



MINUTES

**CUYAHOGA COUNTY COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2023
CUYAHOGA COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS
C. ELLEN CONNALLY COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 4TH FLOOR
1:00 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Council President Jones called the meeting to order at 1:09 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Council President Jones asked Clerk Richardson to call the roll. Councilmembers Turner, Conwell, Stephens, Simon, Kelly, Miller, Sweeney, Tuma, Gallagher, Schron and Jones were in attendance and a quorum was determined.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

The Honorable Judge Thomas O'Malley, Administrative Judge of Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas, Juvenile Division addressed Council to clarify testimony provided at the November 13th budget hearing and to address the Court's level of funding in the next budget; and spoke about the current state of crime in our community and the laws that govern the legal system.

Reverend Dr. Napoleon Harris addressed Council regarding funding for services to indigent children.

Ms. Loh addressed the Council regarding funding to address persons experiencing homelessness and the value of residents to be given the opportunity to provide public comment on issues that are important to them.

4. MATTER REFERRED TO COMMITTEE / DISCUSSION:

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

- a) R2023-0285: A Resolution adopting the 2024/2025 Biennial Operating Budget and Capital Improvements Program, and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective:

- 1) Budget Amendments

Mr. Miller gave opening remarks regarding the package of various budget amendments developed by Council and the administration and said the proposed substitute, incorporating these amendments, will be heard by Council on November 28, 2023.

Mr. Trevor McAleer, Legislative Budget Advisor for County Council, provided a detailed description of Council's proposed budget amendments to Resolution No. R2023-0285. Discussion ensued.

Councilmembers asked questions of Mr. McAleer pertaining to Council's proposed budget amendments, which he answered accordingly.

A motion was then made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Sweeney and approved by unanimous vote to approve the package of Council's proposed budget amendments.

Ms. Simon spoke about an amendment to Resolution No. R2023-0285 to restore the Juvenile Defense funding of \$650,000.00 for assigned counsel fees from the Public Defender Commission back to the Juvenile Court Division. Discussion ensued.

On a motion by Ms. Simon with a second by Mr. Tuma, the proposed budget amendment was approved by majority roll call vote of 9 yeas and 2 nays, with Councilmembers Simon, Kelly, Sweeney, Tuma, Gallagher, Schron, Turner, Jones and Conwell voting in the affirmative and Councilmembers Stephens and Miller casting dissenting votes.

Mr. Walter Parfejewiec, Director of the Office of Budget, provided a detailed description of the proposed administration's technical amendments to Resolution No. R2023-0285. Discussion ensued.

Councilmembers asked questions of Mr. Parfejewiec pertaining to the proposed administration's technical amendments, which he answered accordingly.

A motion was then made by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mr. Schron and approved by unanimous vote to approve the administration's technical amendments, excluding the Juvenile Defense Funding, which was approved under prior vote.

2) Consideration for Referral to Council

On a motion by Mr. Sweeney with a second by Ms. Turner, Resolution No. R2023-0285, was considered and approved by a unanimous roll call vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays, to be referred to the full Council agenda for second reading, as amended.

5. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

There was no miscellaneous business.

6. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Miller adjourned the meeting at 2:29 p.m., without objection.