

**CITY OF READING, OHIO
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION
AUGUST 04, 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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion to approve the July 21, 2026, Council Meeting Minutes made by Mrs. Eadicicco, seconded by Mrs. Kroeger. Motion carried by voice vote.

AUDIENCE ASKING PARTICIPATION:

(1) **Gary Sameulson:** Requested no parking on one side of on Trillium. Motion made by Mr. Powell, seconded by Mr. Eadicicco to put this topic into Shelly Kroeger's Safety Committee Meeting. Motion carried by 7-0 roll call vote.

COMMUNICATIONS: NONE

GUEST SPEAKERS: NONE

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion made by Mrs. Kroeger, seconded by Mrs. Eadicicco, to enter into Executive Session, for purpose of "discussing the disposition of property." 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 Mr. Thamann, to come out of Executive Session at 7:55 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:

National Night Out and Police Services

The city's police department held its seventh consecutive National Night Out at Caney Park. The event provides an opportunity for residents to learn about public safety resources and for local law enforcement agencies to strengthen relationships and mutual-aid partnerships.

Residents can see demonstrations and equipment from the police department and neighboring agencies, including K9 units and drones.

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Residents are also reminded not to leave valuables in their vehicles. Valuables should be taken inside, secured in the trunk, or, at minimum, vehicles should be locked.

Reading Road Water Main Replacement

The Safety and Services Department, Public Works Department, and city engineers are continuing to discuss the replacement of water mains along Reading Road, from the city's northern corporation line to the southern corporation line. The need for the project became more apparent during discussions surrounding the proposed Reading Road road diet, which will not move forward. Preliminary estimates indicate that the project could cost more than \$4 million. The city will provide additional information once final costs are determined and will then address financing options.

Veterans Memorial Stadium

Veterans Memorial Stadium is scheduled to host 87 games or events over a 93-day period. The heavy schedule reinforces the city's interest in eventually installing artificial turf, which would allow the facility to be used more extensively throughout the year. Artificial turf could potentially expand usage from roughly two months and 100 events annually to year-round use and more than 1,000 events, providing additional opportunities for youth activities and athletics.

New Track Project

The city is accepting bids for a new track at Veterans Memorial Stadium. The project is supported by a \$350,000 State of Ohio grant that must be used within the next year. The grant is not sufficient to fund improvements such as new bleachers or artificial turf, but it will allow the city to move forward with installation of a new track. The city will determine the project's final scope after receiving the bids.

Crestmont and West Crest Water Main Project

A pre-construction meeting has been held for the East Crest, Crestmont, and West Crest improvements, including the portion of West Crest from Keith Drive to Crestmont. Construction is expected to begin shortly after January 5. The city intentionally avoided starting the project late in the fall to prevent construction from extending through the winter and holiday season, as occurred with the Maple Drive project. The project includes significant water main improvements that will benefit residents and the fire department. The city will provide updates as construction progresses.

Future Ronald Reagan Highway Closure

ODOT has notified the city of a major future project involving the closure of Ronald Reagan Highway from Galbraith Road to Plainfield Road. The closure is expected to last approximately four to six months and is currently anticipated for 2030. There will be additional review and planning before the project begins, and the city will keep residents informed. The project is expected to create significant disruption for the community.

Waste and Recycling Contract

The city's waste and recycling contract expires at the end of the year. The city is preparing bid specifications and will work with the appropriate committee to determine whether services should be changed, added, or eliminated in the next contract.

Lead Service Line Notifications

The city is working with the Water Department to update notification procedures required by the EPA concerning lead service lines and lines for which the material is unknown. The new requirements create additional administrative responsibilities for the Water Department, requiring employees to spend more time on documentation and recordkeeping. The city is working to provide the department with the necessary assistance while continuing its regular water infrastructure work.

Health Insurance Savings

The city will soon conduct its annual health insurance review. This marks the city's 12th year participating in a self-insured group through the Ohio Benefits Cooperative. Over the past 12 years, the average premium renewal increase has been approximately 4.79%, compared with increases of 15% to 20% experienced by other communities. The city estimates that participation in the cooperative has saved more than \$1 million over that period.

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Mayor Bemmes credited Safety and Services Director Patrick Ross with significant work in managing the program and controlling costs. Health insurance had previously experienced annual increases of 18% to 20%, making the cooperative a substantial financial benefit to the city.

Traffic Safety

The city recorded 35 automobile accidents during July. Mayor Bemmes emphasized that this number is too high and that the city must continue looking for ways to improve traffic safety and reduce crashes.

E-Bike Safety and Enforcement

The city continues to receive concerns regarding electric bicycles and the various classifications and regulations that apply to them. Mayor Bemmes noted that many of the applicable laws have been on the books for decades. The purpose of enforcement is not to unnecessarily restrict residents but to protect riders and others from potentially dangerous situations. Police officers may intervene when they believe a person is in danger, and the same principle applies to young people riding e-bikes. The goal is to ensure that everyone gets home safely. The city will continue reviewing e-bike concerns with the appropriate committee.

Flock Camera Technology

The city addressed concerns surrounding Flock license plate recognition cameras. Reading currently has four Flock cameras. The police department uses the technology as an investigative and public safety tool while seeking to protect individual privacy. The system is not continuously monitored and is not intended for continuous surveillance. Information is shared only when there is a legitimate law enforcement or public safety purpose.

Flock cameras can assist with:

- Investigating criminal activity
- Identifying vehicles associated with incidents
- Recovering stolen vehicles
- Locating wanted individuals
- Assisting in the recovery of missing or endangered children and at-risk adults
- Providing real-time alerts involving vehicles on validated hotlists

The cameras detect license plates. They do not use facial recognition or identify people based on gender or race. According to the city's stated policies, Flock data is restricted to official law enforcement purposes. Its use for immigration enforcement, traffic enforcement, harassment, intimidation, or targeting individuals based on race, sex, or religion is prohibited. Mayor Bemmes stated that the technology has been helpful to the city and does not believe its use constitutes an invasion of residents' privacy.

Property Maintenance and Code Enforcement

The city's exterior property maintenance code enforcement officer continues to play an important role in addressing property-related concerns. The city has strengthened coordination among code enforcement, the Fire Department, Board of Health, and Building Department. Residents with property maintenance concerns are encouraged to contact the Safety and Services Director or Assistant Fire Chief. The goal is to allow the code enforcement officer to spend less time answering phones and more time addressing problems in the community. Mayor Bemmes praised the officer's performance and the effectiveness of the coordinated approach.

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

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

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TREASURER: Brenda Owens: *(Absent, Report given by Finance Committee Chair, Andy Bronner)*

City of Reading
July 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	\$91,227	-11.9%
July	\$35,819	\$29,749	\$18,836	\$73,469	290.0%
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	\$1,040,496	
YTD Progress	\$949,128	\$1,004,156	\$973,680	\$1,040,496	6.9%

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	\$598,777	-7.2%
July	\$671,451	\$561,747	\$578,310	\$628,842	8.7%
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	\$4,290,114	
YTD Progress	\$3,990,748	\$4,161,787	\$4,296,205	\$4,290,114	-0.1%

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	\$62,402	-58.1%
July	\$32,265	\$70,851	\$59,569	\$47,214	-20.7%
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	\$461,248	
YTD Progress	\$553,779	\$564,462	\$669,871	\$461,248	-31.1%

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	\$752,406	-16.2%
July	\$739,534	\$662,347	\$656,715	\$749,525	14.1%
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	\$5,791,858	
YTD Progress	\$5,493,655	\$5,730,404	\$5,939,753	\$5,791,858	-2.5%

Total Refunds	2023	2024	2025	2026
	\$666,149	\$104,275	\$128,186	\$113,138

Brenda A. Owens- Treasurer 08/04/26

AUDITOR: Sabrina Smith:

April-June 2026 fund reports are below. July is still being reconciled.

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COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION
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City of Reading
Monthly Statement of Cash

As Of: 4/30/2026

Funds: 1101 to 9999

Include Inactive Accounts: No

Fund	Description	Beginning Bal.	MTD Increases	MTD Decreases	Ending Bal.
1101	GENERAL FUND	\$1,110,851.52	\$366,125.53	\$978,359.26	\$498,617.79
1220	CITY EARNINGS TAX	\$5,889,545.07	\$1,477,433.23	\$163,553.38	\$7,203,424.92
1801	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCY	\$11,621.13	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$11,621.13
1827	SEWER SERVICE FEE	\$667,143.21	\$18,038.43	\$1,803.84	\$683,377.80
1835	ACCURED SICK & VAC PAY	\$166,324.46	\$0.00	\$16,623.51	\$149,700.95
2210	STREET MAINTENANCE	\$811,128.63	\$85,505.76	\$127,889.33	\$768,745.06
2215	STATE HIGHWAY	\$164,960.22	\$11,039.22	\$0.00	\$175,999.44
2222	MAYORS COURT COMPUTER	(\$1,122.78)	\$1,040.00	\$216.41	(\$299.19)
2223	DUI ENFORCEMENT	\$14,582.00	\$0.00	\$220.00	\$14,362.00
2225	EPA BROWNSFIELD GRANT	\$77,818.78	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$77,818.78
2230	Streets & Curbs	\$736,532.99	\$71,515.33	\$62,142.52	\$745,905.80
2245	DRUG ENFORCEMENT	\$79,196.54	\$0.00	\$550.00	\$78,646.54
2260	MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE	\$311,895.76	\$15,099.96	\$0.00	\$326,795.72
2265	ALCOHOL EDUCATION	\$12,715.28	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12,715.28
2275	MUNICIPAL ROAD	\$11,653.63	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$11,653.63
2401	FEMA	\$241,272.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$241,272.00
2501	COVID RELIEF FUND	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
3430	GENERAL SINKING	\$5,102.95	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,102.95
3432	SPECIAL ASSESSMENT	\$384.72	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$384.72
4240	STADIUM	\$245,047.76	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$245,047.76
4242	FIRE/EMS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT	\$490,651.17	\$38,768.04	\$8,725.18	\$520,694.03
4243	POLICE & FIRE COMMUNICATIONS	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
4340	CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT	\$918,495.28	\$226,513.11	\$81,446.07	\$1,063,562.32
4341	STADIUM TRACK IMPROVEMENT	\$273.85	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$273.85
4343	GROWTH FUND	\$674,552.57	\$1,803.84	\$0.00	\$676,356.41
4370	READING ROAD DEV	\$494.70	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$494.70
4380	OPWC SCIP	\$2,306.02	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,306.02
5433	WATER NOTE	\$728.23	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$728.23
5605	WATER	\$281,191.78	\$179,959.25	\$169,114.45	\$292,036.58
5608	WATER TRUST	\$144,875.37	\$0.00	\$1,393.51	\$143,281.86
8825	SEWAGE DISP TRUST	\$1,392,986.79	\$243,017.71	\$248,105.96	\$1,387,898.54
9999	Payroll Clearing Fund	\$54,215.18	\$553,666.55	\$549,722.13	\$58,159.60
Grand Total:		\$14,517,024.81	\$3,289,525.96	\$2,409,865.55	\$15,396,685.22

City of Reading
Monthly Statement of Cash

As Of: 5/31/2026

Funds: 1101 to 9999

Include Inactive Accounts: No

Fund	Description	Beginning Bal.	MTD Increases	MTD Decreases	Ending Bal.
1101	GENERAL FUND	\$498,617.79	\$2,250,587.11	\$798,173.94	\$1,951,030.96
1220	CITY EARNINGS TAX	\$7,203,424.92	\$651,571.61	\$2,040,520.20	\$5,814,476.33
1801	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCY	\$11,621.13	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$11,621.13
1827	SEWER SERVICE FEE	\$683,377.80	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$683,377.80
1835	ACCURED SICK & VAC PAY	\$149,700.95	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$149,700.95
2210	STREET MAINTENANCE	\$768,745.06	\$70,971.34	\$55,334.70	\$784,381.70
2215	STATE HIGHWAY	\$175,999.44	\$5,754.43	\$0.00	\$181,753.87
2222	MAYORS COURT COMPUTER	(\$299.19)	\$1,387.00	\$302.72	\$785.09
2223	DUI ENFORCEMENT	\$14,362.00	\$0.00	\$219.30	\$14,142.70
2225	EPA BROWNSFIELD GRANT	\$77,818.78	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$77,818.78
2230	Streets & Curbs	\$745,905.80	\$0.00	\$4,795.00	\$741,110.80
2245	DRUG ENFORCEMENT	\$78,646.54	\$0.00	\$1,595.00	\$77,051.54
2260	MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE	\$326,795.72	\$7,680.00	\$18,600.00	\$315,875.72
2265	ALCOHOL EDUCATION	\$12,715.28	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12,715.28
2275	MUNICIPAL ROAD	\$11,653.63	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$11,653.63
2401	FEMA	\$241,272.00	\$0.00	\$54,700.00	\$186,572.00
2501	COVID RELIEF FUND	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
3430	GENERAL SINKING	\$5,102.95	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,102.95
3432	SPECIAL ASSESSMENT	\$384.72	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$384.72
4240	STADIUM	\$245,047.76	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$245,047.76
4242	FIRE/EMS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT	\$520,694.03	\$282,003.46	\$13,481.14	\$789,216.35
4243	POLICE & FIRE COMMUNICATIONS	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
4340	CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT	\$1,063,562.32	\$24,171.54	\$104,525.80	\$983,208.06
4341	STADIUM TRACK IMPROVEMENT	\$273.85	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$273.85
4343	GROWTH FUND	\$676,356.41	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$676,356.41
4370	READING ROAD DEV	\$494.70	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$494.70
4380	OPWC SCIP	\$2,306.02	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,306.02
5433	WATER NOTE	\$728.23	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$728.23
5605	WATER	\$292,036.58	\$214,881.02	\$169,693.58	\$337,224.02
5608	WATER TRUST	\$143,281.86	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$143,281.86
8825	SEWAGE DISP TRUST	\$1,387,898.54	\$270,719.83	\$230,223.03	\$1,428,395.34
9999	Payroll Clearing Fund	\$58,159.60	\$499,462.89	\$504,024.97	\$53,597.52
Grand Total:		\$15,396,685.22	\$4,279,190.23	\$3,996,189.38	\$15,679,686.07

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City of Reading
Monthly Statement of Cash

As Of: 6/30/2026

Funds: 1101 to 9999

Include Inactive Accounts: No

Fund	Description	Beginning Bal.	MTD Increases	MTD Decreases	Ending Bal.
1101	GENERAL FUND	\$1,951,030.96	\$315,651.82	\$1,035,530.01	\$1,231,152.77
1220	CITY EARNINGS TAX	\$5,814,476.33	\$752,405.78	\$36,811.47	\$6,530,070.64
1801	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCY	\$11,621.13	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$11,621.13
1827	SEWER SERVICE FEE	\$683,377.80	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$683,377.80
1835	ACCRUED SICK & VAC PAY	\$149,700.95	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$149,700.95
2210	STREET MAINTENANCE	\$784,381.70	\$73,186.73	\$97,930.56	\$759,637.87
2215	STATE HIGHWAY	\$181,753.87	\$5,934.06	\$0.00	\$187,687.93
2222	MAYORS COURT COMPUTER	\$785.09	\$1,332.00	\$789.11	\$1,327.98
2223	DUI ENFORCEMENT	\$14,142.70	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$14,167.70
2225	EPA BROWNSFIELD GRANT	\$77,818.78	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$77,818.78
2230	Streets & Curbs	\$741,110.80	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$741,110.80
2245	DRUG ENFORCEMENT	\$77,051.54	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$77,051.54
2260	MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE	\$315,875.72	\$7,987.50	\$0.00	\$323,863.22
2265	ALCOHOL EDUCATION	\$12,715.28	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12,715.28
2275	MUNICIPAL ROAD	\$11,653.63	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$11,653.63
2401	FEMA	\$186,572.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$186,572.00
2501	COVID RELIEF FUND	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
3430	GENERAL SINKING	\$5,102.95	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,102.95
3432	SPECIAL ASSESSMENT	\$384.72	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$384.72
4240	STADIUM	\$245,047.76	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$245,047.76
4242	FIRE/EMS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT	\$789,216.35	\$38,188.38	\$63,638.01	\$763,766.72
4243	POLICE & FIRE COMMUNICATIONS	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
4340	CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT	\$983,208.06	\$0.00	\$12,452.00	\$970,756.06
4341	STADIUM TRACK IMPROVEMENT	\$273.85	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$273.85
4343	GROWTH FUND	\$676,356.41	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$676,356.41
4370	READING ROAD DEV	\$494.70	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$494.70
4380	OPWC SCIP	\$2,306.02	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,306.02
5433	WATER NOTE	\$728.23	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$728.23
5605	WATER	\$337,224.02	\$206,988.87	\$200,082.23	\$344,130.66
5608	WATER TRUST	\$143,281.86	\$0.00	\$372.70	\$142,909.16
8825	SEWAGE DISP TRUST	\$1,428,395.34	\$265,405.83	\$0.00	\$1,693,801.17
9999	Payroll Clearing Fund	\$53,597.52	\$635,882.32	\$658,872.11	\$30,607.73
Grand Total:		\$15,679,686.07	\$2,302,988.29	\$2,106,478.20	\$15,876,196.16

The Audit team from the State of Ohio is hoping to finish up later this month.

I want to thank everyone who works for the City. I get to showcase the great work they do for their departments and the City. We have great processes and they are shining with the review of years 2024 and 2025.

During this time we got a new financial system to help us with our reporting and time management for our employees.

The State is asking for more and more and we have to stay up on all these different compliance items. Thank you again for everyone's hard work and effort that shines not only for our City but on the State level.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

FINANCE: Andy Bronner *(No Report)*

UTILITIES, LANDS & BUILDINGS: Mark Bishop

Present: Mark Bishop, Chairman, Katie Eadicicco, Dave Powell, Alex Sherlock, Chris Schneider

Public attendees: 1

SUMMARY: Reconnecting Communities Plan has identified boundaries that have divided communities in Hamilton County. These are mostly North/South dividers such as I-75, railroad tracks and the Mill Creek. The RCP has identified solutions to reconnect these communities by either removing barriers or finding ways to improve access across those boundaries. One study area that affects Reading is Smalley Road and a possible railroad overpass.

1. Introduction
 - 1 Issue:

**CITY OF READING, OHIO
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION
AUGUST 04, 2026 – 7:30 PM**

Presentation/Discussion with Reconnecting Communities Plan
Alex Sherlock and Chris Schneider

2. Alex will present a portion of the larger presentation from RCP on July 7th.
3. No financial commitment from Reading
4. 8-year implementation schedule estimate
5. Priority projects outlined in plan
 - a. P51-I-75 Vacated property (overpass connector NB)
 - b. Smalley RD connector bridge concept
 - c. N-51
 - d. N53 Local connections
 - e. Bridges, digital signage, travel signs
 - f. Tri-state Trails inclusion
 - g. P-6 to P-8 Policy Improvements
 - h. All buckets of funding identified and currently available
6. Next steps:
 - a. Pass a resolution in support of RCP
 - b. Schedule Guest Speaker (Alex) for July 7th meeting of Council
 - c. SEE PRESENTATION ATTACHED TO THE JULY 7 MEETING.

ZONING, PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT: Dave Powell:

Our committee met prior to our last meeting to review the planning commission recommendations on the proposed zoning code. We also discussed food truck regulations. I would like to schedule a committee meeting for Tuesday, August 18, 2026 at 6:30 PM in council chambers to continue our discussion on food truck regulations.

LAWS & CONTRACTS: Katie Eadicicco (No Report)

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY: Shelly Kroeger:

Police Department run count for July 2026

Calls for service	1,074
Auto Accidents	35
Booking Original Charges	85
Warrants Served	67
Traffic Charges (including TSEP)	157
Traffic Safety Program Charges	46

Citations Issued

Hamilton County	7
Arlington Heights	22
Juvenile	1
Reading Mayor's	119
Total Citations	149

Fire Departments run count for July 2026

EMS Responses	212
Fire Responses	83
Total Responses	295

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Notable Operations For July 2026:

1. All road patrol officers have AXON cameras in operation
2. Established public Records request email and link on City Website
3. Established FLOCK transparency portal on city website.
4. Patrol hiring test 9 of 18 apps. tested - 8 passed
5. PARR safety : Delivery 8/4 of car 1 changeover
6. 10 persons felony drug arrests
7. 4 domestic violence arrests

Police Runs for July 2026

- Arson. car was set fire at Midas Muffler. No suspects currently
- Circle K. Employee theft of \$1000 and abandoned store
- Auto theft maple st recovered by CPD on 7-9
- Valley Tavern. Felonious assault 2 other minor injury from fighting
- Lakeshore Apt. Arrested maintenance worker for Felony theft from tenant's apartment.
Stole +1000's in Legos
- Orchard Knoll. Auto theft reported. Unauthorized use charged. Suspect family
- Thank you to all who attended National Night Out this evening.

Fire Department News:

- The new fire engine was received in June. Equipment mounting is nearly complete & training is forthcoming.
- Facilitated the July 4th fireworks event along with providing medical detail.
- Members met with mechanics regarding repair of the Ahrens Fox on July 11th.
- Touch-A-Truck event held on July 18th at Don's Creamy Whip.
- Public safety presentation provided to Camp Chabad on July 22nd.
- Provided CPR/AED training for the Meals-On-Wheels drivers at the JCC.

SERVICE: Bob Boehner:

Reading Public Works Council Report August 4, 2026

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City crews have been picking up brush and leaves

City crews have made asphalt repairs throughout the city

City crews have been repairing pavers on West Benson St

City crews have been painting the soccer fields throughout the city

City crews have been cleaning the streets with the street Sweeper

City crews have been painting traffic lines and Cross walks

City crews have been trimming over grown weeds away from the roadways in the city at several locations

City crew repaired a water main break 9600 block of Reading Rd

City crews repaired water main breaks on Pike St, West Benson, Pompano, West Crest and repaired a water leak at the Stadium

City crew repaired a sink hole on Shirljune Dr at West Crest

City crews removed a tree from Vinca Dr that was knocked down in the storm blocking the roadway and removed another big tree in the creek behind 2557 North Kathwood which would have created a flooding issue

City crews repaired the pavers on West Benson St from the water main break

City crew is working on drain system for City hall as the roof leaks

City crew cut trees in the rear of 1548 Sanborn on City owned property that were becoming a hazard

RECREATION: Scott Thamann: *(No Report)*

OTHER BUSINESS:

Katie Eadicicco:

Clarifying E-Bike Classifications

Discussed continued confusion surrounding e-bikes and the distinctions between e-bikes, motorbikes, mini bikes, dirt bikes, and e-scooters. There was particular concern that residents may not understand which types of bikes are permitted on public roads and which are subject to age, helmet, or other restrictions. It was noted that the city's committee has already been

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reviewing the issue, along with the Safety and Services Department and Police Department. Council requested that the committee continue researching the matter and report back with additional clarification.

State Law and Local Regulations

A key concern is the potential confusion between the Ohio Revised Code and the city's existing regulations. It was emphasized that many of the applicable requirements are established by state law and cannot simply be overridden by the city. Council agreed that clearer information would benefit residents, particularly families purchasing e-bikes for children. One council member noted that Class 3 e-bikes can travel up to 28 miles per hour and are subject to age and helmet requirements. State law also requires e-bikes to display a label identifying their classification, which should make the different classes easier to distinguish. It was also clarified that dirt bikes are generally not permitted on public roads and must be operated on private property with permission.

Public Education and Online Resources

Council discussed creating or expanding educational materials on the city's website and social media platforms. Visual information, including photographs showing the differences among e-bikes, dirt bikes, mini bikes, and other types of motorized bicycles, could help residents understand the regulations. It was indicated that some information may already be available on the city's website and agreed to review the existing materials to determine whether additional or clearer information is needed.

Council members also referenced similar educational information recently published by police departments in neighboring communities, including Mariemont, Blue Ash, Evendale, and Sharonville. The information from those communities generally reflects the requirements of the Ohio Revised Code.

Youth Safety and Education

Council discussed the possibility of connecting families with organizations that offer bicycle or e-bike safety classes for children. Because e-bikes are becoming increasingly popular, officials agreed that safety education could be beneficial.

However, it was explained that staffing limitations make it difficult for the city's police department to conduct its own classes at this time. Outside organizations or existing community programs may provide a more practical option.

Key Takeaways

- The city will continue reviewing e-bike classifications and applicable regulations.
- Officials will clarify the relationship between local rules and the Ohio Revised Code.
- Existing city website and social media information will be reviewed and expanded if necessary.
- Educational materials with photographs and clear descriptions could help residents distinguish between different types of bikes.
- Parents are encouraged to understand an e-bike's classification and legal requirements before purchasing one for a child.
- Class 3 e-bikes can reach speeds of up to 28 mph and have specific age and helmet requirements.
- E-bikes are required to display a classification label under state law.
- Dirt bikes generally cannot be operated on public roads and must be used on private property with permission.

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- The city will explore ways to connect families with existing youth safety education programs.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

READING OF RESOLUTIONS: NONE

READING OF ORDINANCES:

(1) THE FOLLOWING IS AN ORDINANCE ENACTED BY THE CITY OF READING OF HAMILTON COUNTY, OHIO, HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS THE LOCAL PUBLIC AGENCY (LPA).

Motion made by Mrs. Eadicicco, 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. Bishop, seconded by Mr. Bronner to adopt the resolution. Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2026-23

(2) AN ORDINANCE DIRECTING THE TRANSFER OF REAL PROPERTY KNOWN AS 13 EAST BENSON STREET, OWNED BY THE CITY OF READING, TO THE COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF READING, FOR THE PURPOSE OF FACILITATING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE READING ROAD CORRIDOR AND PROMOTE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES, AND AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO EFFECT THE TRANSFER.

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

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2026-24

(3) AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING CHANGES TO THE ZONING CODE.

Ordinance was declared a first reading only.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

MARK BISHOP:

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Dear Community Partner,

Ohio Valley Goodwill Industries' GoodWorks Pathways program is excited to invite you, your staff, and the clients you serve to participate in our free Coursera Professional Certification training opportunities, AI Essentials Training, and Northstar Digital Skills Training Courses.

These training opportunities are offered absolutely free to our community partners, their employees, and individuals in the community. The courses are self-paced and self-taught, allowing participants to complete training on their own schedule while building valuable knowledge and skills that support career growth, job readiness, and professional development.

Participants can access these courses from a desktop computer, laptop, iPad, tablet, or cellular phone, making the training flexible and convenient for individuals with different schedules and needs.

Through Coursera, participants can boost their careers with industry-recognized professional certifications in high-demand career fields, including:

- IT Support
- Project Management
- Data Analytics
- Digital Marketing
- Cybersecurity
- UX Design
- Google AI Essentials

In addition, participants may also access AI Essentials Training and Northstar Digital Skills Training Courses, which are designed to strengthen digital literacy, improve technology confidence, and build practical skills needed in today's workforce.

These credentials can be added to a resume, LinkedIn profile, employment portfolio, or professional development record. They can also help participants increase job skills, enhance their knowledge in specialized fields, and improve their ability to compete for employment and advancement opportunities.

Ohio Valley Goodwill also has Opportunity Centers available where clients can come in to

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access computers, receive support with course enrollment, and work on completing their training. While visiting our Opportunity Centers, individuals may also receive assistance with employment search, resume building, job readiness, and barrier removal services.

Our team can also help connect clients to additional supportive resources, including food assistance, hygiene kits, daycare and childcare assistance referrals, housing and utility referrals, healthcare referrals, and other emergent needs that may impact employment and training success.

We believe this opportunity can be a valuable resource for your organization, staff, and clients as we work together to expand access to workforce training, digital inclusion, barrier removal, and career pathways throughout our community.

We would love to partner with you to share this opportunity and connect interested individuals to these free training resources. Please contact us if you would like additional information, enrollment support, or a brief presentation for your team or clients.

Thank you for your continued partnership and commitment to helping individuals strengthen their skills, build confidence, and move forward in their career journey.

Warm regards,

Dr. Angela Rivers-Harper
Business Service Representative
Ohio Valley Goodwill Industries
GoodWorks Pathways

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Boehner moved to adjourn. Mrs. Kroeger seconded. Motion carried by voice vote.
The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 pm.

X _____
Carla Bronner
Clerk of Council

X _____
Kevin Mattscheck
President of Council