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Committee of the Whole (morning session)

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Agency: Cleveland City Council

Date: July 9, 2025

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Summary

- Housing repair assistance may be available to residents through [Greater Cleveland Habitat for Humanity](#).
- Cleveland City Council members are requesting an outline of the nuisance procedure to share with residents.
- The Cleveland Cavaliers organization is completing the renovation of two outdoor basketball courts in Cleveland. It has already renovated 38 indoor courts.

Follow-Up Questions

- When will there be an update on the city recycling program?

Notes





(Each Cleveland City Council members' image is linked to their ward's page at the Cleveland City Council's website.)

[Editor's note: These notes cover the morning session of Cleveland' City Council's Committee of the Whole meeting on July 9, 2025. Watch the afternoon session of this meeting [here](#).]

The meeting was opened on time by Cleveland City Council's president and committee chair, Blaine Griffin. All council members were present for a portion of the meeting with the exception of Jasmin Santana. During the morning session, 17 ordinances/resolutions were presented to the council. The legislation was relieved from the designated committee chairs for review during the Committee of the Whole per request of the chair. The agenda was not followed as posted.

The following legislation was presented for reading, passage or adoption to the full council meeting at 7 p.m. this evening. All requests were approved. Cleveland City Council only meets once during the month of July. *[Editor's note: All of the ordinances mentioned below were approved by council at their meeting later this evening.]*

[721-2025](#) The **ordinance** was approved as amended to provide "deeds of easement" to the Northeast Ohio Sewer District for repairs and dam removal on city-owned properties near Horseshoe Lake Park. The properties are located in Shaker Heights and Cleveland Heights, and maintenance is the responsibility of those cities. The easements will be donated by the City of Cleveland. The repairs are viewed as critical and necessary to avoid any potential flooding issues.

Council Member Jenny Spencer expressed concern that the properties had not been properly maintained throughout their 170-year history. She inquired about the current maintenance of the Lower Lake Dam. Matt Scharver of the Northeast Ohio Sewer District replied that the area is under review for repairs.

[830-2025](#) & [834-2025](#) These **ordinances** were approved as presented by Michelle Kenney, finance director for the Cleveland Municipal Court-Judicial Division. The ordinances were a response to a cyberattack. The court is seeking reimbursement for

fees incurred to resolve the issue and also permission to proceed with the posting of a position for a cyber security specialist.

855-2025 This **Emergency Resolution** was approved as presented by Cally Mersmann, director of Cleveland City Planning. The resolution requested approval to appoint a board to review the formation of a “[Downtown Cleveland Improvement District](#).” The review process should include planning and objection input.

796-2025 & 850-2025 These **Emergency Resolutions** were presented to define the “boundaries” of the [Gordon Square Arts District: Gordon Square is our "arts-for-all](#) as a Cleveland Improvement District through the creation of a board to review the planning process and field objections.

851-2025 & 711-2025 These **ordinances** were presented requesting permission to apply for approximately \$7 million in grants for financing of the [Cleveland Moves](#) project. Several council members engaged in the discussion. Council Member Kerry McCormack emphasized the importance of the project, saying that speeding cars are a concern for all residents. He said, “Residents are fed up with out-of-control drivers.” He said that he has even received calls from residents saying, “Don’t pave my street because cars are going to go faster.”

Griffin said that an 11-year-old was hit by a car on Woodland just last week in his ward, but he also shared his concern that other projects like [Thrive 105-93](#) have not received any attention as new projects are pursued.

Council Member Brian Kazy asked about “right-of-entry” issues as construction of the new bike lanes, etc., begins. He was told that private property owners will be consulted.

Council Member Mike Polensek questioned the “local match” of approximately \$4 million that will be required of the city. He also asked about the proposed electric refuse vehicle fleet (ERV) and chargers. The response was that bond sales will be needed.

Council Member Kevin Bishop amended the legislation. The question of whether previous projects are being abandoned for new projects with opportunity for other financing was left unanswered.

828-2025 This ordinance received the support of the council and administration. [Greater Cleveland Habitat for Humanity](#) will receive an additional \$3 million to continue [Critical Home Repair - Greater Cleveland Habitat for Humanity](#). The money comes from the COVID relief funds that became available for reallocation. Alyssa Hernandez, Cleveland's director of Community Development, said that the original vendor "failed to launch" the program expected by the city. Kazy requested a report on the approximately \$15 million in [American Rescue Plan Act \(ARPA\)](#) funds allocated for housing related projects. Polensek requested information on how other wards can access the program.

Repairs have been made in the Buckeye-Woodhill, Mt. Pleasant, BellairePuritas and Detroit Shoreway areas. Council Member Deborah Gray expressed gratitude and compliments for the work completed in Ward 4.

Council Member Stephanie Howse-Jones inquired about the financing model. Habitat for Humanity pays the contractors and is reimbursed by the City of Cleveland. The timely payments to contractors and good reputation among residents who have received repairs are credited with the success of the program.

833-2025 This **ordinance** was a request for the [Bridgeworks PACE project in Ohio City](#). Council members discussed why the PACE finance model is not used more often. Council Member Anthony Hairston reminded the council members of the need for the council to stay involved in development decisions.

703-2025 This **ordinance** was approved with Council Member Rebecca Maurer as a recusal. The Cleveland Cavaliers organization requested permission to proceed with artwork on the back courts of the basketball courts at Trent Park. The courts will be the first two outdoor courts renovated through the Cavaliers program. The organization has renovated 38 indoor courts throughout the city.

McCormack praised the organization's commitment to the City of Cleveland. Griffin told Polensek that Council Member Jasmin Santana sought and advocated for the project to be in her ward.

841-2025 The Bell Project at 45 E. 9th St. downtown is moving forward after an issue with the initial investor. The [TIF \(tax increment financing\)](#) was requested as critical to the completion of the project. The developer agreed to have Cleveland Public Power as the energy provider. Kazy offered to assist with the immediate transfer of service as a "special energy improvement project."

839-2025 & 840-2025 These **ordinances** were presented in support of the [Ohio City Franklin Yard project that seeks to transform the 19th century](#) Franklin Yard North Project at 3105 Franklin Blvd.

842-2025 This **resolution** was held for approval until the afternoon session regarding the mayoral appointment of Luther Roddy to the [Community Police Commission](#) (CPC). Several council members expressed concern about the process of appointments and timeline of notifications. *[Editor's note: This resolution was later approved at the afternoon session. Roddy was officially appointed to the CPC at council's full meeting later that night.]*

704-2025 This **ordinance** amends the city's nuisance laws. The council was notified that as of June 2025 letters of warning are being mailed to the owners as listed on property documents when nuisance complaints are continuously made for an address. An example of a nuisance issue was given as cars parked on lawns. Howse-Jones requested an outline to share with residents or owners who may receive letters. Cleveland Safety Director Wayne Drummond requested time to evaluate the program and report outcomes. Fifty-two notices have been sent since June.

714-2025 This **ordinance** was for the approval of the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste Management Plan Update. Council members requested more information on the Residential Composting program through the county, disposal of electronics and the scrap tire round-up hotline.

745-2025 This **ordinance** was for the purchase of vehicles etc. for the Department of Public Works.

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