

ALLEGHENY COUNTY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

- - -

BEFORE:

John P. DeFazio	-	President
Nicholas Futules (Via Telephone)	-	Vice President, District 7
Samuel DeMarco, III	-	Council-At-Large
Thomas Baker	-	District 1
Cindy Kirk	-	District 2 (Via Telephone)
Anita Prizio	-	District 3
Patrick Catena	-	District 4
Sue Means	-	District 5
John F. Palmiere	-	District 6
Paul Zavarella	-	District 8
Robert J. Macey	-	District 9
Dewitt Walton	-	District 10
Paul Klein	-	District 11
Robert Palmosina	-	District 12
Denise Ranalli-Russell	-	District 13

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

Tuesday, December 3, 2019 - 5:06 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:

Jared Barker - Director of Legislative Services
Jack Cambest - Allegheny County Council Solicitor
Ken Varhola - Chief of Staff
Sarah Roka - Budget Assistant

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: The meeting will come to order. Will you all rise for the Pledge of Allegiance of the flag and remain standing for silent prayer and reflection?

(Pledge of Allegiance.)

(Silent Prayer or Reflection.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Roll call?

MR. BARKER: Mr. Baker?
MR. BAKER: Here.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Catena?
MR. CATENA: Here.
MR. BARKER: Mr. DeMarco?
MR. DEMARCO: Here.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Futules?
MR. FUTULES: Here.
MR. BARKER: Ms. Kirk?
MS. KIRK: Here.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Klein?
MR. KLEIN: Here.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Macey?
MR. MACEY: Here.
MR. BARKER: Ms. Means?
MS. MEANS: Here.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Palmiere?
MR. PALMIERE: Here.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Pamosina?
MR. PALMOSINA: Here.
MR. BARKER: Ms. Prizio?
MS. PRIZIO: Here.
MR. BARKER: Ms. Ranalli-Russell?
MS. RANALLI-RUSSELL: Here.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Walton?
MR. WALTON: Here.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Zavarella?
MR. ZAVARELLA: Here.
MR. BARKER: President DeFazio?
PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Here.

MR. BARKER: All 15 members are present.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay. 11314-19.

MR. BARKER: A proclamation congratulating Chief Information Officer of the Division of Computer Services Joe Gavlik upon the occasion of receiving the Frank J. Lucchino Distinguished Service Award, sponsored by Councilmember Macey and all other members of council.

MR. MACEY: I'd like to introduce Mr. Joe and Mrs. Gavlik to the crowd here. And one of the things I --- I really appreciate doing as a county councilperson, besides getting hollered at and picked on, is being able to share people's accomplishments and their attainments and their milestones. And I think that Joe has certainly done that. He just mentioned to me that he was here for 49 years. There's not too many people that can say that in any occupation.

So with that being said, whereas Chief Information Officer Joe Gavlik of the Division of Computer Services was selected as the 2019 recipient of the Frank J. Lucchino Distinguished Service Award. Whereas, during the summer of 1969 Joe worked for the county as a temporary laborer and became a full time employee on November 16th, 1970, as a messenger with the County's Bureau of Systems and Computer Services. Today Joe is Chief Information Officer, CIO, for the county, serving as division manager of the Computer Services. And whereas Joe began working for the county before the county had purchased the first computer. However, whenever the county did, he became a computer operator. He was extremely self-motivated and read all the manuals to learn a lot of --- many of the tasks and was eventually promoted to the shift supervisor. And whereas, after numerous promotions with increasing responsibility, Joe was eventually named CIO of the Division of Computer Services in 2013. And, whereas, Joe's impressive history with the county and knowledge of computer information technology truly makes him an invaluable source of information for the county.

Over the years, Joe was influential in ensuring the services in the county were consolidation so that the systems talked to each other, which also saved money, increased services and made employees more efficient. He was also involved in the installation of high speed fiberoptic networks, guided the upgrades, and preparation before Y2K, and has overseen the creation of new data centers, and whereas, after graduating from Duquesne High School, Joe studied computer programming operations and --- and accounting at the School of Computer Technology. This led him on the path to eventually become CIO of the Division of Computer Services.

WHEREAS, Joe's time with the county was only

interrupted by six months --- it was a leave in 1971 where he was on active duty with the U.S. Marines. Thank you for your service, sir.

WHEREAS, Allegheny County is grateful for the service and dedication of Chief Information Officer Joe Gavlik and his determination to provide superior computer service to the county.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I and all the county council do hereby recognize and congratulate Chief Information Officer Joe Gavlik of the Division of Computer Sciences upon the occasion of receiving the Frank J. Lucchino Distinguished Service Award. And on behalf of Allegheny County Council, I commend him for all that he has done for the county each and every day. Congratulations.

We're not going to let you off the hook. Are you going to say something?

MR. GAVLIK: I want to thank you, Mr. Macey, for this honor and the rest of the council. I also would be not a very good steward if I didn't thank Mr. McCain. Mr. McCain has been a very valuable resource to this county, and has helped my department out quite immensely. I also want to recognize two guys in the back who will be taking over, Jason Ditzenberger who will be Chief --- new Chief Information Office and Mike Kosko, who will be the Deputy CIO. These two gentlemen will surely lead the county in a great direction. And I thank you all very much.

MR. DEMARCO: Mr. President?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Yes.

MR. DEMARCO: I don't know how many folks remember, but the first year that I was here in council we held our budget hearings. At the time we didn't have WiFi up here in the gold room, and we just brought it up, and by 10 o'clock the next morning Mr. Gavlik had WiFi here in the gold room. So that's just another example of the great work he's done for the county. I wanted to recognize him on that. Thanks, Joe.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay. 11315-19.

MR. BARKER: A proclamation declaring December 3rd, 2019 to be Giving Tuesday in Allegheny County. Sponsored by Councilmember Prizio.

MS. PRIZIO: I'm so excited to be able to give this proclamation after Cyber Monday and Black Friday. We do need a Giving Tuesday for sure. So and whereas, in 2012 Giving Tuesday was created as a day to encourage

people to do good. Over the last several years, it has grown into a global movement that has inspired hundreds and millions of people to give, collaborate and celebrate generosity. Giving Tuesday is a national day of giving, and occurs on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving, Black Friday and Cyber Monday, and it is a day for celebrating philanthropy and volunteerism. It is a day for people to give back to their community. And I have here Big Pittsburgh is an online giving day hosted by Pittsburgh Magazine created to support nonprofits doing great work throughout Allegheny County. Leveraging the national awareness of Giving Tuesday, hundreds of nonprofits throughout Pittsburgh and the surrounding areas will work together to raise awareness, collect donations and build a stronger sense of philanthropy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Allegheny County Councilmember Anita Prizio, hereby declare Tuesday as Giving Tuesday in Allegheny County, and I encourage all Allegheny County residents and all members of council to serve others and give back during this holiday season, and I would like to introduce Big Pittsburgh.

MS. BENSON: Thank you so much. Really appreciate it. My name's Betsy Benson. I'm a publisher of Pittsburgh Magazine, and I'm here with Katie Miller, our Events Coordinator, who coordinates Give Big Pittsburgh, and we also have Mike ---

MR. FOSTER: Foster.

MS. BENSON: --- Foster, sorry, Mike Foster from JP Morgan Private Bank, and Brian Hyslop, our Editor at Pittsburgh Magazine. Give Big Pittsburgh is one of the single most gratifying things that we do at the magazine. And the simple reason why is if you simply check your Give Big Pittsburgh website today, you'll see that today on this platform, and I'm waiting for the tally to go up, 4,825 single donors have raised \$989,789 so we're literally just minutes away from breaking the million dollar mark, and that money has gone to 368 individual organizations that are based in Pittsburgh.

So it's really an incredible outpouring of generosity. It happens to all flow through this site that we made available to them. Free, easy, fun. You can scroll down, see who is giving how much to what organizations. You can read the leaderboard and see that the Light of Life Rescue Mission so far today has raised \$100,000 from 389 individual donors through this platform.

And it's great to see these small organizations with a great grassroots foundation really making crowdsourcing work for them as a major revenue stream to fund their very important missions. And I said, we are just --- I'm hitting refresh so I can check to see what the amount is. I was hoping to break a million while I was in this room, but we're at \$989,739. I'm sure it will go up any minute.

But one of the great things about hitting a million is with people like Mike with JP Morgan Private Bank, he has donated a huge cash prize, and the --- the nonprofit that is responsible for getting the gift that puts us over a million will get an extra \$1,000 from JP Morgan Private Bank. So it's sponsors like that that kind of raise the stakes and make that prize more fun for all nonprofits. So thanks for letting me talk about it, and Give Big Pittsburgh. There's plenty of time yet to give.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: 11316-19 and the rest will be read into the record.

MR. BARKER: 11316-19, a proclamation recognizing Noelle and David Conovor for their dedication to Mount Lebanon School District and the development of Maker Spaces. Sponsored by Councilmember Means.

11317-19. A certificate of recognition presented to Steve and Erica Diethorn, the owners of Ma and Pop's Country Kitchen for offering free Thanksgiving meals to those in need. Sponsored by Councilmember Means.

11318-19. A certificate of recognition presented to Ernie Gothie for his 50 years of dedicated service to West Mifflin Volunteer Fire Department Number Three. Sponsored by Councilmember Macey.

11319-19. A certificate of recognition presented to Millvale Borough for their essential role in developing the Tri-Borough Eco District. Sponsored by Councilmember Prizio.

11320-19. A certificate of recognition presented to Sharpsburg Borough for their essential role in developing the Tri-Borough Eco District. Sponsored by Councilmember Prizio.

11321-19. A certificate of recognition presented to TREA, The Enlisted Association, for their dedication to all uniform services, enlisted personnel, their families and survivors. Sponsored by Councilmember Kirk.

And 11322-19. A proclamation recognizing Attorney Keith Donnelly upon his retirement. Sponsored by Councilmember Zavarella and all other members of council.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Public comment? We have none?

MR. BARKER: We have none on the agenda.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Presentation of appointments?

MR. BARKER: Also none.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: What about approval of minutes?

MR. BARKER: Also none.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay. Unfinished business. 11241-19.

MR. BARKER: An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, establishing the tax levy upon all real property subject to taxation within the limits of Allegheny County. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Representative Klein, do you want to say anything?

MR. KLEIN: Yes. At --- at its meeting on November the 26th, 2019, the Committee on Budget and Finance considered the above resolution and it is brought before council at this time with affirmative recommendation. And I move for its approval.

MR. MACEY: Second.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Under remarks? Seeing none, all those in favor signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Oh, that's an ordinance. Give us a read out.

MR. BARKER: On the motion to approve, Mr. Baker?

MR. BAKER: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Catena?

MR. CATENA: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. DeMarco?

MR. DEMARCO: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Futules?

MR. FUTULES: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Kirk?

MS. KIRK: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Klein?

MR. KLEIN: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Macey?
MR. MACEY: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Ms. Means?
MS. MEANS: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Palmiere?
MR. PALMIERE: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Palmosina?
MR. PALMOSINA: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Ms. Prizio?
MS. PRIZIO: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Ms. Ranalli-Russell?
MS. RANALLI-RUSSELL: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Walton?
MR. WALTON: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Zavarella?
MR. ZAVARELLA: Yes.
MR. BARKER: President DeFazio.
PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Ayes 15, noes 0. The bill passes.
PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: 11305-19.

MR. BARKER: 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 the expenses of conducting the public business of Allegheny County and for meeting debt charges for the fiscal year beginning January 1st, 2020 and ending December 31st, 2020. Sponsored by Councilmember Klein.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Representative Klein?

MR. KLEIN: Thank you, Mr. President. At its meeting on November 26th, 2019, the Committee on Budget and Finance considered this resolution and it is brought before this council with an affirmative recommendation. And at this time I move for approval.

MR. MACEY: Second.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Under remarks? Seeing none, we'll have a roll call.

MR. BARKER: On the motion to approve, Mr. Baker?

MR. BAKER: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Catena?
MR. CATENA: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Mr. DeMarco?
MR. DEMARCO: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Futules?
MR. FUTULES: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Ms. Kirk?
MS. KIRK: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Klein?
MR. KLEIN: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Macey?
MR. MACEY: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Ms. Means?
MS. MEANS: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Palmiere?
MR. PALMIERE: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Pالموسينا?
MR. PALMOSINA: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Ms. Prizio?
MS. PRIZIO: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Ms. Ranalli-Russell?
MS. RANALLI-RUSSELL: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Walton?
MR. WALTON: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Zavarella?
MR. ZAVARELLA: Yes.
MR. BARKER: President DeFazio?
MR. DEFAZIO: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Ayes 15, noes 0. The bill passes.
PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Is that 11305?
MR. BARKER: That was 11305, correct.
PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay. We'll go with

11306-19.

MR. BARKER: 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, 2020 and ending December 31st, 2020. Sponsored by Councilmember Klein.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Representative Klein?

MR. KLEIN: Thank you, Mr. President. At its meeting on November 26th, the Committee on Budget and Finance considered this resolution and it is brought before this council with an affirmative recommendation. At this time, I move for approval.

MR. CATENA: Second.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Under remarks? Seeing none, we'll have the role call vote.

MR. BARKER: On the motion to approve, Mr. Baker?

MR. BAKER: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Catena?

MR. CATENA: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. DeMarco?

MR. DEMARCO: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Futules?

MR. FUTULES: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Kirk?

MS. KIRK: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Klein?

MR. KLEIN: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Macey?

MR. MACEY: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Means?

MS. MEANS: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Palmiere?

MR. PALMIERE: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Palmosina?

MR. PALMOSINA: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Prizio?

MS. PRIZIO: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Ranalli-Russell?

MS. RANALLI-RUSSELL: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Walton?

MR. WALTON: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Zavarella?

MR. ZAVARELLA: Yes.

MR. BARKER: President DeFazio?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Yes.

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

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: 11307-19.

MR. BARKER: 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, 2020 and ending December 31st, 2020. Sponsored by Councilmember Klein.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Representative Klein?

MR. KLEIN: Thank you, Mr. President. As you can see, this was a very productive meeting. At that

meeting on November 26th, the Committee on Budget and Finance considered this resolution, and it is brought before this council with an affirmative recommendation. And at this time, I move for approval by council.

MS. MEANS: Second.

MR. MACEY: Second.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Under remarks? Seeing none, we'll go with the roll call vote.

MR. BARKER: On the motion to approve, Mr. Baker?

MR. BAKER: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Catena?

MR. CATENA: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. DeMarco?

MR. DEMARCO: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Futules?

MR. FUTULES: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Kirk?

MS. KIRK: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Klein?

MR. KLEIN: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Macey?

MR. MACEY: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Means?

MS. MEANS: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Palmiere?

MR. PALMIERE: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Pamosina?

MR. PALMOSINA: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Prizio?

MS. PRIZIO: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Ranalli-Russell?

MS. RANALLI-RUSSELL: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Walton?

MR. WALTON: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Zavarella?

MR. ZAVARELLA: Yes.

MR. BARKER: President DeFazio?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Yes.

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

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: 11308-19.

MR. BARKER: A resolution of the County of Allegheny amending the capital budgets for 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Representative Klein?

MR. KLEIN: Thank you, Mr. President. And I wonder if at this time, Mr. Willie, just for purposes of clarification or the edification of people in the room, if he could talk a bit about this resolution.

MR. MCKAIN: Sure. When we went to the Budget and Finance Committee, the way that we talked about it is that capital projects by definition are longer than one year. So when the council approves that, we have the appropriations to finish the project. Roads, bridges, buildings, facilities, parks, just by its nature sometimes take longer than one year. So periodically what we'll do is we'll sit down with the budget office and the departments and see if any projects are closed or if there's any balances that we can then ask council to repurpose them back to projects that come to our attention or council's attention years later.

The majority of these, even though they're over multiple years, are bridge projects that we got reimbursed by either the Commonwealth or the federal government and that there's still balances. So when we accumulated all these balances --- and we haven't done this for --- for many years. It was \$6.8 million. And our recommendation to council and what's in front of the full body right now is to move dollars for public works road equipment so they can continue the Roads Program with a widener and some other equipment. In-house paving, we're asking for half a million dollars.

You just mentioned Joe Gavlik and Jason's taking his spot. Council has approved in the previous agenda creating a new Information and Technology Department. We'd like to give them another \$1 million to help them implement a lot of their strategies and innovations.

County facilities we're recommending to get \$1.5 million. We have a lot of work to do and all of our capital buildings, the courtrooms, and --- and throughout the county government. County rehabilitation is \$1.5 million. That's in this transfer. And the last one is almost \$1.8 million, like \$1,760,000, and that's landslides. And every council member at one point or another has told me their district has been impacted by landslides.

So this is us asking your permission to take money that is left over in projects that have been completed and transferred in to complement the budget that

you just approved a couple minutes ago in capital to have a robust --- an even more robust Roads Program, facilities program, improvements and landslides. And that's what we're asking permission to do today, Mr. Klein.

MR. KLEIN: Thank you very much, Mr. McKain. Appreciate the --- the clarification.

Continuing a --- at its meeting on November 26th, the Committee of Budget and Finance considered this resolution, and it is brought before this council at this time with affirmative recommendation. And I so move for approval.

MS. MEANS: Second.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Under remarks? Seeing none, we'll have the roll call.

MR. BARKER: On the motion to approve, Mr. Baker?

MR. BAKER:	Yes.
MR. BARKER:	Mr. Catena?
MR. CATENA:	Yes.
MR. BARKER:	Mr. DeMarco?
MR. DEMARCO:	Yes.
MR. BARKER:	Mr. Futules?
MR. FUTULES:	Yes.
MR. BARKER:	Ms. Kirk?
MS. KIRK:	Yes.
MR. BARKER:	Mr. Klein?
MR. KLEIN:	Yes.
MR. BARKER:	Mr. Macey?
MR. MACEY:	Yes.
MR. BARKER:	Ms. Means?
MS. MEANS:	Yes.
MR. BARKER:	Mr. Palmiere?
MR. PALMIERE:	Yes.
MR. BARKER:	Mr. Palmosina?
MR. PALMOSINA:	Yes.
MR. BARKER:	Ms. Prizio?
MS. PRIZIO:	Yes.
MR. BARKER:	Ms. Ranalli-Russell?
MS. RANALLI-RUSSELL:	Yes.
MR. BARKER:	Mr. Walton?
MR. WALTON:	Yes.
MR. BARKER:	Mr. Zavarella?
MR. ZAVARELLA:	Yes.
MR. BARKER:	President DeFazio.
PRESIDENT DEFAZIO:	Yes.

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

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Liaison reports.

MR. BAKER: Sure, I'll do a fast one.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Go ahead.

MR. BAKER: Thanks, Mr. DeFazio. Last Monday was actually my last --- my last meeting as the interim chair of the --- or Chair of the Interim Board of Elections, and I just wanted to thank everyone that enabled me to have that opportunity, from my colleagues to the administration. It was --- it was good working with everyone. We did certify the elections that took place in November, so everything became official --- officially at that meeting last Monday and the certificates have already gone out. I've seen a lot of people posting their pictures of their certificates on social media, so it's all definitely official now.

But Manager McKain, I just want to thank you and your team for a wonderful experience. Julie's here, Julie Zavon. And I --- I've mentioned this to Ron Bandes and Jill Diskin and some of the other folks that were involved in the process, and I think a process like that is only as good as the people on --- I want to say both sides, but people that are --- that are sharing issues, sharing thoughts on both sides of an issue, and making sure the government is accountable, and I just really am thankful to --- to Julie and all of her friends that we got to know throughout the course of the year. It was a pleasure to work with Councilmembers DeFazio and Pamosina through the process, and also Judge Hens-Greco.

With that, I would just mention that our Sixth Annual District I holiday party is December 18th. All members of councils are cordially invited. It's at Stoke's Grill in Ross Township. And we always have a nice time. We usually get somebody from all 14 communities in District I there. So it should be a good time. Back to you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Thank you. Seeing no more, we'll move on. We're going on to new business. The 11323-19.

MR. BARKER: An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing the acquisition of certain rights-of-way and temporary easements to facilitate the replacement of the existing structure of the McRobert's Run Bridge No. 2 located in the Borough of Jefferson Hills, and to take such further

action as may be necessary under applicable law, including the Eminent Domain Code. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: That'll be referred to the Committee on Public Works. 11324-19.

MR. BARKER: An Ordinance authorizing the County of Allegheny to acquire by condemnation a temporary construction easement on a parcel of vacant, not assessed, land situated along the southern side of Township Road 373, Naylor Avenue, in order to facilitate the elimination of Gourhead Run Bridge Number One located in Hampton Township, and to take such further action as may be necessary under applicable law, including the Eminent Domain Code. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: That'll be referred to the Committee on Public Works. 11325-19.

MR. BARKER: An ordinance authorizing the Department of Public Works to take certain actions on behalf of County Council with respect to the issuance of highway occupancy permits, the grant of certain licenses, rights of entry and easements, and the amicable acquisition of certain real estate affecting county public work projects and other matters for calendar years 2020 and 2021. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: 11326-19.

MR. BARKER: Sorry. For 11325, refer to the Committee on Public Works again?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Twenty-five (25)?

MR. BARKER: Yes.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay. Yeah.

MR. BARKER: Thank you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: 11325-19.

MR. BARKER: That one was referred to Public Works. Correct?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Yeah.

MR. BARKER: Okay. 11326-19. An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing the acceptance of ownership of the Kenmawr Bridge following its reconstruction and authorizing the transfer of certain right-of-way and easement areas and facilities, to be constructed by Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, along South Braddock Avenue to Swissvale Borough, and to accept and maintain a portion of Kenmawr Avenue from Rankin Borough and to transfer certain right-of-way and easement areas on Jackson Street and on

the relocated Sixth Avenue and such facilities to be constructed by PennDOT to Rankin Borough. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: That'll be referred to the Public Works Committee. 11327-19.

MR. BARKER: A Resolution providing for a program of temporary exemption from County real property taxes for improvements, including repairs, construction, or reconstruction, made on industrial, commercial, or business property in a deteriorated area in the City of Pittsburgh, County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, pursuant to the Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance Act. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: That'll be referred to the Committee on Economic Development and Housing. New business. 11328-19.

MR. BARKER: A motion of the Council of Allegheny County reestablishing the Budget Transfer Committee in accordance with Section 805.03 of the Administrative Code. Sponsored by Councilmember Klein.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Representative Klein?

MR. KLEIN: I am offering a motion to reestablish the Budget Transfer Committee in accordance with Section 805.03 of the Administrative Code. And I offer that motion at this time.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Someone second it?

MR. CATENA: Second.

MS. MEANS: Second.

MR. MACEY: Second.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Second. Okay. Under remarks? Seeing none, we will take a voice vote. All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Those opposed? Ayes have it. Notification of contracts.

MR. BARKER: We have none.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Public comment on general items?

MR. BARKER: We have a pair.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: We have what?

MR. BARKER: Two. First up is Ron Werkmeister.

MR. WERKMEISTER: Do I give my name and address, all that? Right? Okay. Yeah. So Ron Werkmeister, 4750 Robert Drive, Bethel Park, PA, 15102. I have lived in

Allegheny County my whole life and have raised two children and personally know of how vulnerable children are and the many risks that they face in the world. In particular, with drugs, doctors, hospitals, and making bad or irrational decisions. They are to not even treat taking an aspirin or Tylenol as a trivial action. We know that we adults, parents, have the responsibility of keeping our children safe from life altering events like smoking, alcohol or drugs until they are of sound, developed mind and barely --- and body. Basically 18 years old. Heck, they even want to raise the legal age for cigarettes to 21 unless in the military.

We also know how naïve and easily influenced a child is, and the countless studies show that they are continually molding, changing and trying to find themselves for many years. We know that having sex at an early age, prior to 18, is even bad and forbidden, because they again are not mature enough to really know the consequences of such actions. Being a school director, I have learned that we have the responsibility to ensure our students do not engage in harmful activities like in sexual activity of sexting and making out on school property. So why would we take lightly that this proposed life altering event of sex reassignment on an innocent, developing child is logical and in their best interest?

There are numerous studies that confirm actions similar to this have had devastating results, besides the usual dangers that come from most surgeries, like bad reactions to anesthesia, necrosis, blood clots, infections, et cetera, loss of nerve functioning, scarring, adhesions, bowel damage, urine and bladder injuries and an increase in UTIs are all real risk. And we all know what effect hormones have on the health of people, let alone children. And the mental relapse from such drastic, life altering destruction is unbelievably devastating in many cases. As conscientious adults, knowing the obvious risk, we do not want to protect minors from physically harmful therapeutic practices, but we must also allow minors with some parental involvement to seek counseling and information to help deal with these unwanted attractions. Getting a pierced ear is not even close to this level of life altering results.

Also, after reading an article in the Trib paper, I learned that there is a 2018 Supreme Court decision in NIFLA versus Becerra where Justice Clarence

Thomas says that the bans on professional speech, including nonharmful therapy treatments, violates the first amendment on free speech. We would not want to subject our county to wasteful spending on trying to defend such action. Therefore, preventing the harmful therapy practice, we must allow for the common sense therapy and counseling. So please pass Ordinance Number 11223-19 that gives the child an option to allow them to seek the help of a counselor to work through unwanted same sex attraction, feelings or behaviors. If you do not agree on this bill, please tell me why. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Next?

MR. BARKER: Next up is Juliet Zavon.

MS. ZAVON: New voting equipment. What's the county's plan for a successful transition? The county has selected new voting equipment, but we have no news since that decision was announced. According to the timeline at the Election's Division website, as of yesterday, the contract with the vendor has yet to be signed, and the new equipment has not yet been ordered. Is that true? Or has the county failed to update progress on the timeline it created to keep the public informed? Either case reflects poorly on the county. We'll use the new voting equipment in the 2020 elections in less than a year.

How is the county planning to implement this? What steps are involved? What's the timeline? What are best practices in changing voting equipment? Does the Election Assistance Commission have guidelines for this? This commission is an independent bipartisan organization. Among its functions, it's a national clearinghouse for information on election administration. Are there third party organizations that will monitor the process and do quality control? How is the vendor ES&S involved? Unfortunately, ES&S has a history of election security problems, illegal campaign contributions and lavish gifts to elected officials. Their reputation really doesn't inspire public confidence.

Is there a formal or informal activity or mechanism in place to learn from the experiences of other counties and states so we can avoid the pitfalls and use methods that have worked well? And what about the all important poll worker training? In previous public comments, I documented problems. My comments are in the public record. Poll worker training, even with the old

equipment, left much to be desired. These are common sense questions that deserve answers. Without answers and information, what is there to give citizens confidence? People are jittery about problems in the 2020 elections. You and council can play a positive role.

I would like county council to request that updates and news on these issues be posted regularly on the Election's Division website, not just once, not just limply, but firmly and continuously. Providing useful and pertinent information like this is the bedrock of transparency and accountability. It will build confidence in the citizens of this county. I bring this to your attention because your help is needed. I hope you will act.

MR. BARKER: That's it.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Someone want to make a motion?

MR. CATENA: Motion to adjourn.

MR. BAKER: Second.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: All those in favor, signify by saying aye?

(Chorus of ayes).

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Opposed? The ayes have it. Meeting adjourned.

MEETING CONCLUDED AT 5:45 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.

Dated the 15th day of January, 2020


Court Reporter

Juliette Hoffman