

# **City of Pittsburgh**

*510 City-County Building  
414 Grant Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219*



## **MEETING MINUTES**

*Proceedings of the Council of the City of Pittsburgh*

**Tuesday, March 20, 2007**

**10:00 AM**

**Council Chambers**

**City Council**

**ONE-HUNDRED  
THIRTY-FOURTH COUNCIL**

**Douglas Shields, President**

**Council Members: Len Bodack, Twanda Carlisle,**

**Dan Deasy, Darlene M. Harris, Jeffrey S. Koch, Jim Motznik, Tonya D. Payne, William Peduto**

**Linda M. Johnson-Wasler, City Clerk**

**Mary Beth Doheny, Deputy City Clerk**

## ROLL CALL

Present: 9 - Mr. Bodack, Ms. Carlisle, Mr. Deasy, Mrs. Harris, Mr. Koch, Mr. Motznik, Ms. Payne, Mr. Peduto and Mr. Shields

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

## PROCLAMATIONS

Bill No. [2007-1290](#) NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Pittsburgh hereby congratulates the Brashear Wrestling Team on winning another City League Championship and commends them for their accomplishment.

**SPONSOR(S): DAN DEASY**

**A motion was made that this matter be Adopted. The motion carried.**

Bill No. [2007-1291](#) NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Pittsburgh hereby congratulates Eagle Scout Ross William Hirschfeld on his recent achievement and commends him for his accomplishments.

**SPONSOR(S): DAN DEASY**

**A motion was made that this matter be Adopted. The motion carried.**

Bill No. [2007-1292](#) NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Pittsburgh fully supports the development initiative of the Friends of the Riverfront to connect the City of Pittsburgh upstream to the Borough of Millvale along the right bank of the Allegheny Riverfront to close the gap in the Three Rivers Heritage trail; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Pittsburgh does hereby congratulate Friends of the Riverfront, Inc. and thank them for promoting the City of Pittsburgh's economic and social growth and development through out Southwestern Pennsylvania and our region.

**SPONSOR(S): DARLENE HARRIS AND DOUGLAS SHIELDS**

**A motion was made that this matter be Adopted. The motion carried.**

Bill No. [2007-1293](#) NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Pittsburgh congratulates the Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society, Inc., for organizing their Spring 2007 Fish Spectacular Show; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Pittsburgh hereby declares March 20, 2007, "Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society, Inc. Day" in the City of Pittsburgh.

**SPONSOR(S): WILLIAM PEDUTO, DOUGLAS SHIELDS, LEN BODACK, TWANDA CARLISLE, DAN DEASY, DARLENE HARRIS, JEFFREY S. KOCH, JIM MOTZNIK AND TONYA D. PAYNE**

**A motion was made that this matter be Adopted. The motion carried.**

Bill No. [2007-1294](#) NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Pittsburgh sincerely thanks Richard Parsakian for his dedication to improving his community;

and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Pittsburgh hereby declares March 20, 2007, "Richard Parsakian Day" in the City of Pittsburgh.

**SPONSOR(S): WILLIAM PEDUTO, DOUGLAS SHIELDS, LEN BODACK, TWANDA CARLISLE, DARLENE HARRIS, JIM MOTZNIK AND TONYA D. PAYNE**

**A motion was made that this matter be Adopted. The motion carried.**

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

## **PRESENTATION OF PAPERS**

### **MR. BODACK PRESENTS COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES**

Bill No. Resolution providing for the issuance of an agreement between the City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County, acting as fiduciary for the Southwestern Pennsylvania Emergency Response Group, hereinafter referred to as Region 13. The agreement will provide a means in which the Mayor of Pittsburgh and the Director of Emergency Management may accept funds for reimbursement of City costs accrued in the Major League Baseball All-Star Game. Amount of reimbursement not to exceed \$207,776.92.

[2007-1297](#)

**Read and referred to Public Safety Services Committee**

### **MR. DEASY PRESENTS COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, LAW AND PURCHASING**

Bill No. Amending and Supplementing the Pittsburgh Code, Title Two, Fiscal; Article IX, Property Taxes; Chapter 265, Exemptions for Residential Improvements; Section 265.01, Definitions; Section 265.03, Exemption for Improvements; and Section 265.04, Exemption for Residential Construction, so as to create a new ten-year exemption covering residential improvements and construction in areas defined as the Uptown District, the Downtown District and Targeted Growth Zones for exemption applications filed on or after July 1, 2007 and through June 30, 2012.

[2007-1285](#)

**Read and referred to Finance, Law and Purchasing Committee**

Bill No. Ordinance amending and supplementing the Pittsburgh Code, Title Two, Fiscal; Article IX, Property Taxes; Chapter 267, Exemptions for Industrial and Commercial Improvements; Section 267.01, Definitions; Section 267.03, Exemption Schedule; Section 267.04, Exemption Conditions; and Section 267.09, Participation by Allegheny County and Pittsburgh Board of Education, so as to create a new tax exemption for the conversion of industrial, commercial or other business property into owner-occupied residential use in deteriorated underutilized transition areas and also to increase the exemption for improvements constituting a qualified conversion to commercial residential use as to properties which are located in deteriorated underutilized transition areas for applications filed on or after July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2012.

[2007-1286](#)

**Read and referred to Finance, Law and Purchasing Committee**

Bill No.

[2007-1287](#)

Resolution authorizing a Cooperation Agreement by and between the City of Pittsburgh (“City”) and the Sports & Exhibition Authority of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County (“SEA”) providing that if the City's Amusement Tax, or a comparable tax on tickets or admissions, shall be increased above Five Percent (5%) during the term of a proposed Lease pursuant to which the SEA will lease a proposed new Arena to the Pittsburgh Penguins, the City will pay to the SEA an amount equal to the revenue generated at the Arena by the tax percentage in excess of Five Percent (5%).

**Read and referred to Finance, Law and Purchasing Committee**

Bill No.

[2007-1288](#)

Resolution authorizing the Mayor and Director of Finance to enter into a grant agreement with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Community and Economic Development to receive \$50,000 under the Community Revitalization Assistance Program for the Beechview Weed & Seed Program and further providing for an Agreement or Agreements for professional services in connection with the execution of said grant agreement.

**Read and referred to Finance, Law and Purchasing Committee**

Bill No.

[2007-1289](#)

Resolution providing that the City of Pittsburgh enter into a professional services agreement or agreements for the annual maintenance and support of software and equipment necessary for the processing and administration of Personnel and Civil Service applications for employment and written examinations and providing for the payment of the cost thereof. Cost not to exceed \$16,300.000.

**Read and referred to Finance, Law and Purchasing Committee**

Bill No.

[2007-1308](#)

Resolution authorizing the Mayor and the Director of the Department of Finance to assist Pittsburgh Public Schools students in achieving post secondary education by creating a funding opportunity for The Pittsburgh Promise.

**SPONSOR(S): DOUGLAS SHIELDS**

**Read and referred to Finance, Law and Purchasing Committee**

Bill No.

[2007-1309](#)

Resolution providing for the creation of the Pittsburgh Promise Trust Fund (PPTF) and setting conditions for the deposit and expenditure of such funds.

**SPONSOR(S): DOUGLAS SHIELDS**

**Read and referred to Finance, Law and Purchasing Committee**

## **MRS. HARRIS PRESENTS COMMITTEE ON ENGINEERING, FLEET AND FORESTRY**

Bill No.

[2007-1296](#)

Resolution providing for a Contract or Contracts or for the use of existing Contracts, providing for an Agreement or Agreements or for the use of existing Agreements, providing for the purchase of materials, equipment and supplies in connection with the Railing Rehabilitation program; and further providing for the payment of the costs thereof, cost not to exceed \$67,000.00.

**Read and referred to Engineering, Fleet and Forestry Committee**

**MR. SHEILDS PRESENTS COMMITTEE ON HEARINGS**

Bill No. Resolution authorizing the appointment of Mohamed Arif Ali, 320 Ft. Duquesne  
[2007-1298](#) Blvd., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222, as a member to the Youth Commission of the  
City of Pittsburgh for a term to expire April 1, 2011.

**A motion was made that this matter be Approved. The motion carried.**

Bill No. Resolution authorizing the appointment of Mark Roosevelt, Superintendent, Pittsburgh  
[2007-1299](#) Public Schools, 341 S. Bellefield Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15213, as a  
member to the Youth Commission of the City of Pittsburgh for a term to expire April  
1, 2011.

**A motion was made that this matter be Approved. The motion carried.**

Bill No. Resolution authorizing the appointment of Carmelle R. Phillips, 7100 Card Lane,  
[2007-1300](#) Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15208, as a member to the Youth Commission of the City of  
Pittsburgh for a term to expire April 1, 2011.

**A motion was made that this matter be Approved. The motion carried.**

Bill No. Resolution authorizing the appointment of Nathan Harper, 1507 El Paso Street,  
[2007-1301](#) Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15201, as a member to the Youth Commission of the City of  
Pittsburgh for a term to expire April 1, 2011.

**A motion was made that this matter be Approved. The motion carried.**

Bill No. Resolution authorizing the appointment of Mark A. Nordenberg, University of  
[2007-1302](#) Pittsburgh, 107 Cathedral of Learning, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15260, as a member  
to the Youth Commission of the City of Pittsburgh for a term to expire April 1, 2011.

**A motion was made that this matter be Approved. The motion carried.**

Bill No. Resolution authorizing the appointment of Dina Clark, 1303 Denniston Avenue,  
[2007-1303](#) Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15217, as a member to the Youth Commission of the City of  
Pittsburgh for a term to expire April 1, 2011.

**A motion was made that this matter be Approved. The motion carried.**

Bill No. Resolution authorizing the appointment of Veronica Morgan Lee, 7221 Thomas  
[2007-1304](#) Boulevard, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15208, as a member to the Youth Commission of  
the City of Pittsburgh for a term to expire April 1, 2011.

**A motion was made that this matter be Approved. The motion carried.**

Bill No. Resolution authorizing the appointment of Tammy Michelle Wells, 205 S. Fairmont  
[2007-1305](#) Street, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15206, as a member to the Youth Commission of the  
City of Pittsburgh for a term to expire April 1, 2011.

**A motion was made that this matter be Approved. The motion carried.**

Bill No. Resolution authorizing the appointment of Christopher Sweeney, 824 Beech Avenue,  
[2007-1306](#) Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15233, as a member to the Youth Commission of the City of  
Pittsburgh for a term to expire April 1, 2011.

**A motion was made that this matter be Approved. The motion carried.**

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No. Resolution authorizing the appointment of Margaret Lanier, 6415 Dean Street,  
[2007-1241](#) Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15206, as a member to the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer  
Authority of the City of Pittsburgh for a term to expire February 27, 2012.

**A motion was made that this matter be Approved. The motion carried.**

Bill No. Resolution authorizing the appointment of Scott Kunka, 525 Lloyd Street, Pittsburgh,  
[2007-1242](#) Pennsylvania 15208, as a member to the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority of the  
City of Pittsburgh for a term to expire February 27, 2012.

**A motion was made that this matter be Approved. The motion carried.**

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEE - FINAL ACTION

### MR. DEASY PRESENTS COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, LAW AND PURCHASING

Bill No. Report of the Committee on Finance, Law & Purchasing for March 14, 2007.  
[2007-1283](#)

**A motion was made that this matter be Read, Received and Filed. The motion carried.**

Bill No. Resolution providing for the issuance of a \$2,944.05 warrant in favor of Althea  
[2007-1237](#) Johnson, 912 Chartiers Avenue, McKees Rocks, PA 15136, in settlement of a claim  
for a damaged vehicle due to a City EMS vehicle on December 7, 2006.

**A motion was made that this matter be Passed Finally. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Votes:** Ayes: 9 - Mr. Bodack, Ms. Carlisle, Mr. Deasy, Mrs. Harris, Mr. Koch, Mr. Motznik,  
Ms. Payne, Mr. Peduto and Mr. Shields  
Noes: 0  
Abstentions: 0

Bill No. Resolution providing for the supplement of a contract with Ceridian for the purpose of  
[2007-1239](#) on-going payroll processing services, payroll tax filing services, application  
outsourcing services and related support services not to exceed \$700,000.

**A motion was made that this matter be Passed Finally. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Votes:** Ayes: 8 - Mr. Bodack, Ms. Carlisle, Mr. Deasy, Mrs. Harris, Mr. Motznik, Ms. Payne,  
Mr. Peduto and Mr. Shields  
Noes: 1 - Mr. Koch  
Abstentions: 0

### MS. CARLISLE PRESENTS COMMITTEE ON HOUSING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION

Bill No. Report of the Committee on Housing, Economic Development and Promotion for  
[2007-1284](#) March 14, 2007.

**A motion was made that this matter be Read, Received and Filed. The motion carried.**

Bill No. Resolution providing for an agreement to enter into a contract with an individual  
[2007-1238](#) attorney or law firm to provide legal representation as the Solicitor of the Commission on Human Relations, and providing for the payment of the costs thereof. Cost not to exceed \$20,000.

**A motion was made that this matter be Passed Finally. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Votes:** Ayes: 9 - Mr. Bodack, Ms. Carlisle, Mr. Deasy, Mrs. Harris, Mr. Koch, Mr. Motznik, Ms. Payne, Mr. Peduto and Mr. Shields  
Noes: 0  
Abstentions: 0

## MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

Bill No. WHEREAS, in 1935, the United States established, by law, that workers must be free  
[2007-1295](#) to form unions; and

WHEREAS, the freedom to form or join a union is internationally recognized by the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a fundamental right; and

WHEREAS, the free choice to join with others and bargain for better wages and benefits is essential to economic opportunity and good living standards; and,

WHEREAS, unions benefit communities by strengthening living standards, stabilizing tax bases, promoting equal treatment and enhancing civic participation; and

WHEREAS, states in which more people are union members are states with higher wages, better benefits and better schools; and

WHEREAS, unions help raise workers' pay and narrow the income gap for minorities and women, by increasing median weekly earnings by 31 percent for union woman workers, 31 percent for African-American workers, 50 percent for Latino workers, 9 percent for Asian-American workers; and

WHEREAS, workers across the nation are routinely denied the freedom to form unions and bargain for a better life, with 25 percent of private-sector employers illegally firing at least one worker for union activity during organizing campaigns; and

WHEREAS, 77 percent of the public believes it is important to have strong laws protecting the freedom for workers to make their own decision about having a union, and 58 percent of workers would join a union if they had a chance; and

WHEREAS, employers often refuse to bargain fairly with workers after forming a union by dragging out first contract bargaining for up to two years in 45 percent successful campaigns; and

WHEREAS, each year millions of dollars are spent to frustrate workers' efforts to form unions, and most violations of workers' freedom to choose a union occur behind closed doors, with 78 percent of employers forcing employees to attend mandatory anti-union meetings; and

WHEREAS, when the right of the workers to form a union is violated, wages fall, race and gender pay gaps widen, workplace discrimination increases and job safety standards disappear; and

WHEREAS, a workers' fundamental right to choose a union free from coercion and intimidation is a public issue that requires public policy solutions, including legislative remedies; and

WHEREAS, the Employee Free Choice Act has been introduced in the United States Congress in order to restore workers' freedom to join a union;

WHEREAS, the Employee Free Choice Act will safeguard workers' ability to make their own decisions with these abuses, provide for first contract mediation and arbitration, and establish meaningful penalties when employers violate workers' rights.

**SPONSOR(S):   LEN BODACK, TWANDA CARLISLE, DAN DEASY,  
DARLENE HARRIS, JEFFREY S. KOCH, JIM MOTZNIK,  
TONYA D. PAYNE, WILLIAM PEDUTO AND DOUGLAS  
SHIELDS**

**A motion was made that this matter be Adopted. The motion carried.**

Bill No.

[2007-1307](#)

WHEREAS, the Greenfield Organization (GO) is a nonprofit community organization whose mission is to aid in maintaining and enhancing the spirit, viability and economic and social stability of the Greenfield Community; and,

WHEREAS, GO has been an integral part of the Greenfield community for 38 years, through initiating, managing, and facilitating programs and services; providing a forum for advocacy and social action and informing residents of current issues and actions important to the community; and,

WHEREAS, the exceptional level of volunteerism in the community displayed by the Greenfield Organization has contributed to the strength of the community;

**SPONSOR(S):   DOUGLAS SHIELDS**

**A motion was made that this matter be Adopted. The motion carried.**

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**



**A motion was made to approve the minutes. The motion carried.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried.**