

PRESENT: Mario J. Civera, Jr., Chairman; Colleen P. Morrone, Vice Chairman; John P. McBlain, Council Member; David J. White, Council Member; Michael F. Culp, Council Member; Edward O'Lone, Controller; Marianne Grace, Executive Director; Michael L. Maddren, Solicitor; Anne M. Coogan, County Clerk; and other department heads.

Chairman Civera called the regular meeting of March 25, 2015 to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag led by Brian Foti. Kelly Colvin, a member of the Delaware County Women's Commission, gave the invocation.

Chairman Civera called on Mrs. Morrone to start today's agenda.

Motion made by Mrs. Morrone approving the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 18, 2015, seconded by Mr. McBlain and carried unanimously.

Motion made by Mrs. Morrone approving to award contract to furnish and deliver new Joerns Ultra Care XT Beds for Fair Acres Geriatric Center to Direct Supply at their low bid of \$64,579.90. The motion is subject to the Solicitor's approval, seconded by Mr. White and carried unanimously.

Motion made by Mrs. Morrone approving Agenda Item 6, Central Tax Collection Department's request for refunds for the years 2013, 2014 and 2015 County Real Estate Taxes for ten (10) property owners due to the overpayment of the amount of taxes due, seconded by Mr. Culp and carried unanimously.

Chairman Civera called on Linda Hill, Director of Planning/OHCD, to speak on Agenda Items 7 and 8.

Ms. Hill said Items 7 and 8 refer to changes to the Housing and Community Development Action Plan and subject to a 30-day comment period.

Ms. Hill said Item 7 is a request to allocate \$247,000.00 from the HOME Investment Partnerships Program to the Community Action Agency of Delaware County to continue their Dream Home Program in which they buy vacant houses, rehabilitate them and resell them to qualified first-time homebuyers. They expect a minimal of two units to be completed under this allocation.

Motion made by Mrs. Morrone approving the following Housing and Community Development Action Plan Amendment: allocate \$247,000.00 to the Community Action Agency of Delaware County Inc. for acquisition, rehabilitation and resale for two housing units for low and moderate income families. The motion is subject to the Solicitor's approval, seconded by Mr. McBlain and carried unanimously.

Ms. Hill said Item 8 is a request to increase the CDBG funding to Nether Providence Township to repair the roof at the historic Thomas Leiper House. The work was more extensive than they originally anticipated and the \$25,000.00 additional funding is required to adequately preserve and restore the building.

Motion made by Mrs. Morrone approving the following Housing and Community Development Action Plan Amendment: allocate an additional \$25,000.00 to Nether Providence Township for the preservation of the Leiper House, located at 521 Avondale Road, with project funds now totaling \$55,000.00. The motion is subject to the Solicitor's approval, seconded by Mr. White and carried unanimously.

Motion made by Mrs. Morrone approving a Maintenance Agreement between the County of Delaware and Intergraph Corporation for the County Computer Aided Dispatch System covering the period 9/1/2014 through 8/31/2015 in the amount of \$269,198.00. The motion is subject to the Solicitor's approval, seconded by Mr. Culp and carried unanimously.

Motion made by Mrs. Morrone approving the authorization to contract with PPL Energy Plus for a period of two (2) years at the rate of \$0.06308/kWh. The motion is subject to the Solicitor's approval, seconded by Mr. Culp and carried unanimously.

Motion made by Mrs. Morrone approving to appoint John P. McBlain, of Aldan Borough, to the Delaware County Chester Waterfront Industrial Development Authority to a term ending June 2019, seconded by Mr. White and carried unanimously.

Motion made by Mrs. Morrone approving to appoint Pearl H. Kim, of Radnor Township, to the Delaware County Women's Commission to a term ending June 2016, seconded by Mr. McBlain and carried unanimously.

Motion made by Mrs. Morrone approving to appoint Josephine Lomax, of Nether Providence Township, and Melinda Martin, of Media Borough, to the Delaware County Children & Youth Services Advisory Committee to a term ending October 2017, seconded by Mr. White and carried unanimously.

Motion made by Mrs. Morrone approving to reappoint Dominic A. Pileggi, of Concord Township, to the Delaware County Industrial Development Authority for a term ending December 2019, seconded by Mr. Culp and carried unanimously.

Chairman Civera spoke on Agenda Item 15, the Resolution recognizing the 2015 Hermes Expo.

Chairman Civera said today is Greek Independence Day, so it is fitting that we recognize some of the leading Greek-American citizens in Delaware County.

Each year, Paul Kotrotsios, the publisher of the Hellenic News, hosts Greek-Americans businesses in the Hermes Expo International. This year's event is set for March 31 at the Concordville Inn. This is a unique event that offers networking opportunities, conferences, tasting of Greek food and wine, a young professionals initiative and seminars that focuses on commerce and tourism here and in Greece.

At the Hermes Expo, several Greek-Americans are honored at an awards dinner. Two of the 2015 honorees are well-known in the Delaware County community: Dr. Angelo Karakasis, a chiropractor and post-trauma rehab specialist from Upper Darby and Dr. Nicholas Hadgis, dean of the Hospitality Management School, at Widener University.

Chairman Civera welcomed the following Greek-American citizens who attended today's meeting to accept the resolution: Paul and Linda Kotrotsios and their daughter, Stravroura, who was just sworn in as an assistant district attorney in the Delaware County District Attorney's Office; Alex, Dora and Angelo Hionis; Dimitri Gianneas; and Common Pleas Judge William Mackrides.

Chairman Civera read (in part) the following resolution:

Whereas, the Hermes Expo International, established in 1992, promotes commerce, communications and culture among businesses from North America, Southeastern Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean by reaching out to the 2.5 million members of the Greek-American community; and

Whereas, the 2015 Hermes Expo will honor several individuals for their contributions to the Hellenic-American community including Dr. Angelo Karakasis of Apex Medical Rehab, in Upper Darby, who has 27 years of experience in chiropractic and post-trauma rehabilitation, and Dr. Nicholas Hadgis, dean of the Hospitality Management School at Widener University, in Chester; and

Whereas, the 24th annual Hermes Expo International Business Development Trade Show will take place March 31 at the Concordville Inn, Concord Township, and the 2015 theme is "Greeks and Philhellenes Working Together."

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that We, the County Council of Delaware County, hereby welcomes the 24th Hermes Expo International.

Mr. Kotrotsios said it was an honor to accept this resolution from Delaware County Council. He invited everyone to attend the Expo on March 31 from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. at the Concordville Inn.

Chairman Civera called on Mrs. Morrone to speak on Agenda Item 16, a Resolution declaring April as Autism Awareness Month.

Mrs. Morrone said we've all heard about autism, or know someone who has autism spectrum disorder, but there still remains much to be learned about this disability. The most widely recognized symbol of the autism community is the multi-colored puzzle ribbon. The goal is to someday put the pieces together to better understand this complex mental condition.

Today, County Council is pleased to have families and their sons or daughters from two advocacy groups that work for the rights and acceptance of children and adults with autism with us today.

Delaware County PASS, which stands for PDD/Autism Spectrum Support, is a support group of volunteer parents, all of whom have children on the autism spectrum. They work to support each other and raise awareness about autism and the need for education and services. There are 225 members of PASS in Delaware County.

A.A.L.I.V.E. stands for Adults with Autism: Living with Independence, Value and Esteem. This group of parents and advocates provide adults with autism the resources and support to help individuals develop their strengths, achieve independence, connect with work and volunteer opportunities, and socialization.

Mrs. Morrone said we are presenting PASS and A.A.L.I.V.E with a resolution declaring April as Autism Awareness Month and also presenting them with tickets to Autism Awareness Night at PPL Park to enjoy a Union Soccer match on this special night.

Attending this morning's Council meeting to accept the resolution were Penny Starr-Ashton, PASS President and daughter Maddie; and Frank Foti from A.A.L.I.V.E.

Mrs. Morrone read (in part) the following resolution:

Whereas, Autism or Autism Spectrum Disorder is a complex mental condition and developmental disability that affects 1 in every 68 children in the United States; and

Whereas, the first National Autism Awareness Month was declared in April 1970 to educate the public and to encourage resources for research, early detection, education, support services and inclusion of children and adults on the autism spectrum; and

Whereas, the families, caregivers, educators and advocates who work on behalf of individuals with autism are empowered when they come together and support each other.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that We, the County Council of Delaware County, hereby declare April 2015 to be Autism Awareness Month.

Ms. Starr-Ashton thanked Council for recognizing Autism Awareness Month and gave a brief overview of what PASS is about. (PASS stands for PDD/Autism Spectrum Support) Delco Family PASS, which has been in existence for about 15 years, is a non-profit organization serving families impacted by autism and rose from mothers sitting around a table longing for support from one another. They hold meetings twice a year where they meet face to face and have a speaker. They can be reach at www.delcofamilypass.com.

Mr. Foti, from A.A.L.I.V.E., said there is an old saying, "You have not lived today until you have done something for someone who can never repay you." He has always thought that success was achieved when people accept and believe in principles of an organization. The foundation of A.A.L.I.V.E are members and the members exercise the values of those principles.

On behalf of the volunteers, sponsors, donors, community leaders and the board, but mostly those they serve, Mr. Foti said "thank you for this honor."

Motion made by Mrs. Morrone approving the request by the Controller's Office for payment of current bills, seconded by Mr. McBlain and carried with an abstention vote being registered by Mr. White as it relates to CM3.

SOLICITOR: Mr. Maddren asked for Council's authorization to file twelve (12) Petitions for the Involuntary Termination of Parental Rights with the Orphans Court.

Motion made by Mrs. Morrone approving to file twelve (12) Petitions for the Involuntary Termination of Parental Rights with the Orphans Court, seconded by Mr. White and carried unanimously.

COUNCIL: Mr. Culp thanked everyone for coming to today's Council Meeting. He said PASS (PDD/Autism Spectrum Support) and A.A.L.I.V.E. (Adults with Autism: Living with Independence, Value and Esteem) do a wonderful job and he thanked them for everything they do for our community. He wished everyone a Happy Easter.

Mr. White extended his appreciation to these two great organizations and the work they do here in Delaware County. As a father of an intellectually disabled child, he said it is important for everyone to know that he is very proud that there are five voices here on County Council that speak for us. His colleagues are out front regarding autism and intellectual disabilities and they understand what needs to be done here in Delaware County.

Mr. McBlain echoed his fellow colleague's remarks. He also congratulated the members of the Greek community who attended today's meeting. He believes one of the things that makes Delaware County so special is the pride we take in highlighting the many heritages we have.

The celebrations we have surrounding our cultural history, arts and festivals that go along with them are some of his favorite events to attend.

Mr. McBlain said he works with PASS Vice President Sharon Johns in his law office and feels (in a way) that he has grown up with Jillian. He has heard about the good days, which are some of the most hilarious stories that you have ever heard, and some of the bad days. It is always interesting and he is always amazed at the spirit by which the parents are able to bring to raise their children with these special needs. They are truly special people and God has blessed them in their parent's care. He believes God chooses parents that are the strongest who are able to give that special attention.

Mrs. Morrone said she doesn't know how much more she can add to what has already been expressed by County Council members today. She thanked everyone for coming today and to continue the efforts and the advocacy and awareness that they put towards the issue of autism.

Chairman Civera thanked everyone who attended today's Council meeting. This is always a special event when you honor these people and organizations.

To his good friend Paul Kotrotsios and the Greek community, they have been friends in the Upper Darby community for many years, as well as Delaware County community.

He announced the Delaware County Dog License and Microchip Clinic that will be held this Saturday, March 28 from 9 A.M. to Noon, in the Maintenance Building in Rose Tree Park, Upper Providence. Delaware County dog owners have a unique opportunity to enjoy a walk in the park, while enhancing their dog's safety by getting their license and a free microchip all at the same time. County dog owners are invited to get their four-legged friend a current state-mandated dog license plus a microchip at this Clinic.

Delaware County Council is partnering with the Delaware County Kennel Club to provide free microchips to any Delaware County dog. A small electronic chip, approximately the size of a grain of rice, will be implanted in the dog and scanned on-site to ensure it is functioning properly.

Lastly, Chairman Civera wanted to remind residents, as well as the Press, that there will be no County Council Meeting next week (April 1), as it is Easter week. He wishes everyone a happy and safe Easter for whatever their religious beliefs are.

DISCUSSION: No public comment(s).

There being no further County business, nor public discussion, motion made by Chairman Civera to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mrs. Morrone and carried unanimously.



ANNE M. COOGAN, County Clerk

RECORDED BY: N. J. Scallan