



**April 7, 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: 7:47 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, Director Zamft, MAC Coordinator Walburn
- 3) Excuse absent members**
 - None
- 4) Amendments to the Agenda (if necessary)**
 - None
- 5) Approval of minutes from previous meeting(s)**
 - None
- 6) City Administrator's Report**
 - None
- 7) Departmental Report(s)**

- a. Mayor's Action Center Coordinator – Todd Walburn
- b. Planning and Economic Development – Eric Zamft

8) Communications from the Mayor

- Request permission to bid project #25-03 – South Taylor and Blanche Sewer Replacement

Motion to authorize bidding for project #25-03: Anthony Mattox Jr.
Seconded: Craig Cobb

Yes: Craig Cobb, Tony Cuda, Gail Larson, Anthony Mattox Jr.,
 Davida Russell, Jim Petras, Jim Posch
No: None

MOTION PASSED

- He gave a brief update on the current road closure/construction on Taylor Rd. between Cedar and Superior.

9) Report of the Clerk of Council

- To notify Council that I have received a notice from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control for the transfer of a D5 liquor permit from Inn on Coventry Restaurant Group LLC, DBA Inn on Coventry, to Coventry Hospitality Group LLC. This matter has been referred to the Mayor and the Chief of Police.

10) 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 the time limit based on the volume of business on the agenda).

Speakers

Name	Resident/Board Member/Other	Topic
Chris Brace	Resident	Rezoning Legislation

11) 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.)

Speakers

Name	Resident/Board Member/Other	Topic
Alex Gurevich	Resident	Landlord issues
Tom Hudak	Resident	Dan Horrigan's accusations and Council's handling of it
Travis Filicky	Resident	First Energy's proposed rate increases
James Nemastil	Resident	Mayor's satisfaction survey, non-government personnel at closed door government meetings
Adam May	Resident	Mayor and his relationship with Council and various departments
Morgan Mackay	Resident	Lead-Safe Advisory Board
Amy Eugene	Resident	Issues with the Mayor
Drew Herzig	Resident	Retaliation
Cindy Evans	Resident	Work-place bullying
Barbara Sosnowski	Resident	Burgess contract
Karin Lash	Resident	Mayor and special meeting last week
Angel Fasolo	Resident	Mayor Seren should resign
James Bates	Resident	Issues with the Mayor
Robin Koslen	Resident	Workplace climate
James Williams	Resident	Non-agenda

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. 048-2025(PD): First Reading. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an 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 Petras, Jim Posch

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 049-2025(PD): First Reading. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an extension of an agreement with Gridics LLC for continued public-facing zoning software and 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 Petras, Jim Posch

No: None

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LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 050-2025(HB): First Reading. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an extension to a professional services agreement with SAFEbuilt Ohio, LLC; 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

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LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 051-2025(MSES): First Reading. A Resolution amending and adopting the City of Cleveland Heights' support for the ideals, principles, and concepts of Vision Zero, affirming that the acceptable number of annual traffic deaths is zero, and establishing the goal of achieving zero annual traffic fatalities in the City by 2030; 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

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LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 052-2025(AS): First Reading. A Resolution appointing Natalie Davis as the alternate member of the Fair Practices Board to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the unexpired term; setting the unexpired term of office of the alternate member to end on 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: Craig Cobb

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

No: None

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LEGISLATION PASSED

ORDINANCE NO. 053-2025(F): First Reading. An Ordinance amending Section 1 of Ordinance No. 127-2024, "Wage and Salary Ordinance," to adjust the pay scales and modify job titles of certain seasonal positions within the Department of Parks and Recreation; 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

No: None

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LEGISLATION PASSED

b. First Readings Only

RESOLUTION NO. 054-2025(COTW): First Reading. An Ordinance amending Section 121.01, "Powers and Duties," of Chapter 121, *Mayor*, of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio.

Introduced by President Cuda

READ INTO THE RECORD

ORDINANCE NO. 055-2025(PD): First Reading. An Ordinance amending various Sections of Part Eleven, Zoning Code, of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Cleveland Heights as part of the Livable Neighborhoods Initiative; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Mayor Seren

READ INTO THE RECORD
SENT TO PLANNING COMMISSION

c. Second Readings

RESOLUTION NO. 036-2025(MSES): Second Reading. A Resolution adopting the City of Cleveland Heights Comprehensive & Equitable Safety Action Plan (CESAP).

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

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LEGISLATION PASSED

d. Fourth Readings

ORDINANCE NO. 245-2024(PD): Fourth Reading (Amended 04.07.2025). 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

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

13) Committee Reports

- **PSH:** There are two PSH meetings, one on April 2, 2025, at 5 pm, and a Public Hearing regarding Deer Population on April 29th between 6 pm-8 pm in Council Chambers.
- **Finance:** Gave an update from April 2nd meeting. The next meeting is April 28th at 6 pm.
- **MSES:** Gave an update from meeting...
- **PD:** Gave an update from the meeting on April 3rd with the Noble Rd merchants. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 23rd at 10:30 am with developers.
- **HB:** Gave an update from the last meeting. The next meeting is April 14th at 5:30 pm. On April 23rd at 6 pm, there will be a public hearing regarding Commercial Vehicles on residential property

14) Old Business

- **Larson** apologized to her colleagues and residents for not speaking up more during the special meeting on April 3rd. She spoke about inappropriate behavior by the Mayor's wife that she had previously witnessed during a public meeting in December.
- **Russell** gave an update about a public records request for the City's communication email list, but when she received it from the City, it was sent to her in a format that was 7,000 pages long; she will be asking for it to be either printed for her, or sent to her in a more proper format.
- **Cuda** asked for updates about several outstanding items

15) New Business

- **Mattox** will be working on legislation around guidelines/restrictions for smoke shops in the city.
- **Russell** asked Mattox to include issues about smoke shops around schools.
- **Cobb** inquired about a new dispensary that will be going in; he thinks 2 shops is enough for a city of this size.

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** wants to make sure that people focus on the facts of the situation as opposed to allegations without proof. Accountability is for all. Asking somebody to resign before all the facts are available from an investigation is not right. He wants people to wait for the results to demand the Mayor's resignation.
- **Petras** addressed the allegations regarding the city's workplace issues and a contract with Burgess and Burgess to conduct surveys. We should strive to make the City of Cleveland Heights a workplace of choice; employees should not be on pins and needles.
- **Russell** addressed the workplace issues in City Hall; she, as a labor leader, knows the retaliation employees may face for coming forward, so she will not be providing names of employees and former employees who have come forward to her.

17) Council President's Report

- Gave his thoughts about the current situation at City Hall and the work environment. He provided his recollection of times that the Mayor called members of Council names, and the Mayor's wife created what he believes was a toxic environment during a Council meeting on December 19, 2024. This whole situation is uncomfortable to talk about, but we cannot turn our backs at this point on the things they have heard.

18) Adjournment

End: 9:37 pm

NEXT MEETING OF COUNCIL: APRIL 21, 2025

MINUTES APPROVED: JUNE 02, 2025



Tony Cuda
President of Council

Addie Balester

Addie Balester
Clerk of Council