

Allegheny County Council

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Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 30, 2019

4:00 PM

Conference Room 1

Committee on Public Works

Bob Macey, Chair; Sam DeMarco, Cindy Kirk, Paul Klein, Robert Palmosina, Denise Ranalli-Russell and DeWitt Walton, 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)
Stephen Shanley, Director, Allegheny County Department of Public Works

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

Mr. Shanley, Mr. Thomson, Ms. Sexton and Mr. Lemon were present from the Department of Public Works.

Mr. Evanto was present from Administrative Services.

Mr. Barker was present from the Office of County Council.

II. Roll Call

Members Present: 2 - Robert Palmosina and Bob Macey

Members Absent: 3 - Cindy Kirk, Paul Klein and Denise Ranalli-Russell

Members Phone: 2 - Sam DeMarco and DeWitt Walton

Members 1 - Sue Means

Non-Members:

III. Approval of Minutes

IV. Agenda Items

Ordinances

[11044-19](#)

An Ordinance authorizing the County of Allegheny to acquire by condemnation certain easement areas required to stabilize slope supporting McCoy Road, at Dunn Street, in Stowe Township, and to take such further action as may be necessary under applicable law, including the Eminent Domain Code.

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 stabilizing McCoy Road is becoming a critical project and that, while the County has attempted to locate all of the relevant property owners and reach amicable sale prices, a few of the owners cannot be located. Mr. Shanley noted that McCoy Road is currently down to one lane, and it is becoming vitally important to proceed. Mr. McKain summarized the actions that have been taken to locate the owners.

The Chair expressed appreciation for the efforts taken to locate the owners.

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

[11045-19](#)

An Ordinance authorizing the County of Allegheny to acquire by condemnation certain temporary construction easement areas from one parcel required to reconstruct Thompson Run East Branch Bridge No. 2 carrying Jones Avenue over Thompson Run in the municipalities of Wilkins Township and Turtle Creek Borough, and to take such further action as may be necessary under applicable law, including the Eminent Domain Code.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

At the request of the Chair the clerk read the title of the bill and Mr. McKain and Mr. Shanley summarized its provisions, noting that the bridge must be reconstructed and describing the efforts to reach a settlement with the decedent landowners' heir.

In response to a question from the Chair, Mr. Shanley noted that the easement is temporary.

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

[11046-19](#)

An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing the grant of a temporary license agreement to Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership for the purpose of staging a food festival and related activities on the Roberto Clemente (6th Street) Bridge to be known as “Picklesburgh” between Thursday, July 25, 2019, and Monday, July 29, 2019.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

At the request of the Chair, the clerk read the title of the bill.

The Chair and Mr. McKain discussed the significance and popularity of the festival.

In response to questions from Ms. Means, Mr. McKain noted that there is a permitting fee for using the bridge, which is currently set at \$80, and discussed other residual revenue streams that are increased as a result of the festival.

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

[11047-19](#)

An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing the grant of a temporary license agreement to the Delta Foundation of Pittsburgh for the purpose of staging a public festival to be known as the 2019 Pittsburgh PrideFest on the Andy Warhol (7th Street) Bridge between Friday, June 7, 2019, and Sunday, June 9, 2019.

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 approximately 150,000 attendees are expected and highlighting the benefits of the foot traffic and festival itself.

The Chair noted that PrideFest demonstrates the diversity of the area.

In response to questions from Ms. Means, Mr. Evanto noted that the Warhol Bridge has been rented in the past, at least once by Picklesburgh, and that the rental period

included time for setup and teardown.

In response to a question from the Chair, Mr. McKain summarized the public safety coordination between the City of Pittsburgh and the County regarding any festival on one of the bridges, and noting that there are impacts on bus routes, river rescue must be on standby, and the like.

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

Discussion Topic - Public Works Update

Mr. McKain briefly recapped the prior year's activities in Public Works, and Mr. Shanley gave a brief PowerPoint presentation which highlighted the Department of Public Works' activities in 2018, including bridge rehabilitation projects, road improvements, the annual paving program, wall and landslide projects, activities undertaken by the County tradesmen, the impact of the County's milling and paving machine, heavy equipment in general, the tasks undertaken by County laborers, winter road maintenance, in-house projects (including paving, storm sewer cleaning, road sign improvements, and line painting), Armstrong Tunnel cleaning, storm damage repair, utility project coordination,

The Chair and Mr. Shanley discussed the use of form liners in small bridge rehabilitation projects, noting the benefits to appearance with minimal impact upon cost.

Mr. Palmosina, Mr. Shanley and Mr. Thompson discussed cooperative efforts between the County and municipalities in undertaking projects.

The Chair and Mr. Thompson discussed improvements in the chip sealing method for roadways, noting that the new system uses fewer chips and results in less rutting.

In response to a question from Mr. Palmosina, Mr. Thompson noted that the average is roughly a 3-5 year increase in road life due to chip sealing, and Mr. Shanley noted that the cost of chip sealing is about one quarter that of repaving.

In response to a question from the Chair, Mr. Shanley and Mr. Thompson discussed the criteria that are used to determine whether to undertake work in-house or contract it out, noting that it often comes down to how long the project will take, because it is not cost effective to tie County staff up with one project for a long timeframe.

In response to a question from the Chair, Mr. Shanley noted that the County tradesmen are union staff.

In response to questions from the Chair and Mr. Palmosina, Mr. Thompson discussed what happens when trees that cross utility lines must be removed, and how the work crews are organized.

Mr. Palmosina complimented the Department's winter road maintenance activities in his district.

In response to a question from the Chair, Mr. McKain discussed the Department's paving work in his district.

The Chair complimented the Department on its professionalism and responsiveness.

In response to questions from the Chair, Mr. McKain noted that several communities

have asked the County to take on additional responsibility for bridge maintenance, but that it's very rare or unheard of for a community to ask to take maintenance responsibility back. Mr. Shanley discussed instances in which the Department uses prefabricated components. Mr. McKain and Mr. Thompson discussed equipment needs and the County's recent past in obtaining new equipment. Mr. Shanley and Mr. Thompson described the training that individuals who work on the County's heavy equipment are provided, noting that training is more intensive for more specialized equipment like the milling and paving machine. Mr. McKain and Mr. Thompson expressed a willingness to help municipalities with concerns that relate to County roads, subject to the availability of resources.

The Chair and Mr. McKain discussed the importance of seeing the County's employees taking as much pride in their work as they do.

Mr. DeMarco expressed thanks for the Department's efforts.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55.