

County Council Regular Meeting: September 12, 2017

Observer: Janice Patterson

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.

Council President Dan Brady called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m. (the meeting time was changed because of the evening Indians game). A quorum was present, although three Council members (Jack Schron, Yvonne Conwell, and Anthony Hairston) had their absences excused. The meeting ended at 3:30 p.m.

II. Antecedents, Announcements and Public Comment.

County Executive Armond Budish expressed pleasure that the Quicken Arena deal was “back on track”. He announced that the county has exceeded its goal to double the number of children in high-quality preK education. With the assistance of leveraged funds, there are 4600 students enrolled this fall. There was no public comment on agenda items. Two citizens spoke at the meeting’s end, one urging greater transparency from County officials regarding status of grants affecting homeless shelters and the other asking for county attention to the rights of his elderly father and himself.

III. Business Transacted

* Two resolutions and two ordinances were adopted on first or second reading, authorizing the appointment of Ashley R. Johnson as Assistant Deputy Clerk of Council, routine amendments to the 2017 biennial operating budget, a contract change to add two additional bridges to a repair project in Independence and Valley View, and a three-year state contract with Dell Marketing LP that will combine many licensing and support services contracts into one.

* Fifteen resolutions were introduced for first reading and assigned to committee, including these:

- \$3.2 million for the 2017 Sewer Repair Program
- \$2.5 million Economic Development loan for the Phoenix Building Project at E. 61st & Euclid.
- c. \$4 million in workforce-related contract amendments, principally to the United Labor Agency for the operation of its on-the-job training program
- \$1.2 million to extend agreement with Cleveland for cellular 911 answering services
- \$1.5 million to expand a contract with Case Western Reserve University for fiscal agent services
- \$9.6 million to 36 providers for the expansion of the Universal Pre-Kindergarten Program.

* Two ordinances were also introduced: one authorizing the levy of a County Motor Vehicle License Tax, and one modification the county’s contractor requirements.

* A resolution that would have amended a revenue-generating lease agreement regarding Lakeside Avenue property was withdrawn from consideration at this meeting at the request of the County Executive and the Department of Public Works.

IV. Notes.

The next regular Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 26, again at 3 p.m. This session will be preceded by a 1 PM Committee of the Whole meeting where the administration will introduce a plan for a balanced budget for 2018. This should reveal much about county government's policy priorities for the near future.