

County Council Regular Meeting: Oct. 27, 2015

Observer: Grennetta Taylor

This report contains member observations and selected highlights of a meeting of the Cuyahoga County Council and is not an official statement by the League of Women Voters of Greater Cleveland. For the official disposition of all agenda items, consult the Cuyahoga County Council website at council.cuyahogacounty.us.

I. Introduction.

Council President requested a moment of meditation for Councilman Jack Shron whose mother passed at 93 years old. He also commended Council for its dedication in maintaining the hearing schedule for the Biennial Budget deliberations. Several meetings of the Committee of the Whole are scheduled for the next few weeks to complete the County's budget.

II. Antecedents, Announcements & Public Comments

Councilman Jones reflected on the incident in South Carolina regarding the treatment of a student by a police officer in a classroom; he indicated that Cuyahoga County's approach to having mentors in the schools may serve to prevent such actions in our schools.

County Executive Budish acknowledged Innovation Week and commented on programs he has attended related to innovation and that this region is being recognized internationally as a leader in innovation. He specifically mentioned the Medical Innovation Summit sponsored by the Cleveland Clinic; and The Innovation Summit held at CWRU and the Anniversary of NASA.

Several citizens made comments regarding the following: Deaf Advocacy- alleging the lack of interpreters available for inmates in the County Jail; Homeless Advocacy – extending an invitation to Council members to visit the Women's Shelter; Crime -- reflecting on the anniversary of the discovery of the women murdered on Imperial Avenue, gun violence, and the current unsolved murders in the Bessemer/Harvard neighborhood.

III. Business Transacted.

* A Casino Revenue Fund loan of up to \$4 million to the city of Euclid for Phase II of its Waterfront Improvement Plan was moved to Nov 10 Council Agenda for possible adoption.

* The routine budget amendment was passed in a substitute version proposed by Mr. Greenspan, holding the Huntington Garage item until bids are reviewed and awarded.

* A \$22 million County sales tax bond issue for improving the Huntington Park Garage was read once and referred to the Committee of the Whole.

* Three big items were introduced and referred to the Economic Development Committee:
-- A \$500,000 Casino Revenue Fund loan to the City of Euclid for the St. Clair Industrial Roadway Project;
-- A \$2 million Economic Development fund loan to JumpStart, for the administration of the Cuyahoga County Early Start Loan Fund;
-- A \$2.5 million Economic Development Fund loan to JumpStart for the administration of the Cuyahoga County Innovation Match for Pre-Seed Capital Fund Program.

* The renewal of an 8-year, 4.8 mill Health and Human Services levy for the purpose of supplementing general fund appropriations for health and human or social services received 2nd reading. President Brady said the levy would be on the Primary Election ballot March 15, and the resolution will be on the Nov 10 Council agenda for possible adoption.

* A \$1.1 million contract with United Way of Greater Cleveland for fiscal agent services for emergency food purchases for Cuyahoga County residents will also be on the November 10 agenda for adoption.

* \$1.2 million in additional funds for an extra year of a contract with Mental Health Services for Homeless Persons will also be on the Nov 10 Council agenda for adoption.

* Appointments to fill vacancies on the Public Defender Commission and the MetroHealth Board of Trustees were approved or moved along for approval next month.

* A \$1.2 million contract was awarded for the Cuyahoga County Courthouse Americans with Disabilities Act Improvements Project.

* A \$1.2 million amendment to a contract extending for 5 more years a lease of office and warehouse space for a Special Waste Convenience Center in Garfield Heights was adopted.

* A \$4 million Casino Revenue Fund loan for the benefit of May Company Building Project was approved. The project is for a 350 unit apartment complex; the issuance of the County loan is contingent on Landmark receiving Historic Tax Credits; their prior tax credit proposal was not successful. There is no viable alternative for the project to move forward without the tax credits and County financing.

* A \$4.6 million contract for a Cuyahoga County Airport Runway Improvement Project was approved.

* A \$10.3 million revenue generating agreement with FirstMerit Corporation for naming rights for the Cleveland Convention Center was approved. Proceeds will be split between the County and the City of Cleveland; FirstMerit will incur all cost related to signage; the name will be "FirstMerit Convention Center of Cleveland."

* An ordinance was adopted to establish payroll procedures for years in which the number of pay periods exceeds the usual and customary number of pay periods.