



January 2, 2024
Organizational Meeting
7:30 PM

Cleveland Heights City Hall
Council Chambers
40 Severance Cir
Cleveland Heights, Ohio

MEETING MINUTES

1) Meeting called to order by Clerk of Council

Start: 7:35pm

2) Clerk reports result of November 7, 2023 election at which Gail Larson, Janine Boyd, and Jim Petras were elected as Council Members

3) Oaths of Office administered to newly-elected officials

Janine Boyd was sworn in January 1, 2024 at her home by the Honorable Judge Shirley Strickland Saffold. Her oath of office is on file with the Clerk of Council and Law Department.

Gail Larson was sworn in by Director Hanna.

Jim Petras was sworn in by Director Hanna.

4) Roll Call of Council Members

Present: Jim Petras, Gail Larson, Tony Cuda, Craig Cobb, Davida Russell, Janine Boyd, Anthony Mattox Jr.

Excused: None

5) Excuse absent members

6) Selection of President pro tempore (see Section 111.09 of Codified Ordinance)

Motion to nominate Davida Russell as President Pro tem: Tony Cuda

Seconded: Gail Larson

Motion to nominate Craig Cobb as President Pro tem: Anthony Mattox Jr.

Seconded: Janine Boyd

Russell: Tony Cuda, Gail Larson, Davida Russell, Jim Petras

Cobb: Janine Boyd, Craig Cobb, Anthony Mattox Jr.

Davida Russell to serve as President Pro tem

- 7) **President pro tem will request nominations for Office of President of Council (no seconds required)**

Motion to open the floor for nominations for the President of Council: Anthony Mattox Jr.

Seconded: Craig Cobb

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

No: None

Motion Passed

Anthony Mattox Jr. nominated Gail Larson for President of City Council.

Gail Larson does not accept the nomination

Gail Larson nominated Tony Cuda for President of City Council.

Tony Cuda accepted the nomination

Anthony Mattox Jr. nominated Janine Boyd for the President of City Council.

Janine Boyd accepted the nomination.

- 8) **President pro tem will close the floor after all nominations made (motion and second required)**

Motion to close the floor: Anthony Mattox Jr.

Seconded: Gail Larson

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

No: None

Motion Passed

- 9) **Roll Call on election of President of Council**

Note: if there is more than one nomination for this office, Councilmembers will report their choice for that office when called upon. If there is only one nomination, Councilmembers will report "aye" or "nay" in their usual vote.

Cuda: Craig Cobb, Gail Larson, Tony Cuda, Jim Petras

Boyd: Janine Boyd, Anthony Mattox Jr.

Tony Cuda elected as Council President

Discussion: Anthony Mattox spoke about why he chose not to vote for Tony Cuda for president. He does not believe Councilmember Cuda can work with others collaboratively and positively.

10) Oath of Office Administered to Council President

Oath of office administered by Director Hanna

11) Council President presides and requests nominations for the Office of Vice President of Council

Floor opened for nominations for Vice President:

Jim Petras nominates Davida Russell.

Davida Russell accepts the nomination

12) Council President will close the floor after all nominations made (motion and second required)

Motion to close the floor: Anthony Mattox Jr.

Seconded: Gail Larson

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

No: None

Motion Passed

13) Roll Call on election of Vice President of Council

Note: If there is more than one nomination for this office, Councilmembers will report their choice for that office when called upon. If there is only one nomination, Councilmembers will report "aye" or "nay" in their usual vote form.

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

Davida Russell elected as Council Vice President

14) Oath of Office administered to Vice President of Council

Oath of office administered by Director Hanna.

15) President of Council announces Committee membership for each standing Committee of Council

President deferred this until the next regular council meeting on January 16, 2024.

16) Other business related to Council Organization

Councilmember Mattox asks for President Cuda's committee to not ignore his emails and respond when talking to about people of color. And to make a commitment to work collaboratively with all members of this council. President Cuda says certainly we will work collaboratively and that he will respond to Councilmember Mattox's emails.

17) Comments from newly-elected officials.

Note: 3-minute time limit applies.

Councilmember Boyd wished everybody a Happy New Year. Council passed some good legislation at the end of last year and hopes to continue that in the coming year.

Councilmember Larson thanked those who helped getting her elected. Congratulated newly elected President of Council, Tony Cuda, and Vice President, Davida Russell. Outlined some of her goals for the coming year.

Councilmember Petras thanked everybody for joining tonight. He is grateful and honored to be elected to City Council. He hopes to collaborate with other council members and the Mayor and his administration.

18) Adjournment

End: 8:05pm

NEXT MEETING OF COUNCIL: JANUARY 16, 2024

APPROVED: February 5, 2024



Tony Cuda
President of Council



Addie Balester
Clerk of Council