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City Council

Documenter name: Janelle James

Agency: [Cleveland City Council](#)

Date: April 1, 2024

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Summary

- Many residents are displeased with the violence happening in the city.
- Cleveland has a large Palestinian population that wants the council to support a ceasefire.
- Residents would like the council to be more vocal and more active in the community.

Follow-Up Questions

- Why was this meeting shorter than the typical City Council meetings? *(Editor's note: City Council committee meetings typically run two hours or more, while City Council's Monday night meetings are usually about an hour. This meeting was about an hour.)*
- Does the City Council have the power to support a ceasefire? How will it change things? *(Editor's note: City Council [passed a resolution supporting a ceasefire in Gaza](#) on March 25.)*

Notes

Cleveland City Council is the legislative branch of the government of the City of Cleveland. There are 17 elected council members representing Cleveland's 17 wards.

Council members are elected to serve a four-year term. Council members draft and enact legislation for the city and are the voice for their constituents.

The meeting agenda can be found [here](#) and the livestream [here](#).

Council members:

- Joe Jones

- Kevin Bishop
- Kerry McCormack
- Deborah Gray
- Richard Starr (absent)
- Blaine Griffin, council president
- Stephanie Howse-Jones (absent)
- Michael Polensek
- Kevin Conwell
- Anthony Hairston
- Danny Kelly
- Rebecca Maurer
- Kris Harsh
- Jasmin Santana
- Jenny Spencer
- Brian Kazy
- Charles Slife

- Opening
 - The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m.
 - The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a statement from the council.

- Public comment
 - The public comment portion of the meeting lasted for about 30 minutes, the majority of the meeting.
 - The first public commenter, Basma Hamid, spoke about the federal government supporting the war between Israel and Hamas and how it is killing children.
 - The next commenter was Antoine Tolbert representing New Era Cleveland, an organization that promotes nonviolence, especially among youth. He also suggested a partnership with City Council to establish a ceasefire, referring to violence within the city.
 - The next commenter was a Ward 3 resident, Khalid Hamdallah. He spoke about establishing a ceasefire abroad and making Cleveland safer for future generations. He also encouraged council members to be more engaged with the community.
 - The next commenter was Zaha Zayed representing the Palestinian Youth Movement. She spoke about the council members supporting a ceasefire.
 - James Richards from Ward 1 spoke about the Lee Harvard Master plan. Richards is also the vice president of the Cleveland Ohio Southeast

Residents Organization. He said the plan was created by the city and developers. He said the community would like to see a park, library, family center and children's stadium.

- Brenda Bickerstaff, representing Citizens for a Safer Cleveland, spoke about society needing to be more respectful towards Black women.
- Basheer Jones, of Ward 7, spoke about violence in Cleveland. He encouraged council members to be more vocal about their concerns and speak directly to the people.

- Resolutions

- There were two condolence resolutions. Then the council stood for a moment of silence.
- There were 10 congratulatory resolutions read during the meeting. Bishop and Polensek added three of the congratulatory resolutions. However, there were no presentations at the meeting.
- The city clerk read several ordinances for the first time, including:
 - 368- AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE authorizing the director of Community Development to administer the Community Engagement Healthy Home Initiative.
 - 369-AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE to amend Section 3 of Ordinance No. 531-2021, passed Aug. 18, 2021, relating to accepting funding from the U.S. Treasury Department for purposes of implementing the Emergency Rental Assistance Program established under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 and authorizing contracts to implement.
 - 371- AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE authorizing the director of Port Control to exercise the first option to renew Contract No. MA RCD2022-02 with Wausau Equipment Company for services, maintenance, inspections and parts necessary to maintain Wausau snow removal equipment for the Division of Airports, Department of Port Control.
 - 372- AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE authorizing the director of Port Control to exercise the first option to renew Contract No. LS 2023-001 with BP Products North America for the lease of city-owned property commonly known as the North Fuel Farm located at Cleveland Hopkins International Airport, for the purpose of operating an aviation fuel storage and handling facility.
 - 373- AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE authorizing the purchase by one or more contracts not to exceed two LED video display boards for 5251 N. Marginal Road, including labor and materials needed to

remove and dispose of the existing video boards and labor, installation, training on the new equipment, and maintenance for the Division of Cleveland Public Power and Department of Utilities for a period of two years.

- 386- AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE authorizing the director of Finance and/or Public Utilities to either exercise the first one-year option to renew under the Sustainable Ohio Public Energy Council (SOPEC) Contract entered into under Ordinance No. 631-2023; or to enter into an amendment to the SOPEC Contract to change the options to renew from two one-year options to renew to one two-year option to renew exercisable by the appropriate director and to further authorize exercising such option.
 - 387- AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE to amend Section 196.03 of the Codified Ordinances of Cleveland, Ohio, 1976, as amended by Ordinance No. 405-10, passed April 19, 2010, relating to residential parking tax exemption.
 - 391- AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE authorizing and directing the director of Law to fully enforce the provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 9.67, which imposes restrictions on the owner of a professional sports team that uses a tax-supported facility and that receives financial assistance from the state or the city.
- The city clerk then read all emergency ordinances that were read in full and passed.
 - Announcements
 - Griffin announced the plan and protocol for the total eclipse. A meeting will be held on [Wednesday, April 3](#), for more information.
 - The City Council meeting scheduled for Monday, April 8, is canceled due to the eclipse.
 - Miscellaneous
 - Harsh of Ward 13 suggested a year-round facility under the lake. (*Editor's note: This meeting was on April Fools' Day.*)
 - The absences were excused and the meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m.
 - The next City Council meeting will be at 7 p.m. April 15.

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