

County Council Regular Meeting: February 10, 2015

Observer: Grennetta Taylor

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 by President Brady at 5 pm, with all Council members present. Councilman Miller offered a reflection on Black History month and the contributions of African Americans.

II. Antecedents, Announcements or Public Comment.

Prior to this meeting, the Council had met as Committee of the Whole to hear and confirm the appointment of former Inspector General Nialah Byrd to be the new Clerk of Courts. Council President Brady announced plans to schedule further confirmation hearings.

County Executive Budish discussed the Medicaid 1-2-3 initiative, which is an effort to inform area citizens who receive health benefits under the expanded Medicare that they must renew their coverage or risk losing it. Renewals can be done online at www.benefits.ohio.gov or 211 United Way, or at Job and Family Services location.

Several citizens spoke to issues which were not on the agenda this evening. Pam Ramsey honored Black History Month and asked Council to return public prayer to their process. And Sitender Puree, a former teacher and westside activist, spoke in opposition to the Public Square renovation project, noting traffic problems and inconvenience to RTA customers. He said Mayor Jackson has not responded to requests for public meetings, and that RTA has refused to have meetings. He request that the County do something to alleviate anticipated problems.

III. Business Transacted.

* An Ordinance establishing the process by which county officers serving on public bodies may designate alternatives was referred to the Council Operations Committee with no discussion.

* An Ordinance to specify the County's representation on the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission was referred for the Council Operations Committee with no discussion.

* Consideration of the County Executive's appointment of Michael Foley as Director of the Department of Sustainability was referred to the Committee of the Whole for a confirmation hearing scheduled for Feb 24, 2:30pm.

* A resolution to award \$2.4 million to ReliaStar Life Insurance Company dba the Voya Financial, Inc for stop-loss insurance services for County Employees was referred to the Human Resources Committee with no discussion.

* Resolutions to award a total of c. \$1.4 million to the cities of Bedford Heights and Parma to support Public Safety Answering Point consolidation (9-1-1) were referred to the Public Safety Committee.

* A resolution authorizing a \$2.3 million agreement with the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office for legal services was referred to the Health and Human Services Committee.

* A resolution making an award of \$1.1 million to Johnson Controls for HVAC service at the Justice Center and Juvenile Justice Center was referred to the Committee of the Whole before its third reading on Feb 24.

* The Council adopted a resolution authorizing \$722K to American Bridge Company for the rehabilitation of the Columbus Road Lift Bridge of the Cuyahoga River. Also authorizes the County Executive to make application to allocate \$72K from the County Motor Vehicle License Tax Funds to help fund the project. Councilman Greenspan offered clarification of a question raised during the committee meeting -- the City of Cleveland owns the bridge.

* The Council adopted a resolution to award Schirmer Construction, LLC \$900K for design-build services to replace culverts in various municipalities and authorize the County Executive to make application to allocate funds from the County Motor Vehicle License Tax funds to fund the contract. Specific location of projects are in the cities of North Royalton and Middleburg Heights. Councilman Miller noted Schirmer's agreement to 30% SBE (small business enterprise) participation.

* Committee Reports: President Brady asked for committee schedule and requested that council members schedule meetings through the chair. Council will schedule a meeting to speak with the County's lobbyist regarding state legislative issues. The Community Development Committee will meet February 23rd 9am to discuss the Land Bank Demolition Program— Councilman Hairston, Chair.

IV. Notes.

This meeting was very short. President Brady presides differently than President Connally did in previous sessions. On this occasion he did not provide as much explanation of motions and votes and did not provide descriptions of legislation.