

# **Allegheny County Council**

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



## **Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, May 25, 2016**

**5:00 PM**

**Conference Room 1**

## **Committee on Appointment Review**

*Ed Kress, Chair  
Committee of the Whole*

**I. Call to Order****Invited Guests:**

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

*Staff Members Present: Joe Catanese; Stephanie Buka; Jared Barker*

**II. Roll Call**

**Members Present:** 7 - Cindy Kirk, Ed Kress, Michael Finnerty, Sue Means, John Palmiere, Paul Klein and Sam DeMarco

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

**III. Approval of Minutes**

[9635-16](#)

Motion to approve the minutes of the Appointment Review Committee Meeting of Allegheny County Council held on May 19, 2016.

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

**IV. Agenda Items****Appointments**

[9614-16](#)

Approving the reappointment of Councilman John Palmiere to serve as a member of the Air Pollution Control Advisory Committee for a term to expire on December 31, 2018.

**Sponsors:** Chief Executive

*Councilman Palmiere discussed his interest in continuing to serve on the committee.*

**A motion was made by Finnerty, seconded by Means, that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Members Yes:** 6 - Kirk, Kress, Finnerty, Means, Klein and DeMarco

**Members Abstain:** 1 - Palmiere

**Members Absent:** 8 - Baker, Futules, Martoni, Macey, Walton, Ellenbogen, Ranalli-Russell and DeFazio

[9613-16](#) Approving the appointment of Michael Corcoran to serve as a member of the Air Pollution Control Advisory Committee for a term to expire on December 31, 2018.

**Sponsors:** Chief Executive

*Mr. Corcoran described his work experience at PPG and his service as an alternate on the committee. Mr. Corcoran discussed the make up and balance of the committee. Councilman Klein and Mr. Corcoran discussed the permitting process and efficiency within other jurisdictions. At Councilwoman Kirk's request, Mr. Corcoran discussed his visit to China.*

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

[9615-16](#) Approving the reappointment of Chester Babst, Esq. to serve as a member of the Air Pollution Control Advisory Committee for a term to expire on December 31, 2018.

**Sponsors:** Chief Executive

*Mr. Babst described his background and qualifications. In response to a question from Councilwoman Kirk, Mr. Babst noted that the air quality in Allegheny County has improved and will continue to improve as long as industry follows the regulations. Mr. Babst shared his experience with a small group of radical environmentalists called Three Rivers Rising Tide and their attempts to intimidate members of the Air Pollution Control Advisory Committee. Mr. Babst stated that in 2015 the Air Pollution Control Advisory Committee denounced the group's efforts to politicize the appointment process. He added that security is now present for all committee meetings.*

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

[9616-16](#) Approving the reappointment of Daniel K. Bricmont, Esq. to serve as a member of the Air Pollution Control Advisory Committee for a term to expire on December 31, 2018.

**Sponsors:** Chief Executive

**Held in Committee**

[9617-16](#) 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, 2018.

**Sponsors:** Chief Executive

*Ms. Clark told Councilwoman Means that she was appointed five years ago, and the group's primary goal is to ensure that Pennsylvania Clean Air Fund monies are directed towards projects that will eliminate air pollution. Ms. Clark described the committee as a balanced one that includes representation from environmental and industry, and she gave credit to Dr. Hacker for working to improve the facility for staff. Ms. Clark and Chairman Kress discussed Three Rivers Rising Tide, and Ms. Clark reported that she was not fearful of the group.*

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

[9618-16](#) Approving the reappointment of Steve Hvozdoch to serve as a member of the Air Pollution Control Advisory Committee for a term to expire on December 31, 2018.

**Sponsors:** Chief Executive

**Held in Committee**

[9619-16](#) 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, 2018.

**Sponsors:** Chief Executive

**Held in Committee**

[9620-16](#) 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, 2018.

**Sponsors:** Chief Executive

*Mr. Orchowski reported that he has served on the committee since the three county commissioners were in office. Mr. Orchowski discussed improvement in air quality and his disagreement with the American Lung Association reports which are detrimental to attracting businesses to our region. Mr. Orchowski explained to Councilman Finnerty that there are approximately 13 members on the committee. In response to a question from Councilman Klein, Mr. Orchowski stated that he listens to everyone's viewpoint and he works with the Health Department's air quality staff and comes prepared to all of the meetings. Mr. Orchowski told Chairman Kress that he considered Three Rivers Rising Tide as a small, loosely organized faction.*

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

[9621-16](#)

Approving the reappointment of Joe Osborne, Esq. to serve as a member of the Air Pollution Control Advisory Committee for a term to expire on December 31, 2018.

**Sponsors:** Chief Executive

*At the request of the Chair, the clerk read the title of the bill and Mr. Osborne gave a summary of his qualifications, noting that his position as counsel for the Group Against Smog and Pollution places him in an advantageous position to bring that perspective to the Committee, and indicating that he has past relevant experience in other settings, including with the Department of Environmental Protection.*

*Mr. Finnerty noted that he believes that it is important to include varied perspectives among the Committee appointees, and he thanked Mr. Osborne for his willingness to serve, as did Mr. DeMarco and Mr. Palmiere.*

*In response to questions from Ms. Means, Mr. Osborne noted that this will be his fifth stint as a member of the Committee and discussed his feelings relating to the required qualifications for Committee members.*

*In response to a question from Mr. Klein, Mr. Osborne indicated that he believes that the Committee has done well in reaching a consensus among the various perspectives among the members.*

*In response to a question from Ms. Kirk, Mr. Osborne described his experiences during a recent environmental protest in which some of the other Committee members had been singled out for criticism.*

*In response to a question from the Chair, Mr. Osborne described his limited familiarity with an organization known as 3 Rivers Rising Tide.*

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

## V. Adjournment