

Allegheny County Council

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



Meeting Minutes - Approved

Wednesday, January 28, 2015

4:30 PM

Conference Room 1

Committee on Government Reform

John DeFazio-Chair

Members: Barbara Daly Danko, Jim Ellenbogen, Mike Finnerty, Nick Futules, Amanda Green Hawkins, Ed Kress, Charles Martoni, & Sue Means

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:30.

Invited Guests:

William D. McKain, CPA-County Manager or Designee

Ms. Rabinowitz and Mr. Detwiler were offered the opportunity to speak as filers of the agenda initiative petitions.

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

II. Roll Call

Members Present: 6 - DeFazio, Michael Finnerty, Nick Futules, Chuck Martoni, Sue Means and Barbara Danko

Members Absent: 2 - Jim Ellenbogen and Amanda Green Hawkins

Members Phone: 1 - Ed Kress

Members 3 - Heather Heidelbaugh, Jan Rea and Bob Macey

Non-Members:

III. Approval of Minutes

[8748-15](#)

Motion to approve the minutes of the Government Reform Committee meeting of Allegheny County Council held on January 21, 2015
Passed

IV. Agenda Items

Ordinances

[8659-14](#)

An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, supplementing the Administrative Code of Allegheny County, Part 7, "Properties" and creating a new Article 707, entitled "County Parks", to enact a hold on drilling and exploration for natural gas on Allegheny County park land, with the exception of Deer Lakes Park.

Sponsors: Citizens of Allegheny County

At the request of the Chair, the clerk read the title of the bill and Ms. Rabinowitz and Mr. Detwiler provided a brief overview of the rationale underlying the bill and the agenda initiative process.

In response to a question from Ms. Danko, Mr. Detwiler noted that, in his opinion, it is not possible to predict how the Deer Lakes contract will be administered, so it is not clear what data would be gathered or how it would be organized.

Ms. Means suggested that the ordinance seems well crafted to her, and that she also has questions about what data would be collected and how it would be evaluated by the County going forward.

In response to a question from Ms. Means, Mr. Finnerty and Mr. Detwiler noted that drilling had not yet started at Deer Lakes Park.

Mr. Finnerty noted that monitoring was included in the Deer Lakes lease agreement, and that he felt that monitoring was significant for his peace of mind.

Ms. Danko expressed praise for the individuals throughout the County who had assisted in the process of crafting the ordinance and gathering signatures.

Mr. Futules also commended the efforts undertaken in the agenda initiative process, but noted that he would not want to create a restrictive one size fits all solution, but would rather evaluate proposals on a case by case basis.

Ms. Danko noted that, if the drilling process proves to be safe, she would be willing to contemplate the merits of additional drilling proposals, but that the ordinance at hand allows for an evaluation of the very safety that would be the foundation of her vote.

Returned Without Recommendation

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:52.