



## **CUYAHOGA COUNTY COUNCIL**

### **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

CUYAHOGA COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS

4<sup>th</sup> FLOOR

### **MEETING MINUTES**

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2025 — 1:00 P.M.**

---

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

**Council President Miller called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m.**

#### **2. ROLL CALL**

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

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

#### **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, addressed Council regarding County funding for The MetroHealth System..**
- b) **John Moss, MetroHealth Board Member, addressed Council regarding funding for The MetroHealth System.**
- c) **John Corlett, MetroHealth, Board of Trustees, addressed Council regarding maintaining The MetroHealth System's current funding levels.**
- d) **Jodi Mitchell, Senior Director of Policy of WellLink, Northeast Ohio Opioid Consortium, addressed Council regarding funding for The MetroHealth System**
- e) **Jae Williams, Citizen, addressed Council regarding funding for The MetroHealth System.**
- f) **Gail Long, Citizen, addressed Council regarding The MetroHealth System budget Subsidy.**

**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) The MetroHealth System  
– President and Chief Executive Officer Dr. Christine Alexander-Rager

**Dr. Christine Alexander-Rager, President and Chief Executive Officer of The MetroHealth System, addressed Council regarding budget requests for The MetroHealth System. Discussion ensued.**

**Councilmembers asked questions of Dr. Rager pertaining to the item, which she answered accordingly.**

- 2) Department of Public Safety & Justice Services (including Opioid Fund)  
– Director Brandy Carney

**Ms. Brandy Carney, Director of the Department of Public Safety & Justice Affairs (including Opioid Fund), addressed Council regarding budget requests for the Department of Public Safety & Justice Affairs (including Opioid Fund). Discussion ensued.**

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

- 3) Office of Violence Prevention – Administrator Myesha Watkins

**Ms. Myesha Watkins, Administrator of the Office of Violence Prevention, addressed Council regarding budget requests for the Office of Violence Prevention. Discussion ensued.**

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

- 4) Cuyahoga County Clerk of Courts – Clerk of Courts Nailah Byrd

**Ms. Nailah Byrd, Cuyahoga County Clerk of Courts, addressed Council regarding budget requests for the Office of the Clerk of Courts.**

**Ms. Byrd stated that the Clerk of Courts have no additional funding requests they would like Council to consider.**

**Councilmembers had no questions for Ms. Byrd pertaining to the item.**

- 5) Cuyahoga County Office of the Medical Examiner – Dr. Thomas Gilson

**Dr. Thomas Gilson, Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner, addressed Council regarding budget requests for the Office of the Medical Examiner. Discussion ensued.**

**Councilmembers asked questions of Dr. Gilson pertaining to the item, which he answered accordingly.**

- 6) Department of Development – Director Paul Herdeg

**Mr. Paul Herdeg, Department of Development, addressed Council regarding budget requests for the Department of Development. Discussion ensued.**

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

- 7) Department of Housing & Community Development – Director Anthony Scott

**Mr. Anthony Scott, Department of Housing & Development, addressed Council regarding budget requests for the Department of Housing & Development. Discussion ensued.**

**Councilmembers had no questions for Mr. Scott pertaining to the item.**

- 8) Cuyahoga County Planning Commission – Executive Director Mary Cierebiej

**Ms. Mary Cierebiej, Executive Director of the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission, addressed Council regarding budget requests for the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission. Discussion ensued.**

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

- 9) Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District – Executive Director Kristen Hall

**Ms. Kristen Hall, Executive Director of the Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District, addressed Council regarding budget requests for the Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District.**

**Ms. Hall stated that the Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District is not requesting additional funding. Discussion ensued.**

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

- 10) Department of Sustainability – Director Melanie Kinter Knowles

**Ms. Melanie Kinter Knowles, Director of the Department of Sustainability and Ms. Jenita McGowan, Deputy Chief of Sustainability and Climate, addressed Council regarding budget requests for the Department of Sustainability. Discussion ensued.**

**Councilmembers asked questions of Ms. Kinter Knowles and Ms. McGowan pertaining to the item, which they answered accordingly.**

- 11) Department of Public Works – Director Michael Dever

**Mark Casselberry, Vice Chair of Finance & Budgeting, chaired this portion of the meeting.**

**Mr. Michael Dever, Director of the Department of Public Works; Mellany Seay, Fiscal Officer, Department of Public Works; and Mr. Matthew Rymer, Facilities Administrator, Department of Public Works, addressed Council regarding budget requests for the Department of Public Works. Discussion ensued.**

**Councilmembers asked questions of Mr. Dever, Ms. Seay and Mr. Rymer pertaining to the item, which they answered accordingly.**

- 12) Department of Public Works – Cuyahoga Green Energy Public Utility –  
Administrator Mike Foley

**Mr. Mike Foley, Administrator of the Department of Public Works – Cuyahoga Green Energy Public Utility, addressed Council regarding budget requests for the Cuyahoga Green Energy Public Utility. Discussion ensued.**

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

#### 5. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

**There was no miscellaneous business.**

#### 6. ADJOURNMENT

**With no further business to discuss, Vice Chair Casselberry adjourned the meeting at 5:15 p.m., without objection.**