

ALLEGHENY COUNTY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

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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
Fourth Floor, Gold Room
436 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219

June 8, 2021, 5:00 p.m.

SARGENT'S COURT REPORTING SERVICE, INC.
429 Forbes Avenue, Suite 1300
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
(412) 232-3882 FAX (412) 471-8733

IN ATTENDANCE:

Jared Barker --- Director, Legislative Services

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: Please remain standing for a moment of silence.

(Moment of Silence.)

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. 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:	Present.
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:	As of right now, we

have 14 members present.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Tonight we're honored to have the chief executive with us for our quarterly address. Mr. Chief Executive?

MR. FITZGERALD: Thank you, Mr. President, members of Council. First of all, it's good to see

everybody, more or less in person as we get back to normal a little bit. And I will begin about the COVID-19 pandemic, where we've been. Obviously we're getting in a much, much better place than we were certainly the last time I was before you three months ago, and certainly a year ago where we were in June.

Having said that, we've had over a hundred thousand cases in Allegheny County, I believe 101,000 and some and 2,000 fatalities. So two percent of the people who officially were tested positive have succumbed to this deadly virus. The good news is we do see the hospitalization, the fatality rate, the number of cases drop very, very low, and Dr. Bogen has addressed that.

Part of the near normalcy that we talk about is the fact that for the first time tomorrow, I will not --- I and Dr. Bogen will not be doing our annual --- our weekly briefing. We've been doing those since last March --- mid-March, and we're going to go every two weeks. Along those lines the Health Department themselves are not reporting cases every single day, but on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, the state is doing similar. So just, it talks about the fact that we are doing better.

We also know that 763,000 Allegheny County residents have had at least one dose, so over three-quarters of our adult population. And when you think about the rest of the country, which is around 65 percent --- 64 percent, we're doing much, much better. However, we want to get everybody vaccinated. And where we're seeing the gaps in vaccination is really in our younger people. The good news is our over 65 population is basically 99 percent vaccinated. So you know, we've been doing a good job as a community, both the Health Department and the medical facilities and senior center, senior high rises, all those type of things have really been covered. But it is really the 12 to 20 year olds and the 35 and under crowd. It's a much lower percentage and we really need to focus on that.

In fact, President Biden today tweeted out the fact that the Delta Variant, a new variant, I guess, of the COVID strain between the 12 and 20 year olds is spreading pretty fastly and pretty quickly in the UK and is urging people to get vaccinated, those 12 to 20 year olds. And we're going to do everything we can. I'm actually going to reach out to you to think about places in your districts, schools and young --- where young

people congregate to where we can make sure that we get folks along those lines.

Dr. Bogen has indicated that she's, you know, willing to put places, quite frankly, almost door to door, but certainly in smaller gatherings. People are getting very imaginative in giving --- today I was at Oakmont Bakery, where they were giving free pastries for people that got vaccinated. I've heard of bar owners that are willing to give free libations for --- and other types of developments. So we really want to make sure that we get --- we get people vaccinated.

I note that we --- that we, the Allegheny County Health Department, our Hartley Building on 1st Avenue is open for people to go and walk in and get vaccinated. So we really want to encourage it --- and again, if there's any suggestions you have in your district for some of the younger crowds to get --- to get done will be helpful. We'll go to libraries. We're partnering with businesses. Again, I can go on and on, but that's what we're looking to do.

Along the lines with some of the COVID stuff that we've seen, the Rent Relief Program. I'm very proud of the fact that Allegheny County is the top performing in the state of giving rent relief. Over 8,000 households have applied. Over \$6 million has been distributed. Approximately about \$5,000 each for each one that has qualified. And they're doing a really good job of going through where people, if they haven't given all the documentation or all the information try to help people get the rent relief that they have. I'm going to give out a number that your constituents might be able to do if they're having trouble getting through. That's 412-248-0021 for people that want to, you know, avail themselves to that program.

Also, the Chirp program, which is for the hospitality industry, which we know has been hit as hard as any industry throughout this pandemic. We've also done --- you know, the Economic Development Department has done a really good job distributing about \$15 million of state money and another \$1.5 million in county money to over 600 businesses with the average award or average award or average of giving to about \$22,000 each. So we're doing everything we can to try to help those businesses that have been affected by some of those things.

I will talk about parks a little bit, and as we return to normal, the pools were open this weekend. It was, obviously, a very hot weekend. We had over 13,000 people who showed up at our four pools. We're still challenged a little bit with the life guards, and I know you've seen those stories of many pools, municipal pools, et cetera, around the country and certainly around our county. We're still looking to do that. We're going to try to keep our pools open as much as we can, but you may see times where one day out of the week or two days out of the week there maybe be limitations on what goes on.

We also resumed the concert series, which is so popular in Allegheny County, South Park. I was able to get out there the other night for their first concert. The Pittsburgh Opera performed. It was a beautiful evening and lots of folks were there. And then, Sunday night the Hartwood Acres concert as well. It went very, very well. People obviously seem to want to get out and be part of that.

The movies in the parks, also, resumed, as well as many of the other activities. And as you know, and things you've been appropriated, we continue to fund and fix things up in the parks, even during the pandemic. Those of you that live in the southern part of the county, we know the Corrigan Drive lights. Councilman Duerr and Councilman Palmiere who represent that area. I've heard many good responses about people that --- the lighting of Corrigan Drive, that two-mile stretch from Brownsville Road over to Route 88, that so many people walk, bike, jog, et cetera, skateboard. Once the sun went down, you really couldn't use it. The only lights were the lights of the cars driving down, and now with those lights it's open until midnight. People can use that beautiful park more and more frequently.

Out in the North Hills --- and if Councilman Kirk was here, that the tennis court facility that opens up where the park rangers will be, bathrooms, little meeting spaces where the tennis courts or pickleball courts are, along with the Marshall Island Bridge that was reopened. Just beautiful. The Parks Department really did a great job and all the folks that worked on that should be very proud.

And then, we cut a ribbon this week --- or last week for the Sculpture Garden at Hartwood Acres. Absolutely fantastic and transformative. Some of our

great art work that is done on about a dozen or so, beautiful art sculptures, and as they work --- the parks foundation is working with the manager and the Parks Department, really creating just a really great destination place for folks --- for folks who go there.

And along those lines, Settler's Cabin, the Botanic Garden, cut the ribbon on their beautiful facility, meeting space and entrance space in Settler's Cabin Park. And that's been a great partnership that we've been able to work with. They've been funding things. You know, we've started to put some funding in, but they've been really raising a lot of money doing the things that they need to do. As events get back to normal, and we've seen --- I think you've probably seen a lot of this really starting with Memorial Day. I know --- I know a number of places rescheduled some of the activities and the memorial services that happened along those lines. We're in the midst of the Three Rivers Arts Festival, which obviously, last year, didn't occur. And to see so many people coming Downtown is really great to see.

We had Pride this weekend. Beth Sholom's had some events. We've had --- Elmhurst did a groundbreaking. The Woodlands had a wonderful event in the North Hills last week. South Park we did a pour in the park about a month ago. So we see people starting to get back to normal. The one surprise that kind of does surprise me is it's almost like people weren't ready for it. You know, we're still not seeing the activity that things have been opened up. So hopefully as time goes on, we'll see more and more things that begin to occur.

I was out at the airport this morning with Councilman DeMarco. There was a great initiative --- a groundbreaking --- or excuse me, a ribbon cutting with Wabtec doing advanced manufacturing, one of the most groundbreaking things in the country, that they're going to be making things with 3D printing and advanced manufacturing at the airport. Very exciting. What they've been doing out there, even during this pandemic has been tremendous. We have cargo that's really increasing --- I saw the announcement a few weeks ago that Amazon had picked --- Air Amazon or whatever they call Amazon airlines, whatever they call it, picked Pittsburgh as one of the places that they're going to be doing

logistics and travel from, along with Finnish Airways out of Helsinki and Qatar, Cutter.

So we continue to see more things happening at the airport. You also may have seen a new airline, Breeze Airways, which was started by the person who started Jet Blue a number of years ago. Again, Pittsburgh is a place where they're going to start four flights. Flights to Charleston, South Carolina, Providence, Rhode Island, Hartford Connecticut and Norfolk, Virginia. So places that didn't have destinations before, now people can get to. And again, it's very important to make those connections as we see, again, people in travel get back to normal again. And again, the TMP, the modernization program, which is so needed at our airport, is moving forward, and the construction has started there. So we're very, very pleased to see --- to see that moving forward.

Excuse me, I want to talk about the Port Authority just a little bit, because we just don't know, when people go back to work, particularly in Downtown, Oakland, places like that, how many days a week people are going to be going back to work. You know, the Port Authority is set up with ridership with a supposition that people are going to be going to work every day. You know, 20 days out of the month. But with this new way of doing things, we just don't know. We don't know what the fare box implications will be, so Katherine Kellerman and her team are certainly working on that to make sure, you know, that we're able to have a very robust and connective Port Authority. But this is not just here in Pittsburgh, but across the country, as Zoom and Teams and other, you know, virtual ways to communicate are going to be changing the way people are working. And we just don't know where that's going at this point.

We obviously had an election a couple weeks ago. We had --- and again, our election department did a wonderful job. We had over 6,000 offices that were on the ballot. I mean, think about that. I know Councilman DeMarco and Councilman Hallam are on the board. I mean, it's amazing how many different positions are on there. We had about 29 percent turnout, which compares to about 22 percent four years ago. There was some referendum questions and some contested local races, et cetera, judicial. More and more people running for Common Pleas Court, et cetera, et cetera probably led to that as well as the mail. We still had about a third of the people who

voted by mail in this election that the elections were just certified yesterday by the board. So that was completed along --- along those lines. Also a big initiative that we had been talking about --- and again, we funded this last year in the budget is the children's initiative. We've been doing a search --- basically a national search. And last week we named Becky Mercatoris as the director of the hospital --- the Children's Initiative, very excited about Becky. She comes with a great background with a lot of enthusiasm.

And one of the things, I think, we really want to provide in this community, is pre-K and afterschool programs for some of the communities that just have been left behind. And I think that's something we see a lot of support for. I know the President has put that into his human infrastructure bill that that's proceeding through the Congress right now. The state has been working on pre-K as well. So it's something here locally we're going to continue.

Along those lines, I mean, we've been very fortunate over the last --- since I --- I appeared before you before. We had a presidential visit. We had a Secretary of Transportation visit. And then, last week we had the Senate Transportation Committee from Harrisburg. The State Transportation Committee come here to hold hearings around such an important issue of transportation and transit. Some of the things that we know is a challenge for us if we're going to continue to grow in a very positive way. That's going to be an important --- important initiative that we want --- that we want to move forward on. So I was --- one thing I also wanted to highlight and thank --- our medical examiner's office was given an accreditation by A.N.S.I., the national accreditation board. There's only five in the world that have gotten this accreditation. So I want to thank and congratulate Dr. Williams and his team down there.

Our Economic Development Team received a national award of excellence regarding the Ohringer Building in Braddock, an initiative --- and again, an economic development initiative for housing for the folks in Braddock, which is --- we should be very, very proud of. And then the last thing before I open it up, the Learn and Earn Program, which I know is so important to so many of you, the deadline is the 11th, I believe is this Friday. So if any of your high school constituents

looking for summer work and looking for summer opportunities, the Learn and Earn Program has been a very successful and very productive program to connect people for opportunities that they might have.

So with that, Mr. President, let me open it up for questions and discussion from the members.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you, Mr. Executive. Are there any questions? Councilman Kirk?

MS. KIRK: I just have a quick one. Learn and Earn, what's the minimum age for that?

MR. FITZGERALD: I believe it's 15. Fourteen (14) or 15. I'm going to have her look it up and get that information to you. It's high school age. It wouldn't be middle school.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Any other questions? Councilman Futules?

MR. FUTULES: Yeah, I have a question. It's more like an update from Churchill where the Westinghouse Plant used to be.

MR. FITZGERALD: Yeah.

MR. FUTULES: I believe Amazon is looking to move there.

MR. FITZGERALD: That's the rumor. I don't know if that's been confirmed, but I think that's ---.

MR. FUTULES: Okay.

MR. FITZGERALD: Some big retailer that's looking to put a logistics operation with a couple thousand jobs, let's leave it at that. I think they do begin A, though, Councilman.

MR. FUTULES: Well, as our councilman in that district, the council themselves had asked me several years ago for Allegheny County to help them get a tenant, and I certainly hope that we were a big part of that.

MR. FITZGERALD: Yes. We've been very, very supportive as has our Senator Costa, Congressman Doyle, the local council members. There's been a lot of work, then, going into that. Unfortunately, that location has been sitting vacant for a couple of decades now ever since Westinghouse pulled their R&D folks out of there. And it's a wonderful, wonderful location, wonderful facility.

It needs some --- obviously some remediation and some upgrade, but yeah, we would like to see opportunities for that part of the county. You think about it, councilman, we've got a lot of growth happening in the city, a lot of growth in the North Hills, out by the

airport, in the western suburbs, the south hills, the eastern part of the county and the Mon Valley, have not always seen some of that growth. So this would be a great opportunity for folks in the Woodland and Hill District, and the folks, not just in Churchill, but all of the surrounding --- Turtle Creek, Wilkins, Forest Hills, Wilkinsburg, Penn Hills, Monroeville, et cetera, to benefit as well.

MR. FUTULES: Well, I'll be delighted when it happens. Thank you.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Any other questions? Just one for me, Mr. Executive.

MR. FITZGERALD: Yes, sir.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Any update on the paid sick leave legislation?

MR. FITZGERALD: I think it's moving along forward. I think --- my guess is that for the July --- I think it's our next meeting. The July meeting.

MS. KIRK: There's a public hearing scheduled, and if that falls in the timeline it would be in July, yes.

MR. FITZGERALD: Hopefully that will be approved by then in July and then we would present the bill to Council for approval. So it is moving forward

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Any other questions? Councilman DeMarco, one last one, I believe.

MR. DEMARCO: Is part of this unnamed large retailer that wants to move in there, they want to put a second facility, Pittsburgh Mills might be an excellent location where they have property that ---.

MR. FITZGERALD: You're right. I will say this. For that retailer and even others, we have seen them --- you know, they have a location --- they're looking in the North Versailles. They've obviously done a couple in Findley, Lawrenceville, and others are looking --- I mean, there's a lot of good opportunities for folks, and we're being as cooperative --- but you're right, that would be --- that's on our list. Let me just say that. So Lance --- Lance and his team are working on that.

Thank you guys. Gave a good evening.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Before we go into proclamations and certificates, I just want to note that prior to tonight's meeting, we had an executive session to discuss personnel matters. So we'll now have proclamations

and certificates. All of these will be read into the record.

11883-21.

MR. BARKER: Before proceeding, please let the record reflect Mr. DeMarco is now present.

11883-21, congratulating Andrew Dubinett for having met all the necessary requirements to advance to the rank of Eagle Scout sponsored by Council Member Kirk.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 11884-21.

MR. BARKER: Congratulating Brandon Vicheck for having met all the necessary requirements to advance to the rank of Eagle Scout sponsored by Council Member Kirk.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 11885-21.

MR. BARKER: Congratulating Matthew Degnan for having met all the necessary requirements to advance to the rank of Eagle Scout sponsored by Council Member Kirk.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 11886-21.

MR. BARKER: Congratulating Vince Raitt for having met all the necessary requirements to advance to the rank of Eagle Scout sponsored by Council Member Kirk.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 11887-21.

MR. BARKER: Recognizing and congratulating Officer Max Bellard for his 42 years of dedicated service to law enforcement with the Heidelberg Police Department upon the momentous occasion of his retirement sponsored by Council Member Catena.

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

MR. BARKER: We had one sign up. Steve Johnston, Gibsonia 15044 on Ordinance 11880-21.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay.

MR. JOHNSTON: Good evening, everyone, and thank you for this opportunity. I have three comments to make regarding a Bill Number 11880-21. First of all, I'd like to remind Council that I was the person who initiated this re-investigation of the role of the council of friends, approximately a year ago. And I was very pleased to see this come through.

In regard to a right to know law I basically got ---.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Right to know, that's not an agenda topic, so ---.

MR. JOHNSTON: I'm simply saying that I got this very quickly ---

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay.

MR. JOHNSTON: --- from Mr. Baker, as a result of his kind attention to detail. The first comment would be that it would be great if we could have some sort of public input on this document. I believe this has been drafted entirely by three people, and at least that's what I read on the paper. I'm sorry?

I would --- I would like to encourage that there'd be some public input, public meeting, however you would like to describe it.

I see that there are prescriptions for annual reviews. I'm highly concerned that those are going to happen because in my right to know inquiry for the past 20 years, there were no --- there were no notes or financials given to council in that entire 22 year period. That's what the right to know inquiry proved.

And finally, I'm concerned about the censor of individuals, simply because that sets up the possibility of a cult of personality on the council of friends, within the council of friends organizations. And that was primarily why I asked you to look at this a year ago, is that we have a cult of personality right now and I was hoping that you would see fit to change that in some fashion. So I'm concerned about all of the detail for censor and unilateral removal. And those are my comments. Thank you.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Approval of minutes?

MR. BARKER: We have none.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay. Presentation of appointments?

MR. BARKER: Also none.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay. Unfinished business. Committee on Economic Development & Housing for the second reading.

11845-21.

MR. BARKER: An ordinance approving the sale of a parcel of property identified as 11th Street, City of McKeesport, PA, 15132 Block and Lot 0382-A-00289, for the sale price of \$300 to the Redevelopment Authority of the City of McKeesport, sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Mr. DeMarco, Councilman DeMarco?

MR. DEMARCO: Thank you, Mr. President. The Committee on Economic Development and Housing met on Tuesday, June 1st to discuss this and ended up affirmatively recommending it.

To explain to the folks what it's about, it's basically there's a small parcel of vacant property in McKeesport the county feels that they no longer need, that they, together with the school district and the City of McKeesport are going to turn over to the Redevelopment Authority. So we're just selling our interest in it for \$300.

I'd like to move that this be passed.

MR. Duerr: Second.

PRESIDENT CATENA: A motion has been made and seconded. Is there any discussion? Hearing none --- Councilman Futules, did you want to say something?

MR. FUTULES: Oh, no. I was just saying, the price of \$300.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay. Seeing that there's no public comment, roll call vote, please then, Jared.

MR. BAKER: On the motion. 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. Zavarella?

MR. ZAVARELLA: Yes.

MR. BARKER: President Catena?

PRESIDENT CATENA: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Ayes 14, no zero.

PRESIDENT CATENA: For the record, Councilman Walton had to leave.

11875-21.

MR. BARKER: A resolution amending the Articles of Incorporation of the Allegheny County Hospital Development Authority to revise Section three 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: Councilman DeMarco?

MR. DEMARCO: Mr. President, again, the Committee on Economic Development and Housing met on Tuesday, June 1st and took it --- affirmatively recommended this Bill out of Committee.

To explain the Bill a little bit to the public, what it is, is the Allegheny County Hospital Development Authority proposed just to amend the language in the Articles of Incorporation by eliminating outdated references to county districts and taking and updating those and modifying the review by the County of Hospital Health Center Projects, financed by the Authority in a manner consistent with the Municipal Authority's Act.

I'd like to move that we pass this.

MR. DUERR: Second.

PRESIDENT CATENA: A motion has been made and seconded. Is there any discussion? Hearing no discussion, 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:	No.
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. Zavarella?
MR. ZAVARELLA: Yes.
MR. BARKER: President Catena?
PRESIDENT CATENA: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Ayes 13, noes 1. The Bill passes.
PRESIDENT CATENA: 11876-21.

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

PRESIDENT CATENA: Councilman DeMarco?

MR. DEMARCO: Yes, Mr. President. Thank you.

When the Articles of Incorporation for the Airport Authority back on June 17th, 1999, they were done with the term not to exceed 50 years. Well, here we are now in 2021 and the current date that will expire will be 2049.

With the new terminal modernization project, they would like to go out and issue bonds with a 35-year maturity rate, and so what we're asking for is an extension to the year 2059 to allow that to occur. Mr. President of the Economic Committee --- excuse me, Economic Development, the Housing Committee met on June 1st reviewed this and affirmatively recommended it.

I'd like to move for its passage.

MR. BAKER: Second.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Motion has been made and seconded. Any discussion? Hearing no discussion, 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. 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. Zavarella?
MR. ZAVARELLA: Yes.
MR. BARKER: President Catena?
PRESIDENT CATENA: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Ayes 14, no zero. The Bill passes.
PRESIDENT CATENA: 11861-21.

MR. BARKER: A motion of the Council of Allegheny County requesting that the General Assembly consider and enact legislation either to regulate certain entities that undertake real estate wholesale transactions through the creation of a licensure system and establishment of required disclosures relating to those transactions, or to statutorily authorize Allegheny County to do so, in order to provide protections to homeowners from undesired solicitation and its deleterious effects, sponsored by Council Members DeMarco and Council Member Macey.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Councilman DeMarco.

MR. DEMARCO: Thank you, Mr. President.

Now, last month we brought this to the attention of Council that there were problems occurring throughout our county with real estate wholesalers who are unlicensed or unregistered and aren't subject to any rules of disclosure or anything else. Going out and signing sales contracts with people offering to buy their homes with cash, but not giving them the right or telling them they

have the right to seek --- or do the appraisal to find out what the value of that property is. They then turn around and assign that sales contract with somebody else, where they had of thousands --- tens of thousands of dollars in profit, which really represent the equity of the original homeowner had payment build up over the years.

We were looking to try to do something here in Allegheny County, subject to statutory legislation, we're not permitted to regulate business, and therefore we modify what was intended to be an original ordinance into a motion. So this is motion is to take and urge state legislature to pick up the reins and regulate this industry, as I understand it's occurring throughout the Commonwealth. And if they fail to do so, you don't have the statutory authority to do so to protect the citizens of Allegheny County. I urge its passage and ask to make a motion to pass this.

MR. BAKER: Second.

PRESIDENT CATENA: A motion has been made and seconded. Any discussion? Hearing no discussion, Jared, please take a roll call vote?

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. Pamosina?
MR. PALMOSINA:	Yes.
MR. BARKER:	Ms. Prizio?

MS. PRIZIO: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Zavarella?
MR. ZAVARELLA: Yes.
MR. BARKER: President Catena?
PRESIDENT CATENA: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Ayes 14, no zero. The motion

passes.

PRESIDENT CATENA: New business. Ordinances and resolutions.

11879-21.

MR. BARKER: An ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, amending and supplementing the Administrative Code of Allegheny County, Article 1013, entitled Political Activity, Accountability, Conduct and Ethics Code, Section 5-1013.09, entitled Standards of Conduct, through the creation of a new Subsection R, in order to establish specific prohibitions on exerting improper influence in official matters within Allegheny County, sponsored by Council Members Hallam and Council Member Bennett.

PRESIDENT CATENA: That will go to Government Reform.

11880-21.

MR. BARKER: An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, amending and supplementing the Allegheny County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 215, entitled Boards, Commissions and Committees, Article three, entitled Council of Friends, in order to update provisions governing advisory entities relating to the County Parks, and repealing prior county law on the subject, sponsored by Council Members Duerr, Kirk and Palmiere.

PRESIDENT CATENA: That will go to Parks.

11881-21.

MR. BARKER: A Resolution of the County of Allegheny amending the Grants and Special Accounts Budget for 2021, Submission number 05-21, sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT CATENA: That will go to Budget and Finance.

11882-21.

MR. BARKER: A Resolution ratifying certain year-end transfers pursuant to Section 805.03 of the Administrative Code, sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT CATENA: That will go to Budget and Finance as well.

Any new business?

MR. BARKER: No, we have none.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Notification of Contracts?

MR. BARKER: Also none.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Any public comment on general items?

MR. BARKER: We have one.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay.

MR. JOHNSTON: Thank you, again, ladies and gentlemen for your indulgence. I'll make this as quick as possible. About a year ago at this time, I also filed a right to know inquiry for the documents behind the --- for the documents that have accumulated from the time for the water tower in North --- water tower and observation deck in North Park was closed to the public and the present. It has been orally stated numerous times, by the director, that there are two proposals for renovating the tower and making it safe for public access. That occurred over some period of time, that there was a structural engineer's report verifying that the tower and observation deck is structurally sound. And the third --- the third document we're seeking is the environmental assessment of any lead-based paint that may have leached or fallen from the structure. And then, finally, the bid or proposal to tear down the water tower.

And that, in fact, was created by ordinance back in 2001, if I remember correctly. So the only legislation on the books is to tear the thing down. There is no active attempt to raise money to seek current guidance on how to rehabilitate the facility. So it's dead in the water. I sought these documents in an attempt to begin some fundraising initiative with the foundation, and that is not going to proceed unless the director of Parks relinquishes these documents according to the right to know.

We have now reached the point where the next step is going to be a judicial solution, and I'm asking council to step in and instruct the director to release those documents, because they in no way contradict legislation relating to contracts and bids. I'll pass. Thank you.

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

MR. DEMARCO: So moved.

MR. BAKER: Seconded.

PRESIDENT CATENA: A motion has been made and seconded. All in favor, signify by saying aye.

(chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT CATENA: All those opposed? The motion carries.

MEETING CONCLUDED AT 5:37 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 September, 2021

 _____

Jeremy Harris,

Court Reporter