

County Council Regular Meeting: July 8, 2014

Observer: Janice Patterson

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 Dan Brady presided at the July 8 meeting in the absence (excused) of President C. Ellen Connally. All other Council members were present. The meeting began at 5:03 PM and ended at 5:56 PM..

II. Antecedents, Announcements or Public Comment

Judge John Russo sought to dispel possible negative perceptions about a letter sent to council on the day of its last meeting, June 24. He explained that the four judges signing the letter had a narrow window to compose their reactions to a proposed ordinance concerning pay raises for non-union employees in the Court of Common Pleas. Russo said he “stands by the separation of powers issue” expressed in the judges’ letter.

County Executive Ed FitzGerald started a round of congratulations for those who had played a part in Cleveland’s selection as the site for the 2016 Republican National Convention.

FitzGerald thanked Council for financial support of the convention bid, for their work to see to the completion of the convention center and Global Center for Health Care, for deciding to add a hotel to the convention center project and accelerating its construction schedule. He also acknowledged the “great civic leadership” of Dave Gilbert in securing the convention. Councilperson Jack Schron praised the work of consultant Jeff Applebaum for his innovative approach to structuring the entire process of building a convention center, a hotel and the county headquarters. Councilperson Sunny Simon commended FitzGerald for his vision and leadership.

III. Business Transacted

* The ordinance amending the county code to establish a “more consistent approach to compensation” for county non-bargaining employees (which had been postponed from the July 24 meeting) was passed on fourth reading with nine yes votes and a no vote from Councilwoman Simon.

* Three resolutions were adopted on second reading under suspension of rules:

- 1) confirmation of Jennifer L. Scofield as Director of Regional Collaboration;
- 2) a \$3+ million award for the 2014/2015 Sewer and Lateral Repair program in various communities;
- 3) awards to 13 providers for the 2014/2014 Workforce Investment Act Youth Training program.

* A walk-on item regarding the appointment of William Sheehan as interim Treasurer for the period July 18-December 31, 2015 received first reading.

* Seven resolutions reported from council committees received second readings and are scheduled for third reading and adoption at the July 22 Council meeting:

1) additional funds for Casino Revenue Fund Loan to Playhouse Square District Development Corporation for streetscape improvements;

2) an ordinance enacting Chapter 604 of the Cuyahoga County Code to provide financial assistance to municipalities for routine roadway maintenance;

3) adoption of the 2014 Economic Development Plan;

4) various changes in the non-bargaining classification plan;

5) extending the time period and authorizing additional funds for the Vitality Wellness Program for County employees;

6) funds for internet and fiber maintenance services;

7) establishment of a Social Impact Financing Fund in the County Code.

* Eight items received first reading and were referred to committees. These include resolutions to award a \$4.3M for a multi-year voice-over-internet-protocol provider contract, a \$3.6M award for two years of transportation services, and one that names 29 providers for pre-kindergarten services as part of the Invest in Children program.