

## **County Council Regular Meeting: November 15, 2016**

Observer: Lesley Hahn

*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**

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. and ended at 5:40 p.m. All Council members were present, with the exception of Councilman Schron, who was out of town.

### **II. Antecedents, Announcement & Public Comment.**

County Executive Budish expressed gratitude to all the poll workers and volunteers who enabled the election process to proceed without any major problems. He stated that one foreseeable consequence to the election of Donald Trump might be the failure of Medicaid expansion could cost the County \$600 Million.

All Council members who ran for reelection were voted in, but Councilman David Greenspan will leave Council as he was elected to the Ohio House of Representatives.

### **III. Business Transacted**

\* A \$68 million long-term agreement with Cleveland Public Power for electric power services was adopted upon third reading. Sponsor was Councilwoman Simon's Department of Sustainability, and several council members asked to be added as co-sponsors. Simon said this legislation will result in many high quality jobs. An editorial in the Plain Dealer Sunday, November 20, 2016, provided background:

*It's a smart long-term bet that alternative energy can generate jobs and that Greater Cleveland can build on its existing strengths to attract more manufacturing and energy innovation investments. Generating this local energy will be six pilot wind turbines built by Lake Erie Energy Development Corp. (LEEDCo.) in 2018 and a county-built solar farm on a landfill on a site yet to be determined. The county's power purchasing agreement calls for buying 8.6% of the farm's output to power 17 county buildings. The county could save \$2.5 Million to \$3.2 Million if the contract is extended over 25 years. County Executive Budish, Mayor Frank Jackson and Ronn Richard, president and CEO of the Cleveland Foundation made sure that the wind farm remained a priority.*

\* Two Resolutions regarding the MetroHealth System budget were referred to the Committee of the Whole for discussion; also referred to the Committee of the Whole was a 20-year agreement with Cleveland for distribution of alcohol and cigarette excise tax proceeds.

\* Some high ticket items were also referred to committee following first reading:

-- A \$3 million agreement with the City of Brooklyn for replacement of Memphis

Road Bridge was sent to the Public Works committee.

-- A \$1.5 million loan application to finance sewer repairs was authorized, in connection with the Olmsted Township Bagley Road Project. It was also sent to Public Works.

-- A \$1.5 million loan for a Middleburg Heights project with Fat Head's Brewing Company was sent to the Economic Development committee.

-- A \$2.5 million loan to Detroit Shoreway Community Development for a Lorain Avenue project was also sent to Economic Development.

-- An \$11 million bond issue to refund the remaining outstanding principle for the Hathaway Brown School project was also also sent to Economic Development.

-- A \$1.5 million agreement with the Educational Service Center of Cuyahoga County for services for the Help Me Grow Bright Beginnings was referred to the Education Committee

-- \$1.3 million in additional funds for a one-year extension of a contract for work-required public assistance recipients was referred to Health & Human Services.

\* Upon second reading two resolutions were adopted with the rules suspended:

-- A \$22.7 million maximum price limit and a one-year extension for a contract providing design-builder for the Huntington Park Garage project was authorized. Councilman Germana said this matter had been heard in his Public Works Committee and that the new price changed the scope of the project. There was no further discussion.

-- A \$1.3 million agreement with Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board for the Early Childhood Mental Health Program was also approved.

\* Two Ordinances, one to establish a Consumer Protection Code and one to establish a Code of Weights and Measures were withdrawn at the request of their sponsors.