

ALLEGHENY COUNTY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

- - -

BEFORE:

John P. Defazio	-	President
Nicholas Futules	-	Vice President, District 7
Samuel DeMarco, III	-	Council-At-Large
Thomas Baker	-	District 1
Cindy Kirk	-	District 2 -(via telephone)
Anita Prizio	-	District 3
Patrick Catena	-	District 4 -(via telephone)
Sue Means	-	District 5
John F. Palmiere	-	District 6
Robert J. Macey	-	District 9
Dewitt Walton	-	District 10
Paul Klein	-	District 11
Robert Palmosina	-	District 12 -(via telephone)
Denise Ranalli-Russell	-	District 13

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

Tuesday, August 28, 2018 - 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 of Legislative Services  
Jack Cambest - Allegheny County Council Solicitor  
Ken Varhola - Chief of Staff  
Sarah Roka - Budget Assistant

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: The meeting will come to order. Will you all 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.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: We'll have the 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. Futules?

MR. FUTULES: Here.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Kirk?

MS. KIRK: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Klein?

MR. KLEIN: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Macey?

MR. MACEY: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Martoni?

(No response.)

MR. BARKER: Ms. Means?

MS. MEANS: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Palmiere?

MR. PALMIERE: Here.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Palmosina?

MR. PALMOSINA: Here.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Prizio?

MS. PRIZIO: 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: We have 14 members present.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Proclamations and certificates. 10748-18.

MR. BARKER: A Proclamation recognizing and honoring in memoriam the remarkable service of Allegheny County K9 Officer Nico. Sponsored by Council Members Palmosina, Palmiere and the remaining Members of Council.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Who is ---? Are we going to go around and come back for that one?

MR. BARKER: The remainder ---.

MR. PALMOSINA: We're going to do it.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay.

MR. PALMOSINA: Thank you for coming and once --- first off, sorry for your loss.

WHEREAS, on July 28th of 2018, Allegheny County Council K9 Officer Nico, a beloved seven year old German Shepherd, lost his battle with cirrhosis of the liver;

WHEREAS, K9 Officer Nico joined the Allegheny County Sheriff's Office in 2011 with his handler, Deputy Michael Bello and;

WHEREAS, together K9 Officer Nico and K9 Deputy Bello dedicated numerous hours and received valuable training experience on various terrains using vast amounts of explosives and narcotics from the FBI and from the PA State Police. Ultimately, the two became certified as dual purpose for bomb and patrol measures;

WHEREAS, K9 Officer Nico was loyal, loving and devoted to protecting the community and safeguarding the citizens of Allegheny County.

WHEREAS, Nico is survived by partner Deputy Michael Bello with whom he worked and resided along with Deputy Bello's wife, Cathy and their children Michael, John and Jack.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, Allegheny County Members Robert Palmasino, John Palmiere and all the Members of Council do recognize and honor in memorium the remarkable service of Allegheny County K9 Officer Nico, and we extend our condolences to the Bello family and the Allegheny County Sheriff's Office.

(Applause.)

DEPUTY BELLO: I'd just like to thank Council for this honor for my K9 Nico, Chief Kraus and my family. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MR. PALMIERE: I just want to thank you gentleman for being here today and all the service that you provide for Allegheny County. You do an excellent job and we're glad to have you here and we're honored to do this for you, and to honor Nico and the service and all the work that you gentleman do. Do you want to come over and take a picture with us, please?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Come up front to take a picture.

(Pictures taken.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay. Thank you. 10749-18 and the rest of the proclamations will be read into the record.

MR. BARKER: 10749-18. A Proclamation congratulating the 2018 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.

10750-18. A Certificate of Recognition presented to the Borough of Whitehall for its Community Day celebration on Saturday, August 25th, 2018. Sponsored by Council Member Palmiere.

10751-18. A Proclamation recognizing and congratulating Marshall Township Manager, Neil McFadden upon the occasion of his retirement. Sponsored by Council Member Kirk.

10752-18. A Certificate of Recognition presented to Joseph Gerlesky upon the occasion of his retirement from Marshall Township's Public Works. Sponsored by Council Member Kirk.

And 10753-18. A Certificate of Recognition presented to Philip Macmillan upon the occasion of his retirement from Marshall Township as their Building Inspector, OEM Officer and Fire Marshal. Sponsored by Council Member Kirk.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Public comments, we have none?

MR. BARKER: Nobody signed up, correct.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Approval of minutes?

MR. BARKER: Also none.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: 10744-18.

MR. BARKER: Approving the appointment of Arthur R. Pang to serve as a member of the Allegheny County Human Relations Commission for a term to expire on December 31st, 2018. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: That'll be referred to the Committee on Appointment Review. 10745-18.

MR. BARKER: Approving the appointment of Pachavit Kasemsap, MD, MBA, FACS, to serve as a member of the Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council for a term to expire on December 31st, 2020. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: That'll be referred to the Committee on Appointment Review. 10746-18.

MR. BARKER: Approving the appointment of Victoria E. Lahey to serve as a member of the Drug and Alcohol Planning Council for a term to expire on December 31st, 2020. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: That'll be referred to the Committee on Appointment Review. 10747-18.

MR. BARKER: Approving the appointment of Victoria Wefers to serve as a member of the Council of Friends organization for North Park for a term to expire on August 29th, 2020. Sponsored by Council Member Prizio.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Representative Prizio?

MS. PRIZIO: Thank you, Mr. President. I'd like to make a motion to approve the appointment of Victoria Wefer to serve as a member of the Council of Friends.

MR. MACEY: Second.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Under remarks? Seeing none, all those in favor signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Opposed? The ayes have it. Unfinished business, we have none.

MR. BARKER: We have none.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Liaison Reports? Representative Palmiere?

MR. PALMIERE: I can't believe I'm actually first here. You mean Baker didn't get on it?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: He tried, he tried.

MR. MACEY: I think Baker has something to say, I'm sure.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: He tried.

MR. PALMIERE: Thank you, Mr. President, and Members of Council. I just wanted to acknowledge the fact that on Saturday night we were --- Councilwoman Kirk, Councilwoman Means, Councilman Baker and Councilman Macey and myself were privileged to be at the Parks, the twilight picnic. We had the fundraiser for the Parks Foundation, and we had a wonderful evening. That is really some event and I --- last year I couldn't make it for whatever reason, but boy, I got out there this week, and it was just a wonderful occasion. And I think they raised something like \$360,000 that night for the Parks Foundation and --- and you can see why.

Everybody that you knew and everybody you ever saw on TV was there. It was just a wonderful evening and

I just wanted to acknowledge that, Mr. President, and thank our members. There was a third of us there that night, and it was good representation by the Council and --- and that's about it. Thank you very much.

MR. MACEY: Ditto.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay. Down here, Representative Baker?

MR. BAKER: Hey, Mr. President. It was a great event. Thanks to Councilman Palmiere for mentioning it. The five of us definitely had a great night. I will mention the proclamations that were distributed at the Circle of Courage Awards events --- event on Friday night really were special to folks. They get this huge --- huge award, it's like this big of an award, but when you give them the County Proclamation it really does make a big difference. Like they think it's, you know, one and one A. It really does matter a lot of --- to them to get the County Proclamations as well.

A couple of other things just to note. On September 11th, you'll get an invite soon but we're going to have the Allegheny County Library Association. They're getting a proclamation that night but we're inviting them to come here at 3:30. If anyone just wants a quick County library update, we'll be doing it upstairs, so Kendra and I will send you out details shortly about that but that should be good.

And I will say, the person that runs the chess organization in our region just asked if Council would be interested in doing a chess event together before one of our meetings. So I can't play chess but I might be in touch with --- out if any of you can play chess to honor them and acknowledge the good work they're doing. Can any of you play chess? I don't know. Okay. Used to. That might be as good as we got, so ---.

And then finally, I'll just mention September 21st at 7:30 a.m. Councilman DeMarco and I will be on the panel at the airport chambers. I hope --- hopefully they didn't go in order of how much they like us, but we're --- but we're listed 13th and 14th on the panel here, but it should be a very good panel. They get 500 plus people at this event every year, 400 plus every year at this event. So should be a good one, and that's on September 21st. So that's it. We were together last Tuesday, so that's all the updates I have.

MR. WALTON: President Defazio?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Yeah, go ahead.

MR. WALTON: I'll defer to Member Means.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay. Go ahead.  
Representative Means?

MS. MEANS: Thank you for recognizing me. I, too, wanted to thank the Allegheny County Parks Foundation for all their support. They're doing a great job. They're doing comprehensive studies that'll help us apply for grants and they're going to plant a lot of trees in South Park. Well, I'm sorry. I got ahead of myself. But we'll be voting on that soon, but they've just done a great job and they're --- they're amazing at raising awareness and funds and they're really being a great partner.

The other thing I wanted to say was, you know what? We just don't say enough things about each other and our colleagues, and I just wanted to take a moment and say that in 2010, I met a really outstanding person at a Veterans and Patrons event, and I was so impressed with him at that time I thought Sam DeMarco should just run for something. He was just --- always had his pulse on what people care about. And so I just wanted to give a shout out for Sam and tell him Happy Birthday, Sam. It's coming up.

(Applause.)

MS. MEANS: It's going to be --- yep, happy birthday and invite everyone to come to the conference room 1 after the meeting for some cake to celebrate your birthday.

MR. MACEY: And there you go.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Representative Walton?

MR. WALTON: Thank you, Mr. President. I have --- I have three issues that I'd like to speak to this evening. First and foremost, I'd like to thank the --- the African-American Heritage Day Parade Committee on a successful event this past Saturday for the African-American Heritage Day Parade, the 28th year. A great event. County Exec. Fitzgerald and many of the elected were there. Good day, good fun had by all and a wonderful event that took place on the North side.

The second piece, I wanted to put Members of Council and our communities on notice. Friday night at midnight, our collective bargaining agreement --- collective bargaining agreement with U.S. Steel expires, and the danger of a strike looms. A strike could have a

devastating impact on a host of communities. There are three U.S. Steel facilities in Allegheny County; Clairton, Mon Valley Works and the Edgar Thomson facility.

Folks are out fighting every day for economic and social justice, and I'd like to urge anyone that's available, there's a march at --- that starts at 2:00 p.m. at the Clairton Works in Clairton. And anyone that's available can come and support those men and women who are fighting for a fair and just contract with U.S. Steel. The third --- the third Thursday, it's Thursday afternoon --- Thursday afternoon at four o'clock- --- two o'clock, because the contract expires midnight Friday night.

The third incident --- the third issue. In our last meeting in July, we had some heated debate in this room about the establishment of a protocol to host four public meetings to determine the relevancy and the possibilities of establishing a police civilian review board. While I respect every member's view and their --- and their ability to support or oppose that action, we ultimately are going to host four public meetings.

The first one will take place tomorrow evening from 5 --- 5:30 to 7:00 at the Kaufmann Auditorium in the Hill House. The second one --- the second one we'll take at the Millville Community Center on Thursday from 5:00 to 7:30. The third one will take place on September 20th at the Duquesne Elementary School in Duquesne at 5:30 and the fourth one will take place on the next --- the following day, September 21st, if my memory serves me well, at the Ryan Center in McKees Rocks, same time.

We've assembled a host of panelists that are going to share information so that we can find the best path to follow in the hopes of drafting some legislation that we hope to get passed by Council. And so it is informative in its nature. We're gathering information. We don't have a basis of which to make --- make a projection at any point in time at this particular juncture, but I'm really disappointed by some of my fellow colleagues sitting here on the dais tonight.

Last week, some of my fellow members sent a letter to every municipality.

MS. MEANS: Mr. President, he's out of order.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: What's your point of order?

MS. MEANS: He's out of order according to Roberts Rules and probably other rules of Council. He's



not allowed to attack members in a negative fashion and that is what he's preceding to do.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Well, I didn't even hear basically --- I only heard a little bit of what he was saying. Let's --- let's hear what he has to say.

MS. MEANS: Mr. President, I --- I agree that I --- I feel strongly you should rule him out of order at this time because he is not allowed --- I think you should defer to Council and ask because it's very --- he is proceeding on a path and he should be stopped from proceeding on that path because you don't want to have to move for a censure if he crosses over the line and I think he's dangerously close to crossing over the line.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Well, what it is is you have too --- if he's saying individual names of persons or people. I --- maybe I wasn't paying attention, but I didn't hear that. If you make a general statement, you can do it. So I mean he can just say there was people that did certain things he wasn't happy with, you know. So let's --- let's let him continue and see if he does it.

MS. MEANS: Can we defer to Counsel for a moment?

MR. CAMBEST: Yeah, certainly. I would agree with the President that our rules call for personal attacks, that you cannot do that at our meeting. Now, I haven't heard that. It may be premature, he may do that later on and we may have to stop him, but I haven't heard any personal attack on an individual. So far I've heard that Members of Council have written a letter. That's all I heard so far. So let's see what transpires.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: That's what I said, you know. So let's --- let's continue on.

MR. WALTON: Thank you, Mr. President. As I said, several Members of Council sitting on this dais chose to write a letter to every municipality, other than the city of Pittsburgh in Allegheny County, urging them to take some action that --- voicing concerns or trepidations regarding the police civilian review board.

This document was fraught with innuendo, allegations and some outright falsehoods. I think most of us have heard the phrase over the past few years about dog-whistle politics. If you don't, if you haven't, dog-whistle politics are codes used to disparage individuals and create negative opinions about individuals and organizations.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Let's have it quiet. One person at a time. Go ahead.

MR. WALTON: Thank you, sir. While I respect the Members of Council to share their views, to take a position pro or con --- pro or con. I think we have a responsibility to deal with things in an honorable, transparent and honest manner. To outline and name an individual, resident of our --- of our County who has a Muslim name, is dog-whistle politics. To further allege that this Board that may or may not be created will engage in behaviors that are nefarious is just wrong, is unprincipled, in my opinion.

Again, folks can support whatever positions that they chose to do so, but I would urge us all to be the better person. One of my heroes, one of my heroes, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King --- and I've used this phrase before and I will use it whenever appropriate. The real measure of a man is not where they stand during times of calm and convenience, but where they stand during times of crisis and controversy. I believe this behavior is disrespectful to us all, and we should behave better. Thank you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Any other liaison? Seeing none --- okay, go ahead.

MS. MEANS: Okay.

I'm going to read from Robert's Rules, where it talks about the form. So it's page 391 of the 11th Edition, and one point that it makes is members must refrain from attacking each other's motives. They are not to accuse each other of making false statements. He could say he disagrees but he has accused members of putting out false information and that --- is that violating ---.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Well, that's --- that's your opinion. Now, wait a minute, I give you --- I know all about Robert's Rules of Orders. You heard from --- you also heard from our parliamentarian; okay? So let's --- that's a dead issue right now. Let's move on. If it's something fresh or new, we could do it. Seeing nothing else, let's move on. Okay. New Business, we have none?

MR. BARKER: We have none.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay.

All right. No new business motions.  
Notification of Contracts, 10742-18.

MR. BARKER: A communication summarizing approved executive actions from July 1st through July 31st, 2018.

MR. MACEY: Receive and file.

MS. KIRK: Second.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Second over here. All those --- is there under remarks? All those in favor signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Opposed? The ayes have it. Public comment on general items?

MR. BARKER: We have none.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Does someone want to make a motion?

MR. MACEY: Make a motion to adjourn.

MS. KIRK: Second.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Someone --- second. All those in favor signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

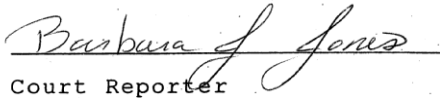
PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Opposed? The ayes have it. Meeting adjourned. Thank you.

MEETING CONCLUDED AT 5:30 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 27th day of September, 2018

  
Court Reporter

Barbara J. Jones