



August 19, 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: 7:55pm

2) Roll Call of Council Members

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

Excused: None

Also Present: Mayor Seren, Director Hanna, Clerk Balester

3) Excuse absent members

None

4) Amendments to the Agenda (if necessary)

Motion to amend agenda: Jim Petras

Seconded: Craig Cobb

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

No: None

MOTION PASSED

5) Approval of minutes from previous meeting(s)

a. May 23, 2024

APPROVED

b. June 3, 2024

APPROVED

c. June 17, 2024

APPROVED

d. June 24, 2024

APPROVED

e. July 2, 2024

APPROVED

6) Communications from the Mayor

- First Call Crisis Assistance and Local Linkage Program expansion has launched; in June Cleveland Heights had 3 referrals out of 57 among all five of the participating cities.
- Update on the design of the Cain Park Stramp; according to the civil engineers there are some material impacts on the existing amenities, in particular the basketball court which will be impacted by the construction of the ramp. Several options for relocation are being worked through. He would like the Community Relations and Recreation Committee to explore this in a more comprehensive way.
- Gave an update on the Heights Medical Building Façade which resulted in damage to the storefronts at the intersection of Cedar-Fairmount; nobody was hurt, and it appears the damage to the structure and public infrastructure was minimal. Thanked our first responders in the Fire Department and Police Department, specifically the Fire Inspector and Chief Building Official. They are working with the building owner and structural engineer for that continuing inspection of the property related to this damage.
- Delighted to announce that they have received approval for the remaining funds needed for the demolition of the old Hillside Dairy building; he would like to thank Assistant Director Brian Iorio for seeing this process through.
- Spoke about an article the editorial board of Cleveland.com and the Plain Dealer wrote about Cleveland Heights elected officials. He believes it is an important perspective on how this city is still growing into this new form of government and that we all have work to do. He acknowledged his part in this and will continue to try and find productive ways to support team Cleveland Heights.

7) MPACT Presentation on Severance Center

Ryan Porter

Moved for September 3, 2024 meeting

8) Leopardo Energy

Presentation from Leopardo Energy regarding city-wide overhaul/update

9) City Administrator's Report

- Negotiations for Collective Bargaining with the Police Union are underway. Update on ARPA-funded projects for our Police Department.
- Announced a second public open house on the cities Comprehensive and Equitable Safety Action Plan on August 21st, 2024 from 5:30pm to 7:30pm
- Requests for Expression of Interest for properties held by the City; responses must be received by August 30, at 4pm
- Gave an updated on the road construction; the remainder of this years project will be the completion of the Lee Road project and North Park project.
- We should have an updated schedule for the completion of the Surrey Rd Garage project and the Clarendon-Edgerly waterline and road project.

10) Departmental Report(s)

None

11) Report of the Clerk of Council

None

12) 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

13) 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

Robin Koslen	Citizen	Wants the Council to take responsibilities for any errors made regarding the alleged open meetings act violation and apologize
Angel Fasolo	Citizen	Doesn't want the taxpayers to have to pay for the lawyers involved in the legal battle between the Mayor and

		Council
Justin Alcorn	Citizen	He wants the Mayor to stop spending tax payer money on the investigation into Council.

14) **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. 149-2024(AS): First Reading. A Resolution appointing James Nemastil as a member of the Landmark Commission 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

Motion to adopt: Craig Cobb

Seconded: Gail Larson

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

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 150-2024(F): First Reading. A Resolution appointing Lorna Rudolph to the Cedar-Lee Special Improvement District, Inc.'s Assessment Equalization Board; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by President Cuda

Motion to adopt: Gail Larson

Seconded: Jim Petras

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

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION 151-2024(MSES): First Reading. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Best Equipment for the acquisition of a leaf vac for the Streets Division of the Department of Public Works; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Mayor Seren

Motion to adopt: Gail Larson

Seconded: Jim Petras

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

No: None

LEGISLAITON PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 156-2024(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: Jim Petras

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

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

b. First Readings Only

ORDINANCE NO. 152-2024(MSES): First Reading. An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into an Energy Savings Performance Contract with Leopardo Energy and authorizing the financing of the energy conservation improvements under such guaranteed savings contract; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Mayor Seren

READ INTO THE RECORD
MOVED TO COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION NO. 153-2024(AS): First Reading. A Resolution confirming the Mayor's appointment of Tony Sias as a member of the Arts Commission of the City of Cleveland Heights, OH; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Mayor Seren

READ INTO THE RECORD
MOVED TO COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION NO. 154-2024(AS): First Reading. A Resolution confirming the Mayor's appointment of Kory Clark as a member of the Community Improvement Corporation of the City of Cleveland Heights, OH; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Mayor Seren

READ INTO THE RECORD
MOVED TO COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION NO. 155-2024(AS): First Reading. A Resolution confirming the Mayor's appointment of India L. Birdsong Terry as a member of the Community Improvement Corporation of the City of Cleveland Heights; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Mayor Seren

READ INTO THE RECORD
MOVED TO COMMITTEE

c. Second Readings

ORDINANCE NO. 127-2024(F): Second Reading As Amended. An Ordinance establishing salary schedules, position classifications and other compensation, and benefits for officers and employees of the City; 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

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

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 143-2024(AS): Second Reading. A Resolution appointing Carly Beck as a member 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 President Cuda

Motion to adopt: Gail Larson

Seconded: Jim Petras

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

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 144-2024(AS): Second Reading. A Resolution appointing Mohammad Irfan as a member 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 President Cuda

Motion to adopt: Jim Petras

Seconded: Craig Cobb

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

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 145-2024(AS): Second Reading. A Resolution appointing Sean Terry as a member 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 President Cuda

Motion to adopt: Jim Petras

Seconded: Craig Cobb

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

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 146-2024(AS): Second Reading. A Resolution appointing Fern Hought as a member 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 President Cuda

Motion to adopt: Jim Petras

Seconded: Gail Larson

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

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 147-2024(AS): Second Reading. A Resolution appointing Gayle Lewin as a member 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 President Cuda

Motion to adopt: Jim Petras

Seconded: Gail Larson

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

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 148-2024(AS): Second Reading. A Resolution appointing Sam Bell as a member 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 President Cuda

Motion to adopt: Jim Petras

Seconded: Craig Cobb

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

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

d. Consent Agenda

Motion to suspend rules:

Seconded:

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

No: None

MOTION PASSED

Motion to adopt:

Seconded:

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

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 157-2024(CRR): First Reading. A Resolution recognizing September 2024, as *National Service Dog Month* in the City of Cleveland Heights, OH; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

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

Passed on consent agenda

RESOLUTION NO. 158-2024(CRR): First Reading. A Resolution proclaiming September 13 – 22, 2024, *Welcoming Week*; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Mayor Seren

Passed on consent agenda

RESOLUTION NO. 159-2024(CRR): First Reading. A Resolution recognizing September 20, 2024 as Car Free Day and Park(ing) Day 2024 in Cleveland Heights.

Introduced by Mayor Seren

Passed on consent agenda

RESOLUTION NO. 160-2024(MSES): First Reading. A Resolution proclaiming September 2024, *National Preparedness Month*; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Mayor Seren

Passed on consent agenda

15) Committee Reports

- **F:** Update from Finance Committee which met on August 15, 2024, and will meet again in September.
- **MSES:** Will meet on August 26, 2024, at 10 am.

- **HB:** Will meet tomorrow, August 20 at 5 pm to discuss housing-related recommendations from the RJTF; and will receive an overview of housing inspections. A second meeting will occur later this week on Thursday, August 22nd at 4 pm for a walking tour starting at 3248 Euclid Heights Blvd. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Sept. 10 at 5 pm.
- **PD:** The Planning and Development Committee meeting and public hearing on the dog park for tomorrow will be rescheduled.

16) Old Business

17) New Business

- **Posch:** Would like Council to spend a little bit of time on putting together a road map on how we as a council feel are our expectations of how to work with the administration; he would like two meetings, one amongst ourselves so that all seven could agree and be inclusive and just spend some time airing laundry; the second meeting would invite the Administration in to make sure they understand Council's expectations.
- **Mattox:** Is concerned not only collaboration with the administration but what we do as a council going forward. He feels like he is always playing catch up and his question is what will this council do to build in processes to make sure this doesn't continue to happen? Would like to have trust and complete respect and collaboration as a council and would like to have processes and agreements in place so that we know things are happening transparently so nobody is coming into a conversation that has previously been discussed behind closed doors.
- **Petras:** Expressed his concerns of the piece in Cleveland.com from Mr Kelly Ledbetter, our former parks and rec director. It points to the deep management and culture issues that we continue to hear about at city hall. Noted the turnover over the last two and a half years at city hall. He will be introducing legislation to fund an anonymous workplace climate survey.

18) 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.)

- **Mattox:** Believes the investigation is necessary, despite being disappointed for the need. He thinks if the Council were going to right this ship on their own they would have already, but that hasn't happened. Wants to make sure these things don't happen again. Addressed some

of the public comments made tonight regarding himself and race relations. He believes that it is leadership's responsibility to make sure each councilperson is respected and heard and that the leadership of this council should be held responsible.

- **Posch:** Disagrees with Councilmember Mattox's position about the inquiry; he believes we should not draw the seven councilmembers into a full-blown inquiry when some of council had nothing to do with it. He believes it is unfair to put some of us through something which is blatantly a witch hunt.
- **Petras:** He remains concerned about the City's ARPA funds and the continued struggle to get these funds out to ARPA recipients, especially the \$1.2 million for business assistance. He believes it has taken far too long. He also brought up his concerns about the lack of facilities sharing agreement with CHUH School District. He hopes that we can make sure residents can swim in the high school pool.

19) Council President's Report

20) Adjournment

End: 9:25 pm

NEXT MEETING OF COUNCIL: SEPTEMBER 3, 2024

APPROVED: October 7, 2024



Tony Cuda
President of Council



Addie Balester
Clerk of Council