

Allegheny County Council

*119 Courthouse
436 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Phone: 412-350-6490*



Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 12, 2016

5:00 PM

Conference Room 1

Committee on Appointment Review

*Ed Kress, Chair
Committee of the Whole*

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m.

Invited Guests:

Invited Guests Present:

Council Staff Present: Walt Szymanski; Stephanie Buka

II. Roll Call

Members Present: 5 - Ed Kress, Michael Finnerty, Sue Means, Chuck Martoni and Sam DeMarco

Members Absent: 9 - Cindy Kirk, John Palmiere, Nick Futules, Bob Macey, DeWitt Walton, Paul Klein, Jim Ellenbogen, Denise Ranalli-Russell and John DeFazio

Members Phone: 1 - Tom Baker

III. Approval of Minutes

[9809-16](#)

Motion to approve the minutes of the Appointment Review Committee Meeting of Allegheny County Council held on July 6, 2016.

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

[9852-16](#)

Motion to approve the minutes of the Appointment Review Committee Meeting of Allegheny County Council held on September 7, 2016.

A motion was made by Martoni, seconded by Finnerty, that this matter be Passed. The motion carried by the following vote:

Members Yes: 4 - Kress, Finnerty, Martoni and DeMarco

Members Abstain: 1 - Means

Members Absent: 9 - Kirk, Palmiere, Futules, Macey, Walton, Klein, Ellenbogen, Ranalli-Russell and DeFazio

Members Yes Phone: 1 - Baker

IV. Agenda Items**Appointments**

[9811-16](#)

Approving the reappointment of Dr. Charles T. Blocksidge to serve as a member of the Allegheny County Property Assessment Appeals and Review Board for a three (3) year term to expire on December 31, 2019.

Sponsors: Council Member Martoni, Council Member DeFazio and Council Member Finnerty

Dr. Blocksidge described his historical perspective on the assessment process. He noted that he feels privileged to serve with the members of this board and would like to continue to serve. Councilwoman Means asked about the composition of the board and Dr. Blocksidge responded that there is a vacancy on the board, a County Executive's appointment. Councilwoman Means made an inquiry regarding the board's resources. Dr. Blocksidge stated that the board will need to search for a new administrator, since the current administrator has accepted another position. In response to a question from Councilwoman Means, Dr. Blocksidge discussed a publication he authored along with attorney Ira Weiss entitled, "Hospital Exemptions in Pennsylvania: The Process and Guidelines for Determining Whether a Hospital is Entitled to Exemption from Taxation under the Constitution and Statutory Tests of Pennsylvania." Dr. Blocksidge reported that the Commonwealth enacted legislation providing for exemptions from property tax, including all hospitals. He added that Allegheny County has done an excellent job with discovering properties that should have been taxed and placing them back on the tax roll. Chairman Kress and Dr. Blocksidge discussed the common level ratio real estate valuation factors for Allegheny County, the taxing bodies that can file an appeal, and how the board accommodates senior citizens with hearings by telephone.

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

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:27 p.m.