March 18, 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: 7:38 pm

2) Roll Call of Council Members

Present: Janine Boyd, Craig Cobb, Tony Cuda, Gail Larson, Anthony Mattox Jr., Jim Petras
Excused: Davida Russell
Absent: None

3) Excuse absent members

Davida Russell excused

4) Amendments to the Agenda (if necessary)

Motion to amend the agenda and move First Readings-Consideration of Adoption Requested to before Communications from the Mayor: Jim Petras
Seconded: Gail Larson

Yes: Janine Boyd, Craig Cobb, Tony Cuda, Gail Larson, Anthony Mattox Jr., Jim Petras
No: None
Abstain: None

5) Approval of minutes from previous meeting(s)

a. February 20, 2024

APPROVED

6) LEGISLATION – First Readings Consideration of Adoption Requested

7) Communications from the Mayor

Expressed his sincere gratitude to the CHUH School Board for their March 7 vote to approve the financing plan for the Taylor-Tudor development project.

Encourages Council to vote yes on the project.

Invited everybody to attend a public meeting tomorrow about public safety in the Noble Rd corridor at Monticello Middle School from 7 pm-9 pm.

Addressed Councilmember Janine Boyd directly, he is glad that she has served our community and thanked her for her service and time on Council.

8) City Administrator's Report

Gave a brief update on the status of the Lennox garage which has been closed since early February. The engineer has concluded that the garage is salvageable with repairs and will NOT have to be demolished and rebuilt. The engineer is seeking specs to come back to the council to address the issue. The city is working on options to mitigate the inconvenience of the loss of parking.

Councilmember Petras interjected and shared his concerns regarding the ARPA funding and how it has been allocated and whether the city can distribute these funds by the deadline.

Council President asked that Councilmember Petras address this type of concern during New Business in the future.

9) City Departmental Report(s)

Nothing to report

10) Report of the Clerk of Council

Nothing to report

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).

Speakers

Jack Valancy	Citizen	Thanked Council for recognizing Alonzo "Ted" Wilson for his years of service

12) 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

Matthew Haberbusch	Citizen	Supports a ceasefire resolution
Declan Synnott	Business Owner	Concerned with the closure of the Lennox parking garage and how it is impacting business; also concerned with the lack of communication from the City to the business owners regarding the timeline of the repairs to the garage, and the lack of parking options available to customers. Would like clearer signate in the Cedar-Fairmount area in general.
Lynn Quintrell	Citizen	**Concerned with the** closure of the Lennox parking garage and how it is impacting business; also concerned with the lack of communication from the City to the business owners regarding the timeline of the repairs to the garage, and the lack of parking options
Fran Mentch	Citizen	Suggested a recall of the Mayor
Roby Picker	Citizen	Supports a ceasefire resolution
Akshai Singh	Citizen	Supports a ceasefire resolution
Graham Ball	Citizen	Supports a ceasefire resolution
Melody Joy Hart	Citizen	Wants council to follow up with the suggestions of the RJTF
Juanita Brent	Other	Gave a State of Ohio

		Commendation to Janine Boyd on her last meeting of Council

13) 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*

**Read Prior to Communications from the Mayor (ITEM 6)*

RESOLUTION NO. 044-2024(COTW): *First Reading.* A Resolution recognizing Alfonzo Wilson Jr.'s 66 years as a mail carrier with the U.S. Postal Service in Cleveland; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Vice President Russell

Motion to adopt: Anthony Mattox Jr.
Seconded: Janine Boyd

Discussion: Council President Cuda presented Mr. Wilson with a copy of the resolution and asked him to say a few words.
Mr. Wilson thanked Council for their recognition and said what a pleasure it was to serve this community.
The Mayor presented Mr. Wilson with a Mayoral Proclamation and thanked him for his years of service.
President Cuda relayed thanks and appreciation from Vice President Russell who couldn't be here tonight.

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

LEGISLATION PASSED

b. First Readings Only

RESOLUTION NO. 037-2024(AS): *First Reading.* A Resolution appointing Harmony Cross, Mara Schoch, Sam Bivens, and Saralene Oakley Toombs as members of the Citizens Advisory Committee of the City of Cleveland

Heights, OH.

Introduced by Councilmember Cobb

READ INTO THE RECORD

RESOLUTION NO. 038-2024(AS): *First Reading.* A Resolution appointing John Talley as a member of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board of the City of Cleveland Heights, OH.

Introduced by Councilmember Cobb

READ INTO THE RECORD

RESOLUTION NO. 039-2024(AS): *First Reading.* A Resolution appointing Elchanan Stern as a member of the Board of Zoning Appeals of the City of Cleveland Heights, OH.

Introduced by Councilmember Cobb

READ INTO THE RECORD

RESOLUTION NO. 040-2024(AS): *First Reading.* A Resolution appointing Charlie Mosbrook, Howard Maier, Cole Ware, and Aaron Hughes-Ware as members of the Transportation and Mobility Committee of the City of Cleveland Heights, OH; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Councilmember Cobb

READ INTO THE RECORD

RESOLUTION NO. 041-2024(AS): *First Reading.* A Resolution appointing Catalina Wagers, John Barber, Tami Masuoka, and William Hanavan 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 Councilmember Cobb

READ INTO THE RECORD

RESOLUTION NO. 042-2024(MSES): *First Reading.* A Resolution authorizing participation in the ODOT Cooperative Purchasing Program for road salt for the 2024-2025 winter season; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Mayor Seren

READ INTO THE RECORD

RESOLUTION NO. 043-2024(MSES): *First Reading.* A Resolution

authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Knowles Municipal Forestry, LLC, to update the street tree inventory system.

Introduced by Mayor Seren

READ INTO THE RECORD

c. Second Readings

ORDINANCE NO. 029-2024(PD): *Second Reading.* An Ordinance declaring improvements to certain parcels within the City of Cleveland Heights to be a public purpose, exempting the improvements to such parcels from real property taxation for a period of 30 years; requiring the owners of such parcels to make service payments in lieu of taxes; establishing an Urban Redevelopment Tax Increment Equivalent Fund for the deposit of such payments; and approving a school compensation agreement with the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District; all pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Sections 5709.41, 5709.42 and 5709.43; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Mayor Seren

Motion to adopt: Gail Larson
Seconded: Craig Cobb

Discussion: Mayor Seren thanked Council for considering this piece of legislation and believes it is an important move for the City. He spoke about the broader work that is being done related to this area of our city, and that the city hopes to see the same type of movement in the Noble neighborhood that we are seeing in Taylor Neighborhood now. This is one of many development projects he intends to bring forward.
Council President Cuda said that it is great to see this project happen and that this city is thriving and open for business. This is all part of the momentum that this city needs.

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

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 033-2024(PSH): *Second Reading.* A Resolution authorizing an agreement with Roper Lock Box, LLC for lock boxes to support a Senior Residential Lock Box Program which permits the Cleveland Heights Fire Department access to provide emergency services to Cleveland Heights senior residents.

Introduced by Mayor Seren

Motion to adopt: Craig Cobb
Seconded: Janine Boyd

Discussion: Councilmember Boyd said this legislation is favored by Council and that it will increase safety for our seniors and response time for our first responders. There will be a launch on the website with education about the program.

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

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 034-2024(MSES): ***Second Reading.*** A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Valley Freightliner, Inc., for the acquisition of a Freightliner 114SD Plus Tandem Axle Cab and Chassis for the Department of Public Works.

Introduced by Mayor Seren
Move for Adoption

Motion to adopt: Anthony Mattox Jr.
Seconded: Gail Larson

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

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 035-2024(MSES): ***Second Reading.*** A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Valley Freightliners, Inc., for the acquisition of 2 (two) Freightliner 114SD plus Semi-Tractors for the Department of Public Works.

Introduced by Mayor Seren

Motion to adopt: Anthony Mattox Jr.
Seconded: Gail Larson

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

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 036-2024(MSES): ***Second Reading.*** A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Gledhill Road

Machinery Company, for the acquisition of a 14-Foot Stainless Steel Dump Body with Salt Spreader and Plow Package for the Department of Public Works.

Introduced by Mayor Seren

Motion to adopt: Anthony Mattox Jr.
Seconded: Craig Cobb

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

LEGISLATION PASSED

d. Consent Agenda

Motion to suspend rules: Gail Larson
Seconded: Craig Cobb

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

MOTION PASSED

Motion to adopt: Craig Cobb
Seconded: Gail Larson

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

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 045-2024(CRR): *First Reading*. A Resolution proclaiming April 2024 to be *National Poetry Month*; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by President Cuda, Vice President Russell, Councilmember Mattox, Councilmember Boyd, Councilmember Larson, Councilmember Cobb, and Councilmember Petras

Legislation passed on consent agenda

RESOLUTION NO. 046-2024(CRR): *First Reading.* A Resolution joining with HUD and other communities throughout the nation in the observation of April 2024 as *Fair Housing Month*; reaffirming the City of Cleveland Heights' commitment to open housing; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by President Cuda, Vice President Russell, Councilmember Mattox, Councilmember Boyd, Councilmember Larson, Councilmember Cobb, and Councilmember Petras

Legislation passed on consent agenda

RESOLUTION NO. 047-2024(CRR): *First Reading.* A Resolution proclaiming April 2024 to be *National Autism Acceptance Month* and April 2, 2024 to be *World Autism Awareness Day*; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Mayor Seren

Legislation passed on consent agenda

RESOLUTION NO. 048-2024(CRR): *First Reading.* A Resolution proclaiming April 7-13, 2024 to be *National Library Week*; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by President Cuda, Vice President Russell, Councilmember Mattox, Councilmember Boyd, Councilmember Larson, Councilmember Cobb, and Councilmember Petras

Legislation passed on consent agenda

14) Committee Reports

MSES: Update from the committee meeting this morning. She and Vice President Russell attended the National League of Cities Conference.
Finance: Update from the committee meeting this evening.
Ad Hoc Women's Day Committee: Announced the winners of the Women's Day awards; the event will take place this Thursday at 6:30pm at the community center.
HB: Update from the previous meeting; there will be an additional special meeting April 2.

15) Old Business

None

16) New Business

Mattox: Acknowledged Councilmember Boyd's trail of good works, and made his appreciation for all her service known. Spoke about her impeccable character and her voice for good.

Boyd: She is thankful for the time she has had as a council member on this City Council. She loved the work she has accomplished over the last year. She will

be relocating herself and her family and that is why she must step down. She is grateful for the community and her ability to serve them. She offered some parting wisdom to her colleagues: she has seen an erosion in the legislative/democratic process over the last several years in our federal and state governments, but she has also seen it here in this chamber. The council should be working with the administration and good debate should end with good policy. Thanked her colleagues, the Mayor, Law Director, the Clerk and all the administration.

Motion to accept the resignation of Councilmember Boyd: Gail Larson
Seconded: Craig Cobb

Discussion: Councilmember Larson wished Janine luck on her new journey. Councilmember Cobb thanked Janine for bringing her experience to this Council over the past year and wished her luck. President Cuda says he knows how much family means to Janine and that this decision could not have been easy, but this is an exciting time for your family and that everybody wishes her the best and that she is very much appreciated.

Yes: Craig Cobb, Tony Cuda, Gail Larson, Anthony Mattox Jr., Jim Petras
No: None
*Janine Boyd did not vote

MOTION PASSED

17) Council President's Report

Council members discussed the process and timeline of appointing somebody to the recently vacated seat.

Motion to authorize posting the application for Council on 3/19 and accepting applications through 3/29: Jim Petras
Seconded: Gail Larson

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

MOTION PASSED

18) Adjournment

End: 9:16 pm

NEXT MEETING OF COUNCIL: APRIL 1, 2024

APPROVED: May 6, 2024

Tony Cuda
President of Council

Addie Balester
Clerk of Council