

## **County Council Regular Meeting: Aug. 8, 2017**

Observer: Marcia Goldberg

*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.**

Council President Dan Brady called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m. (the meeting time was changed because of the Indians game). All Council members except Mr. Tuma were present. The meeting ended at 3:40 p.m., when Mr. Brady announced that no other county meetings would be taking place until after Labor Day.

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

County Executive Armond Budish made a short comment praising local members of the military. There was no public contact on any agenda items, although several others spoke at the meeting's end. Ms. Liu, who has previously complained about the women's homeless shelter, again brought up the shelter's problems. Chris Knestrick, the new director of the Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless then introduced himself to Council members.

### **III. Business Transacted**

Several resolutions were adopted unanimously on first or second reading under suspension of the rules, or on third reading:

- Approval of the routine fiscal amendment of the 2017 biennial operating budget. Mr. Miller pointed out two items: the transfer of \$2 million from the Western Reserve/Job Creation fund to the Charter Steel project (the new steel mill in Cuyahoga Heights that will create about 25 jobs), and the transfer of \$1.8 million from the \$5.8 million in the Juvenile Court maintenance fund to the court's general fund to pay for a court classification and compensation study. Funds for this originate in the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services.
- Approval of a "reimbursable agreement" with the Federal Aviation Administration in the amount of \$950,000 for preliminary engineering for relocation of FAA-owned facilities at the Cuyahoga County Airport to improve runway safety. Federal and state reimbursements may cover 90-95 percent of the cost.
- The setting of 2018 water, storm sewer, and sanitary sewer maintenance and sewerage treatment rates and assessments for the communities that contract with the county to handle these services. Rates are increased only for Maple Heights and Woodmere, while reallocations affect a few other communities.
- The adoption of the 2017 five-year Economic Development Plan, with an amendment requiring a "measuring stick for accountability" added by Mr. Miller.
- Confirmation of the County Executive's appointment of Diane M. Downing to the Charter Review Commission.
- Confirmation of the County Executive's appointment of Robert P. Madison to the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument Commission board, the appointment of Kenneth Miller

and reappointment of Gwendolyn Garth to the Cuyahoga Arts and Culture Board of Trustees, and the appointment of Nick Nardi to the RTA board.

- Authorization of a sale agreement with the Bricklayer Union for property at 4205 Chester Ave. The lot will provide 85 parking spaces for county employees who work at nearby county offices.
- Authorization of a \$2 million Economic Development Fund place-based loan to 515 Euclid Ave. LLC for the Beacon Project, a downtown high-rise apartment building.
- Authorization of agreements with eight political subdivisions for participation in the Cuyahoga County Benefits Regionalization Program; the communities involved include Highland Heights, Highland Hills, Mayfield Village, and Walton Hills.
- Confirmation of the reappointment of Chris Ronayne and Jan L. Roller to the Port Authority board and of the appointment and reappointment of several people to the County Community Improvement board.
- Authorization of a \$555,000 contract with Court Community Service for the Community Works Service Placement and Supervision Program for Jan. 1, 2018, to Dec. 31, 2020. This contract generates funds for the county thanks to the highway cleanup work done via the program.

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

The next regular Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 12, at 3 p.m. (note another early start).