

County Council Regular Meeting: April 28, 2015

Observer: Lesley Hahn

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 5:09 p.m. following Committee of the Whole Meeting. Three council members were absent: Mr. Gallagher, Ms. Conwell and Mr. Shron. The meeting was adjourned at 6:16 p.m.

II. Announcements

Several citizens stepped forward with comments supportive of the proposed renewal of the Arts and Culture Levy, including Mayor Koci of Bedford, claiming that if this levy does not pass there will be an immediate 30-cent drop in the cost of a package of cigarettes. That claim was not verified. However, Norman Edwards spoke in opposition to the tax, as he said it places an unfair cost upon the poor.

Mr. Edwards also claimed that MetroHealth Hospital and other construction sites do not sufficiently utilize black workers and minority-owned enterprises, and Satinder Puri spoke against the Public Square Project, suggesting that it should be named "Jimmy Dimora Square" because of the deception he said was used to promote the project. County Executive Armond Budish noted that Brecksville Health Center of MetroHealth Hospital would receive an award at a forthcoming Vibrant Cities luncheon, and at the end of the meeting Councilwoman Sunny Simon announced that Cuyahoga County had been named by RTA as employer of the year with a 100% increase in passholders.

III. Business Transacted

* Two ordinances -- one to establish a process by which officers or employees serving on public bodies may designate alternates to serve in their stead and another to specify the County's representation on the County Planning Commission -- were adopted following their third readings.

* Two collective bargaining agreements -- one covering 81 employees (which were discussed in executive session prior to this open meeting) and one refinancing a \$325,000 loan with U.S. Housing and Urban Development with 5% less interest -- were adopted upon first reading with rules suspended.

* Several resolutions received first reading and were referred to committees, including these:

- A Small Business Growth Loan for assistance to purchase property on Noble Park Drive, Brecksville;
- An award to Youth Opportunities Unlimited of c. \$4.5 million for the TANIF Summer Youth Employment program
- A contract with Emerald Development and Economic Network of c. \$10.5 million for administration of the rental assistance program.

* Five men were appointed to public office and sworn in by County Executive Budish:

- W. Christopher Murray, as Treasurer
- Dennis G. Kennedy as Fiscal Officer
- Mark D. Griffin as Inspector General
- Michael W. Dever as Director of Public Works
- Robert J. Triozzi as Director of Law

Councilman Germana commented on the fine quality of these appointments and noted that the County Executive's cabinet is now complete.

* Several road construction projects were given second reading and passed with suspended rules. Among them were:

- An award of c. \$1 million for resurfacing of Biddulph Road
- An award of c. \$8 million for the grade separation of Stearns Road and railroad tracks in Olmsted Township
- An award of c. \$1.8 million for resurfacing Emery Road in Warrensville Heights and the Village of North Randall

* A contract with Americab Transportation to provide non-emergency services to Medicaid clients was adopted at an additional cost not to exceed \$4.4 million and to extend the period to August 31, 2016.

* Legislation introduced by Council on whether to submit to the electors a renewal of the tax on the sale of cigarettes in order to fund arts and cultural facilities and programs is scheduled for hearing by the Council of the Whole on May 12th at 3:00 p.m.