

Allegheny County Council

*County of Allegheny
436 Grant Street
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Phone (412) 350-6490*



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 16, 2015

4:00 PM

Conference Room 1

Committee on Appointment Review

Jan Rea - Chair; Committee of the Whole

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

Invited Guests:

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

Council Staff Present: Joe Catanese; Stephanie Buka

II. Roll Call

Members Present: 5 - Rea, Michael Finnerty, Bob Macey, Chuck Martoni and Sue Means

Members Absent: 9 - Tom Baker, Barbara Danko, John DeFazio, Jim Ellenbogen, Nick Futules, Amanda Green Hawkins, Heather Heidelbaugh, Ed Kress and William Robinson

Members Phone: 1 - John Palmiere

III. Approval of Minutes

[8898-15](#)

Motion to approve the minutes of the Appointment Review Committee Meeting of Allegheny County Council held on April 1, 2015.

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

IV. Agenda Items

Appointments

[8833-15](#)

Approving the reappointment of Alice Paylor-Dais to serve as a member of the Allegheny County Juvenile Detention Board of Advisors for a term to expire on December 31, 2015.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Ms. Paylor-Dais explained that she is a retired social worker with experience.

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

[8859-15](#)

Approving the reappointment of Eva Bednar to serve as a member of the Allegheny County Mental Health/Intellectual Disability Advisory Board for a term to expire on December 31, 2017.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Councilman Macey made an inquiry regarding mental health treatment within the Allegheny County Jail (ACJ). As a member of the Advisory Committee for the Allegheny County Mental Health Court (MHC), Ms. Bednar told members that many individuals would opt for incarceration rather than receive treatment and services from the MHC, making this a difficult problem to solve. In response to a question from Councilwoman Means, Ms. Bednar reported that the closing of Mayview Hospital was the result of a ten

percent funding cut at the state level.

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

[8860-15](#)

Approving the reappointment of Kurt Kondrich to serve as a member of the Allegheny County Mental Health/Intellectual Disability Advisory Board for a term to expire on December 31, 2017.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Held in Committee

[8861-15](#)

Approving the reappointment of Dorothy Antonelli to serve as a member of the Air Pollution Control Advisory Committee for a term to expire on December 31, 2015.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

In response to a question from Councilwoman Means, Ms. Antonelli described the environmental work of Neville Green.

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

[8862-15](#)

Approving the reappointment of Chester Babst to serve as a member of the Air Pollution Control Advisory Committee for a term to expire on December 31, 2015.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Held in Committee

[8863-15](#)

Approving the reappointment of Daniel K. Bricmont to serve as a member of the Air Pollution Control Advisory Committee for a term to expire on December 31, 2015.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

In response to a question from Councilwoman Means, Mr. Bricmont confirmed that he ran for a Commonwealth Court seat in 2009. Mr. Bricmont explained to Ms. Means that his selection to serve on this committee was most likely based on his municipal experience. Councilwoman Means asked for Mr. Bricmont's opinion of the pending change to the Health Department's Air Pollution Regulation, Article 21. Mr. Bricmont stated that it has been difficult to fill 19 seats and he supports the extension of the term from one to three years. He added that the group meets every two months and they have had a quorum at every meeting. Councilwoman Means asked if the committee has any statutory authority, and Mr. Bricmont stated that they are the first step for approval of a Clean Air Fund request, however, the final decision rests with the Board of Health.

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

[8864-15](#)

Approving the reappointment of David Cannon to serve as a member of the Air Pollution Control Advisory Committee for a term to expire on

December 31, 2015.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Mr. Cannon told members that he is an attorney for government and environmental affairs at the EQT Corporation. He explained his belief that it's important to have participation from the different stakeholders, and he confirmed for Councilwoman Means that he would fall into the industry category.

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

[8865-15](#)

Approving the reappointment of Jeanne Clark to serve as a member of the Air Pollution Control Advisory Committee for a term to expire on December 31, 2015.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Ms. Clark provided members with a summary of her previous work as Director of Communications for PennFuture, and confirmed for Councilwoman Means that she would fall into the environmental category.

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

[8866-15](#)

Approving the reappointment of Steven Hvozdoich to serve as a member of the Air Pollution Control Advisory Committee for a term to expire on December 31, 2015.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Mr. Hvozdoich described his experience in the environmental field and confirmed for Councilwoman Means that he would fall into the environmental category. In response to a question from Councilwoman Means, Mr. Hvozdoich explained the purpose and mission of Clean Water Action.

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

[8867-15](#)

Approving the reappointment of Mark Jeffrey to serve as a member of the Air Pollution Control Advisory Committee for a term to expire on December 31, 2015.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Mr. Jeffrey told members that he works for U.S. Steel Mon Valley Works and believes that the committee has a good balance between environmental and industry stakeholders. Councilwoman Means asked Mr. Jeffrey his thoughts on the proposed changes to Article 21, specifically striking the language which states that the committee shall not consist of more than five members who are representatives of industry. Mr. Jeffrey replied that he would like to see more industry participation, and noted that U.S. Steel is a longstanding participant. In response to a question from Councilman Finnerty, Mr. Jeffrey stated that the new environmentally advanced coke battery is now online at the Clairton Plant.

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

[8868-15](#) Approving the reappointment of Robert Orchowski to serve as a member of the Air Pollution Control Advisory Committee for a term to expire on December 31, 2015.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Mr. Orchowski explained to members that he is an environmental consultant and tries to bring a balanced perspective to the conversations surrounding air quality. He remarked that during the county's commissioner form of government, industry was predominantly represented, but it's unlikely that such an imbalance would occur today. He discredited the American Lung Association's annual air quality report for Allegheny County based on the small data sample.

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

[8869-15](#) Approving the reappointment of Joe Osborne to serve as a member of the Air Pollution Control Advisory Committee for a term to expire on December 31, 2015.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Mr. Osborne provided members with an overview of his legal background and interest in environmental issues. He noted that serving on this committee is more rewarding, compared to a state level committee, since the local stakeholders can delve into the details on an issue, work on compromises and have respectful conversations about air quality regulations.

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

[8870-15](#) Approving the reappointment of John Palmiere to serve as a member of the Air Pollution Control Advisory Committee for a term to expire on December 31, 2015.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Mr. Palmiere commented that he finds the work of this committee interesting, and noted that he enjoys keeping Council up to date on air quality issues.

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

Members Yes: 5 - Rea, Finnerty, Macey, Martoni and Means

Members Abstain: 1 - Palmiere

Members Absent: 9 - Baker, Danko, DeFazio, Ellenbogen, Futules, Green Hawkins, Heidelbaugh, Kress and Robinson

V. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.