



October 16, 2023
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**
7:40pm
- 2) Roll Call of Council Members**

Present: Anthony Mattox Jr., Janine Boyd, Davida Russell, Melody Joy Hart, Craig Cobb, Tony Cuda, Gail Larson
- 3) Excuse absent members**
- 4) Amendments to the Agenda (if necessary)**
- 5) Approval of minutes from previous meeting(s)**
- 6) Report from Racial Justice Task Force**
Rhonda Davis-Lovejoy

Report given with the findings and recommendations of the Racial Justice Task Force, by Chairwoman Rhonda Davis Lovejoy.
- 7) Communications from the Mayor**

Made a statement about the murder of a 6-year-old American boy of Palestinian descent in the wake of the Hamas attacks on Israel. Affirmed and added to his statement from last week regarding the assault on Israel by Hamas terrorists. There is no excuse for the assault and murder of children. It is incumbent on us as neighbors to look out for one another. We look out for everybody in Cleveland Heights, including our Jewish neighbors and friends, our Muslim neighbors and friends, and everybody else; there is no caveat. Any ethnic hate has no home here.
- 8) City Administrators Report**

Nothing to report, but Administrator Williams thanked President Hart for including this section in the agenda in order to provide a space for him to update the Council.

9) City Departmental Report(s)

No reports

10) Report of the Clerk of Council

Nothing to report

11) Public Comment - CHUH Students

Speakers

Kieran Baldwin	Student/Citizen	Cumberland Pool
Genevieve Baldwin	Student/Citizen	Cumberland Pool
Zoe Baldwin	Student/Citizen	Cumberland Pool
Charlotte Sluzewski	Student/Citizen	Cumberland Pool
Greyson James Sluzewski	Student/Citizen	Cumberland Pool

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. Comments unrelated to the agenda may be made after Committee Reports)

Speakers

Jessica Cohen	Citizen	RES 167-2023; in support of this Resolution
Drew Herzig	Citizen	RES 165-2023, RES 166-2023, RES 169-2023; in support of the LGBTQIA+ community
Melissa Wood	Citizen	RES 167-2023; against this Resolution
Christopher Wood	Citizen	RES 167-2023; against this Resolution
Susan Efroymson	Citizen	RES 167-2023; in support of this Resolution

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

ORDINANCE NO. 159-2023(F): *First Reading*. An Ordinance to amend certain subparagraphs of Ordinance No. 168-2022, relating to appropriations and other expenditures of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2023, and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Mayor Seren

Motion to amend by substitution: Craig Cobb
Seconded: Gail Larson

Yes: Janine Boyd, Craig Cobb, Tony Cuda, Melody Joy Hart, Gail Larson, Anthony Mattox Jr., Davida Russell

No: None

MOTION PASSED

Motion to adopt: Davida Russell
Seconded: Janine Boyd

Yes: Janine Boyd, Craig Cobb, Tony Cuda, Melody Joy Hart, Gail Larson, Anthony Mattox Jr., Davida Russell

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

ORDINANCE NO. 160-2023(PD): *First Reading*. An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to execute three easements to the Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company for the relocation of power lines as part of the Cedar Lee Meadowbrook Development; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Mayor Seren

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

Yes: Janine Boyd, Craig Cobb, Tony Cuda, Melody Joy Hart, Gail Larson, Anthony Mattox Jr., Davida Russell

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 161-2023(PSH): First Reading. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to accept a grant from the Ohio Department of Public Safety's ("ODPS"), Ohio Traffic Safety Office ("OTSO"), *High Visibility Enforcement Grant Program (HVE)*, *Impaired Driving Enforcement Program (IDEP)*, *Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP)* to support traffic enforcement efforts; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Mayor Seren

Motion to adopt: Anthony Mattox Jr.

Seconded: Craig Cobb

Yes: Janine Boyd, Craig Cobb, Tony Cuda, Melody Joy Hart, Gail Larson, Anthony Mattox Jr., Davida Russell

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 162-2023(AS): First Reading. A Resolution increasing the compensation of the Clerk of Council; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by President Hart

Motion to adopt: Davida Russell

Seconded: Janine Boyd

Yes: Janine Boyd, Craig Cobb, Tony Cuda, Melody Joy Hart, Gail Larson, Anthony Mattox Jr., Davida Russell

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 163-2023(AS): First Reading. A Resolution appointing John Barber, as a member of the Transportation 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 Vice President Cobb

Motion to adopt: Gail Larson

Seconded: Davida Russell

Yes: Janine Boyd, Craig Cobb, Tony Cuda, Melody Joy Hart, Gail Larson,

Anthony Mattox Jr., Davida Russell
No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 164-2023(COTW): First Reading. A Resolution in support of House Bill 420; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by President Hart

Motion to adopt: Gail Larson
Seconded: Davida Russell

Discussion

Larson: Hopes that the State legislators can come together to ban conversion therapy throughout the State of Ohio.

Yes: Janine Boyd, Craig Cobb, Tony Cuda, Melody Joy Hart, Gail Larson, Anthony Mattox Jr., Davida Russell

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 165-2023(COTW): First Reading. A Resolution expressing the city's strong support of Senate Bill 132, which is known as the Ohio Fairness Act, which will provide the same protections under Ohio's antidiscrimination laws to members of the LGBTQIA+ community as are provided to all Ohio residents; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by President Hart

Motion to adopt: Janine Boyd
Seconded: Davida Russell

Discussion

Larson: This Resolution confirms that all are welcome here in Cleveland Heights; if SB 132 passes, it will provide the protection that our LGBTQIA+ community deserves.

Hart: The legislation calls for residents of Cleveland Heights to contact the Senate of Ohio's Oversight committee and encourages them to vote yes for their legislation.

Yes: Janine Boyd, Craig Cobb, Tony Cuda, Melody Joy Hart, Gail Larson, Anthony Mattox Jr., Davida Russell

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 166-2023(COTW): *First Reading*. A Resolution expressing the City's opposition to House Bill 245, which intentionally seeks to suppress freedom of expression among the LGBTQIA+ community and performance artists; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by President Hart

Motion to adopt: Davida Russell

Seconded: Gail Larson

Discussion

Larson: HB 245 should not pass, and she encourages everybody to contact your legislators to encourage them to vote no.

Hart: This bill is misleading and violates first amendment rights.

Yes: Janine Boyd, Craig Cobb, Tony Cuda, Melody Joy Hart, Gail Larson, Anthony Mattox Jr., Davida Russell

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 167-2023(COTW): *First Reading*. A Resolution in support of Israel as it defends itself in the war launched by terrorists; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by All City Council Members and Mayor Seren

Motion to adopt: Craig Cobb

Seconded: Gail Larson

Discussion

Mattox: Quoted MLK Jr. and spoke about the pain this travesty has caused; putting yourself in others shoes is important in situations like this. There are a lot of lost innocent lives on both sides of this war. We need to remind ourselves that we are all human and all deserve freedom and justice. He is praying for this community. He is grieving for every victim, but is demanding justice for all people. He is asking for our leaders to have a conversation that should have been had long ago.

Larson: She has listened to all of the words spoken tonight and she feels the humanity in this room. We are all welcome here, and the diversity in the room tonight is evidence of that. She whole heartedly supports this legislation.

Russell: Terrorism is the enemy of democracy. Her prayers go out to everybody who has been affected by this tragedy. We can protect the people in our community, and we can love each other here. If anybody ever needs somebody to talk to, please call her.

Boyd: Spoke about her time visiting Israel and what she witnessed was a lot of collaboration between Israelis and Palestinians on many different levels. We must continue to separate what is the terrorist organization that is Hamas

and the people of Palestine. We must give each other space to grieve and be kind to one another.

Cuda: Supports this legislation and read a statement regarding the recent attacks. This time has been traumatic for all of us, but especially for our Jewish and Israeli neighbors. He grew up in a neighborhood with many Jewish people, and many had numbers on their arms. Although not Jewish himself, he was enriched by his Jewish neighbors and Jewish culture. For him, it is not enough to say how sorry he is, he wants the community to know why he is sorry and what the community means to him.

Cobb: He recently rewatched Schindler's List and he doesn't know how anybody can watch that movie and then question Israel's right to defend themselves. He does not find anything controversial in this legislation that he believes all of Council will support.

Hart: Council brought this legislation forward because they wanted to support our Jewish residents and neighbors who have been so affected by the attacks by Hamas. Hamas is also hurting innocent Palestinians. We are one community that supports you, and are here for you. We condemn the attacks and defend the right of Israel to defend themselves. She will be voting yes for this.

Yes: Janine Boyd, Craig Cobb, Tony Cuda, Melody Joy Hart, Gail Larson, Anthony Mattox Jr., Davida Russell

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

b. First Readings Only

RESOLUTION NO. 168-2023(PSH): *First Reading* A Resolution authorizing an agreement with the Journey Center for Healing and Safety for a Victim Advocate in the Cleveland Heights Municipal Court; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Councilmember Boyd

READ INTO THE RECORD
REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION NO. 169-2023(PSH): *First Reading* A Resolution authorizing an agreement with Bellefaire JCB for law enforcement training and an update of the Cleveland Heights Youth Diversion and Mentoring Program to better serve transgender and other LGBTQIA+ youth; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Councilmember Boyd

READ INTO THE RECORD
REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

c. Second Readings

ORDINANCE NO. 158-2023(PSH): Second Reading. An Ordinance authorizing the renewal of an agreement with the Cuyahoga County General Health District for the provision of public health services to the City and its residents; providing compensation therefor; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Mayor Seren

Motion to adopt: Gail Larson

Seconded: Davida Russell

Yes: Janine Boyd, Craig Cobb, Tony Cuda, Melody Joy Hart, Gail Larson, Anthony Mattox Jr., Davida Russell

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

d. Consent Agenda

Note: Individual Consent Agenda items are not discussed separately during the Council meeting, unless removed from the Consent Agenda on the request of a member of Council. Once an item is removed from the Consent Agenda, it will be placed on the Regular Agenda. Action upon the Consent Agenda will require two motions: the first to suspend the rules under Chapter 11 of the Codified Ordinance of the City of Cleveland Heights, and a second for approval or adoption of the items within the Consent Agenda. A vote upon adoption of the Consent Agenda operates as to all items on the Consent Agenda at the time the motion to approve or adopt is made.

Motion to suspend rules: Gail Larson

Seconded: Janine Boyd

Yes: Janine Boyd, Craig Cobb, Tony Cuda, Melody Joy Hart, Gail Larson, Anthony Mattox Jr., Davida Russell

No: None

MOTION PASSED

Motion to adopt: Craig Cobb

Seconded: Janine Boyd

Yes: Janine Boyd, Craig Cobb, Tony Cuda, Melody Joy Hart, Gail Larson, Anthony Mattox Jr., Davida Russell

No: None

LEGISLATION PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 170-2023(CRR): First Reading. A Resolution declaring November 25, 2023, *Small Business Saturday*; and declaring the necessity

that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by All City Council Members and Mayor Seren

Legislation passed on consent agenda

RESOLUTION NO. 171-2023(PD): *First Reading*. A Resolution declaring October 2023 *National Community Planning Month*; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by All City Council Members and Mayor Seren

Legislation passed on consent agenda

RESOLUTION NO. 172-2023(PSH): *First Reading*. A Resolution recognizing October 24, 2023 as *Climate Action Day* in Cleveland Heights; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by All City Council Members and Mayor Seren

Legislation passed on consent agenda

14) Committee Reports

PSH: There will be a Public Safety and Health Public Hearing on Thursday, October 19th at 3:30pm with regard to both pieces of legislation read on first reading tonight.

PD: Update from the Planning and Development Committee tonight; 128-2023, 129-2023, and 150-2023 will all be discussed in another meeting coming up in the next couple of weeks. ETC.....

AS: On October 4, 2023 Admin Services had a public hearing on the Arts Commission legislation and hopes to finish that discussion at another Admin Services meeting or COTW meeting soon.

CRR: Next meeting is Monday, November 6 at 10:30am. Upcoming mixer for the senior LGBTQIA+ community. etc.

MSES: Update from meeting this morning where they discussed draft legislation for creating two separate committees (out of TESC).

HB: Update from meeting a couple weeks ago regarding potential Short Term Rental legislation.

15) Public Comment - General

(Note: Persons wishing to speak must register in advance. A 3-minute time limit applies. Council President reserves the right to reduce time limit based on the volume of business on the agenda.)

Speakers

Margaret Hall	Citizen	Cumberland Pool
Claire Robinson May	Citizen	Cumberland Pool

Susan Ford	Citizen	Cumberland Pool
Cary Seidman	Citizen	Cumberland Pool
Nancy Ballou	Citizen	Heights High Pool Access
Melissa Wood	Citizen	Cumberland Pool
Cheryl Kuenzel	Citizen	Cumberland Pool
Christopher Wood	Citizen	Cumberland Pool
Robin Koslen	Citizen	Cumberland Pool
Kimberly Ulatowski	Citizen	Cumberland Pool
Nicholas Bislich	Citizen	Cumberland Pool
James Williams	Citizen	Cleveland Heights as a sanctuary city; sponsors for people seeking asylum
Joanne Siegel	Citizen	Cumberland Pool
Cynthia Penter/Gordon Van Metre (read by Clerk)	Citizen	Cumberland Pool

16) Old Business

17) New Business

18) Adjournment

9:57pm

NEXT MEETING OF COUNCIL: NOVEMBER 6, 2023

APPROVED: 11.6.2023



Melody Joy Hart
President of Council

Addie Balester

Addie Balester
Clerk of Council