

County Council Regular Meeting: January 24, 2017

Observer: Mary Graf

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 meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by Councilman Brady and ended at 5:45 pm. All Council members were present except for Councilwoman Conwell who was excused.

II. Antecedents, Announcements and Public Comment.

County Executive Budish spoke about the opioid epidemic and said that \$1.5 in new funding will be available from county, city and ADAMHS. Over 600 deaths in 2016 in CC from this epidemic. William Denihan, CEO of ADAMHS spoke in support of the agenda resolution for additional funding for detox centers. Four others spoke afterward about issues unrelated to the agenda; Norman Edwards urged support for using public funds for Quicken Loans Arena; Rico Dancy spoke against using funds for a cycle park; William Isaac spoke on behalf of homeless, specifically the handling of grievances at shelters; and a Miss Loh spoke about the lack of grievance procedures at women's shelters.

III. Business Transacted.

* Among the resolutions adopted after 1st, 2nd, or 3rd Reading were the following:

- Appointment of Councilman Jack Schron, Jr. to the CC Economic Development Commission, and new Councilwoman Nan Baker to serve as his alternate.
- Creation of an Animal Abuse Registry. Those with a record for cruelty to animals will be prohibited to adopt shelter pets or to handle them in any official capacity.
- Additional money from General Fund for transfers to other accounts; this includes the funds for ADAMHS for battling opioid epidemic, repairs to Huntington garage, and the funds for Variety Theater.
- Approval of collective bargaining agreement for 6 employees at the county airport, although two other collective bargaining agreements were tabled.
- Reappointment of Michael Abouserhal to the independent County Audit Committee, a fiscal watchdog board.
- Confirmation of three people, Cynthia Schulz, Steven Licciardi and Tania Younkin, to the County's Board of Developmental Disabilities.
- Award of \$7 million for Bagley Rd resurfacing to begin in February, 2017.

- Award of up to \$1.8 mil to Oriana House for its Re-entry Resource Center.
- Appointment of Rocky River Mayor Pamela Bobst to the County Planning Commission.

* Among the resolutions introduced and referred to committee:

- \$2.9 million award to C.C. Agresta Construction Co. for resurfacing Noble Rd.
- \$1.4 million agreement with MetroHealth for pediatric services to foster children.
- Approx. \$1 million in extra funds to several emergency service providers.

* Two walk-on resolutions were introduced to amend contracts for health plans with Caremark and Medical Mutual, increasing funds for 1/15-12/17 from \$49 to \$60 mil and \$141 to \$211 mil respectively. Council President Brady deviated from the agenda to bring these items before the council, noting this was very unusual but necessary.