



## **MINUTES**

**CUYAHOGA COUNTY COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2013**

**CUYAHOGA COUNTY JUSTICE CENTER**

**COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 1<sup>ST</sup> FLOOR**

**3:00 PM**

### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

**At the request of Council President Connally, Councilmember Miller, Chair of the Finance & Budgeting Committee, called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.**

### **2. ROLL CALL**

**Chairman Miller asked Clerk Schmotzer to call the roll. Councilmembers Germana, Gallagher, Schron, Jones, Simon, Miller and Brady were in attendance and a quorum was determined. Councilmembers Rogers and Conwell entered the meeting sometime after the roll call was taken. Councilmember Greenspan was absent from the meeting.**

**A motion was then made by Ms. Connally, seconded by Mr. Gallagher and approved by unanimous vote to excuse Mr. Greenspan from the meeting.**

### **3. PUBLIC COMMENT RELATED TO AGENDA**

**No public comments related to the agenda were given.**

### **4. MATTER REFERRED TO COMMITTEE:**

- 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.

**Chairman Miller introduced a proposed package of amendments to Resolution No. R2013-0229 relating to the General Fund. Mr. Miller then made a motion to include the proposed package of amendments in the budget Resolution. Mr. Brady seconded the motion. Discussion followed in which a number of proposals were considered to amend the proposed package of amendments.**

**Mr. Matthew Rubino, Director of the Office of Budget & Management, addressed Council regarding the County Executive's response to Council's proposed General Fund amendments. Discussion ensued.**

**Councilmembers asked questions of Mr. Rubino, which he answered accordingly.**

**Ms. Connally introduced proposed amendments to the package relating to budgetary requests for the Human Resource Commission and Prosecutor's Office. Discussion ensued.**

**Mr. Trevor McAleer, Legislative Budget Advisor, addressed Council regarding the request from the Human Resource Commission related to Civil Service testing. Discussion ensued.**

**Councilmembers asked questions of Mr. McAleer, which he answered accordingly.**

**A motion was then made by Ms. Connally to amend the package by adding \$132,000 per year to the Human Resource Commission for Civil Service testing. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gallagher and approved by unanimous vote.**

**Ms. Jane Platten, Chief of Staff for the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, and Mr. Marvin Davies, Director of Finance & Operations for the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, addressed Council regarding a budgetary request for the Prosecutor's Office. Discussion ensued.**

**Councilmembers asked questions of Ms. Platten and Mr. Davies, which they answered accordingly.**

**A motion was then made by Ms. Connally to amend the package by adding \$450,498 per year to fund existing positions in the Prosecutor's Office that were not included in the base budget. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gallagher and approved by majority roll-call vote, with Councilmembers Simon and Miller casting dissenting votes.**

**Mr. Gallagher introduced proposed amendments to the package relating to budgetary requests for Domestic Relations Court, the Scholarship Program and Department of Information Technology. Discussion ensued. Mr. Gallagher subsequently withdrew the proposed amendment to fund various positions and computer replacement for Domestic Relations Court.**

**A motion was then made by Mr. Gallagher to amend the package by decreasing funding for Council's scholarship programs from \$1,000,000 per year to \$880,000 per year. The motion was seconded by Mr. Schron, however, it was subsequently withdrawn.**

**A motion was made by Mr. Gallagher to amend the package by adding \$1,000,000 in 2015 for information technology routine upgrades and equipment replacement. The motion was seconded by Mr. Germana and approved by unanimous vote.**

**Ms. Simon introduced proposed amendments to the package relating to budgetary requests for the Court of Common Pleas, Public Defender and Juvenile Court. Discussion ensued.**

**A motion was then made by Ms. Simon to amend the package by increasing the additional funding for assigned counsel fees to \$5,031,059 per year, with a General Fund impact of \$3,018,635 per year for the Court of Common Pleas. The motion was seconded by Ms. Connally, however, it was subsequently withdrawn.**

**A motion was made by Ms. Simon to amend the package by increasing funding for Juvenile Court by \$587,000 per year to cover additional costs related to state mandates regarding holding of certain persons awaiting trial. The motion was seconded by Ms. Conwell; however, it was subsequently withdrawn with agreement that the need for such funding would be reviewed by Council after financial results from the first quarter of 2014 are available.**

**Mr. Rogers asked questions about a report that was to be submitted to Council regarding the alternative transportation policy. Mr. Kahlil Seren, Research & Policy Analyst, then addressed Council regarding this issue and responded that the policy had not been received by the Administration. Discussion ensued.**

**Councilmembers asked questions of Mr. Seren pertaining to the issue, which he answered accordingly.**

**By a unanimous roll-call vote, Council approved the incorporation of the package of proposed amendments into Resolution No. R2013-0229, including the amendments to the package that had been approved.**

#### **5. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

**Chairman Miller made final comments regarding the budget process and announced that the next Committee of the Whole meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 3, 2013 at 11:00 a.m.**

**Ms. Connally thanked Mr. Miller for his diligence and work during the budget process.**

#### **6. PUBLIC COMMENT UNRELATED TO AGENDA**

**No comments were given unrelated to the agenda.**

7. ADJOURNMENT

**With no further business to discuss and on a motion by Ms. Connally with a second by Mr. Germana, the meeting was adjourned at 4:34 p.m., without objection.**