

County Council Regular Meeting: March 13, 2018

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

I. Introduction

President Dan Brady called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m. All Council members were present. The meeting ended shortly after 5:30 p.m.

II. Announcements

County Executive Armond Budish spoke about his recent visit to Case Western Reserve University to learn about Microsoft HoloLens technology. The hologram software is used with goggles and could transform learning in many fields. He offered to arrange visits for Council members.

III. Public Comments on Agenda Items

Chris Knestrick, director of the Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless, thanked Council for its decision to hand over control of the county's Norma Herr Women's Shelter on Payne Avenue to the YWCA (see below). Ms. Lu, who often comes to Council meetings to complain about the shelter, said she worries that some of the best employees with Frontline (the current operator, whose contract ends April 30) may lose their jobs and that Council's funding level of just under \$2 million for the rest of the year may not be sufficient.

IV. Business Transacted

Resolutions adopted unanimously on 3rd reading or on 1st or 2nd reading under suspension of rules:

- Amending the 2018-19 operating budget to appropriate \$4.5 million to pay legal settlements (\$1.5 million each) to three East Cleveland men who spent 20 years in prison for 1996 murder convictions that were overturned in 2015. The settlement resolves claims of wrongdoing against two former county prosecutors. The three men are still pursuing claims against the State of Ohio and the City of East Cleveland.
- The resurfacing of various roads in the county, including Broadway Avenue from Macedonia Road to I-271, East 55th from Harvard Avenue to Newburgh Heights, and Fairhill Road from Coventry Road to Shaker Heights. Costs are split between the county and each city; the county's cost for these projects is \$11.7 million.
- Authorizing an application for an Ohio Department of Transportation/State Infrastructure loan of \$10.4 million for the Royalton Road widening project
- Awarding Whiting-Turner Contracting Co. a \$4.25 million contract for design-build services for the county's Maintenance Yard Consolidation Project at the existing RTA Harvard Avenue facility in Newburgh Heights

- Authorizing a \$2.5 million contract with Alcohol Monitoring Systems, Inc., for GPS and alcohol monitoring and related equipment (e.g., ankle bracelets) and services for the period March 1, 2018, to Dec. 31, 2020.
- Awarding a total of \$1.7 million to three providers of the Shelter Care Spectrum of Services Program for the period March 1, 2018, to Feb. 29, 2020. The providers—Beech Brook, Carrington Youth Academy, and the Cleveland Christian Home—offer alternatives to detention for youth offenders.
- Awarding a contract for \$2.1 million to W.B. Mason Co. for general office supplies and related services from the period from April 1, 2018, to March 31, 2021.
- Awarding a total of \$1 million to various municipalities and nonprofit organizations for various projects connected with the 2018 Community Development Supplemental Grant Program for the period March 1, 2018, to Feb. 29, 2019. Most of the 21 individual grants are for \$50,000; none were for more than that. Some are for home repair grant programs and some for community projects.

Several items were referred to committees. Of note:

- An award of \$1.9 million to the YWCA of Greater Cleveland for operation and case management of the Norma Herr Women’s Shelter on Payne Avenue for the period May 1, 2018, to Dec. 31, 2018
- Adoption of changes to the county’s non-bargaining classification plan and updates to the county’s Civil Service Code. The county’s Human Resources Department and its Personnel Review Commission recently agreed to iron out differences.
- Authorizing an agreement in the amount of \$533,000 for the county’s annual audit by the state auditor. The audit is required by state law.
- An award of \$1.8 million for road improvements around the new Amazon fulfillment center under construction in North Randall.
- The award of \$1.3 million to W.B. Mason Co. for furnishing reprographic paper to the county
- A contract with Integrated Precision Systems, Inc., in the amount of \$2.7 million for maintenance of the Enterprise Network Security System for the period Jan. 1, 2018, to Dec. 31, 2022