

County Council Regular Meeting: February 26, 2019  
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](http://council.cuyahogacounty.us).*

## **I. Introduction.**

Today's regular meeting of County Council was called to order by Council President Brady at 5pm and ended at c. 5:45pm. All 11 members were present.

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

Mr. Brady asked those present to observe a moment of silence in sympathy with County Executive Budish and his family for the recent loss of his mother. Then Council heard from two persons who requested specific measures to better deal with objectionable conditions at the County Jail. A young man urged Council to make restitution by paying reparations to present and past prisoners who have had to suffer adverse conditions. A young woman, who recently served time for a drug offense, a nonviolent misdemeanor, urged council to build a new facility to separate out and deal with offenders suffering from drug addiction and/or mental illness. Miss Loh also reported on problems at homeless shelters.

## **III. Business Transacted.**

\* Council unanimously passed an important ordinance establishing the new Cuyahoga County Housing Program, which will enlarge the role of the Land Bank to rehabilitate or demolish deteriorating housing in at-risk neighborhoods. The ordinance had been amended in committee to explicitly enable local governments to disapprove of projects in their jurisdiction, should they object. Mr. Brady lauded the measure as a first big step toward stabilizing neighborhoods. Mr. Miller and Mr. Jones both said it indicates Council's high level of commitment to decent affordable housing. Ms. Simon noted that it reflects the new county government's mission to support local governments by providing regional solutions to local problems. Co-supporters were Council members Brady, Miller, Jones, Stephens, Conwell, Simon and Gallagher.

\* Among other measures passed at this meeting were the following:

- An update to the Solid Waste Management District's plan for the next 15 years.
- An \$818,000 revenue-generating agreement with East Cleveland, to provide that city with the county's Emergency Communications System's emergency dispatch services.
- A \$3.5 million contract with Federal Express Corp. for mailing services.
- Confirmation of 3 local attorneys to serve on the new Commission on Human Rights. Three Republican members expressed reservations, partly because they felt that the concerns of small businesses might not be reflected. Mr. Schron voted no, as he opposed in principle the idea of three lawyers, while Ms. Baker and Mr. Gallagher joined the rest of Council to pass the resolution. All 3 said they support the commission, however.

-- A \$1.2 million amendment and a time extension to a contract providing the Sheriff's department with Taser body cameras.

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

-- A \$3.1 million award for resurfacing Warrensville Center Rd. in Bedford and Maple Heights.

-- \$1 million in Community Development Supplemental Grant awards to various municipalities and non-profits for various projects. Among recipients were the cities of Bay Village, East Cleveland, Shaker Heights and Fairview Park, as well as the non-profits Lakewood Alive and One South Euclid Community Development Corporation.

-- \$12 million for a purchase agreement for County Economic Development Revenue Refunding Bonds, as regards the Cleveland Hearing and Speech Center project.

-- \$5 million in amendments and time extensions to contracts with 10 various providers for services supporting at-risk children and families.