

County Council Regular Meeting: June 13, 2017

Observer: Lesley Hahn

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 meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m. and ended at 3:35 p.m. All Council members were present.

II. Antecedents, Announcements and Public Comment.

A Committee of the Whole meeting was held an hour before the regular meeting, in order to deal with several collective bargaining agreements.

III. Business Transacted

* A resolution to amend the Biennial Operating Budget was approved after first reading. Some costs of high-ticket items such as improvements to the County building and solar panels were actually reduced. The solar panels will be required to be locally produced, not made in foreign countries. No other details were given.

*Two items were approved following abbreviated hearings and suspension of the rules:

-- The Personnel Review Commission's amended Administrative Rules, to be codified in the County Administrative Code.

-- An ordinance adopting merit principles to the Personnel Review Commission's rules.

* Two collective bargaining agreements covering 183 employees were approved and the report of a fact-finder regarding a collective bargaining agreement covering 586 probation officers was accepted.

* Amendments to contracts with various providers for the Cuyahoga County Fatherhood Initiative totaling \$395,000 were approved upon third reading, as was the implementation of a job skills center for work-required public assistance recipients.

* A resolution confirming the County Executive's appointment of nine individuals to serve on the County Charter Review Commission was referred to Councilman Jones' Council Operations Committee, with a hearing scheduled for July 6^h at 3:00 p.m. The nine persons selected by County Executive Budish are: Ronald Adrine, Marc Byrnes Susan Drucker, Dennis Kennedy, Michael King, Thomas Periak Caire Rosacco, Victor Ruiz and Davida Russel.

* Among other resolutions introduced and referred to committees were the following:

-- A \$9 million agreement for the purchase and sale of the Police Headquarters at 1300 Ontario Street to the City of Cleveland was referred to the Public Safety Committee.

-- An \$11 million award for improvement of the Cuyahoga County Airport was referred to the Public Works Committee.

-- Adoption of the 2017 Economic Development Plan (as required by the County Charter) was referred to the Economic Development Committee.

-- A \$2.2 million increase of a 2016-2018 contract for collection services was referred to Finance Committee.

-- Agreement with the City of Cleveland regarding prisoner board and care.

-- Agreement with the City of Bedford for lease of the Bedford Heights jail (and improvements thereto) was referred to the Public Safety Committee, along with the following two items:

-- \$1.9 million for legal services for indigent persons.

-- \$3 million to various providers for residential treatment services.

IV. Notes.

(Ed. note:) The League of Women Voters of Greater Cleveland was asked to submit names of members who would like to serve on the next Charter Review Commission. LWV responded with the names of four qualified and willing members, none of whom was appointed. No explanation was given.