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Finance, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee

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Agency: [Cleveland City Council](#)

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Summary

- The Parking System Enhancement Project proposes **amendments to the city code by ordinance** to increase parking fees in the City of Cleveland.
- Council Member Jenny Spencer (Ward 15) said that she "would love to work on paid parking in [Gordon Square](#). It's time."
- Council Member Brian Kazy (Ward 16) said residents expressed concern about not being able to leave comments on the [council's YouTube livestreams](#).
- Director of Public Works Martin Keane assured the committee that residents' water bills will not increase if council OKs the issuance of up to \$90 million in water revenue obligations.

Follow-Up Questions

- Will residents with disabilities be offered certain spaces and discounted parking rates?
- How will the higher parking rates affect the number of events that cash-strapped residents will attend?
- Will the city increase security in municipal parking lots?
- Will the council eventually allow live questions and public comments—via social media or livestream—for elderly and disabled residents who cannot attend meetings in person?

Notes

The Finance, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee meeting started at 2:04 p.m.

Attendance

Present at roll call were these council members: Committee Chair and Council President Blaine Griffin (Ward 6); Jenny Spencer (Ward 15); Vice Chair Kerry McCormack (Ward 3);

Brian Kazy (Ward 16); Anthony Hairston (Ward 10); Kevin Bishop (Ward 2); Michael Polensek (Ward 8); and Rebecca Maurer (Ward 12).

Additional council members in attendance were: Jasmin Santana (Ward 14) and Kevin Conwell (Ward 9).

● Ohio Department of Health and Addiction Services

Emergency Ordinance No. 876-2023

Griffin began the meeting by reading [Emergency Ordinance No. 876-2023](#) regarding the Director of Finance applying for, and accepting, a grant from the [Ohio Department of Health and Addiction Services](#) on behalf of the [Cleveland Municipal Court](#).

Next, Russell Brown III, court administrator, said the court wanted to renew the \$200,000 grant from the [Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board of Cuyahoga County](#) (ADAMHS). He added that in previous years, the court consistently received the grant and used it for client services and treatment for the following "specialized" dockets:

- Veterans Docket (led by Judge Charles Patton, Jr.)
- Human Trafficking Docket (led by Judge Marilyn Cassidy)
- Drug Court Docket (led by Judge Lauren Moore)
- Mental Health Docket (led by Judge Suzan Sweeney)

Additionally, Brown said that each docket received \$45,000 or \$55,000.

Polensek made a motion for an **amendment** that quarterly demographic information of the court's specialized client base—listing sex, ward, census tract and ZIP codes—be provided to council.

Brown replied that the information would be pulled from the probation department.

McCormack asked for a roll call on the **amendment**. The committee was all in favor, and it carried.

Griffin announced that **Emergency Ordinance No. 876-2023** stands approved.

● Professional Healthcare Consultants

Emergency Ordinance No. 878-2023

Griffin read [Emergency Ordinance No. 878-2023](#) directing the Director of Human Resources to employ firms or consultants for professional healthcare claims, providers and benefits analysis.

Next, Matthew Cole, director of Human Resources, told the council that the contract amount is not to exceed \$150,000 annually.

Griffin emphasized that potential healthcare vendors should be vetted and evaluated, to make sure that they are providing the best possible service.

Kazy asked if the consulting could be done in-house, in order to "find the best deal."

Cole replied that hired consultants have close relationships with all of the providers and it couldn't be done in-house.

McCormack asked if proactive health measures, such as gym memberships and wellness programs, are included in the analysis.

Cole answered that preventative measures and pharmaceutical rebates could reduce healthcare costs.

Griffin announced that **Emergency Ordinance No. 878-2023** stands approved.

● Cleveland Police Commission (CPC)

Emergency Ordinance No. 893-2023

Griffin read [Emergency Ordinance No. 893-2023](#) regarding the Director of Finance entering into a lease agreement amendment with [MidCity Estates, Ltd](#) for [Cleveland Police Commission](#) (CPC) office space.

Kazy asked if the office space was sufficient and if the CPC was fully staffed and functional.

Susan DeGennaro, commissioner of the Division of Real Estate, said the office space appeared to be sufficient.

Kazy asked if unused funds for the purpose of CPC moving to a new space would revert into the city's **General Fund Operating Budget** (for additional information see below: <https://www.clevelandohio.gov/city-hall/departments/finance/divisions/budget-management>).

Chief Financial Officer Ahmed Abonamah answered: "That money has been [encumbered](#) for the purpose of the move to a new space. So, it sits there until it gets taken away."

Griffin told the council that **Emergency Ordinance No. 893-2023** stands approved.

● **Walter Pollution Control**

Emergency Ordinance No. 898-2023

Next, Griffin read [Emergency Ordinance No. 898-2023](#) regarding the City of Cleveland's issuance and sale of [water pollution control](#) revenue bonds to pay for water pollution control system improvements.

Polensek asked if there was a list of projects associated with the improvements.

Martin Keane, director of Public Utilities, replied that in upcoming meetings the council would be informed of and required to approve each individual project.

Spencer asked how long the funds from the bond sale would last.

Abonamah answered: "Any tax-exempt debt that we borrow must be spent within three years of issuance of the bonds."

For information about the recent security breach at a Cleveland water plant, [click here](#).

Griffin announced that **Emergency Ordinance No. 898-2023** stands approved.

● **Waterworks System**

Emergency Ordinance No. 899-2023

Griffin proceeded to read [Emergency Ordinance No. 899-2023](#) regarding authorization for the issuance and sale of water revenue obligations in an aggregate principal amount, not exceeding \$90 million, to pay the costs of improving the [Waterworks System](#).

Kazy said he wanted to be clear that if the bonds were passed, the rates for Cleveland residents' water bills wouldn't increase.

Keane responded: "That is correct." He added that after the COVID-19 pandemic, this is currently a good time to re-enter the bond market with [Cleveland Water](#).

Griffin informed the council that **Emergency Ordinance No. 899-2023** stands approved.

● Cleveland Public Theatre

Emergency Ordinance No. 896-2023

Griffin read [Emergency Ordinance No. 896-2023](#) regarding the authorization of the Director of Community Development to agree to exchange real properties with the [Cleveland Public Theatre](#).

DeGennaro proceeded with a presentation. She said [Cleveland Public Theatre](#) owns a parking lot that is frequently mistaken to be the city's municipal lot.

Additionally, the city owns a parking lot on [Cleveland Public Theatre](#) property (see the PowerPoint image below):

Location of Parking Lots



"The city isn't losing a parking lot. We are gaining a parking lot," DeGennaro said.

Spencer added that surface parking is desperately needed in the [Gordon Square](#) district because many people who work in that area use the parking lots.

Polensek wanted "the flip" to be explained. He asked: "Why would we buy the lot if it is for parking already? We are not going to install any meters. We are not going to derive any revenue."

DeGennaro responded that "it makes sense from...a visitor's standpoint." Furthermore, she said people do not necessarily notice the parking signage and there is a general lack of parking in the area.

Spencer added that another parking Ordinance (***Emergency Ordinance No. 817-2023***) was up for final passage at tonight's City Council meeting to raise the city's parking rates at parking meters and at the city's municipal lots.

Additionally, she said that she "would love to work on paid parking in [Gordon Square](#). It's time."

Griffin announced that **Emergency Ordinance No. 896-2023** stands approved.

● **Cleveland City Council**

Emergency Ordinance No. 861-2023

Emergency Ordinance No. 1034-2023

Next, Griffin read [Emergency Ordinance No. 861-2023](#) regarding the Clerk of Council entering into an agreement with [Granicus, Inc.](#) to purchase or renew [Cleveland City Council's](#) software subscriptions.

Va’Kedia Stiggers, fiscal manager of Information Technology and Services, said that the subscription was going into a three-year renewal.

Griffin asked if it was [Legistar](#).

Stiggers said yes, and that she had another **Ordinance**.

Then, Griffin proceeded to read [Emergency Ordinance No. 1034-2023](#) regarding the Clerk of Council entering into an agreement with [iVideo](#) for professional video services for Cleveland City Council.

Stiggers said that several [Mondopads](#) needed to be replaced and the microphones needed to be serviced or replaced.

Santana suggested wireless, individual microphones.

Kazy asked for an explanation, at the request of residents, about why viewers couldn't comment on the council's [YouTube livestreams](#).

Stiggers said it was decided to not allow comments on the livestream "because of some of the comments that people were leaving."

She added that viewers can leave comments on the following social media sites:

- The [TV 20 Facebook account](#).
- [Cleveland City Council's X \(formerly Twitter\) account](#).
- [Cleveland City Council's Facebook account](#).

Griffin announced that both **Emergency Ordinance No. 861-2023** and **Emergency Ordinance No. 1034-2023** would be considered for full passage at tonight's council meeting.

● Group Plan Commission for Public Square

Emergency Ordinance No. 748-2023

Griffin read [Emergency Ordinance No. 748-2023](#) regarding the Director of Public Works amending the June 30, 2016, programming agreement and property operations with the [Group Plan Commission for Public Square](#).

Then he announced that **Emergency Ordinance No. 748-2023** would be held at the request of McCormack, who wanted to have more conversation about it.

● Parking System Enhancement Project

Emergency Ordinance No. 817-2023

Next, Griffin read, as **amended**, [Emergency Ordinance No. 817-2023](#) regarding various amendments of the 1976 Codified Ordinances of Cleveland related to municipal parking facilities, parking meters and parking rates.

For additional information, click on the following links:

[817-2023-Amend 131.78 and various CO sections](#)


[817-2023 Executive Summary](#)

[817-2023 - City Council Presentation Meter Project-Revised 8-15-2023](#)

[817-2023 as amended-desk copy-FINAL-parking rates](#)

[817-2023-Amend 817-2023](#)

Kim Johnson, Parking Facilities Commissioner, narrated the **Parking System Enhancement Project** presentation for the council (see the PowerPoint images below):

**City of Cleveland**
Parking System Enhancement Project

City Ordinance Amendments

Ord. No. 131.78 and 131.79 Amend Parking Facility Rates
Collect fees and charges for the Willard Garage, Canal Basin Park, Northcoast Municipal Parking Lot, and the West Side Market Parking Lot

	Current Willard Rate	Proposed Willard Rate
First Hour	\$3.25 1-60 min \$1.50 for each additional ½ hr	\$4.00 1-60 min \$2.00 for each additional ½ hr
Daily Max	\$10.00	\$12.00
Maximum Reached	over 3 hours	over 3 hours

Proposed Willard Rate Comparison to Nearby Garages

Proposed Willard Rate	North Point	Huntington	Memorial Plaza	E 6th Garage
\$4.00 1-60 min \$2.00 for each additional ½ hr	\$3.00/15 min.	\$2.00/15 min.	\$10.00 1- 60 min \$12.00 61-120 min \$17.00 121 min	\$3.00/15 min
\$12.00	\$13.00	\$10.00	\$17.00	\$13.00
over 3 hours	over 1 hour	over 1 hour	over 2 hours	over 1 hour

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City Ordinance Amendments

Ord. No. 401.33 – Parking Meters

Parking Meter Defined:

For purposes of this Ordinance, a parking meter is defined to include, but not limited to single space electronic device, multi space electronic device and a mobile application based device.

Ord. No. 403.04 and 453.01c

- Parking enforcement hours expanded from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm
- Option to limit free parking on Saturdays and Sundays.

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City Ordinance Amendments

Ord. No. 453.01

Section A Amendments

Amend from parking in a space to parking in a zone and remit a parking fee rather than payment by coin.

Section B Amendments

Authorize the Director of Public Works to:

- charge and collect fees
- set hours of operation
- set days of operation
- set intervals of time per parking zone
- adjust parking rates based on customer demand

The proposed amendment will allow the Director of Public Works and the Division of Parking Facilities to provide a higher level of customer service by using data-driven responses to ever-changing parking demands.

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City of Cleveland Parking System Enhancement Project

City Ordinance 453.01 Amendments – 3 Tier Pricing Strategy

Base Rate Schedule:

Parking Duration of Stay	1 st hr.	2 nd hr.
Base Hourly Rate (Accumulative Cost)	\$1.50 (\$1.50)	\$1.50 (\$3.00)

Progressive Rate Schedule: Parkers who wish to remain for more than 2 hours will be obligated to pay a higher rate.

Duration of Parking Stay	1 st hr.	2 nd hr.	3 rd hr.	4 th hr.	5 th hr.	6 th hr.	7 th hr.	8 th Hr.
Progressive Hourly Rate (Accumulative Cost)	\$1.50 (\$1.50)	\$1.50 (\$3.00)	\$3.00 (\$6.00)	\$3.00 (\$9.00)	\$4.50 (\$13.50)	\$4.50 (\$18.00)	\$6.00 (\$24.00)	\$6.00 (\$30.00)

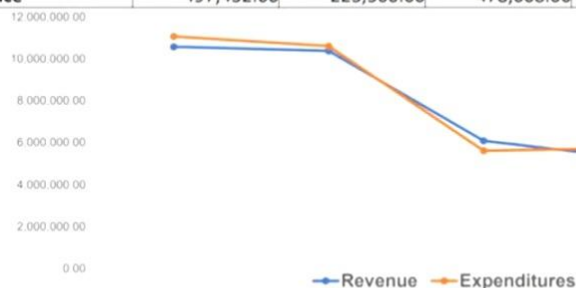
Special Event Rate Schedule:

	1 st hr.	2 nd hr.	3 rd hr.	4 Hrs. +
Special Event Rate (Accumulative Cost)	\$5.00 (\$5.00)	\$5.00 (\$10.00)	\$5.00 (\$15.00)	\$5.00 (\$20.00)



City of Cleveland Parking System Enhancement Project

Small Enterprise Fund Summary	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Revenue	10,582,031.00	10,387,257.00	6,091,771.00	5,216,912.00	7,932,880.00
Expenditures	11,079,463.00	10,610,757.00	5,613,163.00	5,751,587.00	8,701,308.00
Variance	-497,432.00	-223,500.00	478,608.00	-534,675.00	-768,428.00



- The Division of Parking Facilities is a Small Enterprise Fund and as such responsible to function in a similar manner as a private business enterprise utilizing revenues received to pay the expenses of the operation.
- The Division of Parking Facilities is currently being subsidized by the general fund. The increase in rates will not only help the Division meet its obligation as a Small Enterprise Unit but also contribute to the many repairs and improvements that are needed in the Willard garage and the Municipal Lot including:
 - Resurfacing and striping, lighting upgrades, directional signage, cameras, repair of barrier cables in the garage, painting, replace and upgrade parking equipment, repair and replace parking attendant booths.

Johnson informed the committee that her department wanted to:

- **Have the option to limit free parking on Saturdays and Sundays.**
- **Increase Municipal Parking lot rates.**

- **Expand parking enforcement hours to 10 p.m. (rather than ending at 6 p.m.).**
- **Avoid limiting the parking in neighborhoods where the city wants to attract more people.**

Polensek stated that he doesn't "believe that people should be getting hosed" with the increased rates. He added that parking revenue from the [West Side Market](#) parking lot should remain with the market because it needs and deserves the funds.

Spencer introduced a motion for an **amendment** to add the words "per hour" to **Section 1, Section 453.1 (b).**

Kazy seconded the **amendment.** Griffin announced that the motion was carried.

Spencer introduced a motion for a second **amendment** to change "four dollars," outside of the downtown parking area, to "five dollars." Griffin announced that the motion was carried.

Griffin announced that **Emergency Ordinance No. 817-2023** as **amended** stands approved.

Read [more](#) for [Cleveland Browns](#) football fans' thoughts on the parking increases at the Muni Lot.

● Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT)

Emergency Ordinance No. 897-2023

Griffin read **[Emergency Ordinance No. 897-2023](#)** regarding the [Ohio Department of Transportation](#)'s rights to rehabilitate a [culvert](#) at the [Highland Park Golf Course](#).

DeGennaro informed the council that this rehabilitation project of the culvert under Chagrin Boulevard will be completely funded by the [Ohio Department of Transportation](#) (ODOT).

The council members didn't have any questions. Therefore, Griffin announced that **Emergency Ordinance No. 897-2023** stands approved.

- **Various pay bands**

Emergency Ordinance No. 1016-2023

Griffin read [Emergency Ordinance No. 1016-2023](#) regarding [pay bands](#), specifically **amendments to Sections 45 and 55** of **Ordinance No. 194-2021**, passed March 29, 2021.

For additional information, see the links below:

[1016-2023-FOR PASSAGE-Amend payband Sections 45 and 55](#)

[1016-2023-FP Letter -Amend Payband Sections 45 and 55](#)

The council didn't have any questions. Therefore, Griffin announced that **Emergency Ordinance No. 1016-2023** stands approved and would be considered for passage at tonight's council meeting.

- **Cleveland State University College of Law**

Emergency [Resolution](#) No. 874-2023

Griffin proceeded to read [Emergency Resolution No. 874-2023](#) regarding the request that the Board of Trustees at [Cleveland State University](#) (CSU) College of Law rename the law school.

Conwell told the other council members that the CSU College of Law should be renamed after the late [Charles Hamilton Houston](#), who was the first special counsel for the [National Association for the Advancement of Colored People](#) (NAACP) and the dean of [Howard University Law School](#).

The council didn't have any questions. Therefore, Griffin announced that **Emergency Ordinance No. 874-2023** stands approved.

- **Women in the Arts Month**

Emergency Resolution No. 894-2023

Griffin read, as **amended**, [Emergency Resolution No. 894-2023](#) regarding the month of

October being annually declared as Women in the Arts Month in the City of Cleveland.

For additional information, see the following links:

[894-2023-declaring October Women in the Arts Month-final](#)

[894-2023 - Amendment](#)

Conwell told the other council members that women in the arts deserve to have a designated month.

Kazy asked if the month of October was significant to women in the arts. He said that the month of October is designated for several other groups and he didn't want the significance of women in the arts to be lost in the month.

Conwell agreed, and Griffin announced to the council that **Emergency Resolution No. 894-2023** would be held.

Griffin adjourned the meeting at 4:08 p.m.

If you believe anything in these notes is inaccurate, please email us at cleDOCUMENTERS@gmail.com with "Correction Request" in the subject line.