



June 16, 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: 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)

- None

6) Students of Promise Presentation

Executive Director, Bob Ivory

- Gave an overview of the Prentiss Place project, a transitional living facility for homeless women with children.

7) Communications from the Mayor

- None

8) City Administrator's Report

- None

9) Departmental Report(s)

a. Planning and Economic Development (Written Report)

- Upcoming planning-related meetings provided as a written memo available online.

10) Report of the Clerk of Council

- a. To notify the council that a Notice to Legislative Authority has been received for a new C1/C2 Liquor Permit for W&W Family Incorporated, located at 12438 Cedar Rd. This matter has been referred to the Mayor and Chief of Police.

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. 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
Susan Efroymsen	Resident	ORD 055-2025
Lou Radivoyevitch	Resident	ORD 055-2025
Barbara Sosnowski	Resident	RES 119-2025
Michael Bending	Resident	ORD 109-2025
Jim Boyle	Other	RES 128-2025
Elaine Price	Resident	ORD 109-2025

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. 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
Jack Solomon	Other	Thanked Council and the City for their help in securing space for a Lakewood University fundraiser at the community center
Herb Wagers	Resident	Ceded his time
Catalina Wagers	Resident	Ohio EPA Loan
Rev. Timothy Eppinger	Other	Support for Mr. Bob Ivey
Lawrence Bradley	Resident	Blanche Rd. Extension
Lovell Custard	Other	Support for Student of Promise
Phillip Wadsworth	Resident	Update on residents' efforts to develop green buffer at Delaware/S. Overlook/Cedar
Pernell Jones Jr., Cuyahoga County Councilmember	Other	Funding to support the Transitional Living Facility, Prentiss Place
CJ Nash	Resident	Community Market
Patricia Frost Brooks	Resident	Rezoning – Maple/Shannon Rds

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. 117-2025(PD): First Reading. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to apply for and accept a grant from the United States Department of Transportation for a grant under the Safe Streets and Roadways for All (“SS4A”) Implementation Grant Program, and execute any agreements needed to fund a Cleveland Heights SS4A Implementation project; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as

an emergency measure.

Introduced by Mayor Seren

Motion to adopt: Jim Petras

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. 118-2025(F): First Reading. A Resolution approving the adoption of the 2026 Tax Budget; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Mayor Seren

READ INTO THE RECORD
NO VOTE

RESOLUTION NO. 119-2025(PD): First Reading. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a contract with Think Place Agency LLC to provide professional consulting services necessary for the Noble Corridor Market Assessment through the expenditure of ARPA funds; 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: Tony Cuda, Gail Larson, Anthony Mattox Jr., Davida Russell, Jim Petras, Jim Posch

No: Craig Cobb

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 120-2025(PSH): First Reading. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute contracts with various certified Lead Clearance Contractors to provide professional services in furtherance of the City's Lead Safe Certification goals through the expenditure of ARPA funds; 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. 121-2025(HB): First Reading. A resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute contracts with Romanin Concrete, Inc. and A & J Cement Contractors, Inc. to provide the labor and materials necessary to implement the Exterior Repair of Residential Properties and Concrete Driveways, Aprons, Sidewalks & Pathways Projects through the expenditure of ARPA funds; 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. 122-2025(MSES): First Reading. An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to execute a Master Cooperation Agreement for Preventative Maintenance Services with the County of Cuyahoga, Ohio, to provide pavement crack sealing and striping or asphalt surface preservation of portions of Coventry Road; 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

RESOLUTION NO. 124-2025(CRR): First Reading. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a two-year service contract with Energy Management Specialists, LLC for preventative HVAC maintenance services; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution 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. 125-2025(CRR): First Reading. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with Tempest, Inc. for preventative maintenance services to the North Ice Rink at the Cleveland Heights Community Center; 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. 126-2025(PD): First Reading. An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to execute an amendment to a real estate purchase agreement with National Church Residences dated February 25, 2025 for the sale of certain real property consisting of approximately 1.049 acres of vacant land on Lancashire Road, and identified as Permanent Parcels Nos. 685-11-024 and 685-11-004 for the purpose of extending the due diligence and inspection period therein to October 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

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

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 130-2025(MSES): First Reading. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with Wade Trim, Inc. of Ohio, for professional design engineering and associated services relating to control of sanitary sewer overflows and illicit connections on Cleveland Heights Boulevard, and compliance with the partial consent decree with the USEPA; 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. 131-2025(CRR): First Reading. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Classic Ford of Madison for the acquisition of one 2025 Ford F-250 4X4 Reg cab; one 2025 Ford F-350 Cab/C 4X4 Supercab; one 2025 Ford F-550 Cab/C 4X4 Reg Cab; and one 2025 Ford Escape ST-Line 4WD Hybrid for 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

Discussion: Councilmember Cobb addressed concerns from city employees about cost-of-living salary increases and pay adjustments related to the Archer study. He clarified that the budget authorized cost-of-living increases, but employees should direct questions about equity pay adjustments to the mayor or HR department, not the council. Cobb also noted that some employees are still being paid below the new minimums established by the Archer study legislation and are owed retroactive pay. He highlighted staffing challenges in the HR department, which currently has only two employees and no director since August 2022, causing delays in addressing these pay issues.

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

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 132-2025(CRR): First Reading. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with All-American Arena

Products for flooring replacement at the North Rink of the Cleveland Heights Community Center; 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 Petras, Jim Posch

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

b. First Readings Only

ORDINANCE NO. 127-2025(HB): First Reading. An Ordinance creating a new Chapter 1373, "Exterior Walls and Appurtenances; Parking Garages"; of Title Three, Local Provisions; of Part Thirteen, Building Code of the Codified Ordinances of Cleveland Heights to include standards and provisions to regulate the structural integrity of building facades and garages within the City.

Introduced by Mayor Seren

READ INTO THE RECORD

c. Second Readings

ORDINANCE NO. 104-2025(HB): Second Reading. An Ordinance amending Section 1345.03 of the Codified Ordinances of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, entitled "Notice of violation; legal service; no notice for emergency or same prior violation."

Introduced by Councilmember Petras

NO VOTE

RESOLUTION NO. 105-2025(PD): Second Reading. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to submit the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Five-Year Consolidated Plan and the Annual Action Plan and entitlement application for the year beginning January 1, 2025; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Mayor Seren

Motion to adopt: Gail Larson

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. 106-2025(MSES): Second Reading. A Resolution to adopt the Solid Waste Management Plan for the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste Management District.

Introduced by Mayor Seren

Motion to adopt: Gail Larson
Seconded: Anthony Mattox Jr.

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

LEGISLATION PASSED

ORDINANCE NO. 107-2025(AS): Second Reading. An Ordinance amending Chapter 131 to add provisions for equity pay adjustments and benefits for the Chiefs of the Police and Fire Departments and Assistant Fire Chief.

Introduced by All City Councilmembers

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

RESOLUTION NO. 108-2025(COTW): Second Reading. A Resolution determining that support of the 2025 Heights Music Hop is in furtherance of a valid public purpose; awarding Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$7,500) to FutureHeights, Inc. in support of the 2025 Heights Music Hop; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by President Cuda

Motion to adopt: Anthony Mattox Jr.
Seconded: Davida Russell

Discussion: Councilmember Mattox thanked the Council President for outlining the process Council will use for awarding grants and community funding. He acknowledged recent requests from nonprofits and social service organizations and emphasized the importance of transparency and accountability in distributing public funds. He explained that going forward, recipients of funding will be required to report back on how the funds were used and the impact they had. This reporting will help residents understand not only where the money went, but also what outcomes were achieved. Mattox expressed enthusiasm for implementing this practice, stating it will apply to both upcoming events and any future nonprofit support. He concluded by reiterating that this process will help Council and the community evaluate whether to continue or revise such funding efforts.

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

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

ORDINANCE NO. 109-2025(PD): Second Reading. An Ordinance adopting the Park Synagogue S-2 Development Plan and Standards; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective 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. 110-2025(COTW): Second Reading. A Resolution of support and appreciation for the Cleveland Heights city staff.

Introduced by All City Councilmembers
Move for Adoption

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. 055-2025(PD): Second Reading (Amended

05.27.2025). 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

NO VOTE

MOVE TO SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

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: Davida Russell

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

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 115-2025(COTW): First Reading. A Resolution honoring the life and legacy of Christopher Daryl Brown; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by President Cuda

Legislation passed on consent agenda

RESOLUTION NO. 128-2025(COTW): First Reading. A Resolution recognizing the life and contributions of John J. "Jack" Boyle III; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by President Cuda

Legislation passed on consent agenda

RESOLUTION NO. 129-2025(CRR): First Reading. A Resolution proclaiming July 2025 to be *National Parks and Recreation Month* in the City

of Cleveland Heights; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Legislation passed on consent agenda

14) Committee Reports

- **F:** Provided an update from the Finance Committee meeting on June 3, 2025.
- **MSES:** Update from the MSES Committee on June 11, 2025. At the next MSES meeting, Director Clinkscale will be giving an update on garbage pickup and current equipment challenges
- **AS:** The next meeting will be June 30, 2025, at 4:30 pm

15) Old Business

- Councilmember Posch provided an update on the search for legal counsel to represent the City Council in cases where the Law Department has a conflict of interest. He has an engagement letter, a rate sheet, and a draft scope of work from Stephen Byron as a possible option to represent the Council. Councilmember Cobb briefly mentioned wanting to have an executive session at the next meeting for potential legal counsel for a different matter.

16) New Business

- **Motion to set an additional 3rd regular meeting to be held June 30, 2025, at 7:30 pm:** Jim Petras

Seconded: Gail Larson

Discussion: There was some clarification about the language in section 111.01 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Cleveland Heights.

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

No: None

MOTION PASSED

REGULAR MEETING SET FOR JUNE 30, 2025 at 7:30PM

- Council President Cuda asked that Council members don't record residents who come before the dais. Councilmember Mattox said he respects President Cuda's position but he will continue to record individuals who have lied, manipulated and spread things that just aren't true. Him recording is about holding people accountable.
- **Motion to amend the agenda to add RES 133-2025 to the agenda:** Jim

Petras

Seconded: Anthony Mattox Jr.

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

No: None

MOTION PASSED

- **RESOLUTION NO. 133-2025(COTW): First Reading.** An Ordinance amending Ordinance No. 024-2025 for the purpose of reinstating the Regular Meeting of City Council previously scheduled for July 7, 2025; repealing the prior version of Ordinance No. 024-2025 in its entirety; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Council President Cuda

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

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.)

- **Councilmember Petras** would like to thank Councilmember Cobb for bringing up the Archer salary survey. I've also had city employees reach out to me—most recently this past Friday—so I was beginning to wonder if I was the only one hearing these concerns. I've advocated for over two years for the need to conduct a salary survey, and I'm glad we finally completed it and passed the related legislation. Now, I sincerely hope the administration will provide clear guidance to department directors on how to implement it effectively.
- **Councilmember Cobb** criticized an email sent by the mayor shortly after an emergency council meeting, in which the mayor described himself as the target of a "political lynching" driven by racism, special interests, and outside forces. Cobb found the email inflammatory and lacking in facts, stating it did not address legitimate concerns surrounding the mayor's

behavior—specifically, his presence in the Law Department during an independent investigation. Cobb rejected the mayor’s racial framing, noting that Cleveland Heights voters have a history of electing Black leaders, including the mayor himself, over white candidates. He recounted his own personal experiences with racism and civil rights, expressing disgust that the mayor, in his view, was weaponizing race to avoid accountability and stifle criticism. He warned that using race as a shield against valid concerns only deepens division and undermines trust. Cobb concluded by urging residents to reject the mayor’s narrative and to stay focused on the real, substantive issues related to his leadership.

18) Council President’s Report

- Council President Cuda referenced the emergency Council meeting held on Friday, during which a resolution was unanimously passed. He clarified that the Law Department had provided a firsthand account to the Police Department regarding an alleged incident involving the mayor hiding his laptop in the Law Department conference room—on the same day an investigation was taking place related to an incident between the mayor’s wife and a city employee. As Council President, Cuda emphasized that his goal was neither to ignore the incident nor rush to judgment. He said the core question is whether the mayor attempted to secretly record private conversations. Unless the mayor is willing to answer that directly, Cuda stated that he supports allowing the legal process to move forward.

19) Adjournment

End: 9:48 pm

NEXT MEETING OF COUNCIL: AUGUST 4, 2025

MINUTES APPROVED: JUNE 30, 2025



Tony Cuda
President of Council

Addie Balester

Addie Balester
Clerk of Council