

Allegheny County Council

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Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 2, 2019

4:00 PM

Conference Room 1

Committee on Public Safety

Robert Palmosina, Chair; Tom Baker, Sam DeMarco, Paul Klein, Bob Macey, Denise Ranalli-Russell and DeWitt Walton, Members

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:07.

Invited Guests:

William D. McKain, CPA, Allegheny County Manager or designee(s)
Matthew Brown, Chief, Allegheny County Emergency Services

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

Chief Brown and Assistant Chief Imbarlina were present from the Department of Emergency Services.

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

II. Roll Call

Members Present: 3 - Sam DeMarco ,DeWitt Walton andRobert Palmosina

Members Absent: 4 - Tom Baker,Paul Klein,Bob Macey andDenise Ranalli-Russell

Members 4 - Sue Means,Patrick Catena,Nick Futules andJohn DeFazio

Non-Members:

III. Approval of Minutes

IV. Agenda Items

Ordinances

[11004-19](#)

An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing the County's acceptance of the donation of two (2) MSA Altair 5x MultiGas Detectors.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

At the request of the Chair, the clerk read the title of the bill and Mr. McKain generally summarized its provisions. Chief Brown noted that MSA is a world-recognized public safety company headquartered in Cranberry and with whom Emergency Services has worked for years, and which has donated equipment to the County several times over the years.

Assistant Chief Imbarlina discussed the technical aspects of the meters in question, noting that they essentially draw air samples and analyze them for five volatile gases that form the basis of a large number of dangerous gases that can be encountered in emergency response scenarios.

In response to a question from the Chair, Assistant Chief Imbarlina noted that the meters are new.

In response to questions from Mr. Walton, Assistant Chief Imbarlina noted that, in addition to measuring volatile organic compounds, the meters also measure oxygen content, carbon monoxide, hydrogen sulfide, lower explosive limit calibrated to pentane.

Chief Brown noted that older detectors only sampled one gas each.

In response to questions from Ms. Means, Assistant Chief Imbarlina noted that the useful life of the detectors is predicted to be roughly 10 years, and Chief Brown noted that sensor life can be shortened depending on what they are exposed to. Assistant Chief Imbarlina indicated that the list price for the detectors is a total of just over \$9,000.

In response to a question from Mr. Futules, Mr. McKain noted that additional meter acquisition would be handled through the normal budget and procurement processes. Chief Brown indicated that the fire academy uses a wide range of equipment from multiple suppliers in the training process, and Assistant Chief Imbarlina noted that the academy is not permitted to endorse any particular product in the course of its training activities.

In response to questions from Mr. DeMarco, Chief Brown indicated that Emergency Services would need about 10 meters to be completely equipped, and discussed ongoing maintenance.

Mr. Walton expressed support for Emergency Services' activities and efforts to keep as many first responders safe as possible.

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

Discussion Topic - Emergency Services Status Update

Chief Brown discussed the progress of the move from the Lexington facility to Moon Township, noting that fire marshalls and emergency management and the administrative staff have already moved, but noted that the 911 call center move must be accomplished seamlessly and with zero missed or delayed calls, so it will likely take until May or June to fully plan and execute.

In response to a question from the Chair, Chief Brown and Mr. McKain discussed the possibilities for maintaining a backup center.

Chief Brown noted that disclosing the exact timing of the move will not be disclosed publicly, in order to avoid creating a potential vulnerability.

Mr. DeMarco, Mr. McKain and Chief Brown discussed the general parameters of why the move has been planned so intensively and cautiously.

In response to a question from Mr. Catena, Chief Brown discussed how new equipment has been purchased as part of the integrated plan for the move.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:27.