

**CITY OF READING, OHIO
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION
SEPTEMBER 01, 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, Auditor Sabrina Smith & Clerk of Council Carla Bronner.

President of Council, Kevin Mattscheck announced that the previously scheduled Public Hearing regarding the Zoning Code Ordinance, had been cancelled for the evening. It was announced the ordinance will be reviewed again, and that potential additional items will be added. A revised ordinance will be forthcoming, as will the announcement of a scheduled Public Hearing.

Motion made by Dave Powell, seconded by Mr. Bronner, to “table” the scheduled third reading of the Zoning Code Ordinance. Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion to approve the August 18, 2026, Council Meeting Minutes made by Mrs. Eadicicco, seconded by Mr. Boehner. Motion carried by voice vote.

AUDIENCE ASKING PARTICIPATION:

(1) Bob Ashbrock - stated that although the public hearing had been canceled, he had prepared written remarks that he believes are important for Council to consider. He planned to submit the comments to the clerk and requested that they be distributed to Council members and included in the meeting minutes.

(2) Reece Halden - raised concerns about Reading's use of Flock automated license plate readers, particularly regarding third-party access to and sharing of data. He cited concerns in other Ohio communities, including Dayton, where police officials reportedly discovered inadequate oversight of third-party access and subsequently canceled their Flock contract and removed the cameras.

Halden urged Reading City Council to establish greater oversight and transparency regarding the cameras, including determining who has access to the data, how widely information is shared, and what safeguards are in place to prevent misuse. He emphasized that residents should have access to this information and assurance that the technology is being properly monitored.

(3) Maggie: Strongly opposes Reading's use of Flock automated license plate reader cameras, citing concerns

CITY OF READING, OHIO
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION
SEPTEMBER 01, 2026 – 7:30 PM

about privacy, surveillance, potential misuse, inaccurate AI systems, and constitutional rights. She brought up that other communities have begun canceling Flock contracts because of similar concerns and she also expressed broader concerns about mass surveillance and the potential for government or private entities to monitor individuals' behavior and political or personal beliefs. She referenced Ohio House Bill 249 and federal policies concerning domestic terrorism as examples of changing definitions of acceptable conduct and expression, arguing that surveillance technology could become more concerning if laws change.

Maggie questioned whether City Council adequately considered the consequences of purchasing Flock cameras in 2024. She noted that Council members had previously requested measurable results to justify the approximately \$15,000 annual cost and information showing how frequently Flock data was used in investigations.

According to her, this information has not been adequately provided through the city's transparency portal, and many camera records do not include case numbers. She also questioned whether the cameras have produced any measurable reduction in crime since their installation.

Maggie criticized the process by which Council approved the Flock cameras, noting that all seven Council members voted in favor of the purchase on March 19, 2024, after a third reading was bypassed and an emergency was declared. They argued that this provided limited opportunity for public input before the cameras were approved. She also contended that concerns raised by Council members and residents were not adequately addressed before the vote and called for greater transparency regarding how the technology is being used.

Maggie concluded by arguing that private surveillance contracts should not replace constitutional protections or warrants. She urged Council to prioritize residents' privacy and civil liberties, reconsider the use of Flock technology in light of what has been learned since 2024, terminate the Flock contract, and remove the cameras.

Mark Bishop Response: The discussion surrounding Flock cameras is becoming unavoidable nationwide, and there is a need to determine where appropriate limits should be established. As larger cities, the federal government, courts, and state governments continue addressing the issue, there should be greater clarity regarding how the law will be interpreted in relation to these types of cameras. This information will help the Council make responsible decisions that allow citizens of Reading to feel safe while also protecting the liberty and privacy they deserve.

Katie Eadicicco Response: Made a motion to refer the issue of Flock cameras to her committee for review. Mr. Bishop seconded the motion. Mr. Boehner brought up the position that he believes this topic belongs in the Public Health & Safety committee for review. Motion carried by a 6-1 voice vote (Mr. Boehner voting "no").

Motion made by Mr. Powell, seconded by Mrs. Kroeger, to ALSO put the topic and review of FLOCK Cameras into the Public Health & Safety committee. Motion carried by 7-0 voice vote.

(4) Sue Renderly - expressed concerns about privacy and potential misuse of Flock cameras, citing recent reports of excessive license-plate searches and calls by some officials to remove the technology.

(5) Mary – questioned whether Flock cameras are appropriate or necessary for a smaller community like

**CITY OF READING, OHIO
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION
SEPTEMBER 01, 2026 – 7:30 PM**

Reading, noting that they are more commonly associated with larger cities. They requested that City Council review 20 years of local crime statistics, specifically for murder, rape, kidnapping, and physical assault, and use that information to help evaluate whether Flock cameras are justified in Reading.

COMMUNICATIONS:

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

62 Bench warrants Issued, 153 Cases Heard & \$12,650.50 Collected

GUEST SPEAKERS: NONE

GUEST ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIAL REPORTS:

MAYOR: Robert "Bo" Bemmes:

Schools in our City are open so PLEASE SLOW DOWN AS YOU DRIVE AND KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR OUR YOUNG STUDENTS AS THEY MAKE THEIR WAY TO AND FROM SCHOOL

Our American Legion hosted a feed the community event in their parking lot on Saturday August 22 serving over 100 people. Eight members of Boy Scout Troop 633 volunteered to help with the event, giving over five hours of their time on a beautiful Saturday afternoon. Scout Master Dave Johnson with along with Scouts Kevin Davis, Matthew Johnson, Corbin Spangler, Colton Ramsey, Joey Carpenter, Dylan Theis and Ezra Marshal all helped make this a very special event.

The Taste of Reading was again a very successful event. I want to thank to our American Legion Ladies Auxiliary for all of the amazing work that they do year in and year out to make our City a better place.

Our Reading Bridal Association will hold their annual Fall in Love event on Benson Street on Thursday September 17. Benson Street will be closed from 5pm till 10pm from Reading Road to Wachendorf

Our Lady of the Valley's festival will be held on September 18, 19 and 20

87 events in 93 days are scheduled on Veterans Memorial Field

Reading Youth Football and Cheer, that keeps over 200 boys and girls busy doing healthy character building activities, had their first home games that bring a multitude of people to our City and Veterans Memorial Stadium.

We are accepting bids for the new track and fencing around the track and around Veterans Memorial Complex

During my years as our Mayor multiple stormwater projects have been completed to help reduce flooding, reduce sewer backups into basements and reduce raw sewerage from entering Mill Creek. SSO 700 where approximately 52 million gallons of raw sewerage entered Mill Creek every year was addressed, we completed a sewer pipe replacement on Ohio Avenue, we completed a Benson Street sewer replacement from Hill Street to Reading Road to Maple Street to Jefferson Avenue to Bradley Avenue to Mill Creek, CSO 513 stormwater separation project was completed including 9,000 feet of new storm sewer infrastructure. The Market

**CITY OF READING, OHIO
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION
SEPTEMBER 01, 2026 – 7:30 PM**

Street box culvert at Mechanic was rebuilt and the Hunt Road 6' in diameter Storm sewer was rebuilt near Heile Drive.

Reading Schools homecoming parade will be on Thursday September 24th

Saints Peter and Paul Academy has begun their 20th year as an excellent school in our City that provides a wonderful quality elementary Christian based education for those who want to attend. SPPA's annual Amazing Grace 5k run will be held on October 17th at 6pm starting and finishing at a Veterans Memorial Stadium with a celebration party at the VYO Haffey fieldhouse from 6:30pm till 10pm. For more information call 513-374-1755.

There will be a public hearing during our City Council meeting on Tuesday October 20th at 7:30pm to review a Joint Economic Development District (JEDD) with Sycamore Township on property both in and currently owned by Sycamore Township south of Galbraith Road. We will place an advertisement in the paper as required. The contract agreement between Reading and Sycamore Township will be available by the end of this week for public review. This will be emailed to all Council members as well. Our attorney Brenda Wehmer and our Law Director Dave Stevenson have been working on this with Sycamore Township representatives.

Mark Bishop and I attended a Hamilton County Municipal League meeting on August 22 to listen to our Ohio Municipal League president Kent Scarrett speak about the incredible importance of protecting our Home Rule authority that allows local governments to make our own decisions in the best interest of our residents. Kent mentioned the future of property taxes, data centers, shared services, State Governments idea of having fewer local governments and schools, school funding and unfunded State mandates. The Ohio Municipal League is a very valuable asset for us as they monitor all the issues being considered at the State level and analyze them for us.

Please call me anytime with any City related questions, comments or concerns at 513-509-8619.

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

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

**CITY OF READING, OHIO
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION
SEPTEMBER 01, 2026 – 7:30 PM**

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

**City of Reading
August 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	\$42,811	8.8%
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	\$1,083,307	
YTD Progress	\$983,399	\$1,066,255	\$1,013,031	\$1,083,307	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	\$614,989	12.9%
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	\$4,905,103	
YTD Progress	\$4,450,699	\$4,709,562	\$4,840,699	\$4,905,103	1.3%

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	\$62,402	-58.1%
July	\$32,265	\$70,851	\$59,569	\$47,214	-20.7%
August	\$38,469	\$56,349	\$14,598	\$14,506	-0.6%
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	\$475,754	
YTD Progress	\$592,248	\$620,811	\$684,469	\$475,754	-30.5%

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	\$672,306	12.3%
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	\$6,464,163	
YTD Progress	\$6,026,347	\$6,396,628	\$6,538,194	\$6,464,163	-1.1%

Total Refunds	2023	\$666,149	2024	\$104,275	2025	\$128,186	2026	\$117,697
----------------------	-------------	------------------	-------------	------------------	-------------	------------------	-------------	------------------

Brenda A. Owens- Treasurer 09/01/26

AUDITOR: Sabrina Smith: *(No Report)*

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

FINANCE: Andy Bronner *(No Report)*

UTILITIES, LANDS & BUILDINGS: Mark Bishop

- Next committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 8, at 6:30 pm in the Caucus Room.

**CITY OF READING, OHIO
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION
SEPTEMBER 01, 2026 – 7:30 PM**

ZONING, PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT: Dave Powell:

- My committee met prior to the previous Council meeting. The primary discussion involved the possibility of establishing regulations for food trucks. Assistant Fire Chief O'Connor developed an initial outline, and the committee is reviewing the proposed regulations and determining how to proceed.

The committee also discussed the zoning ordinance that was tabled this evening due to procedural issues related to its approval. The ordinance will return to the Planning Commission for revisions and further consideration.

As part of that review, the committee is considering incorporating food truck regulations into the zoning ordinance. An additional issue raised by Randy Cook will also be addressed during the revision process.

Once the Planning Commission holds its public hearing, the matter will return to Council for review. The committee anticipates that the revised ordinance and related issues will come back before Council later this fall.

LAWS & CONTRACTS: Katie Eadicicco: *(No Report)*

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY: Shelly Kroeger:

Police Department run count for August 2026

Calls for service	1,008
Auto Accidents	24
Booking Original Charges	49
Warrants Served	39

Citations Issued

Hamilton County	5
Arlington Heights	15
Juvenile	0
Reading Mayor's	50
Total Citations	70

Fire Departments run count for August 2026

EMS Responses	206
Fire Responses	54
Total Responses	260

Notable Operations and Police Runs For August 2026:

- OVI checkpoint 8100 block of Reading Rd.; 0 OVIs 427 contacts.

This was the first OVI checkpoint in Reading in 17 plus years

- Hilltop park; subject nude in vehicle; wanted for fleeing in vehicle from police
- W. Vine – intoxicated subject threatened another with firearm arrested on weapons under disability
- Theft of firearm from unlocked vehicle

**CITY OF READING, OHIO
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION
SEPTEMBER 01, 2026 – 7:30 PM**

- Fenton – called for shots fired; casings found but unable to locate suspect
- Maple Dr – several cars forced entry attempt auto theft

Fire :

- Members provided presentations/equipment demos for the National Night Out on August 4th
- Participated in the Reading Schools Amazing Race scavenger hunt on August 17th
- Members attended the Feed the Community Event hosted by the American Legion on August 22nd
- Members provided Stop-the-Bleed and CPR demos at the Amberly Village Ice Cream Social on August 23rd
- CPR/AED training provided to Serendipity, Classical Academy, and Reading Pre-School staff

SERVICE: Bob Boehner:

Reading Public Works Council Report September 1, 2026

City crews have been picking up brush and leaves

City crews have made asphalt repairs throughout the city

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 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 poured another concrete slab for the Fire Dept training center

City crews repaired catch basins on Eagleview, Biscoe and Fourth St

City crew milled the curb line on Kenray Ct and repaired same

City crew removed big tree limbs from Sunnybrook creek to help stop the flooding

City crew made man hole adjustments on Becky Ct

City crew repaired a water line at Sealtron and repaired the asphalt

City crew cut a big tree down on Hunt near Waxwing Dr that leaning badly

**CITY OF READING, OHIO
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION
SEPTEMBER 01, 2026 – 7:30 PM**

RECREATION: Scott Thamann:

We have concluded our community pool season. For our income: memberships, concessions, guest fees and swim lessons brought in roughly \$53,334. Our expenses for concessions and cleaning supplies, pool chemicals, and salaries cost us roughly \$102,700, which results in a deficit of \$48,300. This deficit is normal, and it shows the city's commitment to providing affordable recreation opportunities in our community.

We have received several bids for a new track, and a decision should be coming soon.

OTHER BUSINESS: NONE

LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

READING OF RESOLUTIONS: NONE

READING OF ORDINANCES:

(1) AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING CHANGES TO THE ZONING CODE. *(Third Reading)*

Ordinance was tabled earlier in the evening. Ordinance was not read.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

(1) Bo Bemmes welcomed State Representative Rachel Baker who was in the audience

(2) Mark Bishop announced that the "Pocket Park" is still in the plans but on the back burner until more money can be found.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Boehner moved to adjourn. Mrs. Kroeger seconded. Motion carried by voice vote.
The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

X _____
Carla Bronner
Clerk of Council

X _____
Kevin Mattscheck
President of Council