



**May 4, 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: 7:36 PM

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, Clerk Balester, Administrator Reese, MAC Coordinator Walburn, Director Zamft, Director Gonzalez

3) Excuse absent members

- None

4) Amendments to the Agenda (if necessary)

- None

5) Approval of minutes from previous meeting(s)

- a. April 6, 2026

APPROVED

6) Proclamations and Honors

a. Proclamation for Jonathan Partington

- Presented by Mayor Petras presented a proclamation for Mr. Partington's quick thinking and actions that saved his family and neighbors from a residential fire.

7) Communications from the Mayor

- Requests permission to bid Project #26-04 Altamont Ave. Waterline Replacement Project and Project #26-05 Brinkmore Rd and Mt. Laurel Rd Waterline Replacement Project.

Motion to authorize the Mayor to bid projects #26-04 and #26-05:

Gail Larson

Seconded: Jessica Cohen

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

No: None

MOTION PASSED

8) City Administrator's Report

- **Emergency Management Update:** Update on emergency management in the City of Cleveland Heights based on recent meetings with the Chief of Police and Fire Chief.
- **Coventry Garage Elevator:** Status update on the elevator at the Coventry Garage.
- **Citizens Advisory Committee:** Update on the City Administrator's meeting with the Citizens Advisory Committee regarding the administration's priorities.
- **HR Director Search:** Update on the search for a Human Resources Director. The City received more than 70 applications. The first round of interviews (11 candidates) is taking place this week, with second-round interviews scheduled for next week. Council may be asked to hold a confirmation hearing on May 18.
- **Hillside Dairy Demolition:** Update on the Hillside Dairy demolition project. Bids are scheduled to open May 7, and legislation is anticipated for the May 18 Council Meeting to authorize a contract and a budget amendment to address the cost discrepancy.

9) Departmental Report(s)

a. Mayor's Action Center Coordinator, *Todd Walburn*

- About two years ago, the City prepared to launch the MAC and Access Cleveland Heights, and since then, more than 10,000 requests have been submitted. These requests—ranging from questions and complaints to compliments—have generated significant data that reflects the broad scope of city operations. The app helps track and manage requests and serves as a living record of the day-to-day work of city staff. Access Cleveland Heights also strengthens connections between residents and city departments while providing opportunities to educate the public about city services and operations.
- MAC worked with the Communications team to develop a “Be Prepared” guide— a printable fact sheet designed for residents to keep on their refrigerators. This resource was created in response to a high volume of requests received following a particularly severe storm, highlighting the need for clear, accessible preparedness information for residents.
- Using MAC data, the IT Department is in the early stages of working on integration between the various software systems used by each department to support more efficient operations.

b. Director of Planning and Development, *Eric Zamft*

- Director Zamft, Planning and Development Director, provided an update on several development projects currently underway: the Marquee (Cedar–Lee) project, which is scheduled for completion in September; the Nobility Court project, anticipated to be completed in the fall; and the Taylor–Tudor project, which is approximately 50% complete, with additional details expected at the end of June.
- The in-house inspection staff has been invaluable to these projects, as they are available to conduct inspections any day of the work week and allow developers to schedule formal inspections within a short timeframe.

c. Director of Parks and Recreation, *Andres Gonzalez*

- At Cain Park, the ADA STRAMP project and in-hill seating improvements are nearly complete. The remaining work involves building up the sledding hill adjacent to the in-hill seating to redirect sledders away from the seating area for safety.

- A separate waterline break occurred within Cain Park that is independent of the STRAMP project; the related water main replacement is expected to begin as early as this week.
- The Cain Park seating replacement project is complete, and the City is well- prepared for the 2026 Cain Park season. Approximately 20 shows are booked for this summer—up significantly from eight last year—and ticket sales are progressing very well.
- At Denison Park, several major improvements are underway. The splash pad has been installed, with upcoming work focused on tidying underground utilities, followed by installation of spray features, restrooms, and landscaping. A tot playground is also planned for installation, though the timeline has not yet been finalized.
- Additionally, the main gym area at the Community Center will be closed from today through June 8 to accommodate a complete renovation.
- Several upcoming projects and seasonal milestones were highlighted. Improvements to the Cain Park tennis courts are scheduled to begin in June. Plans are also moving forward for the Cain Park skate park replacement, with design concepts expected sometime in May and a projected November completion date.
- Pool season is quickly approaching. The City remains on pace to open the pool on June 1, and pool passes are currently on sale.

10) Report of the Clerk of Council

- Clerk Balester took the opportunity to recognize and thank municipal clerks during Professional Municipal Clerks Week.

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)

- None

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. 094-2026(AS): First Reading. A Resolution appointing Lauren Smith and Nikki Newman as members of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board of the City of Cleveland Heights, OH, to fill the remainder of unexpired terms; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Councilmember Cobb, Council President Cuda, and Council Vice President Larson

Motion to adopt: Craig Cobb

Seconded: Gail Larson

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

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

ORDINANCE NO. 097-2026(F): First Reading. An Ordinance to make appropriation for current expenses and other expenditures of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, during the 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: Joe DeWitt-Foy

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. 098-2026(MSES): First Reading. An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Waste management of Ohio through contracts entered into by individual members of the Recycling Processing Services Consortium (consortium), which includes the communities of Beachwood, Highland Hills, Independence, Lyndhurst,

Moreland Hills, Pepper Pike, Solon, University Heights, and Woodmere, and which was organized by the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District, for recycling processing services; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

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

b. First Readings Only

RESOLUTION NO. 095-2026(MSES): First 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

READ INTO THE RECORD

RESOLUTION NO. 096-2026(MSES): First 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

READ INTO THE RECORD

c. Second Readings

RESOLUTION NO. 081-2026(PD): Second Reading. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with American Builders & Applicators, a certified lead abatement contractor, for the use of HOME Investment Partnership funds, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds in connection with a

Housing Rehabilitation Deferred Loan Program at Permanent Parcel Number (PPN) 682-34-010; providing compensation therefor; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Mayor Petras

Motion to adopt: Jessica Cohen

Seconded: Craig Cobb

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

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

ORDINANCE NO. 082-2026(PD): Second Reading. An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a lease agreement with Mac's Backs Bookstore, Inc. for the lease of 1807 Coventry Road; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Mayor Petras

Motion to adopt: Jessica Cohen

Seconded: Gail Larson

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

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 083-2026(COTW): Second Reading. A Resolution determining that support of the 2026 Heights Music Hop is in furtherance of a proper public purpose; authorizing a contribution of Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$7,500) to FutureHeights, Inc. in support of the 2026 Heights Music Hop; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Council President Cuda

Motion to adopt: Craig Cobb

Seconded: Gail Larson

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

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 084-2026(COTW): Second Reading. A Resolution determining that support of the 2026 Heights Tiger 5k and Fun Run is in furtherance of a proper public purpose; authorizing a contribution of Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00) to the CHUH School District PTA in support of the 2026 Heights Tiger 5k and Fun Run.

Introduced by Councilmember Dewitt-Foy

Motion to adopt: Sarah Stone

Seconded: Jessica Cohen

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

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

13) Committee Reports

- **MSES:** Council Vice President Larson thanked all staff involved with moving forward with the Hillside Dairy demolition. This project is the beginning of a long-anticipated plan to develop the Noble Triangle. At the COTW Meeting on May 11, 2026, they will discuss the bulk refuse program, sidewalk repair, and priorities for 2026
- **PD:** Council member Cohen gave a brief update from the previous meeting regarding a proposed update to the Landmark Commission ordinance. They will continue this discussion at the COTW meeting on May 11, 2026. They also discussed with the Taylor Merchants Association their funding request. The meeting regarding ADUs has been scheduled on June 2nd, from 5:30-6pm there will be an open house with planning staff, then the meeting where residents are encouraged
- **CRR:** Council member DeWitt-Foy gave a brief overview of topics relating to Parks and Recs will be discussed at the COTW meeting on May 11, 2026.
- **HB:** Councilmember Stone gave a brief overview of topics related to Housing and Building that will be discussed at the COTW meeting on May 11, 2026 as part of the COTW.

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
James O'Hare	Resident	Shaker Lakes
Jacqueline Thornton	Resident	Animal Control/Animal Pickup
Carolyn Penn	Resident	Animal Control/Animal Pickup
Anne Coruso	Resident	Democracy Day 2026
Edgar Mitchell	Resident	Thanked the Administration and Council for their help
Christopher Wood	Resident	Blanche Ave. Extension Project
Amy Weinfurter	Other	Shaker Lakes
Tiffany Massing	Resident	Shaker Lakes
Patrick Kilts	Other	Shaker Lakes
Lawrence Bradley	Resident	Blanche Ave. Extension Project
James Nemastil	Resident	Shaker Lakes/Parks

15) Old Business

- None

16) New Business

- President Cuda distributed a draft of a proposed council community engagement process

Motion to establish Council's 2026 Summer Recess from July 14 to August 14, and canceling the July 20, 2026, and August 3, 2026, Regular Council Meetings: Gail Larson

Seconded: Jessica Cohen

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

No: None

MOTION PASSED

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.)

- None

18) Council President's Report

- Gave his thoughts about the Mayor's State of the City Address last Thursday. He is thankful for the spirit of collaboration in the first few months of 2026.

19) Adjournment

End: 9:09 PM

NEXT MEETING OF COUNCIL: MAY 18, 2026

MINUTES APPROVED: JUNE 1, 2026



Tony Cuda
President of Council



Addie Balester
Clerk of Council