



CUYAHOGA COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

CUYAHOGA COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS

4th FLOOR

MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2026 — 2:30 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Council President Miller called the meeting to order at 2:38 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

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

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Loh addressed Council regarding changing the rules for public comment.

4. MATTER REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

- a) R2026-0080: amending the 2026/2027 Biennial Operating Budget for 2026 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, amending Resolution No. 2025-0350 dated 12/09/25; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.

Mr. Gallagher and Ms. Simon addressed Council regarding Resolution No. R2026-0080. Discussion ensued.

The Honorable Thomas O'Malley, Administrative Judge of Juvenile Court, addressed Council regarding Resolution No. R2026-0080. Discussion ensued.

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

Messrs. Sweeney and Kelly requested to have their names added as additional sponsors to the legislation.

There was no further legislative action taken on Resolution No. R2026-0080.

5. PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSION

[Clerk's Note: Items 5a)-5d) were considered prior to Item 4a).]

- a) Lenora Lockett, Director, Department of Equity and Inclusion and Dave Keen, Founding Principal and Co-owner of Keen Independent Research – Re: Update on the Disparity Study

Ms. Lenora Lockett, Director of the Department of Equity and Inclusion; Mr. James DeFeo, Assistant Law Director; Mr. Erik Janas, Chief of Staff for County Executive Ronayne; Mr. Dave Keen, Founding Principal and Co-owner of Keen Independent Research LLC; and Mr. Joseph Broad, Senior Consultant and Co-owner of Keen Independent Research LLC, provided Council with an update on the Disparity Study. Discussion ensued.

Councilmembers asked questions of Ms. Lockett, Mr. DeFeo, Mr. Janas, Mr. Keen and Mr. Broad pertaining to the item, which they answered accordingly.

- b) David Gilbert, President and Chief Executive Officer for Destination Cleveland and Greater Cleveland Sports Commission – Regarding Use of Bed Tax

Mr. David Gilbert, President and Chief Executive Officer for Destination Cleveland and the Greater Cleveland Sports Commission, provided Council with an update regarding the use of the Bed Tax. Discussion ensued.

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

- c) Authorizing the issuance and sale of Cuyahoga County, Ohio, Capital Improvement Notes, Series 2026, in the maximum principal amount of \$25,690,000, in anticipation of the issuance of bonds for the purpose of providing a portion of the funds necessary to retire the County's \$41,500,000 Capital Facilities Notes, Series 2025, dated June 5, 2025, at their maturity on June 4, 2026.

Ms. Katherine Gallagher, Deputy Chief of Staff of Operations and Community Innovation; Mr. Bob Franz, Managing Director of Public Finance for Stifel Financial Corp., and Ms. Nichole English, Planning and Program Administrator, addressed Council regarding authorizing the issuance and sale of Capital Improvement Notes. Discussion ensued.

Councilmembers asked questions of Ms. Gallagher, Mr. Franz and Ms. English pertaining to the item, which they answered accordingly.

- d) Re-approving Economic Development Loan in an amount not-to-exceed \$2,000,000.00 to Bridgeworks, or its designee, to assist with funding project costs of a place-based, mixed used development project located at the Northeast corner of West 25th Street and Detroit Avenue at 2429 Superior Viaduct in the City of Cleveland, which will include construction of 219 units of housing, reactivating space near public investments, originally approved via Resolution No. R2025-0144 dated 5/13/2025, in accordance with Cuyahoga County Code Section 802.06, and

amending the original sunset provision included in Resolution R2025-0144 from 5/13/2026 to 5/13/2027.

Mr. Paul Herdeg, Director of the Department of Economic Development; and Mr. Graham Veysey, Principal at Grammar Properties of Cleveland, addressed Council regarding re-approving an Economic Development Loan in an amount not-to-exceed \$2,000,000.00 to Bridgeworks. Discussion ensued.

Councilmembers asked questions of Messrs. Herdeg and Veysey pertaining to the item, which they answered accordingly.

6. EXECUTIVE SESSION

a) Collective bargaining matters, including:

- i) an amendment to a Collective Bargaining Agreement between Cuyahoga County and The International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 18-S, representing approximately (19) employees in (5) classifications in the Cuyahoga County Department of Public Works for the period 5/1/2024 - 4/30/2027; to establish the terms of the health insurance and wage re-openers and to modify Articles 34 and 35.

b) Pending or imminent court action

A motion was made by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mr. Casselberry and approved by unanimous roll-call vote to move to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining matters and pending or imminent court action and for no other purpose whatsoever. Executive Session was then called to order by Council President Miller at 4:47 p.m. The following Councilmembers were present: Schleper, Kelly, Sweeney, Casselberry, Gallagher, Conwell, Simon, Turner, Jones and Miller. The following additional attendees were present: Law Director Rick Manoloff, Senior Counsel Gregory Huth, County Executive Chief of Staff Erik Janus, Deputy Chief Law Director Nora Hurley, Assistant Law Director Ryan Geary, Council Chief of Staff Joseph Nanni, Special Counsel Michael King, Research and Policy Analyst Laura Black and Legislative Budget Advisor Trevor McAleer.

At 6:05 p.m., Executive Session was adjourned without objection and Council President Miller then reconvened the meeting.

7. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

There was no miscellaneous business.

8. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Council President Miller adjourned the meeting at 6:06 p.m., without objection.