



February 3, 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: 7:37 PM

2) Roll Call of Council Members

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

Excused: Jim Petras

Also Present: Mayor Seren, Director Hanna, Administrator Horrigan, Clerk Balester

3) Excuse absent members

Jim Petras excused

4) Amendments to the Agenda (if necessary)

Motion to amend the agenda to remove ORD 023-2025: Gail Larson

Seconded: Davida Russell

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

No: None

MOTION PASSED

5) Approval of minutes from previous meeting(s)

a. December 2, 2024

APPROVED

b. December 9, 2024

APPROVED

6) Communications from the Mayor

- Spoke about the devastating fire at the new development at Cedar-Lee. Thanked all our firefighters, the fire chief, and all other communities who assisted.
- Addressed the presence of ICE in our community. Here in Cleveland Heights, we are constantly seeking to live up to our motto, "All Are Welcome." The city has not received any official information from the federal government. Here in Cleveland Heights, we respect the dignity and right to exist of every resident, worker, and visitor to this city. All people have value. It is a policy of the City of Cleveland Heights that we do not partake in federal civil immigration enforcement. He took the time to remind everybody of their 4th and 5th Amendment rights; he urged everybody to reach out to the ACLU or National Immigration Law Center for more specific information that may address concerns.

7) City Administrator's Report

- Sound and lighting equipment for Cain Park is en-route; May installation is expected
- Coventry Garage pre-construction meeting is this week; the timetable is forthcoming
- Surrey Garage is expected to be completed in April
- There is not a definitive date for the Cedar-Lee garage to reopening after the fire at the new development.
- Surveillance cameras have been delivered and are working with an engineering firm on installation

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

- None

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

Name	Resident/Board Member/Other	Topic
Sharon	Resident	Noble Rd affordable housing project
Melody Joy Hart	Resident	Cedar-Lee business district
Thomas Smith	Resident	ICE and CH PD; protections for students
Fiona Finneran	Resident	ICE and CH PD; protections for students
Barry Kuzmickas	Resident	Flyer circulated disparaging members of City Council
Matt Shadrak	Resident	ICE/public safety
Emily Gavalier	Other	ICE/public safety
Drew Herzig	Resident	ICE/public safety
William Baumgartner	Resident	ICE/public safety
Moshe Koval	Resident	ICE/public safety
Tonya Palmer	Resident	Non-legislative/additional topic
Sheila Keller	Resident	ICE/public safety
CJ Nash	Resident	ICE/public safety
Cynthia	Other	Flyer circulated about members of Council
Tom James	Resident	ICE/public safety
Julia	Resident	ICE/public safety

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. 017-2025(CRR): First Reading. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a contract or contracts to accept a grant

from the Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging to fund the provision of transportation services through the Office on Aging; 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 Posch

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 018-2025(AS): First Reading. A Resolution appointing Robert N. Brown as a member of the City Planning Commission of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the unexpired term ending 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 Posch

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 019-2025(PD): First Reading. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a two (2) month extension of an agreement with Millennium Strategies, LLC for continued grant writing services; 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 Posch

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

ORDINANCE NO. 020-2025(CRR): First Reading. An Ordinance authorizing and approving the presentation of entertainment programs in Cain Park for the 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: Craig Cobb

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

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

b. First Readings Only

ORDINANCE NO. 021-2025(PD): First Reading. An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to execute a real estate purchase agreement for the sale of certain real property located consisting of approximately 1.049 acres of vacant land on Lancashire Road, and identified as Permanent Parcels Nos. 685-110-24 and 685-110-04; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Mayor Seren

READ INTO THE RECORD

ORDINANCE NO. 022-2025(MSES): First Reading. An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to take all actions necessary to apply for and accept one or more Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council 2025 Energized Community Grants; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Mayor Seren

READ INTO THE RECORD

ORDINANCE NO. 023-2025(AS): First Reading. An Ordinance establishing salary schedules, position classifications, and other compensation and benefits for officers and employees of the City; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Mayor Seren

REMOVED FROM AGENDA
NOT READ INTO THE RECORD

13) Committee Reports

- **PSH:** He would like his committee to take up the issue of immigrant safety. Update from his last meeting and announced upcoming public hearings on deer management, date TBD
- **F:** Council has not received many of the items requested by Council to

complete their discussion of the 2025 Full Year Budget. The next meeting is Feb 6 at 6pm.

- **MSES:** Next meeting is
- **PD:** Next meeting will be tomorrow, February 4 at 10:30am with the Taylor Rd business

14) Old Business

- Brought up the idea of potentially having set aside a specific time to have one on one discussions with residents

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.)

- **Larson:** Thanked the Mayor for keeping Council updated on the fire that happened last week. Addressed the incident at Cilantro.
- **Mattox:** First and foremost, he said happy birthday to his mom. Thanked the firefighters for all their work to put out the fire last week. Spoke about Black History Month coming up next month and thanked everybody that came to speak out about immigrant rights; speaking truth to power takes courage.
- **Russell:** Addressed the situation immigrants are currently facing and agreed with Councilmember Mattox that we need to stand up for each other and take action; we have to continue this fight because it is only the beginning. She also thanked everybody who helped with the tragic fire. Recognized a resident (NAME) who recently passed away at 100 years old (she was a resident of Cleveland Heights for over 50 years).

17) Council President's Report

- Spoke about the tremendous efforts of all the firefighters who fought the fire for almost 24 hrs. Thanked all the communities that came out to help.
- Addressed the situation immigrants are currently facing.

18) Adjournment

NEXT MEETING OF COUNCIL: FEBRUARY 18, 2025

MINUTES APPROVED: APRIL 21, 2025

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Cuda'.

Tony Cuda
President of Council

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Addie Balester'.

Addie Balester
Clerk of Council