

Allegheny County Council

*436 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Phone (412) 350-6490
Fax (412) 350-6499*



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 26, 2016

4:00 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 4:00.

Invited Guests:

William D. McKain, CPA, Allegheny County Manager or Designee
Stephen Shanley, Director, Allegheny County Department of Public Works

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

Mr. Szefi was present from the Law Department.

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

Mr. Waitleverch, Mr. Chianese and Mr. Garofalo were present from Columbia Gas.

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

II. Roll Call

Members Present: 3 - Macey, Michael Finnerty and Paul Klein

Members Absent: 6 - Sam DeMarco, Jim Ellenbogen, Nick Futules, Cindy Kirk, Denise Ranalli-Russell and DeWitt Walton

Members 1 - Sue Means

Non-Members:

III. Approval of Minutes

[9649-16](#)

Motion to approve the minutes of the May 17, 2016 meeting of the Committee on Public Works.

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

IV. Agenda Items

Ordinances

[9547-16](#)

An Ordinance authorizing the County of Allegheny to grant a permanent license to Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc. ("Columbia Gas"), in order to provide Columbia Gas with a right of ingress and egress to County-owned property in the County's North Park for purposes of renewing, replacing, maintaining and servicing approximately 3,000 feet of an old and deteriorated gas transmission line in North Park, at tax parcel No. 946-A-187, crossing North Ridge Road at three locations, for the amount of \$15,000.00, as well as for the County to be reimbursed for the cost of replacing trees which will need to be removed in connection with the replacement of the gas transmission line, which is estimated to be \$13,266.28.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

At the request of the Chair, the clerk read the title of the bill and Mr. Waitleverch

summarized the project that was subject to the license authorization, noting that the license would be permanent and granted in order to accommodate the replacement of an antiquated segment of gas transmission line, and indicating that the line is integral to the gas service for several thousand customers in the north hills. Mr. Waitleverch noted that the surface of the ground would be disturbed as little as possible, and that the lines would be replaced through a horizontal boring process with the old line remaining in place in order to avoid removing it and the surface disturbance that doing so would be required. Mr. Waitleverch noted that the final environmental approvals are contingent upon other factors, including the grant of the license agreement for the replacement.

In response to questions from the Chair, Mr. Waitleverch noted that the existing line is 80-100 years old in some sections.

Mr. Baechle noted that the trees removed due to the project would be replaced at Columbia Gas' expense, and indicated that he understands that the project must be completed.

Mr. Szefi noted that a preliminary license agreement is drafted and that it would be finalized after the license is granted.

In response to a question from Mr. Klein, Mr. Waitleverch noted that it is common practice to leave the old transmission line in place.

In response to questions from Ms. Means, Mr. Szefi noted that the license would be revocable upon abandonment of the line by Columbia or successor entity, discussed the relative merits of permanent licenses versus easement type arrangements, and noted that the total surface area subject to the license would be approximately 2 acres.

In response to questions from Mr. Finnerty, Mr. Waitleverch described the boring process, noted that it is likely that most park users would not be aware that the project took place once it is completed from the perspective of ground disturbance, and explained that the existing line has some trees growing over it, but that it is not a fully forested area and that the total number of mature trees in the license area is around 100.

In response to a question from Mr. Finnerty, Mr. Garofalo noted that the existing line is untreated steel, and Mr. Waitleverch noted that changing to a plastic line is preferred for lines under 6 or 8 inches, and above that diameter, coated steel would be used.

In response to a question from Ms. Means, Mr. Garofalo noted that the determining factor between plastic and coated steel is actually line pressure, and that plastic lines should last forever for practical purposes.

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

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:16.