

County Council Regular Meeting: Sept. 9, 2014

Observer via Live Stream: Marcia Goldberg

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.

President C. Ellen Connally called the meeting to order at 5 p.m. All other Council members were present. The meeting ended shortly before 6 p.m.

II. Antecedents, Announcements or Public Comment

There were no announcements by the Council President or messages from the County Executive. Rev. Pamela Pinkney Butts, who regularly attends Council meetings and makes comments, did so today both about agenda items and other issues.

III. Business Transacted

Passed unanimously on first reading under suspension of rules:

- An amendment to the 2014-15 operating budget to add \$2.8 million to help fund the pedestrian and bicycle bridge from the malls to the lakefront (see related legislation below).
- A collective bargaining agreement between the county and one of the UAW locals representing nine court security officers in the Sheriff's department for the period Jan. 1, 2013, to Dec. 31, 2015. Ms. Connally said the agreement was "consistent with other contracts" the county has signed with unions.

Passed unanimously on second reading under suspension of rules:

- Payments of \$30,233 each to Cuyahoga Community College and Cleveland State University for scholarships for veterans residing in Cuyahoga County. Although the scholarship money does not amount to as much as was given last year, it would have gone back to the general fund if not used for these scholarships, which will go to veterans no longer eligible for the GI Bill. Mr. Schron said that he would like to see funding for a Fisher House at the VA Hospital here, too—Fisher Houses are residences for veterans and their families receiving treatment at VA hospitals.
- Allowing the use of certain county facilities on a rent-free basis as set forth in the county's service agreement with the Cleveland 2016 Host Committee, which is hosting the 2016 Republican National Convention.
- An amendment to the county's agreement made earlier this year selling the Loew's Building to Playhouse Square Foundation, to clarify that all county-owned properties associated with the building are also transferred to the foundation.
- The sale of county-owned property at 2500 East 79th St. to the Cleveland Clinic Foundation for \$125,000.

- A 12-month extension to the county's contract with Reserve Apartments for lease of office space in the building, at a cost of \$257,100.
- An award of \$2.8 million to Parsons Brinkerhoff for architectural and engineering design services for the pedestrian and bicycle bridge from the malls to the lakefront (see first bullet above).
- Amendments to contracts with two providers for the operation of OhioMeansJobs, extending the contracts to June 30, 2015, and adding funds totaling more than \$2.7 million.
- An amendment to a contract with United Labor Agency for "employer services," extending its contract to June 30, 2015, and adding \$1.4 million in funding. This program bases job training on the needs of employers rather than on training without employer input.
- An \$860,000 contract with Starting Point for administration of the Universal Pre-K Program. Ms. Simon explained that pre-kindergarten education is not yet universal in the county—that the program is "aspirational."

Passed unanimously on third reading:

- An amendment to the county's contract with Woods Cove III, as purchaser, and Lien Servicing, as servicer, for the sale of tax lien certificates. The contract's not-to-exceed amount (\$25 million) was removed and instead the contract's life was extended to three years.
- Creation of a list of certified providers for occupational skills training services for the Individual Training Account System (workforce development) for the period July 1, 2014, to June 30, 2016. The list names 45 different approved providers.
- The setting of a fee structure for dog adoptions at the county animal shelter. The ordinance gives the director of public works the flexibility to change fees under various circumstances, including overcrowding.

Several other pieces of legislation were on first or second reading and referred to various committees. They included a resolution approving amendments to the NOACA code of regulations, an appropriations resolution, a resolution amending the lease agreement and operating agreement with the Cuyahoga County Convention Facilities Development Corp., a resolution authorizing a utility agreement with Highland Heights for maintenance and repair of sewer and water lines, and a resolution authorizing necessary tax levies.

IV. Notes: This report was compiled from the live video stream on the County's website. No League observers were able to attend the session in person on this date.