

ALLEGHENY COUNTY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

- - -

BEFORE:

James R. Burn, Jr.	-	President District 3
Charles J. Martoni	-	Vice President District 8
John P. DeFazio	-	Council-At-Large
Edward Kress	-	Council-At-Large
Matt Drozd	-	District 1
Jan Rea	-	District 2
Michael J. Finnerty	-	District 4
Vince Gastgeb	-	District 5
John Palmiere	-	District 6
Nick Futules	-	District 7
Robert Macey	-	District 9
William Russell Robinson	-	District 10
Barbara Daly Danko	-	District 11
Jim Ellenbogen	-	District 12
Amanda Green Hawkins	-	District 13

Allegheny County Courthouse
Fourth Floor, Gold Room
436 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219

Tuesday, August 23, 2011 - 5:00 p.m.

SARGENT'S COURT REPORTING SERVICE, INC.
429 Forbes Avenue, Suite 1300
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
(412) 232-3882 FAX (412) 471-8733

IN ATTENDANCE:

James Flynn - County Manager
Michael Wojcik - County Solicitor
Joseph Catanese - Director of Constituent Services
John H. Rushford, Jr. - Counsel for County Council
Jared Barker - Director of Legislative Services
Jennifer Liptak - Budget Director

PRESIDENT BURN: Good evening, everyone. I would like at this time to call to order the regularly scheduled meeting of the Allegheny County Council, Tuesday, August 23rd, 2011. Welcome to my colleagues. I hope you had a relaxing summer vacation. I'd also like to personally welcome our good friend and colleague, Councilman James Ellenbogen, back. It's good to see you, Jim. It really is.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Thank you. It's good to be seen instead of viewed.

PRESIDENT BURN: At this time, we'll begin the meeting with our Pledge of Allegiance and then a moment of silent prayer and/or reflection. Please remember those poor victims from Friday's flash flooding in your moments of silence or prayer.

(Pledge of Allegiance.)

(Moment of silent prayer and/or reflection.)

PRESIDENT BURN: Thank you. Please call the roll.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Danko?

MS. DANKO: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. DeFazio?

MR. DEFAZIO: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Drozd?

(No response.)

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Ellenbogen?

MR. ELLENBOGEN: I'm here.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Finnerty?

MR. FINNERTY: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Futules?

MR. FUTULES: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Gastgeb?

MR. GASTGEB: Here (via telephone).

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Green Hawkins?

MS. GREEN HAWKINS: Present.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Kress?

(No response.)

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Macey?

MR. MACEY: Present.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Martoni?

MR. MARTONI: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Palmiere?

MR. PALMIERE: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Rea?

MS. REA: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Robinson?
MR. ROBINSON: Present.
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Burn, President?
PRESIDENT BURN: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Thirteen (13) members currently present.

PRESIDENT BURN: Proclamations and certificates. 6466-11.

MR. CATANESE: Proclamation honoring Marty Madigan for his 35 years of service to Allegheny County. Sponsored by Council Members Burn, Danko, DeFazio, Drozd, Ellenbogen, Finnerty, Futules, Gastgeb, Green Hawkins, Kress, Macey, Martoni, Palmiere, Rea and Robinson.

PRESIDENT BURN: Thank you. Marty, would you like to come up to the podium and join myself and my colleagues? Marty, we've all known you in one of a variety of different capacities, whether it's been as a public servant here in the county, whether it's been with the Hibernians, whether it's been through the Democratic Committee. But everywhere that we've gone in our travels since 1976, someone has come in contact with you. Someone has crossed paths with you. And it's always been a great experience because of the nature of who you are and the passion for what you've always done and continue to do and a personality which is the greatest.

And now that you're moving into a different chapter, we, as a small token, as a Council, of our appreciation for the years that you put in here in Allegheny County, the sacrifices you made and as a way of saying thank you for all the other public activities in which you've been involved, we want to present you with a proclamation for your service to the county as our way of saying thank you so much for your leadership and your friendship. We're going to miss you down here, but it doesn't mean that we're not going to keep running into you as our paths with you cross. So with your permission, Marty, I'd like to read this proclamation into the record and then invite you to be prepared to say a few words.

Whereas, Martin J. Madigan began working for Allegheny County on June 15, 1976, and for the next 35 years, Mr. Madigan honorably served within the office of the Register of Wills, with the Department of Court Records and the Sheriff's Office, and under the Honorable Rita Wilson Kane, the Honorable Jay Costa, the Honorable

Peter DeFazio, the Honorable Eileen Wagner and Director Kate Barkman.

And whereas, during his career, Mr. Madigan served as the acting register of wills and is the first manager of the wills of Orphans' Court Division of the Department of Court Records in Allegheny County. He was also elected as committee man in the in the Fourth Ward of the City of Pittsburgh and is a Fourth Ward chair.

And whereas, Mr. Madigan served as president of Division 9 of the Ancient Order of Hibernians and later as president of the Pennsylvania AOH.

And whereas, Mr. Madigan served on the Board of Directors for the Irish Society for Education and Charity, Incorporated, and was one of its founding members. The group is best known as the parent organization of Pittsburgh's Saint Patrick's Day Parade.

And whereas, Mr. Madigan's commitment to service positively has impacted and left a lasting impression with Allegheny County and the City of Pittsburgh.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Allegheny County Council, on behalf of the citizens of Allegheny County, honors Mr. Marty Madigan for his unwavering dedication to serve in this region. He contributed unique ideas, programs, leadership and experience to Allegheny County and to the City of Pittsburgh. This Council thanks Mr. Madigan for his service and wishes him and his wife, Debbie, their son, Ryan, as he embarks on a well-deserved retirement. Marty, on behalf of myself and my colleagues on Council, the Allegheny County Council, our Chief Executive and residents and the business owners of Allegheny County, thank you so much for your service. God bless you and best of luck to you.

(Applause.)

MR. MADIGAN: Thank you, President Burn, and thank you, ladies and gentlemen of the Allegheny County Council. I really do appreciate you taking time and putting me on the agenda to present this proclamation with me --- for me. I started off in 1976. I came aboard Allegheny County as summer help. Unfortunately, my father had a massive stroke, so at that time, I asked Rita Wilson Kane if I could go on full time. I went on full time. I started off as a clerk in the basement. And I found out very shortly that the quality of people who work for the county was just outstanding.

Throughout the years, I worked my way up from a clerk in the basement to a supervisor, then a probate clerk, then the assistant chief and then became the acting register of wills. So to me, that was a dream come true. I finished my career as the manager in the Department of Court Records. And it's just been an outstanding ride for me. I've met a lot of outstanding people along the way. But the most outstanding person I ever met in my time there was on Saint Patrick's Day in 1979. That's when I met my bride, my roommate, the love of my life, Debbie Madigan. She was Debbie Kristovsky (phonetic) at the time, and she was a clerk-typist in the Register of Wills' Office.

In those days, two people that were married weren't allowed to work in the same office. So Debbie left Allegheny County, and she pursued her career. She got a job as a teller out in East Liberty at the Pittsburgh National Bank at the time. Well, since then, through the years, she's worked her way up and she's now a senior vice president with PNC and she runs the call center here in Pittsburgh, Chicago, Columbus, Kalamazoo and Franklin. So I'm very proud of her accomplishments.

My son, Ryan, is also here with us today, and Ryan has just been an outstanding young man throughout his life. And he's gone in his mother's career, in banking, and Ryan also works for PNC at this time. I've had the opportunity, by working for the county, to move on, to meet some great people. So we've lived in Oakland for the first part of our marriage, and then in January of 1995, we were able to move to Hampton Township. At that time, I met some outstanding neighbors who are with me, and that's Joe and Annette Dutton. And I also moved close to my brother, Michael, who has been nothing but outstanding during my recent illness that I've had, and I also had my sister-in-law, Kathy. So once again, I just want to thank all of you. This is just a tremendous honor, and thank you very much.

(Applause.)

(Pictures taken.)

PRESIDENT BURN: I have a procedural question, Mr. Catanese. If there's a proclamation or certificate, if it somehow did not appear on the agenda, then suddenly it popped onto the agenda, if one of our employees was moving on and wanted to honor him or her, what would be the procedure to do that?

MR. CATANESE: The President has the right to ---.

PRESIDENT BURN: Okay. With the indulgence of the Council, I have a proclamation for Matt. Just so the ---.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Matt Drozd?

PRESIDENT BURN: It's much funnier in person, Jimmy. For Matt Mindzeski, who, as you know, has accepted a position outside of Allegheny County, and he's going to be moving on. He called all of us to tell us that he was --- he had found another position. It's been great to work with you, and we're going to miss you. We wish you the best. It's a great career move for you. And always, please, stay in touch with us. And anything along the way that you need or others can do to help you, please feel free to call on us. So if you would like to come up here and join me. And we'll probably ask you to say a few words. I'll read this into the record.

Whereas, since its inception, Allegheny County Council has been fortunate in its ability to employ staff whose knowledge and determination contributed greatly to the foundation and growth of Council and a vital part of the Allegheny County government.

And whereas, Matt Mindzeski has repeatedly proven himself willing to exceed the expectations of Council and his fellow staff members with his exemplary work ethic he has exhibited to County Council.

And whereas, Mr. Mindzeski has worked for County Council since January of 2009. And since that time, he has repeatedly comported himself with grace and professionalism in assisting the Council in its daily operations.

And whereas, throughout his tenure with Council, Mr. Mindzeski has given inexhaustible service to this county and the Council, provided support to its members and offered his best in the service of the county residents.

And whereas, both Council members and staff have come to regard Mr. Mindzeski as an individual who will be greatly missed as he leaves the office of County Council to pursue another employment opportunity. And Dr. Martoni, our Vice President, thank you so much for coming down and join us.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Allegheny County Council does hereby recognize Mr. Matthew

Mindzeski for his consistent dedication and for his contributions to county government, also to both the County Council and the citizens of Allegheny County. Council hereby bestows its most sincere thanks and extends the most profound wishes for his happiness and success in the future. On behalf of myself, Doc Martoni, County Council and the staff, best of luck to you, Matt. Congratulations and good luck.

(Applause.)

MR. MINDZESKI: I just want to thank all the Council members for everything that you guys have done for me, personally and professionally. It's been a good experience here for the past couple of years. And all the staff members, you guys have been great friends. So I appreciate it. Thank you all. I'll definitely think about this time fondly and come back and visit. So thank you, everybody. I appreciate it.

(Applause.)

MR. MARTONI: We're extremely proud of the staff of County Council. I want to emphasize that it's probably the smallest staff in the United States of America for a big group like ours. Okay? It probably does a more outstanding job than any staff anywhere. So we're proud. We just hope Matt --- we wish him the best. He is the best. He will do well at whatever he does. So thank you, Matt.

(Applause.)

MR. FINNERTY: I just wanted to say, Matt, you did a heck of a job here. You proced everybody. And I want to know, did you write this proc? We're going to miss you here. Especially I'm going to miss you up on the second floor. Don't have anybody to harass up there. Hopefully ---.

MR. MINDZESKI: You'll find somebody like me.

MR. FINNERTY: I will. I will. But you did a tremendous job here, and we're going to miss you. And we wish you the greatest success in the world, wherever you are.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: He's getting married, too. I just wanted to say that, you know, Matt, we're all going to miss you. Matt's an outstanding young man. And to the general public, I'd like to say although the 15 of us seem a little dysfunctional at times, everybody we turn out of here turns into, like, real big executives in these

corporations. So we must, as a group, come up with something good. Congratulations. We wish you the best.

(Pictures taken.)

PRESIDENT BURN: The remaining proclamations and certificates shall be read into the record.

MR. CATANESE: Let the record show that Councilman Kress and Councilman Drozd are in attendance.

6467-11. Proclamation honoring the 60th anniversary of the United Cerebral Palsy/Community Living and Support Services. Sponsored by Council Members Burn, Martoni and DeFazio.

6468-11. Certificate of Achievement honoring Nicholas Joseph Olimpi of Boy Scout Troop 243 for earning his Eagle Scout ranking. Sponsored by Councilman Drozd.

6469-11. Certificate of Achievement honoring Jared Gallegos, Daniel White and William Martin of Boy Scout Troop 905 for earning their Eagle Scout ranking. Sponsored by Councilman Drozd.

6470-11. Certificate of Achievement honoring Stephen Vincent Haywiser of Boy Scout Troop 225 for earning his Eagle Scout ranking. Sponsored by Councilman Gastgeb.

6471-11. Certificates of Recognition honoring the New Pittsburgh Courier's 50 Women of Excellence. Sponsored by Council Members Green Hawkins, Burn, Martoni, Macey, Drozd, Futules, Danko, Ellenbogen, Gastgeb and Robinson.

6472-11. Certificate of Recognition honoring the 50th anniversary of Robert and Carol Kostelnik. Sponsored by Councilman Macey.

6473-11. Certificate of Recognition honoring the 66th anniversary of James and Teresa Norgren. Sponsored by Councilman Macey.

6474-11. Certificate of Recognition honoring the 50th anniversary of Mitchell and Mary Louise Holliday. Sponsored by Councilman Macey.

6475-11. Certificate of Recognition honoring the 106th birthday of Clara Jeroski. Sponsored by Councilman Macey.

6476-11. Certificate of Recognition honoring Dennis Frizzi upon his retirement from the West Mifflin Department of Public Works. Sponsored by Councilman Macey.

PRESIDENT BURN: Public comment on agenda items.

MR. CATANESE: We have none.

PRESIDENT BURN: Approval of minutes. 6478-11.

MR. CATANESE: Motion to approve the minutes of the July 5th, 2011 and July 12th, 2011 regular meetings of Council.

MR. MACEY: So moved.

MS. GREEN HAWKINS: Second.

PRESIDENT BURN: Moved, second. Any discussion? All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT BURN: Opposed? The minutes are approved. Presentation of appointments. 6479-11.

MR. CATANESE: Communication from Chief Executive Dan Onorato recommending Reverend Dr. J. Van Alfred Winsett for appointment to the Allegheny County Jail Oversight Board for a term to expire on December 31st, 2012. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT BURN: Refer to Committee on Appointment Review. 6480-11.

MR. CATANESE: Communication from Chief Executive Dan Onorato recommending Donald F. Smith, Jr. for reappointment to the Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County for a term to expire on May 23rd, 2016. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT BURN: Refer to the Committee on Appointment Review. 6481-11.

MR. CATANESE: Communication from Chief Executive Dan Onorato recommending Ellen C. Stewart, M.D. for appointment to the Allegheny County Board of Health for a term to expire on January 12th, 2014. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT BURN: Refer to the Committee on Appointment Review. 6482-11.

MR. CATANESE: Communication from Chief Executive Dan Onorato recommending Judge Justin M. Johnson for appointment to the Human Relations Commission for a term to expire on December 31st, 2014. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT BURN: Refer to the Committee on Appointment Review. 6483-11.

MR. CATANESE: Communication from Chief Executive Dan Onorato recommending Robert J. Lewis for appointment to the Allegheny County Community College Board for a term to expire on December 31st, 2015. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT BURN: Unfinished business. 6447-11.

MR. CATANESE: An ordinance authorizing the County of Allegheny to acquire by condemnation a certain 2.648-acre parcel of land now or formerly of Felix Negley Heirs, required for channel restoration of Bull Creek in Tarentum Borough, and to take such further action as may be necessary under applicable law, including the Eminent Domain Code. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT BURN: This bill was submitted to the County Council, referred to the Committee on Government Reform. We had a hearing on 8/16/11. And based on the discussions at that time, it was released with an affirmative recommendation. As Chair of that committee, I would move for approval.

MR. ROBINSON: Second.

PRESIDENT BURN: Moved, second. Any discussion on the motion? Any discussion? Please call the roll.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Danko?

MS. DANKO: Aye.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. DeFazio?

MR. DEFAZIO: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Drozd?

MR. DROZD: Aye.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Ellenbogen?

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Aye.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Finnerty?

MR. FINNERTY: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Futules?

MR. FUTULES: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Gastgeb?

MR. GASTGEB: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Green Hawkins?

MS. GREEN HAWKINS: Aye.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Kress?

MR. KRESS: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Macey?

MR. MACEY: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Martoni?

MR. MARTONI: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Palmiere?

MR. PALMIERE: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Rea?

MS. REA: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Robinson?

MR. ROBINSON: Aye.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Burn, President?

PRESIDENT BURN: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Ayes 15, noes 0. The bill passes.

PRESIDENT BURN: 6460-11.

MR. CATANESE: An ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania amending and supplementing Division I of the Allegheny County Code of Ordinances entitled Administrative Code, Article 801, entitled Comprehensive Fiscal Plan, in order to define the abandonment of capital projects and establish limits on certain capital budget appropriations. Sponsored by Council Members Gastgeb, Kress, Drozd, Rea, Robinson, Burn, Finnerty, Futules, DeFazio.

PRESIDENT BURN: Yes. This was referred to the Committee on Government Reform on or about 7/12/11. It was vetted at a committee hearing on 8/16/11. At that time, there was an amendment introduced by Council Member Finnerty. I'd like to commend all those in participation that had a very healthy discussion on this bill and on this bill as amended. After the discussion, after the amendment and further discussion, it was released with an affirmative recommendation. Before I ask for a motion, Mr. Gastgeb, would you like to comment or would any of the other sponsors like to comment on the bill before I ask for the motion?

MR. GASTGEB: Thank you, President Burn. I think this is a good bill for transparency. By that, I mean it is representative of --- Allegheny County Council will have, I'm thinking, a better say in representing the target to help define the word abandonment and then I think having a good force of action for that and also having a line item for profits in the park. So I want to compliment all the Council members. It really felt like you were you were on the same team. So I'll look to having this pass.

PRESIDENT BURN: Thank you. Would anyone else like to comment before I ask for a motion?

MR. FINNERTY: Yes.

PRESIDENT BURN: Mr. Finnerty?

MR. FINNERTY: Thank you, Mr. President. I'd just like to say that I think this is a good bill the way it's set up. By bringing it to a vote before Council at least once a year, it offers a very transparent mechanism so that all the public and people involved in this will know what's going on. Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURN: Thank you. Any other discussion? Any other discussion? Is there a motion to approve?

MR. ROBINSON: So moved.

MR. DEFAZIO: Second.

PRESIDENT BURN: Moved, second. Again, seeing no other discussion, please call the roll.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Danko?

MS. DANKO: Aye.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. DeFazio?

MR. DEFAZIO: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Drozd?

MR. DROZD: Aye.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Ellenbogen?

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Aye.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Finnerty?

MR. FINNERTY: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Futules?

MR. FUTULES: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Gastgeb?

MR. GASTGEB: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Green Hawkins?

MS. GREEN HAWKINS: Aye.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Kress?

MR. KRESS: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Macey?

MR. MACEY: Aye.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Martoni?

MR. MARTONI: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Palmiere?

MR. PALMIERE: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Rea?

MS. REA: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Robinson?

MR. ROBINSON: Aye.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Burn, President?

PRESIDENT BURN: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Ayes 15, noes 0. The bill passes.

PRESIDENT BURN: Liaison reports. Does anybody have any liaison reports? Mr. Finnerty, then Mr. Ellenbogen and then Mr. Drozd, right down ---.

MR. FINNERTY: I'd just like to mention that the Western Pennsylvania District Council 57, its joint apprentice program is going to be open, just finishing

trades. One of the things is painting, drywall, et cetera. It's going to have an open session at their Ewing Road District Council Office, which is in Carnegie, 15106. And if you're interested, you can call the number, 412-276-6061. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT BURN: Thank you. Mr. Ellenbogen?

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Thank you, Mr. President.

Originally, I had not intended to make a comment. But in light of what had happened this afternoon, I think I should. A couple months ago, some of you may remember that I had made issue of the fact that some of the taller buildings in town have the stairwells locked on the ground floor so the people can't enter. I had made two calls to the City of Pittsburgh Public Safety and received no satisfaction. And they weren't even courteous enough to call me back.

This afternoon --- and I don't know how many of you felt it --- we felt the tremors from the earthquake that happened in Virginia. My office is in the Westinghouse Building, and I can tell you, it felt like the building was coming down. I mean, the cubicles were shaking and some of the furniture. It was pretty scary, and those stairwells in that building are locked. And you know, I had a lot of people that were kind of freaked out and kind of came to me afterward and said, you know, we can't get out, the stairwells, blah, blah, blah.

So what I would like --- I would ask this Council to at least send a letter to Public Safety Director Huss to maybe give us some kind of an explanation, because although we don't think of those kinds of things, that thing this afternoon was very real to me. It was a pretty scary situation for a good half a minute. So I would ask you, Mr. President, if you would direct the staff to, you know, offer an explanation as to such in light of what happened today. Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURN: We'll draft a letter and send it over with a copy to all members of Council. We'll get that done this week. Mr. Drozd?

MR. DROZD: Thank you, Mr. President and Council members. A very sad thing. Similar instance to me, something very, very sacred to all of us, and that's the children in our schools. Our children will be starting in another week. I truly believe that if you look at what's happening in America, America is at risk. Our children are at risk not only in, you know, our county

but in America as a whole. I've seen and been very dismayed, you know, on the television, numerous young people that have been shot that lay in streets, and they thought they were safe. The schools offer that harbor of safety, and that's the only safety they have. One time I was door knocking in a political process up in one of our city neighborhoods. A young man came to the door and what he said to me was --- I said, what's going on? He said, there's no place to go. He says, down the street the YMCA closed. He has no place to go.

So there's programs within those schools that are now being cut. What we save in the short run are going to cost America far more in the long run, and that's the demise of our country and our communities. So I would hope that people will think about this very, very hard and so will our elected officials. I would hope that you will maybe even look to mentor some of these young people, young people that so badly need our guidance, because our children, many of us, they have us. Those out there don't. I hear it all the time. They just don't have anyone. So I hope that you would think about this and think long and hard. And I thank you for indulging me for this. Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURN: Thank you, Councilman. Any other liaison reports? New business, ordinances and resolutions. 6484-11.

MR. CATANESE: An ordinance amending and supplementing the Administrative Code of Allegheny County, Part 7, entitled Properties, through the enactment of a new Section 5-701.07, entitled Notification of Grant-Funded County Property Improvements, in order to establish a procedure for the provision of written notice of certain grant-funded capital projects to County Council members. Sponsored by Councilwoman Rea.

PRESIDENT BURN: Before this bill is referred to the Committee on Government Reform, Councilwoman Rea, would you like to say a few words?

MS. REA: I'll say a few words. The bill is designed to just let Council members be aware or be informed or maybe almost get into the process of vetting a grant that a department is looking to obtain so that they understand what the grant is. They understand the impact of the grant on their district. And it's basically --- or more or less pertains to roads, changes in roads. It's anything above \$200,000, because a lot of times, we're

made aware of the grant after the county has received the grant, and it possibly may be in your district. It might not be the best thing for your district. So I'm just asking that we think about having Council involved in a process before we're forced to make a decision whether to say it's something we don't want in our district or, you know, it's something we do want. It gives us more time to evaluate what's going on. That's all. Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURN: Councilwoman, it sounds almost analogous to the bill we just passed. It's a different effect. It's the same type of dynamic transparency interaction ---

MS. REA: Yes.

PRESIDENT BURN: --- where a department can come back and explain to this body what's going on and why.

MS. REA: Or really, individually, that each Council member --- because they really understand their district and the roads in their districts or the projects in their districts. And once, you know, someone comes to you and says, we have a grant, it's kind of difficult to say, we don't want the grant or we don't want the project. So if we're at least informed before the grant is applied for, that puts us in a loop much sooner, that it's probably better to be involved sooner than later. Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURN: Thank you. This will be referred to the Committee on Government Reform. 6485-11.

MR. CATANESE: An ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, amending the Allegheny County Code of Ordinances, Division 4, entitled Finances, Chapter 491, entitled Community College of Allegheny County Appropriations, in order to clarify the funding requirement for the county's annual budgetary appropriation to the Community College of Allegheny County. Sponsored by Councilman Robinson.

PRESIDENT BURN: Before this bill is referred to the Committee on Government Reform, Mr. Robinson, would you care to comment, sir?

MR. ROBINSON: Yes, Mr. President. Thank you, Mr. President and members of Council. This particular bill is being presented so that we might, as the sponsors of the community college, the legal sponsors of our community college, might have a better appreciation for what our legal obligations are in the current state law and what implications this has for our county budgeting

process. The relevant legislation is quite extensive and fixed. And hopefully, we will have an opportunity to thoroughly look at this once this bill is referred to committee. If there's any members who need a copy of the relevant state law, I certainly will make sure that you get it. But please keep in mind we are the legal official sponsors of the Community College of Allegheny County, and there are certain obligations that the law has placed upon us. And I look forward to a full discussion. Thank you, Mr. President and members of Council.

PRESIDENT BURN: Thank you. Do you want ---?

MR. DROZD: Yeah.

PRESIDENT BURN: Please have Mr. Drozd ---.

MR. DROZD: No. I want to comment.

PRESIDENT BURN: Oh, comment? I'm sorry. Mr. Drozd, yes.

MR. DROZD: Yeah. I concur, you know, to a degree, you know, we are the stewards and also of those young people in the community college, which is such a good college. But at the same time, they've got to help themselves. The little monies that was cut from their budget could so easily be and readily be made up in their fundraising efforts. They've under-raised money consistently for numerous years. I've said it in the past and I'll say it again. And I know I'm qualified to say that because that's what I did and did it to what was expected of me amid those rules.

So I think that we have to talk about it. I'm not saying we don't. But at the same time, I want to see the Community College, what they intend to do to help themselves. The CE Program could be built. The CE Program at one of the outlying campuses of a university I represented far exceeded --- just that one campus of 1,000 students, far exceeded any income the community college. So I want to see some efforts on their part. When we have this meeting, I want a full discussion and I want to see their input in that meeting and what they're going to do to help themselves, because the taxpayers of Allegheny County --- the taxpayers of Allegheny County can no longer bear the total brunt of whatever it may be. We've got to look at all the taxpayers of Allegheny County to --- for Community College. Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURN: This bill shall be referred to the Committee on Government Reform. 6486-11.

MR. CATANESE: A resolution of the County of Allegheny amending the 2011 Capital Budget for Allegheny County. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT BURN: Refer to the Committee on Budget and Finance. 6487-11.

MR. CATANESE: A resolution of the County of Allegheny amending the Operating Budget for 2011. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT BURN: Refer to the Committee on Budget and Finances. 6488-11.

MR. CATANESE: A resolution of the County of Allegheny amending the Grants and Special Accounts Budget for 2011, Submission 09-11. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT BURN: Refer to the Committee on Budget and Finance. New business, motions.

MR. CATANESE: We have none.

PRESIDENT BURN: Notification of contracts. 6489-11.

MR. CATANESE: Communication from County Manager Jim Flynn submitting executive actions related to contracts for June and July of 2011. Sponsored by the County Manager.

PRESIDENT BURN: Move to receive? Motion to receive?

(Chorus of motions.)

MR. FINNERTY: Second.

PRESIDENT BURN: All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT BURN: The communication is received. 6490-11.

MR. CATANESE: Communication from the Budget and Finance Committee Chairman William Russell Robinson submitting his tentative 2012 County Budget Schedule. Sponsored by Councilman Robinson.

PRESIDENT BURN: Before I ask for a motion to receive, Mr. Robinson, any comment?

MR. ROBINSON: Thank you, Mr. President and members of Council. I'd just like to indicate that, as I have done every year since I've been Budget and Finance Chair, I presented a schedule so that members might more fully participate in the budgeting process. The time frame is essentially what it was last year, with the appropriate changes in the schedule. There's plenty of

opportunity for members to have input. Ms. Liptak and I --- Ms. Liptak, our Budget Director, and I have already fashioned questions with the assistance of members that have been forwarded to the various departments and relevant agencies. While those questions do not cover every topic that members might want to explore and are not designed to exclude members from exploring other issues, it certainly provides us with a foundation to prepare our budget books and to find out from you what you would like us to ask in our second round of questions. I'd just like to say to the members that if a member wants to take it upon themselves to gather information from departments, feel free to do so. The Budget and Finance Committee will not claim any ownership relative to that. But certainly, the schedule is laid out before you. It gives you ample opportunity to present yourself in any way you want to.

One thing I want to mention is one of the things we're going to sophisticate this year is the identification of capital projects in the various districts. Members will again be given a color, and that color will be used to identify the capital projects in your district. We've tried this in the past. We're sophisticating it a little bit more, and this will give members a greater opportunity to identify capital projects. And I think it's very consistent with what Mr. Gastgeb and other members and Ms. Rea would like to have this Council do, and that is to be more involved at the beginning of the process of how our county serves our constituents. If there are any problems that anybody has with the schedule, if you'll talk to me or Ms. Liptak, we'll try to make it the necessary adjustments. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT BURN: Thank you. Motion to receive?

MR. FINNERTY: So moved.

PRESIDENT BURN: Any discussion? All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT BURN: Communication received and filed. Public comment on general items.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Mr. President?

PRESIDENT BURN: Yes?

MR. ELLENBOGEN: May I make a ---?

PRESIDENT BURN: Absolutely.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: When I was ill, I kind of --- I hope I'm not opening up a hornet's nest, but you guys know me. I had read a lot about this North Park Field situation in terms of whether it should have been done or whether it should not have been done. I can tell you the Catholic high schools in my district have been on me like hornets, particularly Seton-La Salle. I'm not going to comment on whether it should be done or whether it shouldn't have been done. It has come to my attention --- and I don't know whether it's true or not. I think we should investigate that the concessions for that have been --- instead of bid out, have been given to North High School, that there's a valet service that also has been given to North High School, where generally these things are bid out.

Now, what I'm saying is, you know, what's done is done. And you know, I'm not going to persecute anybody. But I'll tell you what I would like to see happen, and I don't know how you guys feel about it, but clearly North Catholic High School is a fine institution, but it's decided to relocate in another county. So they are clearly receiving a benefit from Allegheny County. So what I would ask, and I would hope that, particularly, Dr. Martoni and Mr. Robinson would agree with me, that why don't we ask North Catholic, since they have received the benefit that they have from us, to donate a couple scholarships to Allegheny County, that we may be able to give them to --- whether they be children who can't afford it or --- but it is a great institution, and maybe, at least, find some vindication that way. So it's just a suggestion that I thought I would bring to the Council. Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURN: Any other comments? Public comment on agenda items.

MR. CATANESE: We have three.

PRESIDENT BURN: Les Ludwig, followed by Ron Miller. Mr. Ludwig, are you here? No? Ron Miller?

DR. MILLER: Dr. Ronald Lynn Miller, 40 Beltzhoover Avenue, director of Center for Global Studies, International Interdisciplinary, Incorporated in Pennsylvania in 1998. I'm a member of the American Economic Association. I urge this Council to pass law protecting county development of a local, state and national world economic exchange system for globalizing interchanges to and from any individual or institution at

any point, at all levels. What to do to improve the economic exchange system of Allegheny County? Using the 2011 CGSII study, I think that we should do four things to revolutionize Allegheny County, aid the democratization of invention and information access, governments and education. Doing so will powerfully, positively affect the AC --- the rule of the county house.

One, we should revolutionize invention in Allegheny County by making it easier for county innovators to protect their work, be it formal registration of their ideas, designs and devices, while waiting for U.S. or international patents. Two, we should revolutionize information access in the county by creating an AC Intranet, restricting access to county residents. Focus? Building a 12-meter by 12-meter Internet room in every one of the 130 municipalities at a cost of \$10,000 to \$100,000 per room, so the total would be \$1.3 million to \$13 million total. Three, we should revolutionize government in our county by reinforcing the local identities of the 130 county municipalities, rather than trying to relativise these identities because they're older or smaller, rejecting the newer and larger artificially-drawn regional identity for southwestern Pennsylvania, northeastern --- northwestern West Virginia and Maryland, which has no democratic ground residents with the people living there, and by reminding Allegheny County residents of the value of county identity as a historically unifier of the 130. Focus in each municipality. Install an AC service unit ---. Is that it?

PRESIDENT BURN: Thirty (30) seconds.

DR. MILLER: Okay. And number four is that we should revolutionize education in Allegheny by upgrading Allegheny County Community College into a university system, the best, I think, in the world, with 13 colleges, one inside each County Council district, the Allegheny County University, like Oxford University in UK, with 33 colleges, with a link through a central university administration. Each college student supervised by a Board of Trustees and shared by the County Council member of the relevant district. These would be new colleges, new buildings, new faculties for the 21st century. I would like this county community university to be the best in the world, and that would be the objective. All together, all of these \$1.3 million to \$1.5 million of

investment from outside, from the international communities focused on Allegheny County, adding thousands of new jobs for our economy.

PRESIDENT BURN: Thank you very much. Donna Frederick? If you can give us your address, ma'am, then you'll have three minutes. Thank you for coming down.

MS. FREDERICK: Oh, you're quite welcome. Thank you for hearing me. I live at 35 Sycamore Street, Natrona in Harrison Township. I've got these papers.

PRESIDENT BURN: You can give them to Joe. Then he'll distribute them.

MS. FREDERICK: They're explaining what I'm talking about. The way I understand, there is being \$203,000 put into this single-family property, and it's been vacant for five-plus years. The town taxpayers are not up for it because they don't understand how this much money could be put into one single-family property, and there's 75 abandoned houses that people have to live next door to in fear of someone going in there and burning it down and killing their family or destroying their home. So I'm here to maybe kind of get an answer that I can take back and explain to the taxpayers, because we're not getting this.

PRESIDENT BURN: Let me answer. I did receive an e-mail from an elected official regarding this, and we made an inquiry to Economic Development and received a response to it. So I have the answers to some of your questions on my desk, and I will get those answers to you ASAP. I think the crux of it is, almost a quarter of a million dollars for two units. Perhaps the money could have been used to start demolishing the vacant properties or resources could have been used differently?

MS. FREDERICK: Yes.

PRESIDENT BURN: Let me see if I can get you some answers.

MS. FREDERICK: Okay. Thank you so much.

PRESIDENT BURN: Thanks for coming all the way down 28 to be here.

MS. FREDERICK: Thank you.

MS. DANKO: Council Member Burn, could you give us that information as well?

PRESIDENT BURN: Absolutely. I'll share it with all the colleagues.

MS. DANKO: Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURN: Motion to adjourn?

MR. MACEY: So moved.

PRESIDENT BURN: Meeting adjourned. Thank you.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:47 P.M.

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify, as the stenographic reporter, that the foregoing proceedings were taken stenographically by me, and thereafter reduced to typewriting by me or under my direction; and that this transcript is a true and accurate record to the best of my ability

Beth A. Quigley