

County Council Regular Meeting: May 24, 2016

Observer: Lesley Hahn (Report by L. Mayer)

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.

The 5pm regular Council meeting was preceded at 4pm by a Committee of the Whole meeting on the subject of expected rate increases and service reductions at RTA, Greater Cleveland's regional mass transit authority. Transportation chair, Carol Gibson attended the first, while Lesley Hahn, regular Council observer, attended the other. Because Lesley was unable to write the session up, the following is a composite, second-hand account by Lynda Mayer, based upon communication with Carol and Lesley. It does not follow the usual format....

II. Committee of the Whole meeting on RTA.

The entire Council met before the regular meeting to discuss the RTA item to be fast-tracked at the following regular Council meeting -- to be adopted on first reading under suspension of the rules. That item proposed "legislation urging the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority to exhaust all available options and identify all potential resources in order to avoid or mitigate reductions in services and increased fares for riders and to urge the State of Ohio and U.S. Department of Transportation to increase available funding for public transportation." LWV spokesperson, Carol Gibson, was the first of 10 or 11 speakers to speak in favor of the legislation. Her statement outlined the LWVGC position of support of mass transit. A number of the other proponents belong to transit advocacy groups and plan to meet again on June 23. Names and contacts were exchanged.

III. Regular County Council meeting outcomes.

The fast-tracked RTA measure passed upon first reading. (As minutes are not yet approved, as of this writing, specifics are missing.) The original sponsors of the measure were Council President Brady and Council members Jones, Conwell, Hairston, Brown, Gallagher and Miller. It may or may not have acquired the co-sponsorship of additional Council members at the time of passage.

All other agenda items passed as well. Among those were the following:

Adopted on 3rd reading: A collaboration agreement with the Aerozone Alliance, a network of regional airports.

Considered on 2nd reading, probably on track for passage in June:

-- \$7.8 million to resurface W. 130th Street in Brookpark and Cleveland;

- \$1.4 million to replace Bratenahl's Lakeshore Blvd. bridge over Nine Mile Creek;
- \$1.6 million for group 5 of Cleveland's "Operations Resurfacing Program;"
- \$2.3 million to replace the Bagley Rd. bridge in Olmsted Falls; and
- two leases of County property, @ \$3 each, to the United Cerebral Palsy Association and Goodwill Industries.

Referred to the appropriate Committee after 1st reading:

- Appointments to the positions of Directors of Internal Auditing and Public Safety & Justice Services, and to the Tri-C Board of Trustees;
- Contracts or agreements with twelve different providers of services in connection with the Fatherhood Initiative.