



January 20, 2026
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: 7:39pm

2) Roll Call of Council Members

Present: Craig Cobb, Gail Larson, Jim Posch, Joe DeWitt-Foy, Jessica Cohen, Tony Cuda

Excused: None

Also Present: Mayor Petras, 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)

a. January 7, 2026

APPROVED

b. January 12, 2026

APPROVED

6) Communications from the Mayor

- Has met with most members of the City Council, and his plan is to incorporate at least one idea from each Councilmember into the city's 2026 initiatives.
- Spoke about snow removal in the City; he agrees we need to do better, and he is working with the department heads of public works, parks and recreation to go over every aspect of the snow removal process and how it can be improved. The next snowfall is forecast for Wednesday, and the City should have enough salt on hand, but it will take a bit of time, so he asks that residents be patient.

7) City Administrator's Report

- None

8) Departmental Report(s)

- None

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. Comments unrelated to the agenda may be made after Committee Reports)

- None

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
Jamie Hickner	Resident	Immigrant Rights; One year anniversary of ICE raid on Cilantro
Shay Singh	Resident	Immigrant Rights

David Berenson	Resident	Immigrant Rights
Gary Benjamin	Resident	Immigrant Rights
Melody Joy Hart	Resident	Immigrant Rights
Barbara Aguilar	Other	Immigrant Rights
Angela Manella	Resident	Immigrant Rights
Mike Corradini	Resident	Immigrant Rights
Anastasiya Kurylyuk	Resident	Immigrant Rights
Johnmark Wisniewski	Resident	Immigrant Rights
Karly Whitaker	Resident	Immigrant Rights
Marcy Kanner	Resident	Immigrant Rights
Alen Federman	Resident	Immigrant Rights
Raul Montejo	Resident	Prosecute ICE agents who break the law
Edgar Mitchell	Resident	Thanked council for helping him with the tree issue
Lynn Tramonte	Resident	Immigrant Rights
Harley Rubin	Resident	Diversity and political equity in our city
Quinton Yoder	Resident	Immigrant Rights
Natalie Davis	Resident	Immigrant Rights
Ms. Taylor	Resident	Road safety/speeding traps
Marty Gelfand	Resident	Immigrant Rights
Graham Ball	Resident	Immigrant Rights
Grace Heffernan	Other	Immigrant Rights

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. 008-2026(F): First Reading. An Ordinance to amend certain subparagraphs of Ordinance No. 241-2025, relating to appropriations and other expenditures of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2026; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Mayor Petras

Motion to adopt: Gail Larson
Seconded: Craig Cobb

Yes: Craig Cobb, Gail Larson, Jim Posch, Joe DeWitt-Foy, Jessica Cohen,
Tony Cuda
No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 009-2026(AS): First Reading. A Resolution confirming the Mayor's appointment of Helen Hertz as a member of the Community Improvement Corporation of the City of Cleveland Heights, OH; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Mayor Petras

Motion to adopt: Jim Posch
Seconded: Craig Cobb

Yes: Craig Cobb, Gail Larson, Jim Posch, Joe DeWitt-Foy, Jessica Cohen,
Tony Cuda
No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 010-2026(AS): First Reading. A Resolution confirming the Mayor's appointment of Linda Striefsky as a member of the Community Improvement Corporation of the City of Cleveland Heights, OH; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Mayor Petras

Motion to adopt: Jim Posch
Seconded: Gail Larson

Yes: Craig Cobb, Gail Larson, Jim Posch, Joe DeWitt-Foy, Jessica Cohen,
Tony Cuda
No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 011-2026(AS): First Reading. A Resolution appointing Shneur Kushner as a member of the Planning Commission of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Councilmember Cobb

Motion to adopt: Jessica Cohen
Seconded: Jim Posch

Yes: Craig Cobb, Gail Larson, Jim Posch, Joe DeWitt-Foy, Jessica Cohen, Tony Cuda
No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 012-2026(AS): First Reading. A Resolution appointing Matthew Keri as a member of the Planning Commission of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, to fill a vacancy of an unexpired term ending December 31, 2028; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Councilmember Cobb

Motion to adopt: Jessica Cohen

Seconded: Jim Posch

Yes: Craig Cobb, Gail Larson, Jim Posch, Joe DeWitt-Foy, Jessica Cohen, Tony Cuda
No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 013-2026(AS): First Reading. A Resolution reappointing David Benson, Laura Black, Cindie Carroll-Pankhurst, Sue Dean Dyke, Susan Efroymson, Kasey Friedland, Jonathan Goldman, Leslie Jones, Mara Lakhn, Adam May, Illie Massey, Arin Miller-Tait, Rachel Moore, Saralene Oakley Toombs, Lorna Rudolph, Darius Smith, Patti Substelny, and Darlene White 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: Jim Posch

Seconded: Craig Cobb

Yes: Craig Cobb, Gail Larson, Jim Posch, Joe DeWitt-Foy, Jessica Cohen, Tony Cuda
No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 014-2026(PSH): First Reading. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement Green Home Solutions, LLC, a certified lead abatement contractor, for the use of Lead Safe Ohio (LSO) Grant funds in connection with the abatement of lead-based paint hazards at permanent parcel number 681-03-044; providing compensation therefor; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Mayor Petras

Motion to adopt: Jim Posch
Seconded: Gail Larson

Yes: Craig Cobb, Gail Larson, Jim Posch, Joe DeWitt-Foy, Jessica Cohen,
Tony Cuda
No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 015-2026(PSH): *First Reading.* A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Sosis Painting and Remodeling, LLC, a certified lead abatement contractor, for the use of Lead Safe Ohio (LSO) Grant funds in connection with the abatement of lead-based paint hazards at permanent parcel number 682-29-035; providing compensation therefor; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Mayor Petras

Motion to adopt: Jim Posch
Seconded: Gail Larson

Yes: Craig Cobb, Gail Larson, Jim Posch, Joe DeWitt-Foy, Jessica Cohen,
Tony Cuda
No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 016-2026(PSH): *First Reading.* A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with American Builders and Applicators, LLC, a certified lead abatement contractor, for the use of Lead Safe Ohio (LSO) Grant funds in connection with the abatement of lead-based paint hazards at permanent parcel number 684-20-029; providing compensation therefor; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Mayor Petras

Motion to adopt: Jim Posch
Seconded: Craig Cobb

Yes: Craig Cobb, Gail Larson, Jim Posch, Joe DeWitt-Foy, Jessica Cohen,
Tony Cuda
No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 017-2026(HB): *First Reading.* A Resolution declaring the fire-damaged property at 3631 Randolph Road, Cleveland Heights, Ohio, to be a nuisance; authorizing abatement of the nuisance; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency

measure.

Introduced by Mayor Petras

Motion to adopt: Jim Posch

Seconded: Jessica Cohen

Yes: Craig Cobb, Gail Larson, Jim Posch, Joe DeWitt-Foy, Jessica Cohen, Tony Cuda

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 018-2026(AS): First Reading. A Resolution authorizing a second amendment to the consulting contract between the City of Cleveland Heights and AISLINN Consulting, LLC for municipal financial services; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Mayor Petras

Motion to adopt: Jim Posch

Seconded: Jessica Cohen

Yes: Craig Cobb, Gail Larson, Jim Posch, Joe DeWitt-Foy, Jessica Cohen, Tony Cuda

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 019-2026(PD): First Reading. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to accept a grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources ("ODNR") to renovate the skate park and tennis courts at Cain Park; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Mayor Petras

Motion to adopt: Jim Posch

Seconded: Jessica Cohen

Yes: Craig Cobb, Gail Larson, Jim Posch, Joe DeWitt-Foy, Jessica Cohen, Tony Cuda

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 020-2026(PSH): First Reading. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to accept a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice ("DOJ") through the Rural and Small Department Violent Crime Reduction Program; authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with Ken Ganley Ford, Inc., for the purchase of four (4) 2026 Ford Utility Hybrid Police

Interceptors for the Cleveland Heights Police Department; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Mayor Petras

Motion to adopt: Jim Posch

Seconded: Gail Larson

Yes: Craig Cobb, Gail Larson, Jim Posch, Joe DeWitt-Foy, Jessica Cohen, Tony Cuda

No: None

b. LEGISLATION PASSED

c. First Readings Only

RESOLUTION NO. 021-2026(MSES): First Reading. A Resolution authorizing the City to participate in the NOPEC Green Community Choice Program for the City's Electricity Aggregation Program starting June 2026; and declaring the necessity that this legislation becomes effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Mayor Petras

READ INTO THE RECORD

d. Second Readings

RESOLUTION NO. 004-2025(CRR): Second Reading. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with Farnham Equipment Company through the Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing Program, for the provision, installation of, and related construction services for, the improvement of new seating for the Community Center's Main Gymnasium; and declaring the necessity that this legislation be effective immediately as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Mayor Petras

Motion to adopt: Jim Posch

Seconded: Craig Cobb

Yes: Craig Cobb, Gail Larson, Jim Posch, Joe DeWitt-Foy, Jessica Cohen, Tony Cuda

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

e. **Consent Agenda**

Motion to suspend rules: Gail Larson

Seconded: Jim Posch

Yes: Craig Cobb, Gail Larson, Jim Posch, Joe DeWitt-Foy, Jessica Cohen, Tony Cuda

No: None

MOTION PASSED

Motion to adopt: Jim Posch

Seconded: Gail Larson

Yes: Craig Cobb, Gail Larson, Jim Posch, Joe DeWitt-Foy, Jessica Cohen, Tony Cuda

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 022-2026(CRR): First Reading. A Resolution recognizing February 2026 as *Black History Month*; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Mayor Petras

Legislation passed on consent agenda

RESOLUTION NO. 023-2026(CRR): First Reading. A Resolution proclaiming February 14, 2026 as *National Donor Day*; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Mayor Petras

Legislation passed on consent agenda

13) Committee Reports

- **AS:** The next meeting of Administrative Services is Monday, January 26, at 5pm; they will discuss various vacancies on resident boards/commissions.
- **Finance:** The next Finance Committee meeting is Monday, January 26, at 6pm.
- **PSH:** The next Public Safety and Health Committee meeting is Monday, January 26, at 7pm.
- **PD:** Cohen asked if the other members of the Planning and Development Committee were available on February 9 at 6pm for the first committee meeting of the year. Old Business

- None

14) **New Business**

- None

15) **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:** If anybody is interested in donating to immigrant rights groups, please consider donating to the Immigrants Defense Fund
- **Cohen:** Thanked Mayor Petras and Director Clinkscale for their efforts and hard work during this past weekend's snow removal efforts. She also spoke about the request for funding from CH4ImmigrantRights and urged them to focus their efforts on identifying non-profits that are already established to undertake this type of work.
- **Posch:** Agreed with his colleague Councilmember Cohen regarding her remarks on the immigrant rights efforts. He also thanked Mayor Petras for his efforts regarding snow removal.
- **DeWitt-Foy:** Thanked the people from CH4ImmigrantsRights who came in to speak tonight. He recognizes and understands the fear of what is happening in our country and reiterates his colleague's comments about considering non-profits that might be best suited to help.

16) **Council President's Report**

- Reflected on MLK Day and the Civil Rights Movement

17) **Adjournment**

End: 8:58pm

NEXT MEETING OF COUNCIL: FEBRUARY 2, 2026

MINUTES APPROVED: March 3, 2026



Tony Cuda
President of Council



Addie Balester
Clerk of Council