

ALLEGHENY COUNTY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

- - -

BEFORE:

Dr. 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
Jan Rea	-	District 2
James R. Burn, Jr.	-	District 3
Michael J. Finnerty	-	District 4
Krista Harris	-	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 8, 2013 - 4:59 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:

William McKain - County Manager  
Joseph Catanese - Director of Constituent Services  
Jared Barker - Director of Legislative Services  
Walter Szymanski - Budget Director  
Jack Cambest - County Solicitor

PRESIDENT MARTONI: The meeting will come to order, please. Please rise for the Pledge to the Flag, led by Mr. Anthony Filardi.

(Pledge to the Flag.)

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Please remain standing for a moment of silence. Thank you, sir.

(Moment of silence.)

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Roll call.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Burn?

MR. BURN: Here.

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: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Finnerty?

MR. FINNERTY: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Futules?

MR. FUTULES: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Green Hawkins?

(No response.)

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Harris?

MS. HARRIS: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Heidelbaugh?

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Macey?

MR. MACEY: Present.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Palmiere?

MR. PALMIERE: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Rea?

MS. REA: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Robinson?

MR. ROBINSON: Present.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Martoni, President?

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Here.

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

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Proclamations/  
Certificates. 7771-13.

MR. CATANESE: Proclamation thanking the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania, for working with the Pennsylvania Game Commission to protect the three bald

eagles' nests in Allegheny County. Sponsored by Council members Drozd, Danko, Futules and Rea.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: They're not here at the moment. We'll go to 7772-13.

MR. CATANESE: Proclamation honoring the Federation of War Veterans Society, Incorporated, for providing a Veterans Day Parade to Pittsburgh and Allegheny County, and naming November 11, 2013 as The Federation of War Veterans Society, Incorporated Day in Allegheny County. Sponsored by Council members Finnerty, Burn, Danko, DeFazio, Drozd, Ellenbogen, Futules, Green Hawkins, Harris, Heidelbaugh, Macey, Martoni, Palmiere, Rea and Robinson.

MR. FINNERTY: Thank you, Mr. President. I am joined here by Tony Filardi and Dick Silk (phonetic), who's the Junior Vice Commander. It's always a great pleasure for myself and Council and the Chief Executive to honor our veterans. They've done so much for us and you continue to do so much for us. And this proclamation is intended for the veterans of our Federation of War Veterans Society, who put on the parade every year. So without further ado, I'll read the proclamation, and then Tony and Dick can say a few words.

WHEREAS, the Federation of War Veterans Society, Inc., was formed in 1919. Its purpose was to partner annually with Allegheny County to provide a Veterans Day Parade in downtown Pittsburgh; and

WHEREAS, the Veterans of War --- the Federation of War Veterans Societies has organized and presented the Veterans Day Parade in Allegheny County for 94 years; and

WHEREAS, the organization educates Allegheny County residents through the proper recognition and care for our veterans. Through the parade, the group raises awareness of all veterans in our state; and

WHEREAS, more than 1.2 million Pennsylvanians are veterans, comprising 14 percent of the state population, a great percentage of those veterans reside in Allegheny County and attend a commemorative parade.

AND THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Allegheny County Council and our Chief Executive, Rich Fitzgerald, on behalf of the citizens of Allegheny County, hereby commends the Federation of War Veterans Societies, Inc., for consistently conducting and organizing the Veterans Day Parade and for raising awareness of our veterans. For the organization's efforts, we hereby declare Monday,

November the 11th, 2013, as the Federation of War Veterans Societies, Inc. Day in Allegheny County. This is sponsored by all members of Allegheny County Council and our Chief Executive, Rich Fitzgerald. Tony?

(Applause.)

MR. FILARDI: My name is Tony Filardi. I'm the Adjutant Treasurer of the Federation of War Veterans Societies. I've been doing this parade since 1990, and I think I'm about ready to retire. But anyway, first of all, I would like to thank Mike Finnerty for sponsoring this proclamation, along with all the Council members. I appreciate it and the Federation appreciates it, along with the Chief Executive, for your support for the veterans of Allegheny County. The parade is going to be on November the 11th. It will stage on Grant Street, down at Liberty and Grant, like it did last year.

And it will follow Liberty Avenue all the way down to Stanwix Street. Make a left turn on Stanwix Street and make a right turn on the Boulevard of the Allies, where --- the show (phonetic) mobile is there, which is the reviewing stand. And it will be ending by approximately Commonwealth Place. Our parade announcer is John Biedrzycki. He is now the National Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, so this --- Pennsylvania hasn't had one since 1972, to be a Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. So that's a big plus for Pennsylvania and Allegheny County.

And he's a McKees Rocks resident, by the way; well, right now he lives in Robinson. So anyway, we invite everybody to come to the parade. If you can't march, you can always view the parade. Bring your families down to view the parade. You know, we like to see a good crowd up there --- out there. So thank you very much, again, for allowing us to come into your meeting; and Godspeed, all.

(Applause.)

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Mr. President?

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Yes.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Point of Personal Privilege, please?

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Sure; please.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Tony, I just wanted to make mention that you may want to say a word, too, about --- I know your friend and I --- who just passed, who I'm used to seeing here, Nick Viglione.

MR. FILARDI: Yeah, he passed away.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Yeah. He was a World War II hero and veteran, and I wanted to acknowledge him and acknowledge his passing, so ---.

MR. FILARDI: Yeah, he's been a big asset to the Federation.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Yeah. I'm so used to seeing him there with you, and I just wanted to make mention of that. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Thank you.

(Pictures taken.)

PRESIDENT MARTONI: The remaining ---.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Matt's here for the other one.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Okay. Sorry, Matt.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. President, if I may, let the record show that Councilman Drozd and Councilwoman Green Hawkins are present.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Okay. 7771-13, right? Is that the one you have?

MR. FUTULES: 7771-13; yeah, the first one. Is he here?

PRESIDENT MARTONI: He's here.

MR. FUTULES: Is he here?

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Yeah.

MR. FUTULES: Oh, there he is.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Sorry about that.

MR. DROZD: Okay. Ready?

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Yeah. Do you have to read it?

MR. DROZD: This is what I had to do, and the reason being this --- you know, I wanted to get the bald eagle here, but you know, they're out there soaring above the valley foraging for food. But it's important, and I'll tell you why it's important. You know, the bald eagle is a very distinct bird in many ways. And it only chooses selectively where it nests and where it rests. And two of them, you know, chose to rest right over here. All you have to do is go along that trail between here and the Homestead area. And you look up on the side and you'll see two of the most magnificent birds you've ever seen.

In fact, a fellow sent me a picture of them taking off, soaring through and whatever it may be. And I think we have to recognize this, recognize these kind of things, because we talk about so many areas, about

pollution, this, that, whatever. But this is a testimony, not only to them but to us, in the essence that they chose to make their nest here in the most livable city --- in one of the most livable cities. And they show that it is one of the most livable cities in the country. If you get a chance, go. Take a bike; take your kids. And you look up on that hill, and you'll see two of the most beautiful birds you've ever seen in your life, two bald eagles.

WHEREAS, whether silhouetted against the sky on a rock pinnacle or soaring majestically overhead, the bald eagle is admired as one of nature's most spectacular creatures. And the recovery of the bald eagle has been one of the great wildlife conservation stories in the history of Allegheny County, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the nation; and

WHEREAS, lower productivity resulting from the pesticide DDT and other contaminants, shooting, disturbance and habitat destruction, contributed to the decline of the bald eagle population in Pennsylvania. After the 1972 Environmental Protection Agency ban of DDT, the bald eagle population began to recover. And it was removed from the federal list of threatened and endangered species in 2007. In Pennsylvania, the bald eagle is considered a threatened species and protected under the Game and Wildlife Code; and

WHEREAS, today, thanks to recovery efforts, bald eagles are nesting across the state and in places where they have not nested in decades, right here. Bald eagles now inhabit 56 of 67 counties statewide and continue to expand their range, including this year's establishment of the City of Pittsburgh's Hays site, located on the Monongahela River, and the second year of successful nesting on private property along the Ohio River in Crescent Township and a nest within view of the Allegheny River in Harmar Township. The bald eagles in Allegheny County join what are now more than --- and this is only 250 nesting pairs in the state, and we've got about six of them, I would estimate, here;

WHEREAS, at the present, this majestic raptor in Allegheny County represents the health of a whole ecosystem, particularly the improvement of water quality in the habitat bordering our three rivers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Allegheny County does hereby thank the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania, and by the way, don't forget the aviary

across the way here. Go see it. We've got one of the best in the country. Believe me, we do, and a lot of people don't realize that. In fact, if you get a chance, go underneath where the veterinarian takes care of those birds in very, very tender loving care. And the Pennsylvania Game Commission, protect these national symbols in their natural habitat, thereby ensuring that their presence to generations of Allegheny County residents to come. I come from the Steel Valley, and I've never seen this, honest to God.

I've seen a lot of smokestacks when I was a kid. I've seen a lot of smoke going through there. That's the first time I've seen two bald eagles, and I had to say something. I think we all need to say something. This is a testimony to our region, our state, our city and especially our people of Allegheny County.

MR. BONNER: Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

MR. BONNER: On behalf of the more than 5,000 Audubon members of southwestern Pennsylvania and the dozens of volunteers who spent countless hours photographing and watching these birds, and the eight birds that now call Allegheny County their home, we thank you for this proclamation. As Councilman Drozd mentioned, the bald eagle is still listed as a threatened species in Pennsylvania, but not for long. Right now the Game Commission is considering down-listing that and removing it from the threatened status, which is a fantastic story. It's a culmination of decades of work, and something we should all be proud of.

The other thing to be proud of is how many people turned out and got excited over these eagles. Every time we went down --- we would announce we'd go down with spotting scopes or binoculars --- 200 people would show up. And these aren't your hard-core birders. This was --- just about everybody else in the community got excited, took ownership over it and are ---. The website we set up for them on Facebook had 1.7 million hits. So they're exciting. People are excited to see them here, and look forward to them again. They're still down there. I know you're going to ask. You can still go down and see them now. Thank you.

(Applause.)

(Pictures taken.)

PRESIDENT MARTONI: The remaining proclamations will be read into the record.

MR. CATANESE: 7773-13. Proclamation recognizing the month of October 2013 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Allegheny County. Sponsored by Council members Ellenbogen, Burn, Danko, DeFazio, Drozd, Finnerty, Futules, Green Hawkins, Harris, Heidelbaugh, Macey, Martoni, Palmiere, Rea and Robinson.

7774-13. Proclamation congratulating the Braddock Community Male Chorus upon the occasion of its 63rd anniversary. Sponsored by Councilman Martoni.

7775-13. Proclamation welcoming Reverend Dr. Vincent K. Campbell as the new pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church in the Hill District. Sponsored by Councilman Robinson.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Thank you; thank you. At this time, it gives me great pleasure to introduce the County Executive, Rich Fitzgerald, for the 2014 budget. (Applause.)

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: Thank you, Mr. President and members of Council. I'm glad to be here tonight. It seems like I was just here --- yes, I was, last meeting. It's good to be back. I spent so many nights here, and it's always good to be here. So here I am to present the Comprehensive Fiscal Plan for 2014. And I would ask, after I'm done, to place the item on the agenda for your consideration. This is my second Budget Address since becoming County Executive. And I want to recap just a few things. And you know, while we've had many --- a number of challenges, we've also had a number of successes. And I think those should be pointed out, and you can take a lot of pride in those.

First of all, with an \$800 million budget, just a two to three percent increase in inflation, whether it be wages, whether it be supplies that we buy, means we start the year every year with about \$16 million to \$24 million more that we've got to make up from the previous year. And that makes a --- obviously, it makes it very challenging, particularly in light of the fact that the only funding source counties are given by Harrisburg is property tax. And you know, we've done a pretty good line on that, and I'll talk about that in just a minute.

One of the things we can be proud of is the bond rating by Standard and Poors was upgraded just this last summer, and that's a testimony to the work we've done

together, your work, as well as the administration. Part of that was due to the fact that we grew the fund balance from last year at \$5.7 million to \$12.2 million this year. And hopefully, if we can hold the line again this year, we'd like to get that up in the area of maybe \$18 to \$20 million at the end of the year. Part of that was because Council appropriated \$2 million more into the fund balance, our quote, unquote, rainy day account, if you will. And that's one of the things we're going to be asking again this year in the CFP, is an additional \$2 million to put towards the fund balance.

As you know, in an \$800 million budget, we should have five percent in the rainy day fund, the fund balance. That would be \$40 million. So we're heading in the right direction, but as you can see, we still have a ways to go. The bond issuance, I'm glad to report, that in addition to the savings to the county, we're also able to issue less debt than we're retiring this year. That's the first time that we've been able to do that in a decade. And while there's a smaller amount of capital, we're being very prudent in our spending. And these steps reflect a commitment to manage our debt and be fiscally responsible.

Just before I move on, I want to give a special thanks to the county manager, County Manager McKain, Budget Director Finkel and the Budget Department, who really worked diligently over the year to hold the line with the budget, and also, in preparing the budget that we're going to be presenting here tonight. You know, we've been taking some very proactive steps to try to find savings and efficiency, to not have to increase property tax. We did a dependent healthcare audit that the county manager brought to us, and it saved over \$1 million in taking people off of our healthcare that should not have been on it.

With Council's assistance, we started updating some fees, some fees that hadn't been adjusted in decades, for permits with public works, the medical examiner's office and other areas. We continue --- we're going to continue to try to identify new revenue streams, to reduce the reliance on property tax. Some of those will involve fees; some of those will involve naming rights; some of those will involve opportunities that we see in some of our venues. We'll continue to do that. And then the ongoing monitoring of the non-profit organizations that we

began earlier this year, 86 percent of the parcels have already submitted their documents, and the law department is going through those. And the homestead exemptions, I know this was something we've been concerned about over the past few years, people double-dipping. 3,500 parcels have been removed from the double-dipping of Homestead exemption, resulting in nearly \$300,000 in additional tax revenue to the county.

We talked about the operating budget. We'll move into why we're here. We're doing a realistic achievable budget that has been balanced. The operating budget is going to be \$817.3 million that we are proposing. That's a little over two percent increase. And I am going to be proposing that there's no millage increase; so for the 12th time in 13 years, if this budget passes, without a millage increase --- and I know I don't have agreement with everybody. I think there might be one member of Council that disagrees. But if we have no millage increase, it'll be the 12th time in 13 years that we haven't had a millage increase.

We are also going to be putting forth a budget that has no one-time revenue sources for the second consecutive year. We talked about that being one of the core values that we wanted to do. And really, the 2.2 percent is just inflationary dealing with wage increase, collective bargaining and supply inflation that basically is happening with two percent.

Let me put this in perspective a little bit. Back in 2002, the typical \$100,000 house in Allegheny County, \$100,000 property, paid \$422 in County property tax. Next year in 2014, the 13th year since that happened, if this budget passes without a millage increase, that same homeowner will be paying \$483 in County property taxes. That's a 14.4 percent increase over 13 years, 1.1 percent per year, well below inflation, something we can be very proud of as far as holding the line. I don't know of any other government at the federal, state or local level that can match that --- that can match that record. And we're going to continue, at least that's my philosophy, and I know it's shared by many members of Council, to try to hold the line on property tax, because we've seen the results of that over the last 13 years. This county, Allegheny County, is the only county in the country that has had an increase in property values every year for the last five years. And I think

stabilizing property taxes is a big reason why we've been able to achieve that. So again, it's a plan, you know, we want to work with you on, but we're hopeful that we can hold the line another year on property tax and, you know, continue to find efficiencies and other revenues to fund the operation. I want to highlight just a few of the things that we've been able to do and some of the things that are in the CFP that we're presenting tonight.

You know, some of the things you've already seen, with LED lights, and some of the efficiencies on energy savings around our facilities and around the county, that continue to bring us operating savings. And we're going to continue to do that. I also, you know, want to talk a little bit about Human Services; and you know, what we're doing permits our CYF and our Human Service Department to maximize the state funding that's approved by the annual needs-based budget allocation. In September, I'm very proud to note that CYF commemorated a significant anniversary, 50 years of providing public child welfare services for the residents of this county, along with a very strong network, a strong network of partners, of non-profits, faith-based organizations and other organizations that are helping that our children most deserve.

DHS, our Department of Human Services, serves over 200,000 residents per year. And again, it's a huge commitment that we make to try to make folks better in this region. You will note in the budget when you take a look at it, there were three departments that show a little bit of an increase over what would be normal. Those are human resources, law and budget. And the reason for that is, some of what we've been able to do is shift some people, some of the grant-writing people who have been in other departments, over into the budget department, to try to maximize the amount of grants we're able to get with the state.

When somebody is doing it just in a specific department, they're not necessarily looking at grants. For example, if they're in public safety, they're not looking for grants that might be in public works or human services. So putting a --- moving the grant-writer over into the budget department will help. The Law Department is going up, and that's part and parcel of what we're doing when we're doing the non-profits reviews that we talked about, the tax exempt properties. It's an immense

amount of data to go through --- to go through all those properties, so we thought that adding some increased investment there would help pay some dividends, with more revenues in the coming years. And then on the Human Services --- or excuse me, Human Resources Department, one of the things we've had over the years has been inconsistencies with respect to FMLA, with respect to wages, with respect to promotions, firings, all the different type of things that we do, benefits.

Moving that into the HR Department will allow us to have more consistency, and again, find savings and efficiencies across departments, even though that department might go up. So when you see that, that's the reason for that. One of the things the HR Department has been able to do, and I think I mentioned this a couple weeks ago when I was here, they're doing online applications now, and they've already received over 1,000 through the website in the first couple of weeks that they've had this. And our number of paper applications have shrunk to --- to just a handful. So again, we're looking for efficiencies in improving those operations.

They have a Workers' Compensation function now under the HR. And again, that's also to help monitor some of the things that we talked about. A couple of other items you'll see in the budget that skew the numbers a little bit, the CFP will show a 9-1-1 increase of about 73 percent. That doesn't mean they're spending 73 percent more money. What it means is, we don't have the offsetting revenue that we've had before with landlines and cell phone lines. So we've got to take more money from the general operating budget to fund the 9-1-1 center. We've talked about that in the past. It's something we've got to deal with at the state.

We're saving a lot of money for municipalities out there, but if the municipalities --- if we can't figure out a way to do this, we might have to come up with another funding form. So this is something we're going to continue to monitor and continue to work with you on. The capital budget, we're going to be introducing a capital budget of slightly over \$50 million. A lot of this will be for our infrastructure and capital improvement projects. We've got a bridge program of about \$6.19 million. Oh, of that \$50 million, about \$30 million will be bonds that we take out in the county. The rest will be matching money that we get from the state and federal

government and other sources. That also includes in our bridge project, as I mentioned, about \$6.19 million in the bridges. And that will include about a \$1.7 million amount in Act 13, highway/bridge funding, from the state's Marcellus Shale Legacy Fund, regarding deteriorating bridges in the county. It includes some --- some of the bridges in all of your districts, the Tenth Street Bridge, the Thompson Run, Dooker's Hollow Bridge and our three sister bridges here in the county, which have been very prominently displayed, I might add, over the last few days, as our baseball team has been getting a lot of national attention.

And that backdrop of those beautiful bridges is something that we want to be very proud of, and we are. Roads Program, we're talking about \$18 million in our roads and facilities improvement, including some major paving projects along Bower Hill Road, Greensburg Pike and Campbells Run Road. We're also going to be funding in the capital budget around \$9 million --- \$9.8 million for the Port Authority. That will be improvements and upgrades to fix facilities and fleets. It will also include a \$1 million investment for planning, design and construction of a bus rapid transit link between downtown Pittsburgh and Oakland, as we begin that project.

And I think that will be a very, very successful project for this region to continue. And then we'll have about \$4,000,000 in equipment purchases. Let me just talk about, you know, moving forward in the next couple years, some of the new programs we want to do. We want to do a pilot program with online reservations for shelters and groves in our county parks. That should be launched by the end of the year. Our intent is to try to move as cashless and as easy for people to pay as possible, so that they can pay online. They can pay with a credit card previously in departments where they had to show up with cash or a cashier's check. And we want to make it easy for people.

One other initiative I want to talk about is the ski slopes at Boyce Park. You know, we've continued to lose money on that operation because we don't get the snowmaking in time for, really, the peak season, which is in December. And we've been running a deficit there probably close to a half million dollars a year. We're going to be entering into a contract, in a public-private partnership. The county manager is going to be doing

that, you know, within the next few days, for specialized service of snowmaking, with the intent of keeping that open and keeping that operating, you know, throughout the year. It's something we're --- we'll be able to free up employees who have been, basically, standing around or working on that project. But they were taken from other parts of the parks. Now, they'll be re-deployed into the parks to be able to do some of the deferred maintenance that we have been looking to do. And we're hoping that that will result in a savings of close to \$300,000 in being able to keep that operating running.

Again, it's a specialized function. It's not an everyday function like paving roads or maintaining our buildings. You know, there's probably only a handful in this whole state, and it's just not something that, you know, we focus on. It's a very specialized --- specialized operation.

So that is the budget plan that I'm going to be presenting to you. I look forward to working with you and Chairman Robinson over the next few months as we scrub the budget, go through the items; you know, answer questions, take some input that you might have on various departments and agencies that we fund and want to take a look at funding; and look forward to working with you on it. Mr. President, I'd be glad to take any questions anybody might have on the budget.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Any questions for the Executive? Yes?

MR. ELLENBOGEN: I just have one comment and I know Councilman Finnerty shares that. I've been sitting up here for six years, talking about what you're doing in Boyce Park. And before me, Mike carried the torch. So we're glad we lived to see it; so thank you.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: Well, we're going to find out how successful we can be. And you know, it's interesting, because you know, we've got two major ski operations that are going to be combined into one. So you wonder what kind of competition that's going to have for people of western Pennsylvania. This is an option. I know we're not Vail or Aspen, or certainly, Seven Springs. But it's a nice ski operation for people, particularly beginners to go out and learn and have a nice day and be able to do it at a very affordable cost.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: It's just --- I had to bring it to your attention, because we love when we're right, you do know that. It's kind of an Irish thing, you know.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: It was your idea, Jimmy, I'll tell you.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: No, actually, it was Mike's, but he's a little shyer than me.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Matt?

MR. DROZD: Thank you. Thanks, Mr. Chief Executive. You know, I've always been wanting, and I know you do, too --- I don't like crisis management. I want to be more proactive instead of reactive. And I've always asked the controller in prior years give me a five-year projection, a ten-year projection of where we are, where that cash flow line is going, where the line meets. And maybe you could elaborate a little bit because it was, you know, a little bit of inference to Councilman Robinson's comments on that \$50 million that he keeps pointing to. And I'd like to have your input on that, where that may be and where those lines cross, you know, where and what year, given no more revenues and our expenses are stable, with that two-percent increase, where does that line cross and how much is that line when it crosses? I mean, is it what Councilman Robinson is projecting at the \$50 million mark? Is it something less? Or maybe you can, maybe, give a little more insight on that.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: Well, let me just say, one mill --- if we would decrease one mill or every one mill that we levy on property in Allegheny County --- brings in approximately \$60 million. So if we are in the hole, if you will, or behind with that percentage \$20 million a year, you would see that, like, every three years we would be \$60 million short. And that would be a one mill --- a one mill increase. So it's our job, all of us, to try to make that go as long as we can. It's not going to go indefinitely. I think the fact that we did it only one time in the last 13 years is pretty significant. So if we can find other revenues --- and there's myriads of examples that we've talked about, and the county manager brings them to you all the time --- and other efficiencies, other savings that we can make in other areas where we can tap into, and let me give you two other examples.

The other challenge with this is we've seen what the state and federal government have done over the last

few years. So that exacerbates that hole that we talk about, because they have made cutbacks on things like human services, CDBG, public safety grants, other things that we've received, public works over the years. So that adds to the local burden on the property tax people in Allegheny County. And let me say, we're not immune to this. Butler County last year increased their taxes one mill. Indiana County raised theirs five mills last year. And Armstrong County raised theirs two mills. These are counties right around us. Again --- and this isn't criticism of them --- it's they have no other option but property tax. So we don't raise property tax with inflation, the way other taxes and other fees are raised; sales taxes, income tax, wage tax. All those other taxes that the state and federal government get, they automatically go up every year with inflation. Property tax does not.

We did an inflationary increase a couple of years ago, and I would like to forestall doing another one as long as we can.

MR. DROZD: Truly troubling times in this country, including the debt that's facing the youth of tomorrow. And it's scary, very, very scary. Thank you; thank you.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Nick, and then Heather.

MR. FUTULES: Thanks, Rich. I wanted to go after Ellenbogen because I want to piggyback on the parks that --- Boyce Park. I don't know if you mentioned, but we're talking about, actually, doubling the size of the season, from as much --- from 30 days to possibly 70 in the parks. And I actually learned to ski at Boyce Park when I was a youngster, and I remember skiing there on Thanksgiving Day. I have never seen our park open Thanksgiving Day since then, but I believe that we're going to have a shot in the local economy. All of the ski rental places, these stores selling skis, it's not just going to benefit us in the county but the surrounding area, as well, and giving young kids the opportunity to ski more than they possibly have been in the past few years.

And I think it's just a great idea, and hopefully, this works out very well for all of us. Thank you.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: Thanks.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Heather, and then Mr. Burn.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: Thank you for coming before us, Mr. Fitzgerald. I'm glad to hear that your plan is not to raise taxes this year, as you have promised us over the last year. So I'm very happy to hear that.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: I don't recall making that promise, Councilwoman, but we're glad to be able to do it.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: The one question I have and a little bit of surprise is a \$1 million planned expenditure for the Port Authority to study --- and I don't want to paraphrase you incorrectly --- but an expansion from downtown to Oakland. Can you please expand on this? I think that many of us here in Allegheny County were exhausted by the process of the T going underneath Stanwix Street, underneath the river. We were all made various promises by the state and federal government. We, the county, were required to provide more income, more revenue than we originally were led to believe. So where are we going with this? I mean, if we're going to spend \$1 million, there's obviously some foresight here that we're going to commit --- are we going to commit ourselves to building something between downtown and Oakland?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: Well, let me back up for --- you know, I think you're talking about the subway expansion under the river. And actually, we've committed a little over \$12 million, and that's all we ever spent. While the costs kept going up, the federal government came in and picked up the lion's share. It became about a \$500 million project. And I would argue that it has been extremely successful. The amount of growth and the amount of development that continues over onto the North Shore, I think you can directly attribute a lot of that to linking rail --- linking mass transit and the rail system over there. I think there's no question, as we become a younger and younger community --- a younger county, the young people that are moving in here really want transit. That's a huge issue.

One of the problems has always been the lack of connectivity between downtown and Oakland. We have a couple different options. One is to do light rail, and there's a lot of people that would like to do light rail. Light rail would probably cost about \$2 to \$2 and a half billion, and there would be a lot of disruption in building the rail lines from downtown Pittsburgh to Oakland. And it probably would take 15 to 20 years, which

is pretty much what it took to do the subway expansion over into the North Shore. What Cleveland has been able to do --- and we took a trip in June with about 30 or 40 stakeholders from the business community, from the Allegheny Conference to the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership, the Oakland Business District. What Cleveland was able to do in their connectivity between downtown and their eds and meds facility, which is very similar to our Oakland and downtown Pittsburgh, they built theirs for about \$200 million and did it in, I think, three or four years. And the amount of development --- private sector development that occurred along a blighted area, which is very similar to our uptown area through Fifth Avenue and Forbes Avenue, was over \$5 billion.

And I think if we can build something similar for that kind of money, I think it would enhance our economy in a great measure. It would add to the property values all along that area, including the values in downtown and the values in Oakland. It would add to jobs; it would add to development. So we're going to be making or asking to make a \$1 million investment into the planning, into getting it started, so that we can access other monies from the state, federal and the foundation community.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: I have one follow-up question. Have you spoken with our federal representatives in regard to funding a federal piece of this?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: Absolutely. We've been meeting with them all the time, so they're very familiar with what we're doing here.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: So you've been meeting with --- with who?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: We've been meeting with a whole lot of stakeholders, Councilwoman. We've been meeting with federal officials, state officials, business owners, labor unions, non-profit organizations, the big healthcare facilities, the big downtown business owners; you know, a myriad of stakeholders, including members of Council. We took members of Council, ---

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: Yeah, I understand.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: --- invited members of Council to the trip when we went to Cleveland; and the folks in Cleveland who've had this now for the last couple years reviewed this as well with our folks.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: Well, I don't want to take any more time here today, but I'll send you a letter, and perhaps, I can request some of the information you've already gathered from ---.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: We'll be glad to set up a meeting and get you all the information on the plans.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Thank you. Mr. Burn?

MR. BURN: Thank you, Mr. President. Good to see you, Rich. My questions were about the Oakland-downtown connection that you talked about. I just wanted to echo what you said, and at the timing of Heather's questions.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: That's all right.

MR. BURN: It's good to see this happening. When I was on the Port Authority and your predecessor had put a group together called Transit Action Team ---

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: I recall that.

MR. BURN: --- a group of us led by Dave Hickton made some recommendations to the county. And one of them was to improve the connectivity between the eds and the meds over in Oakland to downtown Pittsburgh. And for folks who weren't aware of that study, one of the fifth busiest corridors in the State of Pennsylvania, as you are well aware, is the Oakland-Pittsburgh connection, one of the most bottlenecked and most difficult to travel. I think your point to Heather is absolutely spot-on. For every dollar --- and I know Doc Martoni and Amanda can attest to this, because we heard it as Port Authority Board members, and I see Mr. Tague is here --- for every dollar of public monies used for transportation, you recognize at a minimum \$3 of private sector investment.

I think you're spot-on when you say that we're way ahead of the curve on the North Shore Connector project. All the money and the development that we've seen on the North Side, is in no small part attributable to the business owners and their understanding that there's going to be accessibility to there through the connector. And anybody who has seen what we've seen in the last month, in particular, knows that there haven't been any complaints from the folks who have been over there making use of those amenities, including those great ball fields.

This is another one of those conversations. The economic ripple effect that you are going to bring to this

region, and this county will bring to this region, by developing this at the price that you're saying it's going to be done, is remarkable. You're going to see an economic ripple effect that for every dollar of public monies --- I would say it's going to be more than \$3, Rich. It might be higher than \$5; it might be \$10. But this is one of the components of that plan that we gave to Dan Onorato when we presented it to him six or seven years ago, and I've been waiting to see it come to fruition. And I just wanted to say that it's encouraging to see it as part of your plan for the future. This is going to be one of the most significant economic revenue generations, as much as anything else that you've been sharing with us. So I just wanted to say thank you.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: Thank you, Councilman. Let me also point out that the Rockefeller Foundation, a foundation out of New York City, identified Pittsburgh as one of only four cities in the country that was, you know, perfectly situated for BRT, and they're helping us along those lines. And you're right, we've got downtown Pittsburgh and Oakland, our two biggest job --- employment centers in the region and the second and third biggest in the state. And there's no question that downtown --- the vibrancy of downtown continues to grow; the new skyscraper that's adding jobs for PNC and other skyscrapers at the Market at --- Gardens at Fifth and Market. All these are going to add, continue to add buildings. We just can't continue to park cars. There's just not enough --- enough room.

And we need to get a way to move people very efficiently as we become an absolutely major employment center here, and a BRT would really --- would really add to that.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Anyone else? Mike? I'm sorry.

MR. FINNERTY: Thank you for being here tonight, Rich. I appreciate that. I'd just like to say that in regard to the Oakland-downtown loops, hopefully that will come to be. From the vision team, which I was part of, that was one of our big recommendations coming out of that vision team that you got together there. And I think it's extremely important for the well-being of our area that we have. And some type of transit that's going to be able to get people from Oakland to downtown with under ten minutes' time, I mean, it would be a great thing. We've

seen what the T has done for the South Hills area and for the downtown area. I mean, it's tremendous; more people than ever come downtown from our area now. I also --- a different point I would like to make is that, you know, every year the budget gets more difficult and more difficult to balance. As we get cut by the state, by the federal government, just our Human Services --- and I was Chairman of Human Services, what, seven years ago now, I guess? That budget, when I was chairman of it, was \$1.6 billion at that time. Right now, I don't know what it is today, but I know what it was in 2012 and 2013. It was about \$860 million. That's a tremendous cut, Human Services, people that need help.

And every year it seems that we get a 16 percent cut or more. Community Development, it's the same way, 16 to 20 percent every year. Community Development helps communities that don't have the money to do something, either put sidewalks in or handicap accessible or fix playgrounds, something on that order. Community Development is important, very important for the communities that I represent, especially in McKees Rocks and Stowe. So these are some of the things that we have, every year, put up with. And we try to make sure that we can still --- we can still provide services to our people on the same level. It's not easy, and it's something, but I compliment the budget people for a tremendous job and the Chief Executive for doing that.

At the same time, as the Chief Executive has stated, that we've only raised taxes one mill, one time, in 13 years, to be able to maintain this. Sometimes we were taking money from this and putting it over there and fudging everything around, but we managed to do it. We're not doing that anymore. We're not one-timing it anymore. This is our budget. And I also would like to change the subject for a second and say, I believe that in your budget, you would have a projection for five years. Am I not mistaken?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: Yeah.

MR. FINNERTY: I think I've seen that every year. I've looked in there and it's ---. Yeah; okay. I thought so. Okay. Thank you very much. I appreciate your work.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Nick?

MR. FUTULES: Yeah, just maybe the last note. Overall, the employees of this county all got

approximately a two percent or more raise, plus the healthcare?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: Yes.

MR. FUTULES: There are 16 people in this county that did not get a raise, us 15 and the man standing at the podium. I just want to make that public record that we did not get a raise. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Barbara?

MS. DANKO: Yeah. As you know, there's two sides to a budget. You have the revenue side and the expenditure side. And I applaud the efforts to build the fund balance. I was trying to take notes, and when you started, it was 5.7; 2012, 12.2. We're hoping to get to 18 to 20 this year. And then ---.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: By the end of this year or beginning of next year.

MS. DANKO: Yeah, by --- when we're audited. Okay. And then you talked about the two to three percent inflation just because we have healthcare costs and everything else that goes into it, so that that costs \$16 million to \$18 million more on that \$800 million budget?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: Well, two percent of \$800 million is \$16 million.

MS. DANKO: Yeah.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: Three percent is \$24 million; so yeah, somewhere in that range, because that's pretty much what inflation has been over the last 10 to 12 years. So that's what we've got to project for.

MS. DANKO: No, I agree. My concern is, how confident are you of the revenue numbers? I mean, you sort of mentioned new revenue streams. And then going back to last year when everybody was concerned about whether we were going to have a windfall; is there a windfall, is there not a windfall? What are the new revenue streams going to look like; you know, because that's ---. If we're going to continue to build the fund balance and we have, you know, \$16 million to \$18 million more in expenses, I'm not sure I understand how that works.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: Well, we think this year --- and we've identified in the budget some of the savings we've been able to make, the \$1 million in audits --- for the employee healthcare audit, the \$1 million in the jail. We found some new revenues. You guys increased some revenues in different departments that

have added a couple hundred thousand here, \$500,000 there. It adds up to a certain amount. As you know, budgeting is estimates. There's no --- I mean, it's not like you can take a number and it's going to be exactly ---. You make your best guess. With the reassessment and appeals still coming in, it makes it difficult, because you're trying to project based on history, based on what you anticipate will happen. The budget department, Warren and his group and County Manager McKain, made some estimates last year to set the millage at 4.73. They were very close. I mean, there were some criticisms from people in the media and others who thought it was out of line, but the numbers are following the projections that we saw back in 2001 and 2002.

And those of us who lived through that remember those days and watched the total valuation go down as the appeals came in. It seems to be following that similar track. It probably won't be done until late next year or maybe early in '15. So we think the revenue projections are on. There is no windfall. There is --- you know, hopefully, there's not going to be a deficit on the other side, but it should come in pretty close. And even some of the other estimates that you make on recording fees and other fees, you never know how that's going to go. And I'll give you one example. When you look in your budget, you'll see that the sheriff budget is up a significant amount.

That's misleading because what's happening is, he used to collect a lot of fees from mortgage foreclosures. Well, the good news is, mortgage foreclosures are very low in Allegheny County. Well, the offset is, we're not collecting the kind of revenues we used to collect on mortgage foreclosures, on those kind of bankruptcies. So that revenue stream has dwindled to lower than we would have seen. So those kind of things happen, and that's something that the county manager and the budget department, through many years of experience --- I mean, I don't want to count up all the years; Warren, if you tell us all the folks in your department, how many years --- but they've been doing this for a long time. And they're usually pretty good and pretty close on where they need to be.

MS. DANKO: I know last year there was some talk from at least one elected official about reopening the budget after the 1st of the year. You wouldn't see any

kind of reason to do that with --- you know, you feel very confident about these revenue estimates?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: We do. We do. We feel very good. I think the last couple of years have been a little more contentious because of the reassessment. But now that that has somewhat settled down, I think that we're on a more predictable path.

MS. DANKO: And I do want to applaud you for not using the one-time revenues. Good work.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Mr. Drozd?

MR. DROZD: Yeah. I just want to be a little enlightened more and for the privy of our audience and constituents, that \$1 million study from here to Oakland, that's our portion? What's the total study cost?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: The total what?

MR. DROZD: Study cost.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: Well, it's not --- it's the beginning of the process is --- basically, I guess, is the way to do it. There has already been some money that the state has allocated. I don't remember the amount. I want to say it's \$700,000 or \$800,000. The federal government has allocated some money, as well, some of that. And I'd have to check with the Port Authority, but there has been some money that's already been allocated. So this is part of our investment in a connected --- a connection between downtown and Oakland.

MR. DROZD: The reason why I bring that up, is our investment was done initially when that tunnel was built. The way my understanding was, part of that study was to go to Oakland. Surely, there must be a study out there somewhere. Why do we have to reinvent the wheel?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: It's ---.

MR. DROZD: Let me finish my thoughts; let me finish my thoughts. Why do we have to reinvent the wheel? What consultants do is pick up shelf material and just regurgitate it back to us. And where are the citizens going to pay \$1 million, plus whatever? That's all I'm saying. And secondly, you know what, forget the tunnel. We should have went to Oakland, and we probably could have went to the airport and paid far less than what we paid for that tunnel, and maybe even got the North Hills at the same time; so now I don't buy that tunnel. What I buy is we should have went to Oakland, we should have went to the airport, and then maybe we should have picked up a little

bit of the North Hills. That's my feeling. People got shortchanged on that one, big time.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: Those decisions were made and long before any of us were in office, so that ship has sailed. But I appreciate your concern.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Mr. Ellenbogen?

MR. ELLENBOGEN: You know, you brought up something that I'm, like, more familiar with. You're talking about this downtown-Oakland thing. And it makes me think about the term, back to the future. I was born in Oakland. And when this city had 700,000-plus people in it, that's how people got from downtown to Oakland every day, hundreds of thousands of people, using trolleys. I mean, you have community issues up there. There's neighborhoods that live up there. You saw what happened when they wiped out North Shore, you know, to the East Street Valley.

So one of the things, I mean, that I ask myself --- because I mean, you can --- I mean, even in my own photo albums from my family, you see the trolleys in them --- are we over-thinking this? Does this have to be some kind of a massive construction-type of thing, or can we just put the tracks back down and get those fancy trolleys and just run them back and forth to Oakland, like they did for a freaking 100 years in this city?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: Those are some of the details that the engineers and the traffic consultants who know this ---

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Engineers.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: --- certainly know it better than --- better than I do. But it's a pretty collaborative process.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Did you hear what Mike said? The tracks are right here. Just dig up the asphalt.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: Is that what he said? I'll pass that along to the folks at the Port Authority. Let me just --- I'm sorry.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Go ahead, Rich.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: I just wanted to say one more thing. I know there was some talk over the last couple of days. I guess one member in your body indicated that they wanted to raise taxes one mill. So the questions came to me, was I going to raise taxes? And I wouldn't answer the question. I wouldn't reveal that to the media because I wanted this council and this body to

hear it first. I didn't want you to hear it through the media. I didn't want you to hear it through a press release. So it wasn't that I was being evasive; it wasn't that I was afraid to answer the question. It was that this body deserves to hear the Comprehensive Fiscal Plan before others. So that's kind of why I was not answering that question in a certain way. But I wanted to be able to present it to you. I wanted to present it to the president and the budget chair and the members of Council, so that you hear it, you know, from us, from me and the county manager and my administration, as to what we are putting forth in the Comprehensive Fiscal Plan.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: We thank you, and thank you for your presentation. At this time, I'd like to turn the budget you're presenting over to our Budget and Finance Committee, chaired by Mr. Robinson. Okay? Okay, Bill?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: And we'll pass out the documents.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Thank you.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE FITZGERALD: Thank you. Thank you, members of Council. I look forward to working with you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT MARTONI: What I need now --- we're back to work now, guys. We need a motion to send the budget to the Budget and Finance Committee.

MR. FINNERTY: I'll make that motion.

MR. PALMIERE: Second.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Moved and second. Question? All in favor?

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Opposed? So ordered. The budget goes to the finance committee. Public Comment on Agenda Items. We have none; right?

MR. CATANESE: None.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Approval of Minutes.

7776-13.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. President? Let's do these bills; do the bills.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Go ahead. Sorry about that. I was trying to make up for lost time. Go ahead, Joe.

MR. CATANESE: The first ordinance is an ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, establishing a tax levy upon all real

property subject to taxation within the limits of Allegheny County. That's it.

MR. FUTULES: That's it.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Budget and Finance Committee. Okay.

MR. CATANESE: The second one is a resolution of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, adopting an Operating Budget pursuant to Article IV, Section 2, and Article VII, Section 4, of the Home Rule Charter, by setting forth appropriations to pay expenses of conducting the public business of Allegheny County and for remaining debt charges for the final year beginning January 1st, 2014 and ending December 31st, 2014.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Okay. We need a motion for that; correct?

MR. CATANESE: No, put it into committee.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Budget and Finance Committee. Okay. I'm getting so much paper here, I don't know, you know. Okay.

MR. CATANESE: The third is a resolution of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, adopting a Capital Budget pursuant to Article IV, Section 2, and Article VII, Section 4, of the Home Rule Charter, by setting forth appropriations to pay the expenses for capital expenditures during the fiscal year beginning January 1st, 2014 and ending December 31st, 2014.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Budget and Finance Committee.

MR. CATANESE: The fourth and final one is a resolution of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, adopting the Grants Budget, Special Accounts Budget and Agency Fund Budget, by setting forth appropriations to pay said expenses during the fiscal year beginning January 1st, 2014 and ending December 31st, 2014.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Budget and Finance Committee. Is that it?

MR. CATANESE: That's it, sir.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Okay. Approval of the Minutes. 7776-13.

MR. CATANESE: Motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of Allegheny County Council, held on September 10th, 2013.

MR. MACEY: So moved.

MR. FINNERTY: Second.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Moved and second. Question?  
All in favor?

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Opposed? So ordered.  
Presentation of Appointments. 7768-13.

MR. CATANESE: Approving the reappointment of James Hannan, to serve as a member of the Council of Friends organization (South Park), for a term to expire on October the 8th, 2015. Sponsored by Councilwoman Harris.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Ms. Harris?

MS. HARRIS: Thank you, Mr. President. I would ask Council to consider reappointing Mr. Hannan to serve as the Council of Friends on South Park --- the Council of Friends organization.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Do you make a motion on that?

MS. HARRIS: I'll make a motion.

MR. FINNERTY: Second.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: We have a motion and a second. Question? All in favor?

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Opposed? So ordered. 7769-13.

MR. CATANESE: Approving the reappointment of Dr. Charles T. Blocksidge, to serve as a member of the Allegheny County Property Assessment Appeals and Review Board, for a term to expire on December 31st, 2016. Sponsored by Councilman Martoni.

MR. FUTULES: Did you make that motion yourself?

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Appointment Review. We'll take it to Appointment Review. 7770-13.

MR. CATANESE: Approving the reappointment of Walter Szymanski, to serve as a member of the Retirement Board of Allegheny County, for a term to expire on December 31st, 2017. Sponsored by Councilman Robinson.

MR. ROBINSON: Move for approval.

MR. MACEY: Second.

MR. FINNERTY: Shouldn't we discuss this since it's Walt?

MR. FUTULKES: He's not paying attention.

MR. ROBINSON: Mr. President, if I might, so no one is embarrassed, the budget director of the council is authorized to serve by law. Mr. Szymanski is our budget director. I just wanted to make that clear, so that no one's embarrassed. Thank you.

MR. SZYMANSKI: Thank you.  
MR. FINNERTY: That is true.  
PRESIDENT MARTONI: That is true.  
MR. ELLENBOGEN: And a good choice, I might say.  
MR. DROZD: Discussion.  
PRESIDENT MARTONI: Question?  
MR. DROZD: Discussion.  
PRESIDENT MARTONI: Go ahead.  
MR. DROZD: I want to say that --- Mr. Szymanski, I'm very proud that he's going to represent us. I've served with him, and I'll tell you, he does an outstanding job. And I know he's going to do an outstanding job wherever we appoint him. As one --- just like many of our staff members, he's outstanding.  
MR. SZYMANSKI: Thank you.  
PRESIDENT MARTONI: Okay. Roll call.  
MR. CATANESE: Do it by roll, or are you going to do it by voice vote?  
PRESIDENT MARTONI: I think by roll call.  
MR. FUTULES: Yeah, it's your choice.  
PRESIDENT MARTONI: Roll call.  
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Burn?  
MR. BURN: Yes.  
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: Yes.  
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Finnerty?  
MR. FINNERTY: Yes.  
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Futules?  
MR. FUTULES: Yes.  
MR. CATANESE: Ms. Green Hawkins?  
MS. GREEN HAWKINS: Aye.  
MR. CATANESE: Ms. Harris?  
MS. HARRIS: Yes.  
MR. CATANESE: Ms. Heidelbaugh?  
MS. HEIDELBAUGH: Yes.  
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Macey?  
MR. MACEY: Aye.  
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Palmiere?  
MR. PALMIERE: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Rea?

(No response.)

MR. CATANESE: Not here. Mr. Robinson?

MR. ROBINSON: Aye.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Martoni, President?

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Yes.

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

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Unfinished Business; Unfinished Business. Committee on Budget and Finance, Second Reading. 7761-13.

MR. CATANESE: An ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, establishing new schedules of fees charged for services and items rendered and provided by the Allegheny County Department of Public Works and the Office of the Medical Examiner. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Mr. Robinson.

MR. ROBINSON: Move for approval.

MR. MACEY: Second.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Moved and second.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: I have a question.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Question?

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: Yes.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Go ahead.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: Mr. McKain, do you know why they're increasing the cost of the map 600 percent to \$600 or something like that?

MR. MCKAIN: Yeah, this is for the Public Works?

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: Yes.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Yeah.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: That's the only one that seems a bit shocking to me. And I really don't care about it, other than the fact that if somebody needs it ---

MR. MCKAIN: No, I have it. I'm just looking.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: --- you know, a business needs it, and \$600 --- that's a lot. I just don't understand.

MR. MCKAIN: They had said that it was the allocation of resources with the color printer, because that's what they wanted, they want it in color. And even though it hasn't been increased since 2007, it's an enormous amount of time to get that together and to do it and they thought that was appropriate. I know the percentage is high, but the dollar amount --- I know it was a significant increase, but they thought it was

relative. They did a little survey around town, and they thought that that was in the ball park.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: So my only comment is --- you know, I'll vote yes on this. I won't hold it up for that. But if it's labor intensive, and if it costs that much, why don't we just sub-contract it out? Why don't we send it to Click's or something, people that ---?

MR. MCKAIN: We have a print shop that does this. It's just that when they do that, then that takes up time from other jobs. I mean, that is an option, but we think that this more than covers our expenses and helps the fund balance a little.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: Who uses these maps?

MR. MCKAIN: A lot of times it'll be commercial people. Architects might call, engineering firms, things like that.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: All right. Well, I'm just going to ask if you can figure out if --- if we have businesses that need these maps to conduct economic --- you know, things here in the county, and this is going to be a cost which is really going to hurt them ---

MR. MCKAIN: Uh-huh (yes).

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: --- if there's any way we can refuse that. Just think about it and let me know.

MR. MCKAIN: Okay. I will. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Thank you. Roll call.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Burn?

MR. BURN: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Danko?

MS. DANKO: Aye.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. DeFazio?

MR. DEFAZIO: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Drozd?

MR. DROZD: Nay.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Ellenbogen?

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Aye.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Finnerty?

MR. FINNERTY: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Futules?

MR. FUTULES: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Green Hawkins?

MS. GREEN HAWKINS: Aye.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Harris?

MS. HARRIS: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Heidelbaugh?

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: Yes.  
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Macey?  
MR. MACEY: Aye.  
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, 13, noes, 1. The bill

passes.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Committee on Economic Development and Housing, Second Reading. 7742-13.

MR. CATANESE: A resolution of the County of Allegheny, authorizing the removal of a parcel from the South Side Works Tax Increment Financing Plan. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Ms. Hawkins?

MS. GREEN HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. President.  
Move for approval.

MR. ROBINSON: Second.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Moved and second. Question?  
Roll call.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Burn?  
MR. BURN: Yes.  
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: Ms. Green Hawkins?  
MS. GREEN HAWKINS: Aye.  
MR. CATANESE: Ms. Harris?  
MS. HARRIS: Yes.  
MR. CATANESE: Ms. Heidelbaugh?  
MS. HEIDELBAUGH: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Macey?  
MR. MACEY: Yes.  
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: Liaison Reports.

MR. BURN: Mr. President?

CELL PHONE RINGS

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Somebody called. I'm sorry.  
Mr. Burn?

MR. BURN (on phone): Yes, thank you. What's  
the matter?

MR. ELLENBOGEN: A little bird ---.

MR. BURN: No, I just wanted to alert the  
Council that tomorrow in Millvale, there's going to be a  
dedication between 5:00 and 7:00 on Hawthorne Road, of  
what's called a bioswale. And it's a way, through some  
funding and grant monies, to create --- and Johnny sees  
it. Johnny goes down Hawthorne every day --- a natural  
water detention --- or retention facility or opportunity.  
Upstream development has caused a lot of problems in our  
river towns, and these bioswales are a way to mitigate the  
water and the ferociousness with which it sometimes comes  
downstream, so that by the time it gets to a Carnegie, an  
Etna, a Tarentum or a Millvale, usually it's moving at a  
pretty furious destructive clip.

This upstream water detention and the  
possibilities of doing it from where you have development  
in McCandless or way up North, along the way, along these  
streams and tributaries, works as a break and as a  
deterrent on the water as it accumulates moving towards  
the river towns and it acts like a break. By the time it  
gets to the river towns, it's not as destructive, it's not  
as violent. And this spot, which is on Hawthorne, is  
property owned by the Sisters of St. Francis, who worked  
with those responsible for developing this. They started  
on it in May of this summer. They worked all summer on  
it, and tomorrow is its official dedication. It's really

a natural-looking way to deal with the issue that this county faces as it relates to downstream flooding, in a creative and innovative way, to look at how we deal with the need for water retention facilities. It is, from what I'm told, the largest bioswale in the United States of America, and it's on Johnny and I's street, in a spot that's --- that's had problems. So I look forward to being there between 5:00 and 7:00 tomorrow night. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Okay. Thank you. Heather?

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: Yes, I --- liaison reports are a little amorphized here, so I have a question. Barbara Daly Danko has submitted a bill for a moratorium on drilling at the parks. And I believe that has been forwarded to the Government Reform Committee, which I believe is headed by our president, Mr. Martoni. And we've also received an RFP that we are to look at, from the Chief Executive. My question is, I would really like to have the bill, Barbara's bill, heard in committee before we start digging through all the work. So when will the Government Reform Committee be hearing Barbara's bill?

PRESIDENT MARTONI: I'll try to have a meeting next week; okay? And we'll set up a date.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: We'll have a hearing ---. We'll have a hearing --- I mean, we'll have her bill ---.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Committee meeting, yeah.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: We'll have her bill heard in the Government Reform Committee next week; great.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: We'll have a meeting. Okay. I think Mike was next and then Jim and Jimmy.

MR. FINNERTY: Thank you. Okay. I'd just like to mention that Collier Township had a ribbon cutting for a park they call Kelly Park, which is out by the Nike side, if you know where that is, going out the Parkway. What's --- and Emily Docherty did a mural on the side of the building there. It's really beautiful. But more important than anything else, Kelly Park is named after Corporal Kelly. Corporal Kelly is a Medal of Honor winner for the United States Army, and that's why it's named Kelly Park. So I think that's important that you know that. And if you get a chance, go out and visit it. They did a beautiful job. It's on 55 Steen Hollow Road, and it's Oakdale, PA. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Thank you. Jim? I believe you were going next.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: No, I'm sorry.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Okay. John?

MR. ELLENBOGEN: I remember Corporal Kelly.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Anyone else; anyone else?

MR. FUTULES: Okay. Hey, I got something.

Let's not forget it's Bucktober. The Pittsburgh Pirates are playing tomorrow, and we wish them the best of luck and hope they'll continue on with our series.

MR. FINNERTY: I did forget to mention something.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Okay. Go ahead.

MR. FINNERTY: I'm sorry. I did forget to mention about Corporal Kelly ---. Corporal Kelly is also in the Hall of Valor at Soldiers and Sailors. If you get a chance, you might want to go there. There's over 400 gentlemen that have served in the service, that are in the Hall of Valor out at Soldiers and Sailors. So if you get a chance, stop there sometime. Thank you.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: I wasn't going to say anything, but being that Mike brought Corporal Kelly up, I remember Corporal Kelly, when I was a young man, very well. He attended many of --- various events. And as a young man, I remember how the war had affected him in a very negative way and --- which makes it all the more important, because Mike, I know, is very involved in a lot of veteran issues. And this makes --- seeing someone who's actually on the Wall of Valor, Congressional Medal of Honor winner like that, and seeing the effect that it had on him in his life as a young man, is something that has always stayed with me. And I think it only emphasizes the need to give these services and things to veterans, because it's not all to them just like flags and parades and stuff.

There's a lot of horrible things that go with that, that these guys and gals have to live with. So like I said, I commend Mike for being as involved as he is with it. And I just wanted to make mention of that, so thank you.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Thank you. Matt, were you next?

MR. DROZD: Yeah, a point of privilege, more so than liaison. It's a follow-up to Councilman Burn, which I'm glad he brought that up. As he did and I did, we stood on those catch basins in those areas in Millvale and

Ross and other townships throughout the county. I still remember standing on a lady's porch late at night where she --- her entire house, first floor, was wiped out and lost everything; and a lot of people down through Millvale and those areas. As a matter of follow-up, we need to do this. We need to be more proactive than reactive if this happens again.

And I think we need to ask a former inquiry from this council to --- through Mr. --- our county manager to Public Works, to revisit those areas to see what corrective action, if any, has been done to prevent this from happening in the future. We still don't know; we really don't, I don't think. And we need to really get a full report on that to find out where there are problems that still exist. They weren't resolved, they weren't addressed; or they were and how were they, and where would it alleviate the problem to prevent this from happening in the future? We really need to do this due diligence. Thank you; thank you, my fellow council members.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Anyone else? John?

MR. PALMIERE: Thank you, Mr. President. I --- a couple weeks ago, Sunday, I had the privilege of running the 36th running of the Great Race of Pittsburgh. And it was a beautiful day, and we had about 15,500 runners there. And I didn't finish last. I just want that to be said. I did finish but not last. But anyhow, I just want to congratulate everyone that had anything to do with that. We drove into town, and we took the bus. They bussed us back out to the park out there in Oakland. And it was Frick Park, that is. And I can't compliment enough on how well they conducted that. They moved all those --- all the runners and got everyone out there and had a wonderful reception back at the Point State Park when we finished. It was just a glorious day for Pittsburgh, and I was really pleased and honored to be a part of it. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Anyone else? Did I miss anyone? Okay. Let's move on, New ---. Did I miss anyone?

MR. FUTULES: No, you're good.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: New Business; Ordinances and Resolutions. 777-13.

MR. CATANESE: An ordinance authorizing the extension of the term of Ordinance Number 02-12-OR, enacted February 21st, 2012, allowing the Department of

Public Works to take certain action on behalf of County Council, with respect to the issuance of highway occupancy permits, the grant of certain licenses, right of entry and easements, and the amicable acquisition of certain real estate affecting County public works projects and other matters for calendar year 2014 and 2015. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Committee on Public Works.  
7778-13.

MR. CATANESE: Authorizing the County of Allegheny to adopt Thorn Hill Road, also known as Thorn Hill Industrial Park Drive, as a County road and to acquire its right-of-way, being a 1,498.69 foot long road, including Brush Creek Bridge Number 3, between its intersection with Brush Creek Road/Commonwealth Drive and its intersection with Perry Highway, State Route 0019, formerly Legislative Route 246, in Marshall Township. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Committee on Public Works.  
7779-13.

MR. CATANESE: A resolution of the County of Allegheny, amending the Grants and Special Accounts Budget for 2013 (Submission 8-13). Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Committee on Budget and Finance. Notification of Contracts. 7780-13.

MR. CATANESE: Summary of Executive actions for all departments, from 9/1/13 through 9/30/13.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Receive and file. Do we need a motion on that?

MR. FINNERTY: I make a motion to receive and file.

MS. GREEN HAWKINS: Second.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Moved and second. Question?  
All in favor?

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Opposed? So ordered.  
Public Comment on Agenda Items.

MR. CATANESE: We have nine.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: We have nine speakers; the first speaker, Ronald Lynn Miller. Ronald Lynn Miller.

MR. FUTULES: He's not here.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: He's not here; okay.  
Bridget Shields? Bridget?

MS. SHIELDS: Hi, everybody. Bridget Shields, 2329 Tilbury Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA. I'm here tonight again on the moratorium for drilling in Deer Lake Park. I just made copies for each of you of the October 4th Post-Gazette article about the Friends of South Park agreeing with Mr. Fitzgerald on coal mining. They did not; he lied about that. And there is testimony in the Post-Gazette that he'll (indicating) pass out to you. And also, I don't know if all of you have seen the latest report on high levels of radiation from fracking waste found in the Pennsylvania rivers and a creek that flows into the Allegheny River.

It's not on our national news. It hasn't been broadcasted anywhere. I don't know why. But we have a major problem in Pennsylvania, and it's radioactivity at 200 times the allotted amount in the Allegheny River. Now, I don't know about you, but it's not getting better, it's getting worse. So I --- also in your packet I put a list of the upcoming events that are happening for you to maybe attend and find out more about what this industry is doing. And the one that I think you should all really know is, on November 12th, Tony Ingraffea from Cornell University, is the engineer that helped in designing the fracturing process --- hydraulic fracturing. He's now one of the most outspoken people against this industry. And he's going to be here at the Heinz History Center on November 12th, and I would highly recommend you to attend and ask him any questions that you might have concerning this industry.

Also, tomorrow night in Lawrenceville, there's a meeting with some gas drillers, workers from the gas industry. And they're having a little presentation and a question-and-answer period, and I would ask that some of you please attend; and if not, have somebody attend in your presence and ask questions. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Thank you very much. Peter Wray? Peter, I'm not sure if you pronounce the W here; correct me when you get up there.

MR. WRAY: Yes, silent W. Good evening. I reside at 110 Royal Oak Avenue, Pittsburgh, 15235. And this evening I speak on behalf of the Executive Committee of the Allegheny Group of the Sierra Club. It's been reported that the County Executive is pursuing proposals for mining of coal beneath South Park. This latest move by the County Executive can be seen as but one other step

in an overall plan to use industrial scale development of the regional county park system as a source of revenue. Coal mining in South Park would not only forever change the character of the park, it would also result in significant and continuous truck traffic, noise and pollution, and pollution to local streams that will serve to repel any recreational visitors and compromise the safety of others who use the same roads as the trucks.

Over the past few weeks, you have heard many people explain why a three-year moratorium is necessary to allow thoughtful deliberation of the risks and benefits of shale gas drilling in the county park system. The move to mine for coal beneath one of our county parks reinforces the need for that moratorium. We suggest that the moves by the County Executive to drill and mine our parks now make it incumbent upon Council to conduct an overall review of how the regional parks should be funded over the next decade and to develop a robust and sustainable funding plan.

A good place to start would be the Allegheny County Comprehensive Parks Master Plan of 2001. Does that 12-year-old master plan still meet the basic needs of today? What long-term funding is required to meet those needs over the next ten years? And what can we learn from successfully funded park systems around the country; in other words, let's see what other parks have done. In summary, we urge all members of the council to take advantage of a three-year moratorium on any shale gas --- gas drilling activities. We urge you to properly use the available time to work with the public through informational meetings and to develop a comprehensive, sustainable, long-term funding program, a program that will not, in any way, depend on damaging the environmental integrity of our regional parks. Thank you.

I would just like to say, it was very comforting to hear that the County Executive and the budget is moving forward on the downtown-to-Oakland area and using public transport, which is something that's great. And it was encouraging to hear about the bioswales that's being developed, which the clean water campaign has been working on. And I would caution you about putting too much stake in Boyce Park's ski area. Just remember, there is a climate change occurring, and you know what's happening to some of the other resorts. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Thank you. Joni Rabinowitz?

MR. FUTULES: Global warming.

MS. RABINOWITZ: Year round skiing at Boyce Park. I don't know. I'm Joni Rabinowitz. I live at 7721 Edgerton Avenue, Pittsburgh, 15221. I want to second the proposal that Council let the committee --- the Government Reform Committee hold a meeting very soon on the moratorium proposal that was made by Barbara Daly Danko. And since you said there would be a meeting next week, I hope it will be on the website when it's going to be, so those of us who wish to observe the meeting will be able to know about it in advance. Secondly, I want to --- again, as somebody mentioned already, this series I gave -- I handed out some of these flyers to some of you. But this series tomorrow, which begins tomorrow --- hearing from workers --- actually, workers who work in the shale fields who are telling their stories, is something that we haven't had very much opportunity to have before, to talk and learn from the workers themselves, as opposed to the people who --- who are living in this location.

So I'm really looking forward to hearing from these workers and hearing what the questions and answers will be, and I hope that you will also attend; or as many of you as possible will attend. I also want to urge those of you who have missed some of the meetings here there has been excellent testimony on the fracking issue and on the hydraulic fracking issue and on the situation at Deer Lakes Park --- for those of you who haven't been at some of those meetings, to take the time to go back and look at the videos. There has been excellent testimony over the last three or four meetings here, that's gone on from many, many people with very, very --- very knowledgeable people on the subject.

And I hope that all of you will be able to take advantage of the testimony that's been given before. And finally, I just want to remind you that every day there's new places all over the world that are passing bans on fracking. You can find this online. Belgium, I think --- I'm not going to say it, because I don't --- I have a very bad memory. But I know that there are cities, there are places in New York State that are passing bans. Every single month there's new ones that passed bans. So to me, we need a ban here, and we need to begin with a moratorium for three years, so we can study the possibilities of what could happen as a result of fracking. Oh, and finally --- yes, young people are moving here. Everybody talks about

this. Rich talked about how we have more and more young people moving here. If I had children who wanted to move here, I wouldn't expect that they would want to come to a place where their county parks are being decimated by drilling and by coal mining. It seems like a backwards move to me, so I hope that you will consider that, as well. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Thank you. Mel Packer?

Mel?

MR. PACKER: Oh, Joe's going to hate me.

MR. CATANESE: For what?

MR. PACKER: Just in case. I'm not going to bother him. He just went out. I think you already know about this. This is tomorrow night. Other people referred to it. Mel Packer, 623 Kirtland Street, Point Breeze section. Two to three meetings ago, I think it was Councilwoman Heidelbaugh suggested that when we speak about fracking, we should lay off on the emotional stuff and try and present some scientific evidence and more studies. I believe it was you that said that. And that was good advice, I think, that it's okay to do that but also to present more evidence. So what I'm handing out to you is two different articles about a study that's been done by Duke University. You may have heard about it from Bridget Shields, as well, and that was just released on October 1st or October 2nd specifically talking about radiation in our rivers and in our streams. I'm going to read to you from one of the articles in Bloomberg Magazine, hardly a fracktivist publication. And the other one is from the Smithsonian, again, hardly a fracktivist publication Sediment in Blacklick Creek, which dumps into the Allegheny River, contained radium in concentrations 200 times above normal, 200 times above the allowable limits, in a study published in the journal, Environmental Science and Technology. And it came from the Josephine Brine Treatment Facility 45 miles East of Pittsburgh, which treats wastewater from oil and gas.

The absolute levels that we found are much higher than what we allow in the U.S. for anyplace to dump radioactive material, said Avner Vengosh, a professor at the Nicholas School of the Environment and a co-author of the study. The radium will be bio-accumulating. It will get into the fish. For decades, we have disposed of wastewater from oil and gas drilling at commercial treatment plants discharging into rivers and streams. We

have had a 570 percent increase in the volume of drilling wastewater since 2004, according to Brian Lutz. As much as 80 percent of that fluid returns, according to Lutz. And as he said, water treatment has been Pennsylvania's go-to method for decades. With fracking, we're seeing these systems being overwhelmed. We are taking too much waste, leading to water quality problems.

He goes on to say, we're getting better at reducing the amount of wastewater produced by shale wells, but the total wastewater volume continues to grow rapidly. There simply is not disposal infrastructure in place. Aquatech, which acquired the Jospehine plant, insists that they're not doing this anymore; but in fact, the study shows they are still dumping wastewater and they're still processing it. It's still showing up.

Finally, I just want to think --- I want you to think about Deer Lakes Park and think of the water spray park. Think of those three tiny lakes where kids learn to fish. It's kind of a Norman Rockwell scene out there, frankly.

And think of what happens if that kind of radiation gets into that water, gets into those drinking fountains, gets into that water spray park. Imagine Fukushima on a smaller scale, folks. That's what we're talking about. Try to imagine what can happen to children playing in this, exposed to chemicals and radiation. Try to --- I know this is a hard thing to think about. What happens to developing eggs in a female womb when you're exposed to this, when you drink water like that, when you get the chemicals into your body, and what you could say to the family on down the road who got a malformed child who's born, perhaps because of toxic accumulation in the body, toxic mutations that happened in the female. What do we say to those people? If the best answer we give is, well, we got new picnic tables, then we deserve every bit of wrath and condemnation that falls upon our heads. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Mr. Packer, a council member has a question.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: Yeah, I don't have a question for you, but thank you. I have a question for Mr. Cambest. I had asked our solicitor ---

PRESIDENT MARTONI: I'm sorry.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: --- to provide me and Council with an opinion. Now, I received from Mr. Szefi a CD with all of the deeds from Deer Lakes.

MR. CAMBEST: I asked him to prepare that for you and he was to get that to me.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: Do you have a copy of this?

MR. CAMBEST: I may have it in the office. But I haven't seen it.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: So what I still am seeking though is an opinion from your office in regard to looking at all of the deeds, putting the land into the park. I don't know if this is all or not, I'll look at it as well as a lawyer but I'd like your office to do this as well. And to also look at all the state laws, county laws, regulations and to give us an opinion as our Council as to whether there's any existing legal prohibition on drilling underneath the parks.

MR. CAMBEST: You and I did discuss those issues, if there's any reservation of right or those sorts of issues.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: So could we perhaps --- I don't want to push you too hard ---.

MR. CAMBEST: Can I have it next week for your meeting? Probably not. But I'll try to get it in as soon as I can.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: If we could get it within the next couple of weeks, I would really appreciate that. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Thank you. Sorry to have misunderstood. Terri Supowitz, Terry, are you here? You are here.

MS. SUPOWITZ: Hi. I'm Terry Supowitz. I live, breathe and garden at 310 Hay Street in Wilkinsburg. I keep writing these every week and I go okay, what do you need to hear? What will convince you that fracking in the parks is a bad idea? We've told you about water pollution. We've told you about air pollution. We've told you about what it does to the soil. There is nothing good about fracking, except some corporation's made some money. And maybe the parks will get some money but that money will have to be used to clean up the mess that the fracking is going to create.

I don't have an answer but I do have a question for you. If there are questions that you all have, write them down, ask us. You have all of our phone numbers.

You know where we live. You probably have most of our e-mail addresses. What do you want to know? What are your questions? And then we can try to answer them, not that all of us have all of the answers but we can certainly try.

You've heard about Rich Fitzgerald and South Park. He lied. That's a lie. What else is he lying about? And now the radiation in Blacklick Creek is going in to the rivers where we use that water, that's what we drink, that's what you drink, your kids drink, your grandchildren drink, my grandchildren drink. We want that? That's just the beginning of this. It's not the end, it's just the beginning.

And I want to refer to what Mel Packer said about women, you know, young children and their eggs and women having babies. It's not going to happen the day after if you do frack in the park. It's not going to happen then. And it may not even happen until ten years later but there is a connection. And it will happen if these kids get exposed to radiation.

So my conclusion --- oh, a few places that have banned fracking, France, Bulgaria, Romania, South Africa, Germany, the Czech Republic, Ireland, North Ireland, United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Australia, New Zealand, British Columbia, Quebec. There are huge places on the map that are banning it and saying that this is not the right thing to do. So it's not a done deal in my head. You can say no. And that's what I'm asking you to do, to say no to fracking for at least three years and to please support Barbara Daly Danko's moratorium on drilling. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Thank you. Jacob Weinberg; one more time, Jacob Weinberg? Timothy Ludwig?

MR. LUDWIG: Hello, I'm Tim Ludwig, 18 Greismere Street, Etna. Etna is right on the corner of --- it's right where 28 and Route 8 meet. I mention that because of the increased truck traffic that might happen if there is drilling in Deer Lakes. I don't know where this water is going to come from but it very well could pass through that corridor.

It's estimated about 1,000 trucks per well drilled. The Executive said there would at least be three wells so that's 3,000 more trucks surrounding properties, could be more wells, you know, could be ten, could be up to 10,000 trucks. You guys mentioned the Hawthorne Street

area, very close to that area. Just think about 10,000 more trucks coming by.

Again, Mr. Fitzgerald always stresses following DEP regulations. Let's talk a little bit of what DEP regulations are. The industry is aggressively pushing local and state officials to change the regulations that are being implemented. Act 13, as you guys hopefully know, was passed, is still being litigated. And that's what the moratorium is asking to --- let's stop and see what's happening with Act 13. If you don't know, Act 13 is a new law that cuts local government rights of zoning and long-term planning, doesn't allow for local health and environmental regulations, forbids municipalities to appeal state decisions about well permits. Just a couple meetings ago you had a health inspector saying you guys have an inspector inside the Clarion Coal Works every day. Do you know how many regulators there are across the state? Seventy-eight (78) regulators across the state. You guys can't supplement that at all if you want any clean air regulations in your county, it's forbidden by state law. One way you can stop that, ban it, don't do it, don't sell it.

This law also requires companies to provide fresh water to areas that are contaminated --- when they contaminate the water supply but it does not require the company to clean up pollution afterwards. It also doesn't require companies to track transportation or deposit contaminated wastewater. That is why our rivers now are becoming radioactive, our streams, soon our rivers. They mentioned the health effects. Imagine if everyone went down to the Point and saw a radioactive duck instead of this little blow-up duck here. That would be kind of scary.

The Act 13 also allows companies to place wells 300 feet from houses, streams and wetlands. It allows compressor stations to be placed 750 feet from houses. And it gives gas companies authority to operate these stations continuously up to 60 decibels, which is equivalent of continuous conversation in a restaurant. That's just a little brief thing about Act 13. We need to hear what's going to be finalized with that. State laws are pushing you guys's laws out here. We need to hear what the state is going to do before you guys make a decision on drilling. Thanks.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Thank you, Time. Lucas Lyons?

MR. LYONS: Lucas Lyons, 1902 Meadville Street, North Side. I lost my voice. I went to the last two Pirate games so excuse me. First of all, real quick on the North Side connector that was mentioned. Real quick, it's a national disgrace. That's mentioned as one of the prime examples of pork barrel spending internationally --- or excuse me, nationally. Also, on the subject of nationally, we are under the microscope nationally. These reports are coming in the Washington Times, they're coming out in the Los Angeles Times. Other cities are reporting what's happening in western Pennsylvania. So if you don't know what's going on, and the rest of the world does, we need to educate ourselves. That's all I'll say about that.

So it's looking like this is just going to keep moving along swimmingly and Rich Fitzgerald is going to get, you know, fracking where he wants it. I don't know if anyone is going to stand up and fight for our County parks that we know. We don't get to sell to anyone we want to. But I'm going to --- seriously, I'm going to beg Council. First of all, thank you for eight of you staying. I really appreciate that. I've been frustrating. I'm not talking to you obviously. I appreciate it. But I mean --- empty chairs. Every time we --- we take the time out of our schedules to come down and talk to you.

Things I'm going to beg from you. Reinstate the Safe Drinking Water Act if you're going to allow fracking in, around, under and over our County parks; okay? For those of you that don't know, why is that radioactive waste allowed to be in our rivers? Why are we finding like --- I did a little thing last week about the overall, hundreds of thousands of gallons of waste material, radioactive material, heavy metals, hydrofluoric carbons, carcinogens. You name it. I think I added up four of the 13 contaminants that they said they're going to use in the impact report over at the airport, okay. And that's only what they're telling us. They're not obviously telling us about this radioactive materials. But before you allow fracking, reinstate the Safe Drinking Water Act that Dick Cheney carved out of our national law, okay, it's very important.

Second, I would like this Council --- with the three-year moratorium, we need an impact study. I read the impact study out at the airport. It's written for like a middle schooler. Honestly, it's almost offensive how much they brush over what they're doing over there, okay. We need Duquesne University, we need Pitt, we need CMU, we need our environmental engineers, we need people to independently study the economic impact, the environmental impact and we don't need a report from Consol Energy on what's going to happen over there. We don't need a report from Range Resources either because they're even worse and they're based out of Texas and they could care less about what they do here. Thank you.

MR. FUTULES: Mr. President?

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Yes.

MR. FUTULES: I'd like a point of privilege, please?

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Sure. Sure.

MR. FUTULES: I'd like to thank everyone for coming. You've been very diligent. But I don't --- Terri, you made a comment on the fact that we're not listening, we're not --- we haven't even had a committee meeting yet. But we're listening.

MS. SUPOWITZ: I didn't say that you weren't listening.

MR. FUTULES: Well, you feel like you know how everybody is going to vote but you really don't because quite frankly, we don't. I've read this in my e-mail with Dave Buchewicz, and it says, Council of Friends voted yes that the County should put out an RFP. All we did was say get the request for proposal and find out what's there, how much is there and what are the risks and rewards? Then he says, please make it clear that I only voted for an RFP. What the heck do you think an RFP is? They should have said we're not interested no matter what's under here. That's what they should have said. Don't put an RFP out, we're not interested in coal mining no matter how much coal is under it. This is an admission saying they're in favor of looking at it.

MS. SUPOWITZ: Mr. Fitzgerald said.

MR. FUTULES: So maybe I'm wrong.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: They claim to be in support of drilling of the coal mines.

MR. FUTULES: I'm not looking for you to respond, quite frankly, I'm making a statement. I have my

time up here just like you folks did. But as far as I'm concerned, they're giving permission. I'm not in favor of coal mining at South Park. I'm on record in the paper saying I'm against it; okay? But you guys are telling me something that's different here. Thank you.

MR. BURN: Mr. President?

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Yes, Jim. Yes?

MR. BURN: I just have a question for either Jared or Mr. Cambest on the litigation on Act 13. My understanding is it's been briefed and argued before the Pennsylvania State Supreme Court. How long ago were the oral arguments?

MR. CAMBEST: I'm not sure of that.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: A year.

MR. BURN: A year? Okay. Thanks.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Any other questions? I think it's time for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

MR. DEFAZIO: Motion.

(Chorus of seconds.)

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Second. Question? All in favor?

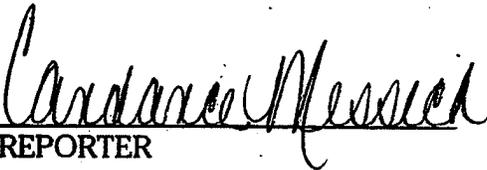
(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT MARTONI: The meeting stands adjourned.

MEETING CONCLUDED AT 6:51 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.

  
REPORTER