



Cleveland City Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 02, 2026 at 6:30 PM

Oak Springs Community Center/Police Department – 342 Campbell Street, Cleveland, GA

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Turner called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

PRESENT:

Mayor Josh Turner, Council Members Nan Bowen (Mayor Pro Tem), Annie Sutton, Jeremy McClure, and C.J. McDonald

Also, present were City Manager Kevin Harris, City Attorney Keith Whitaker, and City Clerk Lisa Ritchie

INVOCATION

1. Associate Pastor Thomas Coggins

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Council Member McClure, seconded by Council Member Sutton, and voted, unanimously, to approve the agenda.

PRESENTATIONS

2. Swearing in of Fire Chief Jason Bryant

Mayor Turner invited Chief Bryant's family to join him for the presentation.

Judge Garrison Baker issued the Oath to Chief Bryant.

Chief Bryant expressed his excitement and appreciation to the Mayor and Council Members for allowing him the opportunity to serve the City of Cleveland as the Fire Chief.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

Mayor Turner expressed his gratitude to public safety and public works personnel, as well as to the citizens, for their efforts and cooperation during the ice storm.

Mayor Turner also expressed special appreciation for Nadine Wardenga, stating that she provided hot meals for first responders and public works personnel who worked day and night throughout the winter weather event.

NEW BUSINESS

3. Ratification of Agreement with the White County Sheriff's Office for detention of persons charged with violations of statutes of the State of Georgia and City Ordinances (\$45.00 per diem boarding fee)

Mr. Harris discussed the item.

Motion by Council Member McDonald, seconded by Council Member Bowen, and voted, unanimously, to approve the detention agreement with White County Sheriff's Office.

4. Ratification of Declaration of Emergency

Mr. Harris discussed the item.

Motion by Council Member McClure, seconded by Council Member Sutton, and voted, unanimously, to approve the ratification of the Declaration of Emergency.

5. Consider a request from Trey Crumley (Ron Cantrell Construction Inc), representing Metrick and Howard Properties, Grease Monkey Oil Change, for a variance from the City of Cleveland Standard Development Specifications, Section II General Construction Requirements, Subsection B.2 Materials for Commercial Buildings. Request is to use metal siding on the exterior sides of the building that can be seen from the road (Wilford Ash Parkway) instead of the code required materials of stucco, wood, stone and/or brick. Tax Map and Parcel C01A 017D.

Mayor Turner introduced the item.

Economic Development and Planning Director Tom O'Bryant addressed the Mayor and Council and discussed the request.

Planning & Zoning Board Chairperson Nadine Wardenga addressed the Mayor and Council and explained the Planning & Zoning Board's decision to deny the request.

Mayor Turner inquired about the difference in investment to the applicant. Trey Crumley of Ron Cantrell Construction stated that the difference would cost up to \$40,000.

Mayor Turner confirmed the completion of the Disclosure of Campaign Contribution Certification, which stated that the applicant had not, within the two years immediately preceding the application date, made any contributions aggregating \$250 or more to any local government official involved in the review or consideration of the application. Mayor Turner also confirmed that all taxes had been paid.

A motion was made by Council Member Sutton and seconded by Council Member McDonald to deny the variance.

Council Member McDonald stated that he hopes they succeed but emphasized the need for a concerted effort to bring the building up to standard before moving forward.

The Council voted unanimously to deny the variance.

CALLED MEETING/MEETING MINUTES

6. January 5, 2026 Meeting Minutes

7. January 19, 2026 Called Meeting Minutes

8. January 22, 2026 Called Meeting Minutes

Motion by Council Member Bowen, seconded by Council Member McClure, and voted, unanimously, to approve the January 5, 2026 Meeting Minutes and the January 19 and January 22 Called Meeting Minutes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

9. January 19, 2026 Executive Session Minutes

10. January 19, 2026 Executive Session Minutes

11. January 22, 2026 Executive Session Minutes

12. January 5, 2026 Executive Session Minutes

Ms. Ritchie stated that there was two January 5, 2026 Executive Sessions and one January 19, 2026 Executive Sessions.

Motion by Council Member Bowen, seconded by Council Member Sutton, and voted, unanimously, to approve the January 5 (1st Session), January 5 (2nd Session), January 22, January 19, 2026 Executive Session Minutes.

CITY ATTORNEY KEITH WHITAKER

Mr. Whitaker had no items to report.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR KEVIN HARRIS

Mr. Harris discussed the following items:

The professionalism and dedication of Public Safety and Public Works personnel during the recent ice/snow event

Documentation prepared for FEMA and GEMA related to the ice/snow event

Appreciation to Nadine Wardenga for preparing and providing hot meals for Public Safety and Public Works personnel

The appointment of the new Fire Chief

The City's social media presence

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Ritchie gave the announcements.

13. The White County Water Authority Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 12, 2026, at 7:30 a.m. at the White County Water Authority
14. City of Cleveland Offices will be closed on Monday, February 16, 2026 in observance of the President's Day Holiday
15. The City Council Meeting scheduled for Monday, February 16, 2026, has been cancelled
16. The Planning and Zoning Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 26, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at the Oak Springs Community Center/Police Department
17. The next Cleveland City Council Meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 2, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at the Oak Springs Community Center/Police Department.

ADJOURN

Mayor Turner recognized the children in attendance as special guests and invited them to come forward and strike the gavel.

Motion by Council Member McDonald, seconded by Council Member Sutton and voted, unanimously, to adjourn the Meeting of February 2, 2026, at 7:09 p.m.

Approved this ____ day of _____, _____.

Josh Turner

Mayor

Jeremy McClure

Council Member
District 3

Nan Bowen
Council Member
District 1
Mayor Pro Tem

C.J. McDonald
Council Member
District 4

ATTEST:

Annie Sutton
Council Member
District 2

Lisa A. Ritchie
City Clerk