



September 15, 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: 8:05pm

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)

Motion to amend agenda to add ORD 188-2025 and RES 189-2025 to First Readings - Consideration of Adoption Requested: Anthony Mattox Jr.

Seconded: Jim Petras

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

No: None

MOTION PASSED

5) Approval of minutes from previous meeting(s)

a. May 19, 2025

APPROVED

b. June 30, 2025

APPROVED

6) Communications from the Mayor

- None

7) City Administrator's Report

- None

8) Departmental Report(s)

a. Building Department

- CBO Eric Elmi provided a status update of the Cedar-Fairmount Apartment Building rebuild, Noble Court Apartments, Mayfield Rd. Facade Collapse, and Cedar-Fairmount Facade Collapse.

9) Report of the Clerk of Council

- None

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).

Speakers

Name	Resident/Board Member/Other	Topic
Aron Lomner	Resident	Decorations on public spaces
Sara Thomas	Resident	
Myra Orenstein	Resident	Noble Merchants Budget

Anntwinette Muhammad	Resident	Noble Merchants Budget
Lee Barbee	Resident	Councilmember behavior
Jose Quiles	Resident	Noble Merchants
Alecia Vanier	Resident	Noble Rd. project/ARPA funds/community impact
Blanche Valancy	Resident	Announced LWV candidate & issue forums
Rod Rush	Resident	
Jacquelyn Remmer	Resident	Noble Area Business Association
Vincent Metlock	Resident	Grant funding for mental health
Jacquelyn Remmer	Resident	Policies to enforce those officers follow protocol before deadly force
Joseph and Penny Jordan	Resident	Lee Barbee complaint witnesses
Mike Shouman	Resident	Noble food deal budget
Stanley Jackson (yielded time to Sarah and Genesis Thomas)	Resident	Police budget
Sal	Resident	Primier Auto budget
Graham Ball	Resident	Legal representation for immigrants
Cate Stanley	Resident	Legal representation for immigrants
Shay Singh	Resident	Legal representation for immigrants
Charles Howard	Resident	Business funding/community safety
Karly Whitaker	Resident	Legal representation for immigrants
Quinton Yoder	Resident	Legal representation for immigrants
Raul Montego	Resident	Legal representation for immigrants
Kimberly Smith	Resident	Christian Thomas
Edgar Mitchell	Resident	Tree roots/pipes

		broken
Alec Popivker	Resident	IHRA definition of antisemitism
Sheila Keller	Resident	Legal representation for immigrants
James Williams	Resident	Legal representation for immigrants

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**

ORDINANCE NO. 177-2025(F): First Reading. An Ordinance to amend certain subparagraphs of Ordinance No. 011-2025, relating to appropriations and other expenditures of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio for the fiscal year ending December 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

No: Jim Posch

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 178-2025(F): First Reading. A Resolution accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the Budget Commission; authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the County Fiscal Officer; 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. 179-2025(F): First Reading. An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to execute and deliver subdivision participation and release forms to participate in nationwide settlement agreements with opioid manufacturers Alvogen, Amneal, Apotex, Hikma, Indivior, Mylan, Sun, and Zydus to resolve opioid litigation; 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. 180-2025(F): First Reading. An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to execute and deliver subdivision participation and release forms to participate in the direct settlement of claims concerning alleged misconduct related to opioids against Purdue Pharma L.P. & Sackler Family; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

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, Jim Posch
No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 181-2025(CRR): First Reading A Resolution authorizing a change order to the Agreement with GameTime for the installation of a potable splash pad for Denison 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., Davida Russell, Jim Petras, Jim Posch

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 182-2025(CRR): First Reading. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a contract with The Ohio Floor Company for the sanding and refinishing of the gym floor at the Cleveland Heights Community Center and waiving competitive bidding; 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. 183-2025(COTW): First Reading. A Resolution providing for a contribution in support of the 2025 Heights Halloween Fest & Candy Crawl; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Councilmember Petras

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

ORDINANCE NO. 187-2025(F): First Reading. An Ordinance to amend certain subparagraphs of Ordinance No. 011-2025, relating to appropriations and other expenditures of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio for the fiscal year ending December 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: Jim Petras

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

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

ORDINANCE NO. 188-2025(F): First Reading. An Ordinance to amend certain subparagraphs of Ordinance No. 011-2025, relating to appropriations and other expenditures of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio for the fiscal year ending December 31, 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. 189-2025(PSH): First Reading. A Resolution accepting a grant from The Ohio Department of Public Safety's Office of Criminal Justice Services, Ohio Body-Worn Camera Grant Program; authorizing the use of grant funds; authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Motorola Solutions for body-worn cameras; 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

b. First Readings Only

RESOLUTION NO. 184-2025(PD): First Reading. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Cuyahoga County for funding through the HOME Program for the City's affordable housing programs through December 31, 2025.; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Mayor Seren

READ INTO THE RECORD

c. 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: Gail Larson
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. 185-2025(CRR): First Reading. A Resolution recognizing October, 2025 as *National Breast Cancer Awareness Month*; October 13, 2025 as *Metastatic Breast Cancer Awareness Day*; and October 17, 2024, as *National Mammography Day*; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by All City Councilmembers

Legislation passed on consent agenda

RESOLUTION NO. 186-2025(CRR): First Reading. A Resolution recognizing October 2025 as *Domestic Violence Awareness Month*; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by All City Councilmembers

Legislation passed on consent agenda

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.)

- **Petras:** Thanked Christian Thomas' family for coming out tonight....
- **Larson:** Thanked everybody who came out to speak tonight, including Christian Thomas' family. Addressed the departure of Todd Walburn, the Mayor's Action Center Coordinator. She also addressed the Immigrants' Rights activists who came tonight; she understands the importance of the legislation they are requesting, and this legislation must be a collaborative effort between Council and the Mayor when the incoming Mayor is sworn-

in in January.

- **Cobb:** He acknowledges that Christian Thomas' family is looking for answers from Council. He says what Council can say/do to address their concerns is limited due to the pending litigation. He says they will do whatever is necessary so that something like this will never happen again.
- **Posch:** Thanked everybody for coming out. He says it is clear Council has its work cut out for it. He would like to open up the Public Safety and Health Committee as a bridge to connect the administration for the safety issues that have come up tonight, including the Immigrants' Rights legislation that has been recommended. That meeting is set for Oct 7 at 5pm.
- **Russell:** Thanked everybody for coming tonight and said it was hard to sit and listen tonight. She mentioned that she, and former council members Melody Hart and Mike Unger were the ones who created the legislation that created the Racial Justice Task Force. She wants to restart that task force and to re-brand it as a Social Justice Task Force. She says she needs the community's help in making this city an equitable city for everybody. Safety in our community is not about policing, it is about educating. She is here to help all communities in Cleveland Heights.

13) Committee Reports

- **MSES:** Expressed her condolences to the family and friends of William Hannavan. On Oct. 6 we will be reading a resolution to honor him. Thanked the administration for starting a composting program. There is an opening on the Climate and Environmental Sustainability Committee, and encouraged people to apply.
- **AS:** The Committee and Council have fallen a bit behind on appointing people to vacant positions on boards/commissions, but they are making progress, and they hope to fill these positions very soon. By mid-October, everybody who applied should hear from the Council Clerk.
- **PD:** Gave an update from the previous meeting, and there will be another committee meeting on September 18 at 10am.

14) Old Business

- None

15) New Business

- None

17) Council President's Report

- Expressed his condolences to the Thomas family and said he will be meeting with them after Oct 1 when he becomes interim Mayor. Read a statement regarding the recall election.

18) Adjournment

End: 9:53pm

NEXT MEETING OF COUNCIL: OCTOBER 6, 2025

MINUTES APPROVED: December 1, 2025



Gail Larson
President of Council



Addie Balester
Clerk of Council