

ALLEGHENY COUNTY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

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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 (via telephone)
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 30, 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:

Joseph Catanese - Director of Constituent Services
Jared Barker - Director of Legislative Services
Jennifer Liptak - Budget Director
Jack Cambest - Solicitor

PRESIDENT BURN: Good evening, everyone. The regular meeting of the Allegheny County Council scheduled for Tuesday, August 20th --- August 30th, 2011 is now called to order. We'll begin with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silent prayer and/or reflection.

(Pledge of Allegiance.)

(Moment of silent prayer and/or reflection.)

PRESIDENT BURN: Please call the roll.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Danko?

MS. DANKO: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. DeFazio?

MR. DEFAZIO: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Drozd?

MR. DROZD: Present.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Ellenbogen?

MR. ELLENBOGEN: 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: Here.

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: Fourteen (14) members present.

PRESIDENT BURN: All proclamations and certificates tonight, and correct me if I'm wrong, shall be read into the record; is that correct?

MR. CATANESE: That's correct.

PRESIDENT BURN: Okay. 6492-11.

MR. CATANESE: Proclamation recognizing the Garden Club of McKeesport for hosting the Let's Celebrate flower show and celebrating the club's 75th --- 75 years of membership in the Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania. Sponsored by Councilman Macey.

6493-11. Certificate of Recognition honoring the 50th anniversary of Ocie and Alease Paige. Sponsored by Councilman Macey.

6494-11. Certificate of Achievement honoring George Michael Samo of Boy Scout Troop 36 for earning his Eagle Scout ranking. Sponsored by Councilman Drozd.

PRESIDENT BURN: Public comment on agenda items.

MR. CATANESE: We have one.

PRESIDENT BURN: That would be Melina Brajovic. Melina, please come up. It's good to see you again. You know the drill, three minutes. Please begin. Thank you.

MS. BRAJOVIC: Thank you very much. Thank you, President of Council for letting me speak today. It's very, very nice to see everybody since I miss you all. It was a nice break that everybody had. I'm a legal immigrant, emigrated in December 1985. My name is Melina Brajovic from Blawnox Borough.

Our current government structure does not allow a free market prosperity to fix the mess that we are all in economically. In natural protocol of the market competition, we would not have to worry about who is illegal or legal citizen because the market would fix most of the problems, free market, and allow any competition-driven investor to contribute to the free market prosperity and hopefully bring our factories back.

Instead, we have a big bureaucracy and self-interest groups while the country and its people are not getting protected. We should have a private property, not paying our rent to the government through the property tax known as the real tax --- real estate tax. After all this said, I believe that Mr. Ed Kress worked very well to point out that illegal immigrants should not take over the jobs from American people. To prevent property tax --- to prevent property tax break going to illegal investors can only be the best solution within conditions and the terms of Legislative File Number 6497-11. So it's the best solution for now, but not a permanent solving problem. Therefore, I support Ed Kress to prevent --- the bill to prevent illegal immigrants having the tax breaks --- their tax breaks go to illegal immigrants. And I'd like to

thank everybody for serving and trying to make a best solution as possible to save our country and boost up, hopefully, economy back. Thank you. Thanks for serving.

PRESIDENT BURN: Thank you. It's always good to see you.

MS. BRAJOVIC: Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURN: Approval of minutes.

MR. CATANESE: We have none.

PRESIDENT BURN: Presentation of appointments.

6495-11.

MR. CATANESE: Approving the appointment of Ron Liscio --- Liscio (changes pronunciation) --- I'm sorry --- Jr. to serve as a member of the Council of Friends Organization, White Oak Park, for a term to expire on August 30th, 2013. Sponsored by Councilman Macey.

PRESIDENT BURN: Council Member Macey.

MR. MACEY: Thank you, Mr. President and members of Council. We had a resignation on the Friends of the Park at White Oak Park. And I move to appoint Ron Liscio, Jr. to Friends of the Park, White Oak Park.

(Chorus of seconds.)

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

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT BURN: Opposed? Mr. Liscio is approved. Unfinished business.

MR. CATANESE: We have none.

PRESIDENT BURN: Liaison reports. Ordinances and resolutions, new business. 6496-11.

MR. CATANESE: An ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing the donation of personal property by the Allegheny County Medical Examiner's Office. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT BURN: Refer to the Committee on Public Works. New business, motions. 6497-11.

MR. CATANESE: Motion of the Council of Allegheny County amending Article IV, Section D of the Rules of Council for Allegheny County Council relating Council's consideration of legislation authorizing county participation in Tax Increment Financing. Sponsored by Councilman Kress.

PRESIDENT BURN: This would be referred to the Committee on Economic Development. Mr. Kress?

MR. KRESS: Sure. The whole point of incentive programs like TIFs, LERTAs and the like is that they result in an aggregate gain for the local economy. Awarding incentives like this to companies that make it a practice to employ individuals overseas or employ workers who are not legally authorized to work in this country undermines the very purpose for which they exist. As Labor Day approaches, I think it's totally appropriate to introduce such pro-American legislation. So thank you very much.

PRESIDENT BURN: Thank you, Mr. Kress.
Notification of contracts.

MR. CATANESE: None.

PRESIDENT BURN: Public comment on general items.

MR. CATANESE: We have one.

PRESIDENT BURN: Mr. Ellenbogen, yes, sir.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: I just have a couple things this week that kind of caught my attention. As everyone knows, I had called for North Catholic High School to donate a couple scholarships to Allegheny County for the services that they received from Allegheny County in the North Field. I've had people say it's not their field. Well, anybody that knows anything about football knows that when the field is dressed in your color and the end zone is the same color, it's your field. So I congratulate whoever made it Stone Field with North Park's colors. But as far as I'm concerned, it's their field, and I still call on that fine institution to donate a couple scholarships to some underprivileged children for the benefit that they get.

One other thing that caught my attention this week was the hearing which the state legislators had --- and they drank all our water --- in this chambers with Highmark and UPMC. And it's really disturbing to me when non-profits sit there and use words like competition and profit. And maybe this is my economics background talking, but it's scary stuff when our non-profits are using those kinds of words. So thank you, Mr. President, and everyone for your indulgence.

PRESIDENT BURN: Thank you, sir. Public comment on general items.

MR. CATANESE: We have one.

PRESIDENT BURN: Yes. Ronald Lynn Miller.

DR. MILLER: Dr. Ronald Lynn Miller, 40 Beltzhoover Avenue, Pittsburgh, founder/director of the Center for Global Studies International Interdisciplinary, incorporated in 1998 in Pennsylvania. I'm a member of the American Physical Society and its Division of Nuclear Physics. I believe it imperative that County Council legislate to present local solutions to the gravity-antigravity problem. I think that Allegheny County and Pennsylvania should lead in putting physics at the center of efforts to revolutionize governmental, educational and informational frameworks across the United States.

One, Allegheny and Pennsylvania should lead in putting physics at the center of efforts to revolutionize US government. Pennsylvania and the southwestern region of PA, of which Allegheny is a part, led in the startup of nuclear plants for generating electricity, Shippingport. The people of the USA not only led in the evolution of nuclear power for electricity, but also nuclear power for weaponry. The people of Japan, however, now under Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda, have suffered the negative consequences of these two physics-based technologies unlike any other people on earth.

The US nation, the State of Pennsylvania and the County of Allegheny should extend assistance to present-day Japanese and their predecessors who were bombed in 1945 at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and who presently are exposed to radiation from at least partial meltdowns of reactors in the Fukushima Complex in 2011. We should invite these Japanese to emigrate to the USA, PA, Allegheny County. As a US citizen, Pennsylvanian and Allegheny resident, I do now invite Japanese individuals, Nihonjin, especially those with Japanese-American links in the USA, to come to our country, our state and our county. I do so out of a sense of amae.

Incidents of radiation exposure from nuclear weapons and fission, nuclear power plants will occur again. We are not prepared. We should establish a Department of Physics in the county government of Allegheny, the state government of Pennsylvania and so in all counties and states across the USA to prevent this. The Allegheny Department of Physics would advise the County Executive and Council as to questions from Allegheny County residents but be elected by those residents.

Two, Allegheny and Pennsylvania should lead in putting physics at the center of efforts to revolutionize US education. We should introduce physics via a class called physics in the first grade in the public schools, all municipal districts in Allegheny County and in counties in all states, beginning with Pennsylvania. There should be physics 1 through 12, a class every year for all students, just like math and language, beginning in grade one.

And three, Allegheny and Pennsylvania should lead in revolutionizing the US information system via physics applications. We should create county and state internets accessed primarily by Allegheny and Pennsylvania residents respectively, with gates allowing flow to and from and one in the USA and the international Worldwide Web. Gatekeepers for the county-based intranet are necessary and would be elected, in my view --- should be elected by the people of Allegheny.

PRESIDENT BURN: Thank you, sir. Motion to adjourn?

MR. DEFAZIO: So moved.

MR. ROBINSON: Second.

PRESIDENT BURN: Moved, second. Meeting adjourned. Thank you very much.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:20 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