

County Council Regular Meeting: August 9, 2016

Observer: Audrey Morris

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

I. Introduction.

The regular County Council meeting was called to order at 5pm by Council President Dan Brady with all members present, except Pernell Jones, who arrived at 5:30pm. The meeting adjourned at 6:05pm.

II. Antecedents, Announcements and Public Comment.

Before this meeting, Council met as the Committee of the Whole, to discuss collective bargaining matters and a report regarding negotiations between Cuyahoga County and International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 18, for approximately nine employees in the Department of Public Works. Councilman Schron requested a moment of silent meditation on the loss of former Congressman Steve LaTourette, noting how he worked for people out of his district and was good for northeast Ohio.

Prior to the meeting, nine citizens affiliated with Clevelanders for Public Transit implored Council to work with them to form a county-wide stakeholders task force to deal with the \$18 million budget shortfall facing the RTA in 2017 and 2018 resulting from a loss in sales tax revenue from managed healthcare services through Medicaid. They said that this would lead to nearly 200 layoffs and a 10% cut in service, in addition to a loss in revenue for the County and the state. Many of the speakers stated that they already struggle to pay fares and that more increases and route cuts will make it hard for people to get to work and will decrease ridership across the system and impact the county's economy.

Joanne Gerhart, from Lakewood, spoke passionately about the way the Lakewood Hospital closing has been engineered and the resulting economic and healthcare losses to residents. She said the deal was drawn up for the benefit of the Cleveland Clinic alone and did not represent "world class care for Lakewood", but an abuse of power. She urged Council to do whatever it can to help a November 8 referendum designed to rescind the city's legislative action.

III. Business Transacted.

* Among items passed on first or second reading were the following:

- A \$356,000 provision for services and programs from the Veterans Services Fund;
- A Resolution adopting various changes to the Cuyahoga County Non-bargaining Classification Plan to accommodate the hiring of talent.

- A \$4 million resolution rescinding a prior resolution adopted 10/27/2015 authorizing a Casino Revenue Fund loan for the May Company Building Project at 158 Euclid Ave, Cleveland, because the project couldn't get the tax credits needed in order to go forward.
- A \$6 million contract with Engineered Arresting Systems Corporation dba Zodiac Arresting Systems America for purchase of Engineered Material Arresting System for the County Airport Runway Safety Improvements Project.
- Resolutions approving 2017 water, storm and sanitary sewer maintenance and/or sewerage treatment assessments.
- An Ordinance establishing the Cuyahoga County Public Works Shared Services Program

* Among a number of items introduced and referred to committee were the following:

- A \$25 million award to various providers for various services for the Enterprise Resource Planning System, Ciber Inc. for IT services, Infor Public Sector, Inc., for software licences, maintenance and support, MHC Software, Inc., and Emphasys Software for licenses and services.
- An \$2 million award to MetroHealth System for healthcare and management services for youth residing at the County Detention Center.
- A \$1 million award for Emerald Development and Economic Network, Inc. for the administration of the Rental Assistance Program.

* Items on 2nd reading and moved to the September 13 council meeting agenda:

- An Ordinance amending Chapter 709 of the Cuyahoga County Code to establish a competitive review process for the award of Casino Revenue Fund loans, and create the Casino Revenue Development Committee. Sunny Simon will be submitting an amendment on how the committee should be made up.
- An Ordinance amending Cuyahoga County Code to provide for the creation and adoption of a County Health and Human Services Plan.
- A Resolution approving Right-of-Way plans for replacement of Columbus Road Bridge over Bear Creek in the City of Bedford.

IV. Notes:

The meeting originally scheduled for Aug. 23 has been cancelled.