

**READING CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
Tuesday, August 12, 2025  
City Hall Council Chambers**

**MAYOR PENNEY CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:30 P.M. AND LED THOSE IN ATTENDANCE WITH THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.**

**ROLL CALL:** George, Crank, and Penney present. Matz and Gary absent. Also present, Kimberly Blythe, City Manager/Clerk/Treasurer; Grace VanCamp, First Deputy Clerk/Treasurer/Zoning Administrator; Melani Matthews, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer/Cemetery Administrator; guest speaker, Abe Dane, Hillsdale County Clerk; Officer Eric Stolberg, Reading PD.  
Guest: Chuck Hartshorn

Penney moved, Crank seconded to excuse Gary and Matz from the meeting. Motion Carried (3-0).

Crank moved and George seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried (3-0).

Guest Speaker Abe Dane updated council and guests as to what has been happening in the County Clerk's office and the courthouse.

- They have been busy getting records online for the public. These searchable and viewable records include vital records, such as births, deaths, marriages, DBA's, etc. as well as various applications, such as marriage licenses, notary applications, CPL applications, etc. Some of these things still require in-person visits to complete the process, but by having the applications online it should reduce the amount of time a person has to spend at the courthouse.
- The County Clerk's office is also responsible for putting together the jury pool for jury trials. This involves sending a questionnaire out to about 3,000 people. These questionnaires are then screened and sorted, putting groups of around 50 people into pools and assigning them to a 3-month span of time in which they may be called to serve.
- Early voting is also handled at the courthouse. The last national election saw a turnout of over 77% and out of these, 19% voted early. All voting municipalities in the county are in an agreement and share the cost of early voting.
- Circuit court is held in the courthouse. Last year, they had 335 domestic hearings (divorce, custody, etc.), 103 civil cases, reviewed 261 applications for Personal Protection Orders, and had 210 criminal cases.

This is a broad overview of some of the things handled by the County Clerk's office. Abe asked if there were any questions – Kym asked if there had been any proposal language submitted for the November election – and there hasn't been any for Reading.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

Penney closed the regular meeting and opened the Second Street vacation public hearing at 6:45 P.M. Second Street was originally platted when the streets were planned

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in 1873. The proposed street has never been developed. Further, since the original plans were made, multiple properties now have homes on them, and developing a street in that area no longer makes sense as it would go right through those houses and/or garages. By removing the street from the plans, it will eliminate any confusion for future development. Essentially, there is no room for a street to go there. Penney moved, Crank seconded to close the public hearing. Motion carried (3-0). Public hearing closed and regular meeting resumed at 6:51 P.M.

## **FIRST CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

No Comments

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

George moved, Crank seconded to approve the Consent agenda as presented, which includes the minutes from the Regular Meeting of July 8, 2025, the Special Meeting of July 29, 2025, as well as the Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements for June, 2025, payment of operating bills for July 2025 in the amount of \$105,496.13, as well as receive and file the Library Board Minutes from June 2025.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Yeas – George, Crank, and Penney; Nays – None; Absent – Matz and Gary. Motion carried (3-0).

## **COMMUNICATIONS TO COUNCIL – None**

## **OLD/ONGOING BUSINESS**

### **MELS (Michigan/East/Lynn/Strong) Project Updates**

- Strong St
  - Concrete curb and gutter and sidewalk installation dates have been dynamic. Yesterday the concrete subcontractor notified us that he is available this Thursday the 14<sup>th</sup> to install curb and gutter. This will be followed by sidewalk Friday the 15<sup>th</sup>.
  - Asphalt Paving will follow concrete work and is scheduled to begin on Tuesday, August 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Michigan St
  - Water services are largely complete
  - Resubmittal to MDOT with additional requested information before Monday the 18<sup>th</sup>.
  - Preconstruction meeting with MDOT and others engaged by MDOT for RR crossing work to be August 22<sup>nd</sup>. Coordination of MELS and MDOT project to take place during this meeting and the intent is to coordinate such that jack and bore of water main carrier pipe can be omitted. In lieu of jack and bore open cut trench water main installation would be performed.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. **Easement** – RYSBA; Ingress/Egress to future ball complex

- Crank moved, George seconded to approve having the easement signed by Mayor Penney and Kimberly Blythe, City Manager/Clerk/Treasurer.  
ROLL CALL VOTE: Yeas – George, Crank, and Penney; Nays – None; Absent – Matz and Gary. Motion carried (3-0).
- RYSBA (Reading Youth Softball/Baseball Association) paperwork and filings have all been reviewed by the attorney and everything seems to be in order. The ingress/egress easement is for the RYSBA to be able to access future ball fields that are planned to be built to the West of Magic Square.

### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

- The Reading Community Fire Board Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, August 13, 2025 has been cancelled.
- The next Regular City Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 9, 2025 at 6:30 P.M.

### **SECOND CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

No Comments

Penney moved, George seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried (3-0).

Meeting adjourned at 7:06 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Melani Matthews, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer/Cemetery Clerical Adm