

# **Allegheny County Council**

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



## **Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, May 26, 2020**

**4:00 PM**

**Conference Room I**

## **Committee on Health & Human Services**

*Cindy Kirk, Chair; Tom Baker, Liv Bennett, Tom Duerr, Bob Macey, Anita Prizio and  
Paul Zavarella, Members*

## I. Call to Order

*The meeting was called to order at 4:02.*

## Invited Guests:

*Mr. Barker and Mr. Varhola were present from the Office of County Council.*

## II. Roll Call

**Members Present:** 1 - Cindy Kirk

**Members Absent:** 0

**Members Phone:** 8 - Tom Baker, Olivia Bennett, Tom Duerr, Bob Macey, Anita Prizio, Paul Zavarella, Bethany Hallam and Robert Palmosina

**Members** 3 - Patrick Catena, Nick Futules and Paul Klein  
**Non-Members:**

## III. Approval of Minutes

## IV. Agenda Items

### Ordinances

#### [11481-20](#)

An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, amending and supplementing the Allegheny County Code of Ordinances, Division 5: Health and Sanitation, through the creation of a new Chapter 575, entitled "Paid Sick Days Act," in order to improve the public health by granting paid sick time to employees in the County.

**Sponsors:** Council Member Catena, Council Member Prizio, Council Member Hallam and Council Member Bennett

*The Chair provided an overview of her intent regarding the procedure to be followed by the Committee, noting the complexity of the bill and that the current meeting is for the purposes of having those procedural discussions, and that she would not recognize any member(s) for the purpose of making any motion relating to the bill. The Chair noted that her intent is to follow a process not unlike that used by Council Members Walton and Bennett in the context of the Independent Police Review Board ordinance, and that her preference would be to have a second informational meeting to receive information from external sources in two to three weeks. The Chair asked that members forward requests for the Committee to receive information from any specific source(s) no later than June 1. The Chair expressed a desire to have at least one public hearing in each Council district, if at all possible, in order to maximize the diversity and input received by Council, and committed to attend as many of those sessions as is practicable for her. The Chair indicated that her preference would be to have a thorough discussion amongst the Committee and Council members following the information gathering and public hearing processes, and that her desire would be for a final vote on the bill in September.*

*At the request of the Chair, Mr. Varhola noted the sources and general content of all public comments received relating to the ordinance to date.*

*At the request of the Chair, the clerk read the title of the bill, and President Catena summarized his intention behind introducing the bill, noting that he had been contemplating a bill of this nature for an extended period of time even before the COVID-19 outbreak, and indicating that his feeling is that individuals who are ill should stay at home in order to slow the spread of infectious disease. President Catena noted an incident in which a restaurant employee had been documented to spread norovirus, and indicated that many employers do not provide sick leave. President Catena suggested that there should be an extensive conversation relating to the concept embodied within the ordinance, and noted that it had been patterned after the City of Pittsburgh ordinance that was recently upheld by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. President Catena gave a brief overview of the ordinance's provisions as currently drafted, noted that it is a fairly straightforward concept, and that he appreciates the Chair's plan to receive input from a variety of sources with the goal of passing an ordinance in September.*

*Ms. Hallam indicated that she has an amendment that she would like the Committee to review, and the Chair agreed to facilitate this for the Committee's next session.*

*Ms. Hallam asked if it would be possible to schedule the next meeting at this time. The Chair indicated that she wanted to be sure of the external participants' availability before establishing the date, and Ms. Hallam agreed with the Chair's plan.*

*The Chair asked that all members provide a list of the stakeholders that they feel would have relevant input for consideration, and again commended the notion of having multiple public hearings to the members' consideration.*

*In response to a question from Mr. Duerr, the Chair provided clarification regarding the procedure she intends to follow.*

*Mr. Macey expressed some concerns relating to the mechanics of the ordinance, and the Chair asked that all substantive conversations be deferred until the next session.*

*Mr. Futules suggested that social distancing and other health standards apply for public hearings on the issue, and Ms. Hallam and the Chair indicated that perhaps teleconferenced public hearings may address that concern.*

*The Chair requested that the following addendum be added to the minutes, as they outline the process that she established for the Committee in her own words:*

*This is an information meeting. I will not entertain any motions We have one bill on the agenda.*

*This ordinance is very complex, 11 pages long. It is not an ordinance that we can be sufficiently prepared to vote on in 1 meeting. I would like to emulate the process developed by Councilman Walton and also implemented by Councilwoman Bennett in regards to the Police Review Board. Therefore, my goal of this meeting is to work out a timeline to work on this ordinance.  
First, we must gather information.*

*Information gathering*

*From representatives of involved groups—invited guests. Currently 2 of the organizations we have heard from are the SEIU and the Restaurant & Lodging Association. We will reach out to them to ask them to send a representative to share their thoughts and*

*ramifications. We will hold a meeting in the next 2-3 weeks based on schedules I would like to ask all Members to think of who we need to hear from and submit requests to Ken. At that point, we will invite people to share their input with the committee.*

*Public Hearings*

*I would ideally like every member of this committee, to conduct a meeting in their district to assure diversity of thought and input. I will make every effort to attend all I can We will have some new challenges in regard to taking COVID 19 precautions and will follow all recommendations of our Health Department*

*Deliberation*

*Then the Committee members must come together publicly and debate these matters. It is imperative that on such an important issue that these proceeding include a full open and transparent vetting and deliberation by this committee. This should not be rushed. All stakeholders should have a voice in this process. That said I have an initial goal of bringing this to a vote early September 2020.*

*I remind all members that we should keep an open mind. This ordinance affects all residents and many businesses of the County*

*We have already received public comments. We thank all who have taken the time to share their thoughts and provide input. We will not be reading these comments at this meeting but they will be read in their entirety prior to any vote. Ken will share the names and their organization, if provided. Printed copies will be provided to Members for their consideration.*

*Members to provide Ken with names they request to be invited to speak no later than June 1 and start thinking about a public hearing in your districts.*

**V. Adjournment**

*The meeting was adjourned at 4:29.*

**A motion was made by Futules, seconded by Baker, that this matter be Approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.**