

County Council Regular Meeting: June 28, 2016

Observer: Janice Patterson

This report contains member observations and selected highlights of a meeting of the Cuyahoga County Council and is not an official statement by the League of Women Voters of Greater Cleveland. For the official disposition of all agenda items, consult the Cuyahoga County Council website at council.cuyahogacounty.us

I. Introduction.

The meeting was called to order by Council President Dan Brady at 5:06 pm and was adjourned at 5:40 pm, with all members present except Jack Schron who was formally excused. County Executive Armond Budish was absent.

II. Antecedents, Announcements or Public Comment.

Rev. Pamela M. Pinkney-Butts asked for regular updates on the commitments made regarding employment opportunities at the new Hilton Cleveland Downtown Hotel and urged the Council to consider connecting technology training programs and internships to the Toshiba contract that provides countywide “green-friendly” digital and print services.

III. Business Transacted.

In a flurry of budget-related, year-end business, the Council suspended the rules to adopt 10 resolutions, adopted two ordinances on third reading, and referred six resolutions to committees.

- The rules were suspended to adopt three resolutions on first reading. The first canceled the August 23 regular meeting of the Council. The second amended the agreement governing the Joint Economic Development District of the Village of Walton Hills-Sagamore Hills (to increase the amount of land involved). The third resolution, routine budget amendments, was adopted in substitute form after the item concerning recalculation of casino revenue was removed to be considered further in committee on July 7.
- Two committee reports were considered and approved on second reading adoption under suspension of the rules. One confirmed Brandy R. Carney as Director of the Department of Public Safety and Justice Services. The other authorized the purchase of 150 Taser body cameras to be available in time for use by safety forces during the Republican National Convention in July. Ms. Carney took the oath of office administered by Law Director Robert J. Triozzi.
- Five resolutions were adopted through a seldom-used method that dispensed with committee review and moved the items to Council review and second reading adoption.

-- A three-year contract to CHMWarnick, LLC for asset management services for the Hilton Cleveland Downtown Hotel. (\$675,000)

-- A three-year contract extension with Toshiba Business Solutions for digital and print management services (\$3.9M)

--A one-year contract with Emerald Development and Economic Network for rental assistance for homeless individuals and families (\$10.658,269.)

--A one-year contract with Centers for Families and Children and Verge, Inc. to provide various job services for Ohio Works First cash assistance and food stamp recipients (\$697,455; \$717,424.50)

-- A one-year contract with Centers for Families and Children for operation of a job skills center for work-required public assistance recipients (\$525,000)

* Two ordinances were approved by third reading adoption. One amended the Cuyahoga County Code to include community development as a permissible use for Casino Revenue funds and established the County Community Development Supplemental Grant Fund Program. The other modified the appointment process and qualifications for the Chair and members of the Debarment Review Board and established that their service be without compensation.

- The following were among the resolutions read once and referred to committee:

--FY 2017 Tax Budget (includes Cuyahoga County Library Budget)

--\$250,000 for culvert work in North Olmsted

--\$1.2 million for road resurfacing projects in Berea and Garfield Heights

--\$1 million for the Heights/Hillcrest Communications Center, a public safety answering point --\$1.5 million for administration of a rental assistance program connected with the HEARTH Act Homelessness Assistance Grant Program.

IV. Notes.

The meeting concluded with 2 citizen comments unrelated to the agenda:

-- The Rev. Pinkney-Butts thanked the Council for the appointment of a woman to the Department of Public Safety & Justice Services directorship, announced her activities aimed at reducing violence, and suggested that planning for future events downtown, like the recent victory parade, ensure that buses remain available for people who need to get to their jobs.

-- A Bedford Heights citizen expressed concern about availability of block grant money for home improvements that would address code violations.