



# CLEVELAND HEIGHTS

**January 3, 2023**

## **CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Start: 7:30pm

End: 8:38pm

## **President Hart Presiding**

**Roll Call:** Present: Mattox, Russell, Hart, Cobb, Cuda, Larson

**Also Present:** Mayor Seren, Assistant Law Director Laure Wagner

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

- December 16, 2022—APPROVED
- December 27, 2022—APPROVED

## **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR**

- Reminder that the City will be accepting submissions to the MLK Jr. day essay, artwork, and poetry competition(s); the celebration is back after a few years hiatus. Submissions will be received January 11, and the celebration will be January 19<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at the Community Center.
- If any Council members would like to schedule a ride along with the police department, please do that soon; he will be opening up to RJTF soon and after that to the public.

## **REPORT FROM THE CLERK OF COUNCIL**

Notify Council that a notice has been received from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control advising that an application has been made by the following:

- Race Fuel 12404 Inc., 12404 Cedar Rd. Cleveland Heights, OH 44106 for a new C1/C2 permit.

## **Matter of Record**

Referred to: The Mayor, Chief of Police, and the Director of Law

## **PUBLIC COMMENT (AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS)**

### **Elana Bacon**

- Snow removal is inadequate and roads are dangerous. This is her second time here.

### **Wes Shaub**

- Here to support Councilwoman Russell and thank her for everything she does for the community.

### **Erick Poston**

- Spoke about the postal office in Cleveland Heights and outlined the staffing issues that have plagued not only our office, but all of the postal service in the US.

### **Regina Williams**

- Also spoke about the postal office issues, as a former postal carrier.

### **Miriam Frankel**

- Also spoke about her concerns regarding the snow removal and the conditions of the streets during the last snow storm.

### **Odies Grant**

- Doesn't think public comments heard or anything is done when citizens come into complain about issues; has been asking about getting new curbs in his neighborhood for a while but nothing has been done.

### **Diane Hallum**

- Not happy with how Council and the Administration have been operating, particularly council. Encourages them to work together.

## **SWEARING IN**

- Gail Larson sworn in to City Council

## **LEGISLATION**

### **a. *First Readings—Consideration of Adoption Requested***

**RESOLUTION NO. 001-2023(CRR): First Reading.** A Resolution proclaiming January 11, 2023 as National Human Trafficking Awareness Day; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Councilwoman Russell

Motion to Adopt by Councilwoman Russell, Seconded by Councilor Larson

Voice Vote: Ayes: 6  
Nays: 0

**Legislation Passed**

**b. *First Readings Only***

**RESOLUTION NO. 002-2023(F): *First Reading*.** A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with Schonhardt & Associates for the provision of assistance to the City's Finance Department in the preparation of the 2022-2024 Annual Comprehensive Finance Reports; providing compensation therefor; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Mayor Seren

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- a.) Administrative Services Committee**
  - Next meeting will be the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of this month (January)
  - There will likely be some open positions on several boards/commissions and applications will be posted to the website
  - Residents who are applying for the Council seat may also apply for the Charter Review Commission as well.
- b.) Community Relations and Recreation Committee**
  - Community Center sprinkler system broke on Christmas morning, hopefully the Community Center will reopen soon; picnic shelter reservations for 2023 will open January 9.
  - 9 open vacancies for charter review, 1 open seat for council; deadline for applications is January 6.
  - Reminder of new speed limits
  - Update on upcoming events throughout Cleveland Heights
- c.) Finance Committee**
  - Finance Director will be coming in to discuss some legislation at the next COTW meeting.
- d.) Housing and Building Committee**
  - Apologized for cancelling today's meeting; next meeting will be February 6, at 4:30pm
  - Still looking into addressing the issues surrounding vacant/abandoned properties in Cleveland Heights
- e.) Municipal Services and Environmental Sustainability Committee**
  - Nothing to report
- f.) Planning and Development Committee**
  - January 17, during COTW there will be a special portion to discuss the Park Synagogue project
  - Committee Meeting to discuss GAP Financing is also upcoming

- g.) Public Safety and Health Committee
  - Next meeting is January 17, at 10am; will include a work session on sidewalk repair program, and further research for a sidewalk snow removal program.
- h.) Committee of the Whole
  - Applications for Charter Review and vacant Council seat are still open.

## **COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS**

**Councilor Larson:** Consider donating blood at one of the blood drives at heights libraries. If you want to serve your community as a public servant, please apply for Charter Review, vacant Council seat, or any of the many boards/commissions. Gave thanks to her daughter and campaign treasurer and all her supporters who voted for her in November.

**Councilman Cuda:** Read a reflective piece regarding the current state of this City Council particularly with regard to the past year as the first year with a new form of government.

**Vice President Cobb:** If there is any resident who ever wants to discuss any of the issues or comments made tonight or at the end of last year, please call him directly at 216-630-8934.

**Councilwoman Russell:** Read a statement of reflection of the past year and expressed her eagerness to move forward into the new year with renewed commitment to the people of Cleveland Heights by addressing pressing issues at this pivotal time for the city. If you would like to talk to her about anything you have heard today, please call 216-333-3137.

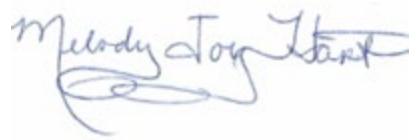
**Councilman Mattox:** Expressed looking forward to having open and honest conversations with his colleagues moving forward this year. Gave his concerns with Council's conduct during 2022. Wants to see more communication between Council members this year so that we can see positive results for this community. You can call him if you have any questions.

## **COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Stated that if she were sitting in the audience, she would be embarrassed by what she saw tonight, between Council people going back and forth arguing with each other in an open meeting, and taking more time to speak than the allotted amount. Wants to see Council as a whole be more honorable this year. Call her at 248-214-2375 if you would like to speak with her.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**NEXT MEETING OF COUNCIL: TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2023**



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Melody Joy Hart  
President of Council



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Addie Balester  
Clerk of Council