

County Council Regular Meeting: August 7, 2018

Observer: Mary Graf

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 meeting was called to order at 3:15 pm by Councilman Brady (because they were waiting for a quorum) and ended at 3:45 pm. Councilpersons Houser, Simon and Conwell were absent.

II. Antecedents, Announcements and Public Comment.

The only public comment was from Ms. Liu who talked about the decision by RTA not to put a levy on ballot and alleged how that decision hurts citizens.

The County Executive spoke about the property appraisals that are done every six years. Overall property values are up 11%. Letters were mailed in July and property owners were informed of the process to question their appraisals. He stressed that due to complicated state tax laws, an increase in property value does not necessarily mean an increase in taxes.

III. Business Transacted.

* Among resolutions adopted were the following:

- A Community Development Fund grant (Casino revenue funds used) for \$1.1 million to Rocky River for reconstruction of Bradstreet Landing. Mayor Pam Bobst of Rocky River was at the meeting thanking everyone for the Bradstreet Landing money.
- \$5.6 in amendments to contracts for various insurance services to County employees such as \$80k for Union Eye Care, \$635k for Vision Service Plan, \$3.1 million for Guardian Life Insurance Co. of America for dental insurance, and \$1.8 million for Guardian Life Insurance Co. of America for group life, voluntary life and accidental death insurance.
- A \$1.9 million award to Schindler Elevator Corp for maintenance and repair services for various buildings.
- A \$1.2 million award to Schirmer Construction, LLC for replacement of Stone Road Bridge in Independence.
- A \$775,000 revenue generating agreement with Case Western for expansion of the MomsFirst Program.
- An \$8 million award to Americab Transportation for Medicaid non-emergency transportation for a 2-year period. It was noted that these costs have doubled in the last 2-3 years mainly due to the opioid epidemic utilizing the emergency transportation services.

* Among resolutions introduced and referred to committee were the following:

-- A \$526,000 award to Neighborhood Housing Services of Greater Cleveland for administration of the Downpayment Assistance Program in Cuyahoga Urban County Communities and Parma.

-- An \$860,000 contract with Passages Connecting Fathers and Sons, Inc. for implementation of Cognitive Behavioral Interventions for Offenders Seeking Employment Program.

IV. Notes.

Council is in recess until September. Action on the proposed ordinance establishing a Commission on Human Rights was held over at least until then, with no reasons given. Such a commission would look into alleged instances of discrimination against a broad range of classes of individuals.