

## **County Council Regular Meeting: September 27, 2016**

Observer: Patricia Solomon

*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 County Council meeting was called to order at 5pm by Council Vice-President Pernell Jones. Council President Brady and Councilman Schron were absent, as was County Executive Budish. The meeting adjourned at 6:55pm.

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

Public comment centered around three subjects. 1) The LEEDCO Offshore Wind Farm proposed for Lake Erie: Six people spoke in favor, including representatives from a metal fabricating company, the Cleveland Electrical Union, the Sierra Club, Key Bank, and an electrical design & engineering company. One Cleveland resident spoke against the project. 2) Inmate communication and financial management services in agenda Resolution R2016-0167: An attorney for Porter Wright spoke against the proposed vendor. 3) The Lakewood Hospital issue: Three people urged support for Issue 64 which seeks to reverse legislation passed by Lakewood City Council.

Council then discussed two collective bargaining agreements in Executive Session.

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

\* The two collective bargaining agreements discussed were then approved on first reading -- one with the Laborers' International Union of North America representing 12 employees at the Department of Health and Human Services, and the other with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees representing 70 Assistant Public Defenders.

\*Among resolutions adopted on Second Reading were the following:

- Appointment of two new members of the County Audit Committee: David Goodman and Yvette Ittu. The positions were open because a charter amendment in November, 2015 increased the committee from 3 to 5 members.
- Accepting tax rates as determined by the Budget Commission and authorizing necessary tax levies. This is a routine budgeting process to meet State requirements. No specific levies were mentioned.
- A \$2 million loan from the Economic Development Fund to Growth Opportunity Partners for the Accelerated Growth Program, designed to identify, support and further small business goals.
- Awarding \$8 million to Americab Transportation for Medicaid non-emergency transportation services to and from medical appointments.

-- A \$1 million amendment to a contract with Catholic Charities for various services for Ohio Works First and Disability Financial Assistance recipients with barriers to employment, also extending the time period.

-- A total of \$4.6 million for various programs and services for youth in connection with the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. Providers receiving awards were Cuyahoga Community College District, Linking Employment Abilities and Potential, Mayfield City School District, OhioGuidestone, Towards Employment, and Youth Opportunities Unlimited.

-- A total of \$5.1 million to various other providers for various services in connection with the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. Providers receiving awards were Cengage Learning, Mature Services, Towards Employment, and the United Labor Agency.

-- A \$12 million revenue generating award to Securus Technologies for inmate communication and financial management systems. Councilman Miller opened discussion based on the protest in Public Comments, which demanded release of public records. Law Director Triozzi said the provider's proposal showed no irregularities and was in compliance with law, and that the contract does not become a public record until it is voted on, at which time it can be released.

\*Two resolutions on Second Reading were moved along for final action to the October 11 meeting agenda:

-- \$23.8 million for various IT related services for the Enterprise Resource Planning System.

-- A \$2 million Economic Development Fund loan for a project located at East105th Street and Cedar Avenue in Cleveland.

\* An ordinance was introduced amending a section of the Cuyahoga County Code to update the Civil Service Code. It was referred to committee.

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

-- Applications for funding under the Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Program for projects in Hunting Valley (Shelter Hill Ravines), Brecksville (Brecksville Upland Preserve), Parma (West Creek), and Cleveland (Irishtown Bend and Doan Brook).

-- A \$2 million award for rehabilitation of Cedar Road Bridge #229 over Doan Brook.

-- A \$1 million amendment to the contract for design engineering services for the Towpath Trail from Tremont/Literary Trailhead to Canal Basin Park to change the name of the provider and change the scope of services and terms.

-- A \$50,000,000 contract with Tax Ease Ohio LLC as purchaser and servicer for the sale of tax lien certificates.

-- A \$1.2 million amendment to a contract with Mental Health Services for Homeless Persons for transitional housing program services, extending the time period.