

County Council Regular (Remote) Meeting, July 21, 2020

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 the League of Women Voters of Greater Cleveland. For the official disposition of all agenda items, consult the Cuyahoga County Council website at council.cuyahogacounty.us.

I. Introduction.

The remote meeting of the County Council was called to order by Council President Dan Brady at 2:10 with all members logged in online. It lasted approximately 30 minutes. There was a moment of silence for civil rights leaders C. T. Vivian and John Lewis at the beginning of the meeting.

II. Antecedents, Announcements, and Public Comment.

County Executive Budish talked about the CARES Act funds and the fact that they can't be used to replace lost revenue. He also said that there are three things they need from the next stimulus bill: more flexibility, more money, and an extension of the expiration date.

III. Business Transacted.

* Among items approved at this meeting were the following:

-- A County Library levy of 1.0 mills, to appear on the November ballot in those municipalities served by the CCPL system. Cleveland and a number of suburbs support separate public libraries.

-- Creation of a Citizens' Advisory Council on Equity, along with the appointment of 15 citizens to serve on it.

-- \$1.4 million to lease space at 1890 E. 40th Street.

-- Refinancing of \$163 million in bonds, in connection with the "Med Mart" and Convention Center. A sponsor explained the move would save about \$21 million in interest.

-- A \$8.5 million in additional funds for an enterprise agreement with Microsoft for various licensing and support services, extending the time period for 3 years to Y2023.

-- C. \$2.9 million to 6 service providers in the Comprehensive Case Management Employment Program, which consists of employment, education and training services for young adults, part of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act .

-- A Hazard Pay agreement with all unionized employees represented by AFSCME

* Among other ordinances and resolutions introduced or moved along in the legislative process were the following:

-- An ordinance establishing terms for employees working from home.

- An ordinance authorizing the County Executive to approve Hazard Pay for non-unionized county employees as well, as per the federal CARES Act.

- \$15 million to 8 contractors for COVID-19 modifications to various county facilities.

- A \$3.5 million Sports Facility Agreement between the county, the Gateway Development Corporation, and the Cleveland Indians.

- A 2020 Economic Recovery Plan, as required by the County Charter and county ordinance.

- A \$1.5 million grant agreement with the Cleveland Foundation, to provide matching funds for the CF's Digital Inclusion Fund, which supports CF's digital equity efforts to help lessen the digital divide in the county.