

Allegheny County Council

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Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 30, 2017

5:15 PM

Conference Room 1

Committee on Public Safety

Jim Ellenbogen, Chair

Tom Baker, Patrick Catena, John DeFazio, Sam DeMarco, Nick Futules, Paul Klein, Ed Kress, Bob Macey, Denise Ranalli-Russell, DeWitt Walton, Members

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:17.

Invited Guests:

William D. McKain, CPA, Allegheny County Manager or designee(s)
Matthew Brown, Chief, Allegheny County Emergency Services
Steve Imbarlina, Division Chief, Allegheny County Fire Academy

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

Mr. Brown was present from the Department of Emergency Services.

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

II. Roll Call

Members Present: 5 - Patrick Catena, Paul Klein, Bob Macey, Denise Ranalli-Russell and DeWitt Walton

Members Absent: 6 - Tom Baker, John DeFazio, Sam DeMarco, Ellenbogen, Nick Futules and Ed Kress

Members 1 - Sue Means

Non-Members:

III. Approval of Minutes

IV. Agenda Items

Ordinances

[10403-17](#)

An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing the acceptance of twenty-six (26) self-contained breathing apparatuses (SCBAs) and two (2) rapid intervention team (RIT) systems for use by the Allegheny County Fire Academy.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

The Macey noted that he was presiding at the request of Chairman Ellenbogen.

At the request of the Chair, the clerk read the title of the bill and Mr. McKain noted that the donation would be tremendously beneficial to the County. Chief Brown noted that breathing apparatuses are perhaps the single most important piece of protective equipment that firefighters wear, and that MSA and the Fire Academy have had a cooperative working relationship for years. Chief Brown noted that most of the Academy's existing breathing apparatus inventory is near or at the end of its useful life, and that the total value of this equipment donation is over \$225,000. Chief Brown discussed the use of the rapid intervention system equipment and described the peripheral equipment like batteries that is being donated. Chief Brown noted that the fire academy often tests new equipment produced by MSA, and that the donation is far in excess of any ability that the academy would have to match the dollar value.

The Chair expressed support for the donation.

In response to a question from Ms. Means, Chief Brown and the Chair provided some background information regarding MSA, and noted that some of the newly hired engineers at MSA are trained at the fire academy to give them some hands on training.

In response to a question from Ms. Means, Chief Brown noted that the service life of this equipment is usually determined by the useful life of the cylinders, with a typical average being about 15 years.

Mr. Walton indicated that he regards this donation as an incredible opportunity both to save County revenues, and as someone who has worked in the past in environments with toxic gases.

In response to a question from Mr. Kress, Chief Brown indicated that MSA has approached the County more than once over the years about equipment donations, and this is one of those instances. The Chief noted that MSA may receive some benefit from the donation in terms of word of mouth "advertising," he does not see that as a negative, particularly in comparison to the benefit.

The Chair expressed a desire to send a formal expression of gratitude to MSA, noted that volunteer firefighters spend a lot of time raising funds for their various departments, and suggested that there may be an opportunity for the County to reach out to MSA and other similar entities on behalf of the departments within the County who have a demonstrable need for assistance.

A motion was made by Catena, seconded by Ranalli-Russell, that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:31.