



MINUTES

CUYAHOGA COUNTY COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
TUESDAY, JULY 16, 2024
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 2:33 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Council President Jones asked Clerk Richardson to call the roll. Councilmembers Turner, Kelly, Miller, Sweeney, Byrne, Gallagher and Jones were in attendance and a quorum was determined. Councilmember Yvonne Conwell was absent.

[Clerk's Note: Councilmembers Schron, Stephens and Simon joined the meeting after the roll call was taken.]

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

The following individuals addressed Council regarding various challenges encountered at the Homeless Shelter, specifically related to communication issues and the delivery of mail.

- a) Loh
- b) Felecia Egler

4. ITEMS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

- a) R2024-0266: A Resolution amending Rule 17 of the Cuyahoga County Rules of Council to establish additional guidelines and procedures for public comment at Council and Committee meetings; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.

Mr. Mike King, Special Counsel, and Mr. Rick Manoloff, Law Director, addressed Council regarding Resolution No. R2024-0266. Discussion ensued.

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

There was no legislative action taken on Resolution No. R2024-0266.

- b) O2024-0004: An Ordinance repealing and replacing Chapter 703 of the County Code establishing a Justice Center Capital Projects Fund within the General Fund; and directing the deposit of specified sales and use tax proceeds therein.

Councilmembers Kelly and Schron, addressed Council regarding what process is currently being used in County government to identify Capital Projects. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Mike King, Special Counsel, addressed Council and clarified the definition of Capital Projects, provided to him by the Department of Public Works.

Councilmember Schron introduced an updated proposed amendment to Ordinance No. O2024-0004 which incorporates the following language into the legislation:

The proposed amendment would make the following changes to Section 703.02 of the County Code within Section 1 of the Ordinance (additions are underlined, deletions are stricken):

Section 703.02: Use of Justice Center Capital Projects Fund
Funds in the Justice Center Capital Projects Fund shall be used solely for ~~the purpose~~ costs of capital projects for a County corrections center or courthouse, which shall include the cost of acquiring, including acquiring land and interest in land, constructing, reconstructing, rehabilitating, remodeling, renovating, enlarging, improving, furnishing, and equipping facilities at a cost of \$100,000 or greater and an estimated useful life of five years or more; ~~and otherwise improving a County corrections center and courthouse,~~ provided however that Funds shall not be used for routine maintenance.

A motion was then made by Mr. Schron, seconded by Mr. Kelly and approved by majority vote, to accept the proposed amendment, with Councilman Miller casting the only dissenting vote.

Councilmember Turner addressed Council regarding Capital Projects and the County's obligations to build and maintain a Jail and Courthouse. Ms. Turner asked her colleagues to consider supporting various services and training programs requested by her constituents, if there are any remaining funds left after the County's commitments have been met.

Councilmember Turner introduced a proposed amendment to Ordinance No. O2024-0004 which incorporates the following language into the legislation:

The proposed amendment would make the following changes to Section 703.02 of the County Code within Section 1 of the Ordinance (additions are underlined, deletions are stricken):

Section 703.02: Use of Justice Center Capital Projects Fund

Funds in the Justice Center Capital Projects Fund shall be used solely for solely for the purpose of acquiring, including acquiring land and interest in land, constructing, renovating, furnishing, equipping, ~~and~~ otherwise improving a County corrections center and courthouse; and to provide reentry services, pretrial services, alcohol and drug addiction treatment services, mental and behavioral health services, and job or vocational training programs.

Council members asked questions of Mr. King, and Mr. Trevor McAleer, Legislative Budget Advisor, pertaining to Councilmember Turner’s proposed amendment, which they answered accordingly. Discussion ensued.

A motion was then made by Mr. Sweeney and seconded by Ms. Turner, to accept proposed amendment No. 2. The motion failed by a roll-call vote of 4 yeas and 6 nays with Councilmembers Turner, Miller, Sweeney and Byrne voting in the affirmative and Councilmembers Schron, Stephens, Simon, Kelly, Gallagher and Jones casting dissenting votes.

On a motion by Mr. Schron with a second by Mr. Kelly, Ordinance No. O2024-0004 was considered and approved, as amended, to be referred to the full Council agenda for second reading, by a majority roll-call vote of 7 yeas and 3 nays, with Councilmembers Schron, Turner, Stephens, Simon, Kelly, Jones and Gallagher voting in the affirmative and Miller, Sweeney and Byrne casting dissenting votes.

5. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- a) Pending or imminent court action

Executive Session was called to order by Council President Jones at 3:59 p.m. Council President Jones asked Clerk Richardson to call the roll to go into Executive Session. A motion was made by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mr. Miller and approved by unanimous roll-call vote to move to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing pending or imminent court action and for no other purpose whatsoever.

The following Councilmembers were present: Schron, Turner, Stephens, Simon, Kelly, Miller, Sweeney, Byrne, Gallagher and Jones.

The following additional attendees were present: Law Director Rick Manoloff; Gregory Huth, Assistant Law Director and Senior Counsel; Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Matthew Fitzsimmons; Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Norah Poore; Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Michael Stewart; Chief of Staff Joseph Nanni; Legislative Budget Advisor Trevor McAleer and Special Counsel Michael King.

At 4:19 p.m., Executive Session was adjourned without objection and Council President

Jones then reconvened the meeting.

6. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

There was no miscellaneous business.

7. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Council President Jones adjourned the meeting at 4:19 p.m., without objection.