

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, Pennsylvania 15219

Tuesday, August 18, 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:

Joseph Catanese - Director of Constituent Services
Jared Barker - Director, Legislative Services
Jennifer Liptak - Budget Director
Jack Cambest - Solicitor

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: I'll call the meeting to order. Welcome to the Tuesday, August 18th, 2009 regular meeting of Allegheny County Council. If everybody would please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance and remain standing for a moment of silent prayer or reflection.

(Pledge of Allegiance.)

(Moment of silent prayer or reflection.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Thank you. Please call the roll.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Burn?

MR. BURN: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Cleary?

MS. CLEARY: Present.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. DeFazio?

MR. DEFAZIO: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Drozd?

MR. DROZD: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Ellenbogen?

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Finnerty?

MR. FINNERTY: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Futules?

MR. FUTULES: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Gastgeb?

MR. GASTGEB: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Green?

MS. GREEN: Present.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Macey?

MR. MACEY: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Martoni?

MR. MARTONI: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. McCullough?

MR. MCCULLOUGH: Present.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Rea?

MS. REA: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Robinson?

MR. ROBINSON: Present.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Fitzgerald, President?

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Fifteen (15) members present.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Proclamations/
Certificates. 5038.09.

MR. CATANESE: They'll all be read into the record. We have no presentations.

5038-09. Certificate of Achievement recognizing Andrew Orr for reaching the rank of Eagle Scout. Sponsored by Councilman Burn.

5039-09. Certificate of Achievement recognizing Ryan Smith for reaching the rank of Eagle Scout. Sponsored by Councilman Burn.

5040-09. Proclamation commending Doctor Sharon Hillier of the University of Pittsburgh, for receiving the Thomas Parran Award for lifetime achievement and for fighting to prevent the spread of HIV in women around the world. Sponsored by Council members, Cleary, Drozd, Ellenbogen, Finnerty, Fitzgerald, Futules, Green, Macey, Martoni, Rea and Robinson.

5041-09. Certificate of Recognition commending the Moon Township High School baseball team for winning the Class AAA WPIAL championship. Sponsored by Councilman Drozd.

5042-09. Certificate of Recognition honoring the 100th anniversary of the Borough of Dormont. Sponsored by Councilman Ellenbogen.

5043-09. Proclamation commending the McKees Rocks Historical Society for recognizing the 100th anniversary of the Pressed Steel Car Strike of 1909. Sponsored by Councilman Finnerty.

5044-09. Proclamation honoring the Greenfield Baseball Association and declaring Hammer Field as an integral part of the organization. Sponsored by Council President Fitzgerald.

5045-09. Certificate of Recognition honoring the 50th anniversary of the McKeesport International Village. Sponsored by Councilman Macey.

5046-09. Proclamation commending the 25th anniversary of the Duquesne Works reunion picnic. Sponsored by Councilman Macey.

5047-09. Certificate of Recognition honoring the 50th wedding anniversary of Bernard and Betty Little. Sponsored by Councilman Macey.

5048-09. Certificate of Recognition honoring the 50th anniversary of Howard and Janet Pry. Sponsored by Councilman Macey.

5049-09. Certificate of Recognition honoring the 50th anniversary of Robert and Lavon Halpern. Sponsored by Councilman Macey.

5050-09. Certificate of Recognition honoring the 60th wedding anniversary of Walter and Dolores Knox. Sponsored by Councilman Macey.

5051-09. Proclamation recognizing the 15th anniversary of the McKeesport Relay for Life. Sponsored by Councilman Macey.

5052-09. Certificate of Recognition honoring the 100th birthday of Ms. Margaret Tignanelli. Sponsored by Councilman Macey.

5053-09. Certificate of Recognition honoring the opening of the Upper St. Clair recreation center. Sponsored by Councilman McCullough.

5054-09. Proclamations honoring the student interns of the 2009 Local Government Academy Internship Program. Sponsored by Council President Fitzgerald, Council members, Martoni, Burn, Cleary, DeFazio, Drozd, Ellenbogen, Finnerty, Futules, Gastgeb, Green, Macey, McCullough, Rea and Robinson.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Public Comment on Agenda Items.

MR. CATANESE: We have none.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Approval of Minutes.

5066-09.

MR. CATANESE: Motion to approve the minutes of the regular meetings of Allegheny County Council held on July 1st and July 7th, 2009.

(Chorus of seconds.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Move to second. Discussion? All in favor signify by saying aye.

ALL RESPOND AYE

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Opposed? The motion carries. Presentation of Appointments. 5021 --- we're going to take 5021, 22 --- wait. Let me back up for just a minute. We want to take the appointment of Council of Friends first, so would you start with 5055-09.

MR. CATANESE: 5055-09. Appointment; approving the reappointment of Joanne Beckowitz to serve as a member of the Council of Friends Organization (Round Hill Park) for a term to expire on August 18th, 2011. Sponsored by Councilman Macey.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Councilman Macey.

MR. MACEY: I move to approve.

(Chorus of seconds.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Move to second. Discussion? All in favor signify by saying aye.

ALL RESPOND AYE

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Opposed? The motion carries. Ms. Beckowitz is approved. 5056-09.

MR. CATANESE: Approving the reappointment of Judy Marshall to serve as a member of the Council of Friends Organization (Round Hill Park) for a term to expire on August 18th, 2011. Sponsored by Councilman Macey.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Councilman Macey.

MR. MACEY: Yes, sir. I move to approve this.

MR. MARTONI: Second.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Move to second.

Discussion? All in favor signify by saying aye.

ALL RESPOND AYE

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Opposed? The motion carries. Ms. Marshall is approved. 5057-09. Approving the reappointment of Ken McCracken to serve as a member of the Council of Friends (Round Hill Park) for a term to expire on August 18th, 2011. Sponsored by Councilman Macey.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Councilman Macey.

MR. MACEY: I make a motion to approve.

MR. MARTONI: Second.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Move to second.

Discussion? All in favor signify by saying aye.

ALL RESPOND AYE

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Opposed? The motion carries. Mr. McCracken is approved. If you would please read 5021, 22, 23, 24, 25 and 26-09, together.

MR. CATANESE: Communication from Chief Executive Dan Onorato submitting his recommendation of Mark F. Nowak, Barbara Daly Danko, Hugh Fitzpatrick McGough, Sara Davis Buss, Justice Cynthia Baldwin and La'Tasha D. Mayes, for appointment to the Human Relations Commission of the County of Allegheny.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Refer to Committee on Appointment Review. Please take 5027, 28 and 29 --- no --- 27 and 28, together, please.

MR. CATANESE: Communication from Chief Executive Dan Onorato submitting his recommendation of Michelle M. Figlar and Wendy Etheridge Smith, for appointment to the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Refer to Committee on Appointment Review. 5029-09.

MR. CATANESE: Communication from Chief Executive Dan Onorato submitting his recommendation of Scott Federbusch for reappointment to the Allegheny County Mental Health/Mental Retardation Advisory Board, for a term to expire on December 31st, 2011.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Refer to Committee on Appointment Review. 5030-09.

MR. CATANESE: Communication from Chief Executive Dan Onorato submitting his recommendation of William Brooks for appointment to the Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County, for a term to expire on May 23rd, 2012.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Refer to Committee on Appointment Review. 5031-09.

MR. CATANESE: Communication from Chief Executive Dan Onorato submitting his recommendation of Joan C. Rogers for appointment to the Allegheny County Area Agency on Aging Advisory Board, for a term to expire on December 31st, 2011.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Refer to Committee on Appointment Review. 5032-09.

MR. CATANESE: Communication from Chief Executive Dan Onorato submitting his recommendation of Mavis Rainey for appointment to the Allegheny County Port Authority, for a term to expire on December 31st, 2009.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Refer to Committee on Appointment Review. 5033-09.

MR. CATANESE: Communication from Chief Executive Dan Onorato submitting his recommendation of Joseph Brimmeier for appointment to the Community College of Allegheny County Board of Directors, for a term to expire on December 31st, 2011.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Refer to Committee on Appointment Review. 5034-09.

MR. CATANESE: Communication from Chief Executive Dan Onorato submitting his recommendation of Reverend Doctor William H. Curtis for reappointment to the Sports and Exhibition Authority of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County, for a term to expire on December 31st, 2013.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Refer to Committee on Appointment Review. Unfinished Business. Committee on Appointment Review, Second Reading. 4993-09.

MR. CATANESE: Appointment; approving the appointment of Amy Griser to serve as a member of the

Minority Business Enterprise Advisory Committee, for a term to expire on December 31st, 2012.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Chair DeFazio.

MR. DEFAZIO: Yes. Everyone at the meeting was in favor to the appointment. I'd like to make a motion at this time for approval of Amy Griser.

MR. MACEY: Second.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Move to second.

Discussion? All in favor signify by saying aye.

ALL RESPOND AYE

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Opposed? The motion carries. Ms. Griser is approved. 4995-09.

MR. CATANESE: Approving the appointment of Dennis Davin to serve as a member of the Minority Business Enterprise Advisory Committee, for a term to expire on December 31st, 2012.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Chair DeFazio.

MR. DEFAZIO: Yes. Everyone at the meeting was in favor of Dennis Davin appointment. At this point, I'd like to make a motion that we go along with that.

MR. MACEY: Second.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Move to second.

Discussion? All in favor signify by saying aye.

ALL RESPOND AYE

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Opposed? The motion carries. Mr. Davin is approved. 4996-09.

MR. CATANESE: Approving the appointment of Victor Diaz to serve as a member of the Minority Business Enterprise Advisory Committee, for a term to expire on December 31st, 2012.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Chair DeFazio.

MR. DEFAZIO: Yes. Everybody at the meeting was in favor of the appointment of Victor Diaz, so I'd like to make a motion at this time to approve.

MR. MARTONI: Second.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Move to second.

Discussion? All in favor signify by saying aye.

ALL RESPOND AYE

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Opposed? The motion carries. Mr. Diaz is approved. 4997-09.

MR. CATANESE: Approving the appointment of Toni Silva to serve as a member of the Minority Business Enterprise Advisory Committee, for a term to expire on December 31st, 2012.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Chair DeFazio.

MR. DEFAZIO: Yes. Everyone at the meeting was in favor of the appointment of Toni Silva, so I'd like to make a motion at this time that we go along with that motion.

MR. MARTONI: Second.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Move to second.
Discussion? All in favor signify by saying aye.

ALL RESPOND AYE

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Opposed? The motion carries. Ms. Silva is approved. 4999-09.

MR. CATANESE: Approving the appointment of Im Sook to serve as a member of the Minority Business Enterprise Advisory Committee, for a term to expire on December 31st, 2011.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Chair DeFazio.

MR. DEFAZIO: Yes. Everyone at the meeting was in favor of the appointment of Im Sook, so I'd like to make a motion at this time for approval.

(Chorus of seconds.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Move to second.
Discussion? All in favor signify by saying aye.

ALL RESPOND AYE

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Opposed? The motion carries. Mr. Sook is approved. 5000-09.

MR. CATANESE: Approving the appointment of Controller Mark Patrick Flaherty to serve as a member of the Minority Business Enterprise Advisory Committee, for a term to expire on December 31st, 2011.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Chair DeFazio.

MR. DEFAZIO: Yes. Everyone at the meeting was in favor of the appointment of Mark Patrick Flaherty. At this time, I'd like to make a motion for appointment.

(Chorus of seconds.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Move to second.
Discussion? All in favor signify by saying aye.

ALL RESPOND AYE

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Opposed? The motion carries. Mr. Flaherty is approved. 5001-09.

MR. CATANESE: Approving the appointment of M. Gayle Moss to serve as a member of the Minority Business Enterprise Advisory Committee, for a term to expire on December 31st, 2011.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Chair DeFazio.

MR. DEFAZIO: Yes. Everyone was in agreement with the appointment of M. Gayle Moss. I'd like to make a motion for approval.

(Chorus of seconds.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Move to second.
Discussion? All in favor signify by saying aye.

ALL RESPOND AYE

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Opposed? Ms. Moss is approved. 5002-09.

MR. CATANESE: Approving the appointment of Kenneth Huston to serve as a member of the Minority Business Enterprise Advisory Committee, for a term to expire on December 31st, 2011.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Chair DeFazio.

MR. DEFAZIO: Yes. Everyone was in favor of the appointment of Kenneth Huston, so I'd like to make a motion at this time for approval.

(Chorus of seconds.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Move to second.
Discussion? All in favor signify by saying aye.

ALL RESPOND AYE

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Opposed? The motion carries. Mr. Huston is approved. 5004-09.

MR. CATANESE: Approving the appointment of Abass B. Kamara to serve as a member of the Minority Business Enterprise Advisory Committee, for a term to expire on December 31st, 2010.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Chair DeFazio.

MR. DEFAZIO: Did you do this one, Mike?

MR. FINNERTY: No, you did.

MR. DEFAZIO: Okay. We split --- there are some of these that Mike did. I wasn't present. So on this one --- I can't remember if I did this one or not. But anyway, everyone at our meeting was unanimous, everyone agrees. So at this point, let me make a motion for the approval of Abass B. Kamara.

(Chorus of seconds.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Move to second.
Discussion? All in favor signify by saying aye.

ALL RESPOND AYE

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Opposed? The motion carries. Mr. Kamara is approved. 5005-09.

MR. CATANESE: Approving the appointment of Joseph A. Olczak to serve as a member of the Minority

Business Enterprise Advisory Committee, for a term to expire on December 31st, 2010.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Chair DeFazio?

MR. DEFAZIO: Yes. Everyone at the meeting was in favor of the appointment of Joseph A. Olczak, so I'd like to make a motion at this time for approval.

MR. MACEY: Second.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Move to second.

Discussion? All in favor signify by saying aye.

ALL RESPOND AYE

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Opposed? The motion carries. Mr. Olczak is approved. 5006-09.

MR. CATANESE: Approving the appointment of Joyce A. Query to serve as a member of the Minority Business Enterprise Advisory Committee, for a term to expire on December 31st, 2010.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Chair DeFazio.

MR. DEFAZIO: Yes. Everyone was in favor of the appointment of Joyce A. Query, so at this time I'd like to make a motion for the approval of Joyce A. Query.

MR. MACEY: Second.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Move to second.

Discussion? All in favor signify by saying aye.

ALL RESPOND AYE

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Opposed? The motion carries. Ms. Query is approved. 5007-09.

MR. CATANESE: Approving the appointment of Tim Stevens to serve as a member of the Minority Business Enterprise Advisory Committee, for a term to expire on December 31st, 2010.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Chair DeFazio.

MR. DEFAZIO: Yes. Everyone at the meeting was in agreement with the appointment of Tim Stevens. I'd like to make a motion at this time to go along with the approval of Tim Stevens.

MR. MARTONI: Second.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Move to second.

Discussion? All in favor signify by saying aye.

ALL RESPOND AYE

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Opposed? The motion carries. Mr. Stevens is approved. Liaison Reports. Any liaison reports? Ms. Cleary?

MS. CLEARY: Yes. I just have a quick announcement. I got some correspondence from Goodwill Industries, that they're having a back-to-school clothing

drive. They are looking for gently used clothes, and they will partner with any kind of community organization that would like to do a local project to collect clothing and household items for themselves. They also --- they're doing this in partnership with Family Circle magazine, and there will be an ad in their September issue about this. They also mentioned that this would be a good time for folks to clean out their closets and to teach their kids that they need to clean house and to show responsibility to others and help out others. So I would just encourage folks to donate to Goodwill. I know I do myself; I shop there, too. And I believe it's a very good organization. Thank you.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Thank you, Ms. Cleary. Mr. Macey?

MR. MACEY: Thank you, Mr. President, and members of Council. Some good news. The Allegheny County Airport stimulus money is getting to work, and taxiway 1028 will be completed by September before the GA --- excuse me --- G20 Summit. Also, local area emergency fire, police, have been briefed, as we know it, as of this point, as far as what's going to happen in the Allegheny County Airport Corridor.

I had the pleasure of attending the FireVEST Scholarship Orientation Program, which was the first one, and a total of 26 students received scholarships. Now, if you remember, this has to do with the volunteer education, service and training. And that's the volunteer firefighters, as well as EMS volunteers, in Allegheny County. There's 200 scholarships available. And the next wave of scholarships are due in November.

Something back home where I live; today is the opening of the McKeesport International Village. It's held in Renziehausen Park in McKeesport. And it has a world of favored delectable items cuisine, and the food is just wonderful. It's open the 18th, 19th and the 20th from 3:00 p.m. to 11:00. Opening ceremonies and introduction of dignitaries will be held at 8:00 tonight. Thank you.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Any other liaison reports? I just have one --- actually, two. We had a meeting of the Government Reform Committee last week regarding the G20, and we got some good briefings from our economic development director, public works and public safety, county manager, et cetera.

We'll be having another, probably, in the first week of September, just to keep you up to speed as this very important and very influential group comes forward. It certainly represents the challenges for this region. Secondly, the Port Authority is probably going to be contacting everybody in the next week or two. They are getting ready to release, within the next few weeks, the long anticipated service plan that everybody's been talking about. We've been holding hearings on, we've been briefed on, on account of the preliminary things. And I think they're coming out with, kind of, a file recommendation.

And then there's going to be a public hearing on September 15th, over at the Pittsburgh Marriott on that plan. And then I'm assuming, Mr. Martoni, the Board will be voting on the plan, I guess, maybe in October, shortly, for use next year. So I'm sure everybody --- it's going to affect everybody's district and bus service in their district. So I wanted to give everybody that update. Okay. Moving on. New Business; Ordinances and Resolutions. 5058-09.

MR. CATANESE: An ordinance authorizing the County of Allegheny to sell a 0.787 acre parcel of excess land at the intersection of Hulton Road and Coxcomb Road in Plum Borough, to T.D. Holdings, LLC, for consideration in the amount of \$67,999, upon approval by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Refer to Committee on Public Works. 5059.09.

MR. CATANESE: An ordinance authorizing the County of Allegheny to clear the right of way for, and to acquire by condemnation, Parcel 2 of W.C.S.R., Incorporated, for construction of the McKeesport South Flyover Bridge, and to take such further action as may be necessary under applicable law, including the Eminent Domain Code. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Refer to Committee on Public Works. 5060-09.

MR. CATANESE: A resolution of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, honoring the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf on the occasion of the school's 140th year anniversary, and giving thanks to the students, the parents and alumni of the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf for their commitment to the education and success of Pennsylvania's deaf and

hard-of-hearing children. Sponsored by Council members, Martoni, Russell (sic), Burn, Cleary, DeFazio, Drozd, Gastgeb, Green, McCullough and Fitzgerald.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Councilman Martoni?

MR. MARTONI: Can we just do --- waive the Second Reading?

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Yeah. I think that would be appropriate.

MR. MARTONI: Yeah. I would like to waive the Second Reading.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Motion to waive the Second Reading?

(Chorus of seconds.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Yes?

MR. ELLENBOGEN: I know my name's not listed on this, but ---.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Do you want to be added?

MR. ELLENBOGEN: No, I already was added. They just --- I responded a little later than I would like to, so it just didn't go on the agenda.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Okay. Make a note in the record that Mr. Ellenbogen wanted to be a sponsor, and Mr. Macey.

MR. FINNERTY: And me, too.

MR. FUTULES: I don't see my name.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Mr. Finnerty and Mr. Futules. Yes, Mr. Robinson? You're on it.

MR. MARTONI: That is one fantastic school. Everyone wanted to be on it.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: We have a motion to waive the Second Reading and a second. All in favor of waiving the Second Reading signify by saying aye.

ALL RESPOND AYE

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Opposed? The Second Reading having been waived, Mr. Martoni, do you wish to vote on it --- make a motion to vote on it?

MR. MARTONI: I'd like to make a motion to vote on this resolution.

MR. MACEY: Second.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Move to second. Call the roll.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Burn?

MR. BURN: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Cleary?

MS. CLEARY: Aye.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. DeFazio?
MR. DEFAZIO: Yes.
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Drozd?
MR. DROZD: Aye.
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Ellenbogen?
MR. ELLENBOGEN: Aye.
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Finnerty?
MR. FINNERTY: Yes.
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Futules?
MR. FUTULES: Yes.
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Gastgeb?
(No response)
MR. CATANESE: Ms. Green?
MS. GREEN: Aye.
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Macey?
MR. MACEY: Yes.
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Martoni?
MR. MARTONI: Yes.
MR. CATANESE: Mr. McCullough?
MR. MCCULLOUGH: Aye.
MR. CATANESE: Ms. Rea?
MS. REA: Yes.
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Robinson?
MR. ROBINSON: Aye.
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Fitzgerald, President?
PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Yes.
MR. CATANESE: Ayes, 14, noes, 0. The bill

passes.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: 5061-09.

MR. CATANESE: A resolution of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, stating County policy with regard to the creation of a County program to facilitate the process of donating computer hardware for senior citizens throughout the County.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Refer to Committee on Health and Human Services. 5062-09. Excuse me. Mr. Futules, do you wish to comment?

MR. FUTULES: Sure.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: I'm sorry.

MR. FUTULES: I discovered that the Plum Borough Senior Center, that they have begun this practice of accepting computers and donate them to the people in the community. They provide them free to seniors living in the area around the Senior Center. I also found out that other senior centers had expressed an interest and are

beginning to accept donated computers for similar purposes. Through the committee process with this Council, I'd like to discuss this with the County Manager in cooperation with the County Division of Computer Services and other county agencies deemed necessary or appropriated by the manager. And we can put together a website to help senior citizens receive computers, who wish to participate. Thank you.

MR. MARTONI: I'd like to make a suggestion.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Thank you, Councilman.
Mr. Martoni?

MR. MARTONI: I want to contact some of the local colleges, too. Sometimes they change computers every couple years. We might want to start with the Community College of Allegheny County.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Also, the big hospitals like UPMC and Highmark. They have floors of computer people so ---.

MR. MARTONI: That would be a good one to go forward with that.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Ms. Cleary's committee is dealing with this. Okay. 5062-09.

MR. CATANESE: A resolution of the County of Allegheny amending the Grants and Special Accounts Budget for 2009 (Submission 13-09). Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Refer to Committee on Budget and Finance. 5063-09.

MR. CATANESE: A resolution of the County of Allegheny amending the 2009 Capital Budget for Allegheny County. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Refer to Committee on Budget and Finance. 5064-09.

MR. CATANESE: A resolution providing for a program of temporary exemption from County real estate property taxes for improvements, including repairs, construction or reconstruction, made on industrial, commercial or business property in a deteriorated area in the Town of McCandless, County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, pursuant to the Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance Act. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Refer to Committee on Economic Development and Housing. New Business, Motions. 5065-09.

MR. CATANESE: Motion of the Council of Allegheny County, urging the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to reject any plan to balance the Commonwealth's budget by raising taxes. Sponsored by Councilman Drozd.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Refer to Committee on Budget and Finance. Councilman Drozd, do you wish to comment?

MR. DROZD: Yes, sir. Thank you. Basically, I'm going to put this in committee, because you know, it's still on hold with the legislative help; they're going to have to support such an increase. The increase would go --- 16 percent increase from 3.07 to 3.57. Currently --- you know, it's really phenomenal when you look at some of the information and what's owed by the people of Pennsylvania.

If this plan were to be approved, it would take Pennsylvanian workers --- Pennsylvania workers --- 111 days or one-third of the year to pay off federal, state and local tax bills. Pennsylvania taxpayers currently owe \$115 billion in state, local and government debt, which amounts to over \$9,000 for every resident in Pennsylvania, or over \$36,000 for the average family of four. Can you imagine that?

And that's just in this state, alone. We're ranked 11th among the states in terms of highest combined state and local tax burden. In Pennsylvania, the state and local governments will spend approximately \$10,000 for every man, woman and child in the 2008-2009 fiscal year, with the state government standing per capita at \$4,925.

Now, let me mention another area that's really a concern to me, that I still gauge. I've been out talking to a lot of constituents. The number one thing on their mind right now is taxes, taxes, taxes. You know, we've heard the comment a few years past, it's the economy. You know, right now it's taxes that are very high a priority on people's minds. They cannot afford, they're saying that. I was in one borough north of here, and it was about ten o'clock at night, and I met one of the homeowners, and it was a young man who was standing outside. We encountered one another; we talked. And he said, look; I'm going to tell you something. He said, I have a family of four kids.

He said, my neighbor has around four or five. He says, we're struggling. You take that back and you

tell the elected officials; we can't take and we can't afford any more taxes. And I've heard so many times in numerous --- down through the valley area. One gentleman is sitting there in a house. It's not worth that much. And he says, do you know what we pay in taxes here on this house, on this property and what we cannot continue to afford. And lastly, I'll tell you this latest --- this e-mail that I received.

It was a friend of a friend who was urging me to try to help a couple that lives in our --- one of our constituents. It was a couple whereby they lost their son to a brain disease at the age of 12, or whatever have you. They had another daughter. And they were struggling; they were both working and trying to make it. But they were in the process of losing their home.

So as comfortable as each and every one of us are here and many people out there; many, many, many more that are not. They're struggling. They're having difficulty making it right now. One iota of a tax increase, whatever little mill, whatever it may be --- a half mill or whatever it may be is going to break them. It could break them. And I think that we have to really do anywhere possible, not only to vote any tax increase, but to look for ways to decrease the tax burden because there are a lot of people just out there that can't make it right now. They're struggling, struggling very hard.

Go out and walk among; talk to them. You'll see them. You're welcome to come with me. I try to go out almost every day. And any time you want to walk with me and walk in their shoes with me, you're welcome. And you'll hear it and you'll see it. You not only will hear it, you will see it; you can feel. You will see how they're struggling.

So I'm going to put this in committee right now, because hopefully, the legislature sees this, too, and understands it, and they will not do anything that would put that little extra that could break those families out there and could send them into total chaos. And that's what it means. Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you, members of Council.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Thank you, Councilman. New Business, Communications. I'm sorry. Mr. Ellenbogen?

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Just kind of on the lighter side, with Council's indulgence I just had four comments. I don't know if I can ---.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Why don't we wait until we get there?

MR. ELLENBOGEN: That's alright.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: New Business, Communications. 5067-09.

MR. CATANESE: Communication from Budget and Finance Committee Chairman William Russell Robinson, submitting his tentative 2010 County Budget Schedule. Sponsored by Councilman Robinson.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Councilman Robinson?

MR. ROBINSON: Thank you, Mr. President, and members of Council. As I've done every year since I've been Chairman of the Budget and Finance Committee, I've provided you a schedule for the coming budget session. The schedule has been put together in cooperation with staff, and more information will be provided to you. But we anticipate staying on this schedule. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Thank you, Mr. Robinson. Do we need to proceed or file? Motion to proceed?

MR. MARTONI: So moved.

MR. MACEY: Second.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Move to second. All in favor signify by saying aye.

ALL RESPOND AYE

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Opposed? The motion carries to file a communication on the schedule. Notification of Contracts. 5068-09.

MR. CATANESE: Communication from County Manager Jim Flynn submitting a summary of the executive actions relating to contracts for the months of June and July, 2009. Sponsored by the County Manager.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Motion to proceed and file?

MR. MARTONI: So moved.

(Chorus of seconds.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Moved. Move to second. Discussion? All in favor signify by saying aye.

ALL RESPOND AYE

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Opposed? The motion carries to proceed with the file. Public Comment on General Items.

MR. CATANESE: We have none.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Now, Mr. Ellenbogen.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Thank you, Mr. President, and Council. You know, as a councilman, sometimes I see things that like, I don't even question. And there was, kind of four things, and I'm kind of borrowing, I wanted to mention to Council. Number one, since I'm four years old --- this is the first time that I could ever --- the only Pittsburgh Pirate, I can only name one of them on the team.

Number two, like I said, I'm watching the game. I was sound asleep the other day. I thought I was watching the race. I'm like, who are these guys? Number two, when I left my office, which is down on Liberty Avenue, it took me 35 minutes to get up to the Courthouse. And I said to myself, with all these people, like, walking in front of me, whatever happened to, like, traffic cops? And I see all these things always in town. Whatever happened to just, like, a traffic cop saying, come on, go. So maybe some of you guys are a little young, they don't remember it. But I miss those days.

For the last couple weeks, you know, I probably shouldn't say this, but you guys know how I am. For the last couple weeks, every day in the news media I kept hearing, look at this monstrosity in front of, like --- as soon as you come off the Fort Pitt Bridge. And I thought to myself, why don't someone just put a sign up, temporary inconvenience; permanent improvement?

So we read every day all this outrageous stuff. This is --- everyone would run down to see them. Guys flew in from all over the country. And they said, okay, it's great, they're going to do something. So what do I see this week? They tear up Market Square. Explain that to me, somebody. That looks bad, to tear up Market Square before the G20. Somebody had to say it. That hurt in a minute.

And finally, I'd just like to say that --- I'd like to commend Tom Pastorius (phonetic) and the folks from the Penn Brewery for, like, doing everything they can to keep, you know, the brewing of Penn Brewery in Pittsburgh. You didn't hear much about them, but they tried to do it where, at the same time, too, being a Lawrenceville kid --- and the Iron City Brewery is spending all those years and all those people I know that --- a lot of them I know that lost their jobs and a lot of generations did that, help people and you know, them going to Latrobe and calling themselves the Pittsburgh Beer.

The only thing I can tell you, it's now I have to talk to Councilman DeFazio to tell me what local beers are union so that I can drink something else. Thank you, everyone. Good talking.

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Thank you, Mr. Ellenbogen. That was a long break. I guess you had to get those things out. Before we adjourn, we're going to go adjourn to an executive session in the back room with our solicitors, Mr. Cambest and Mr. Wojcik, to discuss the latest Court ruling from the Supreme Court. Do I have a motion to adjourn?

(Chorus of motions.)

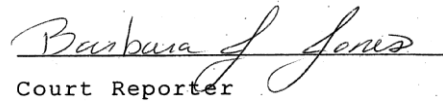
(Chorus of seconds.)

PRESIDENT FITZGERALD: Meeting adjourned.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:31 P.M.

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify, as the stenographic reporter, that the foregoing proceedings were taken stenographically by me, and thereafter reduced to typewriting by me or under my direction; and that this transcript is a true and accurate record to the best of my ability.


Court Reporter