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City Council

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Agency: [Cleveland City Council](#)

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Summary

- City Council approved the discontinuation of the Divisions of Recreation and Park Maintenance and Properties and the [creation of the Department of Parks and Recreation](#).
- It also authorized the sale of up to \$67.5 million of city bonds to fund improvements for city parks and recreation facilities, municipal street system, buildings and structures.
- Council Members Stephanie Howse-Jones (Ward 7) and Joe. Jones (Ward 1) called on their colleagues to be active in the community regarding voter registration and specifically addressed the current Ohio Secretary of State's voter purge list of over 7,000 Cleveland residents.

Follow-Up Questions

- What activities are the council members planning to use that will help register voters and provide information about the issues?
- What is the City of Cleveland's involvement in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's [BioWatch](#) program?

Notes

Meeting started at 6:38 p.m.

Council Member Kerry McCormack (Ward 3) presided over the meeting.

The following is a summary of items read into the record by Clerk of Council Patricia Britt.
[Editor's note: For the full rundown of items council acted on -- and links to more details about each item -- [download the meeting minutes](#).]

CEREMONIAL RESOLUTIONS

Condolence Resolution for Cleveland Police Officer [Jamieson R. Ritter](#), Badge No. 1176
Congratulations Resolution for Cleveland Public Library Rockport Branch Grand
Re-Opening

APPOINTMENTS (approved by council)

Ryan McCafferty to the Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority Board of Directors.

Matt Ashton (business) to the Fair Employment Wage Board, for a one-year term.

John Patrick Hodge (labor) to the Fair Employment Wage Board, for a two-year term.

Helen Qin (business) to the Fair Employment Wage Board, for a two-year term.

Anastasia A. Elder to the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority Board of Trustees,
to complete a term ending in March 2026.

Re-appointment of Wyonette M. Cheairs to the Lead Safe Advisory Board, for a four-year
term.

EMERGENCY ORDINANCES (introduced and referred to committees)

708-2024 - Authorizing the Director of Capital Projects to apply and accept one or more
grants from Team NEO to support activities associated with the reconstruction of
Redwood Road.

710-2024 - Authorizing the Director of the Community Relations Board to enter into one
or more contracts with OhioGuidestone to conduct the 2024-27 Fresh Start Program, for
a term of one year with two one-year options to renew.

715-2024 - Authorizing the Director of Finance to enter into an agreement with the law
firm of Kegler, Brown, Hill & Ritter Co., L.P.A. for state lobbying services for the City of
Cleveland, for a period of one year, with one option to renew for an additional year,
exercisable by the Director of Finance.

716-2024 - Determining the method of making the public improvement of repairing and improving the filters at the Nottingham Water Treatment Plant.

719-2024 - To amend Sections 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 of Ordinance No. 482-2022, passed May 25, 2022, relating to establishing the entire City of Cleveland as a Community Reinvestment Area.

743-2024 - To amend Section 1 of Ordinance No. 406-2024, passed May 6, 2024, relating to the sale of certain City-owned properties no longer needed for the City's public use located at 1848 East 101st Street and 9910 Woodward Avenue to Gordon Crossing Land Co., LLC for purposes of future development.

745-2024 - Authorizing the Director of Economic Development to enter into one or more agreements with The Cleveland Foundation to establish, manage, and implement an endowment fund for the acquisition, aggregation and remediation of sites located throughout the City; and to enter into one or more amendments the Services Agreement No. PS 2023-0341 with the Cuyahoga County Land Reutilization Corporation and the Site Readiness for Good Jobs Fund to transfer funds from the Services Agreement and payment responsibilities to the Sites Fund and any other changes necessary to implement this ordinance.

746-2024 To remove certain parcels of property from the [Shore-to-Core-to-Shore TIF District](#) created by Ordinance No. 38-2024, passed March 25, 2024, pursuant to 5709.40(B); to declare certain improvements to real property to be a public purpose and exempt from taxation pursuant to Section 5709.41 of the Revised Code for an initial period of thirty (30) years; to require the owners of the improvements to make service payments in lieu of the exempt taxes; to determine that the real property is in a blighted area of an impacted city; to determine that the owners of the improvements will make service payments in lieu of taxes in an amount that will exceed one million five hundred thousand dollars in a future year; to extend the exemption from taxation pursuant to Section 5709.51 of the Revised Code for an additional fifteen (15) year period; and authorizing the Director of Economic Development to enter into a Tax Increment Financing Agreement with Cleveland LD, LLC, and/or its designee, to redevelop Cleveland's riverfront.

EMERGENCY ORDINANCES (passed by council)

721-2024 - Authorizing the Director of Economic Development to enter into a forgivable loan agreement with SH SQ, LLC, or its designee, to provide economic development assistance to partially finance tenant improvements and equipment costs associated with retaining Dave's Supermarket in Shaker Square, and other associated costs necessary to redevelop the property.

722-2024 - Approving the collective bargaining agreement with the Cleveland Police Patrolmen's Association (C.P.P.A.) Investigative Research Unit.

787-2024 - Authorizing the Director of the Department of Public Safety to enter into agreement with Northwest Neighborhoods Community Development Corporation for the Summer Safety Film Series 2024 through the use of Ward 15 Casino Revenue Funds.

521-2024 - To discontinue the Divisions of Recreation and Park Maintenance and Properties and the Office of Special Events and Marketing, by repealing various sections of Chapter 131, and to create the Department of Parks and Recreation.

594-2024 - Authorizing the Director of Capital Projects to apply for and accept a grant up to \$10 million from the United States Department of Transportation for the 2024 Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant; and for determining the method of making the public improvement of constructing safety improvements on Lee Road, Lorain Avenue and East 93rd Street and through quick-build demonstration projects on Kinsman Road, Superior Avenue and Denison Avenue

614-2024 - Authorizing the Director of Economic Development to enter into a grant agreement with Variety Properties, LLC or designee to provide economic development assistance to partially finance costs associated with renovating the vacant Variety Theater building.

623-2024 - Authorizing the Director of Public Health to apply for and accept a grant from the United States Department of Homeland Security for BioWatch Program; and authorizing the Director to enter into various written standard purchase and requirement contracts for courier services needed to transport BioWatch samples to the Ohio Department of Health for testing.

632-2024 - To make additional appropriations of Twenty Four Million Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$24,200,000) to the General Fund.

634-2024 - Authorizing the Director of Human Resources to employ one or more professional consultants to provide the professional services necessary to design, develop, and deliver a comprehensive training program for departmental staff performing Human Resources functions, for a term of one year with two one-year options to renew, exercisable by the Director of Human Resources.

641-2024 - Determining the method of making the public improvement of designing and constructing, rehabilitating, renovating, replacing or otherwise improving cemeteries, including site improvements and appurtenances, and the West Park Cemetery Gate House.

643-2024 - Determining the method of making the public improvement of designing and constructing, rehabilitating, renovating, replacing or otherwise improving recreation facilities, ancillary recreation buildings, parks and playgrounds, and other similar structures or amenities, on city-owned and city-leased park property.

645-2024 - Authorizing the Director of Capital Projects to employ one or more professional consultants necessary for the Dominion East Ohio Gas Pipeline Infrastructure Replacement Program, for a period of one year with four one-year options to renew, exercisable by the Director of Capital Projects.

662-2024 - Authorizing the issuance and sale of bonds in the maximum principal amount of \$1,250,000 for the purpose of providing funds to improve municipal cemetery facilities, buildings, structures and grounds and authorizing related matters.

663-2024 - Authorizing the issuance and sale of bonds in the maximum principal amount of \$11,000,000 for the purpose of providing funds to acquire heavy duty trucks and equipment for performing functions of the city's department of public works and department of public safety, including the division of fire, and authorizing related matters.

664-2024 - Authorizing the issuance and sale of bonds in the maximum principal amount of \$5,000,000 for the purpose of providing funds to acquire vehicles and equipment for performing functions of the city's departments, including the department of public works and department of public safety, and authorizing related matters

665-2024 - Authorizing the issuance and sale of bonds in the maximum principal amount of \$9,250,000 for the purpose of providing funds to improve municipal parks and recreation facilities and authorizing related matters.

666-2024 - Authorizing the issuance and sale of bonds in the maximum principal amount of \$15,000,000 for the purpose of providing funds to improve buildings and structures

667-2024 - Authorizing the issuance and sale of bonds in the maximum principal amount of \$26,000,000 for the purpose of providing funds to improve the municipal street system and related facilities and authorizing related matters.

EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS (adopted by council)

789-2024 - Appointing Glenn Parker III to the Civilian Police Review Board.

483-2024 - Providing for the reassessment of the cost of the services of the Ohio City - Cleveland Business Improvement District to correct an error in the benefitted parcel numbers; and declaring an emergency.

619-2024 - Appointing an assessment equalization board to hear objections to estimated assessments with respect to improving Euclid Beach Boulevard (entire street) and E. 159th Street (from Euclid Beach Boulevard to Lakeside Avenue) by design, inspection, reconstructing, repairing and/or installing of roadways, sidewalks, driveway aprons, curbs (including adjustments of castings and landscaping, if necessary), storm sewer, storm sewer structures, and other necessary appurtenances, if necessary, encroaching upon the public right-of-way.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council Member Brian Kazy, Ward 16, announced that Eric Carmen and the Raspberries will be honored by the Rock Hall of Fame as the 2024 Music Keynote to the City Awardee. August 11, the artist's birthday, will be designated as Eric Carmen Day in the City of Cleveland. The Rock Hall will have an award ceremony and concert on August 8.

Howse-Jones, Ward 7, said there are 7,472 Cleveland residents listed on the Secretary of State voter purge list that will be purged on July 22. "We need all hands on deck." "Go vote. Democracy needs you."

Jones, Ward 1, remarked with kudos to the council and administration for addressing abandoned properties and vacant lots throughout the city. "Vision is involved." "We should have developers lined up."

He also weighed in on the issue that Howse-Jones expressed about the concerns regarding the upcoming election He urged his colleagues to take action. “We are the Democratic party. We need to stick together.”

He voiced support for President Joe Biden continuing to campaign for his re-election this fall, saying he brought the country out of the covid pandemic and that “our economy is stronger than it’s ever been before.”

Jones joked about being upset that Finance Director Ahmed Abonamah will be [leaving for the Cleveland Cavaliers](#) and asked Mayor Justin Bibb to have people sign in blood that they will stay with the city for at least four or five years.

He continued to describe the characteristics and actions of former President Donald Trump. “We should ask him to step down.” “We have to be tough if we want to save our democracy. We don’t have any other options.”

Meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

LINKS TO ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Obituary for Cleveland Police Officer Jamieson R. Ritter, Badge No. 1176

<https://obits.cleveland.com/us/obituaries/cleveland/name/jamieson-ritter-obituary?id=55509075>

Cleveland Public Library Rockport Branch Grand Re-Opening

<https://cpl.libcal.com/event/12575320>

Community Reinvestment Area

<https://development.ohio.gov/business/state-incentives/ohio-community-reinvestment-area>

Ohio Guidestone

<https://ohioguidestone.org/>

Kegler, Brown, Hill & Ritter Co., L.P.A

<https://www.keglerbrown.com/>

Ohio City - Cleveland Business Improvement District

<https://www.ohiocity.org/sites/default/files/2020-2024%20OCIC%20Comprehensive%20Services%20Plan.pdf>
<https://www.ohiocity.org/OCIC>

The Cleveland Foundation
<https://www.clevelandfoundation.org/>

Variety Theater
<https://www.abandonedamerica.us/variety-theatre>

Cuyahoga County Land Reutilization Corporation
<https://cuyahogalandbank.org/>

Site Readiness for Good Jobs Fund
<https://www.sitereadycle.org/>

BioWatch Program
<https://www.dhs.gov/publication/biowatch-program-factsheet>

Shore-to-Core-to-Shore TIF District
<https://clevelandohio.gov/news/city-cleveland-bedrock-mda-paves-way-35-billion-cuyahoga-riverfront-transformation>

Cleveland Police Patrolmen's Association (C.P.P.A.)
<http://www.cppa.org/>

Northwest Neighborhoods Community Development Corporation
<https://www.nwneighborhoods.org/>

Casino Revenue Funds
<https://www.clevelandcitycouncil.org/resources/news-media/how-council-members-use-their-casino-revenue-funds>

West Park Cemetery Gate House
<https://www.countyoffice.org/cleveland-west-park-cemetery-cleveland-oh-ffc/>

Tax Increment Financing Agreement
<https://development.ohio.gov/business/state-incentives/tax-increment-financing>

Civilian Police Review Board

<https://signalcleveland.org/clevelands-civilian-police-review-board-decides-on-discipline-in-misconduct-cases/>

Dominion East Ohio Gas Pipeline Infrastructure Replacement Program

<https://www.dominionenergy.com/projects-and-facilities/natural-gas-projects/pipeline-infrastructure-replacement-oh>

Parks and Recreation

<https://clevelandohio.gov/explore/parks-recreation>

Eric Carmen of the Raspberries

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eric_Carmen

<https://www.rollingstone.com/music/music-news/eric-carmen-hungry-eyes-raspberries-dead-obituary-1234985700/>

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