

## **County Council Regular Meeting: November 24, 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**

President Dan Brady called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and adjourned at 5:50 p.m. Mr. Greenspan was absent (excused). Mr. Schron asked for a moment of silence to remember the Paris attacks.

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

Mr. Brady welcomed Boy Scout Troop #22 from Cleveland Heights. County Executive Budish said he is “cautiously optimistic” following a meeting with Moody’s and Standard & Poor regarding the County’s bond rating. He said such things as the balanced budget and reserves policy should help retain the ratings (Moody’s is AA1). He also mentioned the new Crime Gun Initiative, a partnership with Crime Stoppers to remove crime guns from our communities. Two members of the audience spoke, regarding distribution of Sin Tax revenues and alleging denial of services to a deaf person.

### **III. Business Transacted**

\*Among resolutions adopted on second or third reading were the following:

- \$1.4 million for reconstruction of Tiedeman Road approaches to I-480 in the City of Brooklyn. Mr. Germana said this is one of the busiest in the county, and that Brooklyn also contributed to the project.
- \$2.2 million in additional funds for a contract with Mt. Pleasant NOW Development Corp. for lease of office space for use by Senior and Adult Services. Mr. Germana thanked Ms. Brown for her advocacy and persistence in this collaborative effort.
- A resolution to obtain help from the Ohio Attorney General’s Office to collect delinquent development loans. The AG has the ability to garnish the money from income tax refunds or lottery winnings, and already has collected \$2 million in delinquent court costs for the county.
- A resolution rescinding a 4/14/15 resolution which made a 911 Consolidation Shared Services Fund award of \$2 million to the City of Beachwood on behalf of Eastside Departments Group Enforcement. Mr. Germana said that Beachwood has backed out of the Group, and the money will go back to the 911 Fund. Ms. Simon asked if the monies will be available to other communities for 911 services. She said the State will allow only six centers, and this would have been the seventh. Mr. Brady directed staff to investigate.
- \$1.4 million to Maximus Human Services for the Work Experience Program for public assistance recipients. Mr. Jones said that this award met the 50% target for services to enhance employability.
- Sale of \$65 million in excise tax revenue bonds to pay for improvements and repairs to Progressive Field and Quicken Loans Arena. Annual payments to cover principal and interest will be paid for with the county’s 20-year “sin tax”, which voters extended in 2014.
- Resolution to place a 4.8 mill Health and Human Services levy on the March 15, 2016 ballot. The proposed renewal will be for eight years instead of the standard four. It is one of two that fund health and

human services, including foster care, services at the MetroHealth System, mental illness services, and programs for senior citizens.

-- \$500,000 Casino Revenue Loan Fund loan to the City of Euclid for the benefit of the St. Clair Industrial Roadway Project. Mr. Germana said that this enables streetscape improvements around a new Lincoln Electric welding school to prepare trainers to take state-of-the-art welding techniques to locations around the country. He said the economic benefit will be the presence of 7,000 students bringing lodging, food, and other income to the county.

-- \$2 million Economic Development Fund loan and an additional \$2.5 million EDF loan to JumpStart, Inc. for administration of the Early Stage Loan Fund and the Innovation Match for Pre-Seed Capital Fund Program. This was held to December 8 because Mr. Greenspan is out of town and has questions.

\*Three resolutions received second reading, to return on 12/08 for likely third reading adoption:

-- MetroHealth System Year 2016 Budget. Mr. Brady said this is a required annual approval, but it is just a formality since it's really the MetroHealth budget process.

-- 2016 Operating Budget and Capital Improvements Program, as amended

-- \$4.3 million Casino Revenue Fund loan to Van Aken Plaza Project in Shaker Heights

\*Among resolutions introduced and referred to committee were the following:

-- \$2.8 million increases to two existing awards, adding pharmacy benefits to the Benefits Regionalization Program for participating municipalities' employees and dependents

-- Several large insurance contracts for County employees and eligible dependents: \$8.2 million for dental insurance; almost \$1 million for vision insurance, and \$3.8 million for stop loss insurance.

-- \$4 million to four providers for job training and placement for dislocated workers in Northeast Ohio in connection with the Sector Partnership National Emergency Grant

-- \$3.7 million for sublease of space and equipment for the relocation of Cuyahoga Emergency Communications System Dispatch Center to Chagrin Valley Dispatch Center

-- \$1.3 million to Oriana House for day programming services in connection with the OH Dept. of Rehabilitation and Correction Community Corrections Act Probation Improvement and Incentive Grant

-- \$1 million to ten providers of psychological services at the Juvenile Diagnostic Clinic

-- \$3.3 million to 17 providers for the Cuyahoga OPTIONS for Independent Living Services

\* Two ordinances were also introduced and referred to committee: One would repeal a 2012 ordinance that extended health care benefits to domestic partners of county employees. Mr. Brady noted that the measure was prompted by the U.S. Supreme Court ruling allowing same-sex marriage. The other would establish the County Healthier Buckeye Council.