



MINUTES

**CUYAHOGA COUNTY COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2014
CUYAHOGA COUNTY JUSTICE CENTER
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 1ST FLOOR
3:30 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Council President Connally called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

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

3. PUBLIC COMMENT RELATED TO AGENDA

[Note: Item No. 3 was taken out of order and considered after Item No. 4 on the agenda.]

The following citizens addressed Council regarding issues of concern to them relating to 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 Russo**
- b) Mr. Tim Berkley, representing IATSE Local 27**
- c) Mr. Terry Joyce, representing Laborers Local 310**
- d) Mr. David Gilbert, President and CEO of Positively Cleveland**
- e) Mr. John Granzier, owner of the Cleveland Bar and Grill**
- f) Mr. Ari Maron, representing MRN LTD.**
- g) Pastor Aaron Philips, representing the Baptist Minister Conferences**
- h) Mr. Josh Damankos**
- i) The Honorable Kevin Conwell, City of Cleveland Councilmember**
- j) The Honorable Kevin Kelley, City of Cleveland Council President**

4. PRESENTATION

- a) Update on Emerald Cities Cleveland/Cuyahoga County Projects and Initiatives – Shanelle Smith, Director

Ms. Shanelle Smith, RENEW Program Director and Director of Emerald Cities Cleveland/Cuyahoga County, and Mr. Eric Small, RENEW Program Manager, provided Council with an overview of the RENEW program and an update on various energy efficiency projects. Discussion ensued.

Councilmembers asked questions of Ms. Smith and Mr. Small pertaining to the items, which they 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.

County Executive FitzGerald addressed Council in support of Resolution No. R2014-0002. Discussion ensued.

A brief recess was taken by Council. Council President Connally then convened the public hearing relating to Resolution No. R2014-0002 at 4:45 p.m.

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

- a) Mr. Dan Pocek, former Mayor of the City of Bedford
- b) Mr. Rocco Whalen, chef and business owner

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

With no further testimony, Council President Connally adjourned the public hearing at 4:51 p.m.

Mr. Thomas Yablonsky, Executive Director of the Historic Gateway Neighborhood Corporation, addressed Council regarding Resolution No. R2014-0002. Discussion ensued.

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

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

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

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, Council President Connally adjourned the meeting at 4:57 p.m., without objection.