



CUYAHOGA COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

CUYAHOGA COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS

4th FLOOR

MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, JULY 21, 2026 — 1:00 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Council President Miller called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

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

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

The following individuals addressed Council regarding Resolution No. R2026-0169, providing for the submission to the electors an amendment to Article XVI of the County Charter to provide that the Sheriff be elected:

- a) Bishop Eugene Ward, Jr.
- b) Mr. R.L. Render
- c) Sheriff Candee Fatherree, Sheriff of Summit County
- d) Ms. Linda Meyer
- e) Sheriff Frank Leonbruno, Sheriff of Lake County
- f) Sheriff Bruce Zakowski, Sheriff of Portage County

The following individuals addressed Council regarding the Health and Human Services Levy.

- g) Ms. Ramona Brazil
- h) Ms. Jennifer Johnson

4. MATTERS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

Council President Miller announced that any Charter amendments voted out of the Committee of the Whole meeting today will be voted on Tuesday, August 14, 2026.

County Executive Ronayne gave remarks regarding the Administration's priorities for the upcoming election cycle. Discussion ensued.

Council President Miller passed the gavel to Mr. Schleper, Chair of the Council Operations, Information Technology and Public Transportation Committee.

- 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 introduced a proposed substitute to Resolution No. R2026-0167. Discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Mr. Schleper, seconded by Mr. Gallagher and approved by unanimous vote to accept the proposed substitute.

A motion was made by Mr. Schleper and seconded by Ms. Conwell to refer Resolution No. R2026-0167 to the full Council agenda for second reading, as substituted. The motion failed by a majority roll-call vote of 5 yeas and 6 nays with Councilmembers Kelly, Sweeney, Casselberry, Gallagher and Schleper voting in the affirmative and Councilmembers Conwell, Jones, Turner, Houser, Simon and Miller casting dissenting votes.

- 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.

Sheriff Troy Wellman, Sheriff of Moody County and President of the National Sheriffs' Association; Mr. Robert Cornwell, Executive Director of the Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association; Mr. Michael O'Malley, Prosecutor; and Mr. Trevor McAleer, Legislative Budget Advisor, addressed Council regarding Resolution No. R2026-0169. Discussion ensued.

Councilmembers asked questions of Sheriff Wellman and Messrs. Cornwell, O'Malley and McAleer pertaining to the item, which they answered accordingly.

On a motion by Mr. Sweeney with a second by Mr. Kelly, Resolution No. R2026-0169 was considered and approved by a majority roll-call vote of 7 yeas and 4 nays to be referred to the full Council agenda for second reading, with Councilmembers Kelly, Sweeney, Casselberry, Gallagher, Schleper, Houser and Simon voting in the affirmative and Councilmembers Conwell, Jones, Turner and Miller casting dissenting votes.

A brief recess was taken by Council, after which Chairman Schleper then reconvened the meeting.

- 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.

On a motion by Mr. Schleper with a second by Ms. Simon, Resolution No. R2026-0170 was considered and approved by unanimous roll-call vote to be referred to the full Council agenda for second reading.

- 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.

Mr. Erik Janas, Chief of Staff to County Executive Ronayne, addressed Council regarding Resolution No. R2026-0181. Discussion ensued.

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

County Executive Ronayne addressed Council regarding Resolution No. R2026-0181. Discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Ms. Simon and seconded by Mr. Sweeney to refer Resolution No. R2026-0181 to the full Council agenda for second reading. The motion failed on a unanimous roll-call vote of 0 yeas and 11 nays.

- 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.

Mr. Richard Manoloff, Law Director; and Mr. O'Malley addressed Council regarding Resolution No. R2026-0182. Discussion ensued.

Councilmembers asked questions of Messrs. Manoloff and Mr. O'Malley pertaining to the item, which they answered accordingly.

There was no further 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.

On a motion by Mr. Sweeney with a second by Mr. Casselberry, Resolution No. R2026-0195 was considered and approved by a majority roll-call vote of 6 yeas and 5 nays to be referred to the full Council agenda for second reading with Councilmembers Kelly, Sweeney, Casselberry, Gallagher, Schleper and Houser voting in the affirmative and Councilmembers Conwell, Jones, Turner, Simon and Miller casting dissenting votes.

Mr. Schleper turned the gavel over to Ms. Conwell, Chair of the Health, Human Services and Aging Committee.

Chairwoman Conwell made brief remarks regarding Resolution Nos. R2026-0206 and R2026-0207.

- g) R2026-0206: A Resolution declaring the necessity of submitting to the electors of Cuyahoga County the question of a renewal of an existing 4.70-mill levy with an increase of 2.5 mills for the purpose of supplementing general fund appropriations for health and human or social services for ten years in accordance with Sections 5705.191, 5705.25 and 5705.03 of the Ohio Revised Code; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.

Mr. Greg Huth, Senior Counsel; Mr. David Merriman, Director of the Department of Health and Human Services; Mr. Walter Parfejewiec, Director of the Office of Budget and Management; and Ms. Emily Campbell, President and CEO of The Center for Community Solutions, addressed Council regarding Resolution No. R2026-0206. Discussion ensued.

Councilmembers asked questions of Messrs. Huth, Merriman, Parfejewiec and Ms. Campbell pertaining to the item, which they answered accordingly.

On a motion by Ms. Conwell with a second by Mr. Sweeney, Resolution No. R2026-0206 was considered and approved by a unanimous roll-call vote to be referred to the full Council agenda with a recommendation for passage under second reading suspension of the rules.

- h) R2026-0207: A Resolution determining to proceed with submitting to the electors of Cuyahoga County the question of a renewal with an increase levy for the purpose of supplementing general fund appropriations for health and human or social services in accordance with Sections 5705.191 and 5705.25 of the Ohio Revised Code; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.

On a motion by Ms. Conwell with a second by Ms. Turner, Resolution No. R2026-0207 was considered and approved by a unanimous roll-call vote to be referred to the full Council agenda for second reading.

Ms. Conwell turned the gavel back over to Council President Miller.

- i) O2026-0004: An Ordinance amending Chapters 703 & 726 of the Cuyahoga County Code to allocate additional revenues to supplement the Sports Facility Reserve Fund.

There was no legislative action taken on Ordinance No. O2026-0004.

- j) O2026-0005: An Ordinance accepting parking rates for all County-owned and leased garages and surface lots, effective September 1, 2026; authorizing the Director of Public Works to set

rates for County-owned or leased parking facilities effective September 1, 2026 and to revise existing rates no more frequently than once every two years upon approval of the Administrative Rules Board; repealing R2016-0008 adopted January 26, 2016:

- i. Huntington Park Garage:
 - a. Daily Rate Increments: \$2.00 per every 15 minutes/Daily Maximum: \$12.00
 - b. Non-County Monthly Rate: \$220.00
 - c. County Employee Monthly Rate: \$125.00
 - d. Special Event Rate: As determined by the Director of the Department of Public Works
- ii. Justice Center Complex Garage:
 - a. Daily Rate Increments: \$2.00 per every 15 minutes/Daily Maximum: \$12.00 (Handicapped Only)
 - b. County Employee Monthly Rate: \$125.00
- iii. Courthouse Square (Surface Lot)
 - a. Daily Rate Increments: \$2.00 per every 15 minutes/Daily Maximum: \$12.00
 - b. Non-County Monthly Rate: \$220.00
 - c. County Employee Monthly Rate: \$105.00
 - d. Special Event Rate: As determined by the Director of the Department of Public Works
- iv. Summit (Surface Lot):
 - a. County Employee Monthly Rate: \$105.00
 - b. Special Event Rate: As determined by the Director of the Department of Public Works
- v. East 40th Street (Surface Lots)
 - a. County Employee Monthly Rate: \$40.00
- vi. Halle Building Garage:
 - a. County Employee Monthly Rate: \$60.00
- vii. Virgil E. Brown (Surface Lot)
 - a. Daily Rate Increments: \$2.00 per every 15 minutes/Daily Maximum: \$5.00
 - b. County Employee Monthly Rate: \$90.00
- viii. 1801/1803 Superior Avenue (Surface Lot and Garage)
 - a. Daily Rate Increments: \$2.00 per every 15 minutes/Daily Maximum: \$5.00
 - b. County Employee Monthly Rate: \$90.00
- ix. Samuel Gerber Building (Garage)
 - a. County Employee Monthly Rate:
 - i. Effective 9/1/26: \$50.00;

- ii. Effective 9/1/27: \$75.00;
 - iii. Effective 9/1/28: \$100.00.
- x. Juvenile Justice Center Garage
 - a. County Employee Monthly Rate: \$85.00
- xi. Juvenile Justice Center (Surface Lots):
 - a. Daily Flat Rate: \$2.00
 - b. County Employee Monthly Rate: \$40.00

There was no legislative action taken on Ordinance No. O2026-0005.

5. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

There was no miscellaneous business.

6. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Council President Miller adjourned the meeting at 6:13 p.m., without objection.