



MINUTES

**CUYAHOGA COUNTY COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2014
CUYAHOGA COUNTY JUSTICE CENTER
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 1ST FLOOR
3:00 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Council President Connally called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

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

3. PUBLIC COMMENT RELATED TO AGENDA

The following citizens addressed the Committee regarding issues of concern to them relating to the Resolution No. R2014-0002, a Resolution determining to submit to the electors the question of levying an extension of the alcohol and cigarette excise taxes :

- (a) Mr. Timothy J. Russo**
- (b) Mr. Roldo Bartimole**
- (c) The Honorable Marty Gelfand, City of South Euclid Councilmember**
- (d) Mr. Josh Damankos**
- (e) Mr. Norman Narvaja**

4. PRESENTATIONS REGARDING PROPOSED EXTENSION OF ALCOHOL AND CIGARETTE EXCISE TAXES

Mr. Joseph Roman, President and CEO of the Greater Cleveland Partnership; Mr. Tim Offermat, Chairman of the Gateway Economic Development Corporation; Mr. Kenneth Silliman, Chief of Staff to City of Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson; Mr. Dennis Lehman, Executive Vice President of the Cleveland Indians; Mr. Len Komoroski,

CEO of the Cavaliers/Quicken Loans Arena; and Mr. David Jenkins, CFO of the Cleveland Browns, addressed the Committee regarding the proposed extension of alcohol and cigarette excise taxes. Discussion ensued. Councilmembers asked questions pertaining to the item, which were answered accordingly.

5. ITEM REFERRED TO COMMITTEE / PUBLIC HEARING AT 4:45 PM

- a) R2014-0002: A Resolution determining to submit to the electors the question of levying an extension of the alcohol and cigarette excise taxes for the purpose of paying the costs of constructing, renovating, improving, or repairing sports facilities and reimbursing a county for costs incurred by the county in the construction of sports facilities.

Clerk Schmotzer read Resolution No. R2014-0002 into the record.

A proposed amendment was then introduced on the floor at the request of the Department of Law. Discussion ensued. A motion was then made by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Germana and approved by unanimous vote to amend Resolution No. R2014-0002 by adding a new Section 2 to read as follows and to renumber all subsequent sections accordingly:

“If the ballot measure in Section 1 receives a majority affirmative vote, as is necessary for its passage, the levied tax shall go into effect beginning August 1, 2015, for the duration and at the rates provided for in Section 1 and approved by the voters.”

On a motion by Ms. Conwell with a second by Mr. Jones, Resolution No. R2014-0002 was considered and approved by unanimous to be referred to the full Council agenda for second reading, as amended.

A brief recess was taken by the Committee. Council President Connally then convened the public hearing relating to Resolution No. R2014-0002 at 4:46 p.m.

The following citizens testified before the Committee regarding their support of Resolution No. R2014-0002:

- (a) Mr. Michael Deemer, Vice President of Business Development for Downtown Cleveland Alliance
(b) Mr. David Wondolowski, representing the Cleveland Building and Construction Trades

Mr. Josh Damankos testified before the Committee regarding his opposition to Resolution No. R2014-0002.

With no further testimony, Council President Connally adjourned the public hearing at 4:57 p.m.

6. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

There was no miscellaneous business.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT UNRELATED TO AGENDA

No public comments were given unrelated to the agenda.

8. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned by Council President Connally at 4:58 p.m., without objection.