

## **County Council Regular Meeting: April 12, 2016**

Observers: Janice Patterson & Carol Gunderson

*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 county's website at [council.cuyahogacounty.us](http://council.cuyahogacounty.us)*

### **I. Introduction.**

The meeting was called to order at 5:00pm by President Dan Brady, with all Council members present. The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 pm.

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

There were two public comments related to the agenda, with Reverend Pamela Pinkney-Butts and Dontez Taylor expressing concern about rate increases for RTA.

County Executive Armand Budish announced that explorations were underway regarding an affiliation with a national non-profit organization promoting access to college, Say Yes to Education.

Four comments unrelated to the agenda were received at the end of the meeting, with Rev. Pinkney-Butts alleging inattention to her concerns, Mr. Taylor requesting help with a June event for children, Don Bryant of Greater Cleveland Civil & Human Rights Coalition urging greater attention to racism and hate crimes, and a representative of NextGen Climate thanking Council members for their support for the organization's clean energy and clean power initiative.

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

\* Two resolutions were adopted on first reading (under suspension of the rules):

-- a collective bargaining agreement for approximately 200 employees of the Fiscal Office and the Board of Revision

-- amendments to 2016/2017 Biennial Operating Budget

\* Fifteen resolutions were adopted on second reading (under suspension of the rules). One confirmed the appointment of Thomas D. Pristow as Director of the Department of Health and Human Services. Four confirmed the County Executive's appointments of 12 individuals to various boards and councils. Two resolutions were for contract awards for street resurfacing projects in four cities and the remaining eight were services contracts (ranging from legal services and computer technology to healthcare consultants and family and newborn support).

\* After their third readings, the Council awarded \$500,000 to College Now, for Component Two of the County's Educational Assistance Program, and it amended a section of the County Code to establish a County Sustainability Plan. See below.

\* Three items were withdrawn from the day's agenda at the request of the County Executive. One related to a proposed settlement and consent judgement (*Malloy, et al v. Cuyahoga County et al*) and the other two pertained to Casino Revenue Fund loans.

\* Resolutions introduced and referred to committees:

--appointments to Workforce Development Board and RTA Board of Trustees

--real property transfer

--\$5,659,912 for (TANF) summer youth employment

\*Four proposed ordinances to amend or augment the County Code were heard for the second time and will appear for third-reading adoption at the April 26 meeting:

--An amendment to Titles IV and V of the County Code, aka the Code of Ethics, to clarify the ethical rights, responsibilities applicable to all elected officials, employees, board members, contractors and lobbyists in the County;

--Establishment of Cuyahoga County Business Inclusion Program, a comprehensive response to continued complaints of poor diversity in contracting for county construction projects; and

--Establishment of risk management procedures and performance bond and insurance requirements

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

At the next Council meeting on April 26, it is possible that a League of Women Voters of Greater Cleveland spokesperson will make a public statement regarding the proposed ordinance revising the County's Code of Ethics.

Additionally, and of strong interest to the League, is the text of the County Sustainability Plan, passed at today's meeting. Text attached below.

**County Council of Cuyahoga County, Ohio Ordinance No. O2016-0008**

WHEREAS, in December 2014 the County Department of Sustainability was established pursuant to Ordinance No. O2014-0023, as codified in Section 202.18 of the Cuyahoga County Code.

WHEREAS, the Department of Sustainability, per Section 202.18 (A) of the Cuyahoga County Code, is responsible for carrying out the following functions:

- a. Promoting environmentally sustainable business practices in the internal operations of the County;
- b. Collaborating with businesses, non-profit organizations, political subdivisions and government agencies to develop programs incorporating environmentally sustainable methods into accepted practice;
- c. Promoting economic development to support businesses that provide environmentally sustainable goods and services;
- d. Educating the public about environmentally sustainable practices;
- e. Advising, when requested, the County Executive and the County Council on policies and programs related to environmental sustainability; and,
- f. Coordinate and collaborate with other directors and departments to achieve operational efficiencies and to eliminate redundancy within County government; and,

WHEREAS, Council now seeks to develop and adopt a five-year strategic plan to achieve the foregoing objectives.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO:**

**SECTION 1.** Section 202.18 of the Cuyahoga County Code is hereby amended to read as follows (additions are underlined and bolded, deletions are stricken):Section 202.18 Department of Sustainability

**A.** The Cuyahoga County Department of Sustainability

1. There is hereby established the Department of Sustainability for Cuyahoga County under the supervision of the County Executive and the Director of Sustainability. The Department shall be its own appointing authority pursuant to the County Charter and County Code.
2. The Department of Sustainability shall have the following functions:

- a. Promoting environmentally sustainable business practices in the internal operations of the County;
- b. Collaborating with businesses, non-profit organizations, political subdivisions and government agencies to develop programs incorporating environmentally sustainable methods into accepted practice;
- c. Promoting economic development to support businesses that provide environmentally sustainable goods and services;
- d. Educating the public about environmentally sustainable practices;
- e. Advising, when requested, the County Executive and the County Council on policies and programs related to environmental sustainability; and
- f. Coordinate and collaborate with other directors and departments to achieve operational efficiencies and to eliminate redundancy within County government.

## B. The Director of Sustainability

1. There shall be a Director of Sustainability who shall be appointed by the County Executive, subject to confirmation by Council. The Director of Sustainability shall serve at the pleasure of the County Executive and shall lead the Department of Sustainability shall serve at the pleasure of the County Executive and shall lead the Department of Sustainability. The Director of Sustainability shall possess the following qualifications:

- a. Demonstrated knowledge of county, state, and federal environmental regulation;
- b. Experience in the finance and administration of public or private- sector sustainability projects; and
- c. Experience establishing collaborative relationships with business, non-profit and public entities.

2. The Director of Sustainability shall be responsible for fulfilling the duties of the Department of Sustainability and may employ such number of deputies, assistants, and employees as s/he determines to be reasonably necessary to assist him/her in carrying out his/her powers and duties and as is consistent with approved budgetary parameters determined by Council.

## C. County Sustainability Plan

**1. The Department of Sustainability shall prepare and present to Council by September 1, 2017 a proposed five-year Sustainability Plan to achieve the objectives identified in paragraph (A) (2) of this section. If the Council shall fail to adopt the proposed plan,**

**with such changes as the Council shall deem advisable, within sixty days of its presentation to the Council, the plan shall be deemed to be adopted. The Sustainability Plan shall be reviewed and revised as needed, but not less than once every five years in accordance with the foregoing procedures.**

- 2. The Clerk of Council shall maintain a copy of all versions of the Cuyahoga County Sustainability Plan on the Council's website.**

**SECTION 2.** It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council relating to the adoption of this Ordinance were adopted in an open meeting of the Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.