



# CLEVELAND HEIGHTS

## **Monday, April 4, 2022 Minutes**

### **CITY COUNCIL**

7:45 – 8:16 p.m.

President Hart presiding

Roll Call: Present: Cobb, Cuda, Hart, Larson, Mattox, Moore, Russell  
Absent: None

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

### **Approval of the minutes of the Council meeting held on February 7, 2022**

Minutes were approved without any objections.

### **Matter of Record**

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

None at this time.

### **Communications from the Mayor**

Mayor Seren gave another hearty congratulations to the new Police Chief Chris Britton, thanking him for his years of service and continued service to Cleveland Heights. He also wanted to thank former Chief Annette Mecklenburg again for her decades of service to the City, stating she would be missed but he knows they are in good hands.

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

Nothing to report at this time.

### **LEGISLATION**

Council President Hart noted recent changes to the format of the agenda, stating the legislation would now be separated based on the type of passage to help clear up any confusion. In addition, they have the consent agenda (which they've had before) for legislation that is not contested, so they can enact multiple things at once.

### **First Readings**

**ORDINANCE NO. 39-2022 (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 Vice President Cobb

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

**Legislation Passed**

Council President Hart noted this would have zero impact to the budget.

**RESOLUTION NO. 40-2022 (F), First Reading.** A Resolution declaring the necessity of assessing a portion of the expense of street lighting; and declaring an emergency.

**Legislation Introduced**

**RESOLUTION NO. 41-2022 (F), First Reading.** A Resolution declaring the necessity of assessing a portion of the expense of improvement of streets and parkways including grading, draining, curbing, paving, repaving, repairing, sweeping or cleaning thereof, removing snow therefrom, and planting, maintaining and removing shade trees thereon; and declaring an emergency.

**Legislation Introduced**

**ORDINANCE NO. 42-2022 (AS), First Reading.** An Ordinance amending Chapter 107, "Public Meetings," of the Codified Ordinances of Cleveland Heights by providing that the City may enter into executive session for the purposes identified in Section 107.01 or for any purpose allowed under the Ohio Revised Code.

**Legislation Introduced**

## **Second Readings**

**ORDINANCE NO. 37-2022 (MS), Second 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.

Motion to Adopt by Councilor Moore, Seconded by Councilor Larson

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

**Legislation Passed**

## Consent Agenda

**RESOLUTION NO. 30-2022 (PD), Second 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.

**RESOLUTION NO. 32-2022 (CRR), Second 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.

**RESOLUTION NO. 33-2022 (CRR), Second 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.

**RESOLUTION NO. 34-2022 (CRR), Second 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.

**RESOLUTION NO. 35-2022 (CRR), Second 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.

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

Moved by Councilor Larson, Seconded by Councilor Moore.

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

**Motion Passed**

Motion to Adopt by Councilor Moore, Seconded by Councilman Cuda

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

**Legislation Passed**

## Committee Reports

### PUBLIC SAFETY AND HEALTH COMMITTEE

Councilor Larson announced there would be a Committee meeting on April 18<sup>th</sup>; the agenda would be posted shortly on the City's online calendar. Also, a public hearing on legislation for lead safe certification would be held on April 25<sup>th</sup>, details of which would also be put on the City calendar.

**ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**\*MOTION** to appoint Drew Herzog and Joquine Martin to the Commission on Aging.

Moved by Vice President Cobb, Seconded by Councilor Moore

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

**Motion Passed**

Vice President Cobb encouraged anyone interested to apply, as they still have vacancies.

**\*MOTION** to rescind the appointments of Marc Lefkowitz, Chris Cummings and Jeffrey Bendix to the Transportation and Environmental Sustainability Committee.

Moved by Vice President Cobb, Seconded by Councilor Larson

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

**Motion Passed**

**\*MOTION** to reappoint Laura Marks to the Transportation and Environmental Sustainability Committee.

Moved by Vice President Cobb, Seconded by Councilman Mattox

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

**Motion Passed**

Vice President Cobb noted there are additional vacancies they are hoping to fill next month.

**\*MOTION** to appoint Thomas Hotchkiss to the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Moved by Vice President Cobb, Seconded by Councilman Mattox

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

**Motion Passed**

**\*MOTION** to appoint Judith Miles to the Planning Commission.

Moved by Vice President Cobb, Seconded by Councilman Mattox

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

**Motion Passed**

Vice President Cobb noted they still have one vacancy on the Commission and said they are still reviewing applicants and they hope to fill the position within the next month.

**\*MOTION** to reappoint Gretchen Mettler, Bradley Eckert, Christine Henry, Jonathan Goldman, Lee Barbee, André Witt, Allison McCallum, T. Nadas, Laura Black, Susan Efroymsen, Jessica Schantz, Marc Lefkowitz, Patti Substelny and Al Snodgrass to the Citizens Advisory Committee.

Moved by Vice President Cobb, Seconded by Councilor Larson

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

**Motion Passed**

Vice President Cobb noted they have additional vacancies on the Committee and are looking, in particular, for applicants from the Millikin and Taylor neighborhoods, but there are other vacancies to fill as well.

**\*MOTION** to appoint Benjamin Sperry to the Landmark Commission.

Moved by Vice President Cobb, Seconded by Councilman Mattox

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

**Motion Passed**

## **COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**

Councilwoman Russell stated the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting is set for April 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center. Also, the Commission on Aging would have a meeting on Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> and Parks and Recreation would have their next meeting May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10 a.m. She stated it is during the day to make sure that seniors have an opportunity to participate in the Committee. Councilwoman Russell stated she had another announcement that MetroHealth asked her to make, but she is deferring to Councilman Mattox. She did note she dropped off fliers for the Health Fair at the Community Center and she would drop off more at libraries and schools.

Councilman Mattox announced that MetroHealth is putting on the 2022 Men's Minority Health Fair. It would be held on Thursday, April 28<sup>th</sup> from 5-8:30 p.m. at three locations: the MetroHealth Main Campus (2500 Metrohealth Drive), MetroHealth Broadway Health Center (6835 Broadway Avenue) and directly across the street at the Cleveland Heights Medical Center (10 Severance Circle). He encouraged all men to go get checked and stated it is so important to take care of your health; for both yourself and your family.

Councilwoman Russell also wanted to encourage all the men to go get checked out and to support the MetroHealth Minority Men's Health Fair.

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Council President Hart stated at the next Committee of the Whole meeting, they would be starting early (at 6:00 p.m.) because they would have a report from the Finance Director going over the 2021 results and there would be a recap of the 2022 budget for the new Council Members.

### **HOUSING AND BUILDING COMMITTEE**

Councilman Cuda stated the Housing and Building Committee met that day at 5:00 and had a guest, Ben Greenberg, who spoke about nuisance abatement and vacant and abandoned housing in the City. Councilman Cuda stated it was a very interesting meeting and suggested people watch the YouTube recording, if they weren't able to watch it live. A follow-up work session is tentatively planned for April 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m., where they would discuss strategy and the scope of the Committee's work. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5:00 p.m.

### **MUNICIPAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

Councilor Moore stated the Committee had their meeting last Monday where they discussed many matters, including revisiting a municipal broadband feasibility study, the possibility of a sidewalk repair program, tree planting and maintenance, and a sidewalk snow shoveling program.

### **PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Councilman Mattox stated he would announce the details of the next Planning and Development Committee meeting at the next Council meeting, as they are waiting on the agenda to be completed. They would be discussing all current development projects throughout the City and what they can do as a Council to spur development and growth in specific areas as well.

### **Personal communications from citizens**

Blanche Valancy announced there would be a public forum presented by the League of Woman Voters (she noted she is observing Council tonight for the League). She stated the League of Women Voters and the Heights Libraries are holding the forum to discuss Ballot Issue 9, the public activity park. The forum would take place Wednesday, April 6<sup>th</sup> from 7-8:30 p.m. at the Heights Main Library at 2345 Lee Road. It would be free and open to the public. It would also be livestreamed and recorded for their YouTube channel (under the League of Women Voters of Greater Cleveland, Cleveland Heights/University Heights). The forum would be a panel, comprised of two groups of citizens, one supporting and one opposing the ordinance. It would be moderated by a trained League of Women Voter's moderator. The format would be similar to the candidate and issue forums they've presented in the past, with opening and closing statements from each side, as well as written questions from the audience. The ballot language is available on the Cleveland Heights website and the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections website. The opposing viewpoints are available on the Friends of Meadowbrook-Lee Public Square website and the Friends of Build CLM

website. She stated the league is not taking a position on the issue; they are a nonpartisan organization dedicated to informing the public about all ballot items.

Laura Marks stated the City of Cleveland Heights needs to prioritize creating a climate action plan. She stated as Cleveland Heights comes back, they would either renew as a green city or they would not renew. A climate action plan is a master plan of sorts that would allow them to see how the parts are related to the whole, to increase their resiliency. She stated none of us are capable of tackling the enormity of climate change, however, a climate action plan would allow each of us to concentrate on one piece of the puzzle, knowing that others are working on theirs. She states, for instance, she only has the bandwidth to deal with trees. The interaction between things is what sustainability it about. A climate action plan would give them a master plan to move forward. She stated we need a climate action plan to prepare for upheavals and power outages so that the most vulnerable have access to food, water and shelter. A climate action plan would help prepare for when people come to Cleveland Heights for the water and relatively mild climate, referencing planting trees for people who are already claiming to be climate change refugees.

### **Old business**

Nothing to report at this time.

### **New business**

Nothing to report at this time.

### **Council Member Comments**

Councilman Cuda stated what a pleasure it was to sit with the other Council Members at the retreat on Saturday and listen to everyone's aspirations for the city. He acknowledged their communication challenges but he would say that they walked out of there feeling better about things and having a better understanding of each other. He stated he looks forward to the next time they sit down together and do the same thing.

Councilwoman Russell stated she seconds what Councilman Cuda said about the retreat.

Councilor Moore announced that the Cleveland Heights Green Team is partnering with MedWish to collect medical supplies for Ukraine. MedWish collects unused medical supplies and helps to prevent them from going into landfills. If anyone would like to drop off donations for any unused medical supplies, there are two collection drives coming up: one at the World Health Day Heights Bike Crawl on April 7<sup>th</sup>, 3:30-5:30 p.m. at Boulevard Elementary School and another at the Heights Sustainability Fair on April 23<sup>rd</sup> from 1-4 p.m. at the Coventry PEACE Park.

### **Report of the Council President**

Council President Hart discussed the Council retreat, stating it was public therefore it was recorded, if anyone wanted to watch it. She stated they did envisioning and planning on what they want their City to look like in 3-4 years. She stated they worked on how to best work with each other. They would have another session in May to discuss their goals for their visions. She said they would then put down their goals for the year, citizens can measure them and Council would hold themselves

accountable. She stated on April 6<sup>th</sup>, there would be a joint meeting of the school board and Council.

Mayor Seren confirmed the joint meeting would start at 6:30 p.m. and the City of University Heights would also be attending. It would be held at the Community Center, in the big room.

Council President Hart stated a finalized agenda would be posted online. The next joint meetings would be held on June 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. and October 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING OF COUNCIL: MONDAY, APRIL 18, 2022**

Respectfully submitted,



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Melody Joy Hart  
President of Council



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Amy Himmelein  
Clerk of Council