CITY OF READING, OHIO
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – LEGISLATIVE SESSION
October 20, 2026 – 7:30 PM

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

Opening and Roll Call:
The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm by President Mattscheck with an invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance. Council members present: Mr. Powell, Mr. Bronner, Mr. Bishop, Mr. Boehner, Mr. Thamann, Mrs. Eadicicco and Mrs. Kroeger.

Other city officials in attendance included Law Director Mr. Stevenson, Mayor Mr. Bemmes, Auditor Sabrina Smith and Treasurer Mrs. Owens.

Minutes for Approval:
Minutes of the October 6, 2026 Council Meetings were approved. Motion by Mr. Boehner, second by Mrs Eadicicco. Motion carried by 7-0 voice vote.

Audience Askin Participation:
Maggie Wilson discussed concerns regarding cars running stop signs and speeding throughout the city. A friend was involved in recent accident at the corner of Market St. involving possible speeding.

Mayor Bemmes discussed ongoing speeding concerns throughout the city, noting that speeding remains the most frequent constituent complaint. He reported that speed humps installed on Thurn Ridge have proven effective and indicated plans to expand their use to additional streets including East Crest, West Crest, Crestmont, and other areas.

Mrs. Eadicicco agreed that speed humps should be incorporated into future road paving projects as a traffic-calming measure.

Resident Bob Wimmers requested an additional speed limit sign on Columbia Road westbound near the top of the hill to remind motorists of the 25 mph speed limit.

Mayor Bemmes stated that Columbia Road is another location under consideration for speed humps. **Mr. Boehner** agreed to check with the Service Department regarding availability of additional speed limit signage.

Resident Jennifer Dick thanked **Bo**, **Brenda**, **Dave**, **Mark**, and **Todd** for conducting recent community forums and encouraged continuation of those efforts.

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Public Hearing:

Sycamore Township–City of Reading Joint Economic Development District (JEDD)

Public Hearing Opened: 7:42 p.m.
Public Hearing Closed: 7:57 p.m.

Public Input:

Sue Rinderle expressed concern that Reading would assume responsibility for police, fire, EMS, and tax administration services while receiving only 25% of JEDD revenue. She questioned whether the proposed revenue allocation would adequately offset increased costs and urged Council not to proceed without stronger financial protections.

Mr. Bishop asked whether the agreement essentially involved Reading being compensated for services already provided through shared-service arrangements. The Mayor affirmed that interpretation.

Bob Ashbrock raised concerns regarding:

- Lack of specificity about future development plans.
- Potentially insufficient earnings tax revenue.
- Increased police service demands from future retail development.
- Annexation provisions.
- Potential impacts of tax increment financing (TIF) arrangements on schools and city revenues.
- Absence of Sycamore Township representatives to address public concerns.

He urged Council to table the legislation and seek additional information before proceeding.

Fire Chief Todd Owens spoke both as a resident and Fire Chief. He expressed concerns about:

- Ambiguous language regarding emergency service obligations.
- Unknown future development and service demands.
- Reading's designation as first responder without corresponding commitments from Sycamore Township.

- Potential negative impacts on future annexation and economic development opportunities.
- Revenue allocations that he believed were disproportionate to Reading's service responsibilities.

Chief Owens stated that additional negotiations were needed before the agreement could be considered equitable.

Legislative Session:

Ordinance – Sycamore Township/Reading JEDD Agreement
Third Reading

Mrs. Eadicicco reported that additional legal review and information gathering were underway and that further discussion was expected.

Mr. Boehner stated that the agreement should include a mechanism allowing the city to reevaluate participation after the first year and voiced concerns regarding protection of police and fire resources. He agreed with concerns expressed by **Bob Ashbrock** and **Chief Owens** regarding the agreement's fairness.

Mr. Powell agreed that the proposal contained significant uncertainty regarding future development and suggested it was premature to proceed without clearer information concerning future uses of the property.

Motion: Table the ordinance.
Moved by: Mr. Boehner
Seconded by: Mrs. Eadicicco

Roll Call Vote:

- Mr. Powell – Yes
- Mr. Bronner – Yes
- Mr. Bishop – Yes
- Mr. Boehner – Yes
- Mr. Thamann – Yes

- Mrs. Kroeger – Yes
- Mrs. Eadicicco – Yes

Result: Motion carried unanimously. Ordinance tabled.

Ordinance – Arlington Heights Police Services Agreement
Second Reading

Council and administration expressed support for continuing police protective services for the Village of Arlington Heights. No action was taken beyond the second reading.

Miscellaneous Business:
Law Director, Mr. Steveson reported discussing a Family Dollar liquor permit application with the Ohio Liquor Control Commission. Reading currently has all available carryout licenses allocated, and the application would likely be placed on a waiting list.

Condolences
Mrs. Kroeger offered condolences to the family of **Ken Wietmarshen**. Mayor Bemmes offered condolences on the passing of **Carol Antonucci** and **Marian Haffner**.

Mr. Boehner recognized **Ken Wietmarshen** for his decades of service to the City of Reading, particularly in recreation, and expressed condolences to the family.

Community Recognition
Mr. Bishop thanked residents **Xander** and **Selena** on **Krylon** for assisting in the safe return of his two dogs after they wandered from home.

Council of the Whole Discussion:

Flock Camera Program
Mrs. Katie Eadicicco recommended increased transparency regarding use of Flock license plate reader technology, including public reporting on system access and usage. She cited recent incidents in other jurisdictions involving misuse of the technology.

Mr. Boehner spoke in support of flock cameras and thinks the oversight of the those that use them need to be increased.

Mayor Bemmes defended the continued use of Flock cameras, noting their effectiveness in solving crimes and emphasizing that misuse should be addressed through accountability of individuals rather than elimination of the technology.

Mr. Mark Bishop reported information from Acting Chief Flottemesch indicating low usage within Reading and described existing safeguards and audit capabilities built into the system.

Mrs. Kroeger announced a Public Health and Safety Committee meeting scheduled for the following evening at 6:00 p.m., with Flock representatives participating remotely.

Mr. Scott Thamann supported transparency efforts and requested additional information on safeguards, oversight procedures, and protections against misuse by individual officers.

Mr. Powell sees a trend on how flock is being blamed instead of the individual committing wrong doing.

Council members generally agreed that:

- Flock remains a valuable investigative tool.
- Transparency and routine audits are important.
- Misuse should result in accountability and disciplinary action.
- Additional discussion and safeguards may be warranted.

Adjournment

Following Council of the Whole discussion, Council voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:23pm.

Motion to Adjourn: Mr. Boehner
Second: Mrs. Kroeger
Approved by voice vote.

X_____

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Mattscheck
Clerk of Council, Pro-Tem

X_____

Kevin Mattscheck
President of Council