

County Council Regular Meeting: Feb. 24, 2015

Observer: 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 Dan Brady called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m. All other Council members except Ms. Conwell (who was excused) were present. The meeting ended at 5:30 p.m.

II. Announcements

County Executive Armond Budish announced that Cleveland's Quicken Loans Arena will host the MAC (Mid-American Conference) men's and women's basketball tournaments every year until at least 2023. The tournaments add about \$14 million annually to the local economy, Budish said. He also said that he and Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson kicked off the local Harvest for Hunger campaign this week, and that the downtown Heinen's store would be opening on Wednesday, Feb. 25.

III. Business Transacted

Passed unanimously on first reading under suspension of rules:

- Authorization for the submission of a collaborative application for funding under the Local Government Innovation Fund Program (available through the Ohio Development Services Agency) for a feasibility study and design of a county Public Officials Training Program. Collaborators are CSU's Center for Leadership Development and the Northeast Ohio City Council Association. The \$50,000 grant would pay for the development of a training institute at CSU that would help "promote professional education of local elected and appointed officials in Cuyahoga County." The program may eventually expand to include members of boards of education in the county. Participants will be able to receive college credit.
- Routine amendments to the biennial operating budget for 2015. Mr. Greenspan said his questions about the fund transfers and appropriations had been answered satisfactorily.

Passed unanimously on second reading adoption under suspension of rules:

- Confirmation of Nailah K. Byrd as Clerk of Courts of Cuyahoga County. Ms. Byrd was previously Inspector General for the county. A public hearing on her new appointment took place two weeks ago. Ms. Byrd, her husband and their two sons were on hand for her swearing-in and photos. [Mr. Greenspan told me before the meeting that he expected Mr. Budish to name a new IG very soon—perhaps as early as this week.]
- An award of c. \$2.5 million to ReliaStar Life Insurance dba Voya Financial for stop loss insurance services for county employees and their dependents for calendar year 2015. This policy covers catastrophic medical claims.

- An award of c. \$1.4 million to Joshen Paper & Packaging for furnishing copy paper from March 1, 2015, to Feb. 28, 2018.
- Two separate resolutions making 9-1-1 Consolidation Shared Services fund awards for Public Safety Answering Point consolidation support: the first, for \$393,447, to Bedford Heights on behalf of the Southeast Council of Governments (Bedford, Bedford Heights, Garfield Heights and Maple Heights); the second, for \$971,911, to Parma on behalf of the Parma Emergency Regional Dispatch Center (Parma, Parma Heights and Brooklyn). Mr. Germana said that the Parma center will be housed in a former elementary school of Ridge Road.
- An agreement with the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office in the amount of c. \$2.4 million for legal services during 2015. The prosecutor's office is the sole provider of legal services for the county's Dept. of Children and Family Services. This contract is negotiated every fall, and the amount this year is the same as 2014.

Passed unanimously on third reading:

- An award not to exceed \$1.103 million to Johnson Controls for preventative maintenance services for HVAC systems at the Justice Center Complex; the contract covers three years, from April 1, 2015, to March 31, 2018.

An ordinance updating the operating rules of the Charter Review Commission was on second reading and will be on third reading (for adoption) at Council's March 10 meeting.

The update is in accordance with a charter amendment passed by voters last November that accelerates the timeline of the appointment and confirmation of the Charter Review Commission. Specific details are available on County Council's website.

Various other resolutions and ordinances were referred to committees. One resolution, supporting the application of the Chesler Group to the Ohio Development Services Agency for Ohio Historic Preservation tax credits for restoration of the Stager-Beckwith Mansion, 3813 Euclid Ave., was referred to Council's new Community Development committee.

Other resolutions and ordinances referred to committee include the reappointment of Thomas L. Colaluca to the County's Personnel Review Commission until 2021; the appointment of George J. Taylor as Directory of Public Safety and Justice Services (a public hearing will take place on March 10 at the 2 p.m. meeting of the Committee of the Whole); the enactment of the Board of Control Consolidation Act; the reduction of the number of members on the Citizens' Advisory Council on Equity from 15 to nine; and contracts with various service providers.