

## **County Council Regular Meeting: July 11, 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](http://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 5:55 p.m. There was a Committee of the Whole meeting which met at 3:30 p.m. to discuss two labor contracts and whether or not to accept or reject a fact-finding report regarding negotiations between the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas/Juvenile Division for collective bargaining agreements with union employees.

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

County Council Executive, Armond Budish, said that the State Budget that was recently passed is very bad for Cuyahoga County. Most importantly, the county will lose \$30 million a year in sales tax revenue due to the elimination of the Medicaid Managed Care Sales Tax. He also said RTA will lose \$20 million and that the Dolan amendment to the state budget, which would have helped, is still up in the air. He also cited cuts to public defender reimbursements and local government funds.

Cuyahoga County is facing a pair of lawsuits regarding payment of employees, with employees seeking back pay for wages they say the county did not pay them. Additionally, there was extensive public comment (8 individuals, many employed by the county since the 1990's) imploring County Council to give them the compensation they were awarded in **Warren Dolezal vs. Cuyahoga County** ([click here](#) for background). The employees were seeking compensation from damages that arose from the reclassification of county employees stemming from the transition from the County Commissioner form of government to the Council-Executive form. Warren Dolezal addressed the Council, stating his belief that morale has been damaged and that justice is being denied. He said that the courts have already ruled in the employees' favor. ,

There was public comment about the county's lack of comprehensive public health policy regarding black mold and how to remedy it. And Warrensville Heights Councilman Matt Howard addressed Council to seek assistance for a recurrent road collapse and what could be done to prevent this from occurring again.

### **III. Business Transacted**

\* Among the resolutions passed after 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, or 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading were the following:

-- amendments to the 2016-2017 Biennial Operating Budget.

-- Two collective bargaining approvals.

-- A proposed substitute (discussed in the executive committee session) to the fact-finding report of Harry Graham regarding negotiations between Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas/Juvenile Division for bargaining agreements with 220 union members.

-- A \$2.2 million contract with Douglass & Associates Co. LPA, for legal advice and representation to assist with property tax collections. Councilmember Miller disclosed that Douglass & Associates had made contributions to his political campaign, although not in the past year.

-- Adoption of the Annual Tax Budget and Cuyahoga County Library Budget for 2018. Ohio statute requires passage of this by July 15.

--A \$1.5 million Economic Development loan to Darko Project in Bedford Heights. Mr. Schron commented that 60 new jobs would be coming into the county, and that it is a loan not a grant.

-- A \$900,000.00 revenue-generating agreement with the City of Cleveland for Crime Lab testing services.

-- A \$11.6 million contract for Cuyahoga County Airport Runway improvements.

-- A \$2 million Economic Development loan to Charter Manufacturing Steel Project in Cuyahoga Heights. Mr. Schron noted that the company was putting millions into this project and the county was supporting them. They are working on accelerated steel products with applications for aerospace. It also supports job retention.

\* Among resolutions referred to committee were the following:

-- Appointment of Chris Ronayne and Jan L. Roller to serve on the Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority Board of Directors, as well as other individuals to serve on the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Services Board, and another group to serve on the Community Improvement Corporation Board.

--A \$2.4 million award for the Cuyahoga County Historical Courthouse roof replacement and stone repair project to Terik Roofing.

--A \$1.7 million award for body transportation services to Esposito Mortuary Services, Inc.

#### **IV. Notes.**

**The next County Council meeting is on July 25, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. Note the time change.**