

Allegheny County Council

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Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 6, 2016

5:00 PM

Conference Room 1

Committee on Public Works

Bob Macey, Chair

*Members; Sam DeMarco, Jim Ellenbogen, Mike Finnerty, Nick Futules, Cindy Kirk,
Paul Klein, Denise Ranalli-Russell, DeWitt Walton*

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:02.

Invited Guests:

William D. McKain, CPA, Allegheny County Manager

Stephen Shanley, Director, Allegheny County Department of Public Works

Douglas Nolfi, Director, Allegheny County Department of Facilities Management

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

Mr. Nolfi was present from the Department of Facilities Management.

Mr. Shanley was present from the Department of Public Works.

Mr. Evanto was present from the Department of Administrative Services.

Mr. Barker and Mr. Szymanski were present from the Office of County Council.

II. Roll Call

Members Present: 4 - Macey, Sam DeMarco, Cindy Kirk and Paul Klein

Members Absent: 5 - Jim Ellenbogen, Michael Finnerty, Nick Futules, Denise Ranalli-Russell and DeWitt Walton

Members 1 - Sue Means

Non-Members:

III. Approval of Minutes

[9551-16](#)

Motion to approve the minutes of the March 1, 2016 meeting of the Committee on Public Works.

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

IV. Agenda Items

Ordinances

[9506-16](#)

An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing Paramount Pictures Corp. to use certain County-owned real and personal property in connection with filming a motion picture.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

At the request of the Chair, the clerk read the title of the bill and Mr. McKain provided a brief overview of the project, noting that roughly 200 local jobs would be created and approximately 2,000 hotel nights would be reserved, with accompanying sales tax, drink tax, and vehicle rental tax revenues. Mr. Evanto noted that Denzel Washington had obtained options to film 10 of August Wilson's plays, with this one to be filmed in and around Pittsburgh and the Courthouse closely matching one of the scenes in the play. Mr. Evanto noted that filming in the Courthouse would likely take place on April 26.

In response to a question from Ms. Means, Mr. Evanto noted that the filming would be limited to the Courthouse, and that the County will be reimbursed for all out of pocket expenses, such as time for County building guard, HVAC technicians, electricians, and the like.

In response to a question from Ms. Means, Mr. McKain distinguished conditional uses like this, which have significant collateral economic benefits, from uses for private functions for which the County does charge usage fees. The Chair noted that, because the production company is paying for the time for County building guards, technicians and the like, the company is in effect paying a fee to reimburse the County for the use of the facility. Ms. Means and Mr. DeMarco discussed the distinction, with Mr. DeMarco noting that the economic benefit to the region likely far exceeds what the County would get through charging the production company a fee under the normal structure.

In response to a question from Ms. Kirk, Mr. Evanto provided additional detail regarding the filming schedule.

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

[9525-16](#)

An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission to construct Wetland Mitigation Site on approximately 0.519 acres of land in Hartwood Acres Park, authorizing the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission to make improvements to the Wetland Mitigation Site at no cost to the County.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

At the request of the Chair, the clerk read the title of the bill and Mr. McKain and Mr. Baechle described its provisions. Mr. Baechle noted that the project would not impair the function of the park, and would allow the Turnpike Commission to meet its obligations under the Clean Water Act, while generating no cost to the County. Mr. Baechle noted that the Turnpike Commission would be spending about \$320,000 on the project.

The Chair summarized the practical impact of the wetland preservation requirements of the Clean Water Act in this instance.

In response to questions from Ms. Means, Mr. Baechle noted that the new wetland would be subject to the same protections that would apply to an existing wetland, and that there would be no foreseeable reason to disturb the wetland once it is established given its location, size and topography.

In response to a question from Ms. Kirk, Mr. Baechle and Mr. McKain discussed the project timeline.

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

[9526-16](#)

An Ordinance authorizing the County of Allegheny to sell a 6,399 square foot parcel of excess vacant real estate, located on Desdemona Avenue, adjacent to Brown's Hill Road, in the 15th Ward, City of Pittsburgh, tax parcel No. 89-C-64, for the fair market value amount of \$7,400.00, to Joel H. Kranich and Annette Kranich.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

At the request of the Chair, the clerk read the title of the bill and Mr. McKain and Mr. Shanley discussed its provisions. Mr. McKain noted that the sale will ultimately result in another dwelling being built and placed on the County's tax rolls, together with tax revenues for the land itself.

In response to a question from the Chair, Mr. Shanley noted that the price was established through an appraisal.

In response to a question from Ms. Means, Mr. McKain briefly discussed the difference between an appraised and assessed values.

In response to a question from Ms. Means, Mr. McKain noted that the Law Department approved the sale, noting no concerns regarding public notice of the sale.

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

Discussion Topic

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:31.