



CUYAHOGA COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

CUYAHOGA COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS

4th FLOOR

MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2025 — 1:00 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Councilmember Turner, Chair of the Finance & Budgeting Committee, called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Chair Turner asked Clerk Richardson to call the roll. Councilmembers Gallagher, Conwell, Jones, Turner, Houser, Simon, Kelly, Sweeney, Casselberry, Schleper, Miller were in attendance and a quorum was determined.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

The following individuals addressed Council regarding Resolution No. R2025-0293, adopting the 2026/2027 Biennial Operating Budget and Capital Improvements Program:

- a) Loh
- b) Robert Staib
- c) Dr. Thomas Gilmore
- d) Leah Winsberg
- e) Valerie Taylor
- f) Rev. Otis R. King
- g) Mary E. Rice
- h) Rev. Edward E. Walton
- i) Rev. Lorenzo Norris

4. MATTER REFERRED TO COMMITTEE/DISCUSSION:

- a) R2025-0293: A Resolution adopting the 2026/2027 Biennial Operating Budget and Capital Improvements Program, and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective:

- 1) Budget Amendments

Administrations Technical Amendments

Council's Amendments 1-9

2) Approve & Referral to Council

Chair Turner gave brief opening remarks, acknowledging public commenters and advocates, as well as the budgetary process.

Mr. Trevor McAleer, Legislative Budget Advisor, addressed Council regarding Resolution No. R2025-0293. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Walter Parfejiewc, Director of the Office of Budget and Management, addressed Council regarding the Administration's proposed technical amendments to Resolution No. R2025-0293. Discussion ensued.

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

A motion was then made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Sweeney and approved by unanimous vote to approve the proposed technical amendments.

Mr. McAleer gave a brief overview of the first proposed Council amendment to Resolution No. R2025-0293. Discussion ensued.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Sweeney and approved by unanimous vote to amend Resolution No. R2025-0293 as follows:

1. Proposed transfer from Casino Revenue to Economic Development is reduced from \$2.5M per year to \$1.5M per year.
2. A whereas clause will be added, describing how the funds from Casino Revenue will be allocated for 2026 and 2027.
3. Language is added to provide that Council will continue to receive monthly reports from the Sheriff's Office that were required in the last budget.
4. A separate accounting unit will be created in the County's financial system to track the Community Support Unit in the Sheriff's Office.
5. Increasing The Metro Health subsidy by \$3M in 2026 and \$1.5M in 2027, fully restoring their subsidy to \$35M per year. This and the next two items will be funded from HHS Levy reserves.
6. Greater Cleveland Works Scholarship Program is increased by \$250K in 2027.
7. Canopy contract is increased by \$300K in 2026 and \$200K in 2027.

A motion was made by Mr. Gallagher and seconded by Ms. Simon to amend Resolution No. R2025-0293 by allocating \$1.2 million dollars from the Opioid Mitigation Fund to fund 15 additional probation officers each year for Juvenile Court. The motion failed by a majority roll-call vote of 4 yeas and 7 nays, with Councilmembers Gallagher, Houser, Simon and Kelly voting in the affirmative and Councilmembers Schleper, Conwell, Jones, Turner, Sweeney, Casselberry and Miller casting dissenting votes.

Mr. McAleer gave a brief overview of the second proposed Council amendment to Resolution No. R2025-0293. Discussion ensued.

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

A motion was then made by Ms. Simon, seconded by Mr. Gallagher to amend Resolution No. R2025-0293 by reducing General Fund appropriations in 2027 for two positions in the Department of Sustainability and one position in the County Executive's Office that were previously funded from grants. The motion failed by a majority roll-call vote of 3 yeas and 8 nays, with Councilmembers Gallagher, Simon and Kelly voting in the affirmative and Councilmembers Schleper, Conwell, Jones, Turner, Houser, Kelly, Sweeney, Casselberry and Miller casting dissenting votes.

Mr. McAleer gave a brief overview of the third proposed Council amendment to Resolution No. R2025-0293. Discussion ensued.

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

A motion was made by Ms. Simon and seconded by Mr. Gallagher to amend Resolution No. R2025-0293 by allocating \$25,000 from the Opioid Mitigation Fund to Juvenile Court in 2026 for the CASA program. The motion failed by a majority roll-call vote of 3 yeas and 8 nays, with Councilmembers Gallagher, Simon and Kelly voting in the affirmative and Councilmembers Schleper, Conwell, Jones, Turner, Houser, Kelly, Sweeney, Casselberry and Miller casting dissenting votes.

On a motion by Mr. Miller, with a second by Ms. Turner, Resolution No. R2025-0293 was considered and approved by majority vote to be referred to the full Council agenda for second reading, as amended, with Ms. Simon casting the only dissenting vote.

5. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

There was no miscellaneous business.

6. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Chair Turner adjourned the meeting at 2:58 p.m., without objection.