

County Council Regular Meeting: September 24, 2013

Observer:s Kathy Woodbridge

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

All council members were present for the meeting which began promptly at 5:00pm and adjourned at 6:00pm. County Executive FitzGerald urged Council members to stop at the MetroHospital Health Spot in the lobby of the Justice Center. These Health Spots are scattered around the county and are the idea of Dr. Boutros sharing the work of the MetroHealth facility. A press conference is scheduled for tomorrow (Wednesday) at 10am to announce the purpose and locations. Wade Steen who is leaving his position as Fiscal Officer also addressed the council, expressing his appreciation for the opportunity to be part of the new government and his respect for the work, professionalism and dedication of the Council members.

II. Business Transacted:

* Approved: Appointment of Matt Carroll to serve on the Group Plan Commission, a nonprofit organization that runs Playhouse Square—design, economic development, urban planning, etc. Also approved was the appointment of Carol Dayton, BJ Brown and Constance Hill-Johnson to the Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging Board of Trustees.

* Considered on 2nd reading: Implementation of a Disparity Study, as well as an ordinance designating that Additional Delinquent Tax Assessment Collection fees become part of the County Land Utilization Fund, with certain restrictions.

* Approved: two ordinances of a housekeeping nature-- one keeping the Fire and Smoke Dampers inspected and in working order; and one allowing for transfer of funds between accounts to meet budgetary needs of various county departments.

* Resolutions considered for 1st reading and referred to committee included: road work, preventative maintenance, an Economic Development and Redevelopment and Modernization Loan to Playhouse Square, and Block Grant awards to seven communities.

* Resolutions adopted on 2nd reading: Banking and Treasury service, issuance and sale of Taxable Economic Development Revenue Bonds to support Steelyard Commons, authorization of tax levies, money for administration of Pre-K program run by Starting Point and serving 1500 students, and a separate program for after school and summer program for K and to help high school junior and seniors access college programs.

* Approved: A resolution making an award to Weston, Inc. for the sale of various County buildings, authorizing leases in connection with said sales, administering the projects, and executing the transactions. President Connally commented that this kind of work is one of the most important functions of the County Council.