

County Council Regular Meeting: March 25, 2014

Observers: Kathy Woodbridge & Mary Warren

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 5:03p.m. and adjourned at 6:15 p.m. All members were present except Yvonne Conwell, who was excused.

II. Public Comments, Presentations & Announcements.

Anthony Liberatore, president of Laborers International Union of North America, Local 860, spoke in favor of a collective bargaining agreement covering approximately 13 employees in the Department of Health and Human Services/ Division of Children and Family Services (IT). He said these workers are currently paid less than the going rate for their service, have not had a raise or cost of living adjustment in eight years and want “step wages” based on seniority. Joanna Lance, celebrating her 24th year as a worker in the Division of Children and Family Services, shared the many duties of the workers and their commitment to protecting children and nurturing the families in the care of Cuyahoga County. She asked for fair wages for their service.

The newly installed president of the Norman Minor Bar Association was honored for her achievement with a Council proclamation. County Executive FitzGerald added his congratulations to the accomplishments of the newly elected president of the Norman Minor Bar Association.

III. Business Transacted

* A long list of appointments, re-appointments and in-house business were passed under suspension of the rules.

* Two ordinances presented for first reading would incorporate changes to the Personnel Review Commission and the Cuyahoga County Debarment Review Board and were referred to committee.

* Under suspension of the rules the following passed:

--- Additional money from General Fund and other sources for budgetary needs in of various County departments;

--- Funding to improve network connectivity services;

--- Rejection of the fact-finding report regarding negotiations with the Department of Health and Human Services/Division of Children and Family Services, and sending the issue back to negotiations

* Referred to Committee:

- Convention Center Hotel administrative and operating appropriations;
- Road resurfacing (yes, those potholes will be filled);
- IT work;
- Bridge repairs;
- Communication systems.
- An Ordinance amending the Cuyahoga County Code to establish payment procedures for connection charges collected for connection to County's water and sewer facilities in County Sewer District No. 14
- An Ordinance amending County Code to streamline the process for oaths and affirmations.

* Second reading resolutions adopted under suspension of the rules:

- Funding for a lease agreement with Euclid for a County Jail satellite facility in Euclid;
- Payment from bond proceeds for temporary advances in connection with the development of the Convention Center Hotel;
- An Elevator Modernization Project at the Board of Elections;
- More road work including a section of road that was last resurfaced in 1985;
- Agreement with the MetroHealth System to provide healthcare and related services at the Cuyahoga County Correction Center (with kudos to Dr. Boutros for his leadership in making this agreement possible);
- Awards to various providers for neighborhood collaborative services for the Family to Family Neighborhood System of Care Program;
- Rapid re-housing services for men exiting prison;
- Emergency shelter services for homeless men, women and families.

IV. Notes:

The county Voting Rights ordinance proposed by Mr. FitzGerald and Council Member Simon was discussed by the Committee of the Whole last week and will be addressed by a second such session on Tuesday, April 1, at 2pm. It was not presented at this meeting for second reading.