

Allegheny County Council

*County of Allegheny
436 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Phone (412) 350-6490*



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 27, 2014

4:00 PM

Conference Room 1

Committee on Appointment Review

Jan Rea - Chair; Committee of the Whole

I. Call to Order

Invited Guests

Invited Guests Present:

Council Staff Present: Walt Szymanski; Joe Catanese; Stephanie Buka

II. Roll Call

Council Members Present: 4 - Rea, Daly Danko, Finnerty and Means

Council Members Absent: 11 - Baker, DeFazio, Ellenbogen, Futules, Green Hawkins, Heidelbaugh, Kress, Macey, Martoni, Palmiere and Russell Robinson

III. Approval of Minutes

[8160-14](#)

Motion to approve the minutes of the Appointment Review Committee Meeting of Allegheny County Council held on March 13, 2014.

A motion was made by Means, seconded by Daly Danko, that this matter be Passed. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

IV. Agenda Items

Appointments

[8145-14](#)

Approving the reappointment of Thomas Headley to serve as a member of the Agricultural Land Preservation Board for a term to expire on December 31, 2016.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Mr. Headley provided members with an overview of the Agricultural Land Preservation Program, including how an Agricultural Security Area (ASA) is established and how farmland is preserved through an Agricultural Easement Purchase. In response to a question from Councilwoman Means, Mr. Headley explained how farms are chosen for easement purchase and reported that the program has purchased 25 farms thus far, with the majority of farms being located in Forward Township.

A motion was made by Finnerty, seconded by Daly Danko, that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

[8146-14](#)

Approving the reappointment of Thomas Weaver to serve as a member of the Agricultural Land Preservation Board for a term to expire on December 31, 2016.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Mr. Weaver explained to members why he is interested in continuing to serve on this board.

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

[8147-14](#)

Approving the reappointment of William Sray to serve as a member of the Agricultural Land Preservation Board for a term to expire on December 31, 2016.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Mr. Sray credited Mr. Headley with providing exceptional leadership as chairman of this board. Mr. Sray reported that he owns and operates a registered Black Angus farm in South Fayette Township. In response to a question from Councilwoman Means, Mr. Sray explained that Pennsylvania's Clean and Green Program encourages protection of the Commonwealth's valuable farmland, forestland and open spaces. Mr. Sray responded to another question presented by Councilwoman Means concerning Pennsylvania's Century and Bicentennial Farm Program and explained that farms that have been with the same family for 100 or 200 consecutive years receive a certificate of recognition from the state. Mr. Headley indicated that the board is working to erect signage designating the preserved farmland in Allegheny County.

In response to Councilwoman Means, Mr. Sray reported that he is in favor of drilling, provided that it is done in a responsible manner. In response to a question from Councilwoman Daly-Danko, Mr. Headley stated that currently there is no drilling on any of the 25 farms in the program, however, that will most likely change in the near future.

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

V. Discussion Topic

The committee members that were present agreed to add their names to a letter from Councilwoman Means to Director Hacker concerning the term length for the Air Pollution Control Advisory Committee.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:46 p.m.