



January 21, 2025
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: 7:40 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

None

4) Amendments to the Agenda (if necessary)

None

5) Approval of minutes from previous meeting(s)

a. October 21, 2024

APPROVED

b. November 4, 2024

APPROVED

c. November 18, 2024

APPROVED

6) MPACT Presentation

Ryan Porter

Gave an update to the progress with MPACT's plan for the Severance Center project and overview of an upcoming Action Plan document that he will provide to Council, the Administration, and the residents.

7) Communications from the Mayor

- Announced that there was an arrest made in the murder of Edith Moore.
- Took a moment to reflect on the legacy of MLK Jr.

8) City Administrator's Report

9) Report of the Clerk of Council

10) Departmental Report(s)

11) 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. Council President reserves the right to reduce the time limit based on the volume of business on the agenda).

None

12) 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. 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
James Williams	Resident	General comment

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. 012-2025(CRR): First Reading. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with Frank Novak & Sons, Inc. to furnish the labor, material, and equipment necessary for sandblasting, painting, and related services for the purpose of repairing the Cumberland pool; repealing Resolution No. 219-2024 in its entirety; 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: 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. 009-2025(AS): Second Reading. A Resolution approving the Mayor's appointment of Rodney G. Hairston as the Director of Finance, commencing upon his confirmation; 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

c. Fourth Reading

ORDINANCE NO. 244-2025(Fourth Reading (Amended 01.16.2025)) An Ordinance enacting Section 1351.35 of the Codified Ordinances of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, entitled "Tenants' Rights and

Responsibilities.”

Introduced by Councilmember Petras

Motion to adopt: Gail Larson

Seconded: Jim Petras

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

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

d. Consent Agenda

Motion to suspend rules: 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

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. 013-2025(CRR): *First Reading* A Resolution recognizing February 2025 as *Black History Month*; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Mayor Seren

Passed on consent agenda

RESOLUTION NO. 014-2024(CRR): *First Reading* A Resolution proclaiming February 14, 2025 as *National Donor Day*; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by All City Council Members

Passed on consent agenda

RESOLUTION NO. 015-2025(CRR): First Reading. A Resolution proclaiming February, 2025 to be *American Heart Month*; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by All City Council Members

Passed on consent agenda

RESOLUTION NO. 016-2025(CRR): First Reading. A Resolution recognizing February 1, 2025 as National Freedom Day; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by All City Council Members

Passed on consent agenda

14) Committee Reports

- **PSH:** Public Safety and Health Committee will meet January 28th at 6 pm.
- **F:** Finance Committee will meet January 22 at 12:30 pm.
- **MSES:** Municipal Services will meet January 27th at 6 pm
- **HB:** There will be Housing and Building Committee meetings on January 28th at 5pm, and February 11 at 5pm
- **AS:** The next Admin Services meeting will be on January 27th at 4pm
- **PD:** Update from meeting on January 16th with the Noble Business owners; will have a meeting January 22nd at 10:30am and another meeting at February 4th at 10:30am

15) Old Business

16) New Business

- Will be meeting with Superintendent Kirby to talk about potentially having some students come in to Council meetings to give updates on what is happening in the schools

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.)

- **Cobb:** Vacancies on boards/commissions; 3 vacancies on CAC (one for the Caledonia neighborhood, one for Fairfax neighborhood, and one at large); 2 vacancies on the Commission on Aging; 9-18 vacancies on the Parks and Recreation Youth Advisory Board; 1 vacancy on the Transportation and Mobility Committee.
- **Mattox:** Reflected on MLK Day and the inauguration of President Trump and the impact that will have. He reminded residents to stay educated and focused on the decisions that are being made that will have an effect on our community and our country and not to lose hope.
- **Russell:** Reflected on MLK and what he stood for. When we talk about racism, we have to be able to say we will not stand for it anywhere, ever.

18) Council President's Report

- Spoke briefly about the piece of legislation at the December 19th meeting regarding transfers out. It bothered him that there was pressure on the council to vote on something without answers to questions.
- Spoke about MLK Day and how MLK appealed to our collective conscious and how mesmerized he was when he heard him speak. We are very lucky to live in a community where all are welcome. We must thank MLK every MLK Day for making this country and Cleveland Heights a better place.

19) Adjournment

End: 8:50pm

NEXT MEETING OF COUNCIL: FEBRUARY 3, 2025

APPROVED: MARCH 17, 2025



Tony Cuda
President of Council



Addie Balester
Clerk of Council