ALLEGHENY COUNTY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

BEFORE:

John P. DeFazio - President, Council-At-Large
Nicholas Futules - Vice President, District 7
Samuel DeMarco - Council-At-Large
Thomas Baker - District 1
Cindy Kirk - District 2
Edward Kress - District 3
Michael J. Finnerty - 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
Denise Ranalli-Russell - District 13

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

Tuesday, July 5, 2016 - 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:
William McKain - Allegheny County Manager
Jared Barker - Director of Constituent Services
Joseph Catanese - Director of Legislative Services
Walter Szymanski - Budget Direct
Jack Cambest - Council Solicitor
PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Will you please all rise for
the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and then remain
standing for silent prayer or reflection? After me on the
Pledge of Allegiance.
(Pledge of Allegiance recited.)
(Moment of Silent Prayer or Reflection.)

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Roll call.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Baker?
MR. BAKER: Here.
MR. BARKER: Mr. DeMarco?
MR. DEMARCO: Here.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Ellenbogen?
MR. ELLENBOGEN: I'm here.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Finnerty?
MR. FINNERTY: 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: Present.
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. 9721-16.
MR. BARKER: Proclamation honoring Ms. Georgia
C. Hernandez for her years of service and devotion to the
welfare of children in Allegheny County. Sponsored by
Council Members Finnerty, Baker, DeFazio, DeMarco,
Ellenbogen, Futules, Kirk, Klein, Kress, Macey, Martoni,
Means, Palmiere, Ranalli-Russell and Walton.

MR. FINNERTY: Mr. President?
PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Yes.
MR. FINNERTY: Could we hold that?
PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Yeah.
MR. FINNERTY: I don’t believe that --- she’s not feeling well, so she couldn’t be here.
PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Let’s move on. 9722-16 and the rest will be read into the record.
9723-16. Certificates of Achievement awarded to the winners of the 2016 Allegheny County Parks Department Marbles Tournament, and congratulating Haley Grenesko and Lauren Shuty, both of Allegheny County, for being named the girls’ champion and girls’ runner-up at the 93rd National Marbles Tournament held June 20th through 23rd, 2016 in Wildwood, New Jersey. Sponsored by Council Members Klein and Ranalli-Russell.
MR. FINNERTY: You can also add me.
MR. BARKER: Yes. 9724-16. Certificate of Recognition presented to Sharpsburg Borough Police Chief Leo Rudznki, Jr., upon the occasion of his retirement after 41 years of honorable service. Sponsored by Council Member Kress.
9725-16. Certificate of Recognition congratulating Mr. and Mrs. Dante and Mary Leta Tabacchi upon the occasion of the 76th wedding anniversary and for receiving a papal blessing certificate. Sponsored by Council Member Kress.
9726-16. Certificate of Achievement awarded to Mr. Gino Cercone of Boy Scout Troop 560 for earning the rank of Eagle Scout. Sponsored by Council Member Kress
9727-16. Certificate of Achievement awarded to Mr. Ryan Hills of Boy Scout Troop 560 for earning the rank of Eagle Scout. Sponsored by Council Member Kress.
9728-16. Proclamation congratulating the Zion Baptist Church of McKeesport upon the momentous occasion of its 100th Anniversary. Sponsored by Council Member Macey.
PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Public Comment of Agenda Items ---.
MR. BARKER: We have none.
PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Approval of minutes.
9734-16.
MR. BARKER: It’s a Motion to approve the minutes of the May 24th, 2016 regular meeting of Council.
MR. FUTULES: Make a motion to approve.
MR. MACEY: Second.
PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Under remarks? Seeing none, all those in favor signify by saying aye.
(Ayes respond.)
PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Opposed? The ayes have it.

9714-16.

MR. BARKER: Approving the appointment of Anne Marie Brnardic to serve as a member of the Council of Friends Organization, Deer Lakes Park, for a term to expire on July 5th, 2018. Sponsored by Council Member Kress.
PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Representative Kress.
MR. KRESS: Thank you. Yes. I think Anne Marie Brnardic is an exceptional person, and I think she’ll make a great addition to the Council of Friends organization for Deer Lakes Park. And I’d like to make a motion to approve.
MR. MACEY: Second.
PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Under remarks? Seeing none, all those in favor signify by saying aye.
(Ayes respond.)
PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Opposed? The ayes have it.

9720-16.

MR. BARKER: Approving the appointment of Dennis Johns to serve as a member of the Council of Friends organization for Harrison Hills Park, for a term to expire on July 5th, 2018. Sponsored by Council Member Futules.
PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Representative Kress.
MR. FINNERTY: No, Futules.
PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Oh, I’m sorry.
MR. FUTULES: Motion to approve.
MR. MACEY: Second.
PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Under remarks? Seeing none, all those in favor signify by saying aye.
(Ayes respond.)
PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Opposed? The ayes have it.

9729-16.

MR. BARKER: The following appointments are all to the Board of Health. Would you like me to take them all together?
PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Yeah.
MR. BARKER: 9729-16 through 9733-16. Approving the reappointments of Caroline Mitchell, Dr. Donald Burke, Dr. Kotayya Kondaveeti, Joylette L. Portlock and William Youngblood to serve as members of the Allegheny County Board of Health for a term to expire on January 13th, 2020. All sponsored by the Chief Executive.

MR. MACEY: Make a motion to approve.

MR. FINNERTY: No. They go to Appointment Review.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Yeah. Wait a minute. Did you say you were going to read them all?

MR. BARKER: Correct. I just did.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: You read them all?

MR. BARKER: Yeah.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Okay. They’ll go the Appointment Review Committee. All right. Let’s go to unfinished Business, 9708-16.

MR. BARKER: An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania authorizing the grant of a temporary license to The Pittsburgh Three Rivers Regatta, Inc. for the purpose of staging a craft and food vendor market on the Roberto Clemente Bridge, the 6th Street Bridge, as part of The Three Rivers Regatta Motor Boat and River Festival between Friday, August 5th, 2016 and Monday, August 8th, 2016. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Representative Macey.

MR. MACEY: Thank you, Mr. President and members of Council. The Public Works Committee met on May 23rd, excuse me, June 23rd and this ordinance was sent to the full Council with an affirmative recommendation. And therefore, I make a motion to approve.

DR. MARTONI: Second.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Under remarks?

Representative Means?

MS. MEANS: I’m sorry, I was out of town and I missed the meeting. But I would like to know --- and unfortunately, we’re not recording our meetings any more so I couldn’t listen to the minutes, but I was wondering when they came and you had your meeting, Chairman Macey, did they say that they had all their insurance in line for this event?

MR. MACEY: Yes, they did, Councilwoman Means.

MS. MEANS: Thank you.
PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Any other remarks?
Representative Ellenbogen?

MR. ELLENBOGEN: I’m just curious. Do the City Police have a boat under the bridges during all these events or just selective ones in the event that something strange happens? Does anybody know?

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Go ahead.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: I mean, when you put all them people on a bridge, anything can happen.

MR. MCKAIN: I have Kevin Evanto, our marketing manager also. And very typical to all these events that we bring in front of Council, there are numerous meetings with public safety from the City, the County and different agencies and departments, and so it is case by case. On this one, ---.

MR. EVANTO: On this one, given the fact that the Regatta is going to be going on and there will be a lot of people, the City river rescue boat will be in the water in the Allegheny.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Thank you, gentlemen.

MR. EVANTO: Yep.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Any other remarks? Seeing none, we’ll have a roll call vote.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Baker?

MR. BAKER: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. DeMarco?

MR. DEMARCO: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Ellenbogen?

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Aye.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Finnerty?

MR. FINNERTY: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Futules?

MR. FUTULES: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Kirk?

MS. KIRK: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Klein?

MR. KLEIN: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Kress?

MR. KRESS: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Macey?

MR. MACEY: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Martoni?

MR. MARTONI: Yes.

MR. BARKER: Ms. Means?

MS. MEANS: Yes.
Mr. Baker?
Mr. Baker?
Mr. DeMarco?
Mr. Ellenbogen?
Aye.
Mr. Finnerty?
Yes.
Mr. Futules?
Yes.
Ms. Kirk?
Yes.
Mr. Klein?
Yes.
Mr. Kress?
MR. KRESS:            Yes.
MR. BARKER:        Mr. Macey?
MR. MACEY:               Yes.
MR. BARKER:        Mr. Martoni?
DR. MARTONI:        Yes.
MR. BARKER:        Ms. Means?
MS. MEANS:                Yes.
MR. BARKER:        Mr. Palmiere?
MR. PALMIERE:        Yes.
MR. BARKER:        Ms. Ranalli-Russell?
MS. RANALLI-RUSSELL: Yes.
MR. BARKER:        Mr. Walton?
MR. WALTON:                Yes.
MR. BARKER:     President DeFazio?
PRESIDENT DEFAZIO:   Yes.
MR. BARKER:  Ayes, 15; no’s 0.  The bill passes.
PRESIDENT DEFAZIO:  9711-16.

MR. BARKER: An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny authorizing the County to enter into an intergovernmental cooperation agreement with Wilmerding Borough under which the County will provide basic police and law enforcement services to the Borough. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Representative Ellenbogen.
MR. ELLENBOGEN: Thank you, Mr. President. The Committee met on June the 29th. After a very, at times, heated, but vetted discussion, the Committee sends it to full Council with an affirmative recommendation. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: You make ---.
MR. MACEY: I second the motion.
PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Oh, he made a motion. You seconded it. Under remarks?
MR. ELLENBOGEN: I make a motion to approve.
PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Want to do a second again?
MR. MACEY: Again.
PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Who had their hand ---?

Representative Means.

MS. MEANS: Yes. I was wondering --- Mr. President, thank you for recognizing me. And I was wondering if Mr. McKain, the County Manager, could come forth and answer some questions so that the public can understand some of the things that are going on with the intergovernmental cooperation agreement with Wilmerding and the policing of Wilmerding.
PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Do you want to come up?
MS. MEANS: So hi, Mr. McKain.
MR. MCKAIN: Hi.
MS. MEANS: I wanted to establish that --- who estimated the cost and how much it’s going to cost the County, roughly, to cover the policing, be a community police force, in Wilmerding? I understand they’re going to give us $250,000, but I believe you said in the committee that you estimated it to be more like $330,000 to cover the police.
MR. MCKAIN: And I think you’re backing into that number because I think I said our current estimates could be $70,000 to $80,000 plus a year that would be in excess of what they’re paying us. But again, that’s an estimate. We haven’t gone through the budget process.
Also, as you know, the new Superintendent McDonough is looking at his Department, organizational wide, top to bottom. Some of that assessment and reorganization may allow us to repurpose resources there, so we have to see. There’s also some chance of economies of skill because I told the committee that in addition to the patrol that will be available in Wilmerding, we also are moving our impact squad there, our 8:00 p.m. to 4:00 a.m., for an additional presence there.
But to answer your question, it was on average over the life of the five-year contract. Our current estimates are $70,000, $80,000 plus, but it’s just an estimate while we --- if we receive approval, while we shore that up and look at our resources.
MS. MEANS: Well, I mean, you'll agree that this is a dramatic change for the County police, that they’ve never been used before to be a community police force. Isn’t that true?
MR. MCKAIN: I don’t know the entire history so am not sure. I will tell you this, that as we communicated to Council, last year we moved 13 officers out of the Parks because we have great needs in our investigative units, particularly homicide, violent crimes and narcotics. We also have done a lot of different things with the County police over the last 12 to 14 months. We created a traffic division. We created the impact squad. So to answer your question, it perhaps has not been done, maybe it has been, but I don’t know. But I also think it shows the way that we’re reconfiguring the emergence of the County police. We are now protecting our
roadways through the traffic division. The impact squad
is available and has been very well received by
communities. And I’ll go back to our core function of
investigations, 2,200 investigations a year. That’s six
per day without charging any of the communities.

MS. MEANS: But it is, at least in recent
history of Allegheny County, that we haven’t had a
policeman in a district 24 hours, seven days a week.

MR. MCKAIN: That’s probably accurate, but I
don’t go that far back. They are, you know,
professionals. They’re trained. And I think it’s a great
opportunity.

MS. MEANS: And it’s safe to say we’re not sure
how much it’s going to cost us. That’s why I wanted to
make a request that we could have a yearly report, and
when it comes to be budget time that we could see
Wilmerding taken out of the cost for the whole County,
because there’s a good chance that other communities will
want to have to have the same opportunity, that they also
can’t afford to have their own police force, so that we
can --- before we okay other communities, we can examine
the true cost of it. If we could see Wilmerding broken
out as far as costs and expenses ---.

MR. MCKAIN: We can do that. I mean, we’re able
to do any cost and measurement, just like I do with ice
and snow, doing a road, doing a bridge, Allegheny County
Jail services. And we’re constantly measuring and
assessing our performance. But I do think one of the
reasons why I’m requesting a five-year contract is so we
can evaluate it and see how we’re doing both operationally
and financially.

MS. MEANS: What would happen if Wilmerding
could no longer pay us? What would happen then? If they
said we’re sorry, we just don’t have the money any more to
pay, what would happen?

MR. MCKAIN: We have contracts with all of our
vendors. We have a $1.8 billion budget. If people don’t
pay us, you know, we talk to them just like anybody else.
A concessioner in the park, someone who doesn’t pay taxes,
and we go through a process to make sure that, you know,
we’re paid in whole. So we’ll have those conversations.
I don’t anticipate that, but obviously, as you’ve seen our
fund balance and financial position improve immensely over
the last four years, I think it shows that we have the
credibility to make sure that we tried to collect every revenue that’s due this County.

MS. MEANS: Thank you very much.

MR. MCKAIN: Uh-huh (yes).

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Representative Mike Finnerty.

MR. FINNERTY: Thank you, Mr. President. I just want to say that I think it’s an important thing that we, as the County, do for communities, municipalities and boroughs, et cetera, when they’re in need. And this community is in need of police protection. They’ve already said that they will be paying us a quarter of a million dollars. Now, I don’t know if that’s going to cover it or not, but it’s an estimate, a guesstimate, and it’s also we’re looking at a situation where we go into communities now and we don’t charge them anything. We have impact --- we have an impact force. And we’re going to station an impact force in Wilmerding which will take that impact force out of Lexington, which is probably a good thing for the Mon Valley, to have that impact force there. That’s going to save us some money itself.

I mean, in addition to this, they’re going to be paying us three percent, an increase of three percent per year plus 25 percent on any violation or tickets will also be paid to the County.

So these are different things that come into the perspective or the thoughts in relation to this. This is something new. There is no doubt about that. It’s also something that I’m sure that we’ll look into as we go down. As Chairman of the Budget and Finance, definitely it’s going to be looked into and we’re going to see how it works out. I think it’s an important thing for us and for the citizens of Allegheny County. Thank you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Representative Ellenbogen.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Thank you, Mr. President. I think it’s important for the public to understand the whole picture of the County police, their origin and where this all came from. I don’t want to date myself here, but many years ago when Commissioner Foerster and Sheriff Coon did not see eye to eye on things the County and the Commissioners invented the County Police, if you notice, no where else in the country do you have a sheriff’s office and a county police force like that.

That being said, the County was a different place 50 years ago. $29 million spent every year. So
here we are now, where over the years the focus of the county police was in the parks, at the airport, other things that may not be as relevant as the kinds of things we are seeing every day in the County. With the kind of crime and everything that’s going on, again, we’re spending over $29 million now. We’re talking about a few dollars here and there. I think the Chief Executive recognizes the fact that this is a different County. Just this morning when I read the paper, there were six people that were shot. Our homicide squads are in all these various communities anyway at no charge. I think what we’re trying to do here is we’re spending almost $30 million a year for the County police with the emergence of a new superintendent, a new assistant superintendent, who are seasoned street cops, for lack of a better word. It’s a chance to reinvent the County police in a way to impact the murders, the drugs, the things that are happening out there that people need services for. There’s a moral obligation out there. If we’re not going to do it, are we going to let these communities suffer like this where people can’t go out of their homes? I think that this is the beginning of using the County police force in its best way. We have to give the new superintendent and his staff a chance to reinvent this and do this, and this is the beginning of this.

And just so the public understands, we didn’t go into there and say we’re taking over. You know, we’re there to try to help, to try to reinvent everything and to try to make things safer as a result of our efforts. We don’t know if there’s going to be a couple of dollars spent more. But I think the public would agree that if we can stop the murders, the drugs and the things that are happening out there and give the police forces extra help, I think that that’s the goal here. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Any other remarks?

MR. DEMARCO: Thank you for recognizing me, Mr. President. One thing --- one of the other things that’s important for the public to recognize here is that we need to be forward looking as we’re looking at this. And one of the things that we’ve talked about are the many distressed communities that we have in Allegheny County. Now, many of the communities are doing less or doing worse than they were 10 or 15 years ago. There are some that
are on the rebound, you know, East Liberty, Hazelwood, but there are some others that are significantly challenged in Allegheny County.

Right now the University of Pittsburgh School of Public Policy is doing a study where they’re looking at voluntary disincorporation should we ever get to that point. I think that this is an opportunity for us, on a small scale, to do something similar to a beta concept. To be able to find out if we’re able to help the folks in Wilmerding here and also learn what’s involved from the County’s perspective so that we can learn going forward should we be approached in the future for other municipalities who may suffer similar financial difficulties and wish to join something like this, the actual challenges that we would be facing.

When you look at the cost of going out and doing a municipal study, often they’re in the six figure range. So a potential $70,000 to $80,000 delta here while we look to reassign resources in the first year is not a significant or a substantial sum for me that would cause me to be against this. And that’s one of the reasons why I support this ordinance.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Any other remarks?

Representative Kress.

MR. KRESS: Thank you, Mr. President. I think --- one of these things, too, we talk about economic development. I think when you have an effective police force you do bring economic development into a community. And I think with the County police patrolling Wilmerding, I think that will help with economic development. We spend economic development dollars there already, and what we’re trying to do, too, is --- I mean, you look at crime, crime travels. Crimes isn’t stagnant. It’s not fixed. So criminals travel. So what you’re looking at in the County here, if we have like the weakest link --- I mean, we’re only as strong as our weakest link. So if we could fight crime County-wide and make ourselves stronger as a County, I think we’re doing a benefit all the taxpayers in this County.

And I think we need to do a full court press on crime. I mean, no criminal should be able to hide in our County. And I think that this is a good thing for the people of our County as a whole. So if you’re a taxpayer in the North Hills, you may say why am I helping out here? Well, I think you’re helping out, because again, crime
travels. I mean, we find criminals in the North Hills or from different areas in the County. And I think it’s a good thing overall. So I’m going to support this and thank you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Seeing no other remarks, we’ll have a roll call.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Baker?
MR. BAKER: No.
MR. BARKER: Mr. DeMarco?
MR. DEMARCO: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Ellenbogen?
MR. ELLENBOGEN: Aye.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Finnerty?
MR. FINNERTY: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Futules?
MR. FUTULES: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Ms. Kirk?
MS. KIRK: No.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Klein?
MR. KLEIN: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Kress?
MR. KRESS: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Macey?
MR. MACEY: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Martoni?
DR. MARTONI: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Ms. Means?
MS. MEANS: No.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Palmiere?
MR. PALMIERE: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Ms. Ranalli-Russell?
MS. RANALLI-RUSSELL: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Walton?
MR. WALTON: Yes.
MR. BARKER: President DeFazio?
PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Ayes, 12; no’s, 3. The bill passes.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Liaison Reports. Anybody? Go ahead, Representative Palmiere.

MR. PALMIERE: Thank you, Mr. President. I just wanted to take the time to thank Councilman Baker and Mr. Kress, and of course, you, President DeFazio, for coming out yesterday to the 4th of July parade up in Brentwood which just happens to be the largest parade in Allegheny
County. And fortunately, thank the good Lord we had --- we got that in before all the rain and everything broke loose. So we had a great time. There must have been --- I think the estimate was 40,000, 42,000 people up there. I think 22,000 of them were kids.

MR. FUTURE: Collecting candy. Don't forget that part.

MR. PALMIERE: I used to run that race all the time and I didn’t sweat near as much as I did giving that candy out yesterday, let me tell you. But it was a great time, and again, gentlemen, I want to thank you very much for being a part of it. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Representative DeWitt Walton.

MR. WALTON: Thank you, Mr. President. I’d like to congratulate the Borough of Wilkinsburg for their community festival that they had on Saturday. The mayor and the Parks Department and the County, the County police and the sheriff’s office and a host of other organizations were out there and it was a great time had by all in moving the Borough of Wilkinsburg forward again. And I’d also like to invite members of Council to participate in the African-American Heritage Day Parade to be held on July 16th in the Hill District. And so it’s an opportunity for us to demonstrate our commitment to all of Allegheny County and participate in a broad and new community event. Thank you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Thank you. Representative Finnerty.

MR. FINNERTY: Thank you. I’d just like to say that we had a community day at Scott, and we had a few problems with raindrops so the fireworks were canceled and they’re going to be this Sunday evening. So if you need a fireworks --- I’d guess we’d call it like some kind of need for those fireworks, Scott will be having theirs.

I also would like to mention that Pittsburgh is going to have, I believe, a Bicentennial Parade coming up this Saturday, the 9th. And I believe the parade starts at 11 o’clock. And again, they’re going to have different activities during the day down at Point State Park. And again, of course, they have to have fireworks, so I believe they have fireworks Saturday night also. So that’s just a couple of things I’d like to ---.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Representative Means.
MS. MEANS: Thank you. I just want to congratulate the Community of Mt. Lebanon for a very successful Community Day. It was very nice and they did have their fireworks so ---. Thank you.

MR. FINNERTY: We watched them.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Go ahead, Cindy.

MS. KIRK: I just wanted to bring up Leetsdale also had our parade and community day and fireworks, a small little community full of Americana, so that was very nice.

But the other thing I wanted to bring up and off the subject is if you remember the terrible flooding that occurred in West Virginia last month, 23 people died and 5,000 homes were destroyed. I happened to go down there as a volunteer with my husband through --- we actually volunteered through West Virginia University, even though we’re not alumni from there. But if you go to the website Volunteer West Virginia, there’s still a need. Like when we were there, people just wanted Clorox and brushes to just do the worst, but now they’re getting to the point where they’re after donations for pretty much anything including food, clothes. People lost everything. Or for your time. If you go to the website, you can sign up to do shifts. It’s only a couple hour drive and you can always go Sarris Candy on the way back and have a sundae like we did. So a little treat. Or you know, you can send money or anything you can do, I think it would be very appreciated. Those people have really had a rough go of it. And so just the website is Volunteer West Virginia, and that’s where you can sign up to do anything. They’ll even take a couple of hours, anything you can do. And we were just sorting toothbrushes and deodorant, anything you can, making cleaning buckets. So it doesn’t take a lot of effort. So I’d just like to encourage people to try and do it if they can.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Representative Finnerty and then I’ll come back to you.

MR. FINNERTY: Thank you. I almost forgot about Carnegie and their fireworks. Their fireworks were actually Sunday so they had a great day for their community day and everything.

And also I would like to mention that South Fayette on July 24th from 11:00 to 3:00 is having something called Touch a Truck. It’s obviously for the younger set, so Cindy, don’t get --- but it’s at Fairview
Park, so the kids will be able to climb over the fire trucks and other trucks. And I’d just like to mention that. Thank you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO:  Representative Means.

MS. MEANS:  Thanks for recognizing me, Mr. President. Cindy, I’m glad you brought up the disaster in West Virginia, and it is only a few hours away. Samaritan's Purse is also taking volunteers. And they’re going to actually be going in with drywall and rebuilding people’s homes, and they’re going to need help for a long time. And also, the Bridgeville Fire Department is also collecting equipment and things to help the people. I mean, the fire companies down there lost a lot of their supplies and a lot of their equipment so they’re also very needy, too. And you can contact the Bridgeville Fire Department and give donations. And maybe, you know, a fire company that might be able to donate some of their equipment. And just to point out people from West Virginia, many of those people had nothing and they lost everything. I mean, they really didn’t have much to start with, and a lot of them have really traumatized because they saw their friends and neighbors swept away and over 23 people died. So thank you.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Representative Baker.

MR. BAKER:  Thanks, Mr. President. It was a great weekend in District One as well. First, thanks to Mr. Palmiere for hosting us again this year. I think it’s just a really nice thing that we all get together, you know, at least a couple of us get together every year to do the Brentwood parade. So thanks for hosting, thanks for providing lots of candy. I will say for Mr. Kress and I it’s very humbling to spend time in Brentwood. One, because Mr. DeFazio is famous everywhere he goes, and then Mr. Palmiere is certainly very famous in Brentwood, the most popular barber around, I think. So they both had a lot of fanfare there in Brentwood yesterday, but it was a great event, great to be part of and had a lot of fun doing it together.

We had a great parade in Ross Township as well, and our Ross Community Day was a big success. Moon had a really nice Firecracker 5K race and the community day there was last night.

I do want to mention also --- I’m hoping most people in the room have seen it, but there was a really positive article about what’s going on in the County. The
County Executive, the County Manager and the Chief of Staff, Jen Liptak, were all featured in Pittsburgh Business Times. And to Mr. McKain and to Rich, to the County Executive and to Jen, it’s a really nice piece. I just wanted to say congratulations. Thanks for the nice mention towards County Council as well, that the County Executive gave out, really talking about the fact that it’s work that done in tandem and collaboratively. We might not always agree, but it is good work that is being done together here in the County, so congratulations.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Thank you. Seeing no other remarks, comments, let’s move on to 9735-16.

MR. BARKER: An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pittsburgh setting forth a new Chapter 435 of the County Code of Ordinances in order to improve operations of the County’s M/W/DBE Program. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: That’ll go to the Economic Development Committee. 9736-16.

MR. BARKER: An Ordinance authorizing the County of Allegheny to acquire by condemnation certain right-of-way and easement areas from three parcels required to realign Thoms Run Road, also known as Thoms Run-Oakdale Road, in Collier Township, 6306-0201, and to take such further action as may be necessary under applicable law, including the Eminent Domain Code. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: That’ll go the Public Works Committee. 9737-16.

MR. BARKER: A Resolution of the Council of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, made pursuant to the Local economic Revitalization Tax Assistance Act as amended, 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 Eighth Ward of the City of Pittsburgh, County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, generally known as the Friendship neighborhood, 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’ll go to the Economic Development Committee. 9738.16.

MR. BARKER: A Resolution of the Council of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, made pursuant to the Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance Act as amended, 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 Ninth Ward of the City of Pittsburgh, County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, generally known as the Central Lawrenceville neighborhood, 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.


MR. FUTULES: Mr. President, last Monday the Executive Committee met and we voted to hire a new budget assistant. At this time, I'd like to make a motion to approve the new budget assistant.

MR. MACEY: Second.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Under remarks? Seeing none, I guess we should take the roll. Do it that way.

MR. FUTULES: Is everybody aware of her name, who we hired? I just didn’t want to say it publicly yet. So thank you.

MR. BARKER: On the motion to approve the budget assistant hiring.

MR. BARKER: Mr. Baker?
MR. BAKER: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Mr. DeMarco?
MR. DEMARCO: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Ellenbogen?
MR. ELLENBOGEN: Aye.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Finnerty?
MR. FINNERTY: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Futules?
MR. FUTULES: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Ms. Kirk?
MS. KIRK: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Klein?
MR. KLEIN: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Kress?
MR. KRESS: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Macey?
MR. MACEY: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Martoni?
DR. MARTONI: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Ms. Means?
MS. MEANS: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Palmiere?
MR. PALMIERE: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Ms. Ranalli-Russell?
MS. RANALLI-RUSSELL: Yes.
MR. BARKER: Mr. Walton?
MR. WALTON: Yes.
MR. BARKER: President DeFazio?
PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Yes.

Ayes, 15; no’s 0. The motion passes.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Notification of Contracts.
MR. BARKER: We have none.
PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Public Comment on General Items. We have two. Allison Fujito.
MS. FUJITO: I’m Alison Fujito and I live at 8199 Streamside Drive, Pittsburgh, PA, 15237.

The Health Department has announced plans to look into mandating the controversial HPV vaccines which have yet to produce any long-term safety or efficacy data. This is a gross overreach of its powers per Act 315, Section 12011, which gives the Health Department broad powers in the area of preventative health. It should not be interpreted to issue specific mandates for medical procedures as a condition of school entry when no medical emergency exists.

HPV vaccines are for a sexually transmitted disease, Human Papilloma Virus, which is not transmissible in either a school or community setting and is entirely avoidable without a vaccine.

We’re told that this vaccine is to prevent cervical cancer, but that’s associated with fewer than
five percent of HPV infections and takes two to five decades to develop.

According to the National Cancer Institute, the incidence of cervical cancer is only 7.5 per 100,000 and has been steadily falling by .8 percent each year since 2004, which is before the vaccine was even introduced.

Ninety-five (95) percent of those who get the infection completely recover with no treatment and usually don’t even know they ever had an infection.

The average age of diagnosis for cervical cancer is 49. The vaccine would be mandated for all 11-year-old girls and boys. The American Cancer Society names several significant risk factors for cervical cancer, including long-term use of birth control pills, smoking, giving birth before the age of 17 and multiple sexual partner, any one of which can double the risk of cervical cancer.

Parents have the right to educate their children about these risks without an invasive medical procedure being mandated.

HPV vaccines are already available to anyone who wants one. They’re covered by insurance and they are available for free at the Allegheny County Health Department Clinic on Forbes Avenue for anyone who is uninsured.

There is no scientific consensus on HPV vaccines, not for safety, not for efficacy. The package insert actually states that it has never been assessed for carcinogenicity or impairment of fertility, both of which have already been reported as adverse reactions.

The preliminary studies show only hypothetical benefits because long-term studies have simply not been done. They show that the vaccine does induce antibodies against four to nine out of 118 strains of HPV. But the latest independent studies show that other strains then become both more prevalent and more virulent. This is called “type replacement” and it’s similar to what we see with overuse of antibiotics.

The CDC’s VAERS data shows over 13,000 ER visits, 261 deaths and 89 cases of premature ovarian failure reported in association with HPV vaccines. There are zero reports of premature ovarian failure with other vaccines. The majority of reported reactions have occurred in the last three years. This indicates a real problem with this vaccine. As uptake has increased, so have the reports of reactions.
Might HPV vaccines potentially play a causal role in the development of cervical cancer after, say, two to five decades? We don’t know. They haven’t studied it.

I have one more paragraph.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Yeah, finish it.

MS. FUJITO: There is no health emergency. There is too much we don’t know about adverse reactions. Removing a parent’s rights in this instance would be an unimaginable overreach of the Health Department’s duties. Thank you for the opportunity to voice my concerns.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: We have Janet Cook.

MS. COOK: My name is Janet Cook. I live at 1508 King David Drive in Franklin Park 15237. I have a vaccine-injured grandson and I am acutely aware of the risks that vaccines pose. When it is your child or grandchild, the risk is not minimal.

I am here to speak about why I oppose the proposed mandate for the controversial HPV vaccine in Allegheny County.

Parents have the right to make health care decisions for their children. Parents, not the state, let alone the county. The HPV vaccine is available to anyone in the county who wants it, and there’s no immediate emergency to need it, and a school setting is not where you’re going to get HPV, hopefully.

All vaccines carry risks. They are a pharmaceutical product and they carry the risk of injury or death, and every vaccine insert states that as fact. The United States Supreme Court ruled in 2011 that vaccines are “unavoidably unsafe”. The fact that the United States Congress in 1986 passed the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act is proof that vaccines do, in fact, injure and kill children. Since 1988, the Vaccine Compensation Program has paid out over $3.3 billion to adults and children who have been injured and killed by the vaccines on the CDC’s schedule.

In 1986 when Congress passed the law that released from liability all the manufacturers and those people who give the injections to people, the vaccines on the schedule has increased dramatically. In 1960, there were five. In 1983, it were 24 doses and 11 injections. Since then it’s exploded. This is 2016. There are now 73 doses and 55 injections from birth to 18-years of age. The cumulative effect of all those chemicals and all those
viruses has never been tested. There are currently 270 additional vaccines in the pipeline right now.

The manufacturers of these vaccines do not have to be concerned with the safety and efficacy of these products. The HPV vaccine is the most expensive vaccine that has ever been made, and Merck stands to make a fortune on it. At present, parents are a little more skeptical about this than they are other vaccines. That’s why the manufacturers have put on huge media push to educate parents about the benefits of the HPV vaccine. And they want organizations like the Allegheny Health Department to help them. Today the vaccine industry is a $61 billion industry worldwide. Allegheny County doesn’t have to try to make them a $62 billion industry.

I have one more paragraph.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Go ahead if you only have a little bit to go, we'll let you go.

MS. COOK: I have very little.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Yeah.

MS. COOK: Thank you. At this time, the CDC is under Congressional investigation concerning fraud and corruption involving a safety study that they conducted. A senior CDC scientist, research scientist, has come forward as a whistleblower and has stated that they destroyed and manipulate data to took a particular vaccine and made it seem safe when the results were anything but. How can we believe them now when they are telling us that the HPV vaccine is safe?

Currently, Spain, France, India and Japan have filed suit against the HPV vaccine manufacturers claiming fraudulent and misleading information about safety. So do you, the elected representatives of Allegheny County want to take on the responsibility for forcing children to have a controversial vaccine that many not be safe?

Please consider the immense responsibility that comes with making a decision of this magnitude. Just one injured child is one too many. Thank you for the opportunity.

PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: Thank you. Let me ask, is Creiton Radz (phonetic) here? Okay. There was a mix-up on the ---. All right. Let’s move on. We’re down to adjournment. Does someone want to make a motion?

MR. FINNERTY: Make a motion to adjourn.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Second.
PRESIDENT DEFAZIO: All those in favor signify by saying aye.
(Ayes respond.)

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

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:46 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.

[Signature]

Jed Reifer,
Court Reporter