODOT plan and ask questions and that's what we ended up doing so I was cool with it. Also, on November 23rd, I replied to Mr. Thamann's email asking if I knew if ODOT was presenting new drawings during the public forum, saying "I'm not sure. I thought Bo said they might present some changes." The last email I sent on the

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23rd was a response to Mr. Mattscheck when he emailed asking for the latest copy of the council rules. Before I could reply, he emailed that he found the last ones that were emailed out to which I replied: “Good! Sorry I just saw this. Been cleaning all day!” And that’s it. I’m more than happy to share the email that Mr. Daum is referring to, but I don’t believe it’s from November 23rd.

And since I missed the last meeting, I wanted to talk about some of the communications that were read. Now, I don’t want to disregard anyone’s comments or concerns. I take that all to heart and we do listen. I always encourage folks on my page to contact us with concerns, ideas, or suggestions and to attend meetings, and ask questions. And there does seem to be a lot of concerns, however, I attended the Memorial Day festival and talked to a lot of people. All I heard were positive and encouraging comments. I run into people a lot around town, at Kroger, Walmart, etc., and always receive positive comments about the work that council is doing, that we’re doing a great job, to keep it up, to not get discouraged, etc. This is important to share, because I think these comments are just as valid. And I love the work that we do on council and I’m proud of what we’ve accomplished. It can be hard work, and it’s undoubtedly been a rough few months, so these comments are always good to hear. Again, I’m not discounting any negative comments, and I feel that they are valid and should be heard, but don’t represent the entirety of the city. That’s one of the things I love about this town is we have a lot of different voices, and we have a strong community that cares.

On my page, I also try to explain council’s role in the city and our responsibilities on my page and keep an open dialogue with residents. I’ve talked about what council can and can’t do, and how our city government is set up. I’ve discussed the Crosden report on my page, as well as blighted properties. I try to share as much information as I legally can and without Facebook limiting my reach.

I do understand the frustration with blighted properties, believe me. However, the city has to follow laws and codes. We can’t bulldoze a property that we don’t own, and we can’t tell someone to give us the property just because it’s blighted. Property owners have rights. We have to abide by those rights. These aren’t just the city’s laws, these are state laws, Ohio Revised Code, etc. I think Randy Cook does a great job and is Johnny on the spot whenever I’ve contacted him about a property. I think he’s accomplished a lot in the short time he’s been with the city.

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY: Shelly Kroeger:

Police Department run count for May 2026

Calls for service	1,091
Auto Accidents	29
Booking Original Charges	71
Warrants Served	52

Citations Issued

Hamilton County	19
Arlington Heights	16
Juvenile	1
Reading Mayor’s	176
Total Citations	212

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Fire Departments run count for May 2026

EMS Responses	234
Fire Responses	52
Total Responses	286

Police Runs

Implementation of fees for records and video requests

7 OVI's (5 being crash related) (1 OVI subject had loaded firearm in backseat)

71 total incident reports taken

5-4 Lakeshore Dr./driver refused to cooperate on traffic stop; window broken subject removed arrested
5/6 Bolser Dr. /intoxicated subjects disputing. 1 arrested for agg menacing other arrested for weapons while intoxicated (9mm recovered)
5/6 3rd St. Burglary reported. Forced entry. Electronics stolen no one home at time of offense
5/9 3rd St Domestic violence female arrested
5/10 Koenig Park / 2 subjects m & f overdosing in park; Narcan given and cited for disorderly conduct
5/14 Alwil Dr / Suicidal subject missing. later found. Firearm held for safekeeping
5/14 Reading Rd – juv. Arrested for domestic violence. Resisted arrest
5/16 4th st / intoxicated female Maced officers. 1 officer dislocated shoulder now back to duty. Female maced and tased. Charged with assault on P.O.
5/18 Willow St - couple both arrested for domestic violence against each other
5/21 **Gebert St Previous DV in March direct indictment for upgraded felonious assault due to injuries recognized; HCSO fugitive task force looking for him**
5/27 Krylon – suspicious vehicle arrested occupants included felony drugs poss.
5/28 Reading Rd. Pedestrian struck by vehicle. Pedestrian then damaged striking vehicles car. Under investigation
5-29 I-75 partial closure causing Semi's to use Columbia/Benson. Contacted OHDOT/Project Manager.
Trucks rerouted 5/30 - June 1

FOIA / RECORD REQUEST COSTS SCHEDULE

The cost for copying records using normal photocopy machines, including paper cost, machine cost, toner cost, drum maintenance, and labor costs (video, per HB 315):

Documents

Emailed (documents and photos)	Limited; not permitted
CD (documents and photos only)	\$ 0.50 per disk/ cover

Copies

8½ x 11 and 8½ x 14 page	\$0.15 each page after 15 pages (black and white) \$0.25 for color photos
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Reproduction Media

DVD-R (Video/ Audio only)	\$45.00 per Video , (individual cruiser or officer/ camera)
USB Flash Drive starting at 8mg	Additional \$20.00 (plus above listed cost of request)

***Note: All video requests will be paid for upfront... NO EXCEPTIONS!**

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Other

Envelope (other than letter size) \$1.00

*Requests are to be picked up during business hours at Reading Police Department by appointment only

*Cash payment accepted by Police Department / Make checks payable to City of Reading Police Department

Fire Department News

Public education events were provided at Serendipity Preschool.

Multiple Reading High students job shadowed.

Fire truck tour provided to Reading Elementary 1st graders.

Station tour provided to Reading Elementary 3rd graders.

CPR/AED awareness training was provided for Reading High School Health class.

Multiple members participated in the Memorial Day Parade and cemetery service.

SERVICE: Bob Boehner:

Reading Public Works Council Report June 2, 2026

City crews have been picking up brush and leaves

City crews have made asphalt repairs throughout the city

City crews repaired a storm sewer at the dead end of Carol Dr

City crews repaired water line at the service garage

City crew repaired water main leak on Siebenthaler Dr

City crews painted all building's and dugouts at Koenig Park

City crews tore out and poured new concrete at different locations throughout the city for sidewalk repair from water main breaks

City crews have been repairing pavers on West Benson St

City crews have been painting the soccer fields throughout the city

City crew pulled maintenance on the solenoid valve at the pump house

City crews have been mowing grass throughout the city

City crews have been cleaning the streets with the street Sweeper

City crew repaired a catch basin at North and Market St

City crews have transported several loads of mulch to Irvine to clean up the service area

City crew replaced a toilet at the pool and repaired a window

City crews were preparing for Memorial Day weekend mulching, street painting

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RECREATION: Scott Thamann:

I'd like to thank our Public Works crew and all of the volunteers who made the VYO Memorial Day festival a success, despite rough weather.

New playground sets have been installed at Flege Park and Hilltop Park. A new set should be installed at Cherryfield Park this week.

Excavation for the dog park is scheduled to begin on June 15.

OTHER BUSINESS:

LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

READING OF RESOLUTIONS:

(1) A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A GAS AGGREGATION AGREEMENT WITH A GAS SUPPLIER RECOMMENDED BY ENERGY ALLIANCES, INC., THE COMMUNITY'S ENERGY AGGREGATION CONSULTANT AND TO ENTER INTO SUBSEQUENT AGREEMENTS WITH REGARD TO THIS PROGRAM TO STABILIZE AND REDUCE COSTS AS NEEDED AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. *(Second Reading)*

Motion made by Mr. Bronner, seconded by Mr. Thamann, to suspend the rule that requires a third reading. Motion carried by a 6-0-1 roll call vote (Mr. Powell, Mr. Bronner, Mr. Boehner, Mr. Thamann, Mrs. Kroeger & Mrs. Eadicicco voting "yes," and Mr. Bishop recusing himself from the vote). Motion made by Mrs. Eadicicco, seconded by Mr. Bronner to adopt the resolution. Motion carried by a 6-0-1 roll call vote (Mr. Powell, Mr. Bronner, Mr. Boehner, Mr. Thamann, Mrs. Kroeger & Mrs. Eadicicco voting "yes," and Mr. Bishop recusing himself from the vote).

RESOLUTION ADOPTED

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2026-16R

READING OF ORDINANCES:

(1) AN ORDINANCE AWARDING A CONTRACT TO RACK AND BALLAUER EXCAVATING CO., INC. FOR THE EAST CREST, WEST CREST AND CRESTMONT IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED ONE MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED THOUSAND (\$1,700,00.00) DOLLARS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2026-17

**CITY OF READING, OHIO
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION
JUNE 02, 2026 – 7:30 PM**

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

Bob Boehner:

I would like to take a moment to thank all the residents of Reading that came out to vote on May 5, 2026.

My committee is working with a citizen lead group with members that include construction, engineering and zoning experience.

I will serve as the Secretary of the committee and hope we can meet here in Council Chambers. We would like to have residents come to the meetings to express their thoughts and concerns about a new City Hall, Police and Fire Stations.

We will also ask the Police, Fire and Administration Departments what their individual needs are.

Council members are invited to attend to offer their input.

Once we have a plan, Council, the Administration and the Auditor will have to see if we can borrow the money to get the projects done.

Shelly Kroeger: Stated that the January 29 meeting had been announced on Facebook and believed it had also been posted on the city's website. Mr. Daum responded that, while a January 27 meeting notice appeared on the website, the January 29 meeting notice did not.

In response, Councilwoman, Shelly Kroeger, noted that she has a screenshot showing a Facebook post published on January 28 announcing the January 29 meeting.

Katie Eadicicco: I wanted to follow up on the Guivadaun situation. I think that it was explained well during our last meeting. It's a private company who owns the land and they're not required to send us information on their findings, but as Patrick said, the city did reach out and are trying to work with them and is working with several organizations to see what can be done. We're not sitting idly by. That said, I do think it might be a good idea for peace of mind sake to test some soil in surrounding areas. I do want to remind folks that for many years Reading was a heavy industrial town and we had quite a few Brownfield sites that have been cleaned up. The Millcreek, thanks in a big part to the Millcreek Alliance, is much cleaner now than when I was a kid! There's a reason we have environmental regulations even if that get a lot of crap.

I do want to commend Rooted in Communities and the Millcreek Alliance for bringing attention to some dumping that was happening in the creek. I've been following this situation and I'm glad that the EPA is involved and that we're getting updates. Thank you to these groups for being vigilant in that area.

And finally, I want to ask about the Skyworks project. I drive past there almost every day now and yes, that is a gigantic parking lot, however our zoning regulations require a crazy number of parking spots for businesses. Now,

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I can't speak on whether or not that's the case here, I just know as a previous member of the BZA that was something that many businesses came to appeal and I believe it's something that Mr. Powell's committee is looking to change, and as a council member I was not involved in anyway in this project (that would be the planning commission and zoning board of appeals) but I was wondering if it's possible the city could plant some trees in the right-of-way between the sidewalk and street. I think that would help improve the look of that area.

Mayor Bo Bemmes explained that the previous head of the building department had approved the development plans, and legal counsel advised that the city could not reverse that approval.

Despite those limitations, the city has continued working with the developer to improve the project, particularly through additional landscaping. Council indicated that efforts are underway to increase the number of trees planted in the area. While the Public Works Department has concerns about maintaining trees within public rights-of-way, Mr. Bemmes stated they would continue working with the developer to add as much landscaping as feasible.

Councilwoman, Shelly Kroeger, acknowledged that the appearance of the site has improved compared to earlier stages of development.

Andy Bronner: Provided an update on public feedback regarding the proposed ODOT road diet project.

At a previous meeting, he announced a goal of receiving 260 resident responses before making a final decision on the proposal. The figure represented approximately 10 percent of voter turnout in the May 5 election and was intended as a benchmark for gauging public sentiment.

As of the meeting, he reported receiving:

- 22 emails expressing opposition to the project
- 2 additional responses from a shared email submitted by a husband and wife
- 2 phone calls expressing opposition

This brought the total number of responses to 26.

Mr. Bronner explained that all correspondence was being organized and tracked for future reference. While appreciative of the responses received so far, he noted that the total remained well below the benchmark he had established.

Councilman, Bob Boehner, raised a question regarding whether feedback should be gathered from the entire city or primarily from residents of the ward most directly affected by the project.

In response, it was argued that the road diet proposal would impact the entire community rather than a single ward. Therefore, citywide input was considered appropriate and valuable.

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Mayor, Bo Bemmes, also noted that the city's notification system and outreach efforts, including public surveys, were distributed broadly rather than being limited to a particular neighborhood or ward. Mr. Bemmes emphasized that public safety remained a primary consideration in evaluating the proposal. He explained that community feedback was important because the project could affect residents throughout the city.

Councilman, Mark Bishop, raised the launch of a citywide survey designed to gather public feedback on the proposed road diet project.

Following earlier discussions, city staff created and distributed a SurveyMonkey questionnaire to residents through the city's communication channels. Council members reported that the survey had been made widely available and encouraged residents to participate.

The survey was intended to provide broader feedback than individual emails while also allowing respondents to submit comments. Mer. Bishop indicated that survey participation appeared to exceed the number of direct emails received, though final response totals were not yet available.

Residents are encouraged to continue submitting both survey responses and direct correspondence.

Council members discussed the role of public input and professional expertise in evaluating the road diet proposal.

Mr. Bronner noted that many of the concerns expressed by residents—including potential traffic delays, reduced travel speeds, and changes to roadway capacity—had already been discussed extensively during public meetings. He stated that representatives from ODOT had provided detailed explanations and supporting data addressing many of those concerns.

He further explained that, absent a substantial level of opposition from residents, he was inclined to place significant weight on the recommendations and analysis provided by transportation professionals. However, he emphasized that residents still had ample opportunity to share their views through emails, phone calls, and survey responses before any final decision was made.

Council concluded the discussion by encouraging continued public participation and reiterating that no final decision had yet been reached regarding the proposed project.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Boehner moved to adjourn. Mrs. Kroeger seconded. Motion carried by voice vote.
The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 pm.

X _____
Carla Bronner
Clerk of Council

X _____
Kevin Mattscheck
President of Council