

## **HIGHLIGHTS FROM MINUTES: 12/08/2015 COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING**

This was the final regular County Council Meeting for 2015, and the League of Women Voters had no observer present. The agenda contained a number of health and human services authorizations, plus several year-end labor agreements, annual insurance contracts and board appointments.

Otherwise, the Council passed the 2016-2017 Biennial Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Program, as well as the parallel budget for the MetroHealth System.

Two ordinances were also passed: One stating that the Chair of the Debarment Review Board shall serve without per diem compensation (no explanation given), and one repealing healthcare benefits for domestic partners of County employees. Explanation: Now that same-sex couples may marry legally in the state of Ohio, Council members no longer see the need to extend healthcare benefits to unmarried partners.

Three big awards were also passed on third reading: \$4.3 million in Casino Revenue Funds will go to the VanAken Shopping Plaza Project in Shaker Heights, and two Economic Development Fund Loans totalling \$4.5 will go to JumpStart for the administration of seed and pre-seed capital programs to help grow new businesses in the County.

A Special Meeting was also called on December 29, for the sole purpose of making necessary final adjustments to the expiring 2014-2015 Biennial Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Program, to enable the County to close its books on its first 2-year budget.