

**READING CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, March 10, 2026
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, Gary, Matz, and Penney present. Also present, Kimberly Blythe, City Manager/Clerk/Treasurer; Grace VanCamp, First Deputy Clerk/Treasurer/Zoning Administrator; Melani Matthews, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer/Cemetery Administrator; Guests: Steve Nemeth, Andy and Lauralee Britton, and Mark Wiley, county commissioner.

Matz moved, Gary seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried (5-0).

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Wiley gave an update on the happenings of the County Commissioners office. The latest commissioners meeting had to be canceled due to the meeting area being over-capacity. They are looking into the rules – large groups planning to attend are supposed to give notice so they can make sure the meeting area is large enough and that did not happen. There is a bit of controversy regarding the Lifeways financing, which has stirred more interest. The Commissioners office is still reviewing locations for the District Court. They are still in the process of reviewing options for the Opioid money. Mayor Penney inquired about the aquifer status which had been receiving a lot of attention over the past months and years – Commissioner Leininger has been more involved. The OMI (Ohio, Michigan, Indiana) is still meeting. The fish farm has closed up shop. Michigan and Indiana had each contributed \$500,000 to fund a geological study and have been requesting an update as to how the funds are being spent.

CONSENT AGENDA

George moved, Matz seconded to approve the Consent agenda as presented, which includes the minutes from the Regular Meeting of February 10, 2026, the Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements for January, 2026, payment of operating bills for January 2026 in the amount of \$62,213.05.

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

COMMUNICATIONS TO COUNCIL –

- The City received a 5-star Honored Community Rating from the University of Michigan College of Business.
- The City received a Thank-You card from the family of Marcia Becker.

FIRST CALL TO THE PUBLIC

- No public comment

OLD/ONGOING BUSINESS

A. MELS (Michigan/East/Lynn/Strong) Project Updates

- The contractors will be back in town beginning next week (Monday, March 16th) to begin the work of finishing up the project. The final date everything needs to be completed by is May 31st, 2026.

NEW BUSINESS

A. BCC MRTMA Renewals – Two Class C Grow Licenses

- Crank moved, Gary seconded to approve the renewal of two MRTMA Class C grow licenses for BCC Agriculture, Inc. with the stipulation of receiving the PM schedule information for filter replacement to reduce odor complaints as there have been several complaints in the past.
ROLL CALL VOTE: Yeas – George, Crank, Gary, Matz, and Penney; Nays – None; Absent – None. Motion Carried (5-0).

B. Native Leaf MRTMA Renewals – Class C Grow and Processors License

- Matz moved, Crank seconded to approve the renewal of the MRTMA Class C grow and processor license for Native Leaf, LLC.
ROLL CALL VOTE: Yeas – George, Crank, Gary, Matz, and Penney; Nays – None; Absent – None. Motion Carried (5-0).

C. Domestic Harmony Contract

- Matz moved, Gary seconded to approve the Domestic Harmony Contract in the amount of \$2,000 for the 2026 fiscal year.
ROLL CALL VOTE: Yeas – George, Crank, Gary, Matz, and Penney; Nays – None; Absent – None. Motion Carried (5-0).

D. LRS Contract Extension

- Crank moved, Gary seconded to approve a contractually allowed one-year contract extension with LRS for trash removal, with no increase in premium.
ROLL CALL VOTE: Yeas – George, Crank, Gary, Matz, and Penney; Nays – None; Absent – None. Motion Carried (5-0).

E. Next Regular Meeting – Tuesday, April 14, 2026, 6:30 PM Council Chambers

F. Other

- Councilman George asked about his water bill, seemed high – Kym explained that due to the severe winter weather we have experienced this season, we had meters read when the weather was more acceptable. This caused an increase of approximately 10 days usage on this past bill.
- Councilman Crank mentioned the wire on his meter gets loose every few months and needs to be fixed. Kym said we would get his meter on the schedule for replacement.
- Councilman George asked if there has been any movement with the car repair shop that wants to come in to town. There is a public hearing for a special use permit scheduled for the next Planning Commission meeting, at the end of the month.

SECOND CALL TO THE PUBLIC

- Lauralee and Andy Britton inquired about sidewalks, and how that project is coming along. There is a section of the Master Plan, available on the City's website, which outlines the prioritization of when and where sidewalk replacement is scheduled.

Matz moved, Crank seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried (5-0).
Meeting adjourned at 7:11 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Melani Matthews, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer/Cemetery Clerical Adm