

Allegheny County Council

*County of Allegheny
436 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Phone (412) 350-6490*



Meeting Minutes - Approved

Wednesday, September 16, 2015

5:00 PM

Conference Room 1

Committee on Public Safety

Jim Ellenbogen, Chair; Thomas Baker, Michael Finnerty, Nick Futules, Heather Heidelberg, Ed Kress, Bob Macey, William Robinson - Members

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:01.

Invited Guests:

William D. McKain, CPA - County Manager or Designee

Joseph Gavlik - Chief Information Officer, Department of Computer Services or Designee

II. Roll Call

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

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

Members Present: 3 - Jim Ellenbogen, Michael Finnerty and Heather Heidelbaugh

Members Absent: 2 - Ed Kress and William Robinson

Members Phone: 2 - Tom Baker and Nick Futules

Members 2 - Terri Klein and Sue Means

Non-Members:

III. Approval of Minutes

[9155-15](#)

Motion to approve the minutes of the Public Safety Committee meeting of Allegheny County Council held on October 23, 2015
Held in Committee

IV. Agenda Items

Resolutions

[8736-15](#)

A Resolution of the Council of the County of Allegheny enforcing the business use of electronic communication by all county employees and officials as established by the County Administrative Code.

Sponsors: Controller and Council Member Heidelbaugh

At the request of the Chair, the clerk read the title of the bill.

Ms. Heidelbaugh spoke regarding the bill as a co-sponsor, and noted that the primary sponsor (Controller Wagner) was stuck in traffic and would be unable to attend. Ms. Heidelbaugh summarized the intent behind the bill and its provisions, noting that she has a desire to render the rules regarding use of County e-mail as clear as possible. Ms. Heidelbaugh read a statement regarding the bill prepared by Controller Wagner and indicated a wish to amend the bill in accordance with the Controller's wishes.

Mr. Finnerty indicated that he believes that every aspect of the Controller's bill is already specifically established within existing County policy, and noted that these policies are provided to every County employee when they join the County staff.

Ms. Means noted that the existing policies do discuss much of the same subject matter as the resolution does, and asked what the difference between the existing policies and

the resolution. Ms. Heidelbaugh expressed a belief that the resolution covers matters not covered by the existing policies.

Mr. Macey expressed concerns about over-regulation becoming burdensome.

Mr. Finnerty read a portion of the existing policies.

At the request of the Chair, Mr. McKain discussed the proposal, noting that all County employees and officeholders do sign forms indicating that they have received and understand the existing policies.

Ms. Heidelbaugh expressed a desire to be as clear as possible regarding the use of e-mail for political or obscene discourse.

Mr. Macey expressed concerns relating to what conduct may fall within overly stringent regulations.

The Chair allowed Ms. Heidelbaugh the opportunity to explain her amendment.

In response to a question from Ms. Klein, Mr. McKain indicated that, when misuse of the County's e-mail system is alleged, the County takes investigation very seriously and does act to impose discipline, where appropriate.

Mr. Finnerty discussed existing policy as it relates to obscene, harassing or threatening e-mails, and suggested that it covers precisely the same subject matter as the proposed amendment.

In response to a question from Ms. Klein, Ms. Heidelbaugh repeated a desire for as much clarity as possible.

The Chair suggested that, while the Controller has the ability to run her own office as she sees fit, he is not entirely sure that it is appropriate for the Council to set policy in this area via legislation. The Chair noted that his desire is to hold the bill in order to allow the primary sponsor to appear and be questioned about her intent and allow for some give and take between the sponsors and the administration.

Held in Committee

Motions

9014-15

Authorizing the posting of a dedicated webpage within County Council's website to give general information regarding white-tailed deer and potential solutions to problems associated with over-populations of white-tailed deer in local communities.

Sponsors: Council Member Means

At the request of the Chair, the clerk read the title of the bill and Ms. Means described the intent behind the bill, noting that there are numerous deleterious consequences of deer overpopulation, and that she would like to use the County website to facilitate municipalities' access to information related to the problem, while still recognizing that the Game Commission as the regulatory agency.

Ms. Means and Mr. McKain discussed the practicality and cost of having a deer information page, together with the administrative burden of updates, regulating content,

and the like.

The Chair indicated a desire to provide information in a neutral fashion, and not take any position with regard to any particular population management strategy.

Ms. Heidelbaugh asked to be added as a co-sponsor.

Affirmatively Recommended

Discussion Topic: White Tailed Deer Management and Information

V. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:55.