

## County Council Regular Meeting: October 8, 2019

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

### **I. Introduction.**

The meeting was called together at 3 o'clock pm by Council President Dan Brady with all members present. The early start was due to the holiday of Yom Kippur, which was to begin early evening of this date. Shortly after the meeting commenced, Mr. Budish departed and was replaced at the Executive's desk by Chief of Staff and former Prosecutor, Bill Mason.

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

On the previous day, the Director of the Office of Management and the Budget presented their new draft biennial budget for the years 2020 and 2021 to the Council's "Committee of the Whole." That gets the ball rolling for upcoming budget hearings and the remaining two readings before passage in mid-to-late December. See "Notes" below.

This meeting was attended by approximately 10 disabled people and their advocates, who kicked off Disability Employment Awareness Month in the County. Mr Budish spoke highly of the group, and two spokespersons addressed Council, making special mention of the lack of accessibility they experience when they apply for employment. Certain flawed facilities, such as rest rooms, make it impossible for them to accept job offers for positions for which they are otherwise qualified. In addition, Ms. Loh commented, with photos, about inadequate rest rooms at the homeless shelter where she lives.

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

\* Resolutions adopted at today's meeting included the following:

-- Six supports for funding applications by various cities or conservation groups to the Clean Ohio Fund's Green Space Conservation Program. The areas are: Brooklyn's Stickney Creek Valley, Euclid's Waterfront and two other property acquisitions, Gates Mills' Clark Forest Preserve; Orange Village's Chagrin River and Tinker's Creek Headwaters wetlands, Moreland Hills' Chagrin Meadows Preserve, and Parma's West Creek.

-- \$15 million in cash and \$5.4 million in services received by Cuyahoga and Summit Counties in settlement with Johnson & Johnson, Inc., as a result of national prescription opiate litigation in the U. S. District Court. Programs funded are those for opioid-exposed babies and their families.

-- \$240.6 million established as the final guaranteed maximum price for design-build services for the Convention Center Hotel Project and the underground enclosure from the Huntington Park Garage to the hotel.

-- \$412,755 in additional funds and an extended time period for the lease of office space on Shaker Blvd. near Shaker Square for a second Juvenile Court Regional Probation Office.

-- \$3.5 million for insurance brokerage and risk management services.

-- A \$1.1 million contract with United Way of Greater Cleveland for fiscal agent services and emergency food assistance to eligible County residents during the year 2020.

-- \$5.2 million for “enterprise-wide” print management goods and services.

-- \$1.2 million for the purchase of various “Cisco Enterprise Licenses” and support services.

\* Read for a second time and referred to October 22<sup>nd</sup>'s meeting for final vote:

-- An agreement with the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame that 40% of the County's 2020 proceeds from the new bed tax increase will go to support that museum.

-- A \$2 million Economic Development loan will go to benefit the Redwood Living, Inc., Headquarters Project on E. Pleasant Valley Road in Independence.

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

-- The 2020/21 Biennial Operating Budget & Capital Improvements Program. See “Notes.”

-- \$2.4 million to 12 providers of various road, bridge and sewer supplies.

-- \$3 million in additional funds and expanded scope of I.T. services and solutions for the Enterprise Resource Planning System.

-- \$18.6 million for the next 5 years of jail kitchen food services.

-- A total of c. \$2.4 million in revenue-generating agreements with 8 agencies for the lease of space at various Adult Activities Centers through the year 2022.

-- A total of c. \$73.3 million in additional funds and extended time periods for a master contract with 47 previously approved providers of out-of-home placement and foster care services. The measure also adds three new providers, deletes two previous ones, and authorizes exemptions to four others.

-- A total of c. \$2 million in additional funds and extended time periods for a master contract with 26 municipalities and providers of various community social services programs.

-- \$1.2 million to Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry for adult guardianship services

#### **IV. Notes.**

Now that the proposed biennial budget has been read onto the agenda once, the Council will proceed to hold budget hearings during the next two weeks: Tuesday 10/15; Thursday 10/17; Monday 10/21; and possibly Tuesday 10/22 before the next Council meeting. All sessions will be in the Council Chambers beginning at 1:00pm. The next regular Council Meeting will be on Tuesday, October 22, once more at 5:00pm.