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Council Meeting

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Agency: [Cuyahoga County Council](#)

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Summary

- Cuyahoga County Council awarded a \$300,000 community development grant for the African Town Plaza project, which will renovate the former YMCA building at 7515 Cedar Ave. into a business hub, event space and apartments.
- Council approved converting a \$200,000 affordable housing loan to Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry to a grant for the construction of four homes for people experiencing homelessness in Cleveland.
- Council approved directing roughly \$80 million of federal money to the City of Painesville to help construct a [35 megawatt solar and storage facility on the site of an old coal plant](#). The money is all from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), but the county still needed to approve sending the money to Painesville amid the freezing and unfreezing of the funds by President Donald Trump's administration.

Follow-Up Questions

- Who else is funding the African Town development? *[Editor's note: The City of Cleveland is one partner set to [support the project](#).]*
- Who would pay for the demolition of the Browns stadium should they move to Brook Park?
- Will Painesville be able to complete the solar project, given that the federal government is now not as supportive of renewable energy?

Notes

Public Comment

Darrell Houston, of Bedford Heights, said he was concerned about the process of how Cuyahoga County adjusted property taxes. He said his taxes doubled, and he thinks they should have stayed the same. He said the process is unfair and biased, and he would like

the council to investigate it.

Dale Snyder (spelling unconfirmed), of Cuyahoga County, said he had questions about the \$80 million solar energy in Lake County because he knew people who could benefit from job training in this field.

Marlene Weinstein (spelling unconfirmed), of Cuyahoga County, expressed concern about phrases she said she has heard from pro-Palestinian protesters, such as “Globalize the Intifada” and “From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free.” She said she continues to attend meetings despite facing hostility. She urged the council to reinvest in the \$2 million of Israel Bonds that she said will mature on Dec. 1.

Sherri Sacks (spelling unconfirmed), of Cuyahoga County, spoke about some of Cuyahoga County’s financial problems and mentioned that Israel Bonds have some of the highest interest rates, which could benefit Cuyahoga County. *[Editor’s note: In the [Jan. 24 meeting of the county’s Investment Advisory Committee](#), a representative from the county’s investment partner said Israel Bonds are among the lowest-rated and riskiest county investments.]*

Essie Williams (spelling unconfirmed), of Cleveland, voiced concerns about public money possibly going to the Haslam Sports Group, which owns the Browns. She wondered if the city, county and state were really going to pay the Haslams [\\$1.2 billion](#) for a new stadium in Brook Park. She said residents are [already paying a lot for the current stadium](#). She also wondered where the money would come from to demolish the current stadium should the Haslams move the Browns to Brook Park.

Notable Legislation

Council passed or read into the record dozens of pieces of legislation. A full list is on the [agenda](#). Here are two that I found notable.

R2025-0082:

Council approved a \$300,000 community development grant for African Town Plaza. This project will renovate the old YMCA building at 7515 Cedar Road into a business hub, event space and apartments. Council President Dale Miller added that the county will also loan the development an additional \$450,000.

“To have this developer come in and redevelop this building for a multi-million-dollar

project is a godsend to this community,” District 8 Council Member Pernel Jones, Jr. said. “There is nothing but good things that will come from this project.”

R2025-0094:

In July 2024, [the EPA announced](#) around \$129 million for renewable energy in the Cleveland area. Part of that is \$80 million for [a solar project in Painesville](#). That money first had to pass through Cuyahoga County. However, the Trump administration has been freezing or canceling many clean energy grants since taking office, and there was some question whether the money would come through.

“This is the grant that disappeared out of our account when the Trump Administration froze everything on a Tuesday,” District 11 Council Member Sunny Simon said. “It’s come and gone a couple times, but it’s here, and we’re hoping to continue on with this project. Its value is just immeasurable.”

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