

## **County Council Regular Meeting: September 22, 2015**

Observer: Patricia Solomon

*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.**

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Pernel Jones at 4pm (an hour earlier than usual because of Yom Kippur). It concluded at 4:50 pm. Council Members Simon, Schron and Brady were absent and excused.

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

County Executive Armond Budish announced that a \$10 million agreement has been reached with First Merit Bank on namings rights for the new Convention Center, to run from 2015 to 2035. He also congratulated the Cleveland Playhouse on their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary season. During the final public comment section of the meeting, Satinder Puri once more addressed his opposition to the “Sin Tax” (Issue 8) earmarked for Cuyahoga Arts and Culture. One speaker addressed lack of attention to the “Homeless Congress” and requested a hearing with the group. Two others addressed issues at the Women’s Shelter.

### **II. Business Transacted.**

\* Resolutions adopted on first reading:

--- Supporting an application for funding under the Clean Ohio Fund Green Space Conservation Program on behalf of West Creek Conservancy for the conservation of ecologically significant areas located within the Cuyahoga River Valley

--- Amending the 2014/2015 Biennial Operating Budget for 2015, including two new amendments proposed by Finance & Budget Chair Greenspan relating to Hospitalization Self-Insurance (\$9 million increase) and withdrawal of two items related to the Emergency Operations Center.

\* Six resolutions adopted on second reading support applications for funding under the Clean Ohio Fund Green Space Conservation Program on behalf of:

--- Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation for 4100 Pearl Road

--- Western Reserve Land Conservancy for areas between Cedar Rd and Fairmount Blvd and west of Lander Road in Pepper Pike

--- Western Reserve Land Conservancy for areas in Hunting Valley

--- West Creek Conservancy for areas adjacent to West Creek Reservation, Parma

--- Tinker’s Creek Watershed Partners for areas in Warrensville Heights

--- City of Brook Park for the First Phase of the Abram Creek Riparian and Greenway Corridor

\* Among other resolutions adopted on second reading:

--- Confirming the County Executive's appointment of Mary Louise Madigan as Director of the Department of Communications. Ms. Madigan was sworn in by Mr. Budish.

--- Confirming the County Executive's appointment of Sheryl Harris as Director of the Department of Consumer Affairs, by a 6-2 vote with Greenspan and Conwell dissenting. Miller noted that Ms. Harris is a former Consumer Affairs reporter. She was sworn in by Budish.

--- Authorizing amendments to contracts with two providers for operation of OhioMeansJobs/Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Service Centers (United Labor Agency, Inc. \$2.5 million and Mature Services \$257,788.00)

--- Authorizing amendment to contract with United Labor Agency for employer services, \$1.5 million

--- Authorizing a contract with Starting Point for \$1.8 million for administration of various initiatives of the Universal Pre-Kindergarten Program for the Invest in Children Program

--- Authorizing a contract with Emerald Development and Economic Network for \$1.4 million for administration of the FY2014 Shelter Plus Care Sponsor-based Rental Assistance Program in connection with the HEARTH Act Homeless Assistance Grant Program

\* Among resolutions introduced and referred to committee:

--- Making an award to S.A. Communale not-to-exceed \$672,000 for the Juvenile Justice Center Sprinkler Modifications Project, referred to Public Safety

--- Authorizing a Casino Revenue Fund loan not-to-exceed \$2 million to Corning Place, OH, for the benefit of the Garfield Building Project, referred to Economic Development

--- Making an award to N. Harris Computer Corporation not-to-exceed \$3.8 million for software implementation services for the Real Property Tax System plus two other awards to Harris for \$1.4 million and \$2.4 million for services related to the System. Referred to Finance & Budget.

#### **IV. Notes.**

Upcoming committee meetings were announced by the Chairpersons. Miller thanked Jeff Mowry for his service Chief Information Officer; he is leaving the County for another position. Shontel Brown expressed thanks to a number County staff for assistance in planning her first Town Hall.