

Allegheny County Council

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



Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 2, 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 5:00 p.m.

Invited Guests:

Invited Guests Present: Austin Davis, Executive Assistant, County Executive's Office

Council Staff Present: Stephanie Buka

II. Roll Call

Members Present: 6 - Tom Baker, Ed Kress, Michael Finnerty, Sue Means, John Palmiere and Paul Klein

Members Absent: 9 - Cindy Kirk, Nick Futules, Chuck Martoni, Bob Macey, DeWitt Walton, Jim Ellenbogen, Denise Ranalli-Russell, John DeFazio and Sam DeMarco

III. Approval of Minutes

[9872-16](#)

Motion to approve the minutes of the Appointment Review Committee Meeting of Allegheny County Council held on October 12, 2016.

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

IV. Agenda Items**Appointments**

[9855-16](#) Approving the appointment of Wayde Fargotstein to serve as a member of the Allegheny County Property Assessment Appeals and Review Board for a term to expire on December 31, 2016.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Chairman Kress recognized Mr. Davis. Mr. Davis explained that the seat on the board has been vacant for some time and the Administration wanted to fill it now with the understanding that they will need to submit Mr. Fargotstein's name for reconsideration in 2017. Mr. Fargotstein described his background and qualifications as a former Allegheny County Hearing Officer. Councilman Klein reported that the board is fortunate to have Mr. Fargotstein because he sees his role from different perspectives. Councilman Baker asked about any conflict of interest, to which Mr. Fargotstein replied in the negative. Mr. Fargotstein confirmed for Councilwoman Means that this would be the fifth seat on the board. Chairman Kress commented on making hearings more convenient, and Mr. Fargotstein stated that they have conducted phone conferences and that process should be clarified for residents. Chairman Kress made an inquiry regarding assessed values, and Mr. Fargotstein replied that they are following Judge Wettick's legal decision. Councilman Finnerty thanked Mr. Fargotstein for being forthright with the committee about the quality of assessments. Mr. Fargotstein reported that he would like to see the property assessment process explained to the public in a simple fashion. Councilman Finnerty requested that Mr. Fargotstein send that information to Chairman Kress so it may be shared with all members of Council.

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

[9856-16](#) Approving the reappointment of Sally Cimini to serve as a member of the Personnel Board for a term to expire on December 31, 2018.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Held in Committee

[9857-16](#) Approving the reappointment of Dr. Kotayya Kondaveeti to serve as a member of the Allegheny County Board of Health for a term to expire on January 13, 2020.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

In response to a question from Councilwoman Means, Dr. Kondaveeti stated that while he is in favor of the HPV vaccine, he does not feel it should be a mandate but rather a family decision. Dr. Kondaveeti told members that he did vote in favor of the E-cigarette regulations. He added that there are chemicals and metals involved in vaping, and several studies have reported on the harms caused from vaping. In response to a question from Councilman Baker, Dr. Kondaveeti stated that he was not in favor of restaurant grading, primarily because it would be harmful to small business owners and their families.

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

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:38 p.m.