

# **Allegheny County Council**

*119 Courthouse  
436 Grant Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
Phone: 412-350-6490*



## **Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, February 10, 2016**

**5:00 PM**

**Conference Room 1**

## **Committee on Appointment Review**

*Ed Kress, Chair  
Committee of the Whole*

## I. Call to Order

*The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.*

### Invited Guests:

*Invited Guests Present: Austin Davis, Executive Assistant, County Executive's Office*

*Staff Present: Joe Catanese; Stephanie Buka*

## II. Roll Call

**Members Present:** 5 - Cindy Kirk, Ed Kress, Michael Finnerty, Paul Klein and Sam DeMarco

**Members Absent:** 8 - John Palmiere, Nick Futules, Chuck Martoni, Bob Macey, DeWitt Walton, Jim Ellenbogen, Denise Ranalli-Russell and John DeFazio

**Members Phone:** 2 - Tom Baker and Sue Means

## III. Approval of Minutes

[9444-16](#)

Motion to approve the minutes of the Appointment Review Committee Meeting of Allegheny County Council held on January 27, 2016.

*Councilwoman Means requested an amendment to the January 27, 2016 Appointment Review Committee Meeting minutes to reflect that she was not present during Ms. Tonya Johnson and Councilman DeWitt Walton's interviews. Councilman DeMarco made a motion to amend, Councilman Finnerty provided a second and the motion carried by a unanimous vote.*

**A motion was made by Finnerty, seconded by DeMarco, that this matter be Passed. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.**

[9445-16](#)

Motion to approve the minutes of the Appointment Review Committee Meeting of Allegheny County Council held on January 28, 2016.

**A motion was made by Finnerty, seconded by DeMarco, that this matter be Passed. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.**

## IV. Agenda Items

### Appointments

[9353-16](#)

Approving the reappointment of Robert J. Lewis to serve as a member of the Allegheny County Airport Authority for a term to expire on December 31, 2020.

**Sponsors:** Chief Executive

**Held in Committee**

[9355-16](#)

Approving the reappointment of M. Gayle Moss to serve as a member of the Allegheny County Jail Oversight Board for a term to expire on December 31, 2018.

**Sponsors:** Chief Executive

**Held in Committee**

[9359-16](#) Approving the reappointment of Mary Ann Eisenreich to serve as a member of the Community College of Allegheny County Board of Trustees for a term to expire on December 31, 2021.

**Sponsors:** Chief Executive

*Councilman Finnerty made an inquiry related to meeting attendance. Ms. Eisenreich replied that she takes her role seriously and attends the board meetings. In response to a question from Councilman DeMarco, Ms. Eisenreich stated that with additional funds she would like to see a decrease in tuition and ensuring the school has up-to-date technology.*

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

[9364-16](#) Approving the reappointment of Jackie Dixon to serve as a member of the Allegheny Regional Asset District Board for a term to expire on December 31, 2019.

**Sponsors:** Chief Executive

*In response to a question from Councilman DeMarco, Ms. Dixon described how it would be beneficial for some of the smaller organizations RAD funds to participate in a money management seminar, hosted by RAD. Ms. Dixon encouraged members to support RAD by attending activities and events. Councilman Kress urged Ms. Dixon to consider expanding the types of organizations that RAD funds to include volunteer firefighters and EMS, and to consider the merging of the Allegheny County Library Association with the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh.*

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

[9428-16](#) Approving the reappointment of Jennifer M. Liptak to serve as a member of the Retirement Board of Allegheny County for a term to expire on December 31, 2019.

**Sponsors:** Chief Executive

*Ms. Liptak provided members with an overview of the board's composition and its governance. In response to a question from Councilman DeMarco, Ms. Liptak reported that the plan is 70 percent funded with a balance of \$817 million, according to the latest report. She added that employees' contribute nine percent of their salary to the plan.*

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

[9429-16](#) Approving the reappointment of Joseph Serrao to serve as a member of the Allegheny County Property Assessment Appeals and Review Board for a term to expire on December 31, 2018.

**Sponsors:** Chief Executive

Mr. Serrao and Councilman Finnerty discussed an ordinance introduced before Pittsburgh City Council pertaining to appeals, and Mr. Serrao remarked that the legislation would most likely be challenged in court. Mr. Serrao told Councilman DeMarco that, in his opinion, the last reassessment corrected many problems. Mr. Serrao explained to Councilwoman Kirk that the board is made up of 7 individuals, with one current vacancy. Councilwoman Kirk and Mr. Serrao discussed the frequency of reassessments, constituent complaints, and the issue of fairness. Councilman Kress and Mr. Serrao discussed implementing an on-line procedure to file an appeal which would result in cost-savings and convenience for applicants.

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

[9430-16](#)

Approving the appointment of the Honorable Terri Klein to serve as a member of the Allegheny County Jail Oversight Board for a term to expire on December 31, 2018.

**Sponsors:** Chief Executive

*Ms. Klein discussed her background in public health and interest in serving on the board. Ms. Klein commented on the transition from Corizon to the county for inmate healthcare and the noticeable improvement. Ms. Klein and Councilwoman Means discussed goals, and Ms. Klein reported that she would like to see more inmates funneled into diversion programs, such as THE PROGRAM in West Homestead.*

**A motion was made by Klein, seconded by Kirk, that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.**

[9431-16](#)

Approving the appointment of Pastor Earlene Coleman to serve as a member of the Allegheny County Jail Oversight Board for a term to expire on December 31, 2017.

**Sponsors:** Chief Executive

*Pastor Coleman provided members with a summary of her background and qualifications. She discussed the importance of meeting inmates' individual needs in order to ensure a successful reentry into the community.*

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

[9432-16](#)

Approving the reappointment of Dina Clark to serve as a member of the Allegheny County Juvenile Detention Board of Advisors for a term to expire on December 31, 2018.

**Sponsors:** Chief Executive

*Ms. Clark discussed the importance of connecting students to positive activities and mentors. Councilwoman Means asked Ms. Clark if she knew the percentage of juveniles in Shuman Center suffering from mental illness, and Ms. Clark replied that she was unsure. Councilwoman Means asked Ms. Clark about the average length of stay, and Ms. Clark replied that it would depend on the crime involved. Ms. Clark made remarks pertaining to the heroin epidemic.*

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

[9433-16](#)

Approving the reappointment of Dennis Floyd Jones to serve as a member of the Allegheny County Juvenile Detention Board of Advisors for a term to expire on December 31, 2018.

**Sponsors:** Chief Executive

**Held in Committee**

## V. Adjournment

*The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.*