

Allegheny County Council

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Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

4:00 PM

Conference Room 1

Committee on Public Works

*Bob Macey, Chair; Patrick Catena, Samuel DeMarco, Jim Ellenbogen, Nick Futules,
Cindy Kirk, Paul Klein, Denise Ranalli-Russell and DeWitt Walton - Members*

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:02.

Invited Guests:

William D. McKain, CPA, Allegheny County Manager or designee(s)
Stephen Shanley, P.E., Director, Allegheny County Department of Public Works

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

Mr. Shanley and Mr. Dillon were present from the Department of Public Works.

Mr. Barker was present from the Office of County Council.

II. Roll Call

Members Present: 3 - Macey, Sam DeMarco and DeWitt Walton

Members Absent: 5 - Jim Ellenbogen, Nick Futules, Cindy Kirk, Paul Klein and Denise Ranalli-Russell

Members 1 - Sue Means

Non-Members:

III. Approval of Minutes

[9997-17](#)

Motion to approve the minutes of the October 13, 2016 meeting of the Committee on Public Works.

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

IV. Agenda Items

Appointments

Ordinances

[9962-17](#)

An Ordinance delegating to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Secretary of Transportation the right to acquire in the name of Allegheny County right-of-way necessary for a Locally-Owned Multi-Bridge (Bridge Bundling) Project, and to take such further action as may be necessary under applicable law, including the Eminent Domain Code.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

At the request of the Chair, the clerk read the title of the bill and Mr. Shanley provided a brief overview of the bill's provisions and noted that the Commonwealth would be undertaking the bridge rehabilitation and, as a result, would be obtaining any necessary construction right of ways or easements. Mr. McKain noted that the four bridges at issue are currently County property and would under other circumstances be rehabilitated by the County, but that the Commonwealth would be deriving an economy of scale from bundling the rehabilitation projects together.

In response to a question from the Chair, Mr. Shanley noted that the Commonwealth will likely be able to complete the projects more rapidly than the County could, given its other maintenance needs.

The Chair noted that the bridges are shorter, and Mr. Shanley indicated that it would be possible to use prefabricated parts for the rehabilitation.

In response to a question from Mr. Walton, Mr. Shanley noted that the Commonwealth would bid the jobs and administer the rehabilitation.

In response to a question from Mr. DeMarco, Mr. Shanley indicated that the project is slated for completion in 2018, but is not part of the Commonwealth's rapid bridge replacement plan.

In response to questions from Ms. Means, Mr. McKain opined that there likely is not a downside to the proposed plan, in light of the County's other bridge maintenance projects and Mr. Dillon noted that, as of the date of the meeting, PennDot had not yet reached a amicable agreements for the easements in question, and Mr. McKain noted that his understanding is that eminent domain is a last resort for the Commonwealth, just as it is for the County.

In response to questions from Ms. Means, Mr. Dillon described the potential economy of scale that should be realized by bundling the projects together, and Mr. Shanley discussed the methodology by which bridge rehabilitation is prioritized.

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

9990-17

An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania extending the grant of a temporary license agreement to Riverlife, in conjunction with Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership, for the purpose of maintaining a light display on the Rachel Carson Bridge (9th Street) Bridge in conjunction with the City of Pittsburgh's Bicentennial Celebration known as "Pittsburgh 200" through December 31, 2018.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

At the request of the Chair, the clerk read the title of the bill and Mr. McKain summarized its provisions, noting that the prior authorization had contemplated a duration of 120 days and indicating that the new proposed term was selected in order to allow the display to continue until the Carson bridge is rehabilitated. Mr. Shanley noted that the display is largely powered by wind turbines placed on the bridge.

The Chair noted that the project was previously discussed by the Committee.

Mr. McKain indicated that the display had been quite successful, and that there had been no incidents of vandalism or anything similar.

Mr. Walton expressed support for the project, and noted that the turbines used in the project are manufactured in his district.

In response to a question from Mr. DeMarco, Mr. McKain indicated that there is no cost to the County for the project.

Ms. Means, Mr. Walton and Mr. McKain discussed the sustainability of the project's

power source.

In response to a question from Ms. Means, Mr. McKain provided some background information regarding Riverlife.

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

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:21.