

## **County Council Regular Meeting: January 9, 2018**

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.**

President Dan Brady called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. All Council members were present. The meeting ended shortly after 5:30 p.m. Councilmember Nan Baker abstained from approving the minutes of the Dec. 28, 2017 Special Meeting.

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

County Executive Armond Budish spoke of the need to ask voters for a 4-year renewal of a Health and Human Services levy and that it be placed on the May 8 ballot. He suggested a four-year renewal and not an increase, despite the growing need for funds by agencies funded by the levy to fight the opioid crisis. The 3.9-mill tax was last approved by voters in November 2013 for five years. The county is "facing our challenges and tackling them head on," he told council. "The people of Cuyahoga County have demonstrated their compassion and generosity by supporting the levy for years, assuring that anyone in any municipality, within any zip code, of any race, religion or gender, has access to the services that strengthen our residents and prepare people to support themselves and their families." The resolution was walked on to the agenda and referred to the Health and Human Services Committee.

Public Comment: Fran Mensh of the Sierra Club spoke about an OH Senate Bill 210, legislation prohibiting plastic bag legislation. No one on Council knew about it and this observer looked it up and couldn't find anything either. Kathy Schafer spoke of concern about the pending sale of General Electric's Nela Park Campus in East Cleveland. Ms. Lu was appalled by the lobbyists at Ms. Simon's committee hearing and how they were against the environment. She also suggested that not addressing transportation needs would lead to increased homelessness.

### **III. Business Transacted.**

\* Council will continue to monitor transportation issues. This comes a month after the release of an advisory-committee study concluded a sales tax or property tax might be required to keep Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority financially solvent. The Regional Transportation Advisory Committee, formed by Council President Dan Brady in 2016, released its study findings in December. [The final report](#) was released on Jan. 10.

The following resolutions were first read and referred to committee:

- \* The above-mentioned 3.9-mill Health and Human Services Levy proposal.
- \* An award to Project Management Consultants LLC for \$800,000 for owner's representative services in connection with the Justice Center Complex project.

\* A \$2 million fund/loan to Cleveland Euclid Hotel Associates LLC for the Cleveland Athletic Club Reuse Project.

\* An award of \$2.4 million to Rainbow and Babies Children's Hospital for healthcare services at the Juvenile Court Detention Center.

\* \$1,200,000.00 for reimbursement of Medicaid Home and Community-Based services.

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

Prior to the meeting, Ms. Simon updated this observer about the plastic bag ordinance which League supports. It is still in committee where many questions are still being asked, which Ms. Simon regarded as a good process, as some council members want more information. Additionally, the replacement of Anthony Hairston (District 10) is to take place on Thursday, January 11, 2018, and that was a factor too.

Please note that the next scheduled council meeting is on Tuesday, January 23. The Committee of the Whole meeting is TBD, the regular Council meeting is at 5:00 p.m