

ALLEGHENY COUNTY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

- - -

BEFORE:

|                        |   |                             |
|------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| John P. DeFazio        | - | President, Council-At-Large |
| Nicholas Futules       | - | Vice President, District 7  |
| Samuel DeMarco III     | - | Council-At-Large            |
| Tom Baker              | - | District 1                  |
| Cindy Kirk             | - | District 2                  |
| Ed Kress               | - | District 3                  |
| Patrick Catena         | - | District 4                  |
| Sue Means              | - | District 5                  |
| John F. Palmiere       | - | District 6                  |
| Dr. Charles J. Martoni | - | District 8                  |
| Robert J. Macey        | - | District 9                  |
| DeWitt Walton          | - | District 10                 |
| Paul Klein             | - | District 11                 |
| James Ellenbogen       | - | District 12 (via telephone) |
| Denise Ranalli-Russell | - | District 13                 |

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

Tuesday, August 29, 2017 - 5:07 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:

William McKain - County Manager  
Jack Cambest - Solicitor  
Jared Barker - Director of Legislative Services  
Ken Varhola - Chief of Staff

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Will you please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag and remain standing for silent prayer or reflection.

After me ---.

(Pledge of Allegiance.)

(Silent prayer or reflection.)

MS. RANALLI-RUSSELL: I would like to say ---

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Go ahead.

MS. RANALLI-RUSSELL: --- a prayer.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Go ahead.

MS. RANALLI-RUSSELL: I would like to say a prayer for all the people that are being affected in Texas, that it stops raining and that they find the help and the peace that they need to move on.

(Chorus of amens.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Roll call.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Baker?

MR. BAKER: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Catena?

MR. CATENA: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. DeMarco?

MR. DEMARCO: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Ellenbogen?

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Futules?

MR. FUTULES: Here.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Kirk?

MS. KIRK: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Klein?

MR. KLEIN: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Kress?

MR. KRESS: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Macey?

MR. MACEY: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Martoni?

DR. MARTONI: Here.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Means?

MS. MEANS: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Palmiere?

MR. PALMIERE: Here.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Ranalli-Russell?

MS. RANALLI-RUSSELL: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Walton?

MR. WALTON: Here.

MR. BARKER: President DeFazio?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Here.

MR. BARKER: All 15 members are present.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: 10279-17 and the rest will be read into the record.

MR. BARKER: 10279-17. Proclamation celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Borough of Bellevue in Allegheny County that will be held on Saturday, September 9th, 2017. Sponsored by Council Member Ranalli-Russell, 10280-17. Proclamation recognizing Sergeant Kevin Faulds, Allegheny County Sheriff's Office; Officer Joseph DeSole, Port Authority Police Department; Sergeant James Vogel, City of Pittsburgh Police Department; Detective William Friburger, City of Pittsburgh Police Department; Detective David Honick, City of Pittsburgh Police Department; and Sergeant Anthony Palermo, City of Pittsburgh Police Department, for their heroic actions on Monday, June 22nd, 2015. Sponsored by Council Member DeFazio, Ellenbogen, Baker, Catena, DeMarco, Futules, Kirk, Klein, Kress, Macey, Martoni, Means, Palmiere, Ranalli-Russell and Walton.

10281-17. Certificate of Recognition presented to Mr. and Mrs. Alexander "Sandy" and Elizabeth Bennett upon the monumental occasion of their 51st wedding anniversary. Sponsored by Council Member Palmiere.

10282-17. Certificate of Recognition awarded to Officer Ronald Porupsky upon the occasion of being recognized by the National Association of School Resource Officers with the Regional Exceptional Service Award. Sponsored by Council Member Palmiere.

10283-17. Proclamation declaring Saturday, September 2, 2017 to be "PuppyLove SUP + Yoga BOGAFit Day" in Allegheny County. Sponsored by Council Member Baker.

10284-17. Proclamation congratulating the 2017 Pittsburgh Circle of Courage Awardees upon their commitment, faith, and courage which serves as an inspiration to the residents of Allegheny County. Sponsored by Council Member Baker.

10285-17. Proclamation celebrating the 175th anniversary of South Fayette Township in Allegheny County that was held on Saturday, August 26th, 2017. Sponsored by Council Member Catena.

And 10286-17. Proclamation recognizing Russell Fraizer for his 33 years of dedicated service to the Borough of Verona. Sponsored by Council Member Futules.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Public Comment, we have none?

MR. BARKER: None on agenda items, correct.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: 10287-17.

MR. BARKER: Approving the reappointment of Amy R. Schrempf to serve as a member of the Allegheny County Board of Property Assessment Appeals and Review for a term to expire on September 24th, 2020. Sponsored by Council Member DeFazio.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: That will go to Appointment Review Committee.

Unfinished business --- go down to liaison reports.

Representative Means?

MS. MEANS: Thank you for recognizing me, Mr. President.

I wanted to join --- add on to the thoughts by Councilwoman Denise Ranalli-Russell and I want the people in Louisiana and Texas to know that we care very much about them and our --- and our thoughts and our prayers are with them.

And I know that the people of Allegheny County are very generous and thoughtful and they'll be sending donations to help to different charities. But I wanted to point out to people that when you --- make sure it's a legitimate charity. And also look and see if that charity has a lot of overhead, so --- because you want --- you know, 90 percent of your money to go to help the people.

So good charities are like Samaritan's Purse and American Red Cross and Salvation Army, and I'm sure there's going to be more.

And again, we're praying for you, Louisiana and Texas.

And then I also wanted to share that I had the wonderful privilege of attending the 9k race that was sponsored by the Parks Foundation in South Park on August the 5th. It was a wonderful event.

There were 86 runners and I wanted to share with the other council members that there's three more races and there are 40 people committed to run in every race, which is really exciting.

And I --- I wanted to share how the winner of the race crossed the finished line. So I stayed until the end and handed out the awards. And the --- the --- and the winner was from North Manchester, Indiana and his name

was Kyle Cline, and not related to Councilman Klein --- starts with a C. But he and he his --- he and his --- he crossed the finish line. And we said, congratulations and his first words were, I hope my fiancée doesn't kill me. We're like, okay. Well, why is that?

Well, they were both coming to the Pirate game and they found out about the race, so they signed up for the race. And we said, well, was she watching you along the way? No, he enrolled her in the race as well. So he finished first, and she did very well in her division, and she was happy once she crossed the finish line and joined him, that --- that he won.

So --- but it was --- it was just exciting to see that people came all the way from Indiana for the race and that they were coming already for the Pirate game because they love the Pirates. So that was --- that was really exciting.

I also wanted to congratulate the --- the --- the Parks Foundation for a wonderful event on Saturday night, the Twilight Picnic for the parks. And it was just an amazing event, and I want to thank all the sponsors. And they raised over \$400,000 for our nine parks, so that --- that was a wonderful event.

And to point out that there are three more races. So if you miss a race, there's no more 10ks, which South Park was a 10k. So September the 10th at 9:00 a.m., Deer Lakes is a 5k. October the 22nd is another race at 9:00 a.m. at wood --- at Hartwood Acres. And on November 11th is the last race at the Round Hill Park at 9:00 a.m.

So again, thank you to the sponsors. It's just wonderful to bring people out and they get to see what beautiful parks we have.

So thank you for recognizing me.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay.

Who else had their hand up? Representative Palmiere?

MR. PALMIERE: Thank you, Mr. President, members of council.

I just wanted to --- I thought --- I wanted to give a shout out to our two interns that we had here over the summer, Rachel and Michael. They did an outstanding job and I just wanted to recognize them for the outstanding job they did.

Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Thank you.

Let's see, let's start down with Representative Baker and then we'll come up.

MR. BAKER: Okay.

Thanks, Mr. President.

Just to add to what Council Member Means said about the --- the Twilight event for the parks on Saturday night, it was a great celebration. Council Members Kress, Kirk and Means were there. We had a great time.

That was a lot of money that was raised. The manager, of course, was there as well, too. It was a lot of money that was --- that was raised for the Allegheny County Parks. It was a nice way to --- fitting into it the next morning, I was in Settler's Cabin Park for a 5k there for Hunter's Heroes. So to go from that event to see why all the money was being raised to help the parks, and to run through such an amazing venue the next morning was great.

I think Council Member DeMarco is going to probably talk about Friday morning. But County Council was certainly represented very, very well, Friday morning at the ceremony right here in the Gold Room, for the officers that really showed incredible heroism on June 22nd, 2015. It was an amazing event.

And I just --- on a personal level with county council, I very much appreciated that it was a member of congress, it was the county executive, it was the mayor and then it was council member DeMarco that had an equal say in kind of sharing the --- our appreciation to those incredible heroes that --- that were recognized at the event.

And just one other fun thing from Friday. She's not a bragger, but Councilwoman Cindy Kirk received the Circle of Courage award Friday night. So you probably saw that in the proclamations, but she was one of the honorees Friday night at the Circle of Courage Awards, for all of her service both with inside council, and all the years of service that she's given to her community.

So I was very proud to --- to be there. I --- I was the emcee. I did not embarrass her at all and she did great. She was such a --- a fantastic honoree, so congratulations to Councilwoman Kirk.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Representative Catena?

MR. CATENA: Thank you. I'm sorry.

It's a little running joke we have about my last name because some --- it's Catena versus Canteena. And every time we say Canteena, I mean, we've pledged to drink. So that's the little running joke that we've had going back and forth when my name is mispronounced. So that's why I laugh.

So thank you, Mr. President, for recognizing me.

This past weekend, I had the pleasure and --- of attending the South Fayette Community Days. It was a great event. I presented a proclamation on behalf of the county on behalf of their 175th anniversary for South Fayette, which is a huge accomplishment.

I mean last week, we had Beth El Congregation here celebrating 100 years, and now South Fayette's celebrating a milestone of 175 years, which is obviously a momentous occasion for the --- for them.

Also, this week I had the opportunity to attend the Rock the Quarry Event in Collier Township, part of the Friends of the Collier --- or the Panhandle Trail. And it was a great event. It's on the Panhandle Trail.

And I know with everything that we're trying to accomplish within Allegheny County, obviously trails are very important to us. It's very important to the Friends of the Panhandle trail, as well and we're trying to connect, obviously, Settler's Cabin with the trail. And I'd like to see it, obviously, extend even farther down. Hopefully we can make that happen in the near future through the other various communities, whether it be Scott Township, Carnegie, Crafton, any of the communities that I represent --- or McKees Rocks, for that matter.

And speaking of McKees Rocks --- McKees Rocks, I had the pleasure to attend the last event of the weekend there, FEASTival. FEASTival is an event --- a celebration of McKees Rocks that had many great bands, food, entertainment.

McKees Rocks is one of my communities that has lots of potential, and this was a great event celebrating everything McKees Rocks has to offer. Sometimes unfortunately, when we see McKees Rocks in the news, unfortunately it might always be a negative connotation. But that's not true after this showcase event that they had this weekend. It was an outstanding event and I was actually proud to be there, and I'm very happy for McKees Rocks and I hope they can continue to show off the community in ways such as that.

So thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Thank you.

Representative DeMarco?

MR. DEMARCO: Thank you, Mr. President.

A couple of things. One, I --- in echoing what Councilman Baker said, it was a great honor to be able to honor these officers who acted so heroically in --- in their duty to protect and serve our community on that date, June 22nd, 2015. And I want to thank Congressman Doyle for arranging the Congressional Proclamation Reading here in the Gold Room on Friday and allowing us to participate.

I'd also like to commend the administration here for some recent actions that they've taken.

Last year during our budget hearings, we had the treasurer come in and we talked to the treasurer. He brought out that there were a number of county employees who weren't paying their --- their taxes and that that was an issue.

So he worked with the administration and some other folks here. And on Friday, Director Zaspel from the director of county HR, she issued a new policy which is going to take effect September 5th.

And I believe the taxpayers may be interested in this, but they've changed the county's pre-employment process so that it will now include verification of Allegheny County real estate tax status of all prospective full-time hours. Applicants for employment will be made aware of the pre-employment real estate tax verification policy at the time of application and departments will provide relevant forms to candidates to complete at the time of the interview.

Once a conditional officer of employment --- excuse me, a conditional offer of employment is made to a candidate, the Treasurer's Office will be notified to conduct a real estate tax status inquiry on the prospective employee and will provide the results of the inquiry to the Department of Human Resources. He will communicate them to the Hiring Department.

Any tax delinquencies will need to be appropriately satisfied by the candidate prior to receiving a final offer of employment. As always, all final officers must ultimately be approved by the county manager.

I think this is a great example of the row offices, county council, the administration all working together to put in place a policy which is going to benefit the taxpayers of the --- the citizens of Allegheny County. So I want to commend the administration again, for instituting that policy.

Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Thank you. Seeing no more, we'll move on. 10289-17.

MR. BARKER: A Resolution of the Council of the County of Allegheny Authorizing an Amendment to the NORTH SHORE EAST/RIVER AVENUE TIF Plan to Remove Three Parcels from the Previously Established TIF District. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: That will go to the Economic Development Committee. 10290-17.

MR. BARKER: A Resolution of the Council of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, made pursuant to the Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance Act, providing for a program of temporary exemption from increases in Allegheny County Real Property Taxes, for specified time periods, resulting from improvements made by an owner of property located within the Twenty-third Ward of the City of Pittsburgh, County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, generally known as the Troy Hill neighborhood and previously determined to be a deteriorated area, establishing a schedule for exempting increases in Allegheny County property taxes resulting from such improvements and prescribing the requirements and procedures by which an owner of property located within the deteriorated area can secure the temporary exemption resulting from such improvements. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: That will go to the Economic Development Committee. New business, we have none?

MR. BARKER: No motions.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Notification of contracts?

MR. BARKER: We have none.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: None. Public comment, we have two. Do you want to read ---?

MR. BARKER: There are two. Correct.

First up is Ronald Bandes.

MR. BANDES: Hi, I'm Ron Bandes. I reside at 1531 South Negley Avenue in the City of Pittsburgh, District 11.

The primary purpose of an election is to choose the winners of electoral contests. A secondary purpose is to convince the losers that they lost fairly without convincing the losers and their supporters of the fairness of the election, the winner won't have the consent of the governed. This consent is the basis for the authority of the winners and the legitimacy of the government.

So what does it take to convince the losers? What is used to convince anyone of anything? Evidence.

Elections are much more complex than most people realize. For example, counting includes the determination of what constitutes a valid vote. If the instructions are to fill in the oval next to your chosen candidates name, does a check mark or an X count? Guidelines are needed.

Even with guidelines, some judgment will be necessary. Can computer-based voting machines exercise that judgment? Most importantly, how will the voters know that the voting machines judged correctly. Their trust and hence their consent rests on this question.

For elections, we must audit the results to gain confidence in their veracity. Base the audit on tangible evidence of the voter's choices and protect the integrity of the tangible evidence so that its validity is not called into question. If the audit is to reveal the will of the people, then it is necessary to audit the voter's expressions of their intent.

With machines like those used currently in Allegheny County, the machine interprets the voter's action, the press of a particular zone on a touch screen, and records the interpretation. In this case, the voter's action is ephemeral and not recorded. Only the machine's interpretation remains.

It won't be possible to re-evaluate the voter's action to confirm that the voting system interpreted the action correctly. With such systems, an audit can only answer the question, did the voting system correctly add up the interpretations, not did the make the correct interpretations to begin with.

To audit the will of the people, we need to reexamine the voter's actions or marks. The closer the record is to the voter's original actions, the better. The best evidence of a voter's intent is a hand-marked paper ballot. Not every voter is able to hand mark a ballot, so the next best is a paper ballot produced by a

ballot marking system, operated by the voter and verified by the voter.

Systems using paper ballots provide a durable record that can be understood directly by voters and auditors. In contrast, an electronic record can only be understood by humans with the aid of a computer whose software may be suspect and doesn't provide good assurance to computer experts or laypeople.

Allegheny County would be well advised to choose their next generation of voting systems with features that are capable of meaningful audits.

Thank you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Thank you.

Next?

MR. BARKER: Next up is David Tessirtor ---

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Not here.

MR. BARKER: --- who I believe is not here.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Not here.

And is that it?

MR. BARKER: That's it.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Does someone want to make a motion to adjourn?

MR. KRESS: I'll make a motion.

MR. CATENA: Second.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Second?

All those in favor signify by saying aye.

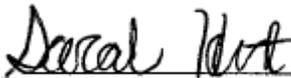
(Chorus of ayes.)

Opposed? Ayes have it. Meeting adjourned.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:27 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.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Court Reporter

Sarah Hunt