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City Council

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Agency: [Cleveland City Council](#)

Date: Nov. 27, 2023

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Summary

- The International Food Solutions project to convert the Goodwill Building in Ward 5 for food production is moving forward.
- The City of Cleveland is working with the City of East Cleveland on road improvements.
- The Riverbend Project is moving forward.
- Comments were directed at council members, who do not reply during council meetings.

Follow-Up Questions

- Which council member has met with residents and agreed to draft a resolution for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza?

Notes



The meeting was called to order on time by Council President Blaine Griffin. Twelve council members were seated to establish a [quorum](#) at roll call. Fifteen council members attended the meeting. Council Members Anthony Hairston and Richard Starr were excused.

Public comment

Ten residents gave public comments. Most commenters identified themselves as Cleveland residents. Most commenters addressed the Israel-Hamas war. One commenter shared the plight of Ethiopian Jews in Israel. One commenter spoke about the potential changes to the public comment rules and ended with comments about Israel and Palestine.

Commenters, as listed in the council minutes, were Amira Zayed (Akron), Milo Schumann (Ward 3), Dallas Eckman (Ward 17), Ayat Amin (Cleveland Heights), Basma Hamid (Ward 13), Lisa Sanches (Ward 16), Juan Collado (Ward 11), Saeb (Cleveland), Jacob Saliba (Ward 3), Nora Kelley (Ward 17).

Several commenters asked that Cleveland Council members pass a resolution in support of a permanent ceasefire in Gaza. Several shared personal experiences of life and visits in Gaza and acknowledged Northeast Ohio as having the seventh largest Palestinian immigrant community of the diaspora. One commenter said Palestinian refugees will likely come to Cleveland after [arriving in the U.S.](#) Commenters said council has taken positions regarding international issues in the past and rejected the explanation that the Israel-Hamas war is not a local issue. (For reference, here is reporting on city council resolutions supporting an Israel-Hamas [ceasefire](#) in [Akron](#), [Detroit](#), and [Atlanta](#).)

Kelley was the last to speak and said “limiting voices will fuel mistrust and demonstrate contempt for the process” in her statement about public comment.

Commenters also directed comments at Council Member Joseph Jones for statements made during a [recent Safety Committee meeting](#). The commenters said that the attendance of residents at council meetings has been peaceful and not meant to intimidate the council members. One commenter acknowledged the large police presence and the restrictions placed on seating to create more space between the council/administration and the public attending the meeting.

Legislation for introduction and referral

There were 18 ordinances introduced. These involved the purchase of city vehicles, a secondary street designation for Raymond L Pianka and services for Delta and United Airlines. Also included was the internal transfer of funds, one for a total of \$56.6 million and another for a total of \$18.18 million, appropriations for payroll, contracts with URG Corp., Met One Instruments, International Food Solutions, Cleveland Kitchen, Moms First and a grant application for the African American Cultural Gardens.

Legislation for introduction and passage

There was one ordinance, [800-2023](#), passed with 15 yeas regarding an amendment relating to Townhouse (RA) Districts.

Second reading legislation

There were 18 ordinances read. These involved the passage of a salary increase for the Cleveland Division of Police, contracts at Cleveland Hopkins Airport for Aer Lingus and kiosks, East Cleveland road improvement, and the Bedrock Riverfront Master Plan.

Council Member Kerry McCormack requested a recusal on Emergency Ordinance [1249-2023](#), related to funding for nonprofits to create development on the city's Southeast Side. It was passed with 14 yeas and 1 recusal. All other ordinances were passed with 15 yeas.

Announcements

Council Member Deborah Gray acknowledged the [tragic building explosion at E. 139th St](#) and committed to assisting those affected.

Council Member Charles Slife made two announcements:

- There will be a community meeting regarding racism as a public health crisis on Monday, Dec. 4, at 5 p.m. in the Rotunda at Cleveland City Hall.
- On Wednesday, Dec. 6, at 7 p.m. there will be a City Club forum at the Happy Dog to discuss the City of Cleveland budget process.

Council Member Stephanie Howse-Jones announced two opportunities for residents to give input on the 2024 city budget. The meetings will be held at 5:30 p.m., Nov. 28 at 5:30 pm at Kovacic Recreation Center and at 5:30 p.m., Nov. 29 at Zone Recreation Center.

Miscellaneous

Council Member Joseph Jones gave an apology for comments made at the Safety Committee meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

The next meeting will be on Monday, Dec. 4, at 7 p.m. Parking is free during council meetings on the outside upper deck of the parking garage at City Hall.

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