

County Council Regular Meeting: May 15, 2018

Observer: Lynda Mayer

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 regular meeting was called to order at 5:05 pm with all members of Council in attendance. It was held one week later than usual, because the previous Tuesday was Primary Election Day.

II. Antecedents, Announcements and Public Comment.

Council President Brady and County Executive Budish both expressed their happiness with the 70% voter approval last Tuesday of the County's Health and Human Services tax levy, issue #9. They expressed thanks to all who worked on it, and they commended the Board of Elections for a glitch-free process. On the negative side, Mr. Budish bemoaned the terrible, 23.4% voter participation in that election.

III. Business Transacted.

* Among resolutions adopted after first, second or third reading were the following:

-- \$500,000 to College Now Greater Cleveland, a higher education component of the County's Educational Assistance Program. Ms. Simon noted that this is a very wise use of County funds, because the retention rate by the program's needy recipients exceeds that of the general student population.

-- \$3.6 million award for the completion of a length of the Towpath Trail from Harvard Avenue to Steelyard Commons. From there it must wend its way to the Flats and the Lake.

-- \$1.9 million for the Broadrock Court Sanitary Relief Sewer Connection in Parma.

-- A lease-purchase agreement of a County-owned property along the Detroit-Superior bridge at West 25th Street, which will be part of the Irishtown Bend Project. Councilman Tuma said this is an opportunity to establish a nice new public park. He mentioned that the Towpath Trail will ultimately traverse the area on its way to the lake, although currently there are a number of homeless people living there who resist moving to indoor shelters.

* Among resolutions introduced and referred to appropriate committees were the following:

-- Resurfacing of long stretches of some major roads: York Rd. in Parma and Parma Heights (\$3.2 million), E. 131st Street in Cleveland and Garfield Heights (\$1.9 million), Mastick Rd. in Fairview Park (\$1.7 million), Hilliard Blvd. in Rocky River (\$1.6 million), Sprague Rd. in Broadview Hts. and Seven Hills (\$1.3 million), an "avenue and a road" in Cleveland (\$1.2 million), Cedar Rd. in Gates Mills and Hunting Valley (\$1.2 million), Wallings Rd. in Broadview Hts. (\$1.3 million), and Pleasant Valley Rd. in Parma (\$2.9 million).

-- \$1.4 million for amendments to agreements with banks deemed eligible depositories for County funds. Those banks and their deposit limits are: First Federal of Lakewood (\$6 million), Key Bank (\$700 million), PNC (\$600 million), and U.S.Bank (c. \$137 million).

-- \$1.1 million in additional funds for management services at community-based treatment centers.

-- \$1 million in additional funds to one provider of secure residential treatment services.

IV. Notes.

* Ms. Baker, who chairs the Rules etc. Committee, announced that her committee will hold a public meeting on Tuesday, July 17, to discuss whatever recommendations the Charter Review Commission may send up to Council. The CRC is currently looking at proposals such as a change in the way vacancies in elective office are filled, a campaign finance provision, an Inspector General provision, and clarifications to the roles of the Personnel Review Commission and the Human Resources Department. LWV representatives have attended and spoken in support of those issues which further LWV positions.

* On the coming Saturday evening there will be a fundraiser benefit to support the County's Animal Shelter. Ms. Simon reported that the shelter has received national recognition. Her Sustainability, Education and Environment committee will hold a special meeting on Monday, June 4th, to discuss the accomplishments of the County's high school programs. She will also address the League of Women Voters of Greater Cleveland's annual meeting this Saturday midday on the subject of sustainability issues in Cuyahoga County

* The next Council meeting will be on Tuesday, May 29..