

County Council Regular Meeting: April 10, 2018

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.

The County Council meeting was called to order at 5pm with all members present and concluded at 5:40 pm.

II. Antecedents, Announcements and Public Comment.

County Executive Armond Budish announced that another jail in the regionalization project, in Bedford Heights, has opened. This will allow the expansion of the re-entry program, for men there and permit the operation of a re-entry program for women at the Euclid jail.

As was the case at the March 27 Council meeting, the public comment section at the end of the agenda drew expressions of concern from five persons with suggestions for improvements in the County's handling of child abuse reports and investigations. Rev. Roz McAllister cited the low grades Cuyahoga County had received in a state-mandated Child Protection Oversight Evaluation report and recommended that the Council itself, not a blue-ribbon panel, review the work of the Juvenile Court and Children and Family Services. Sierra and DeVina Giles called for immediate response, including a full physical examination, when child abuse is reported. Donna Walker-Brown asked for additions to the review panel that would include parents. Rhonda Wills asked for the Council to make a greater effort to make the community a safer place for children. (The death of 4-year-old Aniya Day-Garrett on March 11, 2018, was the event that precipitated the attendance of concerned citizens and their commentary. The girl's mother and boyfriend have been charged with her murder.)

III. Business transacted.

* Among 10 items approved at the meeting were the following:

-- Revision of the Rules of Council to combine the two public comment sessions of Council meetings into one place on the agenda, at the beginning of the meeting. Other provisions include rules governing the conduct of persons who address the council.

-- c. \$4.7 million to nine providers for services supporting at-risk children and families.

-- A c. \$900,000 revenue-generating agreement for private construction of a hangar and other improvements at the Cuyahoga County Airport

-- Rescission of resolution regarding a Coventry Road resurfacing project in Cleveland Heights and Shaker Heights, due to insufficient funding match

-- c. \$3.6 million to 17 providers for residential treatment services

--The appointment of Scott Osiecki, chief executive officer of the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board of Cuyahoga County, to the County's Community-Based Correctional Facility Governing Board.

-- Amendments updating the Civil Service Code. The changes were mainly in the sections regarding interrelationships of the Personnel Review Commission, the Director of Human Resources and the authority who appointed the employee in question. Other changes revised the military service credit process of scoring job candidates. A "request of consideration" process is also included, for dealing with rejected job applicants.

-- Funds to cover the annual audit for calendar year 2017.

-- \$.9 million to the YWCA of Greater Cleveland for operations at the Norma Herr Women's Shelter.

* Among four items on second reading and slated for approval at the April 24 meeting were the following:

-- \$2.9 million for the 2018 Sewer Rehabilitation Program

-- The establishment of a Consumer Protection Code and a Weights and Measures Code

* Items introduced and referred to appropriate committees were seven public works projects.

IV. Notes

The April 24 meeting agenda will combine into item #5, just before initial consideration of legislation, all public comment on agenda as well as non-agenda items, just preceding Council's initial consideration of legislation. Other parts of the rules changes will also take effect at that time.