



CUYAHOGA COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

CUYAHOGA COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS

4th FLOOR

MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2025 — 1:00 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Council President Miller called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

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

[Clerk's Note: Councilmembers Jones, Houser and Simon entered the meeting after the roll call was taken].

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

- a) **Loh addressed Council regarding the 2026/2027 Biennial Operating Budget process.**
- b) **Gail Long addressed Council regarding proposed cuts to the MetroHealth System subsidy.**

4. PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSION:

Council President Miller gave opening remarks on behalf of Chair Meredith Turner, who was unable to attend, regarding the process for the budget hearings and the scheduled dates the hearings will take place.

- a) Budget Preview and Strategy Presentation – County Executive Chris Ronayne
- b) Budget Overview and Summary Presentation – OBM Director Walter Parfejewiec
- c) Capital Improvements Plan Overview – OBM Director Walter Parfejewiec
- d) Capital Plan and Debt Schedule Overview – OBM Director Walter Parfejewiec
- e) Policy Initiatives – OBM Director Walter Parfejewiec
- f) Presentation of Budget Reductions/Additions – OBM Director Walter Parfejewiec
- g) Overview of Various Departmental Budgets – OBM Director Walter Parfejewiec:

- 1) Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities
- 2) Cuyahoga County Law Library Resources Board
- 3) Cuyahoga County Solid Waste Management District
- 4) Department of Regional Collaboration
- 5) Cuyahoga County Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument Commission

- 6) The Ohio State University Extension
- 7) Cuyahoga County Board of Revision

County Executive Ronayne then gave remarks to Council regarding the proposed 2026/2027 Biennial Operating Budget.

Mr. Walter Parfejewiec, Director of the Office of Budget and Management, provided an overview of the 2026/2027 Biennial Operating Budget and Capital Improvements Program; Base budget parameters; Budget requests; Approved budget requests; General fund budget, percentages, revenue, expenditures percentages, subsidies and ending cash balance; HHS Levy Fund, revenue budgets, percentages, expenditures and subsidies budget, reductions, percentages, ending cash balance and all funds budget; Capital improvements program; Debt service; Policy initiatives, budget reductions/additions and various departmental budgets. Discussion ensued.

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

Ms. Amber Gibbs, Chief Executive Officer and Superintendent, Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities, addressed Council and gave a presentation regarding her recommended budget.

Councilmembers asked questions of Ms. Gibbs pertaining to her budget, which she answered accordingly.

Ms. Nichole Debose, Director of the Ohio State University Extension, addressed Council and gave a presentation regarding her recommended budget, and requested a slight increase to cover operating expenses.

Councilmembers asked questions of Ms. Debose pertaining to her budget, which she answered accordingly.

Mr. Parfejewiec addressed Council and gave a brief presentation regarding the Board of Revision, and stated that Administrator Ronald O'Leary had no comments as he was satisfied with his recommended budget.

Council President Miller asked questions of Mr. O'Leary regarding the number of residential property owners who filed property valuation complaints during the current cycle, and how many property owners have not been heard.

Mr. Ronald O'Leary, Administrator, Board of Revision, addressed Council and answered Mr. Miller's questions accordingly.

Mr. Miller concluded the initial overall budget hearings and stated that departmental hearings will begin on Monday, October 20th at 1:00 p.m.

Council President Miller addressed his colleagues and stated that the following item, which is for discussion only, will be heard at tonight's Council meeting for possible consideration for First reading adoption under suspension of rules. Mr. Miller asked Clerk Richardson to read the item unofficially into the record.

- a) A Resolution objecting to the creation of five residential tax increment financing incentive districts under Ohio Revised Code Section 5709.40(C) by the City of Brecksville; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.

Gregory Huth, Assistant Law Director, and Senior Counsel, addressed Council and gave a presentation regarding the creation of (5) residential tax increment financing incentive districts in the City of Brecksville. Discussion ensued.

Councilmembers asked questions of Mr. Huth pertaining to Item a), which he answered accordingly.

5. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- a) Pending or imminent court action

A motion was made by Ms. Conwell, seconded by Mr. Casselberry, and approved by unanimous roll-call vote to move to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing pending or imminent court action, for no other purpose whatsoever. Executive Session was then called to order by Council President Miller at 3:04 p.m. The following Councilmembers were present Conwell, Jones, Houser, Simon, Kelly, Sweeney, Casselberry, Gallagher, Schleper and Miller.

The following additional attendees were present: Assistant Law Director and Senior Counsel Gregory Huth; Civil Division Chief David Lambert; Domestic Relations Administrative and Presiding Judge Diane Palos; Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Michael Stewart; Council Chief of Staff Joseph Nanni; Legislative Budget Advisor Trevor McAleer and Research and Policy Analyst Laura Black.

At 4:02 p.m., Executive Session was adjourned without objection and Council President Miller then reconvened the meeting.

6. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

There was no miscellaneous business.

7. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Council President Miller adjourned the meeting at 4:03 p.m., without objection.