

## **County Council Regular Meeting: February 25, 2014**

Observer: Kathy Woodbridge

*This report contains member observations and selected highlights of a meeting of the Cuyahoga County Council and is not an official statement by any League of Women Voters in the county. For the official disposition of all agenda items, consult the Cuyahoga County Council website at [council.cuyahogacounty.us](http://council.cuyahogacounty.us)*

### **I. Introduction**

The regular meeting of the County Council was called to order by President E. Ellen Connally at 5:04pm with all members present.

### **II. Antecedents, Announcements or Public Comment**

The meeting opened with a moment of silent meditation for the mother-in-law of Jack Schron honoring her 91 years of life and her recent death.

There was brief public comment: A citizen urged Council to appoint her father to the Arts and Culture Board of Trustees. Will Tarter asked Council to consider selling other buildings for \$1.00 to benefit the taxpayers of Cuyahoga County. He was congratulated on his new baby daughter.

There were no announcements, but County Executive Ed FitzGerald called Council's attention to the recent legislation passed in the Ohio Legislature prohibiting voting on the Sunday before Election Day. He has directed the county law director to research what action could be taken to protect the voting rights of Cuyahoga County citizens.

### **III. Business Transacted.**

\* Appointments were made to serve on the Cuyahoga Arts and Culture Board of Trustees. The appointment of Glenn Coyne to serve on the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency Board of Directors was returned to committee pending an opinion from the law department.

\* A Resolution was adopted expressing support for the Cleveland 2016 Host Committee, Inc.'s efforts to secure a National Presidential Convention in Cleveland in 2016, and authorizing the County Executive to negotiate and execute a \$2.5 million contract with that committee, Committee, Inc. to support such a bid, payment contingent upon Cleveland receiving the winning bid. President Connally reminded the audience that no money was being spent now. This is only authorization contingent upon Cleveland getting the bid.

\* Items referred to committee were: a c. \$40 million bond issue to refinance the A.M. McGregor Home Project; an agreement to lease a County Jail satellite facility for City of Euclid;

an award to Catholic Charities Corporation for sanction compliance programming, and support services for Ohio Works First families losing cash assistance.

\* Most interesting were three resolutions underscoring the high infant mortality rates in Cuyahoga County and the Invest in Children programs that address the problem: the MomsFirst Program, the Early Childhood Mental Health Program (for young children with mental health issues), and the Newborn Home Visiting Program. These programs provide service to high risk families. These contracts were adopted under suspension of the rules on second reading:

\* The infamous Shaker Heights 5-points intersection will be redesigned at a cost of c. \$\$8.4 million. The Cleveland Hearing and Speech Center Project will improve its facility at a cost not to exceed c. \$12 million. Finally, the Policies and Procedures for the Procurement Card Program were adopted -- all of these three on 3rd reading.