

Allegheny County Council

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



Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 18, 2017

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 5:04 p.m.

Invited Guests:

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

Council Staff Present: Stephanie Buka

II. Roll Call

Members Present: 2 - Ed Kress and Sam DeMarco

Members Absent: 11 - Cindy Kirk, John Palmiere, Nick Futules, Chuck Martoni, Bob Macey, DeWitt Walton, Paul Klein, Jim Ellenbogen, Denise Ranalli-Russell, John DeFazio and Patrick Catena

Members Phone: 2 - Tom Baker and Sue Means

III. Approval of Minutes

[9964-17](#)

Motion to approve the minutes of the Appointment Review Committee Meeting of Allegheny County Council held on December 15, 2016.

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

IV. Agenda Items

Appointments

[9953-17](#)

Approving the reappointment of Roxanne N. Sewell to the Minority Business Enterprise Advisory Committee for a term to expire on December 31, 2019.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Ms. Sewell told members that she was appointed to the committee three years ago and led the effort to improve operations of the County's M/W/DBE Program through the establishment of a new Chapter 435 in the County Code of Ordinances. Ms. Sewell and Councilman DeMarco discussed her background in sales with J&L Specialty Steel and operating The LJS Group, a small business. Ms. Sewell discussed her continuing interest in expanding opportunities for minorities within the region.

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

[9954-17](#) Approving the reappointment of Tim Stevens to the Minority Business Enterprise Advisory Committee for a term to expire on December 31, 2018.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Mr. Stevens described his longtime involvement with the M/W/DBE Advisory Committee. Mr. Stevens stated that the committee recently discussed changing the language from "disadvantaged" to "new and emerging businesses," which would include minority and women-owned businesses. He added that he would like the county to expand its contracting opportunities to M/W/DBE's. In response to a question from Councilwoman Means, Mr. Stevens reported that there is still much work to be done, such as, increasing the number of minorities working on local building projects. Councilman DeMarco and Mr. Stevens discussed education and training opportunities, and Mr. Stevens noted that the B-PEP website lists jobs and opportunities.

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

[9955-17](#) Approving the reappointment of M. Gayle Moss to the Minority Business Enterprise Advisory Committee for a term to expire on December 31, 2019.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Held in Committee

[9956-17](#) Approving the reappointment of Wayde Fargotstein to the Allegheny County Property Assessment Appeals and Review Board for a term to expire on December 31, 2019.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

The Chair recognized Mr. Davis from the County Executive's Office, and Mr. Davis noted that Mr. Fargotstein was introduced to Council last year for continuity, and he is now being considered to serve a full term. Chairman Kress and Mr. Fargotstein discussed the common level ratio and reassessment periods. Mr. Fargotstein reported that he is still working on creating a guide for homeowners and once complete, he will share with Council. Chairman Kress and Mr. Fargotstein discussed the feasibility of establishing an on-line appeal process. In response to a question from Councilwoman Means, Mr. Fargotstein stated that the board is up to date on its caseload of appeals.

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

[9957-17](#) Approving the reappointment of Timothy Hazel to the Allegheny County Property Assessment Appeals and Review Board for a term to expire on December 31, 2019.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Withdrawn

[9958-17](#) Approving the appointment of Ann Ogoreuc to the Allegheny County Port Authority Board of Directors for a term to expire on September 17, 2019.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Ms. Ogoreuc and Chairman Kress discussed the important connection between public transportation and economic development. Ms. Ogoreuc and members discussed bus rapid transit (BRT), RideACTA, and transit-oriented development (TOD) in Allegheny County. Councilman DeMarco remarked that some constituents feel their bus service is inadequate. Ms. Ogoreuc responded, stating that the Port Authority, while restricted in some ways, can extend existing routes. She added that they are examining the service data and in a planning phase. Ms. Ogoreuc explained transit-oriented development and agreed to provide Councilwoman Means with a copy of the Port Authority's Transit-Oriented Development Guidelines.

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

[9959-17](#) Approving the reappointment of Representative Harry Readshaw to the Allegheny County Sanitary Authority for a term to expire on December 31, 2021.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Representative Readshaw discussed his 20 years of experience serving on ALCOSAN. He discussed wet weather overflow problems, the EPA's federal Clean Water Act, and ALCOSAN's consent decree. In response to a question from Councilwoman Means, Mr. Readshaw reported that ALCOSAN has knowledgeable staff and resources needed to deal with the problems at hand.

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

[9960-17](#) Approving the reappointment of the Honorable Jan Rea to the Allegheny County Airport Authority for a term to expire on December 31, 2021.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Held in Committee

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.