

**READING CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, May 12, 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; Mark Hodshire, RPD Chief
Guests: Kayleigh Eaton, Chris Clabaugh, Chuck Hartshorn, and Steve Nemeth

Crank moved, Matz seconded to approve the agenda as amended, adding G. Special Meeting May 19th at 6:30 PM under X. New Business. Motion carried (5-0).

Mayor Penney closed the regular meeting at 6:31 PM and opened a public information meeting regarding DWSRF Funding – Lead Service Line Replacement Project Planning Document

City Manager Blythe explained the need for the planning document; we still have many service lines that need to be replaced due to the Lead and Copper rules. We are hoping to improve efficiency and lower costs by scheduling these replacements to be done together rather than one at a time, in an emergency situation. EGLE has funding opportunities available, and being in an overburdened area may allow us to request principal forgiveness. We have been compiling information and hope to have it in a more understandable format over the next few days, which is why we would like to have a special meeting next week. The planning document is due by June 1st. Mayor Penney asked if there were any other questions. There were no questions from the council members nor any questions or comments from the public in attendance. Matz moved, Gary seconded to close the public information meeting and return to the council meeting. Motion carried (5-0). Public information meeting adjourned at 6:39 PM.

CONSENT AGENDA

Crank moved, Matz seconded to approve the Consent agenda as presented, which includes the minutes from the Regular Meeting of April 14, 2026, the Treasurer’s Report and Financial Statements for March, 2026, payment of operating bills for April, 2026 in the amount of \$154,064.69, as well as receive and file the Library Board minutes for February and March, 2026.

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

COMMUNICATIONS TO COUNCIL – None

FIRST CALL TO THE PUBLIC

- Chris Clabaugh inquired about the driveway approaches on East and Lynn streets as a follow-up to concerns brought before the council last month.

- Kayleigh Eaton of 206 Lynn Street brought concerns about her basement having sewage backing up into it and is wondering if the trenchless digging that was done could have contributed to this problem. The engineers/contractors have been in touch and her situation will be monitored.

OLD/ONGOING BUSINESS

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

- Project completion is within sight. The project is in excellent shape to complete all remaining items by early next week. Engineers, contractors, and City staff would like to thank everyone involved for their continued contributions and cooperation throughout the project.

B. Traffic Control Order 2026-01 – No Stopping, Standing, or Parking on East and Lynn Streets

- Chief Hodshire was present and available to the council to answer questions and address concerns with the Order. Lots of discussion back and forth, sometimes involving the guests. The Chief has the authority to issue a temporary TCO for 90 days, and has done that effective 5/12/2026. Notice will be distributed to residents on those streets. George moved, Matz seconded to table making the TCO permanent for those 90 days to see if they can come up with some other options. Motion carried (5-0).

NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution 2026-07 Approval of Project Planning Document & Authorization DWSRF Funding

- Gary moved, Crank seconded to table this item until the Special Meeting on May 19, 2026. Motion Carried (5-0).

B. Fund transfers

- Gary moved, Matz seconded to approve the fund transfers as presented by the City Manager/Clerk/Treasurer and outlined in the Fund Transfers Memo dated May 12, 2026.

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

C. Proposal – Operations Water/Sewer Departments (Full time licensed operator)

- Crank moved, Gary seconded to move forward with the proposal. Motion carried (5-0).

D. 2026 General Municipal Election

- Reminder to Council and guests – The 2026 General Municipal Election will be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, for the purpose of electing on Mayor and two Council Members. Nominating petitions must be filed no later than 4:00 PM on Tuesday, July 21, 2026. Nominating petition packets are available at City Hall during regular business hours.

E. Budget Hearing for the 2026/2027 Fiscal Year budget

- Matz moved, Gary seconded to set the Budget Hearing for the 2026/2027 Fiscal Year Budget to be held at the next Regular Meeting, scheduled for Tuesday, June 9, 2026. Motion carried (5-0).

F. Next Meeting

- The next Regular Meeting of the Reading City Council is scheduled for Tuesday, June 9, 2026 at 6:30 PM in the Reading Council Chambers.

G. Special Meeting – Tuesday, May 19, 2026 at 6:30 PM

- Matz moved, Crank seconded to schedule a Special Meeting for Tuesday, May 19, 2026 at 6:30 PM. Motion carried (5-0).

SECOND CALL TO THE PUBLIC

- Chris Clabaugh thanked council for their consideration of the parking issue on East and Lynn Streets.
- Chris Clabaugh asked who is up for re-election. Mayor Penney, Councilman Crank and Councilman George.
- Chris Clabaugh asked if there were any updates to the out of service hydrants. We are getting quotes.
- Steve Nemeth commented that it will be good to continue to revisit the TCO commentary monthly, as was discussed during the meeting. Look at possible alternatives.
- Councilwoman Matz addressed the garage sale concerns of guest Hartshorn.

George moved, Matz seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried (5-0).

Meeting adjourned at 7:52 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Melani Matthews, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer/Cemetery Clerical Adm