

**CITY OF READING, OHIO
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – LEGISLATIVE SESSION
JUNE 17, 2025 – 7:30 PM**

For the full detail of this evening's Council Meeting, please visit www.watchreadingohio.com.

CALL TO ORDER

President of Council, Mr. Mattscheck called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President of Council, Mr. Mattscheck led those in attendance in a prayer and then the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Council Members Present: Mr. Powell, Mr. Bronner, Mr. Bishop, Mr. Boehner, Mrs. Kroeger, Mr. Thamann & Mrs. Eadicicco.

OTHER CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Mayor Bo Bemmes, Law Director Dave Stevenson & Clerk of Council Carla Bronner

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion to approve June 3, 2025 (Regular) Council Minutes Meeting made by Mr. Boehner, seconded by Mrs. Eadicicco. Motion carried by voice vote.

MEMORIAL PROCLAMATION: HONORING LARRY HOCHBERG

WHEREAS, the City of Reading and the Reading Bridal District lost a valued member and colleague on June 2, 2025, with the death of Larry Hochberg, and;

WHEREAS, in 1979 Mr. Hochberg and his wife Linda opened Bridal and Formal in a 3,000 square foot storefront on Benson Street in what is today the signature Reading Bridal District, and;

WHEREAS, Bridal and Formal through Larry's and Linda's pioneering spirit and entrepreneurship grew to become the flagship bridal store in the largest bridal district in the United States, and;

WHEREAS Larry's leadership facilitated the development and growth of a unique brand for the City of Reading and the generation of significant fiscal and employment growth, and;

WHEREAS, Larry's vision for a one-stop venue for prospective brides spans 46 years, three generations and countless designs and trends in the bridal industry, and;

WHEREAS, Larry was actively involved in the Jewish Federation of Cincinnati and the broader Jewish movement, offering his time, leadership and philanthropy, and;

WHEREAS, Larry was a great family man and a role model to other small bridal-related businesses helping facilitate their success, and;

WHEREAS, Larry accomplished all this while being a devoted husband, father, grandfather, friend and impactful member of the community.

THEREFORE, by the power invested in me as mayor of the City of Reading I proclaim and recognize on behalf of our residents and businesses:

- 1) We mourn the passing of Larry Hochberg and remember him for a life well-lived;*
- 2) We appreciate the significant contributions Larry Hochberg made to the City of Reading over the course of his life, and;*

3) *We extend sincere condolences to Larry's family, friends and especially his beloved wife Linda.*

Proclaimed this 17th day of June, 2025

GUEST SPEAKERS: Randy Cook (Zoning Administrator & Exterior Maintenance Code Enforcement Officer)

Introduced himself to Council and gave his background. His goal is to be visible and personable with everyone. Mentioned you get better results when you're seen.

Mr. Powell asked if Mr. Cook will be more complaint driven or more proactive:

Mr. Cook answered that being only 2 weeks in, he's working to address the complaints first, but is also, as he's driving around, jotting down every address he sees. He notes that every area is sensitive. Later down the road, he would love to see community involvement (sports teams, etc) in helping the folks who physically, or otherwise, cannot complete the work themselves.

rcook@readingohi.org

Main office line, ext 126.

AUDIENCE ASKING PARTICIPATION:

(1) Lee Koehler (2328 Hunt Road): Asked Council to consider what other communities do with street trees.

COMMUNICATIONS:

(1) June 10, 2025 Email from Don Lykins:

"So proud of RPD today..."

*Officer Eric Bartlett took my initial call and did a remarkable job investigating this crime... .. **He Needs special recognition.***

Officer Bartlett followed up with me through several emails, giving me status and asking questions over the weekend... -- very, very impressed with his diligence and perseverance.

Note: I was out of town the entire weekend so all correspondence was through email and phone.

CRIME: I had a security camera stolen early Friday morning (6 June 2025, 6am). See video of the theft. Luckily, I had another camera which caught it all... along with several other cameras up and down Reading Road.

I reported it to 911 around 9pm Saturday night and Officer Bartlett jumped on the case involving Lt Dan Flottesch who recognized the thief. Within 3 hrs of my initial call, they had a suspect and were preparing a warrant for his arrest and proceeded to look for him.

Today, thief (Isaac Greer) was arrested by Officer Cole, see note below.

Camera and accessories were only worth around \$62, but it's the annoyance of it all plus this criminal is apparently well known for other crimes around Reading and this brazen theft must not be tolerated, even though it's just a misdemeanor.

I'm so proud of the work by these officers, so very proud Can't thank them enough for their efforts. I feel so much safer, and I have told many others of my thoughts.

This quick action is what I call "Deer Park and Blue Ash quality"... as the swift and determined action by RPD is normally only found in those great communities where I also own property. I can proudly say Reading is showing signs of greatness!!!!

Don Lykins"

(2) May 2025 Mayor's Court Monthly Disbursement Report

147 Bench warrants Issued, 292 Cases Heard & \$16,990.00 Collected

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

**Let it be known that at the May 20, 2025, Legislative Council meeting, "Ordinance 2025-22" was unintentionally skipped during the ordinance titling portion of the Council Meeting, and "Ordinance 2025-23" was used, followed by "Ordinance 2025-24." After conferring with our Law Director, Dave Stevenson, he advised that we are good to continue forward without adjusting the oversight, as long as it is notated in the official Council Minutes."*

READING OF RESOLUTIONS:

(1) A RESOLUTION IMPLEMENTING SECTIONS 3735.65 THROUGH 3735.70 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE, ESTABLISHING AND DESCRIBING THE BOUNDARIES OF A COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA IN THE CITY OF READING, OHIO DESIGNATING A HOUSING OFFICER, AND ASSIGNING THE COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA HOUSING COUNCIL AND TAX INCENTIVE REVIEW COUNCIL.

Motion made by Mrs. Eadicicco, seconded by Mr. Thamann, to suspend the rule that requires a second and third reading. Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote. Motion made by Mrs. Eadicicco, seconded by Mrs. Kroeger to adopt the resolution. Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2025-25R

READING OF ORDINANCES:

(1) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY/SERVICE DIRECTOR TO PURCHASE A TYPE I CHASSIS FOR REMOUNTING AN EXISTING AMBULANCE PATIENT COMPARTMENT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Motion made by Mr. Bronner, seconded by Mrs. Kroeger, to suspend the rule that requires a second and third reading. Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote. Motion made by Mrs. Kroeger, seconded by Mr. Bronner to adopt the ordinance. Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2025-26

(2) AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT FOR THE EMERY THEATER REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Motion made by Mrs. Eadicicco, seconded by Mrs. Kroeger, to suspend the rule that requires a second and third reading. Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote. Motion made by Mr. Boehner, seconded by Mr. Bronner to adopt the ordinance. Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2025-27

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

Mr. Boehner: The service department has free compost bins that can be picked up at the Service garage.

Mayor Bo Bemmes:

On June 9 I administered the oath of office to Lucas Schleidt as he became a member of our Police department.

Our American Legions festival will be on June 28 at Koenig Park with our fireworks going off at 10pm.

Our Police Department was recognized by Lexipol, the leading provider of solutions that empower performance excellence in Public Safety. This is the 6th consecutive year that our excellent Police Department received the Gold award, which is the highest ranking possible.

Through our District 2 Integrating Committee that distributes Ohio Public Works funding for infrastructure improvements we were awarded \$826,400 in grant dollars to improve all of East Crest Drive (including water main improvements) all of Crestmont Drive and West Crest from Crestmont to Keith Drive. We were also awarded \$826,400 in interest free loan dollars to be able to complete the \$1,652,800 project.

I want to thank our Reading Chamber of Commerce and our Reading Bridal district for all that they do to help keep the businesses that we have and their help in attracting new businesses to locate here.

Please get to know your neighbors and look out for them and call 911 immediately if you see any suspicious or illegal activity.

Please sign up for emergency alerts and warnings from Hamilton County Alert and Smart 911 at AlertHC.org.

Call me at 513-509-8619 with any questions, comments or concerns.

Andy Bronner:

Motion made by Mr. Bronner, seconded by Mrs. Eadicicco to appoint Council and CIC members Dave Powell and Mark Bishop, to the Community Reinvestment Area Housing Council as the two people appointed by Council; to appoint Susan Slavey & Jenny Robbins as the two appointees by Mayor Bemmes; and for Council to appoint the following additional members to the Housing Council:

Brad Daniels (Valley Central Bank, Reading business and a Reading Resident).

Tim Cox (Six Realty, and Reading Resident)

Patrick Ross (Service Director, and Reading Resident)

Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn came from Mr. Boehner, and was seconded by Mrs. Kroeger. Motion carried by voice vote.

There being no further business, the meeting was declared adjourned at 8:13 pm.

X_____

Carla Bronner
Clerk of Council

X_____

Kevin Mattscheck
President of Council