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Cuyahoga County Council Meeting

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Agency: [Cuyahoga County Council](#)

Date: July 18, 2023

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Summary

- Council members did not seem to be informed of major decisions made in committee based on discussions about a potential annexation to Berea and a loan for a Meijer grocery store in Fairfax.

Follow-Up Questions

- Why are loans made rather than grants or forgivable loans if agencies are not going to be held responsible?
- Are parties named in legislation provided prior notification of when legislation will be read?

Notes



Cuyahoga County Council Members

Standing (left to right):

District 1: Patrick Kelly; District 2: Dale Miller; District 3: Martin J. Sweeney; District 8:

Pernel Jones Jr., President; District 5: Michael J. Gallagher; District 4: Scott Tuma; District 6: Jack Schron

Seated (left to right): **District 9: Meredith M. Turner; District 10: Cheryl L. Stephens, vice president; District 7: Yvonne M. Conwell; District 11: Sunny M. Simon**

Clerk of Council Andria Richardson announced the opening of the meeting at 5:21 p.m. All members were present with the exception of Turner, whose absence was excused by vote of the council during the meeting. [Find the full agenda here.](#)

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Camilo Villa spoke on behalf of [Service Employees International Union \(SEIU\)](#). He said that three employees of the janitorial staff working at the Cuyahoga County Administration Building will begin the [SEIU Green Janitor program](#). He said Cuyahoga County will be the first to implement this program in Ohio fighting climate change. He said that while the county is leading in this endeavor, support for the security service workers at the county is needed. He requested support against the “union-busting tactics” of PalAmerican Security, which holds the contract at the Cuyahoga County Administration Building. Security officers are unionizing.
2. [Loh](#) gave public comment to encourage the council members to focus on policies in the human services area.
3. Thomas Ritzert, an attorney from [Thompson Hine](#), spoke regarding Resolution 2023-0203. He described case law to support a denial of the annexation of land to the City of Berea from Olmsted Township.

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION OF COUNCIL FOR FIRST READING ADOPTION UNDER SUSPENSION OF RULES

R2023-0203 - Tabled

One resolution was presented regarding the annexation of land to the City of Berea from Olmsted Township. It was explained that this issue is time-sensitive. The decision must be rendered before the 45-day deadline of Aug. 1. To ensure time for all case law to be reviewed regarding the decision of the Berea City Council not to provide service to the new proposed territory, the council tabled this vote. Council President Jones asked the representatives to meet to determine a solution. A special meeting of council will be held July 24 prior to the deadline as no solution was given by the end of the council meeting. Jones asked Director of Law Richard D. Manoloff to meet with representatives present to

discuss a solution before the end of the meeting.

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION OF COUNCIL FOR FIRST READING AND REFERRAL TO COMMITTEE

There was one resolution (R2023-0204) read and referred to the [Education, Environment & Sustainability Committee](#).

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS OF COUNCIL FOR SECOND READING

Twelve resolutions were read as posted proposing the awarding of grants using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds assigned to a third reading during the Aug. 1 council meeting.

R2023-0189 was read with a proposed substitution that was accepted by the council. The substitution was to increase the amount of the award to \$30,000 for the purchase of more comic books to be given to youth. The additional funds would be given from District 8 (\$10,000), District 10 (\$5,000) and District 11 (\$5,000).

R2023-0191 was read. It would direct \$10,000 to Birthing Beautiful Communities for the [new birthing center in Hough](#). Jones asked to be added as a co-sponsor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS OF COUNCIL FOR SECOND READING ADOPTION UNDER SUSPENSION OF RULES

The council voted unanimously to suspend the rules.

There were two resolutions adopted regarding the “Cuyahoga County Non-Bargaining Classification Plan.”

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS OF COUNCIL FOR THIRD READING ADOPTION

There were nine resolutions read and passed. The following were comments regarding the legislation.

R2023-0165: Conwell said that four homes will be purchased with the \$150,000 as a “step down” from the West Side Catholic Center.

R2023-0168: Conwell said that the \$100,000 for the May Dugan Center is for the capital campaign to complete renovations to the center.

R2023-0171: Conwell said that the \$50,000 will be awarded to Legal Aid to assist veterans with legal issues.

R2023-0174: Conwell said that the \$20,000 award to the Community of HOPE will assist 18- to 30-year-olds formerly in foster care.

R2023-0176: Stephens said that the goal of this \$30,000 grant to the Building & Leveraging Opportunities Foundation is to develop a model for affordable housing.

LEGISLATION INTRODUCED BY EXECUTIVE (Chris Ronayne was not present)

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS FOR FIRST READING ADOPTION UNDER SUSPENSION OF RULES

Three resolutions were presented under a suspension of the rules and approved unanimously by the council.

R2023-0205 was a resolution that was passed with an amendment by Miller. The amendment changed the length of time for various transfers from June to September. Miller specifically noted two transfers to MetroHealth Subsidies for approximately \$8 million and \$1 million.

R2023-0207 Mike Chambers, the county's Fiscal Officer, explained that the resolution extending the term of the Interim Treasurer was necessary for the current tax season collection.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS FOR FIRST READING AND REFERRAL TO COMMITTEE

There were 14 resolutions presented regarding appointments to the Cuyahoga Regional HIV Health Services Planning Council, various contracts for road repair, and contracts with property appraisers.

The resolutions were assigned to committees as follows:

- [Health, Human Services & Aging Committee](#) (R2023-0208, R2023-0218, R2023-0219, R2023-0220)

- [Public Works, Procurement & Contracting Committee](#) (R2023-0209, R2023-0210, R2023-0211, R2023-0212, R2023-0213, R2023-0214, R2023-0215, R2023-0221)
- [Public Safety & Justice Affairs Committee](#) (R2023-0216, R2023-0217)

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS FOR SECOND READING

There were four resolutions referred for a third reading at the Aug. 1 meeting of the council. These involve an appointment, road repair contracts, and the 2023 Economic Development Plan.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS FOR SECOND READING ADOPTION UNDER SUSPENSION OF RULES

The vote was taken unanimously to suspend the rules for the six resolutions adopted.

Council members discussed **R2023-0151**. The resolution was adopted at the urging of Schron, but Simon informed the council that the county may not get paid back on this investment to build the Meijer grocery store in Cleveland's Fairfax neighborhood because of issues with the loan. Schron said that the investment is worth the risk because the area is a food desert.

Other council members agreed with Schron about the importance of the project but requested more discussions about the situation.

R2023-0197: This resolution about the connectivity project to begin in 2024 will be funded by multiple entities, including the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Foundation. The project is from East 9th Street to East 55th Street. Tuma reported on this resolution.

R2023-0198: Tuma said that there was only one bid for the project and that the West 130th Street bridge will remain open during construction.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS FOR THIRD READING ADOPTION

There were two resolutions: One for an appointment and the other for the repair of a 90-year-old bridge.

Harold A. Pretel was sworn in as Sheriff of Cuyahoga County for the term ending in 2024.

Kelly gave complimentary remarks about the character and service of Pretel and thanked

him for stepping in to help the department.

Pretel said that his goal is for the Sheriff's Department to be a "premiere law enforcement agency." He said that he aims to have "professional, respectful policing."

MISCELLANEOUS

Council members reported on their next committee date and time.

Stephens acknowledged the NAACP 111th Freedom Fund Dinner and the recognition of Council Member Turner at the event.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

If you believe anything in these notes is inaccurate, please email us at cleDOCUMENTERS@gmail.com with "Correction Request" in the subject line.