

ALLEGHENY COUNTY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

- - -

BEFORE:

Patrick Catena	-	President, District 4
Robert J. Macey	-	Vice President, District 9
Bethany Hallam	-	Council-At-Large
Samuel DeMarco	-	Council-At-Large
Thomas 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  
Fourth Floor, Gold Room  
436 Grant Street  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219

May 25, 2021 - 5:23 p.m.

SARGENT'S COURT REPORTING SERVICE, INC.  
225 Ross Street Suite 202  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
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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: Rise for the pledge of allegiance.

(Pledge of Allegiance.)

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

(Silent prayer or reflection.)

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. 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. Macy?  
MR. MACY: 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: We have 15 members present.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Good evening, everyone. Before we begin, we're having some technical difficulties tonight with our meeting live streaming. So it will be --- I'm informed it will be uploaded first thing tomorrow morning. So just wanted to put that out there for everybody.

For proclamations and certificates, we have one proclamation to be presented this evening, 11868-21.

MR. BARKER: Congratulating Venture Outdoors on their 20th Anniversary of encouraging outdoor activities. Sponsored by Councilmember Baker.

MR. BAKER: Good evening, everyone. This is Valerie. She's the Executive Director of Venture Outdoors. Has anyone ever participated in a Venture Outdoors event? If we --- Anita has. Councilman Zavarella. So yeah, Venture Outdoors oversees Kayak Pittsburgh. They do an incredible amount of good things. Have you --- Will, have you been? The County Manager has been. Okay. Very good. Okay. Very good.

Venture Outdoors is a wonderful organization. They are celebrating their 20th Anniversary all next weekend, so if you don't have plans next weekend Valerie and her team have a whole wide variety of great things going on. My --- the event I'm looking forward to the most is the Tyke Hike at 10 a.m. that my daughter and I will be going to. But they do so much good in our region, especially I would say in 2020 when there were just less things to do with crowds. Right? Adventure Outdoors has been getting us outdoors, keeping us healthy, keeping us vibrant as a region for many, many years.

So we're very proud to honor them here today. I haven't said the words Big Brothers, Big Sisters in a while at a meeting, but I did get a quote from Big Brothers, Big Sisters about the power of the partnership with Venture Outdoors. Brie Alesandra said, --- first she said, Lo is my favorite person ever. Lo works for Valerie, and she's pretty amazing. They go to the extra mile to bring the outdoors to the Littles and to all kids in our community. They are very fun and easy to work with, and we appreciate them so much for all that they do above and beyond.

So I know Big Brothers, Big Sisters certainly appreciates you. We as a County appreciate you. In a year, again, like 2020 that was so tough to spend time with others I had a great time going geocaching with your team earlier this year, going kayaking last year, going geocaching with your team a couple years ago. It's always a good time with Venture Outdoors, so if you haven't ventured outdoors with Venture Outdoors please make plans to do so. And with that we'll read the proclamation.

Whereas there are endless and varied benefits of being outside, nature encourages wellness, aids in positive mental health, builds confidence and strengthens community. Venture Outdoors creates access to these educational, outdoor experiences by inspiring and equipping others to get outdoors. And whereas Venture Outdoors is a member-supported, local nonprofit providing youth, outdoor programs, free and active senior programs, programs to teach people new skills and outdoor inclusion efforts to create an equitable outdoor industry. And whereas Venture Outdoors has played a key role in shaping outdoor recreation in Pittsburgh and all over Western PA and was the first organization to put kayaks on the three rivers and downtown through Kayak Pittsburgh, which now serves over 35,000 individuals each year across their multiple locations. Whereas on June 5th, 2021 Venture Outdoors will be celebrating their 20th Anniversary, and I love the pronunciation on this.

Valerie has a very funny video where she says it, but it's Big Day Aht (sic), so like A-H-T. So instead of O-U-T it's A-H-T. You guys get it? Big Day Aht. They don't like it. No, I think it's --- no, I think it's --- I think it's pretty good. Like, the Pittsburgh way to say it. The next one. Okay. All right. They have a whole video. And 'at. Right. Thank you. All right. Thank you, Bobby. I'll send the video to the 15 of you.

So the event is coming up. It's a one-day festival spanning across Southwestern PA, featuring 30 plus pop-up, outdoor events. Programs will include geocaching, hiking, biking, fishing, running, history hikes and so much more.

Now therefore, be it resolved that I, County Councilmember Tom Baker, do hereby congratulate Venture Outdoors and Valerie on its 20th Anniversary. The Council commends Venture Outdoors for sharing and teaching so many how to love and enjoy our wonderful natural resources.

Big round of applause for Valerie and Venture Outdoors. Do you want to say a couple words?

(Round of applause.)

MISS BEICHNER: Sure. Thank you so much. Thank you for having us here. Thank you so much, Councilman Baker, for this proclamation and for recognizing Venture Outdoors. It isn't just about getting outside and having fun. It's about practicing wellness. It's about quality

of life. It's about reducing stress and anxiety, and that has never been more important than it is now in the COVID-19 environment. We greatly appreciate all of the support of our partners, including Allegheny County, in multiple ways. And thank you so much for this really great honor.

(Round of applause.)

MR. BAKER: Oh yeah. We did it already though. Yeah. Yeah. Okay.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay. The remaining proclamations and certificates will be read into the record. 11867-21.

MR. BARKER: Congratulating the Fox Chapel FOXES for earning first place at the 2021 Allegheny County Envirothon. Sponsored by Councilmember Prizio.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 11869-21.

MR. BARKER: Recognizing June 2021 as Pride Month in Allegheny County. Sponsored by Councilmembers Prizio and Duerr.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 11870-21.

MR. BARKER: Commending elected leaders, volunteers and residents for their efforts in planning and coordinating Baldwin Borough Community Day on June 5th, 2021. Sponsored by Councilmember Palmiere.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 11871-21.

MR. BARKER: Recognizing the opening of the newly renovated Brentwood Borough community Pool and congratulating the elected leaders and many others for coordinating the efforts to rehabilitate this recreational facility. Sponsored by Councilmember Palmiere.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 11872-21.

MR. BARKER: Congratulating Ron and Dorothy Gerstacker on the occasion of their 65th wedding anniversary. Sponsored by Councilmember Palmiere.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 11873-21.

MR. BARKER: Congratulating Ashley Marina Yankello on the release of her new music video entitled Time to Shine. Sponsored by Councilmember Catena.

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

MR. BARKER: No.

PRESIDENT CATENA: None?

Okay. Approval of minutes, 11874-21.

MR. BARKER: Motion to approve the minutes of the March 30th, 2021 regular meeting of Council.

MR. DEMARCO: So moved.

MISS HALLAM: Second.

MR. PALMIERE: 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.

Any presentation of appointments?

MR. BARKER: None.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Unfinished business.

Committee on Appointment Review for the second reading, 11824-21.

MR. BARKER: Approving the reappointment of Martha W. Isler to the Community College of Allegheny County Board of Trustees for a term to expire on April 23rd, 2027. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Councilwoman Hallam?

MISS HALLAM: Thank you, President Catena. So I would like to affirmatively recommend this appointment. So I would like to make a motion to approve.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Motion has been made. IS there a second?

MR. FUTULES: Second.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Motion has been made and seconded. Just --- let me make sure of something. Councilwoman Hallam, when you speak next time, you were cutting out an awful lot, so if you do speak again can you just make sure that --- make sure that you are closer to the microphone. Because we had a little bit of trouble hearing you. So is there a --- we'll do a roll call vote on this.

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. Macy?
MR. MACY:	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 appointment passes.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Committee on Budget and Finance for the second reading, 11860-21.

MR. BARKER: A Resolution of the County of Allegheny amending the Grants and Special Accounts Budget for 2021, submission number 04-21. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Councilman Palmosina?

MR. PALMOSINA: Thank you, President Catena. The Budget and Finance Committee met on May 13th, 2021 and affirmatively recommended this resolution that would amend the 2021 Grants and Special Accounts budget to accept a \$50,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency for the Court of Common Pleas to fund initiatives aimed at reducing overdoses for people on probation as well as those reentering the community from the Allegheny County Jail. The funding will be used for judicial and probation training, consultation with local experts for policy development and direct harm reduction strategies for people at risk of overdose. I move for approval.

MR. MACEY: Second.

MR. PALMIERE: Second.

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

Seeing no discussion, we'll do a roll call vote, please, Jared.

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. Macy?

MR. MACY: 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 bill passes.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay. We'll have liaison reports, or there aren't any liaison reports this evening? Go ahead.

MISS BENNETT: Mr. President.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Hold on, Councilwoman. I recognized Councilman Futules, and then I'll recognize you.

MR. FUTULES: Okay. Thank you. This year the little town of Verona, that I happen to represent, is



having their 150th Anniversary. They started with a kickoff about three weeks ago, and next week, June 2nd, 50 years ago, I was the last class of Verona High School. We're having a reunion on June 2nd, the exact day. We're going to the exact school and take pictures, and it's pretty ironic, you know. When I was 18 years old, they celebrated their 100th Anniversary at Verona, and it was a big celebration. And they're planning on doing that again this year with several celebrations, and we're going to go, like I said, visit the school. And we're going to go back to the football field and take pictures, and then we're going to go to a museum that they have down there and see the history of Verona. And it happens to be the same place my grandfather came to America, and that's where he started his business. And we were there for 94 years --- 96 years, I'm sorry, before we sold out business in Verona. So if you have a chance, celebrate with Verona this year, 150 years. Thank you.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Councilwoman Bennett.

MISS BENNETT: Thank you, Mr. President. I just want to take some space and time in this meeting to acknowledge the Anniversary of the murder of George Floyd. We have --- we have --- it's been a year since this murder took place, but I also want to acknowledge that coming up next week on May 31st to June 1st is the Anniversary of the Tulsa Massacre that happened 100 years ago. Tonight in celebration or in commemoration of George Floyd's Anniversary they're having a special. Soul of a Nation on ABC and our own mother of the movement, Michelle Penney is a panelist on that show this evening. And her son, Antoine Rose, II murder anniversary will be coming up on June 19th of this year. So I wanted to make sure that people take the time to commemorate. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Anyone else this evening?

MR. DUERR: Mr. President, if I may?

PRESIDENT CATENA: Go ahead, Councilman Duerr.

MR. DUERR: I just very quickly wanted to thank everyone at the elections division, David Voy, everyone at the administration for all the work that they put in in this past week or last week for the primary. We're still under very weird circumstances right now with the lingering effects of COVID-19 and, you know, my members of Council probably know that I still continue to consult on

campaigns on my --- as my official job. And all of the polling locations that I was at on elections day were, you know, very well staffed. Everything was very well run, and I think, consider the circumstances we're still under, I think David and everyone in the administration is --- continue to do a great job in making sure that everyone's voice is heard. So and I also want to give a shout out to Controller Szefi who, despite being a candidate himself, still found time to answer one of my questions at 7:00 in the morning on election day. So thank you very much Andy, and thanks to Willie and David and everyone at the elections department for a pretty smooth primary election day here in Allegheny County. So thank you.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Anyone else this evening?

Seeing no one else we'll start new business, ordinances and resolutions, 11875-21.

MR. BARKER: A Resolution amending the Articles of Incorporation of the Allegheny County Hospital Development Authority to revise Section III thereof with regard to the County's review of projects for hospitals and health centers financed by the Authority. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT CATENA: That will go to Councilman DeMarco and Committee on Economic Development and Housing. 11876-21.

MR. BARKER: A Resolution of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, approving an amendment to the Articles of Incorporation of the Allegheny County Airport Authority to extend its term of existence until June 17th, 2059. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT CATENA: That will go to the Committee on Economic Development and Housing as well.

We'll now have new business, motions. Motion of the --- hold on. 11 --- my paper got stuck. 11877-21.

MR. BARKER: Motion of the Council of Allegheny County expressing support for ReImagine Appalachia and urging the creation of a Federal Appalachian climate infrastructure plan. Sponsored by Councilmembers Prizio, Bennett, Klein, Duerr, Hallam and Macey.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Councilwoman Prizio.

MISS PRIZIO: Yes.

MR. WALTON: I'd like to join as a cosponsor of that.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Is there anyone else that would like to join? Councilman Palmosina. Anyone else? Okay.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Councilwoman Prizio.

MISS PRIZIO: Thank you very much, President Catena. As all of you remember, President Biden came to Pittsburgh on March 31st to announce his infrastructure plan. This motion encourages all members of the Pennsylvania congressional delegation to support the framework of ReImagine Appalachia climate infrastructure plan. This plan will build a 21st century economy in the Appalachian region by expanding career opportunities and clean manufacturing, grid modernization and economy where working people and communities are put first and their contributions are respected. Thank you.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Were you going to make the motion?

MISS PRIZIO: I'd like to make a motion that we vote on this --- on 11877-21.

MR. FUTULES: Second.

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

MR. FUTULES: Can I be added as a cosponsor.

MR. WALTON: I have a comment.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Councilman Walton.

MR. WALTON: I think this motion is very forward looking. It's timely, and it's critical for the issues that we're confronted with in this region. And it's very impactful, because while we talk about reimagining Appalachia and we look at the issue of coal and some of the positions that the current President of the United Mineworkers, Cecil Roberts, has taken over the last couple of weeks where he's acknowledged that coal is continuing and will continue to decline until it's no longer a primary source of fuel. That's very farsighted, and it understands and underscores the importance of us looking for alternative sources of energy and that we --- equally important that we have to find other career paths for those people who will be economically impacted by that. It further goes on to demonstrate the criticality in this region for the horrible issues that are confronting us with US Steel taking a position to divest that investment in the mine valley. So clearly we have to be forward thinking and really assertive in our approach to address the issue of climate change, transforming our energy

systems and our grids and all of those things and particularly the time is now. I support this.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Councilman Futules?

MR. FUTULES: I just want to be added as a cosponsor. That's all.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay.

Anyone else this evening? Councilman DeMarco?

MR. DEMARCO: Yeah, for the record, I'd just like to look at the first paragraph here. It says, he announced his plan to invest approximately \$2 trillion in hard infrastructure projects. I'd just like to correct the record. There was only \$165 billion for hard infrastructure projects in that whole \$2.2 or 2.3 trillion plan. You know, I can't support this. Thanks.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Anyone else this evening?

Hearing no one else, Jared, would you please take a roll call vote?

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

MR. BAKER:	No.
MR. BARKER:	Ms. Bennett?
MS. BENNETT:	Yes.
MR. BARKER:	Mr. DeMarco?
MR. DEMARCO:	No.
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:	No.
MR. BARKER:	Mr. Klein?
MR. KLEIN:	Yes.
MR. BARKER:	Mr. Macy?
MR. MACY:	Yes.
MR. BARKER:	Mr. Palmiere?
MR. PALMIERE:	Yes.
MR. BARKER:	Mr. Pamosina?
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 12, no's 3. The motion

passes.

PRESIDENT CATENA: We'll now have notification of contracts. Anything?

MR. BARKER: We have none.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay. Public comment on general items?

KEN VARHOLA: We have one, Amber Thompson, Pittsburgh, 15224. My name is Amber Thompson. I'm speaking as the budget engagement coordinator for the Economic Justice Circle. It is a grassroots coalition of community leaders, activists, organizers and advocates committed to creating an economic justice agenda for the Pittsburgh region with a race and gender equity lens. We are building cross-movement solidarity to implement a strategy that centers on the experiences and leadership of people who are affected by multiple systems of oppression throughout region budget. I'm here today to ask County Council to provide transparency in their plans for community engagement surrounding the American Rescue Plan Act dollars, and I am presenting a petition with 92 organizations and individual residents that proposes that Allegheny County immediately engage in a community-driven, transparent process for deciding how to spend these critical, federal dollars. It's time to put our money where our values are. The County will receive and estimated \$383 million in ARP funds. As of yet there have been not --- there have not been public discussions about how decisions will be made at the County level or whether there will be a process for community engagement. Our City and County governments must prioritize the needs of communities, historically left behind ---.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Please mute your phones.  
Sorry.

KEN VARHOLA: --- historically left behind so all of our neighbors thrive. In order to build a City and County that work for all of us and our local governments must ensure a transparent budget and engaging community process for community input. That is it, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Who is that? Jack? Okay.  
Is --- a motion to adjourn?

MR. WALTON: So moved.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Is there a second?

MR. BAKER: Second.

MR. PALMIERE: 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.

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 19 day of August, 2021

 \_\_\_\_\_

Jeremy Harris,

Court Reporter