

County Council Regular Meeting: May 29, 2018

Observer: Tessa Xuan

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.

Council Vice President Jones called the meeting to order at 3:03pm. County Council President Dan Brady and Councilmember Jack Shron were absent, while all other Council members were present. The meeting adjourned at 3:34pm.

II. Antecedents, Announcements and Public Comment.

County Executive Armond Budish announced today was the first day of the Division of Children & Family Services (DCFS) listening tour, an effort to better educate the community about the work of DCFS, and to listen to the concerns and suggestions from the community. There will be 5 more DCFS listening tours in the next month. The Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission (CCVSC) submitted its 2019 budget, as it is required to do by June 1st of each year. There were zero net staffing changes from the 2018 budget.

There were no public comments.

III. Business Transacted.

* The following ordinances were adopted after third reading:

- Clarification of requirements regarding how casino tax revenue may be used.
- Changing the maximum amount of one-year, renewable scholarships from \$1,500 to \$1,750 to help “close the gap” on students’ ability to afford tuition.

* Following first reading, a resolution was adopted amending the operating budget for 2018 providing for additional fiscal appropriations and for various account and fund transfers, in order to meet various County budgetary needs. Included in the appropriation increases was an additional \$1.4 million for the Royalton Road project.

* Following second reading, the following resolutions were also adopted:

- \$1.3 million to resurface Wallings Rd. in Broadview Hts.
- \$2.9 million to resurface Pleasant Valley Rd. in Parma.
- \$1.8 million agreement with MetroHealth for health benefit plan to County employees and eligible dependents.
- \$1.4 million in fees to designate 4 banks eligible to hold County funds. Those banks and their deposit limits are: First Federal of Lakewood (\$6 million), KeyBank (\$700 million), PNC (\$600 million), and U.S.Bank (c. \$137 million). Additional banks could be added by resolution later.

-- \$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.

* The following resolutions were second read and referred to committee:

-- Resurfacing of long stretches of the following roads: York Rd. in Parma and Parma Heights (\$3.4 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), Shaw Ave. & Eddy Rd. in Cleveland (\$1.2 million), Cedar Rd. in Gates Mills and Hunting Valley (\$1.2 million).

-- \$2.5 million in additional funds to a contract with the United Labor Agency for several workforce training and employer services.

* An ordinance establishing a new DCFS Advisory Board was first read and referred to committee. (Ed. Note: This measure, plus the listening tour cited by Mr. Budish, are the county's response to this Spring's community uproar about endangerment and death of at least one child in the program, partly because daycare employees failed to spot and report obvious signs of abuse.)

IV. Notes.

Following the County Council meeting, County Budget Advisor Trevor McAleer provided the following details about the Royalton Road project via email. Additional money was needed for the project because the actual amount of the bids came in higher than the original project estimates. Most of the funding for this project comes from State and Federal money with very little coming from the County road fund. The additional money for the project will not have any impact on future road and/or bridge projects that are planned.