



March 17, 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: 7:31pm
- 2) **Roll Call of Council Members**
Present: Craig Cobb, Tony Cuda, Gail Larson, Anthony Mattox Jr., Jim Petras, Jim Posch
Excused: Davida Russell
Also present: Mayor Seren, Assistant Director Heltzel, Clerk Balester, Director Clinkscale
- 3) **Excuse absent members**
 - Vice President Russell Excused
- 4) **Amendments to the Agenda (if necessary)**
 - None
- 5) **Student Update on CHUH School District Activities**
 - Report was given by Jesse Bowling which included an update on the HS sports update over the winter, HS events in February for Black History, musical concerts, jobs and college fairs, and informational sessions.
 - Spoke about the HS theme this year - "Heights United" - and what it means to him.
- 6) **Approval of minutes from previous meeting(s)**
 - a. December 16, 2024
 - b. January 6, 2025

APPROVED

APPROVED

c. January 21, 2025

APPROVED

7) Communications from the Mayor

- Requests permission to bid project #25-01 - 2025 Road Program and project #25-02 – Parking Lot Repaving for the Sewer Building and Fire Station #1

Motion to approve request to bid project #25-01: Jim Petras

Seconded: Anthony Mattox Jr.

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

No: None

MOTION PASSED

Motion to approve request to bid project #25-02: Jim Petras

Seconded: Anthony Mattox Jr.

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

No: None

MOTION PASSED

- Confirmed that City Administrator Horrigan has resigned
- The fire-damaged building at Cedar-Lee will begin to be demolished this week and reopening Cedar Rd.

8) City Administrator's Report

- None

9) Departmental Report(s)

- Director Clinkscale (Public Works) provided a report regarding the 2025 Road Repaving Schedule
- Included information about storm sewer and water main projects as well

10) Report of the Clerk of Council

- None

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).

Speakers

Name	Resident/Board Member/Other	Topic
CJ Nash	Resident	ORD 011-2025: 2025 Budget
Christopher Brace	Resident	ORD 245-2025: Park Synagogue Rezoning
Robert Brown	Resident	ORD 245-2025: Park Synagogue Rezoning
Drew Herzig	Resident	ORD 011-2025: 2025 Budget
Michael Bending	Resident	ORD 245-2025: Park Synagogue Rezoning and Livable Neighborhoods Initiative
Sarah Curry	Resident	ORD 245-2025: Park Synagogue Rezoning
Chuck Miller	Resident	ORD 245-2025: Park Synagogue Rezoning
Amy Eugene	Resident	ORD 011-2025: 2025 Budget
Guy Thellian	Resident	ORD 011-2025: 2025 Budget
Paul Volpe	Resident	ORD 245-2025: Park Synagogue Rezoning
Alisha Fiddler	Resident	ORD 245-2025: Park Synagogue Rezoning
Karin Lash	Resident	ORD 011-2025: 2025 Budget

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
John Gall	Resident	Spoke about the situation with his house at the intersection of Fairmount/Taylor

Valerie Edwards	Resident	Issues with a property being used as an Airbnb
Austin Gilchrist	Resident	Livable Neighborhood Initiative

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. 039-2025(AS): First Reading. A Resolution appointing Markietta Stevenson as a member of the Fair Practices Board to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the unexpired term ending 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., Jim Petras, Jim Posch

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 040-2025(AS): First Reading. A Resolution appointing Darius Smith, Arin Miller-Tait and Tae'Lor Windham as members of the Citizens Advisory Committee of the City of Cleveland Heights, OH; 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., Jim Petras, Jim Posch

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 041-2025(MSES): First Reading. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to apply for grants under Ohio's Urban Forestry Grant Program through the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and to accept funding if awarded; 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., Jim Petras, Jim Posch

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

b. Second Readings

RESOLUTION NO. 037-2025(COTW): Second Reading. A Resolution authorizing Cleveland Heights City Council to establish a high school internship program.

Introduced by President Cuda

Motion to adopt: Gail Larson

Seconded: Jim Petras

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

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

c. Third Readings

ORDINANCE NO. 245-2024(PD): Third Reading. An Ordinance amending the Zoning Map of the City of Cleveland Heights to rezone the Park Synagogue property located at 3300 Mayfield Road to S-2 Mixed-Use District, and transmitting the same to the Planning Commission.

Introduced by Mayor Seren

NO VOTE

d. Fourth Readings

ORDINANCE NO. 011-2025(F): Fourth Reading As Amended 02.18.2025 and 03.17.2025. An Ordinance making 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; repealing and replacing Ordinance No. 265-2024; 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

Motion to amend by removing the seventh and final "whereas clause": Anthony Mattox Jr.

Seconded: Gail Larson

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

No: None

MOTION PASSED

Discussion: Councilmembers Larson, Posch, Petras, Mattox, Cobb, Mayor Seren, and President Cuda all spoke about the budget process that happened this year.

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

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

e. **Consent Agenda**

Motion to suspend rules: Gail Larson

Seconded: Craig Cobb

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

No: None

MOTION PASSED

Motion to adopt: Jim Petras

Seconded: Gail Larson

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

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 042-2025(HB): First Reading. A Resolution joining with HUD and other communities throughout the nation in the observation of April 2025 as *Fair Housing Month*; reaffirming the City of Cleveland Heights' commitment to fair housing; and declaring the necessity that this legislation

become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by All City Councilmembers

Passed on consent agenda

RESOLUTION NO. 043-2025(CRR): First Reading. A Resolution proclaiming April 6-12, 2025 to be *National Library Week*; 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. 044-2025(CRR): First Reading. A Resolution proclaiming April 2025 to be *National Poetry Month*; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by All City Councilmembers

Passed on consent agenda

RESOLUTION NO. 045-2025(MSES): First Reading. A Resolution recognizing April 2025 as *Earth Month*; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by All City Councilmembers

Passed on consent agenda

RESOLUTION NO. 046-2025(CRR): First Reading. A Resolution proclaiming April 2025 to be *National Autism Acceptance Month* and April 2, 2025 to be *World Autism Awareness Day*; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by All City Councilmembers

Passed on consent agenda

RESOLUTION NO. 047-2025(PD): First Reading. A Resolution proclaiming April 21-25, 2025 to be *National Community Development Week*; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Mayor Seren

Passed on consent agenda

14) Committee Reports

- **HB:** Update from previous HB Committee meeting; the next meeting is 5

pm, Monday, April 7.

- **F:** Stated objectives for 2025 for the Finance Committee moving forward; next meeting is 10 am, Wednesday, March 26.
- **MSES:** Next meeting is at 5 pm on Tuesday, March 18
- **PSH:** Next meeting is at 4 pm on Tuesday, March 18
- **AS:** Next meeting is at 5pm on Monday, March 31; reminded everybody that we have openings for the Parks and Recreation Youth Advisory Board

15) Old Business

- **Mattox:** Wanted to follow up regarding Council's commitment to scheduling a meeting to a risk management meeting regarding ethics behaviors. He wants accountability for what he believes was an illegal meeting, violating Open Meetings Act.
 - **Posch:** Responded that if Councilman Mattox believes laws were broken, he should bring it to the attention of the Court of Common Pleas.

16) New Business

- **Mattox:** Wants Councilmember Cobb to know he will hold him accountable for his previously stated commitment to call out racism and racist remarks.

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:** Made remarks regarding Women's History Month and read a poem.

18) Council President's Report

- Addressed the idea that the issues with the budget process this year were political. He believes this is dismissive of the many legitimate and substantive issues that 6 of the members of council had with what was provided to Council.

19) Adjournment

End: 9:26 pm

NEXT MEETING OF COUNCIL: APRIL 7, 2025

MINUTES APPROVED: MAY 19, 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