

ALLEGHENY COUNTY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

- - -

BEFORE:

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

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

Tuesday, February 22, 2022 - 5:01 p.m.

SARGENT'S COURT REPORTING SERVICE, INC.
225 Ross Street, Suite 202
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
(412) 232-3882 FAX (412) 471-8733

IN ATTENDANCE:

Jared Barker - Director of Legislative Services
Jack Cambest - Allegheny County Council Solicitor
Ken Varhola - Chief of Staff

PRESIDENT CATENA: Good Evening. 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 silent reflection.

(Moment of Silence.)

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

MR. BARKER:	Ms. Bennett?
MS. BENNETT:	Here.
MR. BARKER:	Mr. Betkowski?
MR. BETKOWSKI:	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:	Ms. Naccarati-Chapkis
MS. NACCARATI-CHAPKIS:	Here.
MR. BARKER:	Mr. Palmiere?
MR. PALMIERE:	Here.
MR. BARKER:	Mr. Palmosina?
MR. PALMOSINA:	Here.
MR. BARKER:	Ms. Prizio? Mr. Walton?
MR. WALTON:	Here.
MR. BARKER:	President Catena?
PRESIDENT CATENA:	Here.

MR. BARKER: All 15 members are present.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Proclamations/Certificates 12206-22.

MR. BARKER: Recognizing February 1st through the 28th, 2022 as Career and Technical Education Month in Allegheny County sponsored by Council Member Bennett?

MS. BENNETT: He's parking.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Do you want to hold then?

MS. BENNETT: I mean, it's the only one being presented so I don't know how this is going to look or - he's just parking.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay. We'll hold it and go back when he gets here. 12205-22.

MR. BARKER: Recognizing and congratulating the U.S. Province of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit who will celebrate 150 years of pursuing their mission and ministry in the United States sponsored by Council Member Catena.

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

MR. BARKER: Not on agenda items.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay. The approval of minutes 12207-22.

MR. BARKER: A motion to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2021 regular meeting of council.

MS. BENNETT: So moved.

MR. DUERR: Second.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Is there a second? Motion has been made and second. I assume Councilman Betkowski and Councilwoman Naccarati-Chapkis are going to abstain? Okay. So all those in favor signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT CATENA: All those opposed? Motion carries. Presentation of appointments. They're all going to be referred to the committee review. I'd like to have the clerk read them all now.

MR. BARKER: 12193-22 approving the appointment of the Honorable DeWitt Walton to the Authority for Improvements in Municipalities for a term to expire on December 31, 2026 sponsored by the chief executive. 12194-22 approving the appointment of the Honorable DeWitt Walton to the Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County for a term to expire on May 23, 2025 sponsored by the chief executive. 12195-22 approving the appointment of the Honorable DeWitt Walton to the Allegheny County Industrial Development Authority, the Allegheny County Hospital Development Authority, the Allegheny County Higher Education Building Authority and the Allegheny County Residential Finance Authority for a term to expire on December 31, 2026 sponsored by the chief executive.

12196-22 approving the re-appointment of LaShawn Burton-Faulk to the Community College of Allegheny County Board of Trustees for a term to expire on December 31, 2027 sponsored by the chief executive.

12197-22 approving the re-appointment of M. Gayle Moss to the Allegheny County Jail Oversight Board for a term to expire on December 31, 2024 sponsored by the chief executive.

12198-22 approving the appointment of William S. Stickman, III to the Allegheny County Jail Oversight Board for a term to expire on December 31, 2024 sponsored by the chief executive.

12199-22 approving the appointment of Anna Battista to the Air Pollution Control Advisory Committee for a term to expire on December 31, 2024 sponsored by the chief executive.

12200-22 approving the re-appointment of the Honorable Sara Innamorato to the Allegheny County Housing Authority for a term to expire on December 31, 2026 sponsored by the chief executive.

12201-22 approving the re-appointment of Sylvia Wilson to the Allegheny County Sanitary Authority for a term to expire on December 31, 2026 sponsored by the chief executive.

12202-22 approving the re-appointment of Representative Harry Readshaw (retired) to the Allegheny County Sanitary Authority for a term to expire on December 31, 2026 sponsored by the chief executive.

12203-22 approving the re-appointment of Jack Shea to the Allegheny County Sanitary Authority for a term to expire on December 31, 2023 sponsored by the chief executive.

And 12204-22 approving the appointment of the Honorable Nick Pisciotto to the Allegheny County Sanitary Authority for a term to expire on December 31, 2023 sponsored by the chief executive.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. We'll now have unfinished business committee on appointment review. Obviously if there are no objections I'd like to have a single motion to approve all the appointments appearing under unfinished business and then second. Obviously at this point in time and then have the clerk read the appointment titles prior to our vote.

So Ms. Naccarati-Chapkis, at this point in time would you like to make the motion?

MS. NACCARATI-CHAPKIS: Yes. I'd like to make the motion, please.

MR. MACEY: Second.

MR. PALMIERE: Second.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Motion has been made and seconded. Is there any discussion? I typically don't do this but I would like to say something. We do have a member tonight being appointed to the Airport Authority Board. When we had our appointment review hearing, I talked to the gentleman about some of my concerns with the Airport Authority. One of my chief concerns is and I don't know if everyone's seen it but there was an article in the Post-Gazette about the increase in bonus about the increase in bonus about the Airport CEO Christine Cassoitis. She received a three percent pay increase and \$184,000 bonus so I sent a letter to the Airport Authority Chairman earlier this month inquiring about this trying to understand exactly what justifies this. Like I said, I understand some of this is contractual and is tied to the bonus, the performance that's outlined in her contract. I'm really concerned about a 23 percent salary increase at a time when many residents have lost their jobs due to the pandemic. They're still struggling to return to pre-pandemic status, and I'm sure it'll be said - I'll be asked well the Airport Authority doesn't belong under County Council auspices. Well, I'm well aware of the authorities governed by the PA Municipal Authority's Act. However, it is on county-owned properties and some revenue generated on the property were approved by this council and council does confirm nominations to this board.

I would hope that at this point in time the airport authority would still respond to my request for this information because it feels very important for the citizens of Allegheny County to understand the transparency that goes on not only on this board but in all of Allegheny County. That's my statement so at this point in time if there's no other comment all those in favor signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT CATENA: All those opposed? Motion carries. And Councilwoman Kirk just said maybe he's just an appointment and maybe that will help and he did agree with me obviously in the interview process that he felt 23 percent was high as well. So obviously, I mean, I'm not going to fault the gentleman because he's not obviously on the board yet, but I thought it was important for the public to understand and know that information that we are questioning obviously these appointments because we feel it's very important obviously that we get the right people

on these boards. I'm sure all of council feels the same. I don't mean to take away from anything Director Cassotis has done for the authority, but still I mean a 23 percent increase is unfortunately a bit high.

MR. DEMARCO: Mr. President?

PRESIDENT CATENA: Yes.

MR. DEMARCO: Her name is Chirstine Cassotis.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Cassotis, I'm sorry.

MR. DEMARCO: Cassotis, okay, is her proper name.

She may have got a 23 percent increase because maybe they felt that she was underpaid, you know, so I'm well aware of what she's paid. And if you read the article in the paper you'll see that the aviation expert also said that he didn't believe that it was out of line with what other top folks were getting out there in the industry. So I understand your concerns with the whole bid here but I think at least if we're going to sit here and talk about and criticize her we can at least pronounce her name properly. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Yes. That's my fault. I apologize for that. If I'm going to pronounce her name wrong that's obviously what I don't want to do but I do want to bring light to a 23 percent increase because we talked about the airports that were mentioned in that Post-Gazette article. I mean, we're talking about airports that are basically Hartsfield International. I mean, some of the busiest airports in all of the country and I don't really think really Pittsburgh is part of those busiest airports in all of the country unfortunately.

MR. DEMARCO: Mr. President, again, if you want to refer to the article the article also talks about a number of those airports being under governmental authorities and the folks that actually work for them actually work for the particular government entity and that's why some of those were priced at what they were. If you look, you saw other airports out there for example, I believe it was an airport in Dallas in which that individual was paid more. His bonus took his pay up to over \$700,000, and I think what is important to understand that these people that are in these positions and what they earn, you know, are many times it's justified by the skillsets they bring to the table and what they're able to accomplish. It's not always about the amount they receive. We would all love to be in that pay range for everything like that, but you

know, do we all have those skill sets or those abilities or those talents to be able to deliver the things that have been delivered by these folks whether it be in Dallas or whether it be here in Pittsburgh.

And Ms. Cassotis is a - and I've had the opportunity the last seven years I've done a lot of work here with the airport - has done exceptional work at attracting routes and airlines to this county. Okay? And when you look at - and I'm sure that you're well aware of based upon your comments as to how she gets paid. The budget comes from two things. One primarily from the airlines. They're very tough negotiators. The second one is from the airport authority, you know, but she's certainly in demand. We were the top airport in the world here a couple years ago. She was recognized as a top executive and so sometimes things are outside the normal range. You know, maybe calls for more to be able to retain that top talent so I think, you know, you're bringing it to the attention of the public.

I think it's well-deserved. Right? We certainly want to let folks know you want to look into it, and that's fine. But I think we also have to recognize that sometimes there are folks out there with unique talents and if we want to take and attract them and retain them sometimes we have to pay, you know, a bit more than normal so I would just throw that out there. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. I don't necessarily disagree with you. However, getting a bonus on top of the 23 percent salary increase when we're in the middle of a pandemic I think that's a bit excessive, but I understand what you're saying. Councilwoman Kirk?

MS. KIRK: I also want to echo what Councilman DeMarco said. I think she's done an amazing job especially during the pandemic when we could have closed - I mean, our airports would be down to nothing and so I do appreciate it and if it's her contractual agreement I don't think there's a - we can do anything. We don't want to lose her so I'm just grateful she's here in Pittsburgh.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Is there anyone else? Hearing no one else - like I said I just think the public deserves to get transparency around all of this. Obviously if we're talking about this coming out of citizens' pockets and like I said, no, it actually isn't because every time someone goes out to that airport they're spending money

that actually is coming out of citizen's pockets so if you want to say it's not coming out you can say that and the reality is we're paying those fees to those airlines that ultimately pay her salary so it is coming out of our pockets.

Thank you. We'll move on at this point in time. Committee on public works for the second reading. 12185-22.

MR. BARKER: An ordinance authorizing the county of Allegheny in conjunction with the Department of Public Works and the Law Department to acquire by condemnation, temporary construction easements from two parcels of land required for the reconstruction of the Kenmawr Avenue Ramp Bridge located in Rankin Borough and Braddock Borough, Allegheny County and to take such further action as may be necessary under applicable law, including but not limited to the Eminent Domain Code sponsored by the chief executive.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Councilman Betkowski?

MR. BETKOWSKI: The committee on public works met on Wednesday, February 16, and in our committee meeting this ordinance was affirmatively recommended to council for approval and so I make a motion for that vote.

MS. BENNETT: Second.

PRESIDENT CATENA: 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, Ms. Bennett?

MS. BENNETT: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Betkowski?

MR. BETKOWSKI: 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: Ms. Naccarati-Chapkis?
 MS. NACCARATI-CHAPKIS: 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: President Catena?
 PRESIDENT CATENA: Yes.
 MR. BARKER: Ayes 15, no's 0. The bill passes.
 PRESIDENT CATENA: 12186-22.

MR. BARKER: An ordinance authorizing the County of Allegheny in conjunction with the Department of Public Works and the Law Department to acquire by condemnation a permanent right-of-way in fee and a temporary construction easement from one parcel of land required for the Montour Run Bridge No. 15 transportation improvement project North Fayette Township Allegheny County and to take such further action as may be necessary under applicable law including but not limited to the Eminent Domain Code sponsored by the chief executive.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Councilman Betkowski?

MR. BETKOWSKI: The committee on public works met on Wednesday February 16 and in our committee this ordinance was affirmatively recommended to council for approval and so I make a motion for that vote.

MR. MACEY: Second.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Motion has been made and seconded. Any discussion? Hearing none roll call vote please, Jared?

MR. BARKER: On the motion to approve, Ms. Bennett?

MS. BENNETT: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Betkowski?

MR. BETKOWSKI: 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: Ms. Naccarati-Chapkis?
 MS. NACCARATI-CHAPKIS: 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: President Catena?
 PRESIDENT CATENA: Yes.
 MR. BARKER: Ayes 15, no's 0. The bill passes.
 PRESIDENT CATENA: 12187-22.

MR. BARKER: An ordinance authorizing the county of Allegheny in conjunction with the Department of Public Works and the Law Department to acquire by condemnation a permanent right-of-way in fee from one parcel of land required for the reconstruction of the Thompson Run Culverts No. 2 & No. 3 County Road No. 2303-00 Thompson Run Road located in Ross Township Allegheny County and to take such further action as may be necessary under applicable law including but not limited to the Eminent Domain Code sponsored by the chief executive.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Councilman Betkowski?

MR. BETKOWSKI: The committee on public works met on Wednesday February 16th and in our committee meeting this ordinance was affirmatively recommended to council for approval and so I make a motion for that vote.

MS. BENNETT: Second.

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

MR. BARKER: On the motion to approve, Ms. Bennett?

MS. BENNETT: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Betkowski?

MS. BETKOWSKI: 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: Ms. Naccarati-Chapkis?
 MS. NACCARATI-CHAPKIS: Yes.
 MR. BARKER: Mr. Palmiere?
 MR. PALMIERE: Yes.
 MR. BARKER: Mr. Pالموسينا?
 MR. PALMOSINA: Yes.
 MR. BARKER: Ms. Prizio?
 MS. PRIZIO: Yes.
 MR. BARKER: Mr. Walton?
 MR. WALTON: Yes.
 MR. BARKER: President Catena?
 PRESIDENT CATENA: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Ayes 15, no's 0. The bill passes.

PRESIDENT CATENA: New business ordinances and resolutions 12208-22.

MR. BARKER: An ordinance of the county of Allegheny Commonwealth of Pennsylvania amending and supplementing the Administrative Code of Allegheny County Part 4 entitled Executive Branch Article 401 section 5-401.09 entitled staff organization and appointments in order to implement a unified structure governing the appointment of departmental directors and equivalent positions sponsored by Council Members Catena, Bennett and Hallam

PRESIDENT CATENA: That's going to government reform. 12209-22.

MR. BARKER: An ordinance amending and supplementing the Allegheny County Code of Ordinances through the creation of a new Chapter 900 entitled County Law Enforcement in order to establish penalties for improper search warrant execution by Allegheny County law enforcement personnel sponsored by Council Members Bennett, Prizio and Hallam.

PRESIDENT CATENA: That's going to public safety.
12210-22.

MR. BARKER: An ordinance of the county of Allegheny Commonwealth of Pennsylvania authorizing use of real property in the County's Hartwood Acres Park for use by Family House Inc. to conduct an annual fundraising event known as the Family House Polo Match sponsored by the chief executive.

PRESIDENT CATENA: That's going to parks. Before we proceed, Councilwoman Bennett is your -?

MS. BENNETT: He has not entered yet.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay. I did skip liaison reports, so does anyone have a liaison report this evening?

MS. HALLAM: I do, President Catena.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Go ahead.

MS. HALLAM: So I would like to give a liaison report from what was going on outside of the courthouse in the courtyard when we were all walking in to the meeting today. So SCIU a lot of the members which are amongst us today some of them I know have signed up to give public comment. They have been working without a fair contract for a year and a half now. They graciously accepted -.

PRESIDENT CATENA: I hate to cut you off, but -

MS. HALLAM: Oh, this will be short.

PRESIDENT CATENA: - but you're not a liaison -.

MS. HALLAM: I'm a liaison for the workers of this county and for the constituents of this county.

PRESIDENT CATENA: I understand but liaison reports are for committees assigned.

MS. HALLAM: Okay. Well, I was assigned to represent all of the people -.

PRESIDENT CATENA: I understand.

MS. HALLAM: I would just like to say -

PRESIDENT CATENA: I'll let you wrap it up quickly.

MS. HALLAM: - that there are 900 SCIU members who are employees of this county, 348 of them are making less than \$18 an hour, half of those are making less than \$17 an hour and some of them less than \$16 an hour even though this body does not have the authority to negotiate union contracts of our employees in this county. I would just like to make sure that every one of my colleagues are on notice as to what's going on and I would hope that you would all talk to your friends in the administration -.

PRESIDENT CATENA: That's it.

MS. HALLAM: Thank you so much, President Catena.

MR. WALTON: Mr. Catena?

PRESIDENT CATENA: Go ahead, Councilman.

MR. WALTON: You just established a precedent.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you, Councilman Walton. No show yet?

MS. BENNETT: He says he was parking, but no.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Any new business?

MR. BARKER: I have no motions set.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Notification of contracts?

MR. BARKER: Also none.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay. We'll go into public comment on general items.

MR. BARKER: We have several. First up is Nebraska Grayson from Natrona Heights who submitted written comments. My name is Nebraska Grayson. I live in Natrona Heights. I am contacting you to voice my strong support for bill number 12184-22 which would update the county's purchasing policies to take sustainability into account.

Allegheny County's \$1 billion budget can send powerful market signals. The costs to manufacture electric vehicles for example are trending downward. As more and more are purchased, the processes to manufacture them become more efficient. We should encourage this trend. Right now we are using our purchasing power to buy fossil fuels from companies that ruin our communities air quality and to buy disposable plastics that end up in our rivers. The status quo is not neutral. Our current policies promote fossil fuels.

The bill is thorough considering all - almost all aspects of the way the county operates and how they could be streamlined. It encourages the purchasing of recycled paper, clean electricity, efficient water fixtures, modern HVAC systems and even cool, low-carbon & permeable pavement. It also has built in accountability measures with a website that will track our progress and reviews toward our sustainability goals every three years.

Though the ordinance is bold, the county would not be going out on a limb in implementing it. It is nearly identical to the sustainable procurement policy that is already on the books in the City of Pittsburgh. As an Allegheny County resident, I would be proud to see our county lead by example on sustainability. Please pass bill number 12184-22 into law. Thank you for your time.

Next up is Max Sussman of City of Pittsburgh. He submitted a brief written comment. As an Allegheny County

resident, I would be proud to see our county lead by example on sustainability. Please pass Bill number 12184-22 into law. Thank you for your time.

Next up is Brendan Wissinger.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Before you go on, Jared, I just have a question. We said - I thought we clarified that any comments that people gave had to be public comment at this point in time?

MR. VARHOLA: That's right. We did. Yeah. That was my mistake.

PRESIDENT CATENA: We need to clarify that moving forward. All the comment obviously needs to be in person.

MR. VARHOLA: That was my mistake, Mr. President. I forgot about that.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you.

MR. BARKER: Next up would be Brendan Wissinger. Next up would be Norma Kutscher. Followed by Robert (sic) Cillo.

ROBERTA CILLO: Good evening. For clarification it's Roberta Cillo. I work for the Department of Human Services, and I have worked for the county for over 32 years. I am a City of Pittsburgh resident, and I have negotiated at least the last six contracts for SCIU with the county and I have to say this year is kind of surprising that the county really is not bargaining in good faith. We worked through the pandemic and we did this before there was a vaccine. We put ourselves and our families in harm's way. We did this because the work that we do is important to the health and safety of our community. As county workers, we are responsible for protecting our children, our seniors and high risk populations. We provide public safety. We support all facets of government in areas of law and finance. Our members who work in the elections department ensure the integrity of our democracy. They met unprecedented challenges during the presidential election to make sure that every vote counted and I appreciate that they did that.

Many of the issues that are pending are issues that can be resolved without any cost to the county, and let me say that again. Many of the issues that SCIU has brought to the table, to the negotiating table, are issues that can be resolved with the county to no cost to the county. We're not really sure why that's happening, but they are

not willing to negotiate even matters that don't cost the county anything.

Even though we've done that in the past, they've had issues in the past and we've done that, they are choosing not to know. The county needs to protect the rights of workers and they need to make sure that we are guaranteed those rights in the form of a fair contract and that's what we were doing today in rallying so that we brought this to your attention. We realize you don't have control over the bargaining, but we're hoping that you can bring your concerns to them after you've heard what we've said tonight. Our members will not agree to a contract that infringes on our rights as union members so I thank you this evening for your time and I hope that you take what we say seriously and we hope that you talk to your friends and half the county that does have the ability to negotiate with us to come back to the table and negotiate in good faith, so thank you again.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Do we have another one?

MR. BARKER: We do. Next up is Warren Hamiel

MS. BENNETT: President Catena, Ms. Mike just entered the room.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay. We'll let him speak and then we'll do the proclamation.

WARREN HAMIEL: Good evening. My name is Warren Hamiel. I have worked for the property assessment in the administrative public service department. I have worked 23 years and I have sat on five negotiating teams. This being the fifth, and this is the most frustrated that I've been since I've been on. We have been bargaining since July. The county has proposed a wage practice that does not fix the current disparities among county workers or take into account the current rate of inflation that is driving cost of rent and groceries to record highs. The bargaining team have worked long and hard to reach an agreement. Since the holiday break, we have only had one brief session and are approaching the point of impasse. That's unacceptable. We are here today because we are asking the county to return to bargaining with a contract that is fair and allows workers to keep up with the rising cost of living. In every department there are reports of vacancies that are unfilled. These jobs are important. They provide and support many areas of government. The work is more than just essential. It is vital to our

communities. We need safe staffing in all county departments, and we need it now. Thank you.

PRESIDENT CATENA: At this point in time we'll go back to the proclamation for 12206-22.

MR. BARKER: Do I read the title? Recognizing February 1st through the 28th, 2022 as Career and Technical Education Month in Allegheny County sponsored by Council Member Bennett.

MS. BENNETT: Thank you. Sorry for the change of rhythm here, but I think this will be an interest of everybody talking about the career and technical education of Pittsburgh Public Schools. And these career paths are very important in giving our students opportunities outside of college and giving them other avenues for attainment outside of when they graduate from school. So February is CTE month in the Pittsburgh Public School and Ms. Mike here is the director of the CTE programs. So we wanted to make sure that we recognized it while it was actually happening in the month of February.

So whereas February 1 through 28 of 2022 has been designated career and technical education month by the association of career and technical education. And whereas profound economic and technological changes in our society are rapidly reflected in the structure and nature of work thereby placing new and additional responsibilities on our educational system and whereas career and technical education CTE is education that directly prepares students for high-wage, high-demand careers by providing many different types of education from classroom learning to certification programs to work based learning opportunity outside the classroom and whereas career and technical education provides numerous advantages including but not limited to cost-free industry certifications, connecting with potential employers, preparation for college, incorporation of STEM into learning and providing 21st century transferrable skills. And whereas Pittsburgh Public School, PTS, career technical education programs help students to prepare for high-wage, high-skill, high-demand careers in STEM fields, industry apprenticeships and two or four-year degree program at Pennsylvania State funded school, community colleges, private school and trade school.

Whereas Pittsburgh Public Schools Career and Technical Education Program are an integral part of the district's objective to ensure that all students are

equipped with skills to succeed in college, career and life and, whereas as our nation has been facing COVID-19, we've become more aware of career and technical education value in providing a skilled workforce. PPSCTE offers 16 programs. One just opened up here for cosmetology. Offers 16 programs that prepare PPS high school for careers in high-demand fields that are crucial to our infrastructure as a society.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I Allegheny County Council Member Olivia Bennett do hereby proclaim February 1st through 28th, 2022 as Career and Technical Education Month in Allegheny County and urge all citizens to become familiar with the benefits offered by career and technical education programs in our community, to enhance individual work skills and productivity. In witness thereof I have hereunto caused the seal of the county of Allegheny to give this 22nd day of February 2022.

ANGELA MIKE: First I want to thank you, Ms. Olivia Bennett, for recognizing as council member. We really appreciate this and on behalf of Pittsburgh Public Schools and career and technical education. Thank you much for recognizing it. I also want to thank the entire county council for having us here today and thank you, DeWitt Walton, for all your support of career and technical education. We talked about high-wage and high-demand careers and you have been interested in supporting us and DeWitt has been at the table from the beginning so I really appreciate the support from everyone on the whole county council.

Just for the public I want everyone to know we do have 16 different programs at Pittsburgh Public and they're across six of our high schools in the city and they do provide students before they graduate with industry certifications, dual enrollment and students are prepared to take advantage of those high-wage careers and also ready for economic mobility and also economic independence which is most important. So thank you all so much and I appreciate being here. Thank you.

MR. WALTON: Motion to adjourn.

MR. VARHOLA: I'm not sure public comment's over.

PRESIDENT CATENA: I know you made the motion to adjourn, but we still have a remainder of public comment to get through.

MR. WALTON: A motion to adjourn is never out of order.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Next.

MR. BARKER: Next up is Michael Steinmiller.

MICHAEL STEINMILLER: Hello again. My name is Michael Steinmiller from Shaler, a product of a career school so I know. Here for SCIU 668 and speak on behalf of the 911 members. I work at 911 as a dispatcher for the department of emergency services, and I've been employed there almost 11 years. If you recall from the last time we met, I answer 911 calls and dispatch police, fire and EMS units each day and we answer over 1.4 million calls a year. Our 911 center is unlike any other in the state and as far as I know the entire country.

We serve all 130 communities that make up Allegheny County and add to that the 80-90 neighborhoods in the city of Pittsburgh. I'm here today to fight for a fair contract. 911 have been mandated to work 12 hour shifts since early December. Answering back to back 911 calls is mentally and physically exhausting. The situation at the 911 center is serious. It's an emergency. It's created public safety crisis.

The on-site staffing levels are creating situations where we do not have enough staff to answer 911 calls. Think about that. We are consolidating police, fire and EMS desks, dispatch operations like - that place the public safety at risk. The chronic overtime has impacted our lives away from work. We face longer drive times to and from work due to the schedules and a 12 hour work day means less time with our families, less time to volunteer in our communities and less time for self-care.

We've lost a record number of new staff. We need management to put a plan in place that recruits, trains and retains the staff that we are hiring. This starts with a living wage and safe staffing. The county needs to support our dispatchers. Many of our 911 members are also volunteers with local fire and EMS agencies. We live and work in the communities we serve. We take great pride in the work that we do.

It's time for them to respect us, to protect us and to pay us. This is a must if we're going to recruit and retain workers. We're asking for a contract that is fair and allows workers to keep up with the rising cost of living. Thank you for your time.

MR. BARKER: And last up we have Michelle Panella.

MICHELLE PANELLA: Good evening. My name is Michele Panella. I am a resident of the City of Pittsburgh and I

have been a 911 dispatcher for 20 years. I'm here today to stand in with my fellow county workers. We work in all departments across Allegheny County. We wear many hats. We do many jobs, but one thing we all have in common is that we care about the job that we do every day or else we would not be working for Allegheny County. My profession has made me fortunate enough to be able to pay my bills over the years, to be a homeowner and have access to transportation, to assist my family when needed on my single family income over the years even though it's been hard at times.

However, today more than ever in my lifetime the struggle for a single family income to pay the bills is becoming much more difficult. The reality is that they're nearly 350 of my fellow union members in county workers that are making less than \$18 an hour and nearly half of them less than \$17 an hour as Councilwoman Hallam has mentioned before and I don't believe that anybody could agree that that is right. It's not right and that's one of the reasons one of the many reasons we are fighting for a fair contract today.

County workers need a raise that allows us to pay our bills and keep up with the rising cost of living, and we as county workers - let's face it we're tired of some of our elected officials and bosses getting thousands of dollars in raises each year in bonuses. Maybe county council can investigate that.

As workers we need a fair contract, we need safe staffing and we need a raise that allows us to live in some economic security. A raise that pays the rent, that keeps food on the table and maybe gives us some, I don't know, hand money in our pockets after payday. We hope the county hears this today, but if you don't, we'll be back. We'll all be standing together. Please support - talk to them. Get us a fair contract. Stand with us in our fight.

PRESIDENT CATENA: You made a motion to adjourn. Is there a second?

MR. PALMIERE: Second.

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

(Chorus of ayes.)

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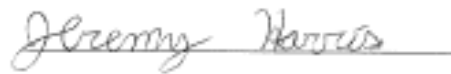
MEETING CONCLUDED AT 5:39 P.M.

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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 9 day of June, 2022

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jeremy Harris", is written over a horizontal line.

Jeremy Harris,

Court Reporter