CITY OF READING, OHIO
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION
JUNE 6, 2023 – 7:30 PM

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

CALL TO ORDER
President Mr. Daum called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
President Mr. Daum 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 Kacher.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: None

PUBLIC HEARING
Mr. Daum accepted the first motion by Katie Eadicicco, second motion by Mr. Bronner to begin the Public Hearing at 7:31 p.m. Motion passed by voice vote.

Linda Fitzgerald (Economic Development Director) presented Council and the Public with background history regarding the Proposed DORA for the City of Reading:

BACKGROUND

- **April 30, 2015** Ohio General Assembly under ORC 4301.82 created legislation permitting open containers in areas defined as Designated Outdoor Refreshment Areas (DORA). Would allow customers to purchase and consume alcoholic beverages within the DORA

- **How City of Reading qualifies as a DORA:**

*Municipal corporation with a **population of 35,000** or less (Reading's population 10,467 in 2021);

***Minimum of 4 permit holders** in the proposed DORA (Reading's proposed DORA has 10), and;

*Proposed DORA is **150 acres or less** (Reading's proposed DORA is 6.72 acres)

- Location -Proposed DORA extends on Reading Rd. from Koehler Ave. north to Halker Ave. and on W. Benson St. from Reading Rd. west to Wachendorf St. in RBD

- **Hours** would be Monday -Sunday 12PM-10PM

- **Purpose** of DORA is to:

*Draw more patrons to Reading restaurants and retailers;

*Capitalize on Reading's strong sense of community by allowing residents and patrons to mingle and stroll while enjoying their favorite alcoholic beverage, and;

*Generate untapped potential to trigger positive economic development and exposure for businesses and the Reading community in general

- In November 2022 RBD formed planning committee to work with City administration and City Council's Laws and Contracts Committe to inform businesses about how DORA works, to seek their support and complete the required application.
- After thorough review of the proposed DORA Police Chief Bryan Edens and Fire Chief Todd Owens provided input and lent their support for the DORA proposal
- **8 area restaurants and bars** also prepared letters of support as well as support from RBD Board and Chamber Board (Foley's out of business)
- Mayor Bemmes filed the DORA application with City Council on **May 2, 2023**
- As required by law, notice of Public Hearing was published in Cincinnati Court Index on **May 9, 2023** and posted outside city hall

WHAT'S INCLUDED IN DORA APPLICATION

- **Map and Survey** of proposed DORA with boundaries and acreage (Exhibit A)
- General statement of **nature and types of establishments** located in DORA (Exhibit A). Primarily commercial in nature including small-scale neighborhood retail, service businesses, professional uses, and restaurants. Area also includes some non-conforming single-family and multi-family housing
- Statement that DORA will encompass **no less than 4 permit holders** (Exhibit A)
- **Zoning Map** and documentation that proposed DORA in Accord With City Zoning. – As shown on Zoning Map (Exhibit A) properties on W. Benson St. from Reading Rd. to Wachendorf are zoned "West Benson Street Mixed Use Design Review District". Properties on Reading Rd. from Halker St. south to Koehler Ave. are zoned "Reading Road General Commercial Design Review District" or "Downton Reading Mixed Use Review."
- **Signage sample-location and spacing** in Exhibit B. Signs mounted and located at all street intersections along the boundary of the DORA (Entering or Exiting DORA-drink responsibly)
- **Public Health & Safety Plan** (Exhibit D)

Police

*Reading Police responsible for providing law enforcement services within DORA.

*A uniformed officer will be assigned to DORA as part of their routine patrol route with responsibility for providing services within the DORA. If above average # of people in DORA the on-duty supervisor may assign additional officers and/or assign an officer to specifically patrol the DORA

*For planned events in DORA that may draw larger than normal attendance, the organizer of the event will be required to hire additional agency personnel

Fire
Reading Fire department responsible for providing Fire, Rescue and EMS within DORA

At Fire Chief's discretion if event in DORA draws a larger than normal attendance, event organizer may be responsible for hiring additional agency personnel specifically assigned to DORA

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY MEASURES

*In accordance with ORC 4301.82(F)(1)(g) beer wine and intoxicating liquor shall only be served in the official DORA cup. Used cups must be disposed of before entering any establishment of a qualified permit holder. Cannot enter premises of an establishment while possessing an open container of beer, wine or intoxicating liquor purchased elsewhere.

*Official cups produced and provided by City. Each qualified permit holder must order and purchase cups through City. SSD can withhold sale of cups to any establishment found not in compliance with local, state or federal law. Cup charges collected will only be used to fund the direct costs incurred by the City in administration of DORA or otherwise benefit operations within DORA

* Permit holder's premises must be located in DORA and the permit held by the permit holder must have DORA designation

SANITATION PLAN (Exhibit E)

- 10 receptacles on Reading Rd. and 15 receptacles on West Benson St.
- Trash receptacles will be serviced by City on regular basis/schedule. Dr. of Public Works will monitor receptacles and coordinate for additional collections if needed.
- Additional receptacles may be moved or additional trash receptacles added at discretion of Public Works Dr.
- Each qualified permit holder in DORA shall be responsible for collection of litter near or around their premises added in DORA at discretion of Dr. of Public Works.

Dr. of Public Works with input from SSD shall evaluate need and frequency of street sweeping and servicing receptacles and if needed make modification to Sanitation Plan.

Katie Eadicicco then gave the following remarks:
I would like to make a few remarks about my thoughts on adding a DORA in Reading. I will admit that when I first heard about it, I was apprehensive. I live in the Valley, near the Bridal District. I grew up in Reading during a time when there were a lot more bars than there are now! So, I had my concerns.

But once I learned more, my opinions changed. I have read A LOT about DORA over the years. I even set up a Google alert that, yes, would sometimes get confused with Dora the Explorer, but nonetheless I read about what was happening in other cities across Ohio and why many were enacting or looking to enact DORA's.

Here is a list of current DORA's just in the Greater Cincinnati Area:

- Downtown Cincinnati at the Banks
- Milford's DORA includes Main Street, parts of Water Street and Lila Avenue, and Riverside Park
- Loveland's DORA includes many local businesses including Bishop's Quarter, Casual Pint and others, and encompasses Nisbet Park.
- The city of Hamilton was one of the first DORAs in Greater Cincinnati
- Bellevue in their Bellevue Entertainment District
- Deerfield Township's DORA encompasses Deerfield Towne Centre

- Cheviot
- Montgomery
- Mason
- Liberty Township at Liberty Center
- Westwood
- Middletown
- Oxford
- Wyoming – who's city manager is quoted in a Cincinnati Magazine saying it has been a boon for businesses
- Lebanon in their Central Business District
- Mariemont
- Blue Ash in Summit Park
- New Richmond
- Ripley
- Fort Thomas
- Sharonville in their downtown Loop
- Covington in their Entertainment District
- Harrison in The District

And more and more cities around Cincinnati are looking to add DORAs.

This is not something that is put in place willy nilly. There is a lot of work that goes into this – a lot of research, mapping, surveying, meetings, talking to local businesses, and paperwork – making sure that all the I's are dotted and the T's are crossed. I believe this process was started around 2 years ago by Nick Diederich, the then president of the Reading Bridal District. He met with my committee and the Chamber of Commerce. A committee was formed within the bridal district to help move the process along and that committee as well as my committee have since worked with the city's administration and Linda, our economic developer.

There are a lot of reasons why I support a DORA here in Reading. One being that council will hold a lot of power regarding DORA. If it's a disaster or causing problems and trouble, council holds the power to vote and eliminate DORA or shorten the location. On the other hand, if it's a roaring success, council has the power to vote and expand the area - for instance if a developer is looking to build on Reading Rd. and wants to be included, we can vote to do so.

Just a reminder that the DORA area is limited, and signs will be placed at entrances and exits, and beverages must be in the official DORA cup within that area. This means that there won't be people walking all over the city with open containers – only in the DORA area and in the DORA cup.

There is a Public Health and Safety Plan that has been approved by our Police and Fire Chiefs, as well as our Safety Service Director. There's also a sanitation plan in place completed by our Chief of Public Works.

Another big reason why I support a DORA is because of the potential for development and for a boost to our local economy. Some people might say I'm a dreamer or say that I think too big for Reading, but I think we deserve it, whether you live here, work here, own a business or property here. I see what other communities are doing and I want that for us. I want to set a high bar for Reading and look towards the future. There's the possibility of the highway overpass coming down in a few years. That opens up a lot of land in Reading – land that can be developed and utilized. I hope that the Triangle Bike Trail will eventually connect through Reading, and we can build off that. I recognize the importance of the Bridal District to our city's economy, and I feel that there's a lot we can do in that area. I see potential all along Reading Road. We're a centrally located city with access to 3 major highways. I want people to come here to shop, to dine, and to hang out. But I also want our current residents to do the same. We have some great and unique restaurants and stores already with hopes of attracting more, and again, we deserve it. A DORA is a step in the right direction to seeing this through.

Police Chief Edens confirmed that both he and Fire Chief Owens are in full support of the DORA for the City of Reading.

The following are received emails for communication regarding the proposed DORA for the City of Reading:

(1) I am the owner of The Queen's Lace dress shop on Benson. The purpose of this note is to provide my support for the Dora program in the Reading Bridal District. I will not be able to join the meetings on June 6 and July 11. I am 100% supportive of this program for the area. It will definitely enhance the experience for brides and their bridal parties. I think it would also encourage people to stay longer, likely resulting in more money being spent in the district for food and entertainment. Thank you for your consideration.

Be well, Kim Kraus, The Queen's Lace Owner

(2) Dear Reading City Council and Mayor Bo,

I apologize that I was not able to attend this meeting in person due to a previously scheduled family vacation, but I do appreciate the privilege and honor to have my letter read in this very important meeting.

Since 2015, the Ohio Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA) has transformed the way people enjoy public spaces in Ohio communities. It has now spread to over 25 cities and towns across our great state.

One of the most significant advantages of the DORA program is that it has revitalized downtown areas and boosted local economies. It has drawn people out of their homes and back into public spaces, helping to create a vibrant atmosphere that supports small businesses and tourism. With the amazing benefit of having the largest bridal district in America located in Reading, this would only further increase the experience of this destination.

I vision the Reading DORA district would grow into pedestrian-friendly zones with outdoor seating, entertainment, and art installations that promote community engagement.

The DORA program is so beneficial to both businesses and patrons by allowing people to shop, dine, and socialize in a safe environment while enjoying a drink. It gives patrons the chance to responsibly consume alcohol while exploring Reading's unique offerings and trying new places. It also allows existing businesses to extend their reach and increase sales. The draw of DORA in Reading would increase the growth of new businesses wanting to be part of our great district.

As an owner of four businesses in the Reading Bridal District, I am 100% in favor of the DORA being implemented.

Sincerely and Respectfully, Allen Hill, Lace Bridal Couture Owner

(3) We are very enthusiastic about the prospect of the City of Reading having a Designated Outdoor

Refreshment Area (DORA). As you know our bar and restaurant is located in the heart of the Reading Bridal District, the largest bridal district in the US.

We pride ourselves on being a popular local gathering place for Reading residents and businesses, but at the same time would like to strategically market our establishment to prospective brides and their families, as well as to people in the Greater Cincinnati Region. A DORA would help us reach this goal by attracting more patrons by offering them a safe and fun way to enjoy their favorite beverages while strolling along historic West Benson Street.

We have a deep and longstanding commitment to the City of Reading given the fact that we live, work and operate our business here. The DORA will capitalize and enhance all that is good about the City of Reading by giving local businesses an opportunity to expand their marketing base and spread the word about all that the City has to offer.

Good luck on completing the DORA process, and please let me know how Redwine & Co. can help support this exciting initiative.

Sincerely, Lindsey Redwine, Redwine & Co. Owner

(4) I am the owner of Strongs Brick Oven Pizzeria at 8794 Reading Road in the City of Reading. Since opening our pizzeria in December 2019 we have been warmly received by the Reading community and pleased with their efforts to support local business. I was not surprised then to hear that the City is proposing a Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA) to alJow customers to purchase and consume alcoholic beverages within the designated boundaries of the outdoor DORA. It is my understanding the DORA would extend on Reading Rd. from Koehler Ave. north to Halker Ave. and within the Reading Bridal District. Hours will be Monday through Sunday 12 PM-IOPM.

The DORA is a wonderful way to capitalize on Reading's strong sense of community by allowing residents and patrons to mingle and stroll while enjoying their favorite alcoholic beverage. It will also generate untapped potential to trigger positive economic development and exposure for our pizzeria and the Reading community in general.

We are proud to be a business partner with the City of Reading, Reading Chamber of Commerce and the Reading Bridal District and we are excited to support the City's application to the Ohio Department of Commerce, Division of Liquor Control for the DORA. Please let us know if there is anything else we can do to help make the DORA a reality.

Sincerely, Amanda Knight, Strongs Brick Oven Pizzeria Owner

(5) We are excited to participate in the proposed Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA) currently being proposed by the Reading Bridal District and the City of Reading. We are the proud owners of four businesses in the Reading District, and for two of these we are permitted liquor holders: Lace Bridal Couture at 100 W. Benson St. and Winey Bride at 218 W. Benson St.

We are fully invested in helping to facilitate the continued success of the Reading Bridal District (RBD), the largest bridal district in the U.S. Not only do we own properties and businesses in the District, but Allen is a former President of the RBD Board of Directors and Kelly currently serves on the Board which was instrumental in preparing the DORA application.

We wholehearted support the City's application for the DORA and believe it will attract even more people to the RBD to enjoy the many services and special events offered each year including the Fall in Love with the RBD Bridal Show and the Reading Holiday Walk.

If adopted by the Reading City Council, our two establishments will agree to participate as a DORA Designated permit holder in compliance with all applicable laws and provisions.

Sincerely, Kelly & Allen Hill

(6) Benson's Tavern is pleased to hear of the City of Reading's intention to designate the Reading Bridal District (W. Benson St. from Reading Rd. west to Wachendorf St.) and Reading Rd. from Koehler Ave. to Halker St. as a Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA).

As a permitted liquor holder within the City of Reading, I heartily endorse the City's application for the DORA and believe it will provide a safe environment for our patrons to enjoy outdoor refreshments and camaraderie. Our restaurant/bar recently reopened after a devastating fire. We anticipate that the DORA will attract new patrons to support our business anc the other businesses in the DORA. We see this as a "game changer" as we work hard to restablish our restaurant and bar.

If adopted by the Reading City Council. Our establishment will agree to participate as a DORA Designated permit holder in compliance with all applicable laws and provisions.

Sincerely, Benson's Tavern Owner

(7) I am writing to voice our strong support for the City's proposal to designate an Outdoor Refreshment Area ("DORA") that would encompass West Benson Street from Reading Road west to the Reading corporation line and Reading Road from Koehler Avenue to Halker Avenue.

The Reading Community Arts Center (RCAC) has recently celebrated its one-year anniversary. We are proud to provide the City and its residents arts enrichment classes, an art gallery, and a beautiful venue for weddings and events. In addition to serving as the local cultural arts center, we are working hard to expand recognition and use of our venue and offerings to those in the Greater Cincinnati Region. Having a DORA will definitely help create an inviting and fun environment for people to enjoy the arts center. We see it as a way to attract additional patrons and build on the Reading Bridal District's unique brand.

The DO RA will also add to the vitality of the Reading Bridal District by responsibly easing outdoor drinking restrictions during festivals and special events like the Fall in Love with the Reading Bridal District Show and the annual Holiday Walk.

We appreciate the City's efforts to support local businesses and stand ready to assist you in any way to help make the DORA a reality in Reading.

Sincerely, Sandy Pierce-Harsch, Executive Director, Reading Community Arts Center

(8) As a member of the Reading Chamber of Commerce's Board of Directors, a business leader and someone who cares about the on-going success of this community, I am writing this letter to express my strong support for the DORA and to urge you to consider its implementation. I believe that adopting it would be a significant step towards fostering economic growth, enhancing cultural experiences, and promoting a vibrant social atmosphere.

The DORA represents an innovative approach to revitalizing our public spaces and bringing people together. By designating a specific area where individuals can freely carry and consume alcoholic beverages in a controlled and regulated environment, we can unlock a host of benefits for both residents and visitors alike, as well as provide patronage to our businesses.

This will create opportunities for our small businesses to thrive. The provision of DORA cups, which can only be used within the designated area, will encourage patrons to explore various establishments, thus boosting sales and generating additional tax revenue for our city. This influx of commerce will not only support existing businesses but also attract new ventures, ultimately leading to job creation and economic prosperity.

Furthermore, the DORA will enhance our community's cultural experiences. By providing a designated area for socializing and enjoying alcoholic beverages, residents and visitors can gather in a convivial atmosphere, fostering a sense of camaraderie and community spirit. This will contribute to the overall vibrancy and livability of our city, creating a welcoming environment for people of all ages and backgrounds. Additionally, the DORA can serve as a venue for hosting special events, concerts, and festivals, attracting visitors from neighboring communities and bolstering our reputation as a destination for entertainment and cultural enrichment.

It is important to note that the implementation of a DORA does not imply a compromise on public safety, but rather allows for strict regulations and oversight to ensure responsible alcohol consumption. The establishment of clear guidelines regarding permitted areas, operating hours, and the monitoring of activities will help maintain order and prevent any potential misuse or abuse. Collaborations with law enforcement agencies and local organizations will further enhance public safety and address any concerns regarding potential negative impacts.

In conclusion, the adoption of this DORA has the potential to bring numerous benefits to our community, including economic growth, enhanced cultural experiences, and a more vibrant social atmosphere. I strongly urge you to consider and support this initiative, as it aligns with the vision of a thriving and dynamic city.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I trust that you will consider the positive impact that this DORA will have on our community.

Sincerely, Matthew E. Painter

AUDIENCE ASKING PARTICIPATION REGARDING THE DORA:

(1) Tim Wilkinson: Approves of the DORA & the positive effects on the City. Only concern – plastic cups for recycling. Is there a plan for that?

Mark Bishop Response: We're getting new trash & recycling cans. Once installed, we'll have more than there are now.

(2) Melissa Lohr (Owner of "Beautiful Memories Event Planning," on the Board of Directors for RBD & Chair of the Fall In Love event) – Approves of the DORA

(3) Daniel Michael (Images by Daniel Michael Owner) – Approves the benefits of the DORA to businesses. Believes that most concerns are based in fear as opposed to the reality of the statistics.

(4) Nick Diedrich (White Wisteria Bride & Boutique Owner) – Approves of DORA for the growth & revenue of the City.

(5) Brad Daniels (President of Reading Chamber of Commerce) –Voiced the Chamber of Commerce supports the DORA

(6) Debbie Peak (Reading Floral Boutique Owner): Approves of the DORA and spoke to positive business growth

(7) Tony Gertz (Owner of Gertz Law & Lives in the Bridal District) - Reported a recent event of multiple gunshots in the

Bridal District. Not opposed to the DORA but wants to make sure the DORA rules are understood fully, clearly & correctly. Posed concern with the specifics of where DORA beverages can travel.

Chief Edens clarified: Cannot take into another liquor establishment but you can take a srink into a Bridal Store that is supporting the DORA.

Mr. Gertz specifically pointed out the Vicarious Liabilities law that could possibly fall back on the City of Reading.

(8) Rob Eberhart (Member of Reading Chamber of Commerce & Owns Slingshot) – Lives in an area where there is a DORA presently and has personally experienced families enjoying themselves in the DORA district.
as well as live music.

(9) Pat Ormond – Echoed that brand new trash and recycling cans paired next to each other will be strategically placed up and down Reading Road. In relation to the approved DORA cups, as long as it has a number 1, 2 or 5 on the bottom, it IS recyclable.

(10) Amy Riggler (640 Jefferson) – Spoke to potentially blocking off specific sidewalks to help with DORA traffic. Also spoke to the safety of the DORA patrons as well as residents (such as herself) that will be sharing this area.

COUNCIL QUESTIONS/RESPONSES:
Mr. Boehner: How many portelettes will be available?
Mr. Bemmes Response: None that Mr. Bemmes is aware of. The businesses supplying beverages will have bathrooms as will the other businesses who support the DORA district and its patrons. As for the safety aspect of the DORA, the City of Reading Administration is here for public Safety all day, every day.

(11) Mary-Lynn Ebrel (431 Pike Street): Spoke to current issues she's been experiencing with litter in her yard and most certainly doesn't want people urinating on her property. Is opposed to the DORA totally. Wants Reading to thrive but doesn't think this is the way to go about it. She does not want her home subjected to potential damage and or crime.

Motion made by Mrs. Eadicicco, seconded by Mrs. Kroeger to close the Public Hearing regarding the DORA for the City of Reading at 8:39 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote.

COMMUNICATIONS: None

GUEST SPEAKERS: None

AUDIENCE ASKING PARTICIPATION:
(1) Paula Executive (Director of the Cincinnati Public Library): Gave Council and the public an update on the Cincinnati & Hamilton County Public Library Master Plan – Facility improvements due to aging infrastructure.

(2) Pat Ormond (2720 Mapletree Ct) – Promoted the 4th of July Festival (July 1st & 2nd) at Koenig Park. New food offerings & kid activites this year. Fireworks will be on July 2nd (Sunday) night at 10 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

GUEST ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIAL REPORTS:

MAYOR: Robert "Bo" Bemmes:

- If anyone opted out of our electric aggregation program and would like to be back in, please call Energy Alliance at 513-794-5555. For the average home you can save approx. $30.00 per month.
- On May 22 the 5th 3rd bank in our City was robbed. The suspect was found on 3rd street in his home and was shot by an Amberly Village police officer when he opened his back door and aimed a gun at one of our officers. We want to thank all the Police departments that responded to assist us including Amberly, Lockland, Wyoming, Evendale, Hamilton County SWAT, and the FBI. We are very thankful that no one else was hurt. Chief Edens sent thank you notes to each department

that assisted us.
- Remember to lock your vehicles and don't leave valuable items in them.
- Please call our Police when you see any suspicious or illegal activity and report any vandalism immediately.
- PLEASE SLOW DOWN AS YOU DRIVE AND KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN FOR PEDESTRIANS, ESPECIALLY OUR YOUNG CHILDREN. PLEASE CALL OUR POLICE WHEN YOU WITNESS ANY SPEEDING OR RECKLESS DRIVING AS CATCHING DRIVERS IN THE ACT IS THE WAY TO CORRECT THIS DANGEROUS PROBLEM.
- Our Farmers Market is open every Friday from 4pm-7pm at the corner of Vine Street and Reading Road and will be open every Friday until September 29.
- We have applied for funding from the next round of SORTA Transit infrastructure Fund Grants for Landy Lane and Koehler Ave (Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority). We were awarded $265,000 to repave Columbia Avenue from Reading Road to Lockland in the 1st round of this Grant opportunity.
- I want to thank everyone who worked so hard to make sure we had another awesome Memorial Day Parade (the 114th annual). Our American Legion, the Parade Committee, our Police, Fire and Public Works Departments each worked very hard. I also want to thank everyone who marched or lined our streets to watch and ESP Media for filming the Parade and our Program at the Cemetery honoring those who gave their lives earning and defending the wonderful Freedoms we all get to enjoy every day living in the Greatest Country EVER.
- The VYO's Memorial weekend festival was another great success. Thanks to the many volunteers who worked, all who played softball and basketball and all who attended. The VYO is an incredible all volunteer organization that keeps close to 300 boys and girls busy each year playing basketball, softball, and baseball. All kids are given an opportunity to be on a team and learn the fundamentals of the game while being taught teamwork and sportsmanship.
- The UC Community Band will be performing at Koenig Park on Saturday June 17 at 7pm. Come enjoy an evening of Patriotic, Americana music.
- Our American Legions festival will be on July 1st and 2nd from 5 till 10pm with the Fireworks going off at 10pm on July 2. The Legions festival committee is determined to make this year's festival better with kids' rides coming back as well as three Food Trucks an expanded men's and women's softball tournament Bingo and more.
- The Taste or Reading will be held on August 26 with food trucks, crafts, performances by Reading High Schools Band and Dance Team.
- Our City Engineers are putting together several options and estimates for the Hunt Road landslide between Fuhrman and Waxwing.
- The fund raising for the Hilltop basketball court renovation in honor of Chad Richmond is ongoing.
- Congrats to all who are graduating from each of the excellent schools in our City. Congrats to our RHS Valedictorian Grace Longworth and Salutatorian Halaia Larkin
- Congrats to our Fraternal Order of Eagles Sycamore Aerie#1095 on their 118th anniversary as they were established in 1905

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

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

TREASURER: Brenda Owens

City of Reading
2023 May Income Tax Receipt Summary
With Prior Years Comparison

Individual Residents Income Taxes

	2020	2021	2022	2023	% Change 22 to 23
January	$110,812	$107,429	$79,333	$97,988	23.5%
February	$67,807	$45,896	$37,035	$62,179	67.9%
March	$89,577	$127,056	$131,391	$121,019	-7.9%
April	$109,428	$221,576	$457,756	$441,112	-3.6%
May	$48,987	$223,455	$102,421	$73,161	-28.6%
June	$99,289	$134,637	$107,043		
July	$337,009	$82,544	$28,939		
August	$71,990	$39,361	$36,571		
September	$106,778	$89,782	$79,408		
October	$93,081	$56,061	$63,966		
November	$76,487	$14,763	$64,047		
December	$96,708	$86,298	$46,897		
Yearly Totals	**$1,307,953**	**$1,228,857**	**$1,234,807**	**$795,459**	
YTD Progress	**$426,610**	**$725,412**	**$807,936**	**$795,459**	**-1.5%**

Payroll Withholding Income Taxes

	2020	2021	2022	2023	% Change 22 to 23
January	$539,671	$717,952	$689,143	$699,906	1.6%
February	$530,926	$462,760	$441,735	$483,701	9.5%
March	$419,609	$413,361	$434,394	$477,447	9.9%
April	$590,089	$801,135	$752,396	$701,491	-6.8%
May	$453,000	$490,963	$534,911	$480,917	-10.1%
June	$441,487	$484,864	$470,151		
July	$433,643	$507,334	$501,087		
August	$519,886	$566,411	$591,928		
September	$392,475	$411,837	$464,052		
October	$449,639	$549,184	$606,041		
November	$483,331	$545,750	$493,632		
December	$429,457	$432,363	$462,692		
Yearly Totals	**$5,683,214**	**$6,383,913**	**$6,442,162**	**$2,843,461**	
YTD Progress	**$2,533,295**	**$2,886,171**	**$2,852,578**	**$2,843,461**	**-0.3%**

Business Profits Income Taxes

	2020	2021	2022	2023	% Change 22 to 23
January	$22,258	$11,981	$48,907	$21,712	-55.6%
February	$18,896	$58,854	$24,719	$17,868	-27.7%
March	$77,585	$23,641	$210,097	$100,630	-52.1%
April	$26,014	$137,747	$274,272	$231,557	-15.6%
May	$21,905	$60,812	$42,806	$12,999	-69.6%
June	$39,477	$87,483	$399,300		
July	$95,430	$43,735	$15,804		
August	$80,398	$38,207	$22,399		
September	$77,959	$85,263	$336,599		
October	$32,831	$42,542	$22,564		
November	$17,874	$22,412	$15,798		
December	$26,952	$87,159	$48,456		
Yearly Totals	**$537,579**	**$699,835**	**$1,461,720**	**$384,765**	
YTD Progress	**$166,658**	**$293,034**	**$600,800**	**$384,765**	**-36.0%**

Total Income Taxes Collected

	2020	2021	2022	2023	% Change 22 to 23
January	$672,741	$837,361	$817,383	$819,606	0.3%
February	$617,629	$567,510	$503,488	$563,747	12.0%
March	$586,771	$564,058	$775,881	$699,095	-9.9%
April	$725,531	$1,160,458	$1,484,424	$1,374,159	-7.4%
May	$523,892	$775,230	$680,137	$567,077	-16.6%
June	$580,253	$706,984	$976,494		
July	$866,082	$633,613	$545,830		
August	$672,274	$643,978	$650,899		
September	$577,213	$586,882	$880,060		
October	$575,551	$647,787	$692,571		
November	$577,693	$582,925	$573,477		
December	$553,117	$605,819	$558,046		
Yearly Totals	**$7,528,746**	**$8,312,605**	**$9,138,690**	**$4,023,685**	
YTD Progress	**$3,126,564**	**$3,904,617**	**$4,261,313**	**$4,023,685**	**-5.6%**

Total Refunds **2020 = $132,162** **2021 = $115,450** **2022 = $169,800** **2023 YTD Refunds = $65,095**

Brenda A. Owens- City Treasurer 06/01/2023

AUDITOR: Sabrina Smith: *(No Report, Absent)*

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

FINANCE: Andy Bronner

Finance Committee met on May 23rd. In attendance were Bob Boehner, Mark Bishop, Sabrina Smith and Patrick Ross. Discussions included hiring a full-time flex employee for the Auditors office and general offices, hiring a part time Police Department IT clerk and the 2024 Budget.

The full-time flex employee would help the Auditor with clerical tasks and paperwork, but will not cut checks due to separation of tasks. The new employee would learn payroll, HR and compliance tasks to help assist the SSD. Other tasks would include receiving utility payments, park rentals and truck rentals.

The part time Police department IT clerk would process bodycam videos, including reactions, which is a must for criminal cases and records requests. This would alleviate time consuming clerical work for our officers. Chief Edens will be looking for authorization by the end of the year.

Next, there will be a budget draft ready for review at our next Finance Committee meeting. I would like to announce this meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 20th at 7:00 p.m. in Council chambers before our regularly scheduled legislative Council meeting. The Budget is due by July 20th.

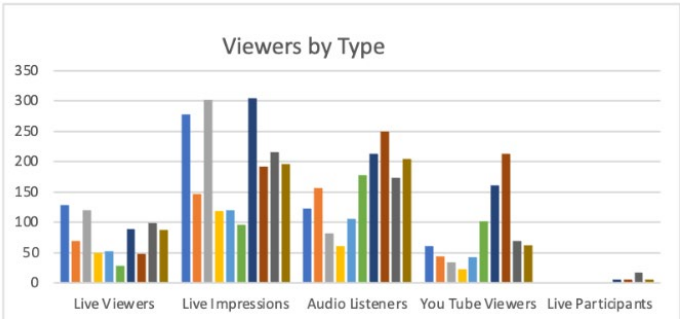
Lastly, our first Council meeting in July falls on Tuesday the 4th. With this being a holiday, I would like to propose we reschedule for Tuesday July 11th. This will allow for a first reading of the Budget ordinance.

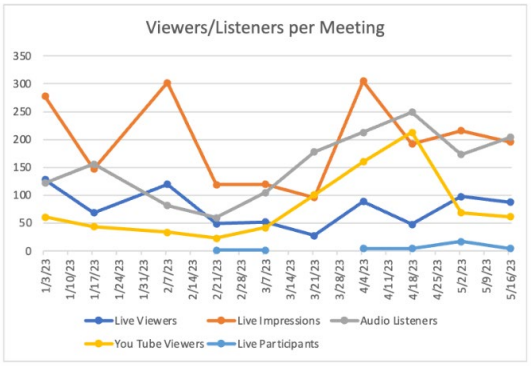
Motion made by Mr. Bronner, seconded by Mr. Boehner to reschedule the 4th of the July meeting to the following Tuesday, July 11 at 7:30 p.m. Motion carried by roll call vote.

UTILITIES, LANDS & BUILDINGS: Mark Bishop

The following statistics on viewership of the City Council meeting from the previous meeting:

	1/3/23	1/17/23	2/7/23	2/21/23	3/7/23	3/21/23	4/4/23	4/18/23	5/2/23	5/16/23
Live Viewers	128	69	120	49	52	28	89	48	98	88
Live Impressions	278	147	302	119	120	96	305	192	216	196
Audio Listeners	122	156	82	60	105	178	213	249	173	204
You Tube Viewers	61	44	34	23	42	101	160	213	69	62
Live Participants				2	2		5	5	17	5





Reading May 16 Meeting Analytics Update

Live unique viewers: **88**

Impressions of live broadcast: **196**

Archived views on YouTube: **62**

Listeners to this meeting on (16) audio podcast platforms: **204**

Memorial Day Parade Live Viewers:
59 unique viewers

Memorial Day Honors Live Viewers:
63 unique viewers

History (2023)

Stats Provided by Rob Ebel, ESP Media, LLC.

ZONING, PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT: Dave Powell

I reached out to Dr. Hartings with Cincinnati Classical Academy about the possible construction on the Sacred Heart site and received the following response.

"To address the questions at hand: we are not currently pursuing any due diligence work for the Siebenthaler property. We missed our time window for a purchase agreement on the site that would have (1) allowed us to develop the site for summer 2024 occupation and (2) triggered the start of due diligence to determine whether contingencies in the purchase agreement could be satisfied. This of course would have included consultation with Reading on sewers, traffic, etc., as these are all major concerns that we have as well.

Since we missed our timeframe for 2024, we have put a hold on any new expenditures for development of this site as we investigate other options that may be available to us."

LAWS & CONTRACTS: Katie Eadicicco

Tonight, we have the resolution for the proposed DORA on the agenda and I would like to let council know that this can be a first reading. There's no need to vote to suspend the second and third reading at this time.

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY: Shelly Kroeger

Police Department run count for May, 2023

- Calls for service 1133
- Auto Accidents 45
- Booking Original Charges 92
- Total Criminal Charges 129

Citations Issued

- Hamilton County 10
- Arlington Heights 26
- Juvenile 2
- Reading Mayor's 91

Total Citations 133

For the month of May, there were several auto accidents caused by OVI. Reports of 3 stolen cars, all of which were Kias. I know that Kia was offering a free steering wheel lock to owners and compensation as part of a class action lawsuit for cars that were stolen and damaged. I would recommend speaking with your dealership to see what is available for your vehicle. There were also arrests for domestic violence, theft, assault and fraud. With the warmer months upon us, it's very important to lock you vehicles and if you see something, say something.

Fire Departments run count for May, 2023

- EMS Responses 205
- Fire Responses 57

Total Responses 262

The fire department conducted a public education presentation for the students at Serendipity. They also gave stations tours for Reading Elementary 3rd graders. Members also participated in the Memorial Day Parade.

SERVICE: Bob Boehner

Reading Public Works Council Report June 6, 2023

City crew have been out patching potholes in the streets

The mulcher has been out collecting branches.

Vacall was out cleaning catch basins

City crews are in the process of locating lead line water services

City crews have been assembling bleachers for the Koenig Park

City crews have picked up new trash cans (80) of them to go into the parks and throughout the city

City crews have been out painting traffic lines throughout the city

City crews have been getting the city pool ready to be opened

City crews have working on getting Koenig Park ready for Memorial Day Weekend putting up flags and banners

City crews have been cutting over grown bushes and branches back from the roadways throughout the city

City crews have been doing a lot of tree and bush trimming in our City Parks

City crews have mulched all of the beds on Reading Rd and Benson St and around the Monument at Jefferson & Vine getting ready for the Memorial Day parade

City had Tele Vac come out and clean the storm sewer on Reading Rd from Landy Ln to 9600 block of Reading Rd because blockage in the line

RECREATION: Scott Thamann

Our pool season has begun. Opening weekend was very well attended and everything went great. The first round of swim

lessons is underway. If you missed the first round, the second round begins on July 3. You can sign up for this session at the pool, during pool hours, starting June 24.

June 24 is also Adult Night at the pool, from 6:30-10:30. Please bring your own drinks and snacks, but please NO GLASS CONTAINERS, bottles, etc.

June 29 will be Ladies Night at the pool, beginning at 6:00. Please bring your own drinks and side dishes to share. Again, please no glass containers.

And lastly, regarding the pool, the pool was installed in 1979, 44 years ago. Our service crew has done an admirable job to keep it running, but the mechanical issues have become more and more problematic, and it may be time for a complete overhaul, if not complete replacement. I will be making calls and researching grants in the coming days, and I will have more information next month.

OTHER BUSINESS: None

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

READING OF RESOLUTIONS:

(1) RESOLUTION CREATING A DESIGNATED OUTDOOR REFRESHMENT AREA FOR CITY OF READING AND ENACTING REGULATIONS

Resolution was declared a First Reading only.

READING OF ORDINANCES:

(1) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY/SERVICE DIRECTOR TO PURCHASE A NEW STAFF UNIT FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

ORDINANCE ADOPTED **ORDINANCE NUMBER 2023-24**

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

ADJOURNMENT:
Mr. Boehner moved to adjourn. Mrs. Kroeger seconded. Motion carried by voice vote.
The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm.

X_____ X_____

Carla Kacher
Clerk of Council

Dwight Daum
President of Council