

## County Council Regular Meeting: November 26, 2019

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](http://council.cuyahogacounty.us)*

### **I. Introduction.**

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by Councilman Brady and ended at 6:00 pm.

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

Two people spoke. Steve Laparo introduced the topic of toxic molds and indoor air quality and suggested the county council consider setting standards for its buildings. Miss Liu spoke also. Councilwoman Simon introduced the new Executive Director of the Planning Commission, Shaun Leninger. County Executive Budish announced that a proposal was being put together for funds for various building projects.

### **III. Business Transacted.**

\* Among measures adopted were the following:

-- An ordinance establishing an Opioid Mitigation Fund, for the receipts and disbursements of funds awarded via litigation of several large suits brought against opioid makers and distributors.

-- Extension of Interim County Sheriff's term through 12/31/20. Interim Sheriff Schilling is in the process of obtaining the qualifications required by the new charter amendment, and this resolution was adopted with the caveat that there would be no more extensions.

-- A Health and Human Services Levy -- 3.9mill renewal and 0.8mill increase -- for 8 years. This would allow the county to fund not only immediate needs but also long term needs such as workforce development, early childhood education and other human capital development.

-- The MetroHealth budget for 2020 (although already included in the County's proposed biennial budget reported below.)

-- \$1.2 million extra to 11 providers of various Fatherhood Initiative services

-- \$1.4 million extra for Rapid Re-Housing Program for the homeless.

\* Read for the second time was the proposed 2020-21 Biennial Operating Budget and Capital Improvements Plan. Councilwoman Baker introduced an amendment to remove the funding for the tree canopy. It started as a \$1 million pilot project and now will be increased to up to \$4 million, an amount Ms. Baker said the budget could not support. Councilwoman Simon spoke strongly in favor of keeping the money for the large-scale planting of trees throughout the county, and Council President Brady supported that tree funding. The resolution was adopted with two no votes.

\* Among many resolutions introduced and referred to committees were the following:

- \$1 million transferred from Water Line fund to Sanitary and Storm Sewer Line funds
- \$3.5 million in awards to 31 providers of various maintenance supplies.
- \$2.1 million for the Irishtown Bend Project in the Flats.
- \$1.3 million to repair W. 150<sup>th</sup> Street bridge
- \$2.7 million to rehab the St.Clair bridge over Rockefeller Park
- \$4.6 million to replace Green Rd. bridge in S. Euclid
- \$4 million for management of the Medical Examiner building
- \$11 million bond issue (Brownfield Redevelopment) to refinance some ED bonds
- \$7.5 million bond issue (Commercial Redevelopment) to pay down some projects
- \$16 million bond issue (ED Revenue bonds) to refund other bonds & projects
- \$5.4 million for group life insurance for county employees.
- \$49.8 million for dental insurance for county employees
- \$1.8 million for vision insurance for county employees
- \$2.2 million (additional funds) for emergency shelter services.