



December 16, 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: 7:39 pm

2) Roll Call of Council Members

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

Excused: None

Also present: Mayor Seren, Director Hanna, Clerk Balester

3) Excuse absent members

4) Amendments to the Agenda (if necessary)

5) Approval of minutes from previous meeting(s)

6) Communications from the Mayor

Motion to authorize bid #24-20: Anthony Mattox Jr.

Seconded: Gail Larson

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

No: None

MOTION PASSED

- Sealed bids were received on November 26, 2024 for project #24-13 – Sanitary Sewer Pipe Repair Project – Phase 2. United Survey, Inc. (USI) submitted the lowest and best bid in the amount of \$1,275,180.50.

- Sealed bids were received on December 3, 2024 for project #24-19 – East Fairfax Water main Replacement Project. Fabrizi Trucking and Paving submitted the lowest and best bid in the amount of \$1,382,969.00.
 - Sealed bids were received on December 12, 2024 for project #24-18 – Coventry Garage Rehabilitation Project . Murphy Contracting submitted the lowest and best bid in the amount of \$503,400 for the base bid and items selected.
 - Sealed bids were received on December 12, 2024 for project #24-16 - Cain Park Stramp Project “AKA Cain Park ADA Access Trail and Seating Improvements”. Fabrizi Trucking and Paving submitted the lowest and best bid in the amount of \$1,292,001.50.
- Invites Council to attend a Planning Work Session on Thursday

7) City Administrator's Report

8) Departmental Report(s)

9) Report of the Clerk of Council

10) Public Comment - Legislative Agenda Items only

(Note: Persons wishing to speak must register in advance. A 3-minute time limit applies. If there are more than 15 speakers, the time will be automatically reduced to 2 minutes. The Council President reserves the right to reduce the time limit based on the volume of business on the agenda),

Speakers

Name	Resident/Board Member/Other	Topic
Mike Reilly	Resident	Budget
Barbara Sosnowski	Resident	Budget and the state of the City
Elizabeth Zak	Resident	Tenants rights and responsibilities legislation
Amy Eugene	Resident	Budget
Len Friedson	Resident	Budget
Laurel Freeder	Resident	Budget and Noble ARPA funds

11) Public Comment - General

(Note: Persons wishing to speak must register in advance. A 3-minute time limit

applies. If there are more than 15 speakers, the time will be automatically reduced to 2 minutes. The Council President reserves the right to reduce time limit based on the volume of business on the agenda).

Speakers

Name	Resident/Board Member/Other	Topic
Karin Lash	Resident	Comments on the COTW meeting from tonight
Carla Rautenberg	Resident	POS Inspections
Juanita Brent	Other	Property Tax Relief and Antisemitism from the State House
CJ Nash	Resident	Staff turnover

12) 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. 246-2024(AS): First Reading. A Resolution appointing Chris Brace as a member of the Transportation and Mobility Committee of the City of Cleveland Heights, OH; to complete a vacated unexpired term; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Councilmember Cobb

Motion to adopt: Anthony Mattox Jr.

Seconded: Gail Larson

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

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 247-2024(AS): First Reading. A Resolution appointing Austin Cummings as a member of the Fair Practices Board to fill a vacancy for the remainder of the unexpired term ending 2026; setting the unexpired term of office ending 2026 to end December 31, 2026; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Councilmember Cobb

Motion to adopt: Anthony Mattox Jr.

Seconded: Craig Cobb

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

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 248-2024(AS): First Reading. A Resolution appointing Leora Porter as a member of the Fair Practices Board to fill a vacancy for the remainder of the unexpired term ending 2027; setting the unexpired term of office ending 2027 to end December 31, 2027; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Councilmember Cobb

Motion to adopt: Anthony Mattox Jr.

Seconded: Gail Larson

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

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 249-2024(AS): First Reading. A Resolution appointing Stacy Hackel Snow as a member of the Fair Practices Board to fill a vacancy for the remainder of the unexpired term ending 2025; setting the unexpired term of office ending 2025 to end December 31, 2025; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Councilmember Cobb

Motion to adopt: Anthony Mattox Jr.

Seconded: Gail Larson

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

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 250-2024(AS): First Reading. A Resolution appointing Markietta Stevenson as the alternate member of the Fair Practices Board for a term ending on December 31, 2028; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Councilmember Cobb

Motion to adopt: Anthony Mattox Jr.

Seconded: Gail Larson

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

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 251-2024(PSH): First Reading. A Resolution authorizing an agreement with Dell Technologies to purchase computer equipment through the Ohio Department of Administrative Services Cooperative Purchasing Program; providing compensation therefor; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Mayor Seren

Motion to adopt: Jim Petras

Seconded: Craig Cobb

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

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 252-2024(MSES): First Reading. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Brown and Caldwell for construction administration services relating the Project No. 24-08, Sanitary Sewer Repair Project – Phase I and Project No. 24-13, Sanitary Sewer Repair Project – Phase II; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency.

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, Jim Posch

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 253-2024(MSES): First Reading. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Wade Trim, Inc., for construction administration and resident observation services relating to Project 24-12, CH-30 SSO Control, and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency.

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, Jim Posch

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 254-2024(MSES): First Reading. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with GPD Group., for construction management services relating to Project No. 24-19, the East Fairfax water main replacement project; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency.

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, Jim Posch

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 255-2024(MSES): First Reading. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with GPD Group., for construction administration and inspection services relating to Project No. 24-16, the Cain Park Stramp Project (Cain Park Access and Seating Improvement); and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency.

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, Jim Posch

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 256-2024(MSES): First Reading. A Resolution authorizing an agreement with Classic Ford of Madison to purchase a 2024 Ford Transit Cargo Van through the Ohio Department of Administrative Services Cooperative Purchasing Program; providing compensation therefor; 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, Jim Posch

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 257-2024(MSES): First Reading. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Classic Ford of Madison for the purchase of one 2025 Ford Escape Hybrid and one 2024 Transit Cargo Van through the Ohio Department of Administrative Services Cooperative Purchasing Program and the trade-in of a 2023 Ford Explorer; providing compensation therefor; 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, Jim Posch

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 258-2024(PSH): First Reading. A Resolution to

suspend enforcement of Section 351.09 of Part Three (Traffic Code) of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Cleveland Heights for the period ending December 31, 2025, or at such earlier time as Council may subsequently prescribe, on specified streets; providing for on-street overnight permit parking on specified portions of Kensington, Hillcrest, Belmar, Glenmont and Eddington Roads; 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: Jim Petras

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

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

ORDINANCE NO. 259-2024(HB): First Reading. An Ordinance amending Chapter 1311, Administration, Fees and Penalty; of Title Three, Local Provisions; of Part Thirteen, Building Code of the Codified Ordinances of Cleveland Heights to revise and add certain fees for procedures and services pertaining to the administration and enforcement of the Building & Permitting Division, 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, Jim Posch

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 260-2024(COTW): First Reading. A Resolution substituting the scope of work for the grant to Reaching Heights, Inc. ("Reaching Heights") originally authorized through Ordinance No. 179-2023; authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with Cleveland Heights-University Heights School District, and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Councilmember Posch

NO VOTE.

RESOLUTION NO. 261-2024(AS): First Reading. A Resolution authorizing

the renewal of the City's property, vehicle, law enforcement, general, employment practices, and public official liability coverage for the City and its employees with the Public Entities Pool of Ohio for the calendar year 2025; 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, Jim Posch

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

ORDINANCE NO. 265-2024(F): First Reading. An Ordinance to make appropriations for the current expenses and other expenditures of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, for the period of January 1, 2025 through March 31, 2025; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by President Cuda

NO VOTE.

ORDINANCE NO. 266-2024(CRR): First Reading. An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to execute a design-build contract with The AKA Team, Inc. for the Cain Park Restrooms Renovation Project 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, Jim Posch

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

b. Second Readings

RESOLUTION NO. 241-2024(CRR): Second Reading (Amended 12.16.2024). A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a contract with OHM Advisors for the preparation of a Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan.

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, Jim Posch

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 242-2024(CRR): Second Reading. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with SCG Fields, LLC ("SCG") through The Interlocal Purchasing System ("TIPS") for the design, provision, installation, and related construction services for the public improvement of a new synthetic turf soccer field at Denison Park; and declaring the necessity that this legislation be effective immediately as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Mayor Seren

Motion to adopt: Jim Petras

Seconded: Anthony Mattox Jr.

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

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 243-2024(CRR): Second Reading. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with Farnham Equipment Company through the Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing Program, for the provision, installation of, and related construction services for, the public improvement of new seating for Cain Park's Alma and Evans Amphitheaters; and declaring the necessity that this legislation be effective immediately as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Mayor Seren

Motion to adopt: Anthony Mattox Jr.

Seconded: Davida Russell

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

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

ORDINANCE NO. 244-2024(HB): Second Reading. An Ordinance enacting Section 1351.35 of the Codified Ordinances of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, entitled “Tenants’ Rights and Responsibilities.”

Introduced by Councilmember Petras

NO VOTE.

c. Third Readings

RESOLUTION NO. 229-2024(PD): Third Reading (Amended 12.16.2024). A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with American Builders and Applicators, LLC, a certified lead abatement contractor, for the use of Lead Safe Ohio (LSO) Grant funds in connection with the abatement of lead-based paint hazards at Permanent Parcel Number 683-11-079; providing compensation therefor; 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: Davida Russell

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

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

ORDINANCE NO. 238-2024(F): Third Reading. An Ordinance to make appropriations for the current expenses and other expenditures of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, for the period of January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025; 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

Discussion: Several Councilmembers expressed their concern regarding unanswered questions about the budget. Most expressed continued interest in having the administration put together a temporary budget instead of passing a full year budget based on incomplete information. There was frustration over the lack of collaboration between the administration and city council. Councilmember Mattox expressed his concern that his colleagues are fine with bringing a level of uncertainty to the city and its staff and questioned their definition of collaboration, and that collaboration is not

compliance. Members of council expressed their understanding that the turnover in the finance department over the last year have created challenges. However, Councilmember Petras is concerned with the deficit spending that is projected, which would likely be more than what is shown in this legislation. The Mayor expressed his opinion about the need for stability going into 2025 and that passing a temporary budget instead of a fiscal year budget would create instability. He recognizes that some councilmembers have taken offense to his characterizing their reluctance to pass this legislation as coming from a place of fear or ignorance; he did not mean this is an insult, so apologized for any offense that caused. He feels that many of the questions council has submitted have already been answered; and more could have been answered if the presence of directors at these meetings had been utilized more. He still feels optimistic and has faith as a team that Council can come to the understanding necessary to pass a full year budget. He will continue to work through the questions and answer as many as he can.

Yes: Anthony Mattox Jr.

No: Craig Cobb, Tony Cuda, Gail Larson, Davida Russell, Jim Petras, Jim Posch

LEGISLATION FAILED

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, Jim Posch

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, Jim Posch

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 262-2024(CRR): First Reading. A Resolution supporting the Ohio Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial (AMERICA250-OH).

Introduced by Mayor Seren

Legislation passed on consent agenda

RESOLUTION NO. 263-2024(CRR): First Reading. A Resolution proclaiming January 11, 2025 as *National Human Trafficking Awareness Day*; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Vice President Russell

Legislation passed on consent agenda

RESOLUTION NO. 264-2024(CRR): First Reading. A Resolution proclaiming January 2025 as *National Poverty in America Awareness Month*; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Vice President Russell

Legislation passed on consent agenda

13) Committee Reports

14) Old Business

- **Posch:** Wants to scheduled a special meeting to discuss ORD 265-2024 (temporary budget); Petras supports this idea. After some discussion, it was decided it would be a special COTW meeting at 5pm Wednesday. This will be followed by a special meeting on Thursday to vote on some legislation
- **Posch:** Updated Council regarding potential accounting firms that Council may want to hire. He is inclined to recommend the local firm, Ciuni & Panici to come in to speak with Council.

- **Motion to direct the Law Department to put together legislation to hire an accounting firm:** Jim Posch

Second: Gail Larson

Roll Call:

Posch: Yes
Petras: Yes
Russell: Yes
Mattox: No
Larson: Yes
Cuda: Yes
Cobb: Yes

MOTION PASSED

15) New Business

16) 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.)

- **Mattox:** Gave some context to him turning his chair to somebody who made a public comment tonight. He is forced to deal with, and hear things, and put up with things other members of this Council don't. He will not take the type of disrespect of others who can't see past his color or his views.
- **Posch:** He believes Mattox completely mischaracterized the public comment made tonight that he referenced in his Council Member Comment.
- **Russell:** Thanked the Parks and Recs Department for the holiday lights/cheer around City Hall and the Community Center. Also, she wants the residents to know that she works a day job, so any meetings that take place between 9 am-10:30 am and 1 pm-5:30 pm she cannot attend.

17) Council President's Report

- The vast majority of council has spoken very clearly on the budget, but that doesn't mean they don't appreciate how the Mayor and staff have navigated a difficult situation. He believes that neither Council OR the Mayor should catastrophize the situation. It seems the door does not swing both ways.

18) Adjournment

End: 9:43 pm

NEXT MEETING OF COUNCIL: JANUARY 6, 2025

APPROVED: FEBRUARY 18, 2025



Tony Cuda
President of Council

Addie Balester

Addie Balester
Clerk of Council