

# **Allegheny County Council**

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



## **Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, June 24, 2015**

**6:00 PM**

**Conference Room 1**

## **Committee on Appointment Review**

*Jan Rea - Chair; Committee of the Whole*

**I. Call to Order****Invited Guests:**

*Invited Guests Present:*

*Council Staff Present: Joe Catanese; Stephanie Buka*

**II. Roll Call**

**Members Present:** 5 - Rea, Michael Finnerty, Ed Kress, Sue Means and John Palmiere

**Members Absent:** 10 - Tom Baker, John DeFazio, Jim Ellenbogen, Nick Futules, Amanda Green Hawkins, Heather Heidelbaugh, Bob Macey, Chuck Martoni, William Robinson and Terri Klein

**III. Approval of Minutes**

[9001-15](#)

Motion to approve the minutes of the Appointment Review Committee Meeting of Allegheny County Council held on May 14, 2015.

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

**IV. Agenda Items****Appointments**

[8982-15](#)

Approving the appointment of Anthony J. Ross to serve as a member of the Regional Asset District Board for a term to expire on December 31, 2015.

**Sponsors:** Chief Executive

**Held in Committee**

[8983-15](#)

Approving the appointment of John Palmiere to serve as a member of the Community College of Allegheny County Board (CCAC Board) for a term to expire on April 23, 2021.

**Sponsors:** Chief Executive

*Councilman Palmiere described his many years of experience in education as a School Board Director for the Baldwin Whitehall School District, including the \$64 million renovation of the high school, and as Director of the Allegheny Intermediate Unit. He added that he serves as a board member of the Friends of the Baldwin Whitehall Theater Arts, which supports the Baldwin High School Drama Program.*

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

**Members Yes:** 4 - Rea, Finnerty, Kress and Means

**Members Abstain:** 1 - Palmiere

**Members Absent:** 11 - Baker, Danko, DeFazio, Ellenbogen, Futules, Green Hawkins, Heidelbaugh, Macey, Martoni, Robinson and Klein

[9002-15](#) Approving the reappointment of Mona Generett to serve as a member of the Community College of Allegheny County Board (CCAC Board) for a term to expire on April 23, 2021.

**Sponsors:** Chief Executive

*Ms. Generett stated that she was first appointed to this board by former County Executive Jim Roddey. At the request of Councilwoman Means, Ms. Generett described the Mortgages for Mothers program at Dollar Bank. Ms. Generett noted that the college should focus on student success, expand the right kind of programs, and employ staff with the correct credentials and experience. Councilman Finnerty asked Ms. Generett what she considered to be a right versus a wrong program. Ms. Generett stated that some programs are outdated and have low enrollment figures and should be eliminated. Councilman Finnerty reported that he considers CCAC to be one of the best community colleges in the United States, and he has seen significant progress over the past 12 years. In response to Ms. Generett's remarks, Councilman Finnerty requested information pertaining to programs offered at CCAC. In response to a question from Councilman Kress, Ms. Generett stated she would like the college to focus on continued student achievement and to increase remedial classes for students coming to CCAC from high school without adequate reading and math skills. Councilman Kress recognized the popular welding program offered at CCAC and stated that he believes CCAC is doing a good job with preparing students for the future. Councilman Finnerty expressed his support of the public school system and in his experience, students that required remediation only made up 5 percent of the student population. Councilman Palmiere commented on the importance of parental guidance.*

**A motion was made by Means, seconded by Palmiere, that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.**

[9003-15](#) Approving the reappointment of Chester Babst to serve as a member of the Air Pollution Control Advisory Committee for a term to expire on December 31, 2015.

**Sponsors:** Chief Executive

**Held in Committee**

[9004-15](#) Approving the appointment of Keith Kaufold to serve as a member of the Drug and Alcohol Planning Council of Allegheny County for a term to expire on December 31, 2017.

**Sponsors:** Chief Executive

**Held in Committee**

[9005-15](#) Approving the reappointment of Deborah Lange to serve as a member of the Allegheny County Conservation District Board for a term to expire on December 31, 2018.

**Sponsors:** Chief Executive

**Held in Committee**

[9006-15](#) Approving the reappointment of Thomas Sray to serve as a member of the Allegheny County Conservation District Board for a term to expire on December 31, 2018.

**Sponsors:** Chief Executive

*Mr. Sray described his experience as a South Fayette Township Commissioner and his interest in continuing to serve on this board.*

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

[9007-15](#) Approving the reappointment of Janet Craig to serve as a member of the Agricultural Land Preservation Board for a term to expire on December 31, 2017.

**Sponsors:** Chief Executive

**Held in Committee**

[9008-15](#) Approving the reappointment of Anthony Saveikis to serve as a member of the Agricultural Land Preservation Board for a term to expire on December 31, 2017.

**Sponsors:** Chief Executive

*Mr. Saveikis explained to Councilwoman Means how the farmland preservation program works and how they are funded. Councilman Palmiere expressed his support of the program and the health benefit that comes from consuming home grown foods. Councilman Kress asked how many acres the program has preserved, and Mr. Saveikis replied 3,000 acres of farmland in Allegheny County.*

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

**V. Adjournment**

*The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.*