

**READING CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, June 10, 2025
City Hall Council Chambers**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY MAYOR PENNEY AT 6:30 P.M.

PLEDGE TO ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: George, Crank, Gary, Matz & Penney are present. Also present, Kimberly Blythe, City Manager/Clerk/Treasurer; Grace VanCamp, First Deputy Clerk/Treasurer/Zoning Adm; and Eric Stolberg, Reading PD

Guests: Mark Wiley, County Commissioner; Melani Matthews, KariJo Rinard, Steve Nemeth and Rob Cooley.

Matz moved, Crank seconded to approve the agenda as amended; adding Mark Wiley before the public hearing. Motion carried 5-0.

Guest Mark Wiley spoke about the commissioners meeting of Tuesday, June 10, 2025, talked about SCMW and that 13 students from the County signed up for their Summer Work Program, talked about an Ag career day that was held at Weldon Farms in 2024, and that planning is in the works for this to be done in 2025. Also, mentioned an issue with court recordings, and that the County Commissioners approved a Bond Initiative for Lifeways to build a new building at Industrial Drive and Beck Road.

Public Hearing – FY 2025/2026 Budget

Public Hearing was called to order by Mayor Penney at 6:54pm

This public hearing concerns the FY 2025/2026 Budget. Citizens will have the opportunity to ask questions regarding anticipated expenditures, revenues, and rate changes. Included in the budget materials are the proposed millage rate, salary schedule that includes hiring two full-time positions, as well as rate schedules for water, sewer, and refuse services.

Copies of the TIFA and Fire Department Budgets will be distributed separately at a later date and after approved by each board. This year's budget includes modest increases to water, sewer, and refuse rates, as well as a slight increase to late fees. No changes are being proposed to the Cemetery Rates at this time and there are a few highlighted changes to the Miscellaneous Fee Schedules. The proposed tax millage rate of 12.2454 represents a reduction from the previous year.

-Matz moved, George seconded to adjourn the public hearing, public hearing was adjourned at 7:06 pm. Motion carried (5-0)

First Call to Public:

No Comments

CONSENT AGENDA

-Crank moved, Matz seconded to approve the Consent Agenda, which includes the minutes from the Regular Meeting of May 13, 2025, as well as the Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements for April

2025, payment of operating bills for May 2025 in the amount of \$186,914.72, as well as receive, and file the Library Board Minutes from March and the TIFA/PC Packet for May, 2025.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Yeas- George, Crank, Gary, Matz and Penney

Absent-None, Nays- None. Motion Carried (5-0)

Communications with the Council-None

OLD BUSINESS/ONGOING BUSINESS

MELS (Michigan/East/Lynn/Strong) Project Updates-

Construction Progress Updates

- Michigan Street
 - The new watermain installation has successfully passed its pressure test as of June 5, 2025.
 - Storm drain installation is scheduled to begin this week.
 - We are currently awaiting a permit from the Railroad to complete a jack and bore operation necessary to connect the watermain from the west to the east side of Michigan.
 - MDOT has not yet signed off on stormwater runoff improvements due to concerns about impacts within their right of way.
- Strong Street
 - Asphalt has been pulverized and removed.
 - Contractors will begin installation of the new watermain.

Stormwater Drainage Considerations and Council Decision Required

Due to MDOT's ongoing concerns regarding stormwater management within their right of way, an alternative drainage plan is under evaluation and additional cost would apply. This required Council review and action as MDOT would like the curb removed from the project if we cannot accommodate the potential storm water run off into the Railroad Right of Way.

Proposed Work and Associated Costs:

- Additional Jack and Bore to connect the storm drain to an existing 6" line and catch basin on the east side of the railroad tracks:
Estimated Cost: \$113,818
- Additional Storm Drainage Work on the East Side:
Estimated Cost: \$12,395
Total for both \$126,213 (Includes above amount; totals reflect overall scope improvements.)
- A large copy of the plans for this portion of the project was available for Council to review as discussion was held.

-Crank moved, Gary seconded to approve the additional amount of \$126,213 for the proposed additional storm drainage work near the Railroad Tracks to be submitted to MDOT for their approval to complete the permit process and in the event that MDOT does not approve the additional work and still insist on the removal of the curb, that we definitely want the curb on the East side of the tracks and the additional cost for that is \$12,395.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Yeas- George, Crank, Gary, Matz and Penney

Absent-None, Nays- None. Motion Carried (5-0)

NEW BUSINESS

A. 2025 Millage Rate -12.2454

-Matz moved, Crank seconded to approve the millage of 12.2454 for the 2025 tax collection.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Yeas- George, Crank, Gary, Matz and Penney
Absent-None, Nays- None. Motion Carried (5-0)

This millage rate is down from the 2024 Property Tax Millage of 12.3206

B. Resolution 2025-03 – Prorated Benefits Policy

-Matz moved, Gary seconded to approve Resolution 2025-03, a resolution to establish prorated benefits for employees working between 32 and 39 hours as presented.
Motion Carried (5-0)

Resolution 2025-03 establishes a prorated benefits structure for employees working between 32 and 39 hours per week as part of the City of Reading Employee Guidebook to recognize the importance of providing equitable benefits to all members of the workforce

C. June 19th Proclamation – Juneteenth

-Matz moved, Crank seconded to ratify the Mayor’s Proclamation recognizing Juneteenth as a day of reflection and significance. Motion Carried (5-0)

D. Special Meeting – Tuesday, June 24, 2025-6:30 pm

-Penney moved, Matz seconded to set up a Special Meeting for Tuesday, June 24, 2025, to Prepare for the Fiscal Year end and to place on the agenda for approval the following items. Budget Resolution Adoption, Final approval of any FY 2024/2025 budget amendments, adoption of the TIFA and Fire Department Budgets, adopt Rate Schedules for 2025/2026, adopt the CIP Plan for 2026-2030 and Any additional items necessary for FY 2024/2025 as well as heading into FY 2025/2026. Motion carried (5-0)

E. Resignation from Planning Commission/TIFA Board

-Crank moved, Matz seconded to accept the resignation of Frank Oddou from the Planning Commission/TIFA Board with regrets. Motion Carried (5-0)

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- Planning Commission Hearing: June 23, 2025, Proposed Capital Improvement Plan
- TIFA PA 57 of 2018 Informational Meeting & Budget Meeting – June 23, 2025
- Next Regular Council Meeting – Tuesday, July 8, 2025

SECOND CALL TO PUBLIC

No Comment

- Matz moved, Gary seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion Carried (5-0)
Meeting adjourned at 8:04 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly Blythe, City Manager/Clerk/Treasurer

