



MINUTES

CUYAHOGA COUNTY COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2013
CUYAHOGA COUNTY JUSTICE CENTER
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 1ST FLOOR
3:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

At the request of Council President Connally, the meeting was called to order by Councilmember Miller, Chair of the Finance & Budgeting Committee, at 3:08 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Chairman Miller asked Clerk Schmotzer to call the roll. Councilmembers Simon, Greenspan, Miller, Brady, Germana, Gallagher, Schron, Conwell, Jones, Rogers and Connally were in attendance and a quorum was determined.

Chairman Miller asked Clerk Schmotzer if there was anyone that signed in for public comment. Ms. Schmotzer stated that no one had signed in to speak.

3. MATTERS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE / DISCUSSION:

- a) R2013-0229: A Resolution adopting the 2014/2015 Biennial Operating Budget and Capital Improvements Program, and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.
 - 1) Budget Presentation:
 - i) Department of Health and Human Services:
 - a. Cuyahoga Job and Family Services (Joseph Gauntner)

Chairman Miller asked Clerk Schmotzer to read Resolution No. R2013-0229 into the record. Mr. Joseph Gauntner, Administrator for the Cuyahoga Job and Family Services, then provided the Committee with an overview of the Division's budget and key issues including the State's new eligibility system and dual systems operations, TANF work

participation rate, child support collections, client service access, Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents-food stamp changes, Medicaid expansion and employment for low-wage workers.

County Executive FitzGerald thanked Administrator Gauntner and his team for their passion and dedication to complying with the unfunded mandate of the State regarding food stamp changes. Executive FitzGerald indicated that not all counties in the state are subjected to the new requirements and he further commented on issues regarding the state's ability to get a waiver from the Federal government. Discussion ensued.

Councilmembers asked questions of Administrator Gauntner, which he answered accordingly.

Mr. Brady reported that the Health, Human Services & Aging Committee will meet on November 20, 2013 at 1:00 p.m. to continue discussions regarding the food stamp issue.

No legislative action was taken on this item. Chairman Miller announced that Acting Fiscal Officer Mark Parks informed him that the County may receive additional sales tax revenues from various medical benefit changes; however, the revenue estimates for this biennial budget will not be revised as the County will most likely not receive the additional revenues until 2015. Mr. Parks was then directed to determine whether this revenue could be separately identified and to report back to Council.

Chairman Miller then turned over the Chair to Council President Connally for the remainder of the meeting.

4. PRESENTATION

- a) Schematic Design for Convention Center Hotel Project (Jeffrey Appelbaum)

Unrelated to the Schematic Design presentation, Mr. Jeffrey Appelbaum commented that there was a story in *The Plain Dealer* about an upcoming Resolution on Council's agenda involving a \$3M expenditure. He pointed out that the savings that will be generated from the transition from MMPI to SMG will be a minimum of \$3M and probably closer to \$4M to \$4.5M per year. He said that, while there is an expenditure of \$3M, the savings that will be generated by the overall plan will be extraordinary. The transition will be discussed further in an upcoming Council Work Session.

Mr. Appelbaum then launched into the Schematic Design presentation for the Convention Center Hotel. He explained that the initial exercise of developing schematic design and costing exercises have been completed and that he is confident enough that the project is within the realm of the budget. Further refinements and some modifications will need to be done. Mr. Appelbaum then introduced Mr. Robert Neal and Mr. Pope Bullock, representatives of Cooper Carry. Messrs. Neal and Bullock then addressed the Committee regarding the proposed schematic design. Discussion ensued.

Councilmembers asked questions of Messrs. Appelbaum, Neal and Bullock, which they answered accordingly.

5. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

There was no miscellaneous business.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT UNRELATED TO AGENDA

There were no public comments given unrelated to the agenda.

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- a) Pending or imminent litigation and privileged attorney-client communications.

A motion was made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Germana and approved by unanimous roll-call vote to move to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing pending or imminent litigation and privileged attorney-client communications and for no other purpose whatsoever. Executive Session was then called to order by Council President Connally at 4:53 p.m. The following members were present: Councilmembers Simon, Greenspan, Miller, Brady, Germana, Gallagher, Schron, Conwell, Jones, Rogers and Connally. The following additional attendees were also present: Law Director Majeed Makhoul and Assistant Law Director Joseph Boatwright; Donald Davis, representing the law firm of Brennan, Manna & Diamond; and Chief of Staff Joseph Nanni, Legislative Budget Advisor Trevor McAleer and Sr. Policy Advisor Joanne Gross. At 5:11 p.m., Executive Session was adjourned, without objection, and Council President Connally then reconvened the regular meeting.

8. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned by Council President Connally at 5:12 p.m., without objection.