

## **County Council Regular Meeting: Nov. 10, 2015**

Observers: Janice Patterson & Carol Gunderson

*This report contains member observations and selected highlights of a meeting of the Cuyahoga County Council and is not an official statement by the League of Women Voters of Greater Cleveland. For the official disposition of all agenda items, consult the Cuyahoga County Council website at [council.cuyahogacounty.us](http://council.cuyahogacounty.us).*

### **I. Introduction.**

The meeting opened at 5:01 PM with all council members present and was adjourned at 5:40 PM.

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

At a Committee of the Whole meeting prior to this session, the Council and the County Executive agreed on a biennial budget to cover the next two years. These observers were not present, but the amendments by Council were reported in the Plain Dealer of Wednesday, November 11. Final vote on the budget is expected to be December 8.

Frequent commenter Satinder Puri criticized the Council's support for Issue 8 and described his difficulties expressing opposition in other arenas. Rev. Pamela Pickney-Butts urged Council action on two topics – record-sharing among hospitals and her concern about irregularities in the voting process in the county. Al Porter, representing Black on Black Crime Inc., urged the Council to use its “bully pulpit” to increase the fulfillment of community obligations by sports team owners.

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

\* Council members unanimously adopted a resolution to place an 8-year, 4.8 mill Health and Human Services renewal levy on the March 15 Primary Election ballot.

\* Egdilio J. Morales was appointed to serve as Interim Director of Human Resources through 29 February 2016. Erika Anthony was reappointed to the Cuyahoga County Public Defender Commission for the term 1 January 2016-31 December 2019.

\* Noting the first-time use of Casino Revenue Fund loans outside of downtown Cleveland, Council approved a \$4 million loan to the City of Euclid for its Waterfront Improvement Plan. Also approved was a \$2 million loan from the Casino Revenue Fund for the Garfield Building Project at 1965 East 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Cleveland. This property conversion into a steakhouse and bicycle shop will rebuild the old storefront and retain an old bank lobby.

\* The rules were suspended for first and second-reading adoption of several items: approving MetroHealth joint purchasing arrangements, amending the 2014.2015 Biennial Operating Budget, and awarding a one-year fiscal agent services contract associated with the FY2016 Ohio Children's Trust Fund Grant Program to the Educational Service Center.

\* Council members authorized a 2016 contract with United Way for fiscal agent services for emergency food purchases and amended a contract with Mental Health Services for

Homeless Persons to extend transitional housing services to 30 September 2016 and provide \$1.2 million in additional funds.

\* Ten items, ranging from road projects through office leases and economic development fund loans, received first reading and referral to committees, necessitating a complete schedule of committee meetings during the week of November 16.

\* The November 24 Council meeting will include votes on four matters for third reading adoption: issuance of \$65 million in tax revenue bonds related to sports facilities improvements and repairs; a \$500,000 loan from Casino Revenue Fund for the St. Clair Industrial Roadway Project in Euclid, and two Economic Development Fund loans totaling \$4.5 million.