SHAKER HEIGHTS

Council Minutes
City Hall Council Chambers
May 8, 2023

The Council of the City of Shaker Heights met in a special meeting at 7:01 p.m., Mayor David E. Weiss presiding.

Council Members Present: Ms. Anne Williams
Ms. Carmella Williams
Mr. Earl Williams
Mr. Claytor
Mr. Malone
Mrs. Moore
Mr. Roeder

Council Members Absent: None

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Video of this meeting may be found here through May 8, 2026.

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The Mayor invited members of the audience and those participating via Zoom the opportunity to "raise their hand" to provide public comment.

No comments were offered.

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Ordinance No. 23-34, by Mr. Malone, to fix the compensation of the Mayor for the term beginning January 1, 2024.

Council member Mr. Malone stated that the proposed ordinance would increase the Mayor's salary from $87,000 to $103,000 annually beginning January 1, 2024. This follows the precedent that Council has followed in the last 15 to 20 years when it comes to setting compensation by waiting approximately 8 years to do so and then raising it at a fixed amount as opposed to smaller increments. The increases are equivalent in many respects to the cost of living increases that all City staff have received in recent years. Council did consider and discuss other ways of calculating salaries and looked at precedent, comparable cities' and municipalities' salaries locally, market rates, and the proposed Mayor's salary is still with this increase below what the market data suggests as the median salary. They also talked about considering in the future looking at the salary increases more frequently, perhaps on a four-year basis, but this is not something Council was inclined to do at this point. It is something to consider for the next four years.

Mayor Weiss stated that this item would remain on first reading.

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Ordinance No. 23-35, by Mr. Malone, to fix the compensation of the Council for the term beginning January 1, 2026.

Council member Mr. Malone stated that the proposed ordinance would increase Council's salary from $10,440 to $12,500 annually beginning January 1, 2026.

Mayor Weiss stated that this item would remain on first reading.

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Ordinance No. 23-36, by Mr. Claytor, approving and authorizing the City to transfer title to the two parcels comprising the vacant lot at 3393 Warrensville Center Road (Parcel Nos. 736-13-057 and 736-13-058), formerly the Qua Buick property, to a third party and transfer the properties back to the City immediately thereafter, in order to enable Council to subsequently establish Tax Increment Financing on the property, and declaring an emergency.

Economic Development Director Laura Englehart stated that this item requests authorization for the City to transfer the parcels that make up the former Qua Buick site to the Shaker Heights Development Corporation (SHDC) which will then immediately transfer those parcels back to the City. This is a technical request to enable Tax Increment Financing (TIF) on the property in the future. A TIF was originally approved in 2016 as part of the phased Van Aken district development but it has not been filed with the state as there has been no activity on the site to date. The Arcadia development project at the former Qua site is now progressing and so as a technical matter to be able to proceed with TIF the state requires the City to show that it acquired the property while engaged in urban redevelopment, and it has to do that close in time to when a development agreement is put in place. The City obtained title to this property in 2013. That is not close in time to this year when we hope and anticipate that a development agreement will be entered into with Metropolitan Holdings. We have asked the SHDC to help us with this transaction to enable the City to have a recent deed to this property for 2023. The SHDC Board has agreed to this transaction.

Council member Mr. Earl Williams asked about the transfer of the property to the SHDC.

Director Englehart stated that this is currently City-owned property. The only reason the transfer is requested to the SHDC and immediately back to the City is to enable the City to have a recent deed in its name. The SHDC will not be holding the property.

It was moved by Mr. Claytor, and seconded by Ms. Carmella Williams, that the rule requiring ordinances to be read on three different days be suspended and Ordinance No. 23-36 be placed upon its final enactment.

Roll Call:	Ayes:	Ms. Anne Williams, Ms. Carmella Williams Mr. Earl Williams, Mr. Claytor Mr. Malone, Mrs. Moore, Mr. Roeder
	Nays:	None

Motion Carried

Moved by Mr. Claytor, and seconded by Ms. Carmella Williams, that Ordinance No. 23-36 be enacted as read.

Roll Call:	Ayes:	Ms. Anne Williams, Ms. Carmella Williams Mr. Earl Williams, Mr. Claytor Mr. Malone, Mrs. Moore, Mr. Roeder
	Nays:	None

Ordinance Enacted

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There being no further business before Council, the Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:17 p.m.

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DAVID E. WEISS, Mayor

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WILLIAM ONDREY GRUBER, Clerk of Council Pro Tem