

ALLEGHENY COUNTY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

- - -

BEFORE:

Patrick Catena	-	Chair, District 9
Robert Macey	-	Vice-President, District 9
Samuel DeMarco, III	-	Council-at-Large
Bethany Hallam	-	Council-at-Large
Tom Baker	-	District 1
Cindy Kirk	-	District 2
Anita Prizio	-	District 3
Tom Duerr	-	District 5
John Palmiere	-	District 6
Nicholas Futules	-	District 7
Paul Zavarella	-	District 8
DeWitt Walton	-	District 10
Paul Klein	-	District 11
Robert Palmosina	-	District 12
Olivia Bennett	-	District 13

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

Tuesday, December 15, 2020 - 5:01 p.m.

SARGENT'S COURT REPORTING SERVICE, INC.
225 Ross Street Suite 202
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 CATENA: Good evening, everyone. I'd like to call this meeting of Allegheny County Council to order. Please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Pledge of Allegiance.)

PRESIDENT CATENA: Please remain standing for a moment of silence.

(Moment of silence.)

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Jared, please take roll.

JARED BARKER: Mr. Baker?

MR. BAKER: Here.

JARED BARKER: Ms. Bennett?

MS. BENNETT: Here.

JARED BARKER: Mr. DeMarco?

MR. DEMARCO: Here.

JARED BARKER: Mr. Duerr?

MR. DUERR: Here.

JARED BARKER: Mr. Futules?

MR. FUTULES: Here.

JARED BARKER: Ms. Hallam?

MS. HALLAM: Here.

JARED BARKER: Ms. Kirk?

MS. KIRK: Here.

JARED BARKER: Mr. Klein? Mr. Macey?

MR. MACEY: Here.

JARED BARKER: Mr. Palmiere?

MR. PALMIERE: Here.

JARED PARKER: Mr. Palmosina?

MR. PALMOSINA: Here.

JARED BARKER: Ms. Prizio?

MS. PRIZIO: Here.

JARED BARKER: Mr. Walton?

MR. WALTON: Here.

JARED BARKER: Mr. Zavarella?

MR. ZAVARELLA: Here.

JARED BARKER: And President Catena?

PRESIDENT CATENA: Here.

JARED BARKER: We have 14 members present.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Mr. Chief Executive, we'd like to welcome you for your quarterly address.

RICH FITZGERALD: Members of council. The last meeting of the year, you know, takes us back to the first meeting of the year. A year that began with so much hope, so much promise not just here in Allegheny County. We

discovered that we had a Coronavirus, a national - international pandemic coming along our way. And as we come to the end of the year it's the best of times in many ways and I guess I should say the worst of times in many ways. Our numbers continue to rise, locally, cases, hospitalizations, fatalities, same with the state. I think the state has a had a third of the deaths that have occurred or 30 percent just in the last couple weeks compared to what happened the first nine months of the year and obviously nationally we've now passed over 300,000 fatalities have died from COVID-19. The good news is there's a vaccine.

The first shipment arrived yesterday. Some of it here locally, the Pfizer vaccine. We're anticipating that the Moderna vaccine which got approval today is going to go to the FDA for Thursday to also be approved so we'll have two vaccines. And that's the kind of hope all of us need to be able to try to get on the other end of this pandemic.

As you know the Governor just last week issued a three week mitigation strategy, a strategic closing of many facilities and reduction of facilities to try to reduce the spread through January 4. I can tell you that Dr. Bogen and her team are doing some work. They've been working with the Governor and Secretary Levine on that knowing that it's going to bring about pain. There's no question particularly those who work in the hospitality industry with the owners and workers in the restaurant, bar, entertainment venue business. They have been disproportionately affected economically by this pandemic while our unemployment rate has continued to go down a little bit since the beginning. I think it's down to seven, eight percent right now.

It is not that way if you're a restaurant worker, if you're a bar owner, a tavern owner, work in entertainment, et cetera. So all these things put us in a very, very difficult position and we're trying to manage it as best we can. And I want to give our Health Department and all of our employees - and I'll talk about in a minute about all our employees, but I really want to single out the Health Department and what - their contact tracers and epidemiologist and the folks, you know, distributing tests managing the data, trying to come up with strategies to keep people safe in this community. We know how difficult that is.

In our airport I know they just put in - it just announced today that they are testing there for everybody who wants to get on - when they want to get on a plane or get off a plane two different types of tests. One's a rapid antigen, which is about a 15 minute return. I think it costs \$95. I saw that and then there's the more comprehensive PCR test, which you don't get the results back for 24 to 48 hours. It's a little more expensive, but again everybody is trying to deal with this in difficult ways.

I mentioned all of our employees. One of the things that was instituted when I became County Executive nine years ago was the Frank J. Lucchino Award for exemplary work by different employees or a group of employees, which is always a very, very difficult choice that the county manager and his deputies and chief - my chief of staff and others try to make as we have so many good employees.

This year for the first time we decided to give that award to every single employee in Allegheny County. And that wasn't just as a, you know, give everybody a trophy, believe me. It was because a lot of people did a lot of good work through very, very trying circumstances. Whether it was our folks in Human Services, whether it was people in the Health Department, keeping the parks open, our public works workers keeping working, working at the jail, working at the Kanes, working in court records, elections and I will talk a little briefly about elections.

I want to thank those election workers certainly Director Tyskiewicz, Director Voye and Deputy Director Harhut, but also all of the people that literally sat in that warehouse day after day after day counting those hundreds of thousands of ballots going through all of that to make sure that our democracy was handled well. I know my Chief of Staff Jennifer Liptak, Willie McKain, Amie Downs, Andy Szefi I never saw them for a couple weeks because they literally weren't in this courthouse. They were in that warehouse making sure things were being done properly. And there were a lot of people that, you know, you're not going to know their names, but they were over there day after day after day making sure that democracy ran well. So there's just a lot of folks we owe a lot of gratitude of thanks that serve the public during this

very, very trying time and I'm very proud of them, the workers who work for us.

But I know I also want to thank you for passing the budget that you did a couple of weeks ago. I think it was a very responsible budget working together to try to make sure we didn't increase taxes again in a very difficult time. So for the 19th time in the last 20 years this county government had a budget that did not increase the millage. We actually had a little bit of a reduction that was, I think, rightly so during these very difficult times with the pandemic. And I want to thank the manager and the Budget Department and all the Directors who really did a yeoman's job in trying to keep public services out there and managing the cost in a good way. And you think about how we do things. You think about parks.

We had to change so many of the programs and so many of the things we did that are important to people, the summer concert series, the movies that we do, the programming that we do. We did them a lot differently. We did still have movies in the parks. We had movies in three different parks this year in Boyce and in Hartwood and in South Park. Drive-in movies kept people safe, but over 30,000 people showed up to see those drive-in movies. This year the laser show that's going in in North Park that I think almost 30,000 people have showed up to those already. It has been very, very well-received out at the parking lot of the swimming pool in North Park.

So trying to figure out to do things that leave an outlet for people that obviously have a lot of COVID fatigue that is certainly part of what we're going through that continue to do good things, and I want to thank the Manager and Director Beckley. The ice skating rinks are open in a limited way. The clubhouse isn't open. The concession stands aren't open. Those type of things and it's limited how many people can do it, but at least there's an outlet for folks to do that.

The ski slope will be opened up this weekend as well as they're making snow right now ready to go again on a limited way different than how we've done it in the past, but in a way that allows people to get out, have a relief, their family, that type of thing where we go.

I mentioned Human Services and some of the work that is going on is continuing to go on during this time. And I want to thank Director Marc Cherna. You may have seen him last week, Marc announced his retirement that

will take effect in March. Marc has been here and been the Director of Human Services for 25 years. He is the last Director from the former form of government, the County Commissioner form of government. And for those of you may be my age, and I know none of us were in government back in those days, but you may have remembered reading about - stories about what was going on in various Human Service Departments. It was not very good for this county government. And the former Commissioners did a national search and they found a guy by the name of Marc Cherna and brought him here from New Jersey and he has done just yeoman's work for the region, for the people in this county.

And I can also tell you that when I go to my national meetings with other County Executives, they all point to Marc Cherna as a leading example of best practices and how to do things in a good way. So I want to wish Marc the best for him and his family as he goes into retirement and a well, well-deserved rest for him.

Also make another announcement. We have talked about the new department that you all approved a while back regarding equity and inclusion. We have done a national search on that and we have decided to hire and give that position to Lisa Edmonds. Sometimes you look nationally and you find someone who is right there in your own back yard. Kind of almost like we did with Dr. Bogan, coming from locally here at UPMC, after doing a national search.

And Lisa's the same way. Lisa's been in the department, has a lot of good experience. I'm excited about her becoming the Director of that department. I know equity and inclusion and making sure that we have a government and a society and a business community that is open to all, I know it is a very big part of what my administration is going to strive for, I know, as it shares a lot of what we have here on council.

Let me also move on a little bit. I want to talk a little bit about, you know, economics and the economy and where we are. I will tell you that the developing community is still very bullish. We see a lot of construction that continues to operate, which I'm very pleased to see. I think Pittsburgh and the Pittsburgh region in Southwestern Pennsylvania has shown itself to be a good place to do business. And even during the pandemic, I think in many ways the pandemic has shown even

more compared to some other cities and some other places around the country how well we're doing things.

I give the airport a lot of credit. Obviously 70 percent reduction in passenger service right now nationwide. And we're not immune from that here at Pittsburgh International Airport, but they have ramped up their cargo, their freight-carrying, their distribution, extending with Qatar, which is a little bit of a gamble or a little bit of a chance they took a few years ago, making a risk that we could compete with some of the big cities around the country, like New York, Chicago, LA. And they have proven that to be successful, so we have been doing work with Café and flights - and deliveries to Hong Kong and now flights to Qatar back and forth. So it adds to jobs. It adds to economic growth for our ability to make things and then distribute the goods and get them in and out of this region.

So I was going to stop right here and open it up for any questions any of you might have. Again, I want to thank you for the cooperation you've had throughout the year.

Getting this budget done is something I think you should all be very, very proud of. I mentioned 19 out of 20 years and I think one of the things we can be proud of, and why I think people feel good about investing here is not just the fact that we haven't raised taxes but that we showed stability. People can predict when they come here that they're not going to have something that's going to change overnight. They can predict where they're going to be, obviously notwithstanding COVID, which has been a national issue, but knowing that you're coming into a good place to do business, a good place to build a home and invest in real estate and in your family's future. Again, I think we start with that here and then we continue on all the other things that we have. Thank you, Council.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you, Chief Executive. We're going to open it up to any questions. Are there any questions from council members? Councilman Macey.

MR. MACEY: Thank you, Mr. President. And it's not so much a question, but I want to thank the Chief Executive for his leadership during these trying times. I know you have been criticized both in the media and from the various groups as well as some of us on council. However, for me it has been a pleasure to work with you for 14 years, and I trust that your leadership will

continue through these trying times and we'll get through this.

But we can't do it by pointing fingers, blaming people, but we can do it with leadership that has the health and welfare of the citizens of Allegheny County in mind. Thank you.

RICH FITZGERALD: Thanks. There's no good decisions sometimes when the Health Department makes some of the suggestions or makes the orders that they do and/or the Governor to tell people that you're going to limit different ways in which we operate.

Even wearing the masks, some people are against that, but it's something that none of us ever planned on. None of us ever ran knowing that we would be dealing with a pandemic, whether you're a council member or the County Executive, but you never know what's going to land on your desk and you have to deal with it. So thank you. I appreciate the comments.

MR. MACEY: Thank you.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Are there any other questions? Hearing none thank you, Mr. Executive.

RICH FITZGERALD: Thank you. Everybody have a good holiday. Stay safe. We'll get through this.

PRESIDENT CATENA: We'll now have proclamations and certificates. 11687-20.

JARED BARKER: A proclamation recognizing and congratulating all Allegheny County employees upon the occasion of receiving the Frank J. Lucchinno Distinguished Service Award sponsored by all members of council.

MR. MACEY: It's an honor and a privilege to be asked to present this Frank Lucchino Award proclamation. As a senior person on council, I take umbrage (sic) in knowing that my council persons that look to me for leadership presenting this award. So without any other fanfare, I would just like to say, whereas every year Allegheny County Chief Executive Rich Fitzgerald and County Manager William D. McKain, CPA, present the Frank J. Lucchino Distinguished Service Award to an employee or employee group who has exceeded all expectations, made a significant impact on the county, and has represented the county admirably in his and her actions. And whereas the Frank J. Lucchino Distinguished Service Award is intended to recognize and reward exemplary performance by county employees, as demonstrated through exceptional efficiency and productivity, customer service, innovation and

creativity. And whereas the award was made in honor of the Honorable Frank J. Lucchino, who had a long distinguished career serving the citizens of Allegheny County for 20 years. Judge Lucchino was the county's elected controller from 1980 to 2000. In 2000 he was elected to the Court of Common Pleas and retired in 2016 as a Senior Judge on the court. And whereas Frank - the 2020 Frank J. Lucchino Distinguished Service Award goes to - and listen to this - all Allegheny County employees. As the Chief Executive says, they did a yeoman's job. Whereas this award recognizes all Allegheny County employees' hard work for the work that they have done throughout the pandemic and their dedication to continuing to provide services on which the residents of Allegheny County rely on.

Now, therefore be it resolved that we, Allegheny County Council, do hereby recognize and congratulate all Allegheny County employees upon the occasion of receiving the Frank J. Lucchino Distinguished Service Award. We commend you for all that you have done for the county each and every day.

In witness thereof, I would like to bring County Manager Willie McKain up for this presentation. No pictures.

WILLIAM MCKAIN: Thank you, Councilman Macey and all members of council. To be able to accept this on behalf of all county employees is a real honor for me. As the County Executive said, we do give out quarterly awards and one at the end of the year. And we sat around and it just harkened back to when the women's soccer team was given the Sports Illustrated Athlete of the Year several years ago and even the Olympic hockey team, that everyone did something to help still deliver the services that people not only deserve but expect in this county. And like you I couldn't be more proud of our employees.

One of the things that reinforce for me is that a lot of times people criticize government, but when there's a tragedy or a pandemic or something that changes our lives, I've learned that they turn to government. I'm really proud to say on behalf of all county employees that when they turn to our government, we really responded and we helped people, particularly those vulnerable. So I accept this with great gratitude and very heartfelt thanks. So thank you all.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay. Thank you. 11688-20.

JARED BARKER: A proclamation congratulating Director Marc Cherna upon the occasion of his retirement from Allegheny County sponsored by all members of council.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 11689-20.

JARED BARKER: A proclamation honoring the life, memory and legacy of Fred "Jay" Smith sponsored by Council Member DeMarco.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 11690-20.

JARED BARKER: A certificate of recognition presented to Robert Neill of West Mifflin #3 Volunteer Fire Company in recognition of observing his 50 years of membership sponsored by Council Member Macey.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 11691-20.

JARED BARKER: A certificate of recognition presented to Craig McDivett of West Mifflin #3 Volunteer Fire Company in recognition of observing his 50 years of membership sponsored by Council Member Macey.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 11692-20.

JARED BARKER: A certificate of recognition presented to Ronald Babbie of West Mifflin #3 Volunteer Fire Company in recognition of observing his 50 years of membership sponsored by Council Member Macey.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Is there any public comment on the agenda items?

KEN VARHOLA: We have none on agenda items.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Approval of minutes?

JARED BARKER: We have none.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay. Presentation of appointments?

JARED BARKER: Also none.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Unfinished business. We have the Committee on Appointment Review for the second reading. 11666-20.

JARED BARKER: Approving the appointment of Kimberly Dunlevy to the Accountability Conduct and Ethics Commission for a term to expire on November 24, 2025 sponsored by Council Member Macey.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Councilwoman Hallam?

MS. HALLAM: Thank you, President Catena.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Councilwoman Hallam, you're cutting out on us.

MS. HALLAM: Oh, yeah. Can you hear me now?

PRESIDENT CATENA: Can you try again?

MS. HALLAM: Can you hear me now?

PRESIDENT CATENA: Yes.

MS. HALLAM: All right. Sorry. On December 9 the Committee on Appointment Review met and affirmatively recommended this appointment so I would like to make a motion to approve that recommendation.

MR. FUTULES: Second.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Motion has been made and seconded. Is there any discussion? Hearing no discussion, all those in favor signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT CATENA: All those opposed? Motion carries. 11674-20.

JARED BARKER: Approving the re-appointment of Tonya Johnson to serve as a member of the Accountability, Conduct and Ethics Commission for a term to expire on December 31, 2025 sponsored by Council Member Macey.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Councilwoman Hallam.

MS. HALLAM: Thank you again, President Catena. On December 9 the Committee on Appointment Review met and affirmatively recommended this appointment, so I would like to move to approve that recommendation.

MR. PALMIERE: Second.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Motion has been made and seconded. Is there any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT CATENA: All those opposed? Motion carries. 11677-20.

JARED BARKER: Approving the appointment of Tim Hazel to the Board of Property Assessment Appeals and Review for a term to commence on December 15, 2020 and expire on December 15, 2023, sponsored by Council Member Catena.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Councilwoman Hallam.

MS. HALLAM: Thank you, President Catena. On December 9 the Committee on Appointment Review met and affirmatively recommended this appointment, so I would like to move to approve that recommendation.

MR. MACEY: Second.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Motion has been made and seconded. Any discussion? Hearing none all those in favor signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT CATENA: All those opposed? Motion carries.

MR. DEMARCO: President Catena. This is Councilman DeMarco.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Yeah. Go ahead, councilman.

MR. DEMARCO: Yes. I'd like to make a motion that we add the reappointment of Ed Spurling to the agenda please.

MR. MACEY: Second that motion.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Motion has been made and seconded. Is there any discussion? Hearing no discussion, all those in favor signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT CATENA: All those opposed? Motion carries. Ms. Hallam?

MS. HALLAM: Yes. Do I do it for him, too? I'm sorry.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Yes. You can just do it for him. Same thing as you did for the previous ones.

MS. HALLAM: Today the Committee on Appointment Review met and affirmatively recommended this reappointment, so I would like to move to accept that recommendation.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Is there a second?

MS. BENNETT: Second.

MR. DEMARCO: Second.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Motion has been made and seconded. Any discussion? Hearing no discussion, all those in favor signify by saying aye?

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT CATENA: All those opposed? Motion carries. Committee on Parks, the second reading. 11684-20.

JARED BARKER: An ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania authorizing the acceptance of two parcels of land from Allegheny Land Trust located adjacent to the County's North Park sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Councilman Palmiere?

MR. PALMIERE: Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, we met on the 9th of December and we met with affirmative recommendation to send this to full council. And I move for approval, and I just wanted to add one thing. I think this adds about 11 beautiful acres to North Park, if I'm not mistaken. There's about 11 acres and I'll move for approval. Thank you.

MR. MACEY: So moved.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Motion has been made and seconded. Is there any discussion this evening? Hearing no discussion, Jared, would you please take a roll call vote?

JARED BARKER: On the motion to approve Mr. Baker?

MR. BAKER: Yes.

JARED BARKER: Ms. Bennett?

MS. BENNETT: Yes.

JARED BARKER: Mr. DeMarco?

MR. DEMARCO: Yes.

JARED BARKER: Mr. Duerr?

MR. DUERR: Yes.

JARED BARKER: Mr. Futules?

MR. FUTULES: Yes.

JARED BARKER: Ms. Hallam?

MS. HALLAM: Yes.

JARED BARKER: Ms. Kirk?

MS. KIRK: Yes.

JARED BARKER: Mr. Klein?

MR. KLEIN: Yes.

JARED BARKER: Mr. Macey?

MR. MACEY: Yes.

JARED BARKER: Mr. Palmiere?

MR. PALMIERE: Yes.

JARED PARKER: Mr. Palmosina?

MR. PALMOSINA: Yes.

JARED BARKER: Ms. Prizio?

MS. PRIZIO: Yes.

JARED BARKER: Mr. Walton?

MR. WALTON: Yes.

JARED BARKER: Mr. Zavarella?

MR. ZAVARELLA: Yes.

JARED BARKER: President Catena?

PRESIDENT CATENA: Yes.

JARED BARKER: Ayes 15. Nos 0. The bill passes.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Do we have any liaison reports this evening?

MS. PRIZIO: President Catena, I have one.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Go ahead, Councilwoman Prizio.

MS. PRIZIO: I'd just like to remind everyone that the Allegheny County Health Department is taking public comment on its proposed cook oven regulations. The

proposed revisions and changes are available on the Health Department air quality web site and comments will be accepted until four o'clock on January 21st via email. Thank you.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Is there anyone else this evening?

MR. MACEY: Mr. Chairman?

PRESIDENT CATENA: Go ahead, Councilman Macey.

MR. MACEY: Thank you, Councilman Catena. I just would like to say that anybody who is interested in getting tested, please go to the county website and take - and tested for COVID-19, that is - go to the county website and please try to register. Get an appointment and go. I have been out there three times in McKeesport and tested, and I'm negative. But that doesn't say tomorrow I can't get it. I think what's important for the health and welfare of our neighbors, our family, our coworkers, get tested. It's not that hard. It's not that time-consuming, but I think it will pay in the end. Thank you.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Are there any other liaison reports? Hearing none we'll move on to new business. Ordinances and resolutions. 11693-20.

JARED BARKER: An ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania amending and supplementing Chapter 770 of the Allegheny County Code of Ordinances entitled Signs, Article I, entitled Campaign Signs in order to establish a mechanism for aiding the County in tracking compliance with the provisions of the article sponsored by Council Member Duerr.

PRESIDENT CATENA: That will go to the Committee on Public Works. 11694-20.

JARED BARKER: An ordinance of the County of Allegheny Commonwealth of Pennsylvania authorizing the continued use of Allegheny County-owned land in Harrison Hills Park by Harrison Township as a leaf-composting site sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT CATENA: That will also go to the Committee on Parks. Under new business for motions. Before we entertain this motion, Councilwoman Kirk, I believe you have a date set for the paid sick days legislation. Can you confirm that what the date is and I believe that is going to be a voting meeting, correct?

MS. KIRK: Right. That's set for January 20th. It's like the week the staff comes back.

PRESIDENT CATENA: And that is a voting - you'll be entertaining amendments on that date?

MS. KIRK: Absolutely.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay.

MS. KIRK: We'll be requesting amendments. After the first of the year will be a formal request and I'm asking that amendments be sent so people have time to review them and research them and study them prior to the meeting, so we will be able to have a good vote.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Councilwoman Prizio.

MS. PRIZIO: Yes. I would like to withdraw motion 11695-20 since Councilwoman Kirk has set a voting meeting for January 21st and it is on the record. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Councilman Palmiere, I believe you have a motion to be added?

MR. PALMIERE: Yes, I do, Mr. President. Thank you. I'd like to make a motion to continue the services of Attorney John F. Cambest to provide legal advice, representation and consultation to county council by engaging the law firm of Dodaro, Matta & Cambest PC for a period of 13 months commencing in January 31st of 2022. Thank you, Mr. President.

MR. MACEY: I'll second that motion.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Motion has been made and seconded. Is there any discussion this evening?

MS. HALLAM: President Catena, this is Bethany.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Go ahead.

MS. HALLAM: So I just have a couple points before we take a vote on this. First, I'd like to remind everyone that we have not voted for a solicitor this year. So this is binding the freshman members of council into a solicitor for another 13 months on top of the year that we have already been bound to one without having any input on it.

Second of all I would also like to remind my colleagues that the rules on council say that we should be interviewing or putting out an RFP that the contract should be until the end of January and not the end of January a year from now. So I just want to remind folks what the rules of council say in the situation that we're in currently before we take this vote.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay. Is there any other comment this evening? Hearing none, Jared, will you please take a roll call vote, please?

JARED BARKER: On the motion to renew the contract. Mr. Baker?

MR. BAKER: Yes.

JARED BARKER: Ms. Bennett?

MS. BENNETT: Yes.

JARED BARKER: Mr. DeMarco?

MR. DEMARCO: Yes.

JARED BARKER: Mr. Duerr?

MR. DUERR: Yes.

JARED BARKER: Mr. Futules?

MR. FUTULES: Yes.

JARED BARKER: Ms. Hallam?

MS. HALLAM: No.

JARED BARKER: Ms. Kirk?

MS. KIRK: Yes.

JARED BARKER: Mr. Klein?

MR. KLEIN: Yes.

JARED BARKER: Mr. Macey?

MR. MACEY: Yes.

JARED BARKER: Mr. Palmiere?

MR. PALMIERE: Yes.

JARED PARKER: Mr. Palmosina?

MR. PALMOSINA: Yes.

JARED BARKER: Ms. Prizio?

MS. PRIZIO: Yes.

JARED BARKER: Mr. Walton?

MR. WALTON: Yes.

JARED BARKER: Mr. Zavarella?

MR. ZAVARELLA: Yes.

JARED BARKER: President Catena?

PRESIDENT CATENA: Yes.

JARED BARKER: Ayes 14. Nos 1. The motion passes.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Notification of contracts. 11696-20.

JARED BARKER: A communication summarizing approved executive actions for November 2020.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Motion to receive? Is there a motion?

MR. DEMARCO: Motion to receive.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Is there a second?

MR. MACEY: I'll second.

MR. PALMIERE: Second.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Motion has been made and seconded. All those in favor - is there any discussion? Hearing no discussion all those in favor signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT CATENA: All those opposed? Motion carries. We'll now have public comment on any general items.

KEN VARHOLA: President Catena, we had a total of nine public comments. Two are anonymous. Of those seven that were not anonymous, we had one asking support of the independent Police Review Board and the remainder of the public commenters concerned hazard pay and personal protective equipment for jail guards, and that's all we had this time.

PRESIDENT CATENA: And all of those public comments were sent to all of the members?

KEN VARHOLA: They were received by all members, correct.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you.

MS. HALLAM: Point of order, President Catena.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Go ahead.

MS. HALLAM: Yeah. Is there a reason we're not reading the comments into the record like we have in the past?

PRESIDENT CATENA: They'll still go into the record, Ms. Hallam, verbatim. They're just not being read in because we're summarizing because of the same thing the Jail Oversight Board does.

MS. HALLAM: Well, the Jail Oversight Board reads the first ten comments that are received. We did not even receive ten comments, correct?

PRESIDENT CATENA: I believe you received them all in your email. Did you not?

MS. HALLAM: No, I mean the reason the Jail Oversight Board summarizes comments is because they get so many. They read verbatim the first ten so if that's the comparison and the example we're using we should be reading at least the first ten comments in the public meeting.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Does anyone have an objection to listening to the first ten comments?

MR. DEMARCO: Yeah.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Do you have an objection to listening?

MR. WALTON: Mandate. From my perspective there is no mandate that they be read. If they're put into the record, if they're put into the record, there's no absolute reason that they must be.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Correct, Councilman.

MR. WALTON: There's no rule that specifies that.

MS. HALLAM: President Catena, I will agree with Councilman DeMarco - sorry - Councilman Walton. I do agree that this is not a mandate that these need to be read in the public meeting. I am just asking if reading them - at least the first ten - which is what other bodies are doing.

MR. WALTON: And we, as members of council, have the ability to promulgate rules that meet our needs subject to change situationally.

MR. MACEY: Correct.

MS. HALLAM: Again, President Catena, I am not disputing anything that is being said right now. I am simply asking if we can read the public comments in this public meeting.

MR. DEMARCO: Are they all the same?

PRESIDENT CATENA: They're not all the same. So I think in the interest of transparency, I believe we should do this just to put an end to this. Go ahead, Ken.

KEN VARHOLA: First one from Elaina Moy Pittsburgh 15208 Allegheny County Civilian Review Board. This is very important to me. My own brother was attacked by an officer years ago. Walking home from work he was beaten by a plain clothes officer because he didn't stop. The officer did not even identify himself before he attacked. My brother's face was swollen and bruised for over a month and we were told there was nothing we could do. This happened in the years between the Jonny Gammage incident and Antwon Rose. There are so many such stories in our community. To truly heal we need this Accountability Board. We need our community not to be victimized unfairly and to have a voice when it happens. We spoke to three lawyers about the incident. All said there was nothing that could be done. Nothing is not right in the face of injustice.

Patti Farrell, Oakdale. I am an officer at the Allegheny County Jail and am told I am an essential worker

but have not received any hazard pay. The virus has spread throughout our facility rapidly, and we are very understaffed, causing turmoil and short tempers with everyone. We have multiple officers out on COVID or quarantine which puts the mandated overtime off the charts and the inmate population has snowballed with quarantine and COVID cases. We have been told to wear PPEs when handling COVID-infected cases, so why aren't we getting hazard pay? Please look into the situation.

Dormayne Talbert, Pittsburgh, 15210. We have multiple officers quarantined or infected. We are ordered to wear a mask and multiple units that are either isolation precaution or quarantine precaution. Excess forcing from one shift to another for those of us without FMLA. We are told that we are essential worker, but we are not getting hazardous pay. Why not? As an essential worker I should be compensated as it was stated previously. So if I'm not being compensated by means of monetary value, then where is the money from the grants going?

Gina Englert, West Mifflin, PA. My husband is an officer at the jail and is usually forced to work 16 hour days, 7 days a week. When the pandemic started, I wrote a request for N95 masks from a foundation. 2,500 were sent to the jail for the officers. To this date the officers have not been given these masks as the warden refuses to release them. I was also investigated for having them donated. With cases rising my children are terrified my husband will fall ill as many of his fellow officers have. Without the proper PPE with the hours he's forced to be in the building, the stress, the lack of leadership from the staff it's evident there is no concern for the men and women who keep our society safe. Their health is of no concern or they would be revered as the essential beings that they are much like our hospital workers and police are right now. I implore this Board to view our loved ones as we do and not as dispensable. Give them proper PPE, staff the building appropriately and get someone with a medical background in there to make decisions for the health and safety of every single being in that facility.

Nick Englert, West Mifflin PA. I want all officers to be required to wear specifically new and sanitized KN95 mask every day and a face shield in front of it. If not a face shield, a surgical mask or clear

goggles to protect their eyes. Many officers are getting the virus and you have to pay them for two weeks when they're on quarantine. If you spend the money on the specified mask, face goggles, extra surgical mask, you can kill the spread of the virus very fast. This could also prove that you take CO officers' safety seriously, inmate safety serious, too. KN95 masks are the most effective and protective mask to wear and should be mandated everywhere. Since the jail is an enclosed environment, they should definitely be used. A private supplier could sell them in bulk to you. Face shields are also a plus to protect the eyes of any other air-transmitted bacteria. It can even help from getting K2 smoke in the officers' eyes.

Mike Barrone, West Mifflin, PA. I would like to see something done to financially address the staff facility-wide in the Allegheny County Jail. We are highly exposed to COVID in the facility. Some county employees have received a hazard pay. Many of us are upset that we are not being considered for this. There have been a number of us forced off without pay due to contact tracing. Those of us that work during these times are suffering the effects of understaffing. Overall it is a challenging atmosphere just being in our facility. Now it is amplified. Can someone please consider looking into getting the staff facility-wide some compensation during these times?

James Tegmeier, Pittsburgh, 15236. As an employee of the jail why aren't officers getting hazard pay? Many are being sent home by administration for contact tracing for 1, 2 even 3 times for 14 days each. If the FFCRA is exhausted on the first occurrence, we are made to use our own sick time or take unpaid leave time whether we are positive or negative. If we are getting hazard pay, we survive multiple quarantines without pay or be paid by the county when forced to isolate by the administration under Workers' Compensation.

And that's all.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Is there - since we went through all public comments - is there a motion to adjourn?

MR. MACEY: Motion to adjourn.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Is there a second?

MR. ZAVARELLA: Second.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Motion has been made and seconded. All those in favor signify by saying aye.
(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT CATENA: All those opposed? Motion carries. Thank you, everyone. Happy Holidays. Stay safe.

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 13th day of January, 2021

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Jeremy Harris,

Court Reporter