



February 5, 2024
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: 7:37pm
- 2) **Roll Call of Council Members**
Present: Craig Cobb, Tony Cuda, Gail Larson, Anthony Mattox Jr., Davida Russell, Jim Petras
Excused: Janine Boyd
- 3) **Excuse absent members**
Janine Boyd excused from this meeting
- 4) **Amendments to the Agenda (if necessary)**
None
- 5) **Approval of minutes from previous meeting(s)**
Motion to adopt:
Seconded:

Yes: Craig Cobb, Tony Cuda, Gail Larson, Anthony Mattox Jr., Davida Russell, Jim Petras
No: None

MOTION PASSED

- a. December 18, 2023

APPROVED

- b. December 21, 2023

APPROVED

- c. January 2, 2024

APPROVED

6) Communications from the Mayor

Requests permission to bid project #24-01 – CH-9, CH-32 and CH-57 and CH-58 SSO Control Project

Motion to approve: Gail Larson

Seconded: Davida Russell

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

No: None

MOTION PASSED

NOCCA Annual Meeting Feb 22nd at 6pm.

Congratulations are in order for one of our residents, Mayesha Watkins, the Director of Cleveland Peacemakers Alliance will be speaking at the White House this Friday (Feb 9) as part of the inaugural class of U of Chicago's (GET PROGRAM NAME).

Read an email he wrote to former President Hart on Oct 12 regarding the Resolution Council passed last year regarding the terrorist attacks by Hamas on Israel.

7) City Administrator's Report

First, the Council is aware of critical infrastructure projects that will demand our attention over the next couple of years. The condition of the garage spanning Lennox and Surrey Rd. It was closed by the Fire Marshall recently because of cement that was falling and was considered an immediate danger to the community. The conclusion is that it is not safe to open any part of that garage at this point. GPD has been asked to give an estimate on the cost to repair or rebuild. Hopefully, that estimate will come in time for the next council meeting. The administration will be speaking with business owners and residents in that area to address any concerns as this process moves forward.

Second, Administrator Williams acknowledged that Brandon Upchurch, the Mayors Action Center Coordinator, would be leaving the City. However, he would like him to give a brief overview of his tenure as the MAC Coordinator.

Brandon spoke about getting the MAC up and running. etc.

8) City Departmental Report(s)

None

9) Report of the Clerk of Council

Notify Council that a notice has been received from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control advising that an application has been made by the following:

- Vero Bistro Inc., 12421 Cedar Rd. Cleveland Heights, OH 44106 for a new type C permit.

**THIS MATTER WILL BE REFERRED TO THE MAYOR, CHIEF OF POLICE,
AND LAW DIRECTOR**

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).

None

11) 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 time limit based on the volume of business on the agenda.)

Speakers

Linda Striefsky	Citizen	Announced a public meeting for the charter review commission.
Blanche Valancy	Citizen	Announced a league of women voters and heights libraries program on February 19 th
Michael Lederman	Citizen	Does not believe it is in Council's prevue to make statements about international issues/catastrophic international events
Koby Picker	Citizen	Asked for a resolution calling for a ceasefire
Graham Ball	Citizen	Asked for a resolution calling for a ceasefire

Brian Huser	Citizen	Asked for a resolution calling for a ceasefire
Jonathan Heifetz	Citizen	Opposed to additional resolution regarding a ceasefire
Jessica Cohen	Citizen	Opposed to additional resolution regarding a ceasefire
Simon Weiner	Citizen	Opposed to additional resolution regarding a ceasefire
Yaakov Berger	Citizen	Opposed to additional resolution regarding a ceasefire
Deborah Van Kleef	Citizen	Asked for a resolution calling for a ceasefire
Robin Koslen	Citizen	Asked for a resolution calling for a ceasefire
Jacob Green	Citizen	Opposed to additional resolution regarding a ceasefire; would like to see a more nuanced resolution
Henry Bloom	Citizen	Opposed to additional resolution regarding a ceasefire
Melissa Wood	Citizen	Asked for a resolution calling for a ceasefire
Karly Whitaker	Citizen	Asked for a resolution calling for a ceasefire
Francis Chiappa	Citizen	Asked for a resolution calling for a ceasefire

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. 011-2024(COTW): First Reading. A Resolution appointing Councilmember Gail Larson to the Doan Brook Watershed Partnership Board of Trustees; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by President Cuda

Motion to adopt: Craig Cobb

Seconded: Davida Russell

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

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 012-2024(AS): First Reading. A Resolution appointing Joseph Strauss as an alternate member of the Architectural Board of Review; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Councilmember Cobb

Motion to adopt: Gail Larson

Seconded: Craig Cobb

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

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 013-2024(CRR): First Reading. A Resolution recognizing February 1, 2024 as *National Freedom Day*; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Vice President Russell

Motion to adopt: Davida Russell

Seconded: Gail Larson

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

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

b. First Readings Only

RESOLUTION NO. 014-2023(PD): First Reading. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to submit the Amended Community Development Block Grant entitlement application and plan for the year beginning January 1, 2019.

Introduced by Mayor Seren

READ INTO THE RECORD

RESOLUTION NO. 015-2024(PD): First Reading. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to submit the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) entitlement application for the year beginning January 1, 2024.

Introduced by Mayor Seren

READ INTO THE RECORD

c. Third Readings

ORDINANCE NO. 189-2023(AS): Third Reading As Amended. An Ordinance repealing Chapter 148, "Youth Advisory Commission" of Part One, *Administrative Code*, of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Cleveland Heights, and adopting a replacement Chapter 148, "Parks and Recreation Youth Advisory Board."

Introduced by Vice President Russell

Motion to adopt:

Seconded:

Yes: Craig Cobb, Tony Cuda, Gail Larson, Anthony Mattox Jr., Davida Russell, Jim Petras **No:** None

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 193-2023(PD): Third Reading. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a development agreement with WXZ CPV LLC, concerning the redevelopment of the Taylor-Tudor buildings; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Mayor Seren

Fourth reading at the February 20, 2023 meeting

13) Committee Reports

HB: The Housing and Building Committee will meet at 5pm on the second Tuesday of each month, with the first meeting being February 13th.

MSES: Council has created two new committees: Transportation and Mobility Committee (TMC) and Climate and Environmental Sustainability Committee (CESC). Applications are now open, please go to the Cities website to find that application. The MSES Committee will be meeting February 13 at 10am to discuss legislative goals and initiatives for 2024.

14) Old Business

None

15) New Business

Councilmember Mattox: Would still like to have additional conversations regarding the discussion surrounding the Israeli/Palestinian issue. Made a statement regarding this Council's responsibility to its residents to revisit this issue. I am disappointed that his fellow council members couldn't even have a conversation at tonight's committee of the whole meeting.

Vice President Russell: Gave an explanation regarding her silence on an additional resolution. She has to recuse herself from the discussion because of her position as president of school employees around the state (union). The National Union has not weighed in with a position yet, and therefore she cannot weigh in on this issue further at this time.

President Cuda: Introduced the idea behind he and Vice President Russell's community listening sessions. They already did one meeting. He would like to ask Council to recognize these events as an official council leadership event.

Back and forth conversation continued between Council President Cuda and Councilmember Mattox. Councilman Mattox would like further clarity.

Law Director Hanna gave guidance as to the motion needed as this specific function isn't provided for in the charter. The way to bless this with authority, would be for council to authorize the president and vice president to hold this type of listening session.

Motion for the Council to authorize the President and Vice President to conduct community listening session on February 6, 2024: Davida Russell
Seconded: Jim Petras

Discussion: If council is going to okay this, Councilman Mattox would like advanced notice of these meetings and a reporting process by which the rest of

council is given feedback on the events, so that other councilmembers are given advanced notice of these events. President Cuda said he will share the notes from these meetings and will also give prior notice.

Motion to call the question: Davida Russell

Seconded: Jim Petras

Discussion: Councilmember Cobb and Councilmember Larson and Councilmember Mattox commented on the process by which these sessions have been brought to Council's attention and for consideration.

Councilmember Cobb and Councilmember Larson would like communication and transparency surrounding these events, and would like notes from these events Councilmember Larson further said she would like an open invitation to the rest of council to the meetings. Council President Cuda apologized for his oversight of informing councilmembers of the events. He will email to notify council of these events moving forward.

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

No: Craig Cobb, Anthony Mattox Jr.

MOTION PASSED

Yes: Tony Cuda, Davida Russell, Jim Petras

No: Craig Cobb, Gail Larson, Anthony Mattox Jr.

MOTION FAILED

16) Council President's Report

Nothing to report

17) Adjournment

End: 9:21pm

NEXT MEETING OF COUNCIL: FEBRUARY 20, 2024

APPROVED: March 4, 2024



Tony Cuda
President of Council

Addie Balester

Addie Balester
Clerk of Council