

County Council Regular Meeting: June 11, 2013

Observer: Lesley Hahn

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 5:00 p.m. with all members present, and it adjourned at 6:02 p.m. with no executive session.

II. Antecedents, Announcements of Public Comment.

A one-hour work session preceded the meeting wherein the council members heard from Public Works Director Bonnie Teeuwen an update on the County Administration Complex and, in particular, pertinent budget items for 2013.

Geis Construction is responsible for interior walls, glass, floors, plumbing, exterior security, and HVAC core, among other things, at a cost of \$50 per square foot, totaling \$11.1 million. The County is responsible for floors to individual offices, furniture, park area, public art (\$382,000 included in budget), interior security, etc. at a cost of \$112.62 per square foot for a total of \$25 million. Total improvements \$36.1 million. The next up-date will be June 25th. There were questions regarding:

- Public art: An Arts Committee is likely to be appointed; revolving displays possible
- Reusing and recycling: Numerous flat files, audio/visual equipment, conference tables
- Source of payments: Reserves and (later) bonds
- Diversity: Using the Small Business Enterprise list for notices, 40% of contractors will be local residents; businesses have been invited to two open houses already
- Performance bonding: Required, but some smaller tasks will not need high end bonding

A relocation coordinator will be hired at a cost of \$450,000, as well as movers (\$400,000) and miscellaneous IT contracts (\$370,000). It is anticipated that the café vendor will build his own inside facility; if not, a cost of \$100,000 will be incurred.

Public Comment: Lee Friedman of College Now Greater Cleveland thanked Council for an annual award of \$380,000. The cost of providing services is \$500 per student but \$60,000 is obtained per student in grants. They have a completion rate of 65%, as compared with a national average of 11% for low income students.

III. Business Transacted

* Annual award to College Now Greater Cleveland, adopted upon third reading (see information above).

* Services and programs for Veterans: \$750,000 awarded to various providers under suspension of the rules: third reading was waived; 1,100 veterans benefitted.

* Council's annual approval of the County's five-year economic development plan was given first reading and referred to the Economic Development Committee.

* Consideration of the Annual Tax Budget, which includes the Cuyahoga County Library Budget for 2014, was given first reading and referred to Finance and Budget Committee.

* Other matters referred to committee included: Lease of office space for the Employment Connection One-Stop System; adoption of the 2013 Economic Development Plan; authorization of a E.D. loan of \$650,000 for a manufacturing facility at 44th and Carnegie; and an E.D. loan of \$3 million for renovation of a facility on Clemons Road, Westlake.

* The following Resolutions were adopted on second reading:

- Resurfacing of a portion of Riverview Rd. in Brecksville
- Resurfacing of W. 130th St. from Brookpark Rd. to Lorain Road in Cleveland
- Resurfacing of a portion of West Grace Avenue in Bedford
- Replacement of a Bagley Road Bridge in Olmsted Falls
- \$2.6 million application for Y-2012 Program Group I resurfacing
- \$2.7 for sewer and lateral repair programs
- Award for relocating Juvenile Public Defenders Office to the new Juvenile Justice Center
- Two-year contract of \$8.4 million to First Energy for various electric utility services
- Two leases for spaces in parking lots for use by Children and Family Services
- Award for pre-employment screening for Ohio Works First applicants
- \$1.1 to various providers for Job Readiness, Search, Placement and Retention Services
- Amendments to contracts and additional funds (\$6.4 million) with various providers for wrap-around care coordination and family/youth advocacy services
- \$6.1 million contract to maintain the Criminal & Civil Justice Information System

* An Ordinance setting bonds for County employees and establishing a required oath of office or affirmation for various county employees was given first reading and referred to Public Safety Committee. An Ordinance establishing divisions and sections within the Sheriff's Department was also introduced and likewise referred.

* Two ordinances were adopted upon third reading:

- Adoption of the County Human Resources Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual
- Changes to various non-bargaining classifications for County employees.