



MINUTES

CUYAHOGA COUNTY COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2023
CUYAHOGA COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS
C. ELLEN CONNALLY COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 4TH FLOOR
2:30 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

Council President Jones called the meeting to order at 2:40 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

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

[Clerk's Note: Councilmember Simon joined the meeting shortly after the roll call was taken.]

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

a) Zack Schiller, Research Director of Policy Matters Ohio, addressed Council regarding the effects of tax increment financing in connection with a proposed development project in and around downtown Cleveland.

4. ITEMS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE:

- a) R2023-0293: A Resolution declaring the necessity of submitting to the electors of Cuyahoga County the question of the renewal of a 4.8-mill tax levy for the purpose of supplementing general fund appropriations for health and human or social services, for eight years, outside the ten-mill limitation, in accordance with Section 5705.191 of the Ohio Revised Code; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.

County Executive Chris Ronayne thanked Council for their hard work and support for the Health and Human Services Levy renewal and stressed the importance of the various services that this levy supports and the vulnerable populations that are served with these

funds; and invited the citizens of Cuyahoga County to assist in the efforts to sustain this critical safety net.

Mr. David Merriman, Director of the Department of Health and Human Services and Mr. Walter Parfejewiec, Director of the Office of Budget & Management, addressed Council regarding Resolution No. R2023-0293. Discussion ensued.

Council members asked questions of Mr. Merriman and Mr. Parfejewiec, pertaining to the item, which they answered accordingly.

On a motion by Mr. Schron with a second by Mr. Sweeney, Resolution No. R2023-0293 was considered and approved by unanimous vote to be referred to the full Council agenda with a recommendation for second reading.

- b) R2023-0294: A Resolution determining to proceed with submitting to the electors of Cuyahoga County the question of renewing an existing 4.8-mill tax levy outside the ten-mill limitation for the purpose of supplementing general fund appropriations for health and human or social services, for eight years, in accordance with Section 5705.191 of the Ohio Revised Code; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.

Mr. David Merriman, Director of the Department of Health and Human Services and Mr. Walter Parfejewiec, Director of the Office of Budget & Management, addressed Council regarding Resolution No. R2023-0294. Discussion ensued.

Council members asked questions of Mr. Merriman and Mr. Parfejewiec, pertaining to the item, which they answered accordingly.

On a motion by Mr. Miller with a second by Ms. Turner, Resolution No. R2023-0294 was considered and approved by unanimous vote to be referred to the full Council agenda with a recommendation for second reading.

5. ITEM REFERRED TO COMMITTEE/CONFIRMATION HEARING:

- a) R2023-0304: A Resolution confirming the County Executive's appointment of Michael W. Chambers, upon his taking the oath of office, as County Fiscal Officer; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.

Council President Jones made a brief statement regarding the confirmation hearing process for Resolution No. R2023-0304.

Mr. Michael Chambers, County Executive Ronayne's nominee for the position of County Fiscal Officer, was called upon to deliver an opening statement. He provided background into his experience and qualifications for the position. Discussion ensued.

Councilmembers asked questions of Mr. Chambers pertaining to his experience and expertise, which he answered accordingly. Discussion ensued.

Councilmembers asked questions of Ms. Katherine Gallagher, Chief of Operations and Community Innovation, as to whether a policy exists that addresses the circumstances of rehiring Mr. Chambers, which she answered accordingly. Discussion ensued.

On a motion by Mr. Sweeney with a second by Mr. Tuma, Resolution No. R2023-0304 was approved by a majority roll call vote of 7 yeas and 3 nays to be referred to the full Council agenda with a recommendation for second reading, with Councilmembers Turner, Kelly, Miller, Sweeney, Tuma, Gallagher and Jones voting in the affirmative and Councilmembers Conwell, Simon and Schron casting dissenting votes.

6. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- a) Pending or imminent court action

A motion was made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Ms. Simon and approved by unanimous roll-call vote to move to Executive Session for the purposes of discussing pending or imminent court action and for no other purpose whatsoever. Executive Session was then called to order by Council President Jones at 3:51p.m. The following Councilmembers were present: Turner, Conwell, Simon, Kelly, Miller, Sweeney, Tuma, Gallagher, Schron and Jones.

The following additional attendees were present: Law Director Rick Manoloff; Civil Division Chief David Lambert; Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Mark Musson; Interim Fiscal Officer Michael Chambers; Chief Information Officer Andy Johnson; Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Matthew Fitzsimmons; Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Craig Morice; Attorney Daniel McMullen, Calfee, Halter & Griswold, LLP and Chief of Operations and Community Innovation Katherine Gallagher. Council Chief of Staff Joseph Nanni, Legislative Budget Advisor Trevor McAleer and Special Counsel Michael King.

At 4:51 p.m., Executive Session was adjourned without objection and Council President Jones then reconvened the meeting.

7. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

There was no miscellaneous business.

8. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Council President Jones adjourned the meeting at 4:51 p.m., without objection.