



CUYAHOGA COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

CUYAHOGA COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS

4th FLOOR

MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2025 — 9:00 A.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Council President Miller called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL

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

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

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

- a) **Loh, addressed Council regarding budget cuts for vital services.**
- b) **Wendy Hunter, Director of Family Services for the Canopy Child Advocacy Center, addressed Council regarding funding for the Child Protection Team.**

Council President Miller turned the gavel over to Councilmember Turner, Chair of the Finance & Budgeting Committee.

Chair Turner gave introductory remarks regarding the process for the budget hearings.

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) **Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas:**
 - i) **General Division – Administrative and Presiding Judge,
The Honorable Brendan J. Sheehan**

The Honorable Brendan J. Sheehan, Administrative and Presiding Judge for the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas General Division, addressed Council regarding budget requests for the Court. Discussion ensued.

Councilmembers asked questions of Judge Sheehan pertaining to the item, which he answered accordingly.

- ii) Juvenile Division – Administrative Judge,
The Honorable Thomas F. O’Malley

On behalf of The Honorable Thomas F. O’Malley, Administrative Judge for the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas Juvenile Division, Tim McDevitt, Court Administrator, addressed Council regarding budget requests for the Court. Discussion ensued.

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

- iii) Domestic Relations Division – Administrative Judge,
The Honorable Diane M. Palos

The Honorable Diane M. Palos, Administrative Judge for Domestic Relations Division, addressed Council and stated the Court accepts their budget requests, contingent upon the inclusion of (4) requests previously submitted as technical adjustments, as they were inadvertently omitted, as confirmed by Mr. Walter Parfejewiec, Director of the Office of Budget & Management.

Councilmember Miller asked Mr. Parfejewiec a question pertaining to the item, which he answered accordingly.

[Clerk’s Notes: Item No. iii) was taken out of order before Item No. 1). i).]

- iv) Probate Division – Presiding Judge,
The Honorable Anthony J. Russo

The Honorable Anthony J. Russo, Presiding Judge for the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas Probate Division, addressed Council regarding budget requests for the Court. Discussion ensued. Councilmembers asked questions of Judge Russo pertaining to the item, which he answered accordingly.

- 2) Court of Appeals of Ohio, Eighth Appellate District – Administrative Judge,
The Honorable Eileen A. Gallagher

The Honorable Mary Eileen Kilbane, Administrative Judge for the Court of Appeals of Ohio, Eighth Appellate District, addressed Council and stated the Court accepts their budget as proposed.

- 3) Office of the Prosecuting Attorney – The Honorable Michael C. O’Malley

The Honorable Michael C. O’Malley, Cuyahoga County Prosecuting Attorney, addressed Council regarding budget requests for the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney. Discussion ensued.

Councilmembers asked questions of Mr. O’Malley pertaining to the item, which he answered accordingly.

- 4) Office of the Public Defender – Chief Public Defender Cullen Sweeney

Mr. Cullen Sweeney, Chief Public Defender, addressed Council and gave a presentation regarding the Office's budget and stated the he accepts their budget as proposed.

- 5) Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission – Executive Director Jon P. Reiss

Mr. Jon Reiss, Executive Director, addressed Council regarding the Office's budget and stated he accepts their budget as proposed.

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

- 6) Department of Human Resources/Benefits – Director Sarah Nemasstil

Ms. Sarah Nemasstil, Director of the Department of Human Resources, and Mr. Patrick Smock, Director of Human Resources, Employee Services, addressed Council regarding budget requests. Discussion ensued.

Councilmembers asked questions of Ms. Nemasstil pertaining to the item, which she answered accordingly.

- 7) Cuyahoga County Personnel Review Commission – Director Rebecca Kopcienski

Ms. Rebecca Kopcienski, Director of the Personnel Review Commission; Mr. Albert Bouchahine, Manager of Classification and Compensation and Mr. George Vaughn, Manager of Employment Testing, addressed Council and gave a brief overview and presentation of the Commission regarding budget requests for the Personnel Review Commission. Discussion ensued.

Councilmembers asked questions of Ms. Kopcienski, Mr. Bouchahine and Mr. Vaughn pertaining to the item, which they answered accordingly.

- 8) Department of Communications – Director Kelly Woodard

Ms. Kelly Woodard, Director of the Department of Communications, addressed Council regarding budget requests for the Department of Communications. Discussion ensued.

- 9) Cuyahoga County Board of Elections – Director Anthony W. Perlatti

Mr. Anthony Perlatti, Director of the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections and Mr. Walter Parfejewiec, Director, Office of Budget & Management, addressed Council regarding budget requests for the Board of Elections. Discussion ensued.

Councilmembers asked questions of Mr. Perlatti and Mr. Parfejewiec pertaining to the item, which They answered accordingly.

- 10) Department of Internal Auditing – Director Cory Swaisgood

Mr. Cory Swaisgood, Director of Internal Auditing, addressed Council regarding budget requests for the Department of Internal Auditing. Discussion ensued.

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

11) Cuyahoga County Agency of Inspector General – Inspector General Alexa Beeler

Ms. Alexa Beeler, Inspector General, addressed Council regarding budget requests for the Agency of the Inspector General. Discussion ensued.

Councilmembers asked questions of Ms. Beeler pertaining to the item, which he answered accordingly.

12) Department of Law – Director Richard D. Manoloff

Mr. Rick Manoloff, Director, Department of Law,, addressed Council regarding budget requests for the Department of Law. Discussion ensued.

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

5. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

There was no miscellaneous business.

6. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Chair Meridith Turner adjourned the meeting at 12:32 p.m., without objection.