

County Council Regular Meeting: July 14, 2015

Observer: Lynda Mayer

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 at 5pm and ended at 5:45, with all Council members present.

II. Antecedents, Announcements & Public Comment.

Two citizens addressed County Council -- one (who is running for U.S. President) who felt mistreated by County law enforcement, and one who very vocally opposes the "sin tax" ballot issue to support Cuyahoga Arts and Culture on November 3rd. County Executive Budish took the occasion to commemorate the 25th anniversary of passing the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Several special guests spoke and were recognized, especially, for their help in equipping the new building and others for handicapped accessibility.

III. Business Transacted.

* Walton Hills Village and Sagamore Hills Twp formed a JED, or Joint Economic Development District, which was highly praised by Councilman Schron of their Council District.

* Former Council President C. Ellen Connally was appointed to the County's Soldiers and Sailors' Monument Board of Trustees.

* The County's ongoing commitment to persons with disabilities was reaffirmed in a resolution observing the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

* Large roads and infrastructure awards were \$1.8 million for E. 250th Street in Euclid and Noble road in East Cleveland, \$0.7 million for replacing the Mastick Rd. bridge in Fairview Park, and un-enumerated sharges for the 2008 Bagley Rd. Sewer Project.

* The time period and funding were both increased on a former contract for job readiness, job search, job placement and job retention services for Ohio Works First cash assistance and foodstamp recipients. Mr. Jones explained how this program leads people to full-time employment.

* A proposed Charter amendment was read for the second time, which would once more attempt the restructuring of the County Audit Committee. This proposal would replace the present provision with one containing the Council President plus four County residents with auditing experience, appointed ty the Executive but confirmed by Council.

* Several interesting or costly items were read for the first time and referred to committee. Among them were these:

-- A resolution to support the "Cleveland 2030 District," a voluntary leadership initiative that works to reduce the energy consumption of new and existing construction in downtown and asks local leaders to make a public commitment to energy efficiency.

-- An ordinance to establish recusal requirements for appointees to County boards and commissions.

-- A resolution amending the County Employment Practices by specifying the responsibilities of the Personnel Review Commission, reallocating some responsibilities to the Department of Human Resources, and prohibiting job discrimination based on gender identity.

-- A new resolution adopting a new 2015 Economic Development Plan. A previous plan had been introduced previously, but it was announced withdrawn by its sponsors, without explanation.

-- Several large human services items: \$1.2 million in additional funds for community-based treatment center management services, an increased ceiling of \$3.6 million for traditional residential treatment services, \$2.5 million in agreements and contracts to various providers of Workforce Investment Act youth training, \$1.6 million to various providers of community wrap-around care coordination and family/youth advocacy services, and \$13.1 million in awards to various providers of Universal Pre-Kindergarten services

IV. Notes.

Mr. Miller, who heads the Council Operations & Intergovernmental Relations Committee, announced his committee will hear the two items of interest to Ethics watchers (Recusal requirements for ABCD members, and restructuring of the Internal Audit Committee) on Tuesday, July 21, at 3pm in the Council Chamber.

When asked, after the Council meeting, Mr. Budish explained that he has not opposed this second attempt to amend the Charter by reconstituting the Internal Audit Committee. He believes this proposal is less objectionable than the previous one defeated at last November's election. That one would have denied the Executive any say in IAC appointments.