

## **County Council Regular Meeting: June 12, 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](http://council.cuyahogacounty.us)*

### **I. Introduction.**

County Council President Dan Brady called the meeting to order at 4:58 PM. Councilmember Jack Shron was absent. The meeting adjourned at 5:25 PM.

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

County Executive Armond Budish reported on his attendance at a Harvest for Hunger meeting at which it was announced that the organization had received its highest donations ever in the past year, \$22 million. Budish accepted an award on behalf of all county employees for having raised \$66,000 for Harvest for Hunger drive.

Gwen Stembridge, representing Equality Ohio, spoke in support of the proposed anti-discrimination ordinance that is under consideration by the council.

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

\* Resolutions concerning seven road resurfacing projects in nine cities and two townships were approved on third reading. The total project cost will be \$12.37 million.

\* A contract for the On-the-Job Training Program was amended to extend the time period to 30 June 2019 and to authorize additional funds of \$2.5 million.

\* The Council suspended the rules to adopt two resolutions on first reading. One was the routine operating budget amendment. The second accepted the report of the Fact-finder Jared Simmer regarding negotiations between Cuyahoga County and Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association on the collective bargaining agreement for Protective Services Officers at the Sheriff's Department.

\* An amendment to the County Human Resources Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual was adopted on second reading under suspension of the rules. The policy change will allow straight time cash payments for hours worked in excess of forty in a work week for the county's real estate appraisers and medical examiners.

\* Twelve resolutions received first readings and were referred to committees. Several of these are appointments of department directors and appointees to county boards.

\* The anti-discrimination ordinance referenced above would add "gender" and "gender identity and expression" to the list of protected groups and would establish a 3-member Human Rights Commission (with an appointed Executive Director and other staff) to review complaints of discrimination in housing, employment practices and public accommodation through the county. This proposed ordinance will likely prompt lively committee and community discussion.

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

Acknowledging the early start of the meeting, President Brady permitted one public comment at the end of the meeting and rejected a second. Ms. Lu stated that the new provider at the Payne Avenue homeless shelter had not yet improved basic living conditions there.

Councilmember Nan Baker informed us informally that there will likely be three or four charter amendments on the Nov. 6, 2018, ballot. Baker will be leading the upcoming Committee of the Whole discussions on the charter amendments. (Ed. Note: The Charter Review Commission, attended also by League representatives who have taken an active role, is likely in early July to propose amendments establishing the Agency of Inspector General, clearly outlining the duties of the Personnel Review Commission, adding Campaign Finance regulation to the list of County Council responsibilities, and possibly making minor changes to the Internal Auditing provision.)