

County Council Regular Meeting: April 14, 2015

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

I. Introduction.

President Dan Brady called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. All other Council members were present. The meeting ended at 5:45 p.m.

II. Antecedents, Announcements and Public Comment

County Executive Armond Budish extended an invitation to the first State of the County address he would be making on Wednesday, April 15. He also reported on his attendance at an event for foster care families that he had attended and commented that he would like to see state legislation that would allow foster care to extend to age 21.

Three speakers provided wide-ranging commentary on the following subjects: City of East Cleveland's viability, the preservation of the Martin Luther King Library, funding for the arts in Cuyahoga County, the appointment process for the Director of the Department of Sustainability, and the County's role in Public Square renovation.

III. Business Transacted

* Amended and passed unanimously on first reading under suspension of rules:

--- Resolution amending 2014/2015 Biennial Operating Budget, with items R, S, T-1, T-2, and U removed. (The fund transfer requests omitted involve additional lease expenses for Job and Family Services and to contract services provided by Applewood Center Inc.)

* Passed unanimously on second reading adoption under suspension of rules:

--- Confirmation of Clifford E. Pinkney as Cuyahoga County Sheriff. Mr. Pinkney, with several family members present, was sworn in by County Executive Armond Budish before other Council business was considered.

-- Award to City of Beachwood on behalf of Eastside Departments Group Enforcement for Public Safety Answering Point consolidation support, at \$1.8 million per year.

-- Authorization for a loan application to Ohio Environmental Protection Agency Water Pollution Control Loan Fund. The request will be for c. \$1.9 million for a new sanitary sewer structure in Olmsted Township.

-- Awards totaling c. \$1.4 for bridge deck work in four municipalities.

* Other resolutions referred to committee included the confirmation of Robert J. Triozzi as Director of Law (to be considered by the Committee of the Whole on April 23 at 2 PM) and

ten miscellaneous items ranging from road projects and lease of space to housing and neighborhood services.

* Two ordinances concerning County representation on public bodies and one enacting the Board of Control Consolidation Act will be on the April 28 Council meeting for third reading and adoption.

* The Council took no action on a collective bargaining agreement between Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities and the Service Employees International Union, District 1199, that was on the agenda for first reading adoption under suspension of the rules. Council President Dan Brady announced that “traditionally, Council does not participate” in such matters.

IV. Notes.

* Robert Triozzi, who has been appointed but not yet confirmed as the new Law Director, sat in the Law Director’s seat, complete with nameplate, although he does not yet officially hold the position.

* The Board of Control, which has been acting on all the “small” appropriations under \$500,000 which didn’t require a Council OK, has (in the new term) also taken charge of appropriations OVER that amount as well, as long as they do not require Council OK. (Ed note: This may result in even shorter Council meetings -- and less Council oversight?).

* Caution to future Council observers/visitors -- Check the Cavaliers playoff schedule and the Indians schedule for home games on the evening of a planned observation/visit. The garage attendants may ask for a large parking fee up front, although they are NOT supposed to charge anybody attending County Council meetings. Be prepared to stand your ground -- they must admit Council attendees gratis -- admission free, with parking voucher produced upon departure.