

Allegheny County Council

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Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 6, 2017

4:00 PM

Conference Room I

Committee on Parks

John Palmiere, Chair;

*Patrick Catena, James Ellenbogen, Nick Futules, Cindy Kirk, Ed Kress, Bob Macey and
Sue Means, Members.*

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:02.

Invited Guests:

William D. McKain, CPA, Allegheny County Manager or designee(s)
Andy Baechle, Director, Allegheny County Parks Department

Mr. McKain was present from the Office of the County Manager.

Mr. Baechle was present from the Parks Department.

Mr. Barker, Mr. Pittman and Mr. Varhola were present from the Office of County Council.

II. Roll Call

Members Present: 2 - Sue Means and John Palmiere

Members Absent: 5 - Jim Ellenbogen, Nick Futules, Cindy Kirk, Ed Kress and Bob Macey

Members Phone: 1 - Patrick Catena

III. Approval of Minutes

IV. Agenda Items

Ordinances

[10276-17](#)

An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing Townsquare Live Events, LLC to use the outdoor space adjacent to and behind the structure known as the Amphitheatre in the County's Hartwood Acres Park to conduct an event entitled *The Glow Jack-O-Lantern Experience*.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

At the request of the Chair, the clerk read the title of the bill and Mr. McKain summarized its provisions, noting that the intent was first intended to take place in the fall of 2017 but that Townsquare was forced to postpone to the fall of 2018 (specifically September 27 through November 4). Mr. McKain noted that the new lease arrangement would entail lease payments of \$5,000 six months in advance, \$15,000 30 days prior to the event, and another \$5,000 just prior to the event. Mr. McKain indicated that, if the event goes well, the administration may seek additional authorizations in future years. Mr. McKain discussed the mechanics of the event and distributed some pictures of the event in progress at other locations.

Mr. Baechle indicated that Townsquare appears to be very enthusiastic about making the event take place in 2018.

In response to a question from the Chair, Mr. Baechle noted that the event will require little or no advance preparation by Parks staff and discussed the walking tour nature of the event. Mr. McKain noted that any additional costs for services such as police service will be borne by Townsquare at no cost to the County.

In response to a question from the Chair, Mr. McKain indicated a preference to move the bill to the full Council for a final vote in order to allow for the final negotiation and preparation of the necessary contracts.

In response to questions from Ms. Means, Mr. Baechle noted that he was not completely sure where Townsquare is headquartered, but indicated that his memory is that they are in New York, and Mr. Baechle and Mr. McKain discussed the importance of managing traffic in the park.

In response to a question from Mr. Catena, Mr. Baechle noted that Townsquare had originally asked to use a site in South Park but, in order to avoid direct competition between this event and the South Park haunted house, Hartwood was chosen as the alternative venue.

In response to a question from Ms. Means, Mr. McKain noted that the ticket prices range from about \$15 to about \$30.

A motion was made by Means, seconded by Catena, that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:26.