

## **County Council Regular Meeting: July 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](http://council.cuyahogacounty.us).*

### **I. Introduction.**

This meeting was called to order by Council President Dan Brady at 5:02 p.m. and it was adjourned about forty minutes later, at 5:40. All were present with the exception of Councilman Schron, whose absence was excused.

### **II. Antecedents, Announcements & Public Comment.**

County Executive Budish reported that cost of living salary increases of 2% would be given to non-bargaining employees to match increases given pursuant to union bargaining agreements. He made no mention of the possible shortfall between revenue and expenses. He did state that events in support of the Arts and Culture Levy were off to a good start.

Satinder Puri spoke in opposition to the Arts and Culture Levy which will be on the ballot this fall. He claims that it is an elitist tax that burdens low income people. He stated that he has led successful demonstrations on the west side in Councilman Greenspan's district and that he will continue with demonstrations in opposition in every single council district until the November election.

Reverend Pinkney-Butz spoke with passion, both prior to and after the agenda portion of the meeting, about "heterosexual rights," about maintaining a strong feminine presence on Council, and about Council being "right with the Lord,"

### **III. Business Transacted.**

Basically all legislation and resolutions were adopted with little or no comment. Of interest were the following:

\* Recusal requirements for appointees to county boards and commissions was scheduled for third reading and adoption at Council's August 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.

\* Amendment of the Biennial Operating Budget for 2015 was adopted upon first reading with rules suspended. Councilman Greenspan stated that his questions had been answered by the Executive; otherwise, there were no comments or explanations.

\* Several resolutions were given first reading and referred to committee:  
-- An award of \$2.8 million for the Sewer Rehabilitation Program  
-- Acceptance of six additional burial plots for interment of the indigent  
-- Resurfacing of Fowles Road in Middleburg Heights at an estimated cost of \$1.2 million

\* Many appointments and re-appoints to boards were approved on second reading with suspension of the rules, including appointment of Lee Fisher to serve on the Group Plan Commission Board of Directors. It was noted that none of the appointees was present, as all were given the option of watching the proceedings on live stream.

\* Emergency repair of Mastick Road in Fairview Park was adopted, as Mr. Germana commented that this road gives access to Fairview Park Hospital. Project cost was estimated at \$500,000.

\* Amendment of a contract with OhioGuidestone for community-based treatment and to extend the contract by one year with additional funds was adopted. Referral to this treatment center would be an alternative to sending youths to County Youth Authority.

\* Also adopted was an amendment to the contract for residential treatment services to provide an addition \$1 million and to terminate a contract with The House of Emmanuel , and more than \$1.4 million was awarded to a total of eight agencies for the remainder of 2015 for the TAPESTRY system of wraparound care and family/youth advocacy.

### **III. Notes**

As noted above, Mr. Budish made no mention during the meeting of the allegedly large shortfall in County revenue in comparison to County expenses, even though that was the lead article of the next day's front page article in the Plain Dealer.