



May 19, 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: 7:49pm

2) Roll Call of Council Members

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

Excused: Jim Posch

Also Present: Mayor Seren, Director Hanna, Clerk Balester

3) Excuse absent members

- Councilmember Posch excused

4) Amendments to the Agenda (if necessary)

Motion to add RES 100-2025 to First Reading Consideration of Adoption

Requested: Jim Petras

Seconded: Anthony Mattox Jr.

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

No: None

MOTION PASSED

5) Approval of minutes from previous meeting(s)

a. March 3, 2025

APPROVED

b. March 17, 2025

APPROVED

6) Communications from the Mayor

- Said he has a written statement that he will release tomorrow, tonight he is here to listen.

7) City Administrator's Report

- None

8) Departmental Report(s)

- None

9) Report of the Clerk of Council

- a. To notify Council that a Notice from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control has been received for the transfer of a D1/D2/D3 liquor permit from Boiling Seafood LLC to Lees Seafood Boil Lee Road 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. 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
Sarah Popivker	Resident	RES 100-2025; Antisemitism
Adam Small	Resident	RES 100-2025; Antisemitism
Yaakov Bengier	Resident	RES 100-2025; Antisemitism
Drew Herzig	Resident	RES 098-2025; Pride Month

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. 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
Cindy Evans	Resident	Home Exterior Repair

		Program
Eileen Ramerman	Resident	Mayor's Resignation
Angel Fasolo	Resident	Mayor's Resignation
Kelly Ovsek	Resident	South Overlook/Cedar Rd. Property
Parker Heller	Other	Mayor's Resignation
Rachel Lerner	Resident	Mayor's Resignation
Michael Dubson	Other	Racism in Cleveland Heights
Susan Efroymson	Resident	CEM (Citizens for an Elected Mayor)
Rhonda Davis Lovejoy	Resident	Antisemitism in Cleveland Heights
Amy Eugene	Resident	Mayor's Resignation
Alex Popivker	Resident	Adopting IHRA & Genocide Convention
David Popivker	Resident	Antisemitism
Phillip Wadsworth	Resident	South Overlook/Cedar Rd. Property
Helen Liggett	Resident	South Overlook/Cedar Rd. Property
Julie Kaufman	Staff Member	Antisemitism in Cleveland Heights
Karin Lash	Resident	Mayor's wife's comments
Diana Gurley	Resident	South Overlook/Cedar Rd. Property

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. 089-2025(AS): First Reading. A Resolution reappointing Terry Saylor as an alternate member of the Architectural Board of Review 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: Jim Petras

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

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 090-2025(CRR): First Reading. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Bobcat of Akron through the Sourcewell cooperative purchasing program for the acquisition of one Bobcat Skid Steer Loader and one Bobcat Compact Tractor for the Department of Parks and Recreation; providing compensation therefor; 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

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 092-2025(MSES): First Reading. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Judco Truck Equipment, for the acquisition of a 12-Foot Stainless Steel Dump Body with Salt Spreader and Plow Package for the Department of Public Works; 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

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 093-2025(MSES): First Reading. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Rush Truck Centers for the acquisition of an International Model HV507 Single Axle Cab and Chassis for the Department of Public Works; 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

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 094-2025(MSES): First Reading. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with GPD Group for engineering design services associated with the waterline replacement project on Brinkmore and Mt. Laurel Roads; providing compensation therefor; 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

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 095-2025(PD): First Reading. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with GPD Group for engineering design services associated with the construction of a new extension of Blanche Avenue; providing compensation therefor; 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

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 096-2025(CRR): First Reading. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with the Djapo Cultural Arts Institute, Inc. for the purpose of planning, coordinating, and providing music, dancing, education, and local vendors for the City's Juneteenth Arts and

Culture Fest at Cain Park; 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

No: Davida Russell

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 100-2025(COTW): First Reading. A Resolution condemning antisemitism, reaffirming the City's commitment to tolerance, inclusivity, and respect, and expressing solidarity with Jewish residents; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by President Cuda, Vice President Russell, Councilmembers Cobb, Mattox, Larson, and Petras

Motion to adopt: Jim Petras

Seconded: Davida Russell

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

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

b. First Readings Only

RESOLUTION NO. 097-2025(COTW): First Reading. A Resolution expressing support for the Myers Manor Transitional Living Facility for Homeless Women with Children Project.

Introduced by Vice President Russell

READ INTO THE RECORD

c. Second Readings

RESOLUTION NO. 081-2025(MSES): Second Reading. A Resolution adopting the City of Cleveland Heights' Climate Forward: An Action and Resilience Plan.

Introduced by Mayor Seren

Motion to adopt: Gail Larson
Seconded: Craig Cobb

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

LEGISLATION PASSED

ORDINANCE NO. 082-2025(AS): Second Reading. An Ordinance amending Section 143.04, "Compensation of Members," of Chapter 143, "Landmark Commission," of the Codified Ordinances of Cleveland Heights; 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 Petras
No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 083-2025(PSH): Second Reading. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with Lexipol, LLC for annual subscription services used to provide the Police Department with comprehensive departmental policy management solutions; and declaring the necessity that this legislation be effective immediately as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Mayor Seren
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
No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

ORDINANCE NO. 084-2025(COTW): Second Reading As Amended. An Ordinance enacting a new Section 171.16, *City Contract Publication Requirement*, requiring transparency and accountability for contracts.

Introduced by Vice President Russell

Motion to adopt: Craig Cobb

Seconded: Anthony Mattox Jr.

Motion to amend by substitution: Davida Russell

Seconded: Gail Larson

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

No: None

MOTION PASSED

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

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 087-2025(PD): Second Reading. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with 3 D Moore Enterprises LLC for a loan under the City's Storefront Loan Fund Program to help renovate the storefronts at 3936-3946 Mayfield Road; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency.

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

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 088-2025(PD): Second Reading. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with 3 D Moore Enterprises LLC for a loan under the City's Storefront Loan Fund Program to help renovate the storefronts at 3948 Mayfield Road; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency.

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
No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

d. Consent Agenda

Motion to suspend rules: Gail Larson
Seconded: Anthony Mattox Jr.

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

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 098-2025(CRR): *First Reading.* A Resolution declaring June 2025 to be *LGBTQ+ Pride 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. 099-2025(CRR): *First Reading.* A Resolution proclaiming June 6, 2025, to be *National Gun Violence Awareness Day* in the City of Cleveland Heights; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by All City Councilmembers

Passed on consent agenda

13) Committee Reports

- **HB:** Update from HB Committee Meeting on May 12. The next HB Committee Meeting is Monday, June 9 at 5pm.
- **MSES:** Update from the May 16 MSES Committee Meeting.
- **F:** The next Finance Committee Meeting is June 3rd at 6pm.
- **PD:** The hearing on places of worship legislation has been rescheduled for 6pm on May 27. The next PD Committee meeting is May 28, and there will be

an additional PD Committee meeting on June 4 at 10:30am for the Taylor Road Merchants.

14) Old Business

- Mattox mentioned he is still working on legislation about smoke shops in Cleveland Heights, and he is going to be having a workshop and public hearing. Cobb asked if he would also be looking at the number of marijuana dispensaries within the City.

15) New Business

- None

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.)

- **Russell:** She will be hosting a Pathway to Homeownership workshop at the Noble Rd Library on June 9th at 6 pm. HRRRC will also be there to discuss the Home Repair program they offer.
- **Petras:** Made a statement about the recent antisemitic remarks that have been reported.
- **Cobb:** Made a statement about the recent antisemitic remarks that have been reported.
- **Mattox:** There is a level of accountability that this Council has to have. Council needs to lead from a place of honesty and accountability. It is everybody's responsibility to speak out against racism and what we hear or see.

17) Council President's Report

- Made his statement about the antisemitic remarks reported. At the end of the day, there has to be accountability. He still supports the switch to an elected mayor. He described the behavior the Mayor has shown toward the Council, but the Mayor's treatment of our residents bothers him most. He is asking the Mayor to be accountable to our Jewish community.

18) Adjournment

End: 9:57pm

NEXT MEETING OF COUNCIL: JUNE 2, 2025

MINUTES APPROVED: SEPTEMBER 15, 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