



MINUTES

**CUYAHOGA COUNTY COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 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 1:08 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

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

- 1) Ms. Ginger Van Wagenen**
- 2) Reverend King O.J. Rogers**

The following individuals addressed Council regarding funding for seasonal shelters:

- 1) Ms. Stephanie Thomas**
- 2) Ms. Loh**

4. MATTER REFERRED TO COMMITTEE / DISCUSSION:

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

- 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) Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas:

- a) General Division –
Administrative and Presiding Judge,
The Honorable Brendan J. Sheehan

The Honorable Brendan J. Sheehan, Administrative and Presiding Judge of Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas, General Division, addressed Council regarding budget requests for the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas, General Division. Discussion ensued.

Councilmembers asked questions of Judge Sheehan pertaining to the item, which he answered accordingly.

- b) Juvenile Division –
Administrative Judge, The Honorable Thomas F. O'Malley

The Honorable Thomas F. O'Malley, Administrative Judge of Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas, Juvenile Division; and Mr. Walter Parfejewiec, Director of the Office of Budget and Management, addressed Council regarding budget requests for the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas, Juvenile Division. Discussion ensued.

Councilmembers asked questions of Judge O'Malley and Mr. Parfejewiec pertaining to the item, which they answered accordingly. Councilmembers requested that a representative from the County Executive's Office be contacted to address the funding shift from the Juvenile Division's Budget to the Public Defender Commission's budget. Mr. Erik Janas, Chief of Staff for the Executive's Office arrived at the meeting and responded to additional questions from Councilmembers.

- c) Domestic Relations Division –
Administrative Judge, The Honorable Leslie Ann
Celebrezze

The Honorable Leslie Ann Celebrezze, Administrative Judge of Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas, Domestic Relations Division, addressed Council regarding budget requests for the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas, Domestic Relations Division. Discussion ensued.

Councilmembers asked questions of Judge Celebrezze pertaining to the item, which she answered accordingly.

- d) Probate Division –
Presiding Judge, The Honorable Anthony J. Russo

The Honorable Anthony J. Russo, Presiding Judge of Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas, Probate Division, addressed Council regarding budget requests for the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas, Probate Division. Discussion ensued.

Councilmembers asked questions of Judge Russo pertaining to the item, which he answered accordingly.

- 2) Court of Appeals of Ohio, Eighth Appellate District –
Administrative Judge, The Honorable Anita Laster Mays

The Honorable Anita Laster Mays, Administrative Judge of Cuyahoga County Court of Appeals of Ohio, Eighth Appellate District, addressed Council regarding budget requests for the Cuyahoga County Court of Appeals of Ohio, Eighth Appellate District. Discussion ensued.

Councilmembers asked questions of Judge Laster Mays pertaining to the item, which she answered accordingly.

- 3) Office of the Prosecuting Attorney –
The Honorable Michael C. O’Malley

The Honorable Michael C. O’Malley, County Prosecutor, addressed Council regarding budget requests for the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney. Discussion ensued.

Councilmembers asked questions of Mr. O’Malley pertaining to the item, which he answered accordingly.

- 4) Public Defender Commission –
Chief Public Defender Cullen Sweeney

Mr. Cullen Sweeney, Chief Public Defender and Mr. Mark Budzar, Administrator for the Public Defender Commission, addressed Council regarding budget requests for the Public Defender Commission. Discussion ensued.

Councilmembers asked questions of Mr. Sweeney and Mr. Budzar pertaining to the item, which they answered accordingly.

- 5) Department of Human Resources/Benefits –
Director Sarah Nemastil

Ms. Sarah Nemastil, Director of the Department of Human Resources/Benefits and Mr. Parfejewiec, addressed Council regarding budget requests for the Department of Human Resources/Benefits. Discussion ensued.

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

- 6) Cuyahoga County Personnel Review Commission –
Director Rebecca Kopcienski

Ms. Rebecca Kopcienski, Director of the Cuyahoga County Personnel Review Commission, addressed Council regarding budget requests for the Cuyahoga County Personnel Review Commission. Discussion ensued.

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

- 7) Department of Communications – Director Kelly Woodard

Ms. Kelly Woodard, Director of the Department of Communications and Mr. Parfejewiec, addressed Council regarding budget requests for the Department of Communications. Discussion ensued.

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

- 8) Cuyahoga County Board of Elections – Director Anthony Perlatti

Mr. Anthony Perlatti, Director of the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections, addressed Council regarding budget requests for the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections. Discussion ensued.

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

- 9) Department of Internal Audit – Director Monica Houston

Ms. Monica Houston, Director of the Department of Internal Audit, addressed Council regarding budget requests for the Department of Internal Audit. Discussion ensued.

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

- 10) Cuyahoga County Agency of Inspector General –
Inspector General Alexa Beeler

Ms. Alexa Beeler, Inspector General for the Cuyahoga County Agency of Inspector General, addressed Council regarding budget requests for the Cuyahoga County Agency of Inspector General. Discussion ensued.

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

- 11) Law Department– Director Rick Manoloff

Mr. Miller stated that the budget presentation for the Law Department will be given on Monday, November 6th.

5. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

There was no miscellaneous business.

6. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Miller adjourned the meeting at 5:03 p.m., without objection.