



MINUTES

**CUYAHOGA COUNTY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2014
CUYAHOGA COUNTY JUSTICE CENTER
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 1ST FLOOR
5:00 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Council President Connally at 5:02 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Council President Connally asked Clerk Schmotzer to call the roll. Councilmembers Germana, Gallagher, Schron, Conwell, Jones, Rogers, Simon, Greenspan, Miller, Brady and Connally were in attendance and a quorum was determined.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

4. SILENT MEDITATION

Council President Connally requested a moment of silent meditation for personal reflections.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT RELATED TO AGENDA

The following citizens addressed Council regarding issues of concern to them relating to Resolution No. R2014-0002, a Resolution determining to submit to the electors the question of levying an extension of the alcohol and cigarette excise taxes:

- a) Mr. Michael Burns, Senior Vice President of Positively Cleveland**
- b) Mr. Josh Damankos**

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Council President Connally announced that there will be additional meetings and public hearings held on the following dates and times regarding the proposed extension of the alcohol and cigarette excise taxes:

- a) **Committee of the Whole Meeting – Thursday, January 23, 2014 at 2:00 p.m.**
- b) **Committee of the Whole Meeting/Public Hearing – Tuesday, January 28, 2014 at 3:30 p.m. (public hearing at 4:45 p.m.)**
- c) **Regular Council Meeting – Tuesday, January, 28, 2014**

7. MESSAGES FROM THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

There were no messages from the County Executive.

8. COMMITTEE REPORT AND CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION OF COUNCIL FOR SECOND READING AND REFERRAL TO COMMITTEE (Pending Committee Recommendation)

- a) R2014-0002: A Resolution determining to submit to the electors the question of levying an extension of the alcohol and cigarette excise taxes for the purpose of paying the costs of constructing, renovating, improving, or repairing sports facilities and reimbursing a county for costs incurred by the county in the construction of sports facilities.

Sponsor: Councilmember Jones

Committee Assignment and Chair: Committee of the Whole – Connally

Mr. Joseph Roman, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Greater Cleveland Partnership; Mr. Timothy Offtermatt, Chairman of the Gateway Economic Development Corporation of Greater Cleveland; Mr. Majeed Makhoulf, Law Director; Mr. Kenneth Silliman, Chief of Staff for Mayor Frank Jackson; Mr. Dennis Lehman, Executive Vice President of the Cleveland Indians; Mr. Len Komoroski, Chief Executive Officer of the Cleveland Cavaliers and Quicken Loans Arena; and Mr. Tom Yablonsky, Executive Director of the Historic Gateway Neighborhood Corporation; addressed Council regarding Resolution No. R2014-0002 including the historical background of the excise taxes, projected costs of requested repairs, projected number of jobs and economic impact, terms of current contracts, amounts of charitable giving, profits made in 2013, the County's and Gateway's ability to bond and Council's ability to provide input and approval regarding the funding structure if the levy is approved by voters. Discussion ensued.

Councilmembers asked questions of Messrs. Roman, Offtermatt, Makhoulf, Silliman, Lehman, Komoroski and Yablonsky pertaining to the items, which they answered accordingly.

Council President Connally then referred Resolution No. R2014-0002 to the Committee of the Whole.

9. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

There was no miscellaneous business.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT UNRELATED TO AGENDA

Mr. Tom Yablonsky, Executive Director of the Historic Gateway Neighborhood Corporation, addressed Council regarding issues of concern to him relating to Resolution No. R2014-0002, a Resolution determining to submit to the electors the question of levying an extension of the alcohol and cigarette excise taxes.

11. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Council President Connally adjourned the meeting at 6:18 p.m., without objection.