



CUYAHOGA COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

CUYAHOGA COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS

4th FLOOR

MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, JULY 7, 2026 — 2:30 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Council President Miller called the meeting to order at 2:34 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

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

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Justin Strekal addressed Council regarding Resolution No. R2026-0168, a Resolution providing for the submission to the electors of the County of Cuyahoga an amendment to Article III, Section 3.09 of the County Charter to require the County Council to establish campaign laws.

4. MATTERS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

Mr. Miller read a short statement regarding the Charter amendment process and meeting schedules. He then turned the gavel over to Mr. Schleper, Chair of the Council Operations, Information Technology and Public Transportation Committee.

Mr. Schleper made brief remarks regarding the Charter amendment process.

- a) R2026-0167: A Resolution providing for the submission to the electors of the County of Cuyahoga an amendment to Article I, Section 1.02 of the County Charter to provide that no tax levied, extended, or renewed by the County shall go into effect until such question has been submitted to, and approved by, the electors of the County, and to provide for the manner of submitting such question to the electors.

Mr. Gallagher addressed Council regarding Resolution No. R2026-0167. Discussion ensued.

There was no further legislative action taken on Resolution No. R2026-0167.

- b) R2026-0169: A Resolution providing for the submission to the electors of the County of Cuyahoga an amendment to Article XVI of the County Charter to provide that the Sheriff be elected quadrennially commencing at the 2028 countywide general election, and providing for the qualifications and powers and duties for the office of the Sheriff.

Mr. Sweeney addressed Council regarding Resolution No. R2026-0169. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Michael King, Special Counsel, addressed Council regarding Resolution No. R2026-0169. Discussion ensued.

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

Mr. Kelly requested to have his name added as a co-sponsor to the legislation.

- c) R2026-0170: A Resolution providing for the submission to the electors of the County of Cuyahoga an amendment to Article II, Section 2.03 and Article VI, Section 6.04 of the County Charter to require that County Council confirm the County Executive's removal of members of boards, agencies, commissions and authorities as are (1) created by or pursuant to the Charter or (2) as are provided by general law to be appointed by boards of county commissioners.

Ms. Simon addressed Council regarding Resolution No. R2026-0170. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Sweeney requested to have his name added as a co-sponsor to the legislation.

There was no further legislative action taken on Resolution No. R2026-0170.

- d) R2026-0181: A Resolution providing for the submission to the electors of the County of Cuyahoga an amendment to Article XVI of the County Charter to provide the County Executive the power to suspend, discipline, or remove the Sheriff; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.

Ms. Katherine Gallagher, Deputy Chief of Staff of Operations and Innovation, addressed Council regarding Resolution No. R2026-0181. Discussion ensued.

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

There was no further legislative action taken on Resolution No. R2026-0181.

- e) R2026-0182: A Resolution providing for the submission to the electors of the County of Cuyahoga an amendment to Sections 4.01 and 5.06 of the County Charter to delineate the powers and duties of the Prosecuting Attorney and Director of Law; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.

There was no legislative action taken on Resolution No. R2026-0182.

- f) R2026-0195: A Resolution providing for the submission to the electors of the County of Cuyahoga an amendment to Article II, Section 2.03, Article VI, Section 6.04, and Article XII, Section 12.09 of the County Charter to provide that appointments by the County to certain boards and commissions be equally divided between the Council and the County Executive, and to further provide that, for certain appointments requiring Council confirmation, if the Council fails to act on an appointment of the County Executive within sixty days such appointment shall be deemed rejected without further action by the Council.

Mr. Sweeney addressed Council regarding Resolution No. R2026-0195. Discussion ensued.

There was no further legislative action taken on Resolution No. R2026-0195.

5. ITEM FOR DISCUSSION

- a) Health & Human Services Levy Renewal and Increase

Mr. David Merriman, Director of the Department of Health and Human Services; Ms. Gallagher; Mr. Walter Parfejewiec, Director of the Office of Budget and Management; and Ms. Natasha Pietrocola, Administrator of the Division of Senior & Adult Services (DSAS), addressed Council regarding the HHS Levy Stabilization Plan, HHS Levy Renewal, current balances, additional costs, partnerships, reduction options, amount of reserves required by law and the budget for DSAS. Discussion ensued.

Councilmembers asked questions of Mr. Merriman, Ms. Gallagher, Mr. Parfejewiec and Ms. Natasha Pietrocola pertaining to the item, which they answered accordingly.

Mr. Schleper turned the gavel back over to Mr. Miller.

6. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- a) Collective bargaining matter, including:
 - i) accepting the report containing findings and recommendations of Fact-Finder Daniel Zeiser regarding negotiations between Cuyahoga County and the Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association for a collective bargaining agreement covering approximately (650) employees in the classification of Correction Officers at the Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Department;
- b) Pending or imminent court action

A motion was made by Mr. Kelly, 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 3:32 p.m. The following Councilmembers were present: Simon, Kelly, Sweeney, Casselberry, Gallagher, Schleper, Conwell, Jones, Turner, Houser and Miller. The following additional attendees were present: Law Director Rick Manoloff, Assistant Law Director Rebecca Divoky, Senior Counsel Greg Huth, Sheriff Harold Pretel, Senior Manager of Compensation and HRIS John Kennick, Chief Deputy of Corrections Nestor Rivera, Employee and Labor Relations Manager Brooke

Deines, Chief Human Resources Officer Sarah Nemastil, Special Council Michael King, Research and Policy Analyst Laura Black, Legislative Budget Advisor Trevor McAleer and Council Chief of Staff Joseph Nanni.

At 4:56 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 4:57 p.m., without objection.