



October 21, 2024
Regular Meeting
7:30 PM

Cleveland Heights City Hall
Council Chambers
40 Severance Cir
Cleveland Heights, Ohio

MEETING MINUTES

1) Meeting called to order by Council President

Start: 7:31pm

2) Roll Call of Council Members

Present: Craig Cobb, Tony Cuda, Gail Larson, Anthony Mattox Jr., Davida Russell, Jim Petras

Excused: Jim Posch

Also present: Mayor Seren, Assistant Law Director Crumrine, Clerk Balester

3) Excuse absent members

Jim Posch excused

4) Amendments to the Agenda (if necessary)

Council president reserved the right to amend agenda later in the meeting if necessary to adjust for the scheduled start time of Agenda Item 10: NEORSD Doan Brook Restoration Project - Design Update (start time 8:00pm via zoom)

5) Approval of minutes from previous meeting(s)

a. September 3, 2024

APPROVED

b. September 9, 2024

APPROVED

6) Communications from the Mayor

- Sealed bids were received on October 8, 2024 for project #24-08 – Sanitary Sewer Pipe Repair Project – Phase 1. Three companies submitted bids. Fabrizi Trucking and Paving submitted the lowest and

best bid in the amount of \$2,044,599.21.

7) City Administrator's Report

- Coventry Garage/Elevator Update
- Lennox/Surrey Garage Update; estimated completion is by the end of 2024
- Cedar-Lee Elevator; water damage to the motherboard (computer) is causing issues; 6-8 weeks to get a new motherboard

8) Departmental Report(s)

No reports

9) Report of the Clerk of Council

Nothing to report

11) Motion to amend agenda to move Public Comment - Legislative Agenda Items Only to before the NEORS D Presentation: Tony Cuda

Seconded: Craig Cobb

Yes: Craig Cobb, Tony Cuda, Gail Larson, Anthony Mattox Jr., Davida Russell, Jim Petras

No: None

MOTION PASSED

Public Comment - Legislative Agenda Items only

(Note: Persons wishing to speak must register in advance. A 3-minute time limit applies. Council President reserves the right to reduce time limit based on the volume of business on the agenda).

Speaker	Resident/Board Member/Other	Topic
Drew Herzig	Resident	Resolution on gender-affirming healthcare
Harley Rubin	Resident	Trans sanctuary city resolution
Anna Powaski	Resident	Trans sanctuary city resolution
Sidney Negron	Resident	Trans sanctuary city resolution

10) NEORS D Doan Brook Restoration Project - Design Update

8:00 PM Start Time (Zoom)

- Council left the presentation early in order to address the public in attendance to speak about Christian Thomas

12) Public Comment - General

(Note: Persons wishing to speak must register in advance. A 3-minute time limit applies. Council President reserves the right to reduce time limit based on the volume of business on the agenda).

Speaker	Resident/Board Member/Other	Topic
Sara Thomas-Peterson	Resident	Death of Christian Thomas
Brenda Bickerstaff	Resident	Death of Christian Thomas
Bill Swain	Resident	Death of Christian Thomas
Carol Steiner	Resident	Death of Christian Thomas
Molly Garfield	Resident	Death of Christian Thomas
Arthur Blakey II	Resident	Death of Christian Thomas
Abdul Ra Hasan	Resident	Death of Christian Thomas
Tiffany Tyson	Resident	Death of Christian Thomas
Sara Continenza	Resident	Death of Christian Thomas
Genesis Tyson Thomas	Resident	Death of Christian Thomas
CJ Nash	Resident	Death of Christian Thomas

Motion to recess: Anthony Mattox Jr.

Seconded: Gail Larson

Yes: Craig Cobb, Tony Cuda, Gail Larson, Anthony Mattox Jr., Davida Russell, Jim Petras

No: None

MOTION PASSED

13) LEGISLATION

Note: The title for each piece of legislation contains a parenthetical reference to the Council Committee within which the subject matter of the legislation falls. Council Committees are abbreviated as follows: (AS)-Administrative Services; (COTW)-Committee of the Whole; (CRR)-Community Relations and Recreation; (F)-Finance; (HB)-Housing and Building; (MSES)-Municipal Services and Environmental Sustainability; (PD)-Planning and Development; (PSH)-Public Safety and Health. See Resolution 97-2022 for a list of Council Committee

subject matter areas.

a. First Readings – Consideration of Adoption Requested

RESOLUTION NO. 193-2024(MSES): First Reading. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an amendment to the agreement with Wade Trim, Inc. for professional design and engineering services relating to control of sanitary sewer overflows CH-13 and CH-61, and illicit connections on Hampshire Road; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Mayor Seren

Motion to adopt: Gail Larson

Seconded: Anthony Mattox Jr.

Yes: Craig Cobb, Tony Cuda, Gail Larson, Anthony Mattox Jr., Davida Russell, Jim Petras

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

ORDINANCE 194-2024(MSES): First Reading. An Ordinance amending Ordinance No. 140-2021 to broaden the authorized expenditure of ARPA funds to include water infrastructure improvements and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Mayor Seren

Motion to adopt: Anthony Mattox Jr.

Seconded: Gail Larson

Yes: Craig Cobb, Tony Cuda, Gail Larson, Anthony Mattox Jr., Davida Russell, Jim Petras

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 195-2024(F): First Reading. A Resolution accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the Budget Commission; authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the County Fiscal Officer; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Mayor Seren

Motion to adopt: Anthony Mattox Jr.

Seconded: Gail Larson

Yes: Craig Cobb, Tony Cuda, Gail Larson, Anthony Mattox Jr., Davida Russell, Jim Petras

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 196-2024(F): First Reading. A Resolution requesting the County Fiscal Officer to advance taxes from the proceeds of the 2024 tax year collection pursuant to Section 321.34 of the Ohio Revised Code; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Mayor Seren

Motion to adopt: Anthony Mattox Jr.

Seconded: Gail Larson

Yes: Craig Cobb, Tony Cuda, Gail Larson, Anthony Mattox Jr., Davida Russell, Jim Petras

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

b. First Readings Only

RESOLUTION NO. 197-2024(MSES): First Reading. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Classic Ford of Madison for the acquisition of a two (2) 2024 Ford F-350 one-ton Regular Cab trucks for the Refuse and Recycling Division of the Department of Public Works.

Introduced by Mayor Seren

READ INTO THE RECORD

RESOLUTION NO. 198-2024(MSES): First Reading. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with MACQUEEN Equipment, LLC. for the acquisition of two (2) 7.5 yard 50/50 Split Body Easy Dump – Direct Truck Mounts for the Refuse and Recycling Division of the Department of Public Works.

Introduced by Mayor Seren

READ INTO THE RECORD

RESOLUTION NO. 199-2024(COTW): First Reading. A Resolution proclaiming the City of Cleveland Heights a safe haven for gender-affirming

health care.

Introduced by Councilmember Larson, President Cuda, Vice President Russell, Councilmember Mattox, Councilmember Petras, and Councilmember Posch

READ INTO THE RECORD

c. Second Readings

ORDINANCE NO. 190-2024(PD): Second Reading. An Ordinance enacting Section 331.46 of the Codified Ordinances of Cleveland Heights, entitled "Driving while texting."

Introduced by Mayor Seren

Motion to adopt: Gail Larson

Seconded: Craig Cobb

Yes: Craig Cobb, Tony Cuda, Gail Larson, Anthony Mattox Jr., Davida Russell, Jim Petras

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 191-2024(AS): Second Reading. A Resolution increasing the compensation of the Clerk of Council.

Introduced by President Cuda

Motion to adopt: Anthony Mattox Jr.

Seconded: Gail Larson

Discussion:

Yes: Craig Cobb, Tony Cuda, Gail Larson, Anthony Mattox Jr., Davida Russell, Jim Petras

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

d. Consent Agenda

Motion to suspend rules: Gail Larson

Seconded: Craig Cobb

Yes: Craig Cobb, Tony Cuda, Gail Larson, Anthony Mattox Jr., Davida Russell, Jim Petras

No: None

MOTION PASSED

Motion to adopt: Anthony Mattox Jr.

Seconded: Craig Cobb

Yes: Craig Cobb, Tony Cuda, Gail Larson, Anthony Mattox Jr., Davida Russell, Jim Petras

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 200-2024(PSH): First Reading. A Resolution recognizing October 24, 2024 as *International Climate Action Day* in Cleveland Heights; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by City Council Members and Mayor Seren

Passed on consent agenda

RESOLUTION NO. 201-2024(PD): First Reading. A Resolution declaring October 2024 *National Community Planning Month*; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by City Council and Mayor Seren

Passed on consent agenda

RESOLUTION NO. 202-2024(CRR): First Reading. A Resolution declaring November 30, 2024 *Small Business Saturday*; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by City Council Members and Mayor Seren

Passed on consent agenda

14) Committee Reports

- **MSES:** Update from her committee meeting earlier this morning. The next meeting is Nov 18 at 10am.
- **F:** Will be scheduling a meeting in November.
- **AS:** The next meeting is Oct 28 at 5:15. They will start with an executive session and then speak with the Chairs of the resident boards/commissions.
- **PD:** Wednesday, Nov. 6 there will be a hearing about the dog park.

15) Old Business

None

16) New Business

None

17) Council Member Comments

(Note: Council comments should directly relate to the business of the City of Cleveland Heights, rather than personal reflection or commentary. A maximum 3-minute time limit applies, but the Council President may reduce time limit based on the volume of business on the agenda, the time of evening, or other similar factors.)

- **Larson:** Gave her condolences to the Thomas family.
- **Petras:** He is grateful to everybody who came to speak this evening despite how painful it must have been for them.
- **Cobb** also expressed his condolences to the Thomas family; Council had no idea that information had not been conveyed to the family. City Council doesn't have anymore information than the family members. he has confidence that when the City and BCI complete their investigation that there will be full transparency. Whatever the outcome is, this Council will do whatever it needs to do to ensure any reforms that may be necessary within the Police Department will be implemented.
- **Mattox:** Thanked everybody for coming to express their emotions and feelings; this Council absolutely grieves with the family. It is very difficult to see a young man lose a future of experiences. The family has this Council's support and prayers. He wants the family to know his entire family is praying for them and lifting them up, and he prays for everybody who was there that night and experienced that trauma.
- **Russell:** Shared her sincere condolences; Council had no idea of the information they shared tonight, they were in the dark. She supports the police, but when there are issues, they need to be called out; there needs to be a clear and transparent investigation. She prays that they all may have peace in their hearts.

18) Council President's Report

- He would like to get together with his former student - the brother of Christian Thomas - to get to know Christian. The least he can do is to get to know him to honor his life. He thanked everybody for coming to express their grief with the Council tonight.

19) Adjournment

End: 9:54 pm

NEXT MEETING OF COUNCIL: NOVEMBER 4, 2024

APPROVED: January 21, 2025



Tony Cuda
President of Council



Addie Balester
Clerk of Council