



**Monday, March 21, 2022 Minutes**

**CITY COUNCIL**

8:01 – 8:32 p.m.

President Hart presiding

Roll Call:      Present:      Cobb, Cuda, Hart, Larson, Mattox, Moore  
                    Absent:      Russell

Also Present: Mayor Seren, Hanna, Himmeltein, Niermann-O'Neil

**Personal communications from citizens on Agenda Items only**

No one at this time.

**Communications from the Mayor**

Mayor Seren announced Ohio House of Representatives State Representative Janine Boyd extended an invitation to him to attend the State of the State address on Wednesday at noon. He stated he was looking forward to it and would provide his thoughts afterwards. Secondly, he expressed his deep, heartfelt thanks to Police Chief Annette Mecklenburg, who was retiring at the end of the month, for her years of service to Cleveland Heights. He also announced he would be swearing in Captain Chris Britton as the new Chief on April 4<sup>th</sup>. Council President Hart asked if there would be an event to celebrate Chief Mecklenburg's retirement. Mayor Seren stated he wouldn't want to presume the Chief would be interested in such an event. Council President Hart stated if there was an event, they would all love to wish her well as she's been a great Chief.

**\*MOTION** to request for permission to bid Project #22-04—2022 Hot-In-Place Asphalt Recycling Project.

Moved by Vice President Cobb, seconded by Councilor Moore.

Roll Call:      Ayes: Cuda, Hart, Mattox, Moore, Cobb  
                    Nays: None

**Motion Passed**

Mayor Seren stated this project would allow the City to perform the resurfacing of asphalt roads in a different manner that would produce less emissions and use less resources. Council President

Hart asked if they would hear about what he is proposing when he comes back with a bid and Mayor Seren confirmed they would.

### **Report of the Clerk of Council**

Nothing to report at this time.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

**RESOLUTION NO. 30-2022 (PD), First Reading.** A Resolution proclaiming April 11-15, 2022 to be National Community Development Week; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

#### **Legislation Introduced**

**RESOLUTION NO. 31-2022 (PD), First Reading.** A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with the Home Repair Resource Center, a non-profit corporation, for the use of HOME Funds to administer the City's Down Payment Assistance loan program; providing compensation therefor; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Motion to Adopt by Councilman Mattox, Seconded by Vice President Cobb

Roll Call:      Ayes: Hart, Larson, Mattox, Moore, Cobb, Cuda  
                  Nays: None

#### **Legislation Passed**

#### **PUBLIC SAFETY AND HEALTH COMMITTEE**

Nothing to report at this time.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**RESOLUTION 24-2022 (AS), Second Reading.** A Resolution confirming the Mayor's appointment of Joseph E. Sinnott as City Administrator for the City of Cleveland Heights; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Motion to Adopt by Vice President Cobb, Seconded by Councilman Mattox

Roll Call:      Ayes: Cuda, Hart, Larson, Mattox, Moore, Cobb,  
                  Nays: None

**Legislation Passed**

Council President Hart stated she is pleased that Joseph Sinnott has an excellent background and she thinks he'll be a great help to the Mayor and the City. Councilman Mattox stated he is looking forward to Mr. Sinnott's partnership with the Mayor and the City. Vice President Cobb stated they couldn't have picked a better person and the Mayor couldn't have recommended a better person for the position.

**ORDINANCE NO. 25-2022 (AS), Second Reading.** An Ordinance establishing salary schedules, position classifications and other compensation, and benefits for officers and employees of the City; and declaring an emergency.

Motion to Adopt by Vice President Cobb, Seconded by Councilor Moore

Law Director Bill Hanna raised a point of order to confirm this is the as amended Ordinance being moved. Vice President Cobb confirmed and noted that an amendment was made to the packet that was made available to the public last week, to adjust some salaries to be more competitive with the private sector.

Motion to Adopt as amended by Vice President Cobb, Seconded by Councilman Cuda

Roll Call:      Ayes: Hart, Larson, Mattox, Moore, Cobb, Cuda  
                    Nays: None

**Legislation Passed**

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**

**ORDINANCE NO. 26-2022 (CRR), Second Reading.** An Ordinance authorizing and approving the presentation of entertainment programs in Cain Park for the year 2022.

Motion to Adopt by Councilor Moore, Seconded by Councilman Mattox

Roll Call:      Ayes: Hart, Larson, Mattox, Moore, Cobb, Cuda  
                    Nays: None

**Legislation Passed**

**RESOLUTION NO. 32-2022 (CRR), First Reading.** A Resolution proclaiming April 2022 to be National Poetry Month; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective as an emergency measure

**Legislation Introduced**

**RESOLUTION NO. 33-2022 (CRR), *First Reading*.** A Resolution proclaiming April 3-9, 2022 to be National Library Week; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

**Legislation Introduced**

**RESOLUTION NO. 34-2022 (CRR), *First Reading*.** A Resolution proclaiming April 2022 to be Autism Awareness Month; and April 2, 2022 to be World Autism Awareness Day; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

**Legislation Introduced**

**RESOLUTION NO. 35-2022 (CRR), *First Reading*.** A Resolution joining with HUD and other communities throughout the nation in the observation of April as Fair Housing Month; reaffirming the City of Cleveland Heights' commitment to open housing; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

**Legislation Introduced**

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**RESOLUTION NO. 29-2022 (F), *Second Reading*.** A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a contract with Guidehouse Inc. for consulting services related to the use of American Rescue Plan Act State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funding; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Motion to Adopt by Council President Hart, Seconded by Vice President Cobb

Roll Call:      Ayes: Larson, Mattox, Moore, Cobb, Cuda, Hart  
                    Nays: None

**Legislation Passed**

Council President Hart stated this resolution is about a contract with Guidehouse, which is a company that does consulting services, to ensure the way the City spends the ARPA funds is appropriate under the regulations and is properly documented for regulatory purposes. Guidehouse would also assist with community engagement efforts on the use of the funds with public hearings, etc. She stated all community input would be weighed and considered.

**ORDINANCE NO. 36-2022 (F), *First Reading*.** An ordinance to amend certain subparagraphs of Ordinance No. 139-2021 (F), relating to appropriations and other expenditures of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2022 and declaring an emergency.

Motion to Adopt by Council President Hart, Seconded by Councilor Larson

Roll Call:            Ayes: Cobb, Cuda, Hart, Larson, Mattox, Moore  
                          Nays: None

**Legislation Passed**

Council President Hart noted the impact would be a roughly \$7,900 increase to the budget. The remainder would be funded by a grant, with no impact to the budget. Councilor Larson stated that, regarding the two budget items that weren't budgeted for originally, she believes that they can cover the additional cost and add it to the budget based on Director Himmeltein's report in the Committee of the Whole that there was \$160,000 in unexpended revenue.

## **HOUSING AND BUILDING COMMITTEE**

Nothing formal to report at this time. Councilman Cuda stated the Committee is meeting Wednesday morning at 9 a.m. and it is open to the public in the conference room. It would also be on YouTube. They would be discussing vacant and abandoned properties, nuisance abatement and tools that the city might use. He stated they won't be making any decisions; it's just a working Committee session and all are welcome.

## **MUNICIPAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

Councilor Moore stated the Committee meeting that was to be held earlier that night had to be rescheduled. The meeting would now be held next Monday at 4:30 p.m. in the executive conference room; stating she would keep the same agenda.

**ORDINANCE NO. 37-2022 (MS), *First Reading*.** An Ordinance authorizing all actions necessary to accept Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council 2022 Energized Community Grant(s) Funds; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

**Legislation Introduced**

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

**RESOLUTION NO. 38-2022 (COTW), *First Reading*.** A Resolution condemning the Russian Federation's military invasion of Ukraine and expressing support for Ukraine. Introduced by Mayor Seren, Council President Hart, Vice President Cobb, and Council Members Russell, Moore, Mattox, Cuda, and Larson.

\***MOTION** to suspend the rules.

Moved by Councilor Moore, seconded by Councilman Cuda.

Roll Call:            Ayes: Mattox, Moore, Cobb, Cuda, Hart, Larson  
                          Nays: None

**Motion Passed**

Motion to Adopt by Councilor Moore, Seconded by Councilman Cuda

Roll Call:      Ayes: Moore, Cobb, Cuda, Hart, Larson, Mattox  
                    Nays: None

**Legislation Passed**

**Personal communications from citizens**

Laura Marks stated she is there to update them about Heights Tree People activities. The group is entering their fourth year. In their first three years, they've planted 671 trees in the Heights area. She asked that people mark their calendars for Arbor Day Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, at 10 a.m. at the Community Center. She then listed the various activities happening at the event, such as the ceremonial tree the Forestry Department would be planting at the main entrance. She also provided the update that Heights Tree People are working with Start Right CDC on Nela View Road. Her group worked with the Cleveland Heights Forestry Department, along with Jimmie Hicks and Allen Rapoport, to develop a work plan. Jimmie Hicks and Allen Rapoport are going to solicit their neighbors for tree lawn trees and she stated there is a potential for planting 50 new trees on the section of the street between Winsford and Noble. She also stated Heights Tree People are offering free front yard trees along that street. Jimmy Hicks is lining up people who can water the trees through the summer. She wanted to remind everyone that her group plants trees on people's front yards for free and they would love to continue, sharing their email address: HeightsTreePeople@gmail.com.

Fran Mentch came to congratulate the community for earning the right to vote on Issue 9. She displayed her group's website and asked people visit it to support them. She stated Issue 9 is about voting yes or no on whether or not citizens want to build a public activity park in Cleveland Heights on the corner of Meadowbrook, Lee and Tullamore. She stated this is the only time Cleveland Heights residents have been able to vote directly on a local land use issue. Would the public park bring money to the City? She stated, yes, based on research by city planners and economists that the right size public place on the right site would bring 'feet to the street,' saying money follows feet. She stated their public park is the right size and in the right context. Business owners on Lee Road have told her group that they do their best business during the music festival. She asked people to imagine how a concert in the public park, every Friday night, would help the businesses, bars and restaurants. She then listed the various other benefits the public park would provide, such as it would be a destination for people and it would attract residents of other cities, etc. She stated it won't exclude anyone and would benefit the residents of the new development. Would the public park stop the development? She stated it would not stop the development, saying Issue 9 only applies to the 1.07 acres of the site and they can have both.

Bill Frank hoped they are considering reopening City Hall soon; as it's been closed for a while and he thinks the residents would appreciate it.

**Old business**

Nothing to report at this time.

## **New business**

Nothing to report at this time.

## **Council Member Comments**

Councilor Larson stated they brought up Ordinance 78-2021 (which was introduced in June of 2021) at the Committee of the Whole that evening. The Ordinance is in regards to lead safe certification, the process of looking into the commercial properties and rentals they have, and making sure they are safe places for children to live. She announced that they would have a hearing where they would bring in the Lead Safe Cleveland Program to hear what they've done, along with landlords, child care businesses and citizens. They hope to have a public hearing within the month. Also, on April 18<sup>th</sup>, she stated there would be a Public Safety and Health Committee meeting.

Councilman Cuda stated the Commission on Aging needs members and he encouraged anyone interested to email them through the website.

Councilor Moore announced that next Monday there would be a special Women's History Month event. They have been accepting nominations for amazing women of Cleveland Heights and they would be choosing five to honor in particular, but everyone nominated would be named and acknowledged at the meeting. She also wanted to announce the Cleveland Heights Green Team is kicking off a month of events for Earth Month, including organizing neighborhood clean ups, a sustainability fair at the Coventry Peace Park on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, and on April 27<sup>th</sup>, they are working with Future Heights to have a forum on sustainability.

Councilman Mattox stated he has received several emails and has had conversations with residents asking why Council is investing their time on addressing national and international issues like Medicare for All and Ukraine, etc., so he wanted to spend some time explaining where Council is coming from. He quoted MLK, stating it is so critical that they speak out for the marginalized. He stated one of the reasons he is proud to be a Cleveland Heights resident is that they lead on issues, where others tend to be silent. It is important that when you see an injustice, you must address the injustice, whether it is local, national or international. To any resident that questions why the Council does that, he said it's because they believe in leading and that injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. As long as people continue to speak out, that's when change happens. He stated he is extremely proud of the Council and the Mayor for standing up for what's right, not just for what's happening locally, but across the country. It is critically important that each of us use the voice that we have to promote justice and fairness for all. He thanked Councilor Moore for taking the lead.

## **Report of the Council President**

Council President Hart stated that it had come to her attention that some residents in Cleveland Heights believe there is a ward system, where one Council Member represents their own district. She stated everyone is At-Large, so everyone represents every area of Cleveland Heights. She said citizens can address any issue to any one of the Council Members. She then noted there is a Council Retreat coming up on April 2, 2022. Council would be discussing their vision for the City and their

goals for achieving that vision. She also welcomed the new City Administrator and stated getting staffed up would help a lot in the operation of the City.

**NEXT MEETING OF COUNCIL: MONDAY, APRIL 4, 2022**

Respectfully submitted,

Melody Joy Hart

Melody Joy Hart  
President of Council

Amy Himmlein

Amy Himmlein  
Clerk of Council