

County Council Regular Meeting: October 11, 2016

Observer: Lynda Mayer

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.

Due to the beginning of the Yom Kippur holiday, today's Council meeting started at 3pm instead of the usual 5pm, with Councilman Dan Brady presiding and all other Council members present.

II. Antecedents, Announcements and Public Comment.

Council had earlier met as the Committee of the Whole to discuss several labor agreements and a \$68 million agreement with the City of Cleveland for electric power services to County-owned buildings. County Executive Armond Budish then told Council they had better prepare themselves for another sports victory parade this Fall, this time for the Cleveland Indians, who had already swept through the first round of American League playoffs. He also made a plug for last minute voter registration and early voting, which officially begins tomorrow. There were 4 public comments: one claiming that county services need training to improve the way they deal with services for deaf people, one departing employee who said he enjoyed working with the County, and one by the perennial Rev. Pinckney-Butts whose small children were so rambunctious that it was impossible to discern her words. The fourth was by the representative of a company which lost out on the bidding for a large communications contract for the County Jail. He explained how his company's proposal had been much more economical but that they would not challenge the County's decision.

III. Business Transacted.

- * Among numerous resolutions adopted after 2nd or 3rd Reading were the following:
 - Four supported applications for funding under the Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Program: Shelter Hills Ravine in Hunting Valley, the Upland Preserve in Brecksville, the main stem of West Creek in Parma and Irishtown Bend along the Cuyahoga River in Cleveland.
 - \$2 million for the rehabilitation of the Cedar Road Bridge over the Doan Brook in Cleveland.
 - \$1 million in additional funds for design engineering services for the Towpath Trail, Stage 4, from Tremont Trailhead to Canal Basin Park in the Flats. Councilman Miller said that the requisite information needed in order to complete this project had finally been obtained.
 - \$50 million for the sale of tax lien certificates. Council members Hairston and Simon reported Council's unanimous agreement after a very well attended committee hearing.
 - \$1.2 million in additional funds for transitional housing services for homeless persons, also extending the time period of the current contract for one additional year.
 - \$23.8 million in awards to various providers of I.T. services and software support for the Enterprise Resource Planning System.

-- A \$2 million Economic Development Fund loan for a project located at E. 105th Street and Cedar Avenue in Cleveland. Mr. Hairston said this project will maintain 80 existing jobs plus create an additional 60 jobs.

* An ordinance which would amend and update the County's Civil Service Code was read for the second time but sent back to committee again, due to several additional questions raised and amendments proposed.

* Among resolutions introduced and referred to committee were the following:

-- Right of First Refusal agreement with the MetroParks for County-owned property on the Flats East & West Banks (adjacent to the intersection of Main Ave. and Center St. under the Cleveland Memorial Shoreway).

-- \$1.1 million in additional funds for the lease of office space in the Marion Building on West 3rd Street, in order to extend the time period of the lease for one more year.

IV. Notes.

Members of the Budish administration met with this observer to discuss timing and fact-checking interviews with staff members in conjunction with the Here's Cuyahoga County updating project.