

County Council Regular Meeting: December 13, 2016

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

I. Introduction.

The regular County Council meeting was called to order at 5pm by Council President Dan Brady. All Council members were present. Brady called for a moment of silent meditation to remember Ohio native, astronaut and Senator John Glenn. The meeting adjourned at 5:40pm.

II. Antecedents, Announcements and Public Comment.

At a 4pm Committee of the Whole meeting, members referred a resolution to adopt the 2016/2017 Biennial Operating Budget and Capital Improvements Program Annual Update for 2017 to full Council for 2nd reading adoption at a Special Meeting on Wednesday, December 28. Additionally, Council viewed a video which fulfilled their 2016 obligation for Annual Ethics Training, and they signed forms attesting to that.

County Executive Armond Budish praised the department of Senior and Health Services, which delivers services through the Senior Centers in the County. He noted that in 2016 the County used \$200,000 in New Innovation grants for collaborative projects among county municipalities. Rev. Pinckney Butts spoke on several topics including getting the African-American Museum reopened and encouraging RTA to hold transportation meetings in congregations.

III. Business Transacted.

* Among the year-end resolutions adopted were the following:

-- Approved: the MetroHealth System Year 2017 Budget, with the understanding that the allocation of County funds to the System will be made through adoption of the 2016/2017 Biennial Operating Budget and Capital Improvements Program Annual Update.

-- Amended: the expiring 2016/2017 Biennial Operating Budget for 2016 by providing for additional fiscal appropriations from the General Fund and other funding sources, for appropriation transfers between budget accounts, and for cash transfers between budgetary funds. Net change was an increase of \$842,000.

-- Authorized: issuance and sale of \$21 million in County sales tax revenue bonds for construction, reconstruction, refurbishing, renovation, upgrading, improving and equipping the Huntington Park Garage. Councilman Miller expressed support for issuing bonds rather than other financing options for this project, but noted concern that this will not address the critical lack of parking for the public to visit government offices in the area.

- \$0.5million in additional funds for change in scope of engineering services for Stage 1 of the Towpath Train Extension from Harvard Avenue to Steelyard Commons.
- \$3.7 million to amend a contract with Medical Mutual of Ohio for stop loss insurance services for County employees and their eligible dependents and Cuyahoga County Benefits Regionalization Program participants' employees.
- Established: an underwriter pool (KeyBanc Capital Markets, PNC Capital Markets, Fifth Third Securities) that the County may employ to assist in any public financing arrangements.
- Authorized: \$1.1 million contract with United Way of Greater Cleveland for fiscal agent services for emergency food purchases for County residents. It was pointed out that the United Way administrative fee is .005% of the contract, or \$5,000.
- Approved: an agreement with the City of Cleveland to distribute alcohol and cigarette excise tax proceeds.
- Declared: replacement of Memphis Road Bridge in the City of Brooklyn is required at an estimated cost of \$3 million.
- Submitted: a \$1.5 million loan application to the Ohio Water Development Authority to finance sewer repairs in connection with the Bagley Road Water/Sewer/Resurfacing Project.
- \$2.5 million Economic Development Fund Loan to Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization for a Lorain Avenue project. It was noted that this will link resurfacing and reconstruction work to economic development of the area.

* Among resolutions introduced and referred to committee:

- Confirmation of Pamela E. Bobst (Rocky River mayor and League member) to serve on the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission representing the Westshore Region.
- \$13.5 million for Stage 3 Towpath Trail construction (Steelyard Commons to Literary Road), application for allocation from County Motor Vehicle \$5 License Tax Funds.
- \$1.9 million in additional revenue for a revenue generating agreement with City of Cleveland/ Cleveland Municipal Court for legal services for indigent persons

* Three resolutions amending software contracts with N. Harris Computer Corporation for the Real Property Tax System were moved to the January 10 meeting for a 3rd reading vote.

IV. Notes. Council will meet briefly at 10:30am on Wednesday, December 28, for the limited purpose of passing the mid-course update in the County's biennial budget for 2016-7. The new Council session will begin with swearing-in and reorganization on Tuesday, January 3, 2017.