



CLEVELAND HEIGHTS

Council Committee of the Whole

October 7, 2024

6:00 PM

City Hall – Executive Conference Room

An executive session may be held in accordance with the provisions set for Cleveland Heights Codified Ordinances Chapter 107.01(C)

Agenda

- 1) Call to Order/Roll Call**
- 2) Executive Session (30 min)**
 - a. *To consider confidential information related to the marketing plans, specific business strategy, production techniques, trade secrets, or personal financial statements of an applicant for economic development assistance, or to negotiations with other political subdivisions respecting requests for economic development assistance, as necessary to protect the interests of the applicant or the possible investment or expenditure of public funds to be made in connection with the economic development project; and to consider the lease or sale of City-owned real property.*
- 3) Legislative Review/Caucus (15 min)**
- 4) ARPA Update (10 min)**
- 5) Framework for future Council discussion (15 min)**
 - a. Collaboration to Determine Unified Expectations
- 6) Discussion of updates on projects during Committee Reports (10 min)**
- 7) Adjourn**

From: Jim Posch
Sent: Friday, August 23, 2024 5:59:28 PM
To: Tony Cuda
Subject: Expectations Development

Good Evening Tony,

In our most recent council meeting, under New Business I suggested that Council should meet to 1) come to terms with our grievances and 2) agree upon some expectations for ourselves and how we work (interact) with the city administration. I feel this work should both include our expectations on how we work together as council and how we (council) feel the city administration (including the Mayor) should work with us.

I ask for this because numerous people in my circle and those outside (as demonstrated in the Plain Dealer editorial about us) have repeatedly categorized our city government as dysfunctional. These perceptions regrettably tarnish Council. Maybe the perceptions are unfair, but never-the-less they are currently the talk-of-the-town. I feel we need to act and work hard on solutions the citizens can see - giving them confidence in our work.

For his part, the Mayor has responded saying he has changed his long time stance of limiting Council access and will now start meeting with council leadership regularly and members individually. I suspect some might question the genuineness of this change in stance, but it is a constructive development.

For our part, I think my suggestion of a Council Work Session to address grievances and expectations is one option we as members can unite around and be on the same page as one strong Council. I expect this can be a constructive exercise. The fact it will be done in public will help the community understand the issues, challenges and lead to confidence in our work. It might not be possible for all of us to agree on a single set of expectations - but I think we'll find some consensus.

I propose a Council Meeting with the following agenda. I built in some needed structure to help keep this activity/exercise constructive.

**** start exercise ****

Part 1 - Purpose (1 minute)(no discussion)

The meeting Chair will quickly review this meeting's purpose as outlined in the first paragraph of this email.

Part 2 - [Issues] Core Grievances and Problem Determination (+25 minutes)

Each Council person will have 3 minutes of uninterrupted time to detail what they believe are problems working together as a Council and working with the administration. If they have concerns about this meeting's purpose, those should be brought to light at this time. If a single member needs additional time, it should be brought to the attention of Chair. Once everyone has had their 3 minutes, and if there are additional time requests, then the Chair has the discretion to give members more time. But if more time is given, limits must be put in place to insure each member has a equitable communication time. The goal for this part of the exercise is for each member to express what "Issues" they feel need to be solved, and those that can eventually be incorporated into a set of expectations.

Part 3 - [Issues] Confirmation and Rebuttals (+15 minutes)

Each Council person will have 2 minutes of uninterrupted time to address, confirm or rebut any of the "Issues" discussed by their peers. Those "Issues" confirmed by more than one other member will be cataloged by the Chair for additional discussion as detailed under Part 4. The goal for this part of the exercise is for the body to come up with a definitive list of "Issues".

Part 4 - [Issues] Prioritization (+10 minutes)

Each Council person will have 1 minute of uninterrupted time share their top important Issues (which don't need to be limited to one). The Chair will use the consensus and order the "Issues" top down in order of importance.

Part 5 - [Solutions] Convert Issues into Solutions (unknown maybe 60 minutes?)

For each issue Council, will discuss possible solutions. The Chair will catalog each solution and those issues where no solution is apparent. The Chair will also seek if there's majority consensus for any given solution. Those solutions where there is a consensus of Council agreement will be discussed in Part 7 when we formulate our expectations.

Part 6 - Time Out

Reflective Council discussion. Prompts: Thus far is this exercise addressing the original purpose? Do we need to make adjustments? Do we need a break and continue at a later time after some refecation? Do we continue on to Parts 7 & 8 (or recess after Part 7)?

Part 7 - [Expectations] Convert Solutions into Expectations (unknown maybe finish in a second meeting)

For each solution, Council will discuss possible expectations. Possibly combine solutions.

Part 8 - [Expectations] Now What?

Do we vote on these to show there is agreement? If these are expectations we have for the administration, how do we share these with the administration? How we enforce these are being followed - is this necessary? Do we consult with the administration to consider their perspective about any given expectation?

**** end of exercise ****

I'm open to any suggestion (or any other option) on how we can work better with each other and the administration. But I feel this is very time sensitive. Again, the community has asked us all work better together. I think we need to show them we can, and through the above - give the community some incite of the challenges. Please let me know what you think.

Jim

**Jim Posch**

Council Member

City of Cleveland Heights

[40 Severance Circle](#)[Cleveland Heights, OH 44118](#)

P: 216-291-4444

JPosch@clevelandheights.govwww.ClevelandHeights.gov