

Cuyahoga County Council Regular Meeting

August 11, 2015

Observers: Janice Patterson and Carol Gundersen

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.

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The meeting was called to order at 5pm and ended at 5:40, with all Council members present except Charles Germana, whose absence was excused.

II. Antecedents, Announcements & Public Comment

County Executive Armond Budish reported on favorable comments he had received about the logistics and hospitality for the recent televised Republican candidate debate in Cleveland. Two citizens addressed County Council -- one in opposition to the November 3 "sin tax" ballot issue to support Cuyahoga Arts and Culture and the other urging Council to institute a county-wide smoking ban.

III. Business Transacted

Council members unanimously approved a resolution to place a charter amendment regarding the composition of the County Audit Committee on the November 2015 ballot after three members (Greenspan, Miller and Schron) urged passage and two members (Conwell and Hairston) asked for their names to be added as supporters.

Six other agenda items were passed by unanimous consent: an ordinance establishing specific recusal requirements for appointees to county boards and commissions; the monthly operating budget amendments, awards to 35 providers for the pre-kindergarten program services, a revenue-generating agreement with the City of Brooklyn for sewer and water line maintenance and repairs, a City of Middleburg Heights road resurfacing project, and a \$650,000 economic development loan for Keystone Tailored Manufacturing, LLC, located in the City of Brooklyn.

Other:

* The confirmation hearing for Sheryl Harris, designee for Director of the Department of Consumer Affairs is scheduled for Sept. 9, 2015 meeting of the Committee of the Whole.

* Action scheduled for the August 25, 2015, Council meeting will include some 10 agreements and contracts with youth workforce training providers, veterans' services funding, sewer and road projects, and an extension of the management contract for the County's Microenterprise Revolving Loan Fund.

IV. Notes

* The appropriation for the Huntington Park Garage project was substantially reduced (from \$19.3M to \$305,509) in the substitute item approved by Council as it considered the usual biennial operating budget amendments. In describing the substitution, Councilmember Dave Greenspan explained that the smaller appropriation would make it possible for the design consultant to begin work while awaiting the results of the request for proposals that will determine a more accurate cost estimate for the project.

* Council members Jack Schron and Sunny Simon enthusiastically discussed intents of the resolution that granted a loan to Keystone Tailored Manufacturing LLC. This firm will produce Hart Shaffner Marx suits with state-of-the-art computerized equipment at the former Hugo Boss factory in the City of

Brooklyn. Additional positive features include the retention of many cutters and sewers who had worked for Hugo Boss and the establishment of training and apprentice programs with Polaris Joint Vocational Center.