

County Council Regular Meeting: June 9, 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 Council members were present. The meeting ended at 5:45 p.m.

II. Announcements

County Executive Armond Budish thanked the county's Board of Control for appropriating \$100,000 to help fund jobs this summer for 14- and 15-year-olds. Gov. Kasich has made \$2.7 million more available for the same age group, with \$913,000 going to Cuyahoga County. The \$1.013 million will pay for summer jobs for 800 young teens.

III. Business Transacted

Passed on third reading:

- Repeal of the Cuyahoga County College Savings Account Program, which was established in 2013 and deposited \$100 in a savings account for each kindergartner in the county. Councilwoman Sunny Simon said that the program "did not prove successful." Chuck Germana said he didn't think the program was flawed, but it was not accepted by the public. Council members agreed that the county could spend money in other ways to better support education. Money in accounts can be moved by parents or guardians to other types of college savings accounts; funds not moved will revert to the county. The vote on the ordinance was unanimous.
- Extended the county's Fatherhood Initiative for another year (to June 30, 2016). The program supports various programs that aim to support fathers and to get them more involved in their children's health and development. Mr. Gallagher was the only Council member to vote against this resolution; he said that private funds should be found to help support the program.

Second readings, with third reading and adoption scheduled for June 23:

- Submission to county voters of a renewal of the "sin tax" on the sale of cigarettes to fund arts and cultural facilities and programs in the county. If approved, the renewal will be on the Nov. 3 ballot.
- The establishment of various service fees at the county's animal shelter
- Use of \$14 million in sales tax revenue to help pay for demolition of blighted and nuisance properties
- A one-year extension (to Sept. 30, 2016) and \$1.4 million in additional funds for the Out-of-School-Time Program. The program provides after-school and summer programming and tutoring services for school-age children.

Passed after first reading and suspension of rules:

- Various appropriation transfers between budget accounts; the vote was unanimous.
- Approval of a three-year Collective Bargaining Agreement between the county and the Cleveland Building and Construction Trades Council (representing about 103 employees) for the period July 1, 2015, to June 30, 2018. The vote was 10-0, with Mr. Gallagher recusing himself.

Various appointments to boards and committees were approved on second reading and under suspension of rules. Several other resolutions were referred to committees.