



MINUTES

**CUYAHOGA COUNTY COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2023
CUYAHOGA COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS
C. ELLEN CONNALLY COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 4TH FLOOR
1:00 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Council President Jones called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Council President Jones asked Clerk Richardson to call the roll. Councilmembers Kelly, Miller, Tuma, Gallagher, Turner, Conwell and Jones were in attendance and a quorum was determined. Councilmembers Sweeney, Schron and Simon entered the meeting after the roll call was taken. Councilmember Stephens was absent from the meeting.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

The following individuals addressed Council Resolution No. R2023-0285, a Resolution adopting the 2024/2025 Biennial Operating Budget and Capital Improvements Program, specifically pertaining to funding for the Department of Health and Human Services:

a) Office of Early Childhood/Invest in Children to support Dolly Parton's Imagination Library:

- 1) Ms. Joan Spoerl**
- 2) Ms. McKenae Bartels**
- 3) Mr. Robert Paponetti**
- 4) Ms. Dawn Besteder**
- 5) Ms. Heidi Jones**

b) Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board of Cuyahoga County:

- 1) Mr. Ed Gemerchak**
- 2) Mr. Jason Joyce**
- 3) Mr. Brian Bailys**
- 4) Mr. Lovell Custard**
- 5) Ms. Erin Helms**

Ms. Loh addressed Council regarding funding for seasonal shelters.

4. MATTER REFERRED TO COMMITTEE / DISCUSSION:

Council President Jones turned the gavel over to Mr. Miller, Chair of the Finance & Budgeting Committee.

Mr. Miller announced that there will be a one-hour presentation at 9:00 a.m. on October 24th in the County Executive's Office, regarding The Northeast Ohio Flight Information Exchange (NEOFIX) Project; said that Mr. John Eberhart, Chief Technology Officer for ATA, LLC and Mr. Stuart Mendel, Affiliate Professor from Baldwin Wallace University will be making a presentation on the drone flight information system and invited his colleagues to attend.

- a) R2023-0285: A Resolution adopting the 2024/2025 Biennial Operating Budget and Capital Improvements Program, and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective:

1) Department of Health and Human Services (Continued):

- a) Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board of Cuyahoga County –
Chief Executive Officer Scott Osiecki

Mr. Scott Osiecki, Chief Executive Officer and Ms. Felicia Harrison, Chief Financial Officer for the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board of Cuyahoga County, addressed Council regarding budget requests for the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board of Cuyahoga County. Discussion ensued.

Councilmembers asked questions of Mr. Osiecki and Ms. Harrison pertaining to the item, which they answered accordingly.

b) Department of Health and Human Services/Division of Community Initiatives:

i) Office of Homeless Services –
Director Melissa Sirak

Ms. Melissa Sirak, Director of the Office of Homeless Services, addressed Council regarding budget requests for the Office of Homeless Services. Discussion ensued.

Councilmembers asked questions of Ms. Sirak pertaining to the item, which she answered accordingly.

ii) Office of Early Childhood/Invest in Children –
Director Shawna Rohrman

Ms. Shawna Rohrman, Director of the Office of Early Childhood/Invest in Children, addressed Council regarding budget requests for the Office of Early Childhood/Invest in Children. Discussion ensued.

Councilmembers asked questions of Ms. Rohrman pertaining to the item, which she answered accordingly.

iii) Family and Children First Council –
Director Robin Martin

Ms. Robin Martin, Director of Family and Children First Council, addressed Council regarding budget requests for the Family and Children First Council. Discussion ensued.

Councilmembers asked questions of Ms. Martin pertaining to the item, which she answered accordingly.

iv) Office of Re-Entry – Director Simeon Best

Mr. Simeon Best, Director of the Office of Re-entry, addressed Council regarding budget requests for the Office of Re-entry. Discussion ensued.

Councilmembers asked questions of Mr. Best pertaining to the item, which he answered accordingly.

5. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Mr. Miller announced that the next budget hearings will be held on October 30 at 1:00 p.m. and November 2 at 1:00 p.m.

Ms. Conwell clarified that her earlier line of questioning of the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board, does not negate her feelings that the mental health and drug services provided by the Board are critical and that it is her duty, as an elected official and in relation to her role in the budget process, to ask questions.

Ms. Simon said that Ms. Conwell's position was very clear.

6. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Miller adjourned the meeting at 4:03 p.m., without objection.