

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
Suzanne Filiaggi	-	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
Fourth Floor, Gold Room
436 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219

February 7, 2023, 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: Good evening, everyone. 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: Thank you. Councilman Macey, I believe you have a statement.

MR. MACEY: Thank you, Mr. President, members of Council. I'd just like to have - I'd just like to have a moment of silence for Sean Sluganski, who was shot and killed in McKeesport and also Charles Thomas who is healing at home. Your thoughts and prayers will be greatly appreciated, not only for them, but for the officers in McKeesport as well as the City of McKeesport. Thank you so much.

(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:	Ms. Filiaggi.
MS. FILIAGGI:	Here.
MR. BARKER:	Mr. Futules?
MR. FUTULES:	Here.
MR. BARKER:	Ms. Hallam?
MS. HALLAM:	Here.
MR. BARKER:	Mr. Klein?
	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?
MS. PRIZIO:	Here.
MR. BARKER:	Mr. Walton?
MR. WALTON:	Here.
MR. BARKER:	President Catena?

PRESIDENT CATENA: Here.

MR. BARKER: We have 14 members present at the moment.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. We're going to switch up the order of proclamations and certificates. We're going to begin with 12572-23.

MR. BARKER: That's a proclamation honoring and congratulating Michael J. Suley for being awarded the Distinguished Service Award, sponsored by Council Member Catena.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Mike, do you want to join us - join me? Okay.

So I've known Mike for awhile now, and honestly I can tell you that not a day goes by that I don't learn something from Mike, to be honest. And he keeps me laughing all along the way, giving me all of this information that helps me learn. I never realized how convoluted the process the assessment --- the assessments in Allegheny County actually are. And I've learned so much from Mike going through all it with me, taking the time to go with me, take the time to go over all of it with me, because like I said, it's such a convoluted process and very, very complicated. And you sort of have to go over it repeatedly to understand what the common level ratio is and what the step board is, and basically all the ins and outs of the entire process.

So I give kudos to Mike for doing that with me, because I have - God help him, because I've asked a million questions about it, and he's never gotten short with me, he's never gotten curt with me. He's always been - he's always got me the information that I've always wanted to know, but probably forgotten in prior lifetimes. So but --- so we'll begin.

With the proclamation honoring Michael J. Suley, whereas to give service you must add something which cannot be bought or measured with money. And that is truly sincerity and integrity. That quote by Douglas Allen personifies Mike Suley's dedication to the real estate business for over 40 years, and whereas Mr. Suley has been in the real estate business since 1977. He has owned his own real estate business, Century 21, Suley Real Estate, and has been a sales manager for premier real estate companies in the metropolitan Pittsburgh region.

And whereas over the years Mr. Suley has worked passionately as an authorized representative for property

owners in assessment appeals before the board of property assessment appeals and review where he previously held vice chair of that board and Mr. Suley has heard appeals and was intimately involved in a court-ordered reassessment of Allegheny County in 2001 and 2012. And whereas as a state certified real estate instructor since 1980, Mr. Suley continues to teach lawyers, appraisers, certified personal accountants and real estate licensees.

He has taught real estate classes at many local schools and colleges such as Penn State Greater Allegheny, The Realtor's Educational Institute and Community College of Allegheny County. And whereas as former president of the Realtor's Association of Metropolitan Pittsburgh, Mr. Suley recently was awarded the distinguished service award for his outstanding service to RAP, which is like I said is the Realtor's Association of Pittsburgh.

He's been an outspoken critic of the current property tax assessment in Allegheny County and has worked alongside RAP leadership to address the inequalities in the system and be an advocate for all of the taxpayers of Allegheny County.

Now, therefore be it resolved that I, Allegheny County Council President Pat Catena, do hereby recognize Mike Suley, CRB, CRS, GRI for his dedication to the real estate business and commend his efforts on behalf of taxpayers. This Council congratulates him for his more than 40 years of service. Congratulations, Mr. Suley.

MR. PETRACK: Mike has asked me to present a few words, and I promise I will keep it short. My name is John Petrack. I serve as the executive vice president of the Realtor's Association of Metropolitan Pittsburgh. I've known Mike for quite a few years, almost the 43. He's been involved in the industry. And despite the fact that we sit on different sides of the political aisle, Mike and I had always been able to work well together.

And this proclamation also evidences this. Mike, has always been centered on the real estate consumer, which is coincidentally reflected in our Association's vision statement. We vigorously advocate on behalf of our members, the industry and the real estate consumer. Mr. Suley has exhibited consumer advocacy throughout his career from insisting that we change our association name so that consumers could more easily find us to kick starting the newcomers tax campaign in conjunction with the Association many years ago. To a

strong advocacy and support of reforming the CLR calculation, Mike epitomizes the realtor vision statement of consumer advocacy.

Excuse me a minute. It is my pleasure to share this moment honoring my old friend, Mike Suley.

MR. SULEY: Thank you. Thank you so much. I'm honored. Thank you, all of you. As you know I'm a man of many words, but I'll keep it brief tonight.

I think three or four of you have said - and Councilman DeMarco at one point said, Mike, I love your passion, but could you keep it simple. And Councilman DeMarco, what did I say? I'll keep it at an eighth grade level. That's how this CLR stuff, but I want to thank you so much. My wife is here, Mary. Hi, Mary. And the mother of my grandchildren, Laura. Hi, Laura. And Dawn Parasolick, I call her my boss at the Realtor's School. I teach pre-licensing there.

But thank you so much. I still have a passion. For some reason I ended up being the ghost of assessment's past, present and future. And I also want you to know I've worked two and a half years with two other people, Attorney John Silvestri and Barbara Stern, our statistician. We worked pro bono just to try to explain this common level ratio. I remember talking to Councilman Macey years ago, and he said what the heck is a common level ratio. And people are tuning into this. There is still some litigation, but you --- all of you did it with giving people that second chance to appeal. My phone lit up after that. And if any of you have any questions, you need anything, I want council to do me one more favor, because you came through for the taxpayer. I'd like to have my picture taken with you. Is that all right?

PRESIDENT CATENA: Do you want to head on up?

MR. SULEY: Is that all right?

PRESIDENT CATENA: Yeah.

MR. SULEY: And I'm going to bring my family.

PRESIDENT CATENA: You want to bring your family? Okay.

(Photographs taken.)

MR. BARKER: And before proceeding, please let the record reflect that Mr. Klein is now with us via teleconference.

Next up is 12570-23. A proclamation honoring the heroic actions of Allison Forgie in saving the life of a student, sponsored by Council Member Naccarati-Chapkis.

MS. NACCARATI-CHAPKIS: Hello. Good evening. I have two proclamations here, and I am excited to share this story. So the two individuals that I have standing beside me are teachers in the Woodland Hills School District. And there was an article that was presented in a local paper and actually in the regional paper that said everyday heroes. And these individuals are just that.

So as you know, teachers really shape who we are. They shape our lives, and I'm sure that we all have a special teacher that we think about 'til this day that has made a marked impression in our lives. And you know, one of the interesting things that I came across with the Department - U.S. Department of Education, when they talk about teachers, is that they are the backbone of our society. And they say this, teachers are the backbone of our democracy, fostering curiosity and creativity, building skillful individuals, and strengthening informed citizens. A great teacher in every classroom is one of the most important resources we can provide students, our next generation of leaders, and you know what, they also save lives.

These two individuals did that. So I will read their proclamation. And I'm going to put them side by side, because there's just a small difference between them. A proclamation honoring the heroic actions of Amber Furman and Allison Forgie, whereas Allegheny County is always grateful for the contributions of our educators who make a difference in the lives of our children, and whereas two of our own heroes, Ms. Allison Forgie, who is a teacher at Turtle Creek Elementary STEAM Academy and has been a teacher in the Woodland Hills District for 18 years, and Mrs. Amber Furman, who is a special education teacher at Turtle Creek STEAM Academy, and has been a teacher in the Woodland Hills School District for 13 years.

And whereas, on January 18th, 2023 it was the 90th day of school, so the teachers and other staff were dressed in the best of their 90s gear. But that wasn't why they were celebrating. And whereas, last week, Mrs. Forgie and Mrs. Furman saved the life of a choking student, which occurred during a snack break in Mrs. Forgie's classroom. Whereas, Mrs. Forgie performed the Heimlich maneuver and remained calm, which was vital in saving the life of this first grade student. Mrs. Furman kept the other students kept the other students in the

classroom calm, while helping Mrs. Forgie render aid to her student.

And over in this proclamation, whereas the pair immediately jumped into action and while Mrs. Forgie performed the Heimlich maneuver, Mrs. Furman kept the other students in the classroom calm, additionally helping Mrs. Forgie render aid to their first grader, which was crucial to the safety of all students. And whereas Allegheny County is a better place and thankful for heroes like Mrs. Forgie, and Mrs. Furman and all of the other educators who were key to unlocking the limitless potential of our children, we are grateful for their dedication and commitment to the children that they teach.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that I, Allegheny County Council Member Michelle Naccarati-Chapkis do hereby recognize the many teachers who make a difference in the lives of our children, but especially to Mrs. Allison Forgie and Mrs. Amber Furman for their heroic actions in saving the life of their student. Congratulations.

MS. FURMAN: Thank you. And we're honored to be here.

MS. FORGIE: Just thank you very much. It's an honor to be able to receive this, so thank you.

MS. NACCARATI-CHAPKIS: Well, we are honored to know you and thank you so much for your dedication to our kids and make an impact on their lives. I'm sure hundreds and hundreds of students come across your classroom every year and you're making a difference in all of them. Let's get a picture.

(Photographs taken.)

PRESIDENT CATENA: The Westinghouse Academy Football team is unable to be with us tonight, so the remaining proclamations will be read into the record.
12573-23.

MR. BARKER: A proclamation recognizing and congratulating Pittsburgh Westinghouse Academy Football Team on their 2022 season, sponsored by Council Member Walton.

12574-23 is a proclamation recognizing and honoring the Carnegie Library of Homestead on the occasion of their 125th Anniversary, sponsored by Council Members Klein and Council Member Macey.

12575-23 is a proclamation recognizing the week of February 6-10 as National School Counseling week in Allegheny County, sponsored by Council Member Palmosina.

12576-23 is a proclamation recognizing Joseph Armbruster as a Life Member of Pleasant Hills Volunteer Fire Company, sponsored by Council Member Palmiere.

12577-23 is a proclamation recognizing Holiday Park Volunteer Fire Department on the celebration of 60 years protecting their residents, sponsored by Council Member Naccarati-Chapkis.

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

MR. BARKER: We did not have anybody sign up for an agenda item.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Approval of minutes?

MR. BARKER: We have none.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay. Presentation of appointments.

12567-23.

MR. BARKER: Approving the appointment of Bhavini Patel to the Minority Business Enterprise Advisory Committee for a term to expire on December 31st, 2024, sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT CATENA: That will go to appointment review.

12568-23.

MR. BARKER: Approving the appointment of Tanya Vokes, M.A. to the Human Relations Commission of Allegheny County for a term to expire on December 31st, 2024, sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT CATENA: That will go to appointment review.

12569-23.

MR. BARKER: Approving the appointment of Leslie-Paul Jamerson to the Human Relations Commission of Allegheny County for a term to expire on December 31st, 2024, sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Appointment review as well on that one.

Unfinished business. Committee on appointment review for the second reading.

12543-23.

MR. BARKER: Approving the reappointment of Thomas W. Weaver to the Agricultural Land Preservation Board for a term to expire on December 31st, 2025, sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Council Woman Naccarati-Chapkis.

MS. NACCARATI-CHAPKIS: Yes, President Catena. The appointment review committee continued its meeting on January the 24th, 2023 and affirmatively recommended Thomas Weaver to the Agriculture Land Preservation Board.

MR. MACEY: Make a motion.

MS. NACCARATI-CHAPKIS: And I would like to make a motion to that, please.

MR. MACEY: Second.

MR. PALMOSINA: 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? The motion carries.

Committee on budget and finance for the second reading.

12562-23.

MR. BARKER: A resolution of the County of Allegheny amending the Grants and Special Accounts budget for 2023, Submission number 01-23, sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Councilman Palmosina.

MR. PALMOSINA: Thank you, Mr. President. The Budget and Finance Committee met on February 1st and affirmatively recommended this Bill. I move for approval.

MR. MACEY: Second.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Motion has been made and seconded. Is there any discussion? Hearing no discussion, all those in favor, signify by saying aye. (Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT CATENA: All those opposed? Motion carries.

MR. BARKER: I apologize, that has to be a roll call vote, because of the resolution.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay. Roll call vote then. I'm sorry, 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:	Ms. Filiaggi.
MS. FILIAGGI:	Yes.
MR. BARKER:	Mr. Futules?
MR. FUTULES:	Yes.
MR. BARKER:	Ms. Hallam?
MS. HALLAM:	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, noes 0, the bill passes.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Liaison reports, are there any liaison reports this evening?

Councilman DeMarco?

MR. DEMARCO: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, today is election day in three Pennsylvania state house districts. House district 32, 34 and 35. I want to recognize the county workers that are out there working today, the workers that are over at the warehouse that are processing the mail and absentee ballots, as well as thank the citizens of Allegheny County who took it upon themselves that live in those districts to go out and vote today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. Councilman Futules?

MR. FUTULES: Yes, thank you. I think something had happened in Allegheny County that is wonderful for the people of this county who have decided to run for office. Yesterday the election division put the applications for petitions online where you can actually don't have to drive to the City of Pittsburgh, find a place to park, because it's not that easy to park down here. You can

just fill your name in, put your petitions on your computer and print them as needed. I think that's such a wonderful thing that they've finally done, and I'm delighted.

I'm not sure who's responsible, the administration, the election division.

MR. DEMARCO: Duerr is responsible.

MR. FUTULES: Tom Duerr?

MS. FILIAGGI: Yes, Councilman Duerr.

MR. FUTULES: I want to thank whoever was responsible for that, because what a godsend. I had people calling me up last week and asked me to pick some up for them. And I said, you know, I think you might be able to get them online as of next week, and sure enough they showed up. And I think it's just a great thing. And I want to thank everybody for that. Thank you.

MS. FILIAGGI: And Councilman Duerr, if I could just add on to here, was also responsible for the 8 and a half by 11 instead of 8 and a half by 14, so thank you very much.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Anyone else?

MR. DUERR: You're welcome.

PRESIDENT CATENA: And just to remind people, as Councilman Macey has reminded me that liaison reports are specifically supposed to be for where you serve as a liaison for a specific role or committee, so very good. Thank you for reminding me, Councilman Macey.

New business, ordinances and resolutions.
12578-23.

MR. BARKER: An ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, amending Section 1007.11 of County Administrative Code, codified in Chapter 5 of the County Code of Ordinances as Article 1007.11, to provide for an exclusion from the residency requirement for county employment for Allegheny County Jail staff within the Allegheny County Bureau of Corrections, sponsored by Council Members Hallam and Bennett.

PRESIDENT CATENA: That will go to public safety.

12579-23.

MR. BARKER: An ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing the acceptance of the Allegheny Land Trust's offer to donate 43 parcels of land located adjacent to the County's North Park, sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Committee on parks. Any new business?

MR. BARKER: We have none.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay. Notification of contracts?

MR. BARKER: We have none.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay. We had someone sign up past the deadline, does anyone object to letting him speak?

MR. MACEY: Not at all.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Go ahead, Brian.

MR. ENGLERT: My name is Brian Englert, B-R-I-A-N, E-N-G-L-E-R-T. 710 Corbett Street, West Mifflin, PA.

I'm a resident of Allegheny County. I'm also president of the County Jail Unit. I want to thank you for making this proposal. I think it's very important. It's not unprecedented to say that we're in a staffing crisis in law enforcement across the country, specifically with jails. Currently we are short 50 officers. This resolution would bring in qualified professionals already trained and working in correctional facilities outside of the county into our facility. It would alleviate, I hope, immediately or quickly the staffing crisis we're facing.

I can tell you, based on January --- June of 2022 there was almost 90,000 hours of overtime at the jail. That takes a toll on the mental health and physical health of all the officers working there, so if this ordinance and resolution passes, it will help get qualified corrections professionals working in other county jails, such as Westmoreland and Washington down into our facility working, and that would alleviate the staffing crisis that impacts all of our employees, so thank you very much for putting that forth. I would appreciate your support on it.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Thank you. No other comment, Jared?

MR. BARKER: That's it.

PRESIDENT CATENA: Okay. Is there a motion to adjourn?

MR. MACEY: So moved.

MR. PALMIERE: Second.

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

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT CATENA: All those opposed? Motion carries. Thank you everyone.

MEETING CONCLUDED AT 5:25 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 27 day of February, 2023.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Marissa Mantia", is written over a horizontal line.

Marissa Mantia,

Court Reporter