

1 RESOLUTION NO. 2016-136

2
3 SPONSOR Mr. Pry, Mr. Schmidt, Ms. Shapiro, Council of the Whole

4
5 DATE April 25, 2016 COMMITTEE Committee of the Whole

6
7 **A Resolution, expressing support of the efforts of the Ohio EPA and its local partners to**
8 **remove the Gorge Dam from the Cuyahoga River, for the Executive, and declaring an**
9 **emergency.**

10
11 WHEREAS, the Gorge Dam has been located in the Cuyahoga River in Northern Akron
12 since it was built by the Northern Ohio Traction and Light Co. in 1911-1912 to provide
13 hydroelectric power; and

14
15 WHEREAS, the Gorge Dam has not been used for hydroelectric power since 1958, and
16 the removal of the dam is widely viewed as an opportunity to improve water quality and
17 environment in and around the Cuyahoga River and bring a new recreation and tourist industry
18 to that portion of the County; and

19
20 WHEREAS, the Gorge Dam currently sits in front of 830,000 cubic yards of sediment
21 which has collected at the base of the dam for the last 100 plus years; and

22
23 WHEREAS, the estimated cost to remove the Gorge Dam and associated sediment is
24 estimated to be \$70 million; and

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26 WHEREAS, the federal EPA has agreed to provide \$45.5 million in federal Great Lakes
27 cleanup funds to remove the Gorge Dam and sediment; and

28
29 WHEREAS, the Ohio EPA and its local partners intend to fund the remaining \$24.5
30 million necessary to remove the Gorge Dam and sediment; and

31
32 WHEREAS, this Council desires to express its support of the Ohio EPA and its local
33 partners in their efforts to remove the Gorge Dam in order to improve the water quality of the
34 Cuyahoga River, to improve the environment for the people, plants and animals living near the
35 Cuyahoga River and to provide additional recreational and tourist opportunities along the
36 Cuyahoga River; and

37
38 WHEREAS, this Council finds and determines, after reviewing all pertinent information,
39 that it is necessary and in the best interest of the County of Summit to support the efforts of the
40 Ohio EPA and its local partners to remove the Gorge Dam from the Cuyahoga River.

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42 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the County of Summit, State
43 of Ohio, that:

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1 RESOLUTION NO. 2016-136

2 PAGE TWO

3
4 SECTION 1

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6 This Council hereby supports the efforts of the Ohio EPA and its local partners to remove
7 the Gorge Dam and associated sediment from the Cuyahoga River. This Council believes that
8 such action will improve water quality of the Cuyahoga River, will improve the environment for
9 the people, plants and animals living near the Cuyahoga River and will provide additional
10 recreational and tourist opportunities along the Cuyahoga River. Furthermore, this Council
11 hereby expresses its appreciation for the federal EPA, Ohio EPA and its local partners for
12 funding this worthwhile endeavor.

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14 SECTION 2

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16 This Resolution is hereby declared an emergency in the interest of the health, safety and
17 welfare of the citizens of the County of Summit, and for the further reason to immediately
18 express this Council's support of the efforts of the Ohio EPA and its local partners to remove the
19 Gorge Dam and associated sediment from the Cuyahoga River.

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21 SECTION 3

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23 Provided this Resolution receives the affirmative vote of eight members, it shall take
24 effect immediately upon its adoption and approval by the Executive; otherwise, it shall take
25 effect and be in force at the earliest time provided by law.

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27 SECTION 4

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29 It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating
30 to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Council, and that all
31 deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action,
32 were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section
33 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

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35 INTRODUCED April 11, 2016

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37 ADOPTED April 25, 2016

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41 CLERK OF COUNCIL

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49 PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

APPROVED April 26, 2016

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ENACTED EFFECTIVE April 26, 2016

Voice Vote: 10-0 YES: Crawford, Donofrio, Feeman, Kostandaras,
Prentice, Rodgers, Schmidt, Shapiro, Walters, Wilhite
ABSENT: Lee