

ALLEGHENY COUNTY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

- - -

BEFORE:

Richard Fitzgerald	-	President District 11
Charles J. Martoni	-	Vice President District 8
John P. DeFazio	-	Council-At-Large
Chuck McCullough	-	Council-At-Large
Matt Drozd	-	District 1
Jan Rea	-	District 2
James R. Burn, Jr.	-	District 3
Michael J. Finnerty	-	District 4
Vince Gastgeb	-	District 5
Joan Cleary	-	District 6
Nick Futules	-	District 7
Robert Macey	-	District 9
William Russell Robinson	-	District 10
Jim Ellenbogen	-	District 12
Amanda Green	-	District 13

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

Tuesday, January 20, 2009 - 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:

James Flynn - County Manager
Michael Wojcik - County Solicitor
Joseph Catanese - Director of Constituent Services
John Mascio - Chief Clerk
John H. Rushford, Jr. - Counsel for County Council
Jared Barker - Director, Legislative Services
Jennifer Liptak - Budget Director
Jack Cambest - Solicitor

VICE PRESIDENT MARTONI: The January 20th meeting of County Council will come to order. Please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance, and please remain standing for a moment after the Pledge of Allegiance for a moment of silence and prayer for our new President of the United States, Barack Obama.

(Pledge of Allegiance.)

(Moment of silence and prayer.)

VICE PRESIDENT MARTONI: I forgot to mention that Jimmy Karra (phonetic) led our Pledge of Allegiance. Thank you, Jimmy. Please be seated. Rich is here.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Please call the roll.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Burn?

(No response.)

MR. MASCIO: Ms. Cleary?

MS. CLEARY: Present.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. DeFazio?

MR. DEFAZIO: Here.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Drozd?

MR. DROZD: Present.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Ellenbogen?

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Here.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Finnerty?

MR. FINNERTY: Here.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Futules?

MR. FUTULES: Here.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Gastgeb?

MR. GASTGEB: Here.

MR. MASCIO: Ms. Green?

MS. GREEN: Present.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Macey?

MR. MACEY: Here.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Martoni?

MR. MARTONI: Here.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. McCullough?

MR. MCCULLOUGH: Present.

MR. MASCIO: Ms. Rea?

MS. REA: Present.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Robinson?

MR. ROBINSON: Present.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Fitzgerald, President?

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Here.

MR. MASCIO: We have 14 members present.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: We're going to skip 4570-09 for just a moment and go to 4571-09.

MR. MASCIIO: Proclamation declaring January 2009 as Cervical Cancer Awareness Month in Allegheny County. Sponsored by Council Member Cleary.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Councilwoman Cleary.

MS. CLEARY: Thank you very much. I'd like to bring up Dr. Zeske (phonetic). Yes. I just want to read the proclamation first, because I think this is a very important issue.

Whereas, every year in the United States, there are approximately 11,000 women diagnosed and 38,000 women who die from cervical cancer.

Whereas, the great majority of cervical cancer cases are caused by HPV, and millions of women are currently infected with it. Since the infection is often symptom-free, women are unaware of their risk of developing cervical cancer.

Whereas, early detection significantly increases chances of survival, and in fact, if detected early, cervical cancer is nearly 100 percent curable.

Whereas, the HPV vaccine for girls and young women ages 9 to 26 will prevent about 70 percent of all cases of cervical cancer.

Whereas, throughout January, public and private organizations and state and local governments all around the country will provide education about cervical cancer screening, treatments and causes.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that Allegheny County Council proclaims January 2009 as Cervical Cancer Awareness Month in Allegheny County. We join the many individuals engrossed across our nation in recognizing Cervical Cancer Awareness Month and encouraging women everywhere to take action to fight against it. Sponsored by myself, this 20th day of January.

And I'd like Dr. Zeske to talk about it. He's my doctor, and he is a fantastic surgeon and a wonderful physician who treats a lot of women and saves a lot of women.

(Applause.)

DR. ZESKE: Thank you very much. Let me introduce myself. My name is Yudakmeon (phonetic) Zeske. I'm a gynecological oncologist. I specialize in the treatment of women who have gynecologic cancer. As Joan mentioned, cancer of the cervix is not only a preventable disease, but it's a very treatable disease. Unfortunately, in Allegheny County, I'm still seeing

patients who present with advanced cancer of the cervix. This is occurring because of lack of public awareness about the appropriate health facilities that are available, appropriate screening and the simple fact that women need to continue to have regular gynecologic screenings throughout their life. Efforts such as this will help us improve public awareness about this disease, hopefully encourage women to seek regular gynecologic care and further reduce not only the incidence, but the death rate from cervical cancer. So I'm happy to accept this proclamation recognizing January as Cancer of the Cervix Awareness Month. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

(Pictures taken.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: 4572-09.

MR. MASCIO: Certificate of Achievement congratulating the Bethel Park High School Football Team for earning the 2008 WPIAL Class AAAA Championship and as runner-up at the PIAA Championship. Sponsored by Councilman Gastgeb.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Councilman Gastgeb.

MR. GASTGEB: Thank you, President Fitzgerald. I'd like to have School Director Dan Duff, Athletic Director Amy Scheuneman, Head Coach Jeff Metheny, the assistant coaches, all the players come behind me and will kind of talk about your season and rightfully reward you on something extraordinary and the pride that you brought forth here in Allegheny County.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: And certainly, parents, take pictures of your young men. Feel free to come up here and do that. And I'll comment a little bit. Councilman Gastgeb, this team has a lot to be proud of. They really do. Terrific team.

MR. GASTGEB: We actually have more proclamations, I think, than Central Catholic did, Mr. Fitzgerald.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: We're working on it.

MR. GASTGEB: And as the kids are coming in, let me just say, we had a chance to honor this team in Bethel Park last Monday at the Bethel Park Council meeting. And I said, to me, this was something personal, and it is because I know a lot of these proud young men. I know a lot of the parents, the coaches. And sometimes when you look at success, it's not just winning games. It's sometimes how you do it. It's how you carry yourself.

It's the character that you have and accomplishing a goal. It's a team that's met for years, whether it's in the summer in the weight room, whether it's at dinners with Outback, catering. Whatever it is, the camaraderie this team has, no one can deny. It really extends to extraordinary heights.

I know that ---. I was reading Coach Metheny's press clippings and very humble in how he was quoted by The Post-Gazette and Tribune-Review. But in a roundabout way, it was that almost every team Bethel Park played, you know, could Bethel Park beat their opponent? What bracket were they in? Did the other school have a candidate, and maybe Bethel Park didn't. But none of that mattered because Bethel Park played as a team. Bethel Park came together. Bethel Park did what they needed to do to show that not only did they have the athletic ability, but they had the ability of young men to succeed. And you just don't see that that often.

And I could tell you that living in Bethel Park my whole life, I don't know if anything's been so exciting as watching this team, watching these young men grow, watching the WPIAL Championship we won for the first time in school history, on the 100th year, actually, of the graduating class, having the fire trucks and police cars meet the team on Route 19 and take you into Bethel Park and the stadium. You just don't forget those types of things.

And again, it's the winning and it's the camaraderie, but it's also the way you did it. It's the way that you showed, I believe, the whole county that not only are you champions because of your athletic ability, but because you work together, because you are always a team from one. And I know that you really put a lot of honor and pride. So if I can have Coach Metheny come up. I do want to read a general proclamation.

Before I do, is School Director Dan Duff here? Come on, Dan. I'd like you to come up, too. And Dan, you and I were at the first playoff game --- it was so cold --- with North Allegheny. We couldn't even recognize each other. We were like --- we had snow gear on. Would you say a few words?

MR. DUFF: I think what was most important to the school, the parents, the students and really the community was the excitement that this generated. It really brought the whole community together and made us

all very proud. So I'm sure your parents are proud. You're proud of yourself. But you were incredible ambassadors for Bethel Park. And on behalf of the School Board, we would really like to express our appreciation for that. Thank you.

MR. GASTGEB: And I'm going to bring up Amy, as well, because she's an outstanding athletic director. One of the things I told the kids, I'm so glad you're here because every single team you beat in Allegheny County, we can watch it on TV. So make sure they see you. Amy?

MS. SCHEUNEMAN: I'd like to start by thanking not only Councilman Gastgeb, but the entire Council for recognizing us. As it's already been mentioned, we received numerous correspondence, not only from Bethel Park residents, but all of Allegheny County residents, from teams we've played, from people that just watched the game, in awe of how Bethel Park came together, not only athletically, but the sportsmanship they demonstrated and the respect they had for the game, for the other team and for the officials was outstanding. And I think everybody noticed that.

And I'd like to just say thank you, again, to our coaching staff for instilling those values into the players and the players for exhibiting them throughout the entire season. So thank you for that, and thank you, Council, for recognizing us.

MR. GASTGEB: And I'm going to read the proclamation. Before I do, I'm going to tell my favorite story. The games were extraordinary. But the last one with Hershey, the State Championship game, I had a chance to go to --- I called it WTAE in Bethel Park and everyone thought I was about 100 years old. I guess its ESPN Radio 1250. And I was just in there at half time. I was wearing my Bethel Park colors. And Ken Laird and Jim Colony, who were the announcers, said, you know, Vince, this team is just amazing because I've never seen such professionalism from such youngsters. I mean, they're composed. When they score, they give the ball right back to the referee. You just don't see that. The showmanship isn't there. Again, what a testament to you youngsters for playing the game the way I believe it should be played, and of course, Coach Metheny and the coaching staff for instilling those values. I can assure you it was noticed. You should be proud of yourself for not only winning, but for carrying yourself in such a tall manner.

But Coach Metheny, if you could come up, I want to read to you the proclamation. I also have one for you for being named the Coach of the Year, too, so ---.

On behalf of Allegheny County, this Certificate of Achievement is awarded to the 2008-2009 Bethel Park High School Football Team in recognition of earning the WPIAL AAAA Championship and also the runner-up PIAA Championship. We commend and recognize each player and coach whose determination resulted in this achievement. The team has set a positive example of excellence for all of Allegheny County and continuing evidence that this is a county of champions.

This achievement has conferred honor on this county. It is an accomplishment which the entire community could be proud of. Sponsored by me, Vince Gastgeb. Coach, congratulations.

(Applause.)

COACH METHENY: Thank you. Just a second. I'd like to take a second to thank Council and Mr. Gastgeb for this fine honor. It's really been a special ride for the whole community of Bethel Park. I'd like to thank our School Board, administration and especially Amy because of all the hard work that she put forth. We have a tremendous amount of great kids to coach, and I'd like to thank the parents of our players. They do put in a lot of hard work academically and athletically. And hats off to you guys for all the success. To our coaches, thank you very much for all your hard work, and it's been an unbelievable ride. It's brought a community together that people will remember for a long time. Thank you very much, Council, for having us here.

(Applause.)

MR. GASTGEB: And one final gift I'd like to give --- my brother happens to need an assistant coach. And if you know him, it's always hard to outdo him. You always have to be one-up. And I think Head Coach Metheny will agree with me. That kind of gets on your nerves once in a while; doesn't it? However, I think I actually got him here. I wanted to do something a little extra special for this team because, again, it is an extra special team. On behalf of the Pittsburgh Steelers, this is an autographed football by Mike Tomlin and Dan Rooney they wanted to make sure that I gave to Head Coach Metheny and to put this in a rightful honor at Bethel Park for such a

great, outstanding season. So Coach, on behalf of the Steelers, here's an autographed football.

(Applause.)

COACH METHENY: Thank you.

MR. GASTGEB: And now, because you're all here, and I appreciate your coming down, and I want everybody in the county to make sure who you are, Rock, would you do the honors of announcing who this great team is?

MR. VOMER: First off, I'd like to say thank you to Amy Scheuneman, who is our amazing athletic director. She always got all the school and all the community pumped up to come to our games. And I'd like to thank our coaches, our head coach, Jeff Metheny, our offensive coordinator, Brian DeLallo, our defensive coordinator, Jim Engott and our assistant coaches, Jim Gastgeb and Joe Sperlo (phonetic). And I'm just going to read off all the guys' names. Pat Lydon, Creighton Hottel, Matt Mace, Matt Spicuzza, Joe Brucker, Mike Telek, Mark Fortunato, Keith Doyle, Andrew Pierson, Jim Karam, Jared Carothers, Chad Higgins, Joe Falcone, Ryan Sherry, Max Bair, Manny Surunis, Chris Rizzo, Shane Jordan, Dominic Barbano, Mack Cox, Hunter Schaff, Kevin DeBold, Cory Spegal, Jared Pratt, Alex Baroffio, Anthony Herko, Matt Bliss, Luke Olson. That's all I got.

MR. GASTGEB: Thank you.

(Applause.)

(Pictures taken.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: 4570-09.

MR. MASCIO: Proclamation naming January 2009 ---.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Back to the first one.

MR. MASCIO: 4570-09. Proclamation recognizing and commending news reporter Mr. Andy Gastmeyer upon the occasion of his retirement. Sponsored by Councilwoman Cleary.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Councilwoman Cleary.

MS. CLEARY: Thank you. I'd like to bring Mr. Gastmeyer up. I really would like to recognize him for all the work that he's done in the Pittsburgh area over all the years. And he was thanking me for bringing him in and I'm thinking, he has more name recognition than all of us put together. So we all want to get in the picture with you. Believe me.

MR. GASTMEYER: Except for Councilman McCullough.

MS. CLEARY: Okay. Let me read this proclamation.

Whereas, a native of New York, Andy Gastmeyer has made Pittsburgh his home.

Whereas, a graduate of Old Dominion University, Andy worked as a page for NBC in New York before receiving his first on-air job in Norfolk, Virginia in 1968.

Whereas, Andy has been a White House correspondent for both Television News and Satellite News.

Whereas, Andy's Pittsburgh television career began in 1976 with KDKA and has continued for the past 24 years with WPXI.

And whereas, over the years, Andy has been a leader in reporting many of the region's most significant stories, including the crash of Flight 427, the Hurricane Ivan floods, the crash of Flight 93 on September 11th, 2001, and every major local, state and national election for the past 24 years.

Whereas, Andy has received four first place awards from the Pennsylvania Associated Press for his investigative reports on MetLife Services, the Pirates, bar beating and received the national POW/MIA League Humanitarian Award for his coverage of Virginia Beach POW families.

Whereas, outside of work, Andy is a passionate cyclist and dedicated husband, father and grandfather.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that Allegheny County commends Andy Gastmeyer for his dedication in serving the public by providing fair, accurate and balanced reports on the region's most important news stories. You have set a standard of excellence that serves as an inspiration to all members of Council. We wholeheartedly thank you for your dedicated commitment to serving the people of Allegheny County. Presented by myself this 20th day of January.

(Applause.)

MR. GASTMEYER: And this is Jackson right here, one of the finer reasons for which I decided to hang it up and say that there are too many 12-hour days and there are other things to do besides what I've been doing for about 40 years. I apologize for being unfashionably late. That's about as welcome as an unannounced stop by Chuck McCullough at Mr. Onorato's office.

But at any rate, this is really something of an historic day, to say nothing of the inauguration of Barack

Obama earlier this afternoon. But I really do appreciate the honor. It reminds me that I came from a small town in the Catskills, a town of no more than 10,000 in population. South Park is where I have lived since I first came to work here back in 1976. And that small town environment has made me feel very, very much at home. And that's typical of so much of Allegheny County, one small town after another, which makes it a very unique place to live, to work, to grow up and raise some very special people.

I just want to thank you all so much for the time you've taken to do this. And I will be taking off for Mexico in a couple of days, for the next couple of weeks, and this is a nice way to be sent off. Thank you all very much. I appreciate it.

(Applause.)

(Pictures taken.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Back to 4573-09.

MR. MASCIO: Proclamation naming January 2009 as National Mentoring Month in Allegheny County. Sponsored by Councilwoman Green.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Councilwoman Green.

MS. GREEN: Thank you. I just want to ask Executive Director Colleen Fedor of the Mentoring Partnership of Southwestern Pennsylvania to come up. And Don Jacobson, the Chairman of the Board.

Whereas, January 2009 marks the launch of the National Mentoring Month campaign with headliner General Colin L. Powell, bearing the theme, expand your universe; mentor a child.

Whereas, in honor of National Mentoring Month, the Mentoring Partnership of Southwestern Pennsylvania is challenging local adults to improve the lives of our youths by volunteering to serve as mentors.

And whereas, the Mentoring Partnership of Southwestern Pennsylvania, through their collaborative work, creates new mentoring programs, improves existing programs to help recruit and refer mentors to local organizations, and most importantly, connects at-risk youths with quality mentoring programs.

And whereas, research has shown that programs that rely on volunteer mentors can play a powerful role in reducing drug abuse and youth violence while greatly enhancing a young person's prospects for leading healthy and productive lives.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Allegheny County Council hereby recognizes and commends the Mentoring Partnership of Southwestern Pennsylvania upon their continued commitment to the youth of our community and declares January 2009 as National Mentoring Month in Allegheny County. Sponsored by myself this 20th day of January.

(Applause.)

MS. GREEN: Mr. Jacobson, would you say a few words?

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you. On behalf of the Mentoring Partnership of Southwestern Pennsylvania, on behalf of the 25,000 children who are currently being mentored in Allegheny County, and the 1,000 children that are still on a waiting list for a mentor, I want to thank Council and Amanda in particular for your continued support and for proclaiming January as National Mentoring Month. We thank you and the children thank you.

(Applause.)

MS. FEDOR: This is our fifth trip here to Council, and we'd like to ask you to continue to support us throughout the year. We invite you to join us on Thursday, this Thursday, across the street, One Oxford Centre. It is National Thank Your Mentor Day. This is an opportunity for you to recall who mentored you and who was involved in your life that has helped you achieve the level that you have. It's a great opportunity to reach back and thank that person. If you'd like to join us between 11:00 and 1:00 on Thursday at the Oxford Centre, there will be representatives from local mentoring programs, as well as WYEP, who will be there recording responses from them, those who talk about the people who mattered in their lives. So thank you again on behalf of the 150 local mentoring programs who serve children, from each of your Council districts. We're very grateful.

(Applause.)

(Pictures taken.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: 4574-09.

MR. MASCIO: Proclamation recognizing and thanking the volunteers that decorated Hartwood Mansion for the 2008 holiday season. Sponsored by Council Members Rea and Futules.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Councilwoman Rea and Councilman Futules.

MS. REA: Thank you, Mr. President. I'd like all the volunteers from Hartwood and Mr. Baechle to come up, please, to the podium. We're waiting for you, Andy. Okay. On this historic day, we have a perfect example of community service volunteers. These women donate their time and talent to create a wonderful wonderland at our Hartwood Park Home. We cannot be more grateful to each of you for your dedicated service to Allegheny County. And I'd like to read the proclamation to you.

Whereas, Hartwood Mansion, located in Indiana Township, is a 16th century Tudor mansion that was built in 1929 for John and Mary Flinn-Lawrence, daughter of industrialist William Flinn.

Whereas, Allegheny County is blessed with volunteers that dedicate their time and talents each year to decorate the Hartwood Mansion for the holidays.

And whereas, the Friends of Hartwood and community volunteers worked tirelessly to decorate the interior rooms and the mansion in a manner evoking the style and fashion of the golden years of the mansion.

And whereas, some of the outstanding features include the 12-foot Great Hall tree and a kissing ball which hangs in the entry hall, and visitors have commented on the perfection, quality and the originality of the decorations.

Whereas, in the last two years, over 1,500 hours of community service have been donated to this effort alone.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Allegheny County Council hereby recognizes and thanks the volunteers that have generously donated their time and talents to decorate Hartwood Mansion in holiday décor that brings delight and joy to the mansion guests.

I really can't thank each and every one of you more ---. I mean, I did tour the mansion, and it was done --- like I said, to the last ribbon on a package, it was truly outstanding. So thank you very much for your dedication. Councilman Futules?

(Applause.)

MR. FUTULES: I just also want to thank you this evening for your volunteering. It's folks like you that make these events great, even the mansion. And of course, the light tour is one of the best in the country. And thanks to people, the volunteers, again, and people like

Andy Baechle. They just don't go to work. They have compassion for their work and it shows. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MS. REA: I don't know if anybody would like to tell us what they did to a room or how many years they've worked. If you have a spokesperson and they'd like to speak, we'd be happy to hear from you. Anyone? All of you. You've all so worked so hard. Good.

MS. JOY: I'm Linda Joy. I'm the office manager at Hartwood. I'm a part-time person. We totally could not run Hartwood without our volunteers. I can't express enough to Council how important their volunteer time is to running a mansion like we have up there. These people not only decorate every year starting ---. Some people are already saying to me, I have an idea about a room. They start in January. Their minds are flowing. Others of these people up here do tours, and that is all a volunteer situation, too. And we run hundreds of tours, thousands of tours every year, of the mansion. At Christmastime, huge tours, bus tours of 50, 60 people at a time come through the mansion. And all of --- many of the people up here are the very people who do that service for us. We could not do that at all without their help. So as office manager of Hartwood, I am very thankful for their hours of dedication. They make the home in Hampton at Hartwood their home. It is truly something that --- it comes from their heart. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MS. REA: I'd just like each of you to introduce yourself at the microphone to us.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: We'd like to let the people of Allegheny County know who's doing this wonderful work and how proud you make this county, so that we can see this beautiful facility.

MS. RIVALDI-BRACKEN: Renee Rivaldi-Bracken (phonetic).

MS. RIVALDI: Cheryl Rivaldi (phonetic). Renee is my daughter.

MS. PHILLIPS: Ann Phillips.

MS. LOGAN: Amy Logan.

MS. MANN: Kathy Mann.

MS. SHARON: Brandy Sharon.

MS. O'MALLEY: Janet O'Malley.

MS. MCCULLEN: Michelle McCullen (phonetic).

MS. BIERKAN: And I'm Amber Bierkan. I'd like to say thank you to Council as well for recognizing us. You put in a lot of hours, and I would encourage each and every one of you to come and look at the mansion during the holiday season. It's really quite spectacular.

MS. CLEARY: I did see it a couple of years ago, and it is beautiful.

MS. REA: Andy, do you want to say anything? Would you like to say anything?

MR. BAECHLE: Thanks, everybody. It's a lot of work, but it's a labor of love for them.

MS. REA: Thank you.

(Applause.)

(Pictures taken.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: 4575-09.

MR. MASCIO: Proclamation recognizing the late Paul Shannon and the 50th anniversary of the return of The Three Stooges in Pittsburgh. Sponsored by Council Members McCullough and Ellenbogen.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Councilman McCullough and Councilman Ellenbogen.

MR. MCCULLOUGH: Do we have any members of Mr. Shannon's family here this evening? I would also like to call Mr. Barry Paris of The Post-Gazette to the podium, please. This is, indeed, a real honor for me and for Councilman Ellenbogen. We're going to honor Paul Shannon and The Three Stooges. And for those of you who grew up in the Pittsburgh area in the late '50s and early '60s, I'm sure you'll all agree with me that The Three Stooges and Paul Shannon are right up there with Jumping Johnny DeFazio as TV legends for us all.

And this proclamation was actually inspired by an article that appeared in The Post-Gazette several months ago by Barry Paris of The Post-Gazette. Councilman Ellenbogen and I are longtime fans of The Stooges, and we go back and forth about them all the time. And Barry's wonderful article rekindled a lot of fond memories for us and really led to this. I also should add that my father used to say that there's a special place in Heaven for those who try to make the rest of us laugh. And given that, I'm sure that not only The Three Stooges, but Paul himself have a very high place with the Lord.

We also shouldn't forget the very tremendous efforts Mr. Shannon gave to the Backyard Carnivals for Muscular Dystrophy as part of the Jerry Lewis Muscular

Dystrophy effort. We probably should have recognized that. I apologize for that oversight. So not only do we have a man who was devoted to bringing joy into all of our homes, but also spearheaded a tremendous charitable relief effort to help children afflicted with muscular dystrophy. And with that being said, I would like to read this proclamation into the record. It's an Allegheny County Council proclamation, beginning as follows.

Whereas, The Three Stooges, a physical slapstick comedy act featured Brooklyn-born brothers Moe, Shemp and Jerome "Curly" Howard, and they were joined by longtime friend "Porcupine" Larry Fine.

And whereas, the late Paul V. Shannon became a Pittsburgh legend, particularly to the baby boom generation, as host of the popular children's television show Adventure Time, which was broadcast on WTAE Channel 4 and featured The Three Stooges shorts.

Whereas, Mr. Shannon helped revive The Stooges as a viable act at a time when they were considered ancient history, leading to an entirely new career of stage and film appearances.

And whereas, in gratitude to Mr. Shannon, the Stooges featured him as Wild Bill Hickok --- I actually remember that --- in the 1965 film The Outlaws is Coming.

Whereas, Mr. Shannon helped the Stooges landed their first gig on January 3rd, 1959, where they performed live at the Holiday House in Monroeville.

And whereas, January 3rd, 2009 marks the 50th anniversary of their triumphant comeback in Pittsburgh with a new print and long awaited screen Have Rockets, Will Travel at the Regent Square Theater for the Three Rivers Film Festival.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that Allegheny County Council does recognize and thank the late Paul Shannon for resurrecting The Three Stooges' career. And we celebrate the momentous occasion of the 50th anniversary of The Three Stooges' performance in Pittsburgh. Councilman Ellenbogen.

(Applause.)

MR. ELLENBOGEN: I just wanted to say that I was one of those Adventure Time kids that every time running home from school, to watch Adventure Time and see who my friends ---. And then on Saturdays I spent the afternoon watching Chuck and John trying to pin Haystack Calhoun.

But other than that --- you know, I always believed that people who had a goal to make people laugh had a special part in society because, you know, without the ability to laugh, I mean, what else is there? And Paul Shannon was a hero to my generation. We all remembered him and what he did to bring The Three Stooges to us. I mean, you know, we were poking each other in the eyes for, you know, I don't know how many years. But I'm very proud to be part of this. And you know, it's funny, too, because when I was nine years old, one of the highlights of my life was having the ability to see The Three Stooges in person when they brought them here for the Police Circus. So that's something I always remembered.

And like I said, Mr. Shannon has a special part in my life, and I've always been a Stooge fan. I mean, you know, I remember when we were kids, we used to stand on the corner and just exchange lines with each other. So that was a big deal to us, so it's nice to see that even now when they have a Stoogefest that they'll fill the place. So I'm very proud to be part of this. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MR. MCCULLOUGH: I'd also like to call Barry Paris to the podium for some remarks, please.

MR. PARIS: Thank you very much. I'm very honored to be here. After 30 years at The Post-Gazette, I have never been invited to a public meeting before. And this is ---. I can't think of a better or more appropriate occasion. Everybody in this county is used to the Councilmen and the Council giving presentations and proclamations to other people. But I would like to make a very small presentation and proclamation to the fabulous Councilmen Ellenbogen and McCullough, namely, this original Three Stooges limited edition plate. It's so limited that you wouldn't find it in any decent American household. And there's only one of them. I should have two. I'm sorry. It's the best I could do. Pretty damn good, actually. Got the number here and --- if you'll read the back ---. The question is, which one of them will take it? I think it can only be decided by thinking two --- one between the two. So I'm going to let them worry about that. Meanwhile, I'm just going to say, after everything that they said --- maybe it could be, like, for the county, you know, in general. Maybe write, like, underneath it ---.

Anyway, I want to thank you for recognizing truly, truly a fabulous group in the history of American film and entertainment, as was Paul Shannon. We welcome his friends and relatives here. Shannon was so important to Pittsburgh and to the media and to all of us. I was there along with this Councilman on January 3rd, 1959, with my four cousins. We were all nine and a half. And needless to say, it stayed with us, the memory.

And so to leave you, I'll just say that these days, if we'd say ---. You know, I remember Moe saying to people, pick two. And you know, the people would say, how dumb could they be? All they had to do was put their hand up like this (indicating). And you wouldn't do it. But these days --- this day, if we were to say to pick two, we'd probably say Obama and Biden. Anyway, thank you very much.

(Applause.)

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Just to tell you how much I do know about this --- and what's interesting about The Three Stooges is, you know, the expression, many a truth was told in a jest. Well, this particular plate where you can see Moe in the middle, who actually, in the part, played Moe Hailstone, who was doing a parody on Adolph Hitler as Curly was Mussolini and Larry was Goebbels. So what they did, they took very tragic and terrible events like World War II and things like that, and they brought it to comedy. And you know, like I said, many a truth was told in a jest. If you really get past the slapstick and look at some of the things they did to deal with some of the horrors of that day, you'll see there's a hidden message and an agenda behind that. And that was a way --- I think, in their way, to more or less, you know, give --- like Curly would say, give one of these (indicating) to Hitler. So thank you.

MR. MCCULLOUGH: I'd like to call Paul's two sons to the podium, please.

MR. SHANNON: Just on behalf of my family and my brothers and all of our family, we'd just like to thank Council for recognizing my dad, and of course, recognizing The Three Stooges. He was a very important part of our lives, obviously. But the one thing about my dad was he was so humble. In 1975, he retired from WTAE, and he and my mother --- we moved to Florida. And so when he would be down there, of course, nobody would know who he was.

And that was fine with him. He didn't have a problem with that.

But what he thought was that people here in Pittsburgh had completely forgotten about him. And so when he came up to WTAE in 1988 --- WTAE had their 30th year anniversary reunion. And he was so astounded that anybody even remembered him. But that's just the kind of guy he was. And he would be very tickled to know today --- he'd be very proud of the fact that you, the Allegheny County Council, have given him the honor that you've given him. So again, on behalf of my dad and my mom and my brothers and myself, thank you very much.

(Applause.)

MR. MCCULLOUGH: Just to conclude this, I think an item like this plate, really, is too much for Councilman Ellenbogen and I to accept. And we'd probably have a financial disclosure issue if we do, given the value of it. So I'm going to suggest that we receive this on behalf of the whole Council, and I'm going to deliver it to our Chief Clerk. Perhaps he can make a recommendation as to an appropriate place of honor for this plate.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: You know, considering some of the press we've got, all we need is a third.

MR. MCCULLOUGH: Thank you, all.

(Pictures taken.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: 4576-09.

MR. MASCIO: The remaining proclamations and certificates will be entered into the record.

4576-09. Certificate of Recognition thanking Mr. and Mrs. Nick Vay for their many years of public service. Sponsored by Councilman Macey.

4577-09. Certificate of Recognition congratulating Mr. and Mrs. William Snyder on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. Sponsored by Councilman Macey.

4578-09. Certificate of Recognition thanking Mr. and Mrs. John Posipanka for their many years of public service. Sponsored by Councilman Macey.

4579-09. Certificate of Recognition congratulating the Lincoln Borough Volunteer Fire and Rescue Company upon the occasion of their 60th anniversary. Sponsored by Councilman Macey.

4580-09. Certificate of Recognition awarded to the Blaine Hill Volunteer Firefighters for their many years of public service. Sponsored by Councilman Macey.

4581-09. Proclamation declaring November 22nd as Bethel Park High School Football Day in Allegheny County in recognition of Bethel Park High School Football Team winning the WPIAL Championship game at Heinz Field. Sponsored by Councilman Gastgeb.

4582-09. Certificate of Achievement congratulating the 2008 South Brook Middle School Girls' Softball Team for winning the City League championship. Sponsored by Councilman Ellenbogen.

4583-09. Proclamation recognizing and thanking Judge Lawrence W. Kaplan upon the occasion of his retirement from the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas. Sponsored by Council President Fitzgerald.

4584-09. Certificate of Achievement recognizing BSA Troop 380 Scout Frederic Ernsberger for earning the rank of Eagle Scout. Sponsored by Council President Fitzgerald.

4585-09. Certificate of Achievement recognizing BSA Troop 830 Scout Michael Walker for earning the rank of Eagle Scout. Sponsored by Councilman Finnerty.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Public comment on agenda items?

MR. MASCIO: We have none.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Approval of minutes.

4566-09.

MR. MASCIO: Motion to approve the minutes of the regular meetings of County Council held on December 16th and January 6th, 2009.

MR. FINNERTY: So moved.

MR. MACEY: Second.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Moved, second.

Discussion? All in favor signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Opposed? The motion carries. Unfinished business. Committee on Economic Development and Housing, second reading. 4549-09.

MR. MASCIO: An ordinance authorizing the County of Allegheny to accept certain real estate/rights-of-way from Tech 21 Partners, LLC, in connection with a Local Public Agency Right-of-Way Acquisition Agreement for the widening of Warrendale-Bayne Road-Route 19 and Brush Creek

Road-Thorn Hill Road in Marshall Township, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Chair Finnerty?

MR. FINNERTY: Thank you, Mr. President. This was approved by the Committee and moved with an affirmative recommendation. But I'd also just like to say a special thanks to Tech 21 Partners, LLC for donating the land. I'd like to include that.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: So moved.

(Chorus of seconds.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Second. Discussion?
Please call the roll.

MR. MASCIO: On Bill Number 4549-09, Mr. Burn?

(No response.)

MR. MASCIO: Ms. Cleary?

MS. CLEARY: Aye.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. DeFazio?

MR. DEFAZIO: Yes.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Drozd?

(No response.)

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Ellenbogen?

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Aye.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Finnerty?

MR. FINNERTY: Yes.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Futules?

MR. FUTULES: Yes.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Gastgeb?

MR. GASTGEB: Yes.

MR. MASCIO: Ms. Green?

MS. GREEN: Aye.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Macey?

MR. MACEY: Yes.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Martoni?

MR. MARTONI: Yes.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. McCullough?

(No response.)

MR. MASCIO: Ms. Rea?

MS. REA: Yes.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Robinson?

MR. ROBINSON: Aye.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Fitzgerald, President?

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Yes.

MR. MASCIO: Ayes 12, noes 0. The bill passes.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Committee on Public Works, second reading. 4561-09.

MR. MASCIIO: An Ordinance authorizing the disposition of a county-owned vehicle to the West Mifflin Area School District for use in its Junior ROTC Program.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Chair Macey?

MR. MACEY: Thank you, Mr. President and members of Council. Public Works met on January 13th, and the Committee gave an affirmative recommendation to ---. So I make a motion to donate this vehicle.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: So moved.

MR. GASTGEB: Second.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Second. Discussion?
Councilman Gastgeb?

MR. GASTGEB: I just thought it would be relevant for me to mention what I mentioned at the Committee meeting, because Mr. Macey did such a great job of looking in the ROTC Program at the West Mifflin Area School District, a deserving group. But this is one of the first times I can remember that a Council member really went out of his way to look and see if it was needed in this district. Oftentimes, you'll see these type of donations made from the Chief Executive Office. So I just think it's good that the 15 of us and the 13 of us with districts work when this happens. And I'm really pleased to support Council Member Macey for going out and doing this, and I hope many more can do that and we can help our county and our districts out at the same time. Thank you.

MR. MACEY: Thank you, Councilman Gastgeb.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Councilman Drozd?

MR. DROZD: Additionally, this is for an ROTC --- Junior ROTC program. And I personally have a --- and I hope I can vote on this. I'm a liaison for the academy, for the West Mifflin School District. And I see what these young people do. And what it does, it's not only an ROTC program, not necessarily to acclimate people to the military. What it really does is it builds character. And some of these young people, you know, they really sometimes get lost in the fray, and this really brings them back in it and really gives them presence. And these programs are so good and they're being enacted in other areas. Again, it's not just for the military aspect of it. It's more so for character building and getting some direction on this. So this is really good. Thank you. I commend Councilman Macey for doing this.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Thank you. Please call the roll.

MR. MASCIO: On Bill Number 4561-09, Ms. Cleary?

MS. CLEARY: Aye.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. DeFazio?

MR. DEFAZIO: Yes.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Drozd?

MR. DROZD: Yes.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Ellenbogen?

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Aye.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Finnerty?

MR. FINNERTY: Yes.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Futules?

MR. FUTULES: Yes.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Gastgeb?

MR. GASTGEB: Yes.

MR. MASCIO: Ms. Green?

MS. GREEN: Aye.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Macey?

MR. MACEY: Yes.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Martoni?

MR. MARTONI: Yes.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. McCullough?

(No response.)

MR. MASCIO: Ms. Rea?

MS. REA: Yes.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Robinson?

MR. ROBINSON: Aye.

MR. MASCIO: Mr. Fitzgerald, President?

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Yes.

MR. MASCIO: Ayes 13, noes 0. The bill passes.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Liaison reports. Does anybody have any liaison ---? Councilman Futules?

MR. FUTULES: Yes. Thank you. There was a press release from the Allegheny County Chief Executive that the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Hockey League Commissioner Ed Sam today announced the outdoor hockey match-ups between six local high schools and the ice rink at North and South Parks. The North Allegheny Tigers and the Pine-Richland Rams will begin the series on Thursday, January 22nd at the North Park ice rink. The Bethel Park Black Hawks and Mt. Lebanon Blue Devils will face off on Thursday, February 5th at the South Park ice rink. And the South Park Eagles and Peters Township Indians will

play on Wednesday, February 18th at the South Park ice rink. All games begin at 7:00.

I'd like to thank UPMC for their sponsorship this year and hope that they will do it again in the future for this significant event. And also, these events will benefit Susan G. Komen for breast cancer, and the second and third game will benefit the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. Thank you.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Okay. New business. Ordinances and resolutions. 4567-09.

MR. MASCIO: An Ordinance amending and supplementing the Allegheny County Code of Ordinances, Division 2, entitled, County Government Operations, by the addition of a new Chapter 219 entitled, Campaign Finance Regulation. This is sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Refer to Committee on Government Reform. 4569-09.

MR. MASCIO: A resolution amending the Grants and Special Accounts Budget for 2009, submission number 01-09. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Refer to Committee on Budget and Finance. New business, motions. I see none this evening. Public comment on general items?

MR. MASCIO: We have none.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: No speakers this evening? Anything for the good of the order? With that, do I have a motion to adjourn?

(Chorus of motions.)

(Chorus of seconds.)

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:59 P.M.