

County Council Regular Meeting: November 14, 2017

Observer: Mary Graf

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 5:00 pm by Councilman Brady and ended at 5:50pm.

II. Antecedents, Announcements and Public Comment.

There were four public comments from frequent contributors, mostly unrelated to agenda items. Topics included nursing home, child custody and homeless issues.

III. Business Transacted.

* Authority was granted to levy a \$5 increase to motor vehicle license fees for county cars. Councilmen Schron and Gallagher voted no on this. The funds raised are to be used for repairs to roads, bridges and other infrastructure in need of attention.

* Other resolutions adopted after 1st, 2nd, or 3rd reading include the following:

-- A revenue generating Utility Agreement with Broadview Hts.

-- Refunding (reissuing at a more favorable interest rate) of bonds to complete the University School refinancing project.

-- Refunding \$55 million in bonds for the Eliza Jennings Senior Care Network Project.

-- Authorizing a cooperative agreement with the Port Authority to share interest rate subsidy on \$2.7 million in energy conservation bonds for the Harbor Verandas Project.

-- Awards to various independent contractors for real estate appraisal services

* Three resolutions were introduced confirming or appointing various individuals to Soldiers & Sailors' Monument Commission, the County Archives Advisory Commission and MetroHealth System Board of Trustees.

* A \$870,338 contract with Selex was proposed, for a Fixed Automated License Plate Recognition project. This item received some extensive next-day news coverage and may attract some of the same opposition that the previous speed cameras attracted several years ago. It was referred to committee for examination and discussion.

* Several amendments increasing large totals for annual employee health benefit costs to Medical Mutual, Matrix Claims Management and CaremarksPCS Health were introduced and sent to committee. Many local subdivisions also piggyback on the county's Benefits Regionalization Plan.

* Many other funding resolutions were also introduced and referred to committee, apparently in a year-end flurry of activity. Among them were the following:

-- \$2.5 million to purchase property at 7001 Euclid Ave.

- \$3.8 million for a purchase agreement with RTA for Harvard Garage.
- \$4.9 million for the resurfacing of Pleasant Valley Rd. in Parma.
- \$1.5 million for replacement of the Stone Road Bridge in Independence.
- \$4.5 million to various providers for IT hardware, software and other items.
- \$3.3 million altogether for amendments to agreements and contracts for various providers to services to youth.
- \$2.8 million to Starting Point for various services for youths and Universal Pre-Kindergarten.
- \$1.3 million to Maximus Human Services Inc. for WEP services.
- \$1 million to United Way of Greater Cleveland for services re. emergency food purchases.
- \$1.1 million to Catholic Charities for various services.
- \$1.1 million for Centers for Families and Children for job related services.

IV. Notes.

The additional \$5 per motor vehicle licensing fee and the license plate recognition project both got considerable coverage in the front section of the Nov. 15th Plain Dealer.