

ALLEGHENY COUNTY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

- - -

BEFORE:

Patrick Catena	-	President, District 4
Robert J. Macey	-	Vice-President, District 9
Samuel DeMarco, III	-	Council-at-Large
Bethany Hallam	-	Council-at-Large
Thomas Baker	-	District 1
Cindy Kirk	-	District 2
Anita Prizio	-	District 3
Tom Duerr	-	District 5
John F. Palmiere	-	District 6
Nicholas Futules	-	District 7
Paul Zavarella	-	District 8
DeWitt Walton	-	District 10
Paul Klein	-	District 11
Robert Palmosina	-	District 12
Olivia "Liv" Bennett	-	District 13

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

Tuesday, December 21, 2021 - 5:03 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

PRESIDENT CATENA: Good evening everyone. I'd like to call this meeting of Allegheny County Council to order. Please stand for the pledge of allegiance.

(Pledge of Allegiance.)

PRESIDENT CATENA: Please remain standing for moment of silent reflection.

(Moment of Silence.)

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you, everyone. Please be seated. Jared, please take roll.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Baker?

MR. BAKER: Here.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Bennett?

MS. BENNETT: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. DeMarco?

MR. DEMARCO: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Duerr?

MR. DUERR: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Futules?

MR. FUTULES: Here.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Hallam?

MS. HALLAM: Here.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Kirk?

MS. KIRK: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Klein?

MR. KLEIN: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Macey?

MR. MACEY: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Palmiere?

MR. PALMIERE: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Palmosina?

MR. PALMOSINA: Here.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Prizio?

MS. PRIZIO: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Walton?

MR. WALTON: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Zavarella.

MR. ZAVARELLA: Here.

MR. BARKER: President Catena?

PRESIDENT CATENA: Here.

MR. BARKER: All 15 members are present.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. At this point in time we'll have the chief executive's quarterly address.

MR. WALTON: We'll need to amend the agenda.

PRESIDENT CATENA: We'll do it before we do the actual appointments.

MR. FITZGERALD: Thank you, Mr. President. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays and Happy Hanukah to everybody on the council. At the last meeting of the year and my last appearance before you I want to thank you, first of all, for the budget passage you did at your last meeting or earlier I guess one meeting ago. Obviously that we'll be able to do in a very difficult time. We'll address COVID in just a minute, but during very difficult circumstances with revenues being down because of the pandemic we were able - because of the American Rescue Plan dollars I didn't have to come to you with a significant amount of cuts, particularly layoffs to our employees, but also come with a millage increase so that was positive and the fact you were able to get that budget passed. We appreciate that. Things can move forward next year. Obviously capital improvements as well and we're going to do - but we also know that this year and last year obviously have been a very, very difficult and very challenging, as the pandemic has touched all of us both personally and also as a government and how we dealt with this. I'm proud to say that, you know, as of today we have almost 910,000 people in Allegheny County that have been vaccinated, 784,000 fully vaccinated and 128,000 partially vaccinated and another almost 300,000 people who have gotten the booster and that really is our way out of it but with a population of 1.25 million that means there's still over 300,000 people that haven't been vaccinated. So we want to make sure as we turn the page on a new year that we want to continue to make sure we get people vaccinated. I know Dr. Bogan and her team have been working on that.

President made a big announcement today that there's going to be an additional amount of money into testing, into vaccines, into mitigating strategies that the CDC and the NAH know to move that. We also know and we're proud to see that our own Allegheny Health Department received a \$7.5 million grant from the CDC to make sure that in underserved communities were making sure that we're getting vaccines to those communities and I applaud the health department and the work they continue to do to make that happen.

Even in this very difficult pandemic companies continue to invest and continue to look at Pittsburgh and Allegheny County as a place that they want to do business. Just last month we celebrated the opening of Smith and

Nephew, Smith and Nephew robotics and R&D center. They have bought a company through Bell Technologies and are expanding very rapidly. This is a medical technology company where they do robotic surgery. It's almost the intersection of what University of Pittsburgh does in our life sciences and what Carnegie Mellon University does around robotics and those type of things are going to continue to happen as we move forward as a community.

The other big news we wanted to talk about and this is stuff we work on together throughout the website is up and active regarding the paid sick leave policy that Allegheny County has. It gives a lot of guidelines on the rights that individuals - that employees have but also the responsibilities that employers have so that was launched just a week or so ago. It is on there as well. I also want to thank the economic development department as they continue to do a lot of the work trying to make sure that we - we strive to get more equity. We see on a macro level the county and the region continues to do well, but not everybody's doing well. The latest market analysis of housing properties in Allegheny County shows that about 74 percent of folks live in areas in which their market is stable or increasing but that means that about a quarter of the folks that live in communities that have what we call housing distress blighted properties, vacant lots, foreclosures, and that's something I think all of us working together in the coming year want to make sure that we work on. And the other thing I want to make sure that we highlight is people of color disproportionately share in those distressed communities. They have a higher percentage of folks living in those communities than the general population.

Again, back on the good news that we've seen over the last ten years, the last decade, as housing prices have increased the median sale price of a house back ten years ago was a little over \$100,000 and now ten years later the median sale price is around \$250,000 which means a lot of folks who have been paying that mortgage for the last ten years have seen a big increase on their biggest asset and the wealth that they have. Again, the investment we're going to continue to make - made a major investment since the last time I was here in Braddock with the Ohringer building. It's one of those communities that we're starting to see good turnaround and things that are improving along those lines.

I also since the last time I was here we had an election, and I want to thank the election department for, again, doing a really good job at making sure we got results out there. That there was good, sustainable methods in which we did the work. We had almost 6,000 poll workers that showed at the various polling places that we have in around the county, and we had one of the highest turnouts in over 33 percent of the voters who turned out in Allegheny County. While that's not what we would like to see, it's certainly not what we saw last year during a presidential election. On a relative term and some of the other places around the state and around the country it was a pretty high turnout.

Also wanted to highlight within our human service department, you know, they continue to work with households that need emergency rental assistance. They continue the great work with action housing and the county, this county, has been getting praise from state and other agencies talking about the turnaround and how quickly they do that. We want to make sure that we continue along that work.

We're talking about parks. Today was a big day along parks and I was glad to be there for the permeable parking lot. The ribbon cutting down in South Park. Glad to be joined by Councilman Duerr, Councilwoman Prizio who happened to be there for that event. The investment that we continue to make in our parks, in quality of life, it's noticed and I'm sure you're hearing that from some of your constituents regardless of which the nine county parks they are in and that follows just a few weeks ago that we opened the Cascades in South Park and I know Councilwoman was there and also I know Councilman Palmiere very much pushed me to that over the years. He represents that community. There were people when they showed up at this ribbon cutting that we had about a month or so ago literally were choking up because they remembered 50 years ago when this was opened and that it had been shut down in the 70's and now they're bringing it back to life and it's just one of those things I think people are appreciating. And again, because of the appropriations that you've been able to make into the parks department around capital projects and the partnership that we have with the Allegheny County Parks Foundation is really, really important and these are some of the critical programs and projects we're going to be doing. The sculpture garden

project we talked about before over in Hartwood Acres. We're going to be doing is another thing we're very excited about and again along with parks lines a month ago we did open up the skating rinks both in South and North Park. We had a lot of good attendance along those lines. In North Park we've also had a laser show, a holiday show that's been well - well received and we see great attendance along those lines. I think it's actually running 60 or \$70,000 in the black right now. So many people have shown up so the cost that we've had versus what we're spending has been very, very good. We've also been able to use our parks for sustainability. We talk about things like today's permeable pavement pouring drive. We talked about the solar lights and some other projects two parks becoming net zero and we've also used them for recycling as well. I think that's something that the county and public works should really be proud of. The work that they're doing. The Christmas tree recycling will be kicking off right after Christmas so at all nine county parks people can go and take their Christmas trees back for all day from 8:00 until dusk that that can be done. The other thing that we've used as far as recycling is glass recycling. We've in turn used our parks to be income repositories for those and so far we've collected almost 15,000 pounds of glass.

And along recycling it's something, again, we had talked about a couple of years ago I think it's been about three or four years that we put a program in place and during that time we had recycled over 350 tons of cardboard, over a 100 tons of commingled paper, 15 tons of office paper and 7 tons of recycling for a total of almost 500 tons of things that don't go into a landfill that we're going to be, again, doing good work to try to save our planet and do the things we can as far as recycling goes.

I also want to give a shout out to our public works department. Some of you may recall it was about six years ago that I came to you and said our job if we're doing what's right by the civil engineering code we should be paving about 40 miles a year of 400 miles of county road. We should be doing about 10 percent a year. We have never reached that goal, and I know Councilman Macey was public works chair and we had talked about that. Some days - some years we'd do 18 miles, 20 miles, 22 miles. We made a commitment that we were really going to ramp that up to

catch up and have our roads be in good condition. I can tell you for the sixth year in a row we've done over 40 miles. We did 43 miles this year. I want to thank Director Shanley and his team for continuing to make sure that we continue along those lines and I know many of you - roads in your district. You bring them to us and we make sure that we try to get them on the list. I can tell you this year we did 37 roads in 26 different municipalities and just a couple of them, Cotton Hill Drive in Harriston Hills Park, Pierce Mill Road they're talking about that one earlier today up in McCandless. Drake Road in Bethel Park, Tom's Run Road in Collier, Argon Drive in Harrison, Fort Couch Road in Bethel Park, Sleepy Hollow Ridge in South Park, Statler Road and Russ Hollow Road in Plum and West Run Road in Munhall. So they've been really getting out there making sure that they're continuing to do the good work and we did a major bridge and cut a ribbon on last week. The Dooker Hollows Bridge in Councilman Zavarella's district from East Pittsburgh to North Braddock. That was a major, major bridge that had been 80 years old and was in bad shape, county bridge, we put back on the - brought it back into service so and finally I did just want to talk about our veteran's award.

The veteran's office recently named a new award. It was named after one of the founding members of this council Chuck Martoni and it's an award that basically honors the service of folks who have served our military and then have gone on to serve their communities as well and I can't think of anyone that exemplifies that more than Dr. Martoni. He served his country and then served in local government, county government throughout the years so it's a new award that's been put in place by the veteran's department along the lines of what we what to continue to do.

You've probably seen two of the bigger projects that have gone forward. The BRT, Bus Rapid Transit, for either driving down Fifth Avenue on your way down to PPG Paints Arena. You're going to get caught in traffic, but they're doing the work underneath, the utility work, the gas lines, the electrical lines, PWSA, et cetera, as that project starts to move forward and then of course the airport. The midterm of the modernization program that the Allegheny County Airport Authority's doing at Pittsburgh International Airport is a really important

project. It's moving forward. It's been a good project for us to move forward and finally at the airport we partnered with the USO creating a military room for some of our military folks who are flying in and have - need a place to kind of sit and rest with their families before their next flight takes off and it's again a great partnership with Pittsburgh International Airport and the airport authority have.

And with that, Mr. President, let me open it up to any comments or questions you may have.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Are there any comments or questions for the chief executive? Councilwoman Bennett?

MS. BENNETT: Thank you, President Catena, and thank you, County Executive Fitzgerald, for doing your end of the year address. My only question is related to COVID and just wondering if the executive office have any plans of encouraging the health department to do an indoor mask mandate with omicron and the increased transmission of the variant and case counts not going down in any way is there anything that we are planning to do as the county to help mitigate that?

MR. FITZGERALD: We'll continue to have discussions with the - I'm sure Dr. Bogan and her team are continuing to look at that. I think they're seeing many organizations on their own that are, you know, depending on what type of activity they're having. If they're having a crowded event where they're asking people to wear masks, many organizations are now requiring showing your vaccine card before you can get in to certain events. Again, I'm proud of the fact we've got about 75 percent of the folks in this county who have been vaccinated so where people feel that wearing a mask is something that they want to do. If they have some underlying conditions and haven't had a vaccine we certainly encourage that, but we'll continue to follow the CDC guidelines and as things evolve we'll certainly take a look at things. The omicron is certainly what we're seeing and we're seeing this worldwide seems to spread faster than even Delta. That's the bad news. The good news is it doesn't seem to be as virulent as Delta but again we have to see how that remains. Our real strategy right now is to get people vaccinated, vaccinated, vaccinated, vaccinated and we seem to have about 2,000 a day new people who are coming in and getting vaccinated. Many organizations are requiring that

of our employees including us, and I will tell you that that was a very, very successful thing where we've had less than two percent of the folks that ultimately did not get vaccinated, and I think that's, again, something we can be very proud of so we'll continue to monitor and see where it goes.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Councilman DeMarco.

MR. DEMARCO: Sure. Mr. County Executive, as last time you were here you talked about the vaccine mandate put in place for the county employees. Can you tell us here tonight or can you get us the information about how many county employees were terminated and from what departments within the county were hardest hit?

MR. FITZGERALD: There weren't any - and I can tell you that there was not one department where there was a large number. There was two here, three there, four there, five there, nothing beyond that. Right now I think that number's less than 100. I don't have the exact number, but it's less than two percent and out of 5,000 employees it's, you know, I'm going to say somewhere between 50 and 100 at this point.

And if you recall, Councilman, there was a lawsuit that was brought in federal court by a couple of the employee groups and the federal judge ruled in favor of the county. I want to thank our solicitor and the good work that he was able to do to keep people protected.

MR. DEMARCO: Thank you.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Anyone else this evening? Any other questions?

MR. FITZGERALD: Before I finish, I just want to give a shout out and thank both Councilman Baker and Councilman Zavarella. I know this is their last meeting. I appreciate the work that they have done. Wish them well in their last meeting. They've been good partners to be able to work collaboratively. One on the far left - are you on the far left and him on the far right? The way I'm looking at it you're on the far right he's on the far left.

I wish them well in their next endeavors and really look forward to working with everybody after the first of the year and everybody have a nice holiday.

PRESIDENT CATENA: We'll now have proclamations and certificates. 12123-21.

MR. BARKER: A proclamation recognizing and congratulating Mr. Edward McGregor upon the occasion of

receiving the Frank J. Lucchino Distinguished Service Award sponsored by President Catena and all other members of council.

MR. BAKER: Mr. McGregor, come on down. So this is a big day of honor for Mr. McGregor. Congratulations on this award. The Lucchino award really and this - Manager McCain knows this very well - this is kind of like the Hall of Fame of county employees, so congratulations. It's an award that's been around since 2013. Last year in 2020 it was given to all county employees because everyone stepped up in such an amazing way. This year went back to an individual focus certainly and you should be incredibly proud of your 38 years working for and with the county. That's an incredible amount of service. If I'm right, your first job or one of your first jobs was with Controller Lucchino?

MR. MCGREGOR: That's correct.

MR. BAKER: So it's very fitting. In fact, let's read a little bit about you and we'll tell everyone why you got selected for this amazing honor.

WHEREAS, every year Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald and County Manager William McCain seek to present the Frank J. Lucchino distinguished service award to an employee or employee group that's succeeded all expectations. Made a significant impact upon the county and represented the county admirably in his or her actions.

WHEREAS, Mr. Edward McGregor fiscal manager of the Allegheny County Office of the Medical Examiner was selected as the 2021 recipient of the Frank J. Lucchino distinguished service award and;

WHEREAS, since February of 1983 Mr. McGregor has worked for Allegheny County. He originally joined the staff of Controller Lucchino. He remained in that well until 2009 when he accepted an opportunity with the Allegheny County Office of Medical Examiner, and

WHEREAS, Mr. McGregor has worked for that office for more than ten years and during that time he has helped the medical examiner's office prepare fiscal plans and forecasts. He's helped to cultivate relationships with various other departments throughout the county and recommended new innovative ideas. Sometimes people say county government, any government is not innovative so we appreciate you for being innovative in your work.

WHEREAS, Mr. McGregor played a key role in

applying for and managing millions of dollars of grants, he's also sat as a member of the interim internal executive management team at ACOME in hopes of helping changing policy for the entire department.

Also Mr. McGregor has been a member of ACOME's interview panel because of his ability to bring a non-scientific background to the table.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we Allegheny County Council, all 15 of us, do hereby recognize and congratulate you, Mr. Edward McGregor, upon receiving the Hall of Fame Award of the Allegheny County - receiving the Frank J. Lucchino distinguished service award. We commend you for all that you do for the county each and every single day. Huge round of applause.

MR. MCGREGOR: Members of council, first of all, happy holidays, and thank you for bestowing this proclamation on me today. I'm very humbled and honored to receive this award. As you said it's named after my first boss with the controller's office Frank Lucchino. It's sort of gone full circle. I admire everything that he did. I learned a lot from him, and I will be forever grateful for him for hiring me on that date back in February of 1983. I'd also like to thank all of the wonderful people I've worked with side by side with the county over these past 38 years because without them I wouldn't be here standing today. The membership, the friendships I've taken from this will live with me forever and for that I am eternally grateful and in closing thank you very much. Except if this is the Hall of Fame, where's my gold jacket?

PRESIDENT CATENA: Councilwoman Kirk?

MS. KIRK: Thank you, President Catena. While Tom and I are both here, as you all know this is Tom's last meeting and on behalf of that we started a tradition a few years back when they were redoing the roof and there were some old roof slates they were going to throw away or get rid of, or what are they about 170 years or so? And we were able to snatch a few and so we have for Thomas Justin Baker we have a the years he was on council and there's a county seal and the courthouse and it's only just a small token from all the council members to remember us by when you're off and doing your other things so Thomas Justin Baker for you.

And for the record we also have one for Paul. He wasn't able to make it tonight. Paul Zavarella will also

have his last meeting and he's been here two and a half years and Paul wasn't a guy who'd talk much unlike Tom, but when Paul talked, he was one of those people, you listened. You listened and you learned from Paul and I'll miss that as much I would miss the heart and soul here. Do you want to get a picture?

MR. BAKER: Sure.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 12124-21. Actually we're going to hold that one so we'll go on to 12125-21.

MR. BARKER: A proclamation recognizing Katy Appleman upon receiving the Eagle Scout Award and congratulating her for being the first female eagle scout in the Laurel Highlands Council sponsored by Council Member Prizio.

MS. PRIZIO: So I met Katy at the recent friends of scouting reception. I was invited to the reception by Ranger Mike of Camp Guyasuta. Camp Guyasuta is literally in my backyard. I spent much of my childhood traipsing through the woods taking creek walks and sliding down an amazing waterfall. I would have loved to join the Boy Scouts now known as Scouts BSA. I am so proud to introduce Katy Appleman the first female Eagle Scout in the Laurel Highlands Council and reading this proclamation into the record.

WHEREAS, Katy Appleman a senior at Shadyside Academy became the first female Eagle Scout in the Laurel Highlands council and during her sophomore year of high school Katy joined Scouts BSA. Over the years Scout's BSA program has elevated Katy's fascination with wilderness skills, deepened her understanding of what it means to be a citizen and introduced her to a community of welcoming people from a variety of backgrounds who share her appreciation of the outdoors.

WHEREAS, Katy is passionate about the Scout's BSA strong and supportive community as well as their learning environments.

WHEREAS, in the summer of 2021 Katy completed her eagle project where she organized the removal of Japanese Barberry a harmful non-native invasive species in a square acre land in North Park where it has become significantly overgrown so now.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I Allegheny County Member Anita Prizio do hereby commend and recognize Katy Appleman upon receiving the Eagle Scout Award and

congratulate her for being the first female Eagle Scout in the Laurel Highlands council.

MS. APPLEMAN: Thank you so much. It's such an honor to achieve this - to receive this proclamation. I owe much of my success to my family especially my mom who invested so much in my scouting career and in my troop from the beginning. I would also like to thank the Scouts BSA community. I was met with only kindness and support from the beginning which made me want to come back every week and learn in such a fantastic environment. Finally I would like to thank the brave women who came before me. The ones who toiled as they paved the road that the women of my generation walk on today. I am lucky to live in this time and in such a supportive community like Pittsburgh where I had even the opportunity to strive towards this goal. Thank you.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 12129-21.

MR. BARKER: A proclamation recognizing Matthew Rudzki for his years dedicated to the Borough of Sharpsburg sponsored by Council Members Hallam, Prizio and Duerr.

MS. PRIZIO: So we're honoring Matt tonight. Matt and I share a lot of things. We shared a campaign manager for while during this election cycle, we're both attorneys and we both study German. But most of all we share our commitment to give back to our communities where we were born, Sharpsburg for Matt, O'Hara for myself.

We serve these communities from a very special place in our hearts. You were a terrific mayor and you will be an awesome magistrate.

MS. HALLAM: Okay. So before I read this fantastic proclamation which by the way we went all out leather bound for you. We wanted to make sure you knew that. That way you know it's fancy. I have had the pleasure of knowing and being friends with Matt for quite some time now, and I could truthfully sit up here for a really long time and just talk about the fun times we've had, all the great things you've done for your community, how you've served the people of Sharpsburg not just as mayor but as a council member and just as a leader.

But really I want to talk about that and seeing you get robed and seeing you take the oath with Bridget and Leah and your family members by your side and I was tearing up because I know how hard you worked for it and I know how serious you're taking this role that you're

stepping into. You've been preparing for this role in your service to your community and now you're going to take your fairness and your leadership and your caring for every single person that comes in front of you in that courtroom to your own courtroom and I'm just so excited. I was tearing up then. I'm trying not to do it now but I just know you're going to do such an amazing job. I hope someday I can be in front of you but for all the right reasons.

So with that this is a proclamation recognizing Matt Rudzki, a Pennsylvania Mayor of the Year, 2021. It says that at the top of this proclamation. I didn't know but congratulations if you were.

WHEREAS, knowledge comes but wisdom lingers, it may not be difficult to store up in the mind a vast quantity of facts within a comparatively short period of time but the ability to form judgments requires the severe discipline of hard work and the tempering heat of experience and maturity. That quote by Calvin Coolidge depicts the true essence of Matthew Rudzki's character and his years devoted to the borough of Sharpsburg and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rudzki a native of Sharpsburg borough graduated from the Fox Chapel high school in 2004. He went on to Washington and Jefferson College where he graduated in 2008 with a Bachelor's in History and German ; and

WHEREAS, in 2013 Mr. Rudzki graduated from the Duquesne University School of Law. After graduation Mr. Rudzki was awarded a fellowship with the Austrian American Educational Commission administered by the Fulbright program during which he spent a year in Austria teaching English. And

WHEREAS, Mr. Rudzki has dedicated over a decade to his community he served as a member of Sharpsburg council from 2011 to 2017 and was sworn in as Mayor of Sharpsburg in 2018. And

WHEREAS, while on council Mr. Rudzki accomplished the following; observing indigenous people's day, developed the Sharpsburg environmental advisory council, created the Sharpsburg historical commission, passed Sharpsburg's first comprehensive plan in 50 years and codified all Sharpsburg ordinances and

WHEREAS, Mayor Mr. Rudzki organized the following, first Etna Sharpsburg Earth Day Challenge, first Etna Sharpsburg National Night Out, worked on grants

to study and mitigate wet weather events in Sharpsburg, signed into law the Sharpsburg human rights ordinance extending protections to the LGBTQIA+ community, reintroduced the use of body cameras and advocated for law enforcement assisted diversion programming. And

WHEREAS, over the years Mr. Rudzki has served on a plethora of boards and organizations such as the Allegheny River Town Enterprise Zone, San Juan Diego's pastoral council, Sharpsburg Neighborhood Association, and a Fox Chapel District Association; and

WHEREAS, in 2018 Mr. Rudzki was awarded a governor's award for local governor excellence.

Now - that was a lot. This is the longest proclamation I've ever presented, so you have done a lot and it shows.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that I Allegheny County Council Member At Large Bethany Hallam do hereby recognize Matthew Rudzki for his years committed to the Borough of Sharpsburg. I thank him and Bridget for all of her support for decades of service for Sharpsburg Borough and wish you best of luck in future endeavors and witness thereof I hereunto cause the seal of the county of Allegheny to be affixed this 21st day of December, 2021.

MR. RUDZKI: Thank you to county council this night and to Bethany and to Anita and to Tom for cosponsoring this. We were on the same path back in March and April knocking on doors. Sharpsburg is my home, and I love Sharpsburg. I do love my wife more than Sharpsburg though if one can believe that, and I'm not going far. I was sworn in as the District Judge on Friday. I took my commission yesterday but Sharpsburg is a beautiful place and it's full of beautiful people and the one thing that Sharpsburg has going for it is it's on the right track and for a while river towns was a dirty word and people didn't want to mention it. They didn't want to move there, but we've come so far in 10 years and that's a testament to the comprehensive plan but most importantly to the people that are implementing that plan. There's been a lot of blood, toil, sweat and tears have gone into it. We've got great leaders leading the borough now so I can go in peace that I did my part to the best of my abilities. Like I said, I'm not going far. I'm staying in town. My office is in Sharpsburg so I hope to continue serving as I have through diligence and transparency and accountability and fairness. I look forward to working with county council in whatever ways I can moving on and with my local county

councilor and at large county council member Bethany Hallam and Sam DeMarco, but thank you to everyone tonight. I very much appreciate it. Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

PRESIDENT CATENA: The remaining proclamations will be read into the record. 12126-21.

MR. BARKER: A proclamation recognizing John David Butler upon receiving the Eagle Scout award sponsored by Council Member Kirk.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 12127-21.

MR. BARKER: A proclamation recognizing AMVETS Post number 60 upon their 75th anniversary sponsored by Council Member DeMarco.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 12128-21.

MR. BARKER: Certificates of recognition presented to the 2021 Curio412 awardees sponsored by Council Member Baker.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Is there any public comment on any agenda items?

MR. BARKER: Not on agenda items.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay. Approval of minutes 12121-21.

MR. BARKER: A motion to approve the minutes of the August 31st, 2021 regular meeting of council.

MR. MACEY: So moved.

MR. PALMIERE: Second.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Motion has been made and seconded. Any discussion? All those in favor signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT CATENA: All those opposed? Motion carries. Any presentation of appointments?

MS. HALLAM: President Catena, point of order.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Hold on one second. Presentation of appointments? Anything Jared? Presentation of appointments?

MR. BARKER: We have none.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay.

MS. HALLAM: Point of order, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Go ahead.

MS. HALLAM: I'd like a motion to amend this agenda to add agenda item 12086-21 approving the appointment of Joseph Angelelli to the area agency on aging advisory board.

MR. MACEY: 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. If there are no objections, I would like to have a single motion and a second to approve all of the appointments and then have the clerk read them all so is there a motion to approve?

MR. PALMIERE: Second.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Motion has been made and seconded. Jared, please read the titles.

MR. BARKER: 11953-21. Approving the appointment of Donna Smith to the Friends of the Park for Harrison Hills Park for a term to expire on August 24, 2024 sponsored by Council Member Futules.

12094-21. Approving the appointment of Patricia Oliffe to the Friends of the Park for South Park for a term to expire on November 30, 2024 sponsored by Council Member Palmiere.

12095-21. Approving the appointment of Patrick Oliffe to the Friends of the Park for South Park for a term to expire on November 30, 2024 sponsored by Council Member Palmiere.

12106-21. Approving the re-appointment of Jesse Torisky to the Accountability Conduct and Ethics Commission for a term to expire on December 31, 2026 sponsored by Council Member DeMarco.

And 12086-21. Approving the appointment of Joseph Angelelli to the Area Agency on Aging Advisory Board for a term to expire on December 31, 2026 sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Does anyone object to doing a simple voice vote? Hearing no objections all those in favor signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT CATENA: All those opposed? Motion carries. We'll now have liaison reports. Anyone have a liaison report this evening?

MR. BAKER: I actually do have one. This one -

PRESIDENT CATENA: Is there anyone else that has a liaison report this evening. Go ahead, Councilman Baker.

MR. BAKER: After eight years and I don't know how many liaison reports I just want to thank Council

Members DeMarco and Kirk for a special night last night. I got roasted as you all know, and it was a very non-partisan, bipartisan event. We had Republican State Rep Jason Ortitay and Democratic State Rep Anita Kulik, the county executive was there. He did not roast. He threw some jabs and I will say this I have never seen him laugh as much as he did last night. He really thought it was a good roast.

But this has been an incredible experience. I thought it was very fitting we had it in Emsworth last night which is literally the median spot of the district which is a huge, huge district. This has been an incredible journey. I did check the tape from last week. I promised you I would speak for eight minutes in honor of the eight years. I spoke for 12 when I checked the tape so I assume that means you guys want me back for another four; would that be correct?

But my surprise tonight is the first time I ran for office I was actually in graduate school at IUP at the greatest graduate program in Pennsylvania. This is the student affairs in higher education program and I'm thrilled tonight to be joined by every year for the last 12 years Erin and now Lyla and I have done a scholarship for a student leader that's involved through the program and on campus. Abby Gontis is here tonight. She can raise her hand. She's enjoyed the meetings so congratulations to Abby.

The things that took me from being a shy child Cindy Kirk I know that's impossible to believe - but it was really three of the things that Abby was involved in have involved student government, being an orientation leader and Greek life. Those are three of the things that really stood out on Abby's resume. She also was a COVID quarantine assistant and has been during the pandemic. And I'll just finish off by honoring Abby by saying this, through her application for the award she said - and I think this is true for a lot of us up here that really just care about public service and helping people - I love what I do in every capacity of my involvement and care about students and their needs - for us that'd be constituents - I make it a priority of mine to check in on my students and my fellow cohort members. This year as a graduate student has been nothing short of treacherous and reaching out and checking on others gives me a sense of community that we all need in these times.

I know this and I know we all don't agree with each other all the time, but you are the helpers. We are the helpers. We work together. We work with Ken. We work with Manager McCain to get stuff done and help people so Abby we'll do the proclamation afterwards, but I have your award and more importantly I have your scholarship check so that's more fun too, so congratulations. One more round of applause for Abby Gontis. That's it. Thank you.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Is there anyone else for a liaison report? Okay. New business? Any new business? None?

MR. BARKER: No.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Notification of contracts 12122-21.

MR. BARKER: A communication summarizing approved executive actions for the month of November 2021.

MR. MACEY: Receive and file.

MR. DUERR: 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. Any public comment on any general items.

MR. BARKER: We have three. First up is Kelly Strain of Pittsburgh. My first comment is related to legislation numbered 11804-21 which would ban fracking on public lands. I heard some of the public comments about this legislation at past meetings and reached out to my county council rep for more info, and the two combined have just confused me more. I would like to hear public discussions about this legislation and how it would affect county residents if passed. I understand the desire to keep fracking production directly out of public parks although fracking is not the monster that some make it out to be. Fracking creates natural gas resources which we all use daily in various ways. I think the people who are against fracking need to keep that in mind. Also I heard public comment about county council requiring face masks and possibly COVID-19 vaccinations at public facilities. I am 100 percent against that. County council is not the COVID-19 police. County council has no right to dictate whether or not people wear face masks or get the COVID-19 vaccination to be in public facilities in the county. As a consumer during the pandemic I have not spent as much

money in stores or places that have mandates of any kind. I think it is wrong that Allegheny County fired some employees who refused the COVID-19 vaccine. I think county council would be wrong to jump on the COVID-19 mandate bandwagon. Thank you for your time.

The second who signed up is Jason Bolton of Pittsburgh as well. I don't believe he's here tonight. He did not give any comments in writing however.

The last individual who signed up is Katherine Doyle also City of Pittsburgh. I wish to speak about understaffing at polling sites and about outdated signatures for voters on the Board of Elections list of voters. My name is Katherine Doyle. I live on Pinewood Drive in Mount Lebanon. I have worked at two polling sites and ask you consider two things with regard to elections.

First the workday of poll workers is 15 hours. Thirteen (13) hours while polls are open to voters, an hour to set up then an hour to close. The board of elections is actively looking for more people to be poll workers as most polling sites are understaffed. My conversations with friends who might be interested in working tell me that the pay rate is not the problem. Only the promise of a shorter workday could entice them to sign on. Offering a differently configured workday requires imagination and thinking outside the box and may even entail legislative action. I think you must consider changing how a work team can operate a polling site without requiring a 15 hour day.

My second concern is that of the signature of voters on the county's file of registered voters. This past election our voting district had at least one voter whose signature on file was that of another voter. Another voter's signature reflected her name before her recent divorce that changed her name. Other signatures have been on file for years but were not the voters' current signature due to his or her decline in small motor control. We poll workers could verify the voter's identity and eligibility based on their photo ID, but I fear that if these voters choose to mail in their ballots in a future election there is a strong possibility that the mismatch on signatures will invalidate their ballots. I suggest the board of elections do a visual check of what is on file so they can notify voters of a potential mismatch and give them the necessary forms for updating

their records. Is there any way that voters can view the signature linked to their records and ascertain its validity?

I also suggest that the Board of Elections give poll workers the forms that voters need to update their signatures. The May 17 primary election is nearing and these problems could result in many invalidated ballots. Thank you for hearing me.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Is there a motion to adjourn?

MR. WALTON: So moved.

MR. MACEY: Second.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Motion has been made and seconded. All those in favor signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT CATENA: Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays.

MEETING CONCLUDED AT 5:52 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 25 day of January, 2022

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Jeremy Harris,

Court Reporter