



May 18, 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 p.m.

**2) Roll Call of Council Members**

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

**Excused:** None

**Also present:** Mayor Petras, Director Hanna, City Administrator Reese, 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) Presentation(s)**

- a. Cedar-Lee Special Improvement Director, *Caroline Barni* (15 min)

**7) Communications from the Mayor**

- The Mayor sent his condolences to a family who recently lost a child due to a house fire and asked for a moment of silence.
- The City of Cleveland Heights Juneteenth event date has been changed to Saturday, June 13th.
- The Mayor spoke with Laelia Edwards, and the City will plan a parade for her later this summer; the date is to be determined.
- There will be a public meeting on 5/27 at 5 pm at the Community Center to discuss the future of the south rink.
- For the Record:
  - On May 14, 2026, four bids were received for project 26-03 Hillside Dairy Public Works Yard Improvement Project; the lowest and most responsive bid was from Pro-quality Demolition with a bid of \$386,783.00 for abatement and demolition and \$112,092.00 for fencing and landscaping for a total bid of \$498,875.00.

#### **8) City Administrator's Report**

- Coventry Parking Garage Elevator Update: the elevator passed inspection today, 5/18, and will be fully operational beginning 5/20 at 6 am.
- Update on the USEPA Consent Decree: further investment will be needed in the coming year, and the City is working hard to get everybody to stay on the same page, thinking proactively about the situation.
- Hillside Dairy Demolition bids came in lower than expected, but regardless, the administration will be asking for a budget adjustment at the June 1, 2026 Council Meeting.

#### **9) Departmental Report(s)**

- None

#### **10) Report of the Clerk of Council**

- a. Notify Council that the Clerk has received a Notice to Legislative Authority from the Ohio Department of Liquor Control for the transfer of a C-2X/C-2 Liquor Permit from Ungers Kosher Bakery Inc. to Ungers Ventures LLC, located at 1831 S. Taylor Rd.

**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. 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.

**Speakers**

| Name           | Resident/Board Member/Other | Topic                                                |
|----------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| Davida Russell | Resident                    | RES 106-2026: Taylor Merchants Association agreement |

**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. 100-2026(F): First Reading.** A Resolution declaring the necessity of assessing a portion of the expense of street lighting; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Mayor Petras

**READ INTO THE RECORD**

**RESOLUTION NO. 101-2026(F): First Reading.** A Resolution declaring the necessity of assessing a portion of the expense of improving streets and parkways, including grading, draining, curbing, paving, repaving, repairing, sweeping, or cleaning thereof, removing snow therefrom, and planting, maintaining, and removing shade trees thereon; and declaring an emergency.

Introduced by Mayor Petras

**READ INTO THE RECORD**

**RESOLUTION NO. 102-2026(MSES): First Reading.** A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with GPD Group, for construction management and observation services relating to the 2026 Road Program; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency.

Introduced by Mayor Petras

**Motion to adopt:** Gail Larson

**Seconded:** Jim Posch

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

**No:** None

**LEGISLATION PASSED**

**RESOLUTION NO. 110-2026(PSH): First Reading.** A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with OHM Advisors for engineering design services for the Taylor Road TLCl Project; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Mayor Petras

**Motion to adopt:** Joe DeWitt-Foy

**Seconded:** Craig Cobb

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

**No:** None

**LEGISLATION PASSED**

**b. First Readings Only**

**RESOLUTION NO. 103-2026(CRR): First Reading.** A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Friends of Cain Park to support Cain Park programming for the 2026 and 2027 seasons.

Introduced by Mayor Petras

**Motion to table:** Craig Cobb

**Seconded:** Sarah Stone

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

No: None

**LEGISLATION TABLED**

**RESOLUTION NO. 104-2026(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 Petras

**READ INTO THE RECORD**

**RESOLUTION NO. 105-2026(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 the mitigation of illicit connections in the Overlook Road area and control of sanitary sewer overflow CH-46; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Mayor Petras

**READ INTO THE RECORD**

**RESOLUTION NO. 106-2026(PD): First Reading.** A Resolution authorizing a grant agreement with the Taylor Merchants Association; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Council Member Cohen

**READ INTO THE RECORD**

**c. Second Readings**

**RESOLUTION NO. 095-2026(MSES): Second Reading.** A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency for the design and installation of eight (8) DC Fast Charger electric vehicle charging points at City Hall and the Cleveland Heights Community Center.

Introduced by Mayor Petras

**Motion to adopt:** Gail Larson

**Seconded:** Jessica Cohen

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

Tony Cuda, Sarah Stone  
**No:** None

**LEGISLATION PASSED**

**RESOLUTION NO. 096-2026(MSES): *Second Reading.*** A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement for the continuation and expansion of the city-wide food scrap composting program through Rust Belt Riders Composting, LLC.

Introduced by Mayor Petras

**Motion to adopt:** Gail Larson  
**Seconded:** Jessica Cohen

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

**LEGISLATION PASSED**

**d. *Consent Agenda***

**Motion to suspend rules:** Craig Cobb  
**Seconded:** Gail Larson

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

**MOTION PASSED**

**Motion to adopt:** Sarah Stone  
**Seconded:** Jim Posch

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

**LEGISLATION PASSED**

**RESOLUTION NO. 107-2026(CRR): *First Reading.*** A Resolution declaring June 2026 to be *LGBTQ+ Pride Month*; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Mayor Petras and All City Council Members

**Passed on consent agenda**

**RESOLUTION NO. 108-2026(CRR): *First Reading.*** A Resolution proclaiming June 5, 2026, 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 Mayor Petras and All City Council Members

**Passed on consent agenda**

**RESOLUTION NO. 109-2026(CRR): First Reading.** A Resolution recognizing May 17-23, 2026, as *National Public Works Week*; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Mayor Petras and All City Council Members

**Passed on consent agenda**

### 13) Committee Reports

- **CRR** - Parks and Recreation Advisory Board will meet on May 20 at 6 p.m. at the Community Center; and an open house for the future of the South Rink will be held on May 27 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- **Finance and PSH** — Vice President Larson and Councilmember DeWitt Foy will lead the discussion for these two committees at the COTW meeting on June 26th starting at 5pm.
- **MSES** — The next CESC Meeting is May 19 at 4 pm, and the TAM will be May 27 at 7 pm; MSES topics will be discussed at the COTW on June 8th.
- **HB** — HB topics will be discussed at the COTW on Tuesday, May 26
- **PD** — Gave a brief update on what was discussed at the last COTW meeting, and there will be additional updates regarding the Landmark Commission and the infill housing initiatives on June 26. There will be a public hearing on ADUs on June 2, with an open house in the atrium at 5:30 p.m., and then the actual hearing during a PD Committee meeting following at 6 p.m.

### 14) 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                                  |
|--------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| CJ Nash      | Resident                    | New Culver's in the Noble Neighborhood |
| Mike Gaynier | Resident                    | Public sidewalk on Warrensville Rd.    |

|                   |          |                                               |
|-------------------|----------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Allison Hite      | Resident | City & CHUH Preschool Program support         |
| Jim Nemastil      | Resident | City newsletter regarding Horseshoe Lake Park |
| Anthony Miozzi    | Resident | Flock Cameras                                 |
| Edgar Mitchell    | Resident | Thanked the city for their responsiveness     |
| Lou Radivoyevitch | Resident | Ranked Choice Voting                          |
| Harriet Applegate | Resident | Ranked Choice Voting                          |

**15) Old Business**

- None

**16) New Business**

- President Cuda asked how we can get attendance up for our Memorial Day Celebrations.

**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 Posch** briefly discussed ranked-choice voting, noting that the potential penalties the state could impose if it were adopted appear to be the primary concern. He indicated that this risk was the main reason Council did not feel comfortable advancing the issue to the ballot for voters.
- **Councilmember Cohen** directed the public to the COTW meeting for further discussion on ranked-choice voting and reiterated Councilmember Posch's concerns. She stated that, given the current legal landscape—including a state law prohibiting ranked-choice voting—she cannot support the measure at this time. However, she expressed openness to reconsidering the issue if the legal framework changes.

**18) Council President's Report**

- **President Cuda** shared his perspective on ranked-choice voting, stating that he appreciates the advocates for their passion and dedication to the issue and commends the work of the Charter Review Commission.

However, he emphasized that he must be convinced that any charter amendment placed on the ballot is in the best interest of the city, and he is not persuaded that this proposal meets that standard. He indicated that he does not believe the current voting system is problematic, but expressed concern that eliminating the mayoral primary would be. In his view, the seven-week period between the primary and general election allows voters sufficient time to evaluate the two leading candidates. President Cuda also noted that Council carefully reviews every recommendation from the Charter Review Commission—some are advanced to the ballot as proposed, others are modified, and some are not advanced at all. Regarding ranked-choice voting specifically, he stated that Council undertook an extensive process, including listening to advocates, conducting research, holding a hearing, and asking detailed questions. He added that this issue received more time and attention than any other recommendation from the Commission. Finally, he stated that he has not observed significant support for ranked-choice voting from either Council or a majority of residents.

**19) Adjournment**

End: 8:34 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING OF COUNCIL: JUNE 1, 2026**

**MINUTES APPROVED: JULY 6, 2026**



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Tony Cuda  
President of Council



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Addie Balester  
Clerk of Council