

County Council Regular Meeting: September 8, 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 by Council President Brady at 5pm, with all Council members present. It ended at 5:45pm. There had been a previous Committee of the Whole meeting which consisted of labor negotiations and two confirmation hearings for appointees of the County Executive. Mr. Budish reported that he had just attended, along with Council Member Schron, a local reception with the Consul General of India, where he met with one Indian business owner seriously considering locating a new business enterprise in Cuyahoga County. During the final public comment section of the meeting, Satinder Puri once more addressed his opposition to the "Sin Tax" earmarked for Cuyahoga Arts and Culture.

II. Business Transacted.

* Among resolutions adopted at this meeting were the following:

- an approx. \$1 million contract for lease of office space in Golden Gate Shopping Center in Mayfield Heights.
- new fixed rates, proposed and confirmed, for 2016 water, storm and sanitary sewer maintenance and/or treatment, for districts 1, 1A, 2, 3, 5, 8, 9, 13, 14, 18, 20, 21, 22, and 24. A substitute issue containing the most current data is the resolution Council actually passed.
- a \$4.4 million award to DiGioia Suburban Excavating LLC, for sewer and roadway improvements to three roads in North Olmsted and Olmsted Township. Council Member Germana and others were pleased that this local contractor was able to match the lowest and best bid by others, thereby winning the award. Mr. Jones also supported this item.
- ten cemetery plots, from Crown Hill cemetery in Twinsburg and Whitehaven Memorial Park in Mayfield Village, for the purpose of accommodating indigent burials. Mr. Jones said they need further information as to what is included in the donation's value. Customarily, the cost of the plot only partially covers the burial and maintenance expenses.
- a \$1.3 million loan application to EPA's Water Pollution Control Loan Fund, for construction of a gravity sanitary sewer in connection for a project in the City of Parma.

* Among resolutions introduced and referred to committees were the following:

- a \$4 million Casino Revenue Fund loan to the City of Euclid for phase II of the Waterfront Improvement Plan. Council Member Simon pointed out that this will be the first use of Casino funds outside of downtown -- she called it exciting, significant, and very transformational. Mr

Schron agreed, but said that there need to be criteria established for the selection of such funding targets in the future, before this first piece is actually adopted.

-- six separate supports expressed for separate applications to the Clean Ohio Fund Green Space Conservation Program, for the conservation of ecologically significant areas in numerous communities -- Old Brooklyn, Pepper Pike, Hunting Valley, Parma, Warrensville Hts., and Brook Park.

-- an \$4.6 million award to an excavating & trucking company for the Cuyahoga County Airport Runway 6/24 Safety Area Improvements Project, in connection with the Airport Improvement Program.

-- receipt of a report to the Fiscal Officer from the Budget Commission, setting rates and authorizing the necessary tax levies required to meet expenses.

-- use of \$11 million in County Sales Tax Revenue Bonds for the purpose of paying costs of demolition of blighted and nuisance properties.

-- \$2.8 million in amendments to contracts with two providers of OhioMeansJobs / Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Service Centers, in order to change scope and extend the time period.

-- \$1.6 million added to a contract with the United Labor Agency for employer services and changes in scope.

-- a \$1.9 million contract with Starting Point, to administer various initiatives of the Universal Pre-Kindergarten Program for the Invest in Children Program.

-- a \$1.4 million contract with Emerald Development, to administer the continuing 2014 Shelter Plus Care Rental Assistance Program, part of the Homeless Assistance Grant Program.

III. Notes.

Council Member Chuck Germana announced that he will not be seeking re-election to his District 4 Council seat in 2016. The filing deadline (because of next year's early March 15th Presidential Primary) is December 16, and he wants to give 90 notice in case anybody from his district wishes to run for the open seat.