



## **MINUTES**

**CUYAHOGA COUNTY COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
TUESDAY, JULY 30, 2024  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS  
C. ELLEN CONNALLY COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 4<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR  
2:30 PM**

### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

**Council President Jones called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m.**

### **2. ROLL CALL**

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

**[Clerk's Note: Councilmembers Conwell and Simon joined the meeting after the roll-call was taken.]**

### **3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

- a) Felecia Egler addressed Council regarding communication issues and the delivery of mail at the Homeless Shelter.**
- b) Loh addressed Council regarding various challenges and procedures encountered at the Homeless Shelter, specifically related to bed checks.**
- c) Will Tarter addressed Council and urged them not to permanently adopt the 20 person lottery system for public comment, and proposed an alternative that protects accessibility for the Public and is mindful of Council's concern of the present structure.**

### **4. ITEM 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, addressed Council regarding Resolution No. R2024-0266, and spoke about 5 proposed substitutes sponsored by various Councilmembers and the Law Department, that have been submitted for consideration. Discussion ensued.

Councilmember Sweeney introduced proposed substitute No. 1. to Resolution No. R2024-0266. Discussion ensued.

The proposed substitute would make the following change within Section 1 Rule 17C: Procedures for Public Comment.

**Rule 17C: Procedures for Public Comment**

**The public comment period at each Council and committee meeting shall be limited to twenty (20) speakers. Additional speakers may be permitted at the discretion of the Chairperson. Requests to address Council shall be made in writing to the Clerk on a form to be provided for this purpose. The Chief of Staff and Clerk shall post guidelines on the Council website specifying time, place, and manner for individuals to register and speak during the public comment period. Individuals may submit written testimony to the Clerk prior to the meeting in lieu of verbal public comment on a form to be provided for this purpose. Written testimony shall be distributed to all members of the Council or the committee to which it is submitted.**

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

A motion was then made by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mr. Miller and approved by majority roll-call vote, to accept proposed substitute No. 1, with Councilmembers Turner, Stephens, Kelly, Miller, Sweeney, Byrne, Gallagher and Jones voting in the affirmative and Councilmember Schron casting a dissenting vote.

Councilmember Sweeney introduced proposed substitute No. 2 to Resolution No. R2024-0266. Mr. Sweeney then made a motion to accept the proposed substitute. Discussion ensued. Mr. Sweeney subsequently withdrew his motion.

The proposed substitute would make the following change within Section 1 Rule 17B:

**Public Comment at Council Meetings**

The Council shall provide time at the beginning of each Council meeting for public comment ~~relating to county business.~~ Requests to address Council shall be made in writing to the Clerk prior to the meeting on a form to be

~~provided for this purpose. Requests submitted to the Clerk not later than 12 Noon on the day of the meeting shall be given priority in the order of presentation. After being recognized by the President, the presenter shall state his/her name and address and may speak for not more than three (3) minutes, unless such time is extended at the discretion of the President.~~

Councilmembers may ask questions to those speaking during public comment if they so desire.

Councilmember Miller introduced proposed substitute No. 3 to Resolution No. R2024-0266. Discussion ensued.

The proposed substitute would make the following change within Section 1 Rule 17C:

Procedures for Public Comment

The public comment period at each Council and committee meeting held prior to January 1, 2026 shall be limited to twenty (20) speakers. Additional speakers may be permitted at the discretion of the Chairperson. Requests to address Council shall be made in writing to the Clerk on a form to be provided for this purpose. The Chief of Staff and Clerk shall post guidelines on the Council website specifying time, place, and manner for individuals to register and speak during the public comment period. Individuals may submit written testimony to the Clerk prior to the meeting in lieu of verbal public comment on a form to be provided for this purpose.

A motion was then made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Sweeney and approved by majority roll-call vote, to accept proposed substitute No. 3, with Councilmembers Turner, Kelly, Miller, Sweeney, Byrne, Conwell and Jones voting in the affirmative and Councilmembers Stephens, Gallagher and Schron casting dissenting votes.

Councilmember Turner introduced proposed substitute No. 4 to Resolution No. R2024-0266. Discussion ensued.

The proposed substitute would make the following change within Section 1 Rule 17C:

Procedures for Public Comment

The public comment period at each Council and committee meeting shall be limited to ~~twenty (20)~~thirty (30) speakers. Additional speakers may be permitted at the discretion of the Chairperson. Requests to address Council shall be made in writing to the Clerk on a form to be provided for this purpose. The Chief of Staff and Clerk shall post guidelines on the Council website specifying time, place, and manner for individuals to register and speak during the public comment period. Individuals may submit written

**testimony to the Clerk prior to the meeting in lieu of verbal public comment on a form to be provided for this purpose.**

A motion was then made by Ms. Turner, seconded by Mr. Sweeney and approved by unanimous roll-call vote, to accept proposed substitute No. 4, with Councilmembers Conwell, Turner, Stephens, Kelly, Miller, Sweeney, Byrne, Gallagher, Schron and Jones voting in the affirmative.

Mr. Mike King, Special Counsel, introduced proposed substitute No. 5 to Resolution No. R2024-0266,

The proposed substitute would incorporate the Law Department's recommended technical changes for clarity and consistency of rules between Council and Committee meetings. Mr. King also stated that the language can be reconciled with any of the council-sponsored amendments that have been circulated prior to final passage. Discussion ensued.

Section 1 Rule 17A

**Public Comment at Council and Committee Meetings**

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Section 1 Rule 17B

**Procedures for Public Comment**

A motion was then made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Schron and approved by unanimous vote, to accept proposed substitute No. 5.

On a motion by Mr. Jones with a second by Ms. Conwell, Resolution No. R2024-0266 was considered and approved by unanimous vote, to be referred to the full Council agenda for second reading, as substituted.

5. PRESENTATION

- a) Report and Findings by the Cuyahoga County Community Development Community Reinvestment Advisory Subcommittee

Mr. Frank Ford, Senior Policy Advisor of The Fair Housing Center for Rights & Research, made a presentation to Council regarding Home Mortgage Lending in Cuyahoga County. Mr. Ford spoke about the 4 housing trends that serve as a backdrop to mortgage lending; the massive increase of the acquisition of homes by investors; the lack of access to home mortgages \$100,000,00 and below; the decline of Homeownership in Cuyahoga County; Home purchase loans market share to low and moderate income borrowers in 2022, in Cuyahoga County; the 7-year trend of lenders considered for Cuyahoga County contract market share of all home purchase loans, to low and moderate income borrowers; Home purchase loans market share of loans for \$100,000,00 or less in 2022, in Cuyahoga County

**and comparison of Cuyahoga County deposits held by Banks, as of June 30, 2022, to their loans for purchase, Home repair or refinance on 1-4 Family and Multi-Family Homes in Cuyahoga County in 2022. Discussion ensued.**

**Councilmembers asked questions of Mr. Ford pertaining to the presentation, which he answered accordingly.**

**Subcommittee members Ms. Sally Martin O’Toole and Ms. Barbara Anderson, addressed Council and acknowledged Councilmember Stephens for elevating the work of the Cuyahoga County Community Development Community Reinvestment Advisory Committee, and shared their final thoughts on the accomplishments of the subcommittee and their desire to continue their work with the support of County Council. They also discussed recommendations, goals and the next steps moving forward. Discussion ensued.**

**Councilmembers asked questions of Ms. Martin O’Toole and Ms. Anderson pertaining to the presentation, which they answered accordingly.**

**Council President Jones acknowledged the members of the Community Reinvestment Advisory Subcommittee and thanked them for all their hard work. Councilmember Stephens introduced Mayor Annette Blackwell, City of Maple Heights, who addressed Council and shared her perspective on the challenges of disinvestment, low home values and high property taxes. Ms. Stephens also acknowledged subcommittee members Mayor Kahlil Seren, City of Cleveland Heights, and Mayor Georgine Welo, City of Euclid.**

## **6. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- a) Collective bargaining matters, including:
  - i) a Collective Bargaining Agreement between Cuyahoga County and the Teamsters Local 407, Affiliated with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, representing approximately 20 employees in 2 classifications from the Cuyahoga County Department of Health and Human Services, Cuyahoga Job and Family Services Division, for the period 7/1/2024 – 6/30/2027;
  - ii) a Collective Bargaining Agreement between Cuyahoga County and the Teamsters Local 436, Affiliated with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, representing approximately 32 employees in 12 classifications from the Cuyahoga County Department of Public Works Maintenance Division for the period 1/1/2024 – 12/31/2026;
  - iii) accepting the report containing findings and recommendations of Fact-Finder Jeffrey Belkin regarding negotiations between Cuyahoga County and the Ohio Patrolmen’s Benevolent Association for a collective bargaining agreement covering approximately 93

employees in the classification of Protective Services Officer at the Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Department;

**Executive Session was called to order by Council President Jones at 4:35 p.m. Council President Jones asked Clerk Richardson to call the roll to go into Executive Session. A motion was made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Ms. Turner and approved by unanimous roll-call vote to move to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining matters and for no other purpose whatsoever.**

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

**The following additional attendees were present: Deputy Chief Law Director Nora Hurley, Assistant Law Director Rebecca Divorky; Ryan Geary, Assistant Law Director; Law Director Rick Manoloff; Jim Mackey, Sheriff's Department; Policy Advisor LeVine Ross; Chief of Staff Joseph Nanni; Legislative Budget Advisor Trevor McAleer and Special Counsel Michael King.**

**At 5:06 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 5:06 p.m., without objection.**