

## **County Council Regular Meeting: November 12, 2013**

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](http://council.cuyahogacounty.us)*

### **I. Introduction**

All council members were present for the meeting which began at 5:15pm and adjourned at 6:45pm. Key action on the day's agenda involved the approval of four awards totaling \$21.5 million for the Convention Center Hotel project. This project was also the focus of four of the six comments from the public who expressed various concerns about minority employment on the project. Councilman Pernell Jones outlined the employment goals that have been proposed by Turner/Ozanne/VAA as 25% SBE, 25% MBE, 7% FBE and a workforce that is 40% county residents, 20% City of Cleveland residents, and 4% designated as low-income. Two others who spoke in the public comments section raised objections to the county's decisions regarding two contract awards for office supplies and for elevator maintenance.

### **II. Business Transacted:**

\* Four awards for the Convention Center Hotel Project were approved on 2<sup>nd</sup> reading and suspension of the rules, with 10 yesses and 1 no vote -- \$10 million to Turner/Ozanne/VAA for design-build services, \$4.15 million to Project Management Consultants LLC for owner's representative services, \$6.5 million to Cooper Carry Inc. for architectural services, and \$880,000 to Thompson Hine LLP for legal counsel. These awards are for the period 11/1/2013 to 9/1/2016. Councilman David Greenspan of Westlake was the one dissenting vote.

\* Unanimously approved were seven other awards on 2<sup>nd</sup> reading -- including a one-year budget for the MetroHealth System 2014 budget, a property management services award for the county's data center, purchase of construction equipment, projects to replace box beams and resurface specific bridges, a project to resurface Lee Road in Cleveland Heights, and amendments to contracts for fiscal agent services and placement services for several county programs focused on child abuse, neglect and youth detention.

\* Council also authorized issuance and sale of bonds not to exceed \$17 million for the financing of the Flats East Bank Phase II Project, bi-monthly budget adjustments, and the re-appointment of Richard T. Prasse for five-year term on Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument Board of Trustees.

\* Council conducted first reading and made committee assignments for 18 resolutions covering a broad mixture of awards ranging from providers of children's and family services to firms providing goods, maintenance, repair and other services for various county operations.