



February 2, 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: 7:38 PM

2) Roll Call of Council Members

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

Excused: None

Absent: 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. October 20, 2025

APPROVED

b. November 3, 2025

APPROVED

c. November 17, 2025

APPROVED

6) Communications from the Mayor

- Watch party at the Community Center to watch Cleveland Heights native Laila Edwards as she competes for Team USA in Women's Hockey at the 2026 Winter Olympics

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7) City Administrator's Report

- None

8) Departmental Report(s)

- None

9) Report of the Clerk of Council

- a. The Clerk of Council has received the following Notice to Legislative Authority from the Ohio Department of Liquor Control:

- Transfer of a D-5 permit from Christophers Pub LLC to Laid Black Management, LLC: Kulture Ultra Lounge located at 3962 Mayfield Rd.
- A New C-1/C-2 permit for Karam Petroleum, Inc. located at 2294 Lee Rd.
- A New D-5 permit or 4 On 6 Inc.: Savoy located at 1318 Warrensville Center Rd.
- A New D-1/D-3 permit for 12 23 Lounge Place LLC located at 2558 Noble Rd.

These matters have been referred to the Mayor and Chief of Police

READ INTO THE RECORD

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) **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. 024-2026(AS): First Reading. A Resolution reappointing Mohammad Irfan as a member of the Climate and Environmental Sustainability Committee of the City of Cleveland Heights, OH; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by All City Councilmembers

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. 025-2026(AS): First Reading. A Resolution appointing James Arnold and Aaron Marcovey as members of the Climate and Environmental Sustainability Committee of the City of Cleveland Heights, OH; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by All City Councilmembers

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. 026-2026(AS): First Reading. A Resolution appointing Aaron Ware, Amber Rogers, Melinda Burt, and Bruce Delaney 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 All City Councilmembers

Motion to adopt: Craig Cobb

Seconded: Gail Larson

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

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 027-2026(AS): First Reading. A Resolution appointing Rachel Bernstein, Don McBride, Schcarra Benn, Judith Ryder-Frumker, Eileen Ramerman, Amy Rosenbluth, Hannah Ginley, and Mary Beth Mathews as members of the Arts Commission of the City of Cleveland Heights, OH; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by All City Councilmembers

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. 028-2026(PSH): First Reading. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with 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 the home located upon permanent parcel number 684-01-117; providing compensation therefor; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Mayor Petras

READ INTO THE RECORD

NO VOTE

RESOLUTION NO. 029-2026(PSH): First Reading. A Resolution authorizing an agreement with Hall Public Safety Upfitters for the purchase and installation of upfitting equipment 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: Craig Cobb

Seconded: Gail Larson

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

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 030-2026(AS): First Reading. A Resolution confirming the Mayor's appointment of a City Administrator for the City of Cleveland Heights; 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

b. LEGISLATION PASSED

c. First Readings Only

RESOLUTION NO. 031-2026(CRR): First Reading. An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement to lease an unoccupied room within the City's Recreation Center located at 1 Monticello Boulevard, Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118; finding that the room is not needed for public use; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Mayor Petras

READ INTO THE RECORD
MOVED TO COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION NO. 032-2025(CRR): First Reading. A Resolution providing for a contribution in support of the Heights Schools Foundation's "Fitness Under the Lights" event; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Mayor Petras

READ INTO THE RECORD

d. Second Readings

RESOLUTION NO. 021-2026(MSES): Second 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

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

12) Committee Reports

- **MSES:** Next meeting is Monday, February 9, at 7 pm. CESC citizens committee meets...TAM meets.
- **CRR:** Next meeting is Monday, February 9, at 5 pm. Encouraged residents to attend the watch-party at the Community Center to watch Team USA take on Finland in the Women's Hockey opening round.
- **PD:** First meeting is Monday, February 9, at 6 pm. Planning Department staff will be in attendance.

13) 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 |
|--------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Judith Ryder | Citizen | Thanked Council for appointing her to the Arts Commission and talked about how important the arts are, especially now. |

| | | |
|----------------|---------|--|
| Edgar Mitchell | Citizen | Thanked Council and the Mayor for their help |
| Karly Whitaker | Citizen | Thanked Councilmember Cohen for her support |

14) Old Business

- None

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.)

- **Posch:** He ran into State Representative Juanita Brent, who asked him to mention that there are four critical bills (HB 26, SB 172, HB 42) being pushed through the Senate and the House regarding supporting ICE. He encourages everybody who is opposed to these bills/tactics to please send emails to our state representatives.
- **Larson:** Read a statement regarding the current situation surrounding immigration and immigrant rights.
- **Cobb:** There is a vacancy on the Transportation and Mobility Committee; Council will likely try to consider those at the next Admin Services Committee Meeting.
- **Cohen:** Shared that she has arranged for there to be several legal clinics over the next 6 months for Cleveland Heights residents with a lawyer to provide information to our immigrant community.
- **DeWitt-Foy:** Thanked our Public Works department for their very hard work over the last several weeks of storms and record cold.

17) Council President's Report

- Addressed issues that Councilmembers have been approached about by representatives of Heights4ImmigrantRights.

18) Adjournment

End: 8:12 pm

NEXT MEETING OF COUNCIL: FEBRUARY 17, 2026

MINUTES APPROVED: March 16, 2026

Handwritten signature of Tony Cuda in black ink.

Tony Cuda
President of Council

Handwritten signature of Addie Balester in blue ink.

Addie Balester
Clerk of Council