

ALLEGHENY COUNTY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

- - -

BEFORE:

Patrick Catena	-	Chair, District 4
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, February 9, 2021 - 5:01 p.m.

SARGENT'S COURT REPORTING SERVICE, INC.
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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: 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: We'll now have a moment of silence.

(Moment of silence.)

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. 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. We'll now begin with Proclamations and Certificates. These will all be read into the record. 11739-21.

MR. BARKER: A proclamation declaring the month of February as American Heart Month in Allegheny County

sponsored by Council Members Kirk, Baker, Bennett, Catena, DeMarco, Duerr, Futules, Hallam, Klein, Macey, Palmiere, Palmosina, Prizio, Walton and Zavarella.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 11740-21.

MR. BARKER: A proclamation recognizing the swift and effective actions of Patrolman Michael DeMarco, Patrolman Raymond Luther, Patrolman Dennis Rupert, Patrolman Eric Brant and Sergeant Eric Zdobinski of the Plum Borough Police Department sponsored by Council Member Zavarella.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 11741-21.

MR. BARKER: A proclamation recognizing Lisa Scales for being named Pittsburgher of the Year by Pittsburgh Magazine sponsored by Council Members Macey, Baker, Bennett, DeMarco, Duerr, Futules, Hallam, Kirk, Klein, Palmiere and Zavarella.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 11742-21.

MR. BARKER: A Certificate of Achievement presented to Mr. Michael Kemple for being one of the seventeen remaining WWII Merchant Marine members who received the Russian Medal of Ushakov, sponsored by Council Member Macey.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 11743-21.

MR. BARKER: A proclamation commending Mr. John J. Gardell, Jr. for his 50 years of dedicated service to the West Mifflin Volunteer Fire Company #3, sponsored by Council Member Macey.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 11744-21.

MR. BARKER: A proclamation congratulating Paula Willis, Parks and Recreation Director for South Fayette Township for being a member of the inaugural class of the Parks & Recreation "30 Under 30", sponsored by Council Member Catena.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Is there any public comment on any of the Agenda items this evening?

MR. BARKER: Not on agenda items.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay.

We'll now have approval of Minutes. 11745-21.

MR. BARKER: A motion to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2021 regular meeting of Council.

MR. FUTULES: So moved.

MR. MACEY: Make a motion to approve.

MR. FUTULES: Second.

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

(Ayes respond.)

PRESIDENT CATENA: All those opposed?

MR. WALTON: Point of order, please, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT CATENA: I'm sorry. Can you repeat that?

MR. WALTON: This is Dewitt Walton. I need to put forth a proclamation for the Career Technical Education Department of Pittsburgh Public Schools for CTE Month, National CTE Month, and I didn't hear the proclamation being read.

MR. FUTULES: You didn't miss it.

PRESIDENT CATENA: I'm being told by our Chief of Staff, Councilman Walton, that he held it because --- that he held it for the one you're going to do --- the second one you're going to do for Black History Month on the 23rd, our next meeting.

MR. WALTON: Okay.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Does that make sense?

MR. WALTON: That's fine.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay.

MR. WALTON: That's fine.

PRESIDENT CATENA: So all those opposed? Hearing none motion carries.

We'll now have Presentation of Appointments. We're actually going to do --- these are all going to go to Appointment Review. So we're going to do 1174-21 through 11738-21 in whole to Appointment Review.

MR. BARKER: Would you like me to summarize ---?

PRESIDENT CATENA: Please, go ahead.

MR. BARKER: Okay.

We have a couple of appointments for the Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County. That would be Marian Lien for a term to expire on May 25 of 2026 and Doris Carson Williams for a term to expire on May 23rd, 2025.

For the Authority of Improvements in Municipality, we have Marian Lien for a term to expire December 31, 2025, Doris Carson Williams for a term to expire December 31, 2021, Margaret (Peg) McCormick Barron for a term to expire December 31st, 2024. Senator Wayne Fontana for a term to expire December 31, 2023. William

Brooks for a term to expire December 31, 2022. John C. Brown for a term to expire December 31, 2024 and Stanley Gorski for a term to expire December 31, 2023.

And last up, we have a number of appointments to multiple authorities. The Allegheny County Hospital Development Authority, the Allegheny County Industrial Development Authority, the Allegheny Higher Education Building Authority and the Allegheny County Residential Finance Authority. Marian Lien for a term to expire December 31, 2025, Doris Carson Williams for a term to expire December 31, 2021, Margaret (Peg) McCormick Barron for a term to expire December 31, 2024, Senator Wayne Fontana for a term to expire December 31st, 2023, William Brooks for a term to expire December 31st, 2022, John C. Brown for a term to expire December 31, 2024 and Daniel Connolly for a term to expire December 31st, 2025, all sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Any Unfinished Business?

MR. BARKER: We have none.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Liaison Reports.

MR. DUERR: President Catena, this is Councilman Duerr. Not really a liaison report, but if I may, I have a comment on petitioning, if I may?

PRESIDENT CATENA: Go ahead.

MR. DUERR: So everyone, all you all know, petition season is coming up. The county's first day made available is May, on the 8th. I've had some conversations with a few of state house members in the region about, you know, possibly changing the --- the petition process this year due to COVID, unfortunately, that they --- you know, it was far too late to start that process. But I --- I just wanted to, you know, say to everyone, especially to my colleagues that are going to be running again this year, please be safe when you go out and gather your petition signatures this year to get on the ballot. It's going to be incredibly difficult to truly remain at a safe six feet while getting these signatures and getting them successfully. So I want to make sure everyone is going to be, you know, on this --- in this Council and helping other campaigns in Allegheny County to remain, you know, aware of the situation we're in and stay safe out there while you're gathering these signatures. So thanks, that's it. Thanks, President Catena.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you.

MR. MACEY: Mr. President?

PRESIDENT CATENA: Go ahead.

MR. MACEY: Okay.

Thank you very much, members of Council. I just want to let everybody know that in the very near future in the next couple weeks, we --- we will be getting --- at least the public works group will be putting together a PowerPoint presentation on all the work that was done in 2020. I think you'll be very impressed. And then, of course, in your communities, you would pretty much know what was going on, but on the other hand, we want to share what else was going on in Allegheny County. And if you would, please, just give me dates and times that would be best for you so we could set up a meeting of the whole. Thank you.

PRESIDENT CATENA: You're welcome.

Is there anyone else this evening?

Hearing no one else, we'll move on to New Business, Ordinances and Resolutions.

MR. BARKER: We have none.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay.

New Business, Motions. 11746-21.

MR. BARKER: A motion of the Council of Allegheny County expressing the sense of Council regarding proposed commercial truck size or weight increases sponsored by Council Members Hallam and Prizio.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Council Member Hallam, did you want to talk about this briefly?

MS. HALLAM: Yeah. I think this one's pretty self-explanatory. Just asking --- or just basically saying that Allegheny County Council supports the current limits that are in place and opposes any federal or state increases in the size or weight of trucks.

MR. MACEY: Mr. President?

MS. HALLAM: Can I move?

MR. MACEY: I'd like to be added to that.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Yes. Go ahead. Make a motion.

MS. HALLAM: I'd like to make a motion to approve this motion.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Is there ---?

MS. BENNETT: Second.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Motion has been made and second. Any discussion?

Hearing none all those in favor signify by saying aye.

(Ayes Respond.)

PRESIDENT CATENA: All those opposed?

Motion carries.

11747-21.

MR. BARKER: A motion of the Council of Allegheny County amending and supplementing the Rules of Council, Article II, Rule N, in order to establish a uniform mechanism for the introduction of amendments to legislative items pending before Council or any of its committees sponsored by Council Member Duerr, Macey, Kirk and Catena.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you.

Council Member Duerr, did you want to discuss this one or briefly do an introduction?

MR. DUERR: Yeah. Absolutely.

So I talked to many of the members of council already about this and I appreciate all the time everyone was giving me to discuss it. What this motion does and this rule changes will do is, is tweaks the rules regarding the amendment process in our committee. It would require that amendments be put forward no --- no later 48 hours before the committee meeting of when they'll be introduced, with the exception that that can be waived by a majority of the seated members on that committee.

So there is --- you know, if something was, you know, convenient and, you know, something that was a very easy amendment to pass or something that needed to be done immediately, there is a way around that if need be. I did this, you know, I did this in --- in regards to some of the, what I think are some of the shortfalls of the legislative process of especially the committees. On this body, I think giving members, especially since we're in a part-time body, at least 48 hours to consider any amendments. So it helps us to be more effective legislatures and a more and more effective legislature and also help the legislations we're working on to become more effective, in that we'll have more time to review any proposed amendments. So that's --- that's the introduction. So there you go. Thanks, President Catena.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay.

Are you going to make the motion?

MR. DUERR: So yes, I'd like to make a motion to --- and President Catena, I --- one of the things that I talked about is I want to make aware, and --- and perhaps Ken or Jack could speak to this, but I believe if we're going to pass this tonight, we need a two-thirds majority to waive this sending to executive committee and I would like to have them speak to that just so we're doing it correctly. And I also want to ask --- I also want to say that I'm fine with either passing this tonight and having discussion about this rule change on the floor tonight, or it goes to executive committee. I've spoken with well over a majority of council members who said they were in favor of this. So --- but if more --- if enough members want to send it to the committee, I'm fine with that too. So Ken and Jared ---?

PRESIDENT CATENA: So let me ask the question. Is there anyone that prefers this go to executive committee to be discussed? Hearing none, I think we can just take a vote on it tonight.

MR. MACEY: Second the motion.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. So Jared, call the roll.

MR. BARKER: Just for clarification purposes, which motion are we talking? Are we talking about the motion to waive the rules at this point?

PRESIDENT CATENA: The motion to waive the rules.

MR. BARKER: Just wanted to make sure we're on the same page. Mr. Duerr, I believe made that motion. Mr. Macey seconded?

MR. MACEY: Yes, sir.

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

MR. BAKER: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Bennett?

MS. BENNETT: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. DeMarco?

MR. DEMARCO: Yep.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Duerr?

MR. DUERR: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Futules?

MR. FUTULES: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Hallam?

MS. HALLAM: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Kirk?
MS. KIRK: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Klein?
MR. KLEIN: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Macey?
MR. MACEY: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Palmiere?
MR. PALMIERE: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Palmosina.
MR. PALMOSINA: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Ms. Prizio?
MS. PRIZIO: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Walton?
MR. WALTON: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Zavarella?
MR. ZAVARELLA: Yes.
MR. BARKER: President Catena?

PRESIDENT CATENA: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Ayes 15, no's 0, the motion to
waive the rules pass.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you.

Now, Motions. Tom, would you make the motion on
the main motion?

MR. DUERR: Yes. I'd like to make a motion to
approve this.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Is there a second?

MS. HALLAM: I'll second that.

MR. PALMIERE: Second.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Motion has been made and
second.

Is there any discussion?

Hearing no discussion, Jared, would you please
take roll?

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

MR. BAKER: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Bennett?

MS. BENNETT: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. DeMarco?

MR. DEMARCO: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Duerr?

MR. DUERR: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Futules?

MR. FUTULES: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Hallam?

MS. HALLAM: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Ms. Kirk?
MS. KIRK: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Klein?
MR. KLEIN: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Macey?
MR. MACEY: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Palmiere?
MR. PALMIERE: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Palmosina.
MR. PALMOSINA: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Ms. Prizio?
MS. PRIZIO: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Walton?
MR. WALTON: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Zavarella?
MR. ZAVARELLA: Yes.
MR. BARKER: President Catena?
PRESIDENT CATENA: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Ayes 15, no's 0. The motion

passes.

PRESIDENT CATENNA: We'll now have 11748-21.

MR BARKER: A motion of the Council of Allegheny County expressing the sense of Council regarding potential legislation allowing for minimum wage standards to be set at the county level within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, sponsored by Council Members Hallam and Bennett.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Councilwoman Hallam, would you like to discuss this?

MS. HALLAM: Sure. Thank you, President Catena.

So really, again, this one's pretty self-explanatory. There is a --- the process --- Representative Kevin Boyle who is in the PA General Assembly, he is going through the process right now of introducing legislation to allow counties in the Commonwealth to set their own minimum wage. One of the main arguments behind that is how the cost of living in Allegheny County and Philadelphia County are so much higher than some of the other counties and every county has its own unique characterization, and so this is just saying that Allegheny County Council supports that legislation to allow for counties throughout the Commonwealth to enact their own minimum wage.

So I would like to move to pass this motion.

MS. BENNETT: Second. Liv.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Motion has been made and second.

Is there any discussion?

MR. FUTULES: Absolutely.

MR. DUERR: I have a quick, but whoever spoke first, go ahead.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Go ahead.

MR. FUTULES: Okay.

I just want to make it very clear that several years back I supported the minimum wage to be raised in the State of Pennsylvania. In fact, we sent a motion to the state level, but I adamantly oppose going county by county. It would turn on a competition between counties as far as minimum wage, and I do not support this, but I do support it as the state as the whole. Thank you.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you.

Councilman Duerr?

MR. DUERR: Yeah. Councilwoman, I have a question for Councilwoman Hallam. Bethany, I just wasn't sure if there was a --- a bill similar to this being discussed by --- up in state senate as well? There's usually, like, you know, dueling bills. Is there any --- any bill like this being discussed in the state senate currently? Do you know?

MS. HALLAM: Not --- not yet. This is going to go to a sponsorship process in the State House. So they have proceeded with --- introduction to the state senate would be the next step after.

MR. DUERR: Okay.

Just curious.

MR. WALTON: I have --- Tom, and I another question as well.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Go ahead, Councilman Walton.

MR. WALTON: As a trade unionist, clearly I recognize --- I recognize the need to have a living wage as the standard, but is there anywhere that is the proposed state legislation that there's a --- that there is a floor? And to address the rule disparity that's there for the minimum wage, which is abhorrent in itself and the difference in minimum wage for tipped employees because tipped employees is less than half, closer to one-third of regular employees for tipped employees.

Can you address that at all, Bethany, if you would?

MS. HALLAM: Yes. So just before I answer, I'd just like to clarify your question. You're asking if there would still be a floor of the lowest that minimum wage should be?

MR. WALTON: Yes. That's part of it.

MS. HALLAM: Yes. The low would be what the Commonwealth standards are already, which I believe is \$2.83 for tipped workers, \$7.25 for non-tipped workers. So that --- that floor would stay the same, unless the Commonwealth acted on raising the Commonwealth's minimum wages. This says that if we, in Allegheny County, wanted to raise either the tipped minimum wage or the hourly minimum wage on our own, we would have the authority to do that if the state level legislation were to pass. This is just a motion supporting that concept.

MR. WALTON: Thank you.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Councilman Zavarella?

MS. HALLAM: You're welcome.

MR. ZAVARELLA: I just have one quick question. Is that work is performed or where the worker resides in setting the wage for the county?

MS. HALLAM: I see it as being similar to the paid sick leave. It doesn't matter where you live. It matters where you're employed because this has to do with your employment.

MR. ZAVARELLA: So if the employee resides in Allegheny County and the work is performed in Westmoreland County, it would be where the worker resides? So that I understand it.

MS. HALLAM: So it would be --- I'm sorry. I said it would be where the worker's employed. I apologize if I said that incorrectly.

MR. ZAVARELLA: Okay.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Councilwoman Hallam, would you be opposed to us getting a copy of the actual legislation and I can refer this to the committee? It seems like there's still a lot of uncertainty among members.

MS. HALLAM: I mean, if that's what folks think they need to do. I think that this motion though is pretty clear that we're just saying that we support the --- any state legislation that supports allowing counties and municipalities to decide ---

PRESIDENT CATENA: I think ---.

MS. HALLAM: --- on their minimum wage, but if the rest of Council is not supportive of this without going to the committee and they think they would be more supportive of it if we went to the committee and did some more research on it, I wouldn't be against that.

PRESIDENT CATENA: I can't tell you if they'll be more supportive of it even after it goes to the committee, but I can tell you that the devil's always in the details. And without having the bill in front of them, I think obviously, I mean, without speaking for each and every member, I think that --- I mean, that's one of my concerns any time we blindly come out and support something like that, when you read through the details and you --- you find out something that's surprising. So I mean, if you're in favor of it, I mean, like I said, I'd like to refer this to the committee.

MS. HALLAM: I'm not in favor of it, but I would be willing to do it if my colleagues think that they need more information.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Does anyone think they need more information or do you prefer we vote on it tonight? I'll just leave that open to the group.

MR. DEMARCO: President Catena, this is Councilman DeMarco.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Yes, Councilman.

MR. DEMARCO: I need more information, and I'd like to see any type of economic study or analysis done, which would show the potential of what would happen if we solely raised things in Allegheny County, but they did not in Butler, Beaver, Westmoreland and Washington. So yeah, I'd love to see and get more information on this before we voted on it.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. So we'll refer this to the committee. We'll send this to economic development and housing.

MR. FUTULES: Why?

PRESIDENT CATENA: Because it's my choice as President. How's that for an answer?

MR. FUTULES: That's a great answer.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay.

So --- I have to laugh about that. I'm sorry, Nick. I'm sorry, Councilman Futules, that wasn't --- that was a smart-aleck answer. I apologize.

MR. FUTULES: Quiet frankly, I wasn't sure where to send it myself.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Actually, at this point in the evening, I'm going to introduce a motion for all of council to be considered. No motion is obviously necessary to add this item to the agenda, but if we feel that the need is there, I mean, I'm going to refer it to public works. So can you distribute the copies and remind basically everyone received it yesterday, but I'm going to still distribute the copies as well.

I'll wait to start talking until everyone receives it.

MR. BARKER: Actually, while that's happening, Mr. President, would you like me to read the title of the bill?

PRESIDENT CATENA: Go ahead.

MR. BARKER: Okay.

The bill is going to be assigned Bill Number 11750-21. A motion to Council of Allegheny County expressing the sense of council supporting the proposed extension of the Panhandle Trail from Collier Township through Scott Township to the Borough of Carnegie, sponsored by ---

MR. WALTON: Jared, you're --- I'm sorry to interrupt but, Jared, you're --- I can't hear you very well.

MR. BARKER: All right.

Let me give it a shot from closer to the microphone.

MR. PALMIERE: Let Ken read it so we can hear.

MR. VARHOLA: Do you want me to read it?

PRESIDENT CATENA: Yeah. Go ahead. Read it.

MR. VARHOLA: Expressing the sense of council supporting the proposed extension of the Panhandle Trail from Collier Township through Scott Township to the Borough of Carnegie, sponsored by President Catena.

PRESIDENT CATENA: And I think Councilmember Hallam asked to be added as well. Basically, we --- Carnegie and Scott Township --- three of my communities Carnegie, Scott Township and Collier have been trying to obtain a piece of railroad right-of-way that runs along the side of the Carnegie Borough building adjacent to the Port Authority lot for a number of years. It's been going on for as long as I could remember and I'm asking for Council this evening to obviously support a motion to basically send a letter to --- basically supporting what Carnegie is trying to do and basically expand the

Panhandle Trail because we all know in obviously, Allegheny County, I mean, how important trails have been obviously to the administration and all residents of Allegheny County. And it's going to require actually --- we're not going to be taking anything from the railroad. It would just actually require the rail bank. Basically, that's a practice of track that has not been used for more than ten years, in which the rail line has authorized for an abandonment, can be preserved for future rail use through interim use as a trail.

So basically, we're not --- the railroad tracks would still be kept there in case they were needed, but basically rail bank those tracks in order to make a trail and make those improvements along that trail, and extend it through those three communities. And the rail actually also connects to Settler's Cabin Park, which is another true amenity in my district. So I'm asking for Council support obviously, to send a letter to the railroad basically saying that we all support this program ---

MR. VARHOLA: What railroad?

PRESIDENT CATENA: --- Rails-to-Trails.

The Tennessee Wyoming Railroad.

That we support this. So I'm open to any questions. So go ahead. Councilman Macey?

MR. MACEY: Thank you, Mr. President. I serve with the trail corporation for the Mon Valley. I'm also a member of the Mon/Yough Trail Council. And if you're looking for any additional help and hopefully letters of support from them, I think that you may want to check with them because they have gone through acquisition use of property and other items that may be very essential to getting the Collier, Scott Township and Carnegie, that particular program put together. Just a suggestion.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you.

Councilman Palmiere, I believe you wanted to say something?

MR. PALMIERE: Yes, Mr. President. First of all, Mr. President, how much of an improvement is this going to make? How many miles?

PRESIDENT CATENA: About three miles. It would extend from Walker's Mill into Collier, basically to the Carnegie station.

MR. PALMIERE: Okay.

Now, I will support this if you run that three miles with me when it's open.

PRESIDENT CATENA: As long as you have an ambulance at the finish line, I will take that bet.

MR. PALMIERE: Well, I think it's a wonderful idea and I'm a member of the Montour Trail and we've gone through quite a bit of these moments like this and I'm in full support of it, Mr. President. Thank you.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you.

MS. KIRK: President Catena?

PRESIDENT CATENA: Go ahead, Councilwoman Kirk.

MS. KIRK: I am of support of the Trails to Rails, Rails to Trails and whatnot. I just have one question that has come up in the past in some of the situations I've been involved in. Are there any residents who feel they're going to be adversely impacted by the trail coming too close to the property or anything? I mean, we've had issues around here a little bit. They seem to have been resolved, but it took time. And I just wanted to verify that, that there aren't residents that feel they're being infringed upon?

PRESIDENT CATENA: No. The actual rail --- the rail line actually runs along a major roadway where there are no houses. The only thing on that side of the tracks is the Carnegie Borough building and the Port Authority bus way and the rest of it is pretty much just vacant property all the way through the --- all the way through the various municipalities.

MS. KIRK: Well, that's great. That's a perfect location then. Thank you.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Any other questions before we make the motion?

MR. FUTULES: I do.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Oh, Councilman Futules.

MR. FUTULES: Yeah. I support this motion, but I know it's probably a very uphill battle.

PRESIDENT CATENA: It is.

MR. FUTULES: Depending on --- because basically where I live, the Allegheny River Boulevard quarter, also the 28 quarter or the railroads, I don't want to mention their names at this point, but they refuse to allow the Rails to Trails to come up that direction, basically because of the liability and that's a problem for them. It's a federal right-of-way and nothing trumps that, and that's been --- when you say it's been years ongoing, I wish you well.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you and obviously, not to give anyone false hope, but it obviously is an uphill battle, but we're trying to use every tool in our arsenal obviously, to make this happen. In --- in the first day, we got close to 800 letters in support of this. So obviously, a lot of people are behind it and we're trying to hopefully encourage the railroad to get on board because obviously, it would be a positive thing for not only those three communities, but many of the residents of Allegheny County.

Go ahead, Councilman Macey. Sorry.

MR. MACEY: I'd also like to be a sponsor, and I'll help wherever I can.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you.

MR. DUERR: President Catena, this is Councilman Duerr. If I could be added to the sponsors as well? I'd appreciate that.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you.

MR. PALMIERE: Mr. President, I'd would like to also co-sponsor that, Mr. President. I'll tell you, from my experience with the Montour Trail this is going to be an uphill fight, but usually, we may lose a battle here or there, but we usually win the war. So I'm confident that we'll get this done. Thank you.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you.

At this point, I'm going to make the motion for 11748-21, to make a motion for affirmative recommendation.

MR. MACEY: Second.

PRESIDENT CATENA: All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

(Ayes Respond.)

PRESIDENT CATENA: All those opposed?

Motion carries. Thank you, everyone. I really appreciate that.

Notification of Contracts 11749-21.

MR. BARKER: Communication summarizing approved executive actions for January 2021.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Is there a motion to receive?

MR. MACEY: Receive file, please.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Motion has been made.

Is there a second?

MR. PALMIERE: Second.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Motion has been made and seconded. Any discussion?

Hearing no discussion all those in favor signify by saying aye.

(Ayes Respond.)

PRESIDENT CATENA: All those opposed?

Motion carries. Public Comment on General Items.

MR. VARHOLA: We have two, Mr. President. Denice Curley, Pittsburgh 15227, hazard pay should be for correctional officers of Allegheny County Jail. Even teenagers get it at Giant Eagle and Costco. This is absurd. They are essential workers. If they're not, then just lay them off and let the prisoners fend for themselves.

Brian Lengyel, West Mifflin 15222, I'm checking on an issue that was brought up at the January 12 meeting by myself. From my understanding, the county was going to request for police reports concerning accidents in front of or near my house. I provided video of two crashes at or near my place on September 20th and November 25th. Is the county going to put in guardrails or not? The latest issue has been lingering for four and-a-half months with no definitive answer and the problems of this intersection have been ongoing since 2004. I have had four incidents where my cars and my home have been damaged, over \$25,000 in damage during these incidents. My neighbors had three parked cars totaled sitting in driveways. The speed limit has been reduced to 30, but very few follow the speed limit/traffic lights at this intersection. I have yet to see anyone get pulled over for traffic violations or any enforcement of them either in almost 17 years that I have lived there.

And that is it, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you.

Is there a motion to adjourn this evening?

MR. MACEY: So moved.

MR. DUERR: Second.

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

(Ayes Respond.)

PRESIDENT CATENA: All those opposed?

Motion carries. Have a good evening everyone. Stay safe.

MEETING CONCLUDED AT 5:33 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 23rd day of February, 2021

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Jeremy Harris,

Court Reporter