

**READING CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, June 9, 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; Melani Matthews, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer/Cemetery Administrator; Mark Hodshire, RPD Chief; Eric Stolberg, RPD
Guests: Simon Clabaugh, Linda McLain, Adrien Miller, Derek Bassage, James Green of F&V, Chuck Hartshorn, Chris Clabaugh, Steve Nemeth, and several others who did not sign in.

Matz moved, Gary seconded to approve the agenda as amended, updating the date of the next meeting to June 23rd at 6:30 PM under IX. New Business, item D. Motion carried (5-0).

CONSENT AGENDA

Matz moved, Gary seconded to approve the Consent agenda as presented, which includes the minutes from the Regular Meeting of May 12, 2026, the minutes from the Special Meeting of May 26, 2026, the Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements for April, 2026, payment of operating bills for May, 2026 in the amount of \$164,321.30, as well as receive and file the Library Board minutes for April, 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 of S. Sand Lake Road inquired/commented about the following: would like to see the agenda prior to the meeting, whether or not the F&V Proposal had been posted anywhere, denial of a zoning permit, process for a recall petition, denial of a fence permit, questioning approval for a façade in the Historic Overlay District
- Linda McLain of Cherry Street inquired about percentages in the budget and payroll
- Chuck Hartshorn of Michigan Street inquired about a FOIA request

OLD/ONGOING BUSINESS

A. F&V Operations Agreement for Water/Sewer Operator

- James Green from F&V was in attendance to answer questions from council regarding the proposed contract for services. Council asked a variety of questions for clarification. There is a clause in the contract which allows either party to cancel with 30 days' notice. Whether or not this agreement would raise costs to the utility customers was a big concern. After much deliberation, George moved to table the issue for 30 days. The motion had no support. Gary moved, Crank seconded to approve the Operations Agreement with Fleis &

VandenBrink for Water and Wastewater Operator Services, with an effective date of July 9, 2026 so there will be one month of overlap between F&V and our current operator. Roll Call Vote: Yeas – Crank, Gary, Matz, and Penney. Nays – George. Motion carried (4-1).

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

- Crank moved, Matz seconded to form a committee consisting of 2 council members, the Police Chief, and the Street Administrator to review the temporary traffic control order and develop recommendations for Council consideration prior to the expiration of the temporary order. Motion carried (5-0).
- Mayor Penney moved, Matz seconded to appoint councilors Crank and Gary to the Traffic Control Sub Committee. Motion carried (5-0).

C. Amend Budget Hearing date

- Matz moved, Crank seconded to amend the previously approved motion and establish June 23, 2026 as the official date for the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget Hearing. Motion carried (5-0).

NEW BUSINESS

A. Appointment to the Zoning Board of Appeals

- Matz moved, Crank seconded to approve the appointment of Allen VanCamp to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Motion carried (4-1).

B. Proposed updates to the Employee Policy Guidebook

- Crank moved, Gary seconded to approve the addition of Section 24 – Employee Classification and Timekeeping Policy; amendments to section 19 – Use of Equipment, Vehicles, and City Property; revisions to the Sick Leave Policy to ensure compliance with Michigan’s Earned Sick Time Act (ESTA); revisions to the Vacation Policy to clarify eligibility and usage requirements; and amendments to the Hours of Work section to better define work schedules and benefit eligibility for employees regularly working between thirty-two (32) and forty (40) hours per week.

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

C. Juneteenth Proclamation

- Crank moved, Matz seconded to ratify the Mayor’s Proclamation recognizing Juneteenth – June 19th, 2026 - as a day of reflection, remembrance, and historical significance. Motion carried (5-0).

D. Next Meeting

- The next Regular Meeting of the Reading City Council is scheduled for Tuesday, June 23, 2026 at 6:30 PM in the Reading Council Chambers.

SECOND CALL TO THE PUBLIC

- Chris Clabaugh of S. Sand Lake Road expressed his opinion that during the appointment of Allen VanCamp to the Zoning Board of Appeals, it should have been disclosed that Allen is the Zoning Administrator’s brother.
- Councilman George made note of a potential sidewalk issue on East Street
- Councilman George asked if the netting could be removed in the MELS project grass-seeded restoration area.

Crank moved, Gary seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried (5-0).

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Melani Matthews, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer/Cemetery Clerical Adm