

County Council Regular Meeting: March 28, 2017

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 by Council President Dan Brady at 5:00 p.m. with all County Council members present. It ended at 6:50 p.m.

With a resolution regarding the Q (Quicken Loans Arena) being considered for third reading adoption, Council chambers were full and there was an overflow crowd outside the chambers as well as outside the building.

II. Antecedents, Announcements & Public Comment.

In the public comments that preceded the agenda, Greater Cleveland Congregations (a non-partisan coalition representing 100,000 people from 43 congregations and partner organizations) recommended Council that any deal that the county and city arrive at should include a separate, dollar-for-dollar match of all public investment into a Community Equity fund. The Cuyahoga County Progressive Caucus said that while they do support the Cavaliers, they believed this was another corporate handout, that the city had bigger problems to tackle and that the money should go to the neighborhoods in Cleveland. Proponents of the measure commented too, stating that the Q would help their businesses succeed.

Public comments at the end of the meeting were given by two people who talked about services at the Women's Homeless Shelter. Ms. Lu said while Cleveland will have a prettier Q, people downtown would have to struggle with more homeless people down the street. She gave a visual presentation to Council that demonstrated the wastefulness of the food service provider at the shelter. She wanted Council to stop rewarding the service provider with contracts when it wastes taxpayer money. Council president Dan Brady noted Ms. Lu's diligence in documenting episodes of waste and injustice at the shelter and encouraged her to apply for the now-vacant executive director position at the Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless. Brady offered to write her a recommendation.

III. Business Transacted

* Among the resolutions passed this evening were the following:

-- County Council voted 8-3 to authorize the issuance and sale of one or more series of County revenue bonds, to net \$140M for the purpose of paying or reimbursing the costs of reconstructing, refurbishing, renovating, upgrading, improving and equipping Quicken Loans Arena. Council members voting against the resolution were Nan Baker, Yvonne Conwell and Jack Schron. Council members voting for it were Dan Brady, Shontel Brown, Michael Gallagher, Pernel Jones, Anthony Hairston, Dale Miller Sunny Simon and Scott Tuma.

[The plan calls for the county-issued to be repaid by available funds from existing local admissions and hotel taxes and from increased rent payments from the Cavaliers. Interest on two \$70M bond issues would bring the cost over 17 years to more than \$250M split roughly

between the Cavaliers (\$122M), the city of Cleveland (\$88M), the county (\$140M) and Destination Cleveland (\$44M).]

--Awards to various municipalities, each in the amount not-to-exceed \$150,000 for various municipal grant projects for the 2017 Community Development Block Grant Municipal Grant Program for the period 4/1/2017 - 12/31/2017. Some of the projects awarded: City of North Olmsted for sidewalk repair, South Euclid for road reconstruction, Parma Heights for road resurfacing, Mayfield Heights for safety/ADA and Fairview Park for sidewalk repair.

-- Awards to various municipalities and non-profit organizations, in the total amount of \$998,966, for various projects in connection with the 2017 Community Development Supplemental Grant Program for the period 4/1/2017 - 12/31/2017. Projects include: Lakewood Alive Development Corporation, \$50,000 for a streetscaping project; St. Clair-Superior Development Corporation, \$50,000 for the bus stop safety program; Tremont West Development Corporation, \$50,000 for the Lincoln Park gazebo project; Village of Mayfield, of \$50,000 for the band shell construction project; City of Parma Heights, \$50,000 for the Cultural Center rehabilitation project; City of Rocky River, \$49,950 for the safety project; Fairfax Renaissance Development Corporation, \$50,000 for the vacant lot repurpose project; Village of Chagrin Falls, \$40,000 for the safety project; City of Bay Village, \$50,000 for the generator project; City of Euclid, \$50,000 for the tree/flower planting project; City of Fairview Park, \$50,000 for the pavilion construction project; One South Euclid, \$20,000 for the homeowner exterior maintenance program; Campus District, Inc., \$4,450 for the purchase of a camera.

-- Agreements and contracts with various providers for neighborhood collaborative services for the Family to Family Neighborhood System of Care Program for the period 4/1/2014 - 3/31/2017 to extend the time period to 3/31/2018 and for additional funds. The agreements are with: City of Lakewood, \$320,464; Parma City School District, \$320,464; and Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority, \$320,464.00.

*Resolutions for Second Reading Adoption under Suspension of the Rules:

-- An amendment to a contract with Turner/Ozanne Joint Venture for design-builder services for the Huntington Park Garage Rehabilitation Project for the period 12/7/2015 - 12/31/2017 to change the scope of services and the terms, effective 3/28/2017, to extend the time period to 3/3/2018 and to establish a guaranteed maximum price in the amount not-to-exceed \$25,211,693. Councilwoman Shontel Brown abstained from voting on this.

-- Title IV-D Cooperative Agreements with various providers, in the total amount of \$11,696,886.76, for child support services for the period 1/1/2017 - 12/31/2017. Agreements are with: Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas/Division of Domestic Relations, \$4,057,624.95; Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas/Division of Juvenile Court, \$3,770,477.25, and Cuyahoga County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, \$3,868,784.56.

--An amendment to the contract with Starting Point for the Out-of-School Time Program for the period 10/1/2016 - 1/31/2017 to extend the time period to 12/31/2017 and for additional funds in the amount of \$1.4M.

***Resolutions for Second Reading:**

- Authorizing the County Executive to endorse the Memorandum of Understanding among County of Cuyahoga, Cuyahoga County Board of Elections and Ohio Department of Administrative Services regarding the use of funding for the purchase of electronic poll books and other necessary equipment.
- Appointment of F. Allen Boseman to serve on the Cuyahoga County Personnel Review Commission for the term 3/8/2017 - 3/7/2023.
- Adoption of amended Cuyahoga County Personnel Review Commission Administrative Rules.

***Resolutions for First Reading and Referral to Committee**

- Amending the contract with American Bridge Company for rehabilitation of Columbus Road Lift Bridge over the Cuyahoga River in the City of Cleveland for additional funds in the amount not-to-exceed \$1,307,594.86.
- Authorizing an agreement with Cuyahoga County Prosecutor’s Office for \$2,348,203 for legal services for the period 1/1/2017 - 12/31/2017.
- Authorizing a revenue-generating agreement with Cuyahoga County Land Reutilization Corporation in the amount of \$6M for tax foreclosure services in connection with the Neighborhood Initiative Program for the period 1/1/2017 - 12/31/2020.

IV. Notes

The Council Committee of the Whole met in the afternoon prior to the regular Council meeting to discuss a proposed resolution that would authorize the County Executive to seek letters of credit from a bank or banks to create an \$82 million debt reserve fund in support of The MetroHealth System’s Campus Transformation Project. The County, which negotiated the deal with MetroHealth for over a year, will spend several hundred thousand dollars a year in interest on the loan, saving MetroHealth approximately \$160 million over the course of the 40-year debt (\$1.3 billion). Council was told of MetroHealth’s commitment to diversity in hiring and contracts and that they expect 80% of the workforce and procured goods and services for the project to be from the county. Council President, Dan Brady noted that this is a “bigger deal” than the Q (Quicken Loans Arena) for the time involved, the money and what it means to the community. County fiscal officer Dennis Kennedy did not attend the meeting.