

**County Council Regular Meeting, April 28, 2020**  
Virtual Observer, via internet: 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 “remote” meeting of County Council took place at 2:10 pm with Council President Brady presiding and all members present, at their laptops in their own homes. The screen showed all 11 council members, plus Co. Executive Budish and Clerk of Council Schmotzer, although the technology was spotty and the volume of the transmission was quite low, causing this observer to miss the gist a few longer presentations.

**II. Antecedents, Announcements, and Public Comment.**

There had been another such meeting two weeks ago, but no League observer “attended.” Public Comment must be submitted via email to the Clerk earlier in the day, and the only person to do that was Ms. Liu. Council members received it, but it was not read at the “meeting.” Item #9 on the agenda was a long County Budget Update, but it was postponed to the end of the agenda and was so difficult to follow in this format that it is not reported here. I would suggest that the PD and Cleveland.com will better cover the topic of budgetary impacts of the economic lockdown.

**III. Business Transacted.**

\* Passed on first reading was an amendment to the county’s previously adopted Citizen Participation Plan, required by U.S. HUD in order to comply with requirements of the CARE Act. Council member Miller said something about \$315 million in federal funds for the county, but it was unclear to this observer whether that aid was to be expected or had only been requested.

\* Also adopted by suspending the rules were the following:

-- a \$1.6 million revenue-generating agreement with Berea for maintenance and repair of storm and sanitary sewers through March of 2021.

-- \$3 million to resurface Brainard road in Highland Heights and Lyndhurst.

-- c. \$625,000 in additional funds for a change in scope for a contract to purchase electricity generated by Rooftop Solar Systems installed at various county facilities – part of the county’s Aggregated Solar Project.

-- a \$900,000 revenue-generating agreement with the Cleveland Clinic to provide it with six Medicaid Enrollment Eligibility Specialists.

\* Introduced and referred to committees were the following:

-- An ordinance revising the expiration date of a previous law establishing paid emergency leave for all county employees.

-- \$12.9 million to MetroHealth for services to county employees covered under the MetroHealth Services Group Healthcare Benefits Plan.

-- c. \$4.8 million in additional funds and time extensions to nine providers of community-based support to at-risk children and families. Among the 9 providers were the City of Lakewood and CMHA.

**IV. Notes.**

Because of the poor sound quality of the “live stream” from 13 remote participants, this report cannot reliably cover the information on budgetary adjustments due to the current COVID-19 pandemic. It is likely that the press may have had a better connection.