

County Council Regular Meeting: July 26, 2016

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 regular County Council meeting was called to order at 5pm by Council President Dan Brady with all members present but Anthony Hairston, who was a delegate all week at the Democratic Party's National Convention in Philadelphia.

II. Antecedents, Announcements and Public Comment.

Before this meeting, Council met as the Committee of the Whole, to discuss an extensive labor contract and to hear a presentation about problems with the disposal of plastics waste.

Council praised and presented citations to four leaders who were among those instrumental in organizing and managing the marvelous logistics and safety arrangements surrounding the Republican National Convention held last week in Cleveland. Recipients were County event planners Frank Bova and Brandy Carny as well as representatives for County Sheriff Clifford Pinkney and Cleveland Police Chief Calvin Williams.

After the meeting, two Lakewood citizens spoke passionately about alleged irregularities in the way the Lakewood Hospital closing has been engineered and about alleged economic and healthcare losses to residents that hospital closing is expected to cause. They urged Council to do whatever it can to help a November 8 referendum designed to rescind the city's legislative action.

III. Business Transacted.

* The County's 2016-2020 Economic Development Plan was adopted, in accordance with the Cuyahoga County Charter and the Code.

* Among other items passed on either second or third reading were the following:

-- A \$740,000 Economic Development Accelerated Growth loan for the benefit of a project at 31900 Solon Road in Solon;

-- A \$533,000 agreement with the Ohio Auditor's Office for the County's routine annual audit for Calendar Year 2015 (to be conducted in 2016).

-- An \$1 million award to the City of South Euclid, on behalf of the Heights/Hillcrest Communications Center, to support consolidation of Public Safety Answering Point for the coming year. Mr. Gallagher, chair of Council's Public Safety and Justice Affairs Committee, explained that this is the final puzzle piece to a major collaborative effort.

-- A \$1.7 million award for the Men's Shelter Renovations Project.

-- A \$6.6 million award for the Halle Archives and Board of Elections Building Renovations Projects.

* Among a number of items introduced and referred to committee were the following:

-- A \$6 million contract to purchase an Engineered Material Arresting System for the the County Airport Runway Safety Improvements Project.

-- A \$68 million electric service agreement with the City of Cleveland's Division of Cleveland Public Power for electric power services for various County-owned buildings through Y2028.