



**SAFETY AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MINUTES
THURSDAY December 4 , 2025 at 8:00 AM
VIA ZOOM MEETING**

Members Present: Anne Williams, Council Chair
Nancy Moore, Council Member
Tenille Kaus, Council Member
James Sammon, Citizen Member
Jonathan Hren, Citizen Member
Sara Schiavoni, Citizen Member

Others Present: Mayor David Weiss
Matt Carroll, CAO
Patrick Sweeney, Chief of Fire
Wayne Hudson, Chief of Police
Ramona Lowery-Ferrell, Director of Public Works
William Gruber, Law Director
Christian Maier, Assistant Director of Public Works

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES.

The minutes of the November 6th meeting were unanimously approved.

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Single Source Bid for First Energy

Presented by Joyce Braverman, Director of Planning

Director Braverman presented a request to approve a single-source bid from FirstEnergy in the amount of \$280,841.62 for the relocation of a high-voltage electrical line located within the Van Aken District. She explained that the line currently runs diagonally across the development site at Chagrin Boulevard and Warrensville Center Road and serves the new RTA substation. Relocating the line to the edge of the site is necessary to support future development opportunities. Director Braverman noted that both the City and RTA have been engaged in ongoing upgrades to the Van Aken transit area since 2014. As the owner and sole provider of the electrical service, FirstEnergy is the only entity able to perform this work. Funding for the relocation is available in the General Capital Fund for the Van Aken–Warrensville construction project. She recommended approval of the bid to allow the relocation to proceed.

Chair Williams invited questions or comments from the committee. She remarked on the positive progress in the district, referencing the recent dedication of new public art. There being no further discussion, Chair Williams requested a motion to award the single-source bid to FirstEnergy in the amount of \$280,841.62. Councilwoman Kaus moved to approve the request, and the motion was seconded by Citizen Member Hren. Motion passed unanimously with no opposition.

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Horseshoe Lake Doanbrook Restoration

Presented by William Gruber, Law Director

Director Gruber brought forth the Horseshoe Lake/Doan Brook Restoration contracts with the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS) and the City of Cleveland Heights. Director Gruber presented the item and noted that Assistant Director of Public Works Christian Maier and Public Works Director Ramona Lowery-Ferrell were also in attendance, along with representatives from NEORS, including Matt Scharver, to assist with questions.

Director Gruber explained that two contracts are being presented related to the Horseshoe Lake Restoration Project, which has been discussed on multiple occasions. He reviewed the history of prior work at the site, including contracts previously awarded to remove portions of the Horseshoe Lake Dam to mitigate flood risks. The current contracts relate to the restoration phase of the project, which is being coordinated among the Cities of Shaker Heights and Cleveland Heights and NEORS. NEORS will manage and construct the project. The cities had previously entered into an agreement with NEORS for project design, including various amenities that will be funded, constructed, and maintained by the cities.

Director Gruber stated that NEORS intends to bid the project in early 2026, with construction anticipated to begin mid-2026. The cities will be billed for the cost of the jointly funded amenities, which will be split 65% by Shaker Heights and 35% by Cleveland Heights. The same proportional split will apply to the ongoing maintenance of the amenities and the broader Horseshoe Park area. This marks the first formal joint maintenance agreement between the two cities for their shared parklands.

Director Gruber explained that the maintenance responsibilities will evolve over time and may involve work by each city individually, jointly, or through contracted services. He also noted that the existing Horseshoe Park facilities, including pavilions and restrooms, will be included in the maintenance agreement.

Maps of the project area were reviewed, illustrating the division of the site between the two cities and distinguishing the NEORS-maintained floodplain and wetland areas from the city-maintained amenities and upland park areas. NEORS will maintain approximately 26 acres of floodplain and wetland areas in perpetuity.

Citizen Member Sammon asked how the 65/35 cost split was determined. Director Gruber reported that the allocation is based on the proportion of land area located in each city, with approximately 65% of the parkland and former lake bed in Shaker Heights and 35% in Cleveland Heights.

Citizen Member Schiavoni requested clarification regarding the project timeline and the anticipated timing of ongoing maintenance obligations, citing concerns about the workload impact on the already-busy Public Works Department. NEORSD representative Matt Scharver responded that bidding is anticipated in January 2026, with construction occurring in 2026–2027 and plantings completed in 2027. The bulk of city maintenance responsibilities would likely begin in 2028. He stated that the design intentionally considered long-term maintenance impacts to avoid overburdening the cities.

Director Gruber added that the maintenance cost allocations had been the subject of significant discussion between the cities and NEORSD. Public Works Director Lowery-Ferrell confirmed that the department is closely reviewing future workload concerns as the agreement moves forward.

Citizen Member Sammon also asked whether the City of Cleveland, which owns the park property and leases it to the two cities, would participate financially. Director Gruber stated that under the existing long-term lease, the two cities bear responsibility for park maintenance, and there is currently no indication that Cleveland intends to share in the cost. The lease renews in the 2040s, at which point terms could potentially be revisited.

Council members thanked the presenters and NEORSD representatives for their participation and information. The Chair confirmed that the questions raised had been addressed.

Councilwoman Kaus moved to approve the request, and the motion was seconded by Citizen Member Hren. Motion passed unanimously with no opposition.

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Lynnfield-Lomond SSO 11 Project - Contract Amendment with DLZ Ohio

Presented by Christian Maier, Assistant Director of Public Works

Chair Williams introduced the final agenda item regarding a proposed contract amendment with DLZ Ohio for the Lynnfield–Lomond SSO 11 Control Project. Assistant Director of Public Works Christian Maier presented the item and explained that DLZ has been providing engineering services for the project since 2021 under an engineering contract valued at approximately \$300,000, about half of which has been reimbursed through funding from the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORSD). The objective of the project is to eliminate the sanitary sewer overflow (SSO) located at the Lynnfield–Lomond intersection and reduce the

risk of basement flooding in surrounding neighborhoods. Following the receipt of project funding, the construction contract was bid in fall 2024, with construction beginning in spring 2025. The total construction cost is \$8.3 million.

Assistant Director Maier stated that DLZ, as the design engineer of record, continues to play an essential role during construction, including reviewing shop drawings, responding to requests for information, and reviewing significant change orders. Although funding was initially allocated for these services, unforeseen conditions typical of underground construction have required additional engineering review. With project completion anticipated in summer 2026, the remaining work will continue to require DLZ's involvement. However, the existing purchase order does not contain sufficient funds to support ongoing engineering services at the necessary level. Therefore, staff requested that the Safety and Public Works Committee recommend approval of a contract amendment with DLZ Ohio in the amount of \$25,000 to continue providing construction-phase engineering support.

Chair Williams invited questions or comments from the committee, noting that this was a modest request within the scope of a large and important infrastructure project. No questions were raised. Chair Williams then requested a motion to recommend approval of the contract amendment to Council. The motion was made by Citizen Member Hren and seconded by Citizen Member Sammon. Motion passed unanimously, with no opposition.

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Miscellaneous Items

Chairwoman Williams shared that this would be her last meeting as Chair, and her final meeting as a member of the Committee, as she would be concluding her term on Council at the end of the year. She explained that beginning in January, the Committee would have a new Chair and new Council representatives. Chair Williams thanked the Committee members and staff for their collaboration, engagement, and thoughtful discussion over the years, noting that it had been a pleasure to work with everyone.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:26 am. The next meeting will be January 9, 2026.

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Respectfully submitted,

Anne Williams, Council Chairperson

Safety & Public Works Committee