



# CLEVELAND HEIGHTS

**February 21, 2023**

## **CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Start: 7:30pm

End: 8:40pm

### **President Hart Presiding**

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

**Also Present:** Mayor Seren, Director Hanna

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

- Councilwoman Russell made a motion that **RES 028-2023** be moved to first reading for passage, seconded by Councilman Mattox
  - Vice President Cobb asked if there had been a committee hearing on this legislation; wants to know if we need to give the community a chance to speak on it.
  - Mayor Seren encourages Council to have some public discussion on this legislation.
  - **Councilwoman Russell withdraws her motion to be read for first reading.**

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING(S):**

- January 3, 2023: APPROVED

## **COMMUNICATION FROM THE MAYOR**

- Proud to have promoted Captain Williams to his current position as commander of the new bureau of professional standards, and looks forward to looking to him.
- Remind people that this Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup> from 12pm-5pm at the Community Center will be a celebration of Black History Month.
- The city has received low bids for certain projects:

- The city has received a low bid from Rumpke of Northern Ohio for refuse disposal (landfill)
- The city has received a low bid for the East Overlook waterline replacement from Fabrizi Trucking and Paving

**Matter of Record**

**PUBLIC COMMENT (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)**

**Meryl Johnson**

- Spoke in opposition of Senate Bill 1 which would place the future of public education in the hands of the Governor, and take away the power of the State Board of Education.

**LEGISLATION**

***a. First Readings – Consideration of Adoption Requested***

**RESOLUTION NO. 023-2023(PSH): *First Reading.*** The following Final Resolution enacted by the City of **Cleveland Heights**, Ohio hereinafter referred to as the Legislative Authority/Local Public Agency or “LPA”, in the matter of the stated described project.

Introduced by Mayor Seren

Motion to Adopt by Councilwoman Larson, Seconded by Councilman Mattox

Voice Vote: Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

**Legislation Passed**

**RESOLUTION NO. 024-2023(COTW): *First Reading.*** A Resolution opposing Senate Bill 1 which would transfer most powers and duties of the State Board of Education to the Governor, and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by President Hart, Vice President Cobb, Councilwoman Boyd, Councilwoman Russell, Councilman Cuda, Councilman Mattox, Councilwoman Larson, and Mayor Seren

Motion by President Hart, Seconded by Councilwoman Russell

\*Discussion: Councilman Cuda is befuddled by this legislation and is in opposition to this legislation, and encourages everybody to call their representatives to ask

them to vote “no” for SB1. Councilwoman Russell also spoke in opposition of this bill, and thanked Meryl Johnson for coming in to speak about it. Councilor Larson drew attention to a specific part of this legislation which calls out the limiting of input from the State Board of Education. Councilwoman Boyd is also in opposition of this legislation, and points out the cost to tax payers that this bill would create. Mayor Seren also spoke in opposition and was happy to sign onto this resolution with Council, because he firmly believes without a strong public education system, we cannot have a functioning democracy, and in that sense, it should be in the interest of any government to support public education. President Hart thanked those who went down to Columbus to speak at the hearing in opposition of this bill that takes away the functionality of the State Board of Education, and replaces it with what is essentially a Czar.

Roll Call: Ayes: Mattox, Boyd, Russell, Hart, Cobb, Cuda, Larson

Nays: None

**Legislation Passed**

**b. First Reading Only**

**ORDINANCE NO. 025-2023(PD): First Reading.** An Ordinance introducing amendments to various Sections of Part Eleven, Zoning Code, of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Cleveland Heights to update the City’s regulations regarding private parking garages, driveway widths, fences, window transparency, rain barrels and gardens, non-conformities, public notice requirements, fees, and general changes to ensure consistency, and transmitting the same to the Planning Commission.

Introduced by Mayor Seren

**Read into the Record**  
**Referred to the Planning Commission**

**ORDINANCE NO. 026-2023(PD): First Reading.** An Ordinance amending Part Thirteen, Building Code, of the Codified Ordinances of Cleveland Heights to update the City’s regulations regarding rain barrels and gardens, and general changes to ensure consistency.

Introduced by Mayor Seren

**Read into the Record**

**RESOLUTION NO. 027-2023(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.

Introduced by Mayor Seren

**Read into the Record**

**ORDINANCE NO. 028-2023(CRR): First Reading.** An Ordinance amending Subsection (a) of Section 505.06, “Animals Prohibited in Public Parks,” of the Codified Ordinances of Cleveland Heights to permit leashed dogs in the City’s Parks under specified conditions.

Introduced by Councilwoman Russell

**Read into the Record**  
**Referred to CRR Committee for Public Hearing**

**RESOLUTION NO. 029-2023(F): First Reading.** A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with the Cedar Fairmount Special Improvement District, Inc. (“Cedar Fairmount SID”) for advancement of funds in anticipation of assessment; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Mayor Seren

**Read into the Record**  
**Referred to Finance (COTW)**

**c. Second Readings**

**ORDINANCE NO. 020-2023(PD): Second Reading As Amended.** An Ordinance providing for the issuance and sale of economic development tax increment financing revenue bonds, in a principal amount not to exceed \$14,200,000, for the purpose of paying a portion of the costs of the acquisition, construction, equipping, installation, furnishing and other improvement of a project, as defined in Section 165.01 of the Revised Code; authorizing execution and delivery of a trust agreement, a loan and service payment agreement, a bond placement agreement and related agreements, instruments and documents to provide for the revenues to pay and secure bond service charges and other required payments, the custody and application of funds and revenues, the permitted use of bond proceeds in the financing of project costs, other requirements for the issuance, sale and delivery of the bonds and related matters; and declaring an emergency.

Motion to amend by substituting the version in the packet labeled *Second Reading As Amended*, in place of the version read into the record last week, seconded by Vice President Cobb

Voice Vote: Ayes: 7  
Nays: 0

**Motion Passed**

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

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

**Legislation Passed**

**RESOLUTION NO. 022-2023(PSH): *Second Reading.*** A Resolution authorizing an agreement with John Megel Ford for the purchase of four 2022 used hybrid police utility vehicles; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Motion to Adopt by Councilor Larson, Seconded by Councilman Mattox

Voice Vote: Ayes: 7  
Nays: 0

**Legislation Passed**

**d. Consent Agenda**

**RESOLUTION NO. 030-2023(CRR): *First Reading.*** A Resolution recognizing March 2023 as Red Cross Month in the City of Cleveland Heights; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Councilwoman Russell

**RESOLUTION NO. 031-2023(CRR): *First Reading.*** A Resolution recognizing March 2023 as National Women’s History Month and March 8, 2023 as International Women’s Day; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

Introduced by Mayor Seren

Motion to suspend rules by Councilor Larson, Seconded by Councilman Mattox

Voice Vote: Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

**Motion Passed**

Motion to Adopt by Councilwoman Russell, Seconded by Councilman Mattox

Voice Vote: Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

**Legislation Passed**

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Public Safety and Health Committee
  - Committee met today and discussed potential sidewalk repair program with Assistant Law Director Laure Wagner and TESC member Kathy Petry; next steps will be asking for input from Public Works Department, Forestry Department, Housing Department, Finance Department, CDBG Administration, and HRRC.
  - Next meeting on March 20, they hope to discuss this legislation with Director Clinkscale, and somebody from the Housing and Building Department
  - Regarding snow removal from sidewalks, Councilor Larson will be meeting with the new Future Heights executive director on Thursday.
  - Second meeting regarding the traffic discussion surrounding Noble elementary was held; most in attendance were in favor of one-way streets, rumble strips, etc. Pilot traffic calming project was suggested.
- Community Relations and Recreation Committee
  - Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission and Commission on Aging met recently, and you will hear their reports on March 6, at the CRR Committee Meeting
  - Mayor Seren gave a report to the Commission on Aging at their meeting
  - Dog lovers, come to that committee meeting/public hearing on March 6

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- Small businesses had asked about curbside dining last year around this time; can't remember if there were outstanding permitting questions, or anything Council needs to do to revisit, so that if small businesses want to do this, we can figure this issue out ahead of time.
- Mayor indicates that the administration is working on shared spaces initiative/program and will bring the legislation to Council when approval is needed.

- Councilwoman Russell wanted to ask for an update regarding the splash-pad at Dennison; Mayor Seren said it is on the agenda for this year, and Council will be made aware when the RFP/RFQ/RFB is put out.
- Mayor Seren asked Council if any Council members went to a recent NOCCA (Northeast Ohio City Council Association); Cobb attended and said it was more of an informational/introduction to who the organization is rather than a substantive meeting.
- Mayor Seren also asked if Council has accessed NEOCANDO (through CWRU) that he signed everybody up for; Councilor Larson said she has used it before but needs a refresher course.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT (AGENDA ITEMS)**

#### **Gayle Lewin**

- Spoke about traffic calming and complete streets program; is concerned that the complete street manual/ordinance (which she wrote) is not being used.

#### **Severia Herrington**

- Came to ask about getting a “no parking” sign across from her driveway as it very hard to get out of her driveway if there is a car parked across the street from her driveway. Has been asking about this since the beginning of winter (2022).

#### **Phillip Cheron**

- Wanted to thank the Cleveland Heights Police Department for the amazing job they did when he and his wife were carjacked in their driveway. They were very attentive, kind, and professional.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Councilman Cuda wants to know if there is a way to accept comments/questions from people who are watching these meetings online.

### **COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS**

- Councilor Larson got an exciting email today regarding the Caledonia Ravine cleanup; heard from the Green Team that NEORSD is developing a program to improve the ravine and restore the tree canopy and NEORSD is funding the project.
- Councilman Cuda informed everybody that the Roosevelt Apartment owner came before the judge regarding the issues (specifically the building not having heat for over a month) and was fined substantially. Pointed out that this case was covered by the media. Wants people to know Council is watching and are advocates, and that this was a good first step toward holding landlords accountable, and is looking forward to discussing this in his next committee meeting on March 6.

- Councilwoman Russell reminds everybody about the tenant/landlord series at the Church of the Disciples from 10:30am-12:30pm, March 4, June 10, October 14. Legal Aid will be there, Future Heights will be there, and will answer any questions you may have.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT REPORT**

- Reminds everybody to nominate special women in their lives for our Women’s Day Celebration; the three categories are *Amazing Women of Cleveland Heights* (5 awards), *Women in Business* (3 awards), and *Inspiring Young Women* (2 awards). Nominations must be in by March 13, and the celebration and awards ceremony will be March 23

**ADJOURNMENT**

**NEXT MEETING OF COUNCIL: MONDAY, MARCH 6, 2023**



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Melody Joy Hart  
President of Council



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Addie Balester  
Clerk of Council