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Council Meeting

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Agency: [Cuyahoga County Council](#)

Date: Sept. 12, 2023

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Summary

- Council members spoke very highly about [Neighborhood Pets CLE](#), a business that offers pet care for those who otherwise could not afford to take their pets to a veterinarian. Council President Pernel Jones Jr. and Council Member Sunny Simon noted that this is more than just a pet care facility; the business has expanded to provide connections to wraparound services for the families it serves. “The pets are the entryway, and sometimes you need different touchpoints for [people] to allow you in to give them help,” Simon said.
 - Flexjet, “a global leader in private aviation,” according to County Executive Chris Ronayne, recently [opened its new global HQ](#) at the Cuyahoga County Airport. Ronayne recommended council members check out the building, citing the impressiveness of the facility, saying, “You feel like you’re at [NORAD](#).” *[Editor’s note: NORAD stands for the North American Aerospace Defense Command.]*
 - Most of the resolutions on the [agenda](#) were for smaller grants or loans of less than \$200,000. Some larger and more noteworthy funding resolutions referred to committee included:
 - More than \$7 million for a contract with Trinity Services Group, Inc. for jail food services for the Cuyahoga County Jail System through September 2024.
 - About \$3 million for Rush Truck Centers of Ohio, Inc. for the purchase of five replacement, new sewer vac trucks for use by the Sanitary Division.
 - \$2 million for an economic development loan to 2168 West 25th Street, LLC for a mixed-use real estate redevelopment project.

Follow-Up Questions

- Public comment was brief and seemingly one-sided based on no response from

council members. One resident brought up concerns about renovations in the YWCA women's shelter potentially forcing people to use more other services for the unhoused. How can this resident find out if their concerns are taken seriously? Does the council ever respond to public comment in its meeting?

Notes



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**

This [form of government](#) for Cuyahoga County was established in January 2011, replacing the three-member Board of County Commissioners, when the charter form of government adopted by voters went into effect.

Meeting called to order at 5:04 p.m. *[Editor's note: The meeting originally ran in its entirety without audio. The county posted a [backup video](#) with audio a few hours later.]*

Roll called – all members in attendance, a [quorum](#) is reached.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Matt Burke of Garfield Heights

- Mayor Burke thanked the council members for attending the community public engagement meeting over the potential [Cuyahoga County Central Services Campus](#) in August, saying there were well over 200 community members in attendance.
- He thanked County Executive Ronayne by name.

Loh, resident and activist

- Loh said that renovations at the [YWCA Norma Herr Women's Center](#) were having a negative impact on the employees and residents.
 - Loh said dust and other debris stir up as a result of the renovations.
 - Loh expressed concern that these renovations might force residents to find another shelter.

Minutes of previous meetings approved.

Messages from County Executive Chris Ronayne

- Ronayne welcomed Erik Janas, new county [chief of staff](#).
- Ronayne announced the participation of six [Fellows-in-Residence, due in part to the Cleveland Foundation](#).
- Ronayne encouraged council members to visit [Flexjet](#), an aviation corporation that recently anchored its headquarters at the Cuyahoga County Airport. They have 670 jobs in the county and made a significant investment in the county by housing the company here.

LEGISLATION INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL *[Editor's note: This [agenda packet](#) has the same summaries of legislation that appear below, along with the page number where you can find the full text of the legislation].*

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

R2023-0229: A resolution providing for the appointment of Devyn Giannetti as Communications & Outreach Specialist to serve the Council of Cuyahoga County, and declaring the necessity that this resolution become immediately effective.

Sponsor: Council President Jones

- Trevor McAleer, County Council staff, presented the resolution.
- Giannetti would be the county's first communications specialist.
- **Resolution unanimously approved.**

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS OF COUNCIL FOR FIRST READING AND REFERRAL TO COMMITTEE

- A number of resolutions were referred to various [committees](#).
- See the [meeting agenda](#) for more details on these resolutions.

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION OF COUNCIL FOR THIRD READING ADOPTION

R2023-0204: A resolution awarding a total sum, not to exceed \$30,000, to the Neighborhood Pets Outreach & Resource Center for pet care support for homebound seniors from the District 8 and District 11 [American Rescue Plan Act \(ARPA\)](#) Community Grant Fund; and declaring the necessity that this resolution become immediately effective.

Sponsors: Council Members Jones and Simon

Committee Assignment and Chair: Education, Environment & Sustainability – Simon

- Council President Jones said this entity just looks like a pet store but is so much more as it supports people and the pets that they love. He said he is “happy to be able to support their good work” and asked for his colleagues’ support.
- Council Member Simon said the business started for people who could not afford vet care for their pets. The business has since expanded to providing connections to wraparound services for the families it serves. “The pets are the entryway, and sometimes you need different touchpoints for [people] to allow you in to give them help.”
- **Resolution unanimously approved.** *[Editor’s note: Neighborhood Pets is one neighborhood group [Signal Cleveland spoke with about Cleveland City Council’s casino revenue money](#). As of March, Neighborhood Pets was still waiting on \$25,000 that City Council approved more than a year earlier. Becca Britton, founder and executive director of Neighborhood Pets, told Signal Cleveland in an email that she received a check from the city for the full amount in early September].*

CONSIDERATION OF AN ORDINANCE OF COUNCIL FOR FIRST READING AND REFERRAL TO COMMITTEE

O2023-0015: An ordinance amending Section [206.12 of the Cuyahoga County Code](#) to codify the county’s planning regions represented by the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission and to clarify the procedures for the designation of alternates and declaring the necessity that this ordinance become immediately effective.

Sponsor: Simon

- This item was referred to the [Education, Environment, and Sustainability](#)

[Committee.](#)

LEGISLATION INTRODUCED BY EXECUTIVE

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS FOR FIRST READING ADOPTION UNDER SUSPENSION OF RULES

[Editor's note: This means council considered passing this legislation after council read it publicly at only one full council meeting (this one) rather than the required three].

R2023-0238: A resolution amending the 2022/2023 Biennial Operating Budget for 2023 by providing for additional fiscal appropriations from the General Fund and other funding sources, for appropriation transfers between budget accounts and for cash transfers between budgetary funds, to meet the budgetary needs of various county departments, offices and agencies, amending Resolution No. [R2023-0205](#) dated 7/18/2023, offices and agencies; and declaring the necessity that this resolution become immediately effective.

Sponsor: County Executive Ronayne/Fiscal Officer/Office of Budget and Management

- Council Member Dale Miller moved to substitute, or amend, to remove four [appropriations](#) to allow them to be more fully discussed in committee:
 - About \$574,000 for the executive office budget
 - About \$2.16 million for constructing foster care housing at the Metzenbaum Center (and the corresponding cash transfer in the same amount from Human Services to Capital Projects)
 - \$2 million for [Freshwater Institute project](#)

Substitute unanimously accepted.

- Miller said, "This year's budget allocation was used to make last year's payment, and an additional appropriation is needed to make this year's payment."

Motion to adopt the amended resolution approved.

- Deleted items for the executive office budget and the Freshwater Institute were referred to the [Finance and Budgeting Committee](#).
- Deleted items for work at the Metzenbaum Center referred to the [Health, Human Services, and Aging Committee](#).

R2023-0239: A resolution approving a proposed settlement in the matter of [John T. Sanders v. Cuyahoga County, et al., United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio, Eastern Division Case No. 1:21-cv-1254](#); authorizing the county executive and/or

his designee to execute a settlement agreement and any related documentation; authorizing the appropriation of funds for payment of settlement amounts set forth herein; and declaring the necessity that this resolution become immediately effective.
Sponsor: County Executive Ronayne/Department of Law

- **The council had previously discussed this in [executive session](#), Jones said. Resolution unanimously adopted.**

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS FOR FIRST READING AND REFERRAL TO COMMITTEE

- Several more items were referred to committees.
- See Sections 9(b) and 9(f) on the [meeting agenda](#) for more details on these resolutions.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Council members announced various committee meeting schedules, including the following:
 - [Finance and Budgeting](#) – Monday, Oct. 2, 1 p.m.
 - [Public Works, Procurement, and Contracting](#) – Wednesday, Sept. 20
 - [Public Safety and Justice Affairs](#) – Tuesday, Sept. 19, 1 p.m.
 - [Economic Development and Planning](#) – Monday, Sept. 18, 3 p.m.
 - [Health, Human Services, and Aging](#) – Wednesday, Sept. 20, 1 p.m.
 - [Human Resources, Appointments, and Equity](#) – Tuesday, Sept. 19, 10 a.m.
 - [Community Development](#), Monday, Sept. 18, 10 a.m.
 - [Education, Environment, and Sustainability](#) – Wednesday, Sept. 20, 3 p.m.

Meeting was adjourned after about 30 minutes.

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