

ALLEGHENY COUNTY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

- - -

BEFORE:

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

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

Tuesday, October 2, 2012 - 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
Walter Szymanski - Budget Director

PRESIDENT MARTONI: The County Council meeting will begin. Please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance. Please stand following the Pledge of Allegiance for a moment of silent prayer.

(Pledge of Allegiance.)

(Moment of silent prayer or reflection.)

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Please be seated. Roll call.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Burn?

(No response.)

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?

(No response.)

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Green Hawkins?

(No response.)

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Heidelbaugh?

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Macey?

MR. MACEY: Here (via telephone).

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Palmiere?

MR. PALMIERE: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Rea?

(No response.)

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Robinson?

MR. ROBINSON: Present.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Martoni, President?

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Eleven (11) members present.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Proclamations/
Certificates. 7164-12.

MR. CATANESE: Proclamations congratulating the graduates of the Community College of Allegheny County FireVEST Scholarship Program. Sponsored by the Chief Executive, Council Members Ellenbogen, Futules, Martoni,

Robinson, Burn, Danko, DeFazio, Drozd, Finnerty, Gastgeb, Green Hawkins, Heidelbaugh, Macey, Palmiere and Rea.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: This is a proclamation congratulating the graduates of the Community College of Allegheny County FireVEST Scholarship Program. I'd like to ask those in attendance if they'll come up to the podium; Mr. Al Wickline, the Administrator of the Allegheny County Fire Academy, Sandy Bayer, Senior, Administrative Assistant of the Allegheny County Fire Academy, Dr. Charles Blocksidge, the Executive Director of the Community College of Allegheny County Workforce Alliance, Mr. Joe Catanese, who's also our clerk, FireVEST Board Member. Joe, I don't know how you want to handle this, whether you want to come up or not

MR. CATANESE: I'll sit over here.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Okay. You'll sit there --- Mr. Nathan Abbott, FireVEST graduate, Ms. Melissa Hey, FireVEST graduate and Gregory Porter, FireVEST graduate. Did I miss anyone that's in attendance that --- no? And I have the Vice President with me, Mr. Futules.

WHEREAS, the Allegheny County is home to more than 200 volunteer fire companies, and

WHEREAS, the Allegheny County volunteer firefighters protect over 910,000 people and save the taxpayers of the County an estimated \$60,000 million a year; and

WHEREAS, to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our communities, in 2008 the Allegheny County Fire Volunteer Education Service and Training Scholarship Program, FireVEST, was established through a partnership between the Allegheny County Fire Academy and the Community College of Allegheny County and through the CCAC Allegheny County Workforce Alliance; and

WHEREAS, 200 FireVEST scholarships covering tuition, fees and books are offered each year, 150 for new recruits in exchange for five years of volunteer service and 50 for existing volunteer firefighters, in exchange for an additional five years of service in Allegheny County; and

WHEREAS, FireVEST scholarship recipients have majored in programs such as Fire Science Administration, Criminal Justice and Criminology, Business Management, Nursing and more.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Allegheny County Council, on behalf of the citizens of Allegheny

County, does hereby congratulate the graduates of the Allegheny County FireVEST --- Volunteer Education Service and Training Scholarship Program. We thank you for your dedication, service and sacrifice in order to protect the lives and property of the citizens of Allegheny County. Sponsored by all members of Allegheny County Council and County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, was presented this 2nd day of October, 2012.

(Applause.)

MR. CATANESE: I think we missed Alvin Henderson, too. He was raising his hand.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Why didn't you write it down?

MR. CATANESE: I'd like to personally congratulate the graduates today. This is a great program that started several years back, and I believe there's at least --- well, hundreds of young ladies and men, young men, that had the opportunity to join the fire company. And I've got a son graduating here in a few years. And I'm going to try to talk my son into joining the fire company, because I think it's a great opportunity to get to go to college based on volunteering. So I want to congratulate you. Thank you so much for your service to the County. Thank you.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: I also see Dr. Blocksidge, who I'm going to ask to come up to the podium, who's a longtime star in Allegheny County. It's good to see you, Doctor.

DR. BLOCKSIDGE: Well, we're really very grateful for the support that we receive from County Council since we initiated the program. And County Executive Rich Fitzgerald has supported this program very generously over the years. To date we've had 23 students that graduated. We had 12 this year. And of course, I want to extend my congratulations to the three graduates we have with us today. Certainly, we're very proud of them. It's a great opportunity for the college, and it gives us the privilege of providing an education for those that are interested in serving as volunteer firefighters throughout the County. Not only are they contributing to the public safety, but they're also participating in a program that will hopefully provide them with some good job opportunities. So it's a win-win for everyone in Allegheny County once again. And on behalf of Dr. Johnson, our President, and members of the Board of

Trustees; and of course, Chairman Bill Russell is here. And we're certainly well represented with Dr. Martoni.

The members of the Advisory Committee, which are somewhat represented here today --- we have several members from the college who couldn't be here with us. But again, it's a terrific program. We've had inquiries from throughout the country regarding the program. It's been emulated several places throughout the country. It's really a vanguard piece. It's something you should be very proud of. It's something we're very proud of. And again, thank you very much for your support.

(Applause.)

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Chief Wickline is our administrator in the Allegheny County Fire Academy. Chief, do you want to come up and say a few words?

CHIEF WICKLINE: I'd just like to congratulate the students that have graduated from the program that are here today. I know some of them have been involved in the fire service, some of them have been in other programs. But this is a great opportunity for the fire service. Being a firefighter myself, it's just great that we can bring people into the fire service. And obviously, like Dr. Blocksidge said, having the availability of getting a better job and staying in the region and still being able to provide this service, is great for the County. So thank you once again. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MR. ABBOTT: First, thank you all for letting me come here and receive this award. Most importantly, thank you from my family and I for affording me the opportunity to continue my education. As you know, the fire service is not what it once was. The programs that you guys have taken the time to implement through the FireVEST scholarship, the use of the parks, the use of the steel facilities, it is helping us to attract new members. Although I wasn't one of your targets, I was already a firefighter when the program came out, I certainly took advantage of it and am appreciative of it. But my fire department has seen an influx of members as a result of the program, which I think is the target, and they're very pleased to report that, so ---.

Sandy Bayer has been amazing to work with. Anne Tanski is amazing to work with. And thank you all very much for what you've done for us.

(Applause.)

MR. ELLENBOGEN: You want to talk?

MS. HEY: I want to talk. I would just like to thank everybody for this opportunity. It has helped me out tremendously financially and also with my education. I'm actually in school for criminal justice so this is step one for me. I would just like to thank you for the opportunity.

(Applause.)

MR. PORTER: On behalf of Emergency Services, I did want to express my thanks to the County Executive, County Council, for having this program. It is a crown jewel, make no mistake about it, for compensating professionals for our volunteer fire departments, to having full core recruitment and retention. You know, you heard the Chief said that he was already a fireman when he entered into this program. He is one of those target areas that we want to maintain, following people within our volunteer fire department but also attracting rising stars, to have them come in and benefit from a college education, and then look at our volunteer fire departments to help them with their issues that they have, because they truly are small businesses, to make sure that they are sustainable in the community and providing the services that they do for not only the community that they reside, but the County as a whole.

So again, it's a great opportunity for us all. It truly is a win-win opportunity for all of us here in Allegheny County. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MR. ELLENBOGEN: You don't want to say nothing?

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: Congratulations.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: You know, as a Public Safety Chairman here in Allegheny County, I --- usually it's unfortunate when things come to me, they're usually not very good. So it's really great to be able to stand up here and see the teamwork and the commitment given by folks, these folks right here in this program, and to know that there are people that, at a volunteer level, that think so much of their fellow citizens and this County to do such work. And I'm very proud of them, and you should also be. Thank you.

(Applause.)

(Pictures taken.)

PRESIDENT MARTONI: 7165-12.

MR. CATANESE: Proclamation honoring Mr. Glenn J. Hubert and Mr. Mike Chernosky, Senior, parishioners of the Holy --- Most Holy Name of Jesus parish in Troy Hill, for preventing the attempted theft of a 90-year-old woman's purse during a Sunday morning mass. Sponsored by Councilwoman Green Hawkins. And let the record show that Councilwoman Green Hawkins is present.

MS. GREEN HAWKINS: Thank you. I'm going to ask Reverend Dinello, Mr. Mike Chernosky and Mr. Glenn Hubert to join me at the podium. Often we hear of situations in our community where theft is committed. Someone is victimized in some way. And there are witnesses to the incident but they're afraid or, for whatever reason, don't speak up. And when I learned about this incident, I thought it was important to recognize these gentlemen, not only for their bravery but for their willingness to --- for what come out of a willingness to help someone in a time of need. And I just thought it was very important to highlight them and to put them out as examples to our community for the type of lives and the type of character that we all strive for. And with that, I will read the proclamation.

WHEREAS, Allegheny County is blessed to have individuals who have taken personal responsibility for protecting their neighborhoods and communities; and

WHEREAS, Father John Dinello, Pastor of the Most Holy Name of Jesus parish in Troy Hill, provided a description of a suspect to ushers after recent thefts at a nearby restaurant and of St. Anthony's Chapel, which is part of Most Holy Name; and

WHEREAS, on September 9th, 2012, during the Sunday morning mass at the Most Holy Name, Eric Csurilla attempted to steal a purse belonging to 90 year old, Mrs. Catherine Oberst, parishioners, including Mike Chernosky and Glenn Hubert, tackled and restrained him until police officers arrived. Mr. Csurilla was arrested on a theft charge, and he faces additional charges for two other purse thefts in the Troy Hill area; and

WHEREAS, through their actions, Mr. Chernosky and Mr. Hubert have raised awareness of the importance of crime prevention efforts, and each serves as a shining example of good citizenship.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Allegheny County Council, on behalf of the citizens of Allegheny County, does hereby honor and thank Mr. Mike

Chernosky, Senior and Mr. Glenn Hubert, for their brave and selfless acts. We encourage all residents of Allegheny County to take an active role in their neighborhood's public safety, thereby making our communities stronger, safer and better places to live, work and play.

(Applause.)

REVEREND DINELLO: I'd like to thank the County Council of Allegheny County. You know, I've been a very short time in this parish, I was assigned just a short three months ago. And when I arrived in the parish and met with the community for the first time and then saw things that were going on in the neighborhood, I encouraged them to get more involved in their block watch and their citizens' council, and they did just that. And when thefts began to start happening in our churches --- we have two churches and a chapel --- we decided that we were going to be very vigilant and watch for these things that were happening in our community.

This past weekend, being a military officer for many, many years, retired from the United States Army, and serving almost all that time with MPs, I had some background that I knew, that working so many years that --- never thinking that I would have to use that MP training in my parish. But what made me so very happy was that the people of Troy Hill --- and I know it goes the same for all the counties and all the citizens in our County, Allegheny County, they really love their neighborhoods. And they love their schools and they love what goes on in their city, and that's what makes it so beautiful to work within Allegheny County.

I had the choice to move outside of the County and requested to stay in Allegheny County, because of the spirit of the people. And these two gentlemen who are beside me today, my friends in the parish, I really thank God for them, because their vigilant act stopped a number of crimes from happening in our neighborhood. And the more we get that word out, that we can be good neighbors and good citizens, we can clean up our neighborhoods and make them safe for the whole community. So we kind of presented it as a challenge to our parish, but really, the challenge goes out to the whole County. Our call is to have people get involved and to be vigilant. And if you see things going wrong in our neighborhoods, right them by staying close to your neighbors and making the difference.

Thank you and God bless you in your work as the Council people who steer our County and help our citizens.

(Applause.)

MR. HUBERT: I'd just like to recognize Steve McCauley from the Port Authority, for without his help, we couldn't have caught the guy anyhow. And I'd like to thank my family for coming and sharing this with me. And thank you, Council, for the award. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MR. CHERNOSKY: First of all, I want to thank my family for coming. I want to thank Mr. DeFazio for teaching me the chokehold that I put on taking him down. I thank County Council on behalf of Most Holy Name, and we appreciate this award. We appreciate what all you do for us. Thank you.

(Applause.)

(Pictures taken.)

MR. CATANESE: I believe Councilman Gastgeb is on the line. Councilman, are you there?

MR. GASTGEB: Yes, I am.

MR. CATANESE: Let the record show that Councilman Gastgeb is on the phone.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: The following proclamation certificates will be read into the record.

MR. CATANESE: 7166-12. Proclamation honoring Mr. William "Buddy" Ambrose, in recognition of his service in World War II as a member of the U.S. Army, 25th Infantry Division, Tropic Lightning. Sponsored by Council Members Finnerty, Martoni and DeFazio.

7167-12. Proclamation designating October 11, 2012 as the Day of the Girl in Allegheny County. Sponsored by Councilwoman Green Hawkins.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: Add me, please.

MR. CATANESE: 7168-12. Proclamation declaring October 15, 2012 as Lions International White Cane Safety Day in Allegheny County. Sponsored by Councilman Macey.

7169-12. Proclamation recognizing the Mon River Fleet Lions Club as the first regional Lions Club in Allegheny County and thanking the club for its outstanding community service benefiting the community of Braddock, Clairton, Duquesne and McKeesport. Sponsored by Council Member Macey.

7170-12. Certificate of Recognition awarded to Mr. and Mrs. Joseph and Elizabeth "Betty" Malloy, upon

their 50th wedding anniversary. Sponsored by Councilman Macey.

7171-12. Proclamation naming the month of October 2012 as Dignity and Respect Month in Allegheny County. Sponsored by Councilman Martoni.

7178-12. Proclamation naming Friday, October 5th, 2012, as the Mt. Lebanon Republican Committee Day, upon their 75th anniversary. Sponsored by Council Members Gastgeb and Heidelbaugh.

7180-12. Proclamation celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Bethel Park Junior Football Association. Sponsored by Councilman Gastgeb.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Public comment on agenda items?

MR. CATANESE: We have none.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: We have one speaker, Ms. Chelsa Wagner.

MS. WAGNER: Thanks, Council President Martoni and also all the members of Council, for indulging me when I asked to address you on last minute notice. Joe Asturi of my staff is handing out my comments for the record, because I think this is a very, very important issue, and I want to make sure that my message and the concerns that I have are perfectly clear.

The reason I'm here is because I want to raise some very grave concerns that I and my office have on the County's pending \$190 million bond issuance. It's critical that I, as the duly elected County Controller, am able to perform the role to which I was elected, to ensure the accountability and transparency of all public monies, on behalf of Allegheny County taxpayers. Issues of bond financing are certainly not new territory for my discussions with you. Earlier this year, I came before you to provide a summary of the County's financial health. Of the three major items of concern that I noted, one was our County's steadily increasing debt burden.

You all recall this chart at the time that I then distributed to all of you, and we're certainly happy to distribute it again. This was discussed in the context of two other concerns, as well. Over the summer months, the Administration prepared items in support of a \$190 million bond issuance, and of course, you all are well aware of that. \$130 million of which is additional debt, \$60 million is to refinance existing debt. To put the bond issuance in context, the addition of \$130 million of

new debt onto our ever-escalating county debt constitutes a 17 percent increase in debt from last year's number. In performance of my role as County Controller, in my own due diligence, I sought information to ensure accountability and transparency in this financial transaction, information that was very basic and easily attainable, such as identification of the use of bond proceeds. This is the most basic and simple question. What are you going to use the money for? These were the questions that I asked prior to offering my signature to the bond documents.

I want to also make clear that I wasn't in any way questioning the authority of the Executive with Council approval to issue debt. However, my role in bond issuance is to ensure the fiscal integrity of the transaction. That is the role of the County Controller. The Controller has always participated in bond issuances with this County. Traditionally, preparing and providing verified financial information in debt schedules, official statement and on the due diligence call in regards to the forecasting of county fiscal health.

The Controller, as the independently elected row office, charged under the Second Class County Code with the, quote, general supervision and control of the fiscal affairs of the County, end quote, provides an impartial analysis of financial issues, different from all other fiscal officers who are employees of the Administration and, specifically, of the Executive. I'm before you tonight because we are now at a very critical junction. As of present date, I and my office have no information on the status of the bond issuance. It's important for you to know that fact, that we have no information. It's important for you to know that this is unprecedented. And it's important for you to know that the reason we've been cut out is merely because we sought the answers to some very basic questions. Despite repeated, well-documented requests to this Administration and to the independent contractors working on behalf of the Administration to provide information on the use of the bond proceeds, the Fitzgerald Administration has erected a brick wall, effectively cutting off the Controller's Office and the decades of knowledge and expertise that our office provides in fiscal affairs.

I know many of you know many of the great employees that are in the Controller's Office. Just to

name a couple, Bob Lentz and Sal Panto have been doing this work for decades. Among other measures, the Administration removed my name as signatory on the debt schedule and official statement prepared by my office and replaced it with the name of Mr. Warren Finkel, County Budget Director. And as you all know, Warren, of course, reports to Willy McCain, who reports to Mr. Fitzgerald.

I have to underline here that what this signifies is that my office as independent verification has been taken out of very critical financial documents. In deviating from these well-established practices about how money was going to be spent, the Administration has entered into unchartered territory, dangerous territory for our taxpayers on whose backs this debt is being financed.

The Controller, as that independent check and balance on fiscal affairs, has always participated in Allegheny County's issuance of debt. This was how it was done when Mark Flaherty was Controller, when Dan Onorato was Controller, when Frank Lucchino was Controller, Jack Lynch, Bob Friend and so forth. As the elected Controller of Allegheny County, I serve as the watchdog of the taxpayers over county monies. It is the function of the Controller to serve as an active check and balance on officials affairs of county government. To properly fulfill this obligation to the citizens of Allegheny County, it is imperative for me to ask questions and scrutinize all transactions, especially a \$190 million bond deal.

As I stated, it is both the traditional and statutory role of my office and imperative for the integrity of our government, that I am able to perform those duties. I continue to hope to resolve this amicably. But as I stated, at this juncture, I believe it is very important for you, as the legislative body of the County, to be notified of the unprecedented measures involved in this major pending financial transaction.

And with that, let me thank Council again. If the President and if Council would like me to entertain any questions, I'd be happy to do that, but as you all know, I'm always open to that at any other time, as well.

MR. DROZD: I have a question. First, I think these are some very serious issues brought before us by the County Controller, that I would ask, as a member of the Budget and Finance Committee, that it be --- and ask

the Chairman that we immediately hold a committee meeting to discuss these issues. And I think it bodes that the Chief Executive should attend, along with Bond Council and our county Financial Director and all the parties part of this bond issue. These are very serious issues brought up by our Controller, and we need to address these immediately. And I'd ask our Budget Direct Chairman to address those issues and to invite them to an immediate meeting as soon as possible. Thank you.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: President Martoni? Ms. Wagner, thank you for coming here today, and thank you for exercising your watchdog function here in the County. I'm not sure if your office was present during the Budget Committee when this was brought up. I was and asked questions. In addition, when this was voted on, if my recollection is correct, I was the only Council member to have voted against this.

Two points. Number one, I don't have any beef with the first part of the bond. This is a refinancing at a lower rate. And I thought I had a motion from the floor to try to separate those two. I, myself, asked these questions. And I think the record will reflect that the answer I received was twofold. Number one, that this, the part of the \$130 million, there was no guarantee that this would not be spent for new spending.

And in fact, when we looked at the materials that we were given, it was far in excess of matters that had already been voted on by Council for existing projects. So in regard to my colleague, Matt Drozd, suggesting that this be referred back to Budget and Finance, these questions were asked. They were asked by me. I was concerned about the same issues that you are. And in an era when we increase the millage, there are a lot of complaints about not having sufficient money. My main question is, where's the money that's going to repay these bonds, because we can never default on the bond. So I'm extremely concerned, but I thank you for bringing this to our attention.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Thank you. Mike?

MR. FINNERTY: Thank you. I'd just like to mention that this was vetted in committee. It was passed by Council. I don't see anything wrong with again going into this. It's also --- we're talking about \$190 million. And the reason it's \$190 million, what I understood, and I think it was explained very well in

committee, that it's two years. Instead of going to Bond Council twice and paying those prices that you have to pay, the points, et cetera, we're not going to have to do that. So it's going to save us some money to do \$190 million, so that we don't do it again next year in relation to --- you could say \$95 million this year and \$95 million next year and pay these points and fees. So that's one of the reasons it was done, and that was explained to me.

There's questions always any time you talk about something like this. And I think that --- Controller Wagner, I think you and the Administration have to sit down and figure this out. I don't think we, as members of Council, should be in-betweeners. I think you have to get your staff and the Administration gets their staff, and sit down and talk this over. I think it can be explained. I think that's important that you know what's going on, as well as the Administration. But to put us in the middle of this, I don't think is the right situation. We vetted this in committee, and Councilwoman Heidelbaugh did ask very poignant questions. And one of them was, as she said, how is it going to be repaid. And it's going to be repaid, like all bonds are repaid, over time. And that's my take on this whole subject. I understand your position. I understand Administration's position. You both have sent us letters in regard to it. But I think the prudent thing to do is to sit down with the Administration and your staff and talk it over.

MS. WAGNER: May I respond?

MR. FINNERTY: Sure, you can.

MS. WAGNER: First thing --- or the first point in regard to this being financed over two years. We certainly don't object to that, and we understand the cost savings. I just added that as part of my opening remarks, to put it in context of what role our office has played, particularly since I've taken office, on the issue of debt, and also by adding that I wasn't questioning the authority of Council and of the Executive to issue this debt, which I know you all agreed to.

On your second point of sitting down with the Administration, we have sat down with the Administration many times. One of the last meetings before we were cut out of this was a two-hour-long meeting between myself, I had one staff member with me, and Mr. Fitzgerald, and he

had I just believe at the time, one staff member with him, as well.

But what happened after that --- my major, major point here is that what is unprecedented in terms of the submission of these documents without the Controller's participation. I thought it was important to bring this before Council because, frankly, I'm not sure what the next step is. We have stated this over and over again. It was stated to Bond Council, to Underwriters' Council;, to the financial advisor for the County. I hope this doesn't have to end up in court, but this is essentially stopping me from being able to do my job as Controller. So I certainly don't want to put anyone on this Council in between anything between my office and the Executive. But what I'm trying to do is discharge of my duties to the taxpayers, and frankly, coming to all of you as a legislative body, to make sure you know of it. But also, if there's anything that anyone on this Council can do to assist, I'm certainly open to it, even if it's just kindly advice.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Thank you very much. We have the County Manager here; am I correct? Would you want to enlighten us of your side?

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Wait a minute. I had ---.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Go ahead, Jim. You go ahead.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: No, if you want to do it that way, I don't have a problem.

MR. CATANESE: No, I don't have to --- I just wanted to address the issues.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: No, I know. But usually, he lets the people talk and then he does the issues. I'm just saying I wanted to talk to her before the County Manager.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Go ahead. You do that. Go ahead.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Well, you know, the 500-pound gorilla in this room right now, and no one wants to talk about it, is there seems to be some politics involved here, in terms of certain members of this Council that want to make more issue of this or not. Now, I don't know. I can tell you one thing. You know, I worked for Judge Lucchino and he was a very serious, no-nonsense guy. If his name needed to be on there, it was for a reason. I also worked for Jack Lynch, who also served on President

Kennedy's financial fiscal boards, and he was a very serious guy. And if his name needed to be on there, it was for a reason. Now Amy Griser was an excellent --- I'm trying to make her blush, but she was an excellent budget director and very serious, a no-nonsense person. And you know, she for a reason --- Mr. Onorato's name to be on there. I've known Ms. Wagner more years than probably she even remembers, and she's a very serious person. If her name needs to be on there, she's standing up here for a reason. She doesn't just --- she's not the kind of person --- she's not --- she doesn't just say things for the sake of saying them. But this is serious stuff.

Now, my question is, with all these people that I've known personally that were very fiscally active, there must be some legality somewhere along here, that why is the Controller's name on this if it's not supposed to be on this? That's what bothers me more so than anything, and that's why I wanted to talk before Mr. McKain did. I want to know about the legalities of this, because you have --- you know, Ms. Wagner has listed a series of controller issues.

I know, who I knew personally, they're not going to just want their names on something for the sake of just having it. So I want to know if there's any legal issue to this, in terms of why the Controller's name needs to be on this. Thank you for indulging me, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Manager? And then that's going to be it. Okay? Willy's done and then that's it. Remember, this isn't part of our agenda. It just came up.

MR. MCKAIN: We respect the Controller and the role that they play. To answer your question, we've done everything lawful, based on the Code of the County, Bond Council, financial advisors. We've been asked for enormous amounts of information. I think we've been cooperative, given that information. We got to a certain point in the process that we have this bond issue. It's too important to the County. As you may recall, you voted on significant refinancing in our budget, also we paid off some old debt, fund current projects and also invested in our infrastructure. We believe that we supplied all the information. They weren't satisfied with what we gave to them, and we moved on.

Everything we've done is legal. The financial advisor, Bond Council, Moody's, Standard & Poor's, reaffirmed our bond rating. Everything that we're doing,

we believe, is in a purview of the Executive Branch, along with the Legislative Branch, they approved the debt, and that this is good for the County. We respect the role that they play. We believe that some of these requests were beyond the purview and have been a hurdle to get over. And we've made a decision in the best interest of the County, which is legal and allowable to move this bond issue forward. We did sell the bonds, which was a wonderful deal. Once everything is closed, we'll come back and let Budget and Finance know that. And it's a good deal for the County, both the bond rating, the money that we've got, the savings in debt service that we told you we were going to achieve. And we've got to be able to pay our vendors. This is the tenth month of our fiscal year. We need those resources to pay and we don't want any barriers to get involved with that. And although we respect the role that they play, a lot of the information is beyond their purview, and we decided to move forward. That's really how I'd summarize it.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: This is the last question, Matt.

MR. DROZD: There's no question to some of the points you've made, Mr. Manager, but I see in this report, accountability, transparency, which I support and I know a lot of our Council members support the people of Allegheny County. I see a brick wall. What's the job of the Controller? I, for one, want to know that they have every information. When you put that seal on that bond, you put all this --- all 1.2 million people of Allegheny County on that debt. They go on that debt.

MR. MCKAIN: Okay. And we take that very seriously. The official statement is available for public hashing at the DCPD. If they're asking for information about acquisition of property or negotiating skills, that's less with the Executive than the Legislative Branch.

MR. DROZD: Then why is the Controller here asking us to ask you, when you should be opening up. Open up.

MR. MCKAIN: We've communicated back and forth for ---.

MR. DROZD: We're very disappointed. Very disappointed.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Thank you very kindly. Okay? I don't want to get into this kind of back and

forth. It's a non-agenda item. I thank everybody for bringing this to our attention, so thank you. Public comment on agenda items.

MR. CATANESE: We already went through that. There was none.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: There were none, okay. Approval of minutes?

MR. CATANESE: We have none.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: We have none. Presentation of appointments?

MR. CATANESE: Let the record show that Councilman Burn is present.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Thank you. 7172-12.

MR. CATANESE: Do you want to take those as a group or as one individually?

PRESIDENT MARTONI: No, please take those as a group. It's all the same --- all the same committee. Okay? Thank you. 7172-12, 7173-12, 7174-12 and 7175-12.

MR. CATANESE: Approving the appointment of Dorothy Antonelli, Dr. Michael Finewood, Peter Scott Mautino and Joe Osborne, to serve as members of the Air Pollution Control Advisory Committee, for a term to expire on December 31st, 2012.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Do we have a motion?

MR. CATANESE: No. That goes in committee.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: That goes in committee, okay. 7176-12?

MR. CATANESE: Approving the appointment of Nadia Lazo to serve as a member of the Allegheny County Jail Oversight Board, for a term to expire on December 31st, 2014. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Appointment Review Committee. 7177-12?

MR. CATANESE: Approving the reappointment of Joanna Doven-Huss to serve as a member of the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee for a term to expire on December 31st, 2014. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Appointment Review Committee. Unfinished business. Committee on Budget and Finance, second reading. 7161-12? Mr. Robinson?

MR. ROBINSON: Thank you, Mr. President.

MR. CATANESE: Excuse me, Councilman. A resolution of the County of Allegheny amending the grants and special accounts budget for 2012 (submission 12-11). Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Mr. Robinson?

MR. ROBINSON: Thank you, Mr. President, and members of Council. Move for approval.

MR. DROZD: Second.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Moved in second. Questions?
Roll call.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Burn?

MR. BURN: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Danko?

MS. DANKO: Yes.

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 (via telephone).

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Green Hawkins?

MS. GREEN HAWKINS: Aye.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Heidelbaugh?

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Macey?

MR. MACEY: Yes (via telephone).

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Palmiere?

MR. PALMIERE: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Rea?

(No response.)

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Robinson?

MR. ROBINSON: Aye.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Martoni, President?

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Ayes, 14, noes, 0. The bill passes.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Committee on Economic Development and Housing, second reading. 6837-12?

MR. CATANESE: A resolution of the Council of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, adopting a schedule of fees for the county review and approval of the applications for subdivision and land development under the Allegheny County subdivision and

land development ordinance. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Ms. Green Hawkins?

MS. GREEN HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. President.

In my absence, Council Member DeFazio chaired the meeting for me, so I'll defer to Councilman DeFazio.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Mr. DeFazio?

MR. DEFAZIO: What is ---?

PRESIDENT MARTONI: 6837-12. You chaired that meeting.

MR. DEFAZIO: Yeah. At the meeting, we approved it. There wasn't too much said on it, just went over it, so you can make a motion to move it.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: We have a motion. Do I have a second?

MS. GREEN HAWKINS: Second.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Questions? Roll call.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Burn?

MR. BURN: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Danko?

MS. DANKO: Yes.

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 (via telephone).

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Green Hawkins?

MS. GREEN HAWKINS: Aye.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Heidelbaugh?

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Macey?

MR. MACEY: Yes (via telephone).

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Palmiere?

MR. PALMIERE: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Robinson?

MR. ROBINSON: Aye.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Martoni, President?

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Ayes, 14, noes, 0. The bill passes.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Liaison reports. Michael? I knew you'd have one.

MR. FINNERTY: Yes. I'd just like to mention that the Carpenters Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee of Greater --- of Greater Pennsylvania is opening up the apprentice program and --- every Wednesday from 8:00 to 3:30 p.m., year round, with classes starting in February, June and October. So if you're interested, the telephone number is 412-262-1830. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Thank you. Any others? Mr. Palmiere?

MR. PALMIERE: Thank you, Mr. President. On Sunday, I had the privilege of running in the Great Race, I think for the 30th time out of 35 of them. I'm giving my age away here a little bit. But I just wanted to comment and compliment everyone connected with that. It seems that over the past several years, it's gotten bigger, but it's also gotten better. They've really done a wonderful job of supporting that race and the people. I think that all the people that were helping and doing --- and volunteering just did a marvelous job. And the weather conditions weren't the greatest, but it didn't spoil or didn't hinder the enthusiasm. And we really --- I just want to publicly thank everyone connected with that. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Thank you. Anyone else? Thank you. New business, ordinances and resolutions.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Mr. President?

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Yes.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: I have a motion that I'd like to introduce, if Mr. Barker would pass it out or something.

MR. BARKER: You need to make a motion to add.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Make a motion.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: I make a motion to add.

MR. FINNERTY: Second.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Moved in second.

MR. CATANESE: An ordinance amending and supplementing the Allegheny County Code of Ordinances, Division 1, entitled Administrative Code, through the creation of a new section under Article 705.02D, entitled Honorary Naming Rights, in order to establish uniform

county policies for the creation of an Allegheny County Hall of Fame. Sponsored by Councilman Ellenbogen.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Thank you, Mr. President. Basically, what this is, is to create a uniform policy and to create what we call a Allegheny County Hall of Fame. And what that would be is --- you know, you get into all these different groups that want to name --- and you know, I followed two bridges or buildings or whatever after certain people. And what this would basically do is create a uniform way to create a committee and to create an actual Hall of Fame for people who are nominated. And I'm not going to get into all the specifics. I would ask the President if he would send this to the Public Works Committee, so that it can be worked on. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Thank you very kindly. That will go to Public Works.

MR. CATANESE: Are you going to make a motion to put it on the agenda?

PRESIDENT MARTONI: I think we did.

MR. CATANESE: We didn't vote.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: All in favor?

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Opposed? Thank you for the correction. 7179-12?

MR. CATANESE: An ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, requesting authorization to engage in a Stream Mitigation and Enhancement Project in the County's North Park. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: That will go to Parks Committee. 7183-12?

MR. CATANESE: A resolution of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, urging the Pennsylvania General Assembly to enact with all deliberate speed an act authorizing the governing bodies of counties of the second class, to provide by ordinance for the implementation of tax provisions to allow for a property tax freeze for qualifying senior citizens. Sponsored by Councilwoman Heidelbaugh.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: To Government Reform.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: May I speak to it for a moment?

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Sure.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: Thank you. Fellow Council members, I just want to give you a brief statement on

this, please. The City of Philadelphia was granted by the legislature ---.

MR. GASTGEB: Point of order.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Point of order?

MR. GASTGEB: We don't need to discuss it.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: This is the person who authored this particular resolution. I think we always allow that individual, whoever that might be, to discuss it. Am I correct on that?

MR. FUTULES: That's correct.

MR. GASTGEB: Yes.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: No one else. I mean, that's a decision I made.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: Thank you, sir. So as I was saying, the General Assembly allowed the City of Philadelphia the authority to enact an ordinance that would give a tax --- a freeze of county property taxes to certain low-income seniors who do not qualify for the exemption. So this is just --- it's basically a resolution of Council that we would like the ability to do this. And then we would send a letter, basically, to the Allegheny County delegation asking them to enact a state law giving us the authority to do this. That is what this resolution is in regard to. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Thank you. New business, motions. 7184-12?

MR. CATANESE: Motion of the Council of Allegheny County amending Article II of the Rules of Council of Allegheny County Council, through the creation of a new Section F.11, in order to provide a standardized rule governing participation in all standing committees. Sponsored by Councilwoman Heidelbaugh.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: That will go to the Executive Committee.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: May I speak to that, briefly?

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Yes, you could.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: Thank you, sir. This is a rule to allow non-members at committees to have the right to ask questions of a guest before the committees and make that as a matter of a rule.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Thank you. 7185-12?

MR. CATANESE: Motion of the Council of Allegheny County amending Article II of the Rules of Council for Allegheny County Council, through the creation of a new Section F.5, in order to encourage committee

meeting participation by adjusting the rule governing quorums at committee meetings. Sponsored by Councilwoman Heidelbaugh.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Executive Committee. Do you want to speak on that?

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: Just momentarily. What I'd like to do --- what this bill is designed to address is that a quorum for any committee shall be a majority of the seated committee versus just two, which is presently the rule now.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Okay. Thank you. 7186-12?

MR. CATANESE: Motion of the Council of Allegheny County amending Article II of the Rules of Council for Allegheny County Council, through the creation of a new Section F.11, in order to provide a standardized rule governing participation by telephone in all committee of Council. Sponsored by Councilwoman Heidelbaugh.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: And this rule change would be that anyone who participates by phone --- but phone participation would not establish a quorum and they would not be allowed to vote. So we have more active participation in person where everyone can hear.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: That's also the Executive Committee. Thank you.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: Thank you.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Okay. Notification of contracts.

MR. CATANESE: None.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Public comment on general items.

MR. CATANESE: We have two.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: We have two. Darrin Farmer? He's not here. Harry?

MR. LILLER: My name is Harry Liller, 438 Ruxton Street, Pittsburgh, PA, 15211. I'm going to make a statement to the Council. The real steelworker family of Pittsburgh. My great grandfather and my grandfather, who I'm named after, worked over 50 years at the Edgar Thomson Steel Mill in Braddock. My father was the best scarfer U.S. Steel ever had. A scarfer uses a blowtorch to blast out impurities. These metal particles would cut his wrists and forearms, and he actually spilled blood on the mill floors. The lazy union bosses threatened my father because the shift before him had to make more steel. So my father had a bodyguard protect him. When Pete Flaherty

ran for mayor in 1969, KDKA-TV and Flaherty interviewed my father walking out of the Homestead Steel Mill.

My brother, Jeffrey Liller, helped create new metal powders equipment that modernized steelmaking. I typed the very first report myself. The NBC Show --- the NBC Today Show interviewed my brother. He installed this equipment across the country and around the world. My high school friend, Ralph Scott, from Library, Pennsylvania, installed continuous casters around the country and around the world. I, myself, have produced over 47 tons of steel in scrap yards in this area. Harry Gilbert Liller's family of steelworkers and my brother, Jeffrey Liller, and Ralph Scott saved the steel industry.

I challenge this Council and I challenge the media to find any other family that has done more for the steel industry than my family. In fact, my mother's father, a union leader at Westinghouse, taught me the values of hard work, always telling the truth and always taking care of family. He was ruined by a corrupt Catholic priest, Charles Owen Rice. KDKA gave him a TV show, a brand new car and money. He lied about my grandfather --- commits perjury and called my grandfather a communist. My grandfather was ruined, and this evil Council gave an award to the Catholic priest, Charles Owen Rice. It amazes me what really goes on in this Council and how the media always protects the garbage that comes out of this Council.

Two weeks from now I'm going to tell the whole story about my grandfather and what happened to him. And when you all meet, god, make fun of me. Make fun of my family. Hero worship all the phony steelworkers on this Council. Hero worship that corrupt Catholic priest. Because you're all going to find out the real truth, because that's what my grandfather taught me, always tell the truth and take care of family. I've done that. This Council has not.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Thank you. Motion for adjournment?

MS. GREEN HAWKINS: So moved.

(Chorus of seconds.)

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Moved in second. Questions? All in favor?

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT MARTONI: It is so ordered. Thank you.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:02 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.



Oliver H. Collins

Court Reporter