

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.

Councilman McBlain called the regular meeting of March 8, 2017 to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag led by Barney Boyce, 2017 Grand Marshal of the Philadelphia St. Patrick's Day Parade and Jake Spencer, a member of the Arc of Delaware County. Marie Stavola, Delaware County Facilities Management, gave the invocation.

Councilman McBlain acknowledged and thanked Chairman Civera for indulging him (once a year) to preside over the Council meeting when we recognize Irish American Heritage Month, and also many other great groups and special guests that are here today. Thank you Chairman Civera. I appreciate the opportunity to lead the meeting today.

Councilman McBlain called on Mrs. Morrone to start today's Agenda Items.

Motion made by Mrs. Morrone approving Item 4, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 1, 2017, seconded by Chairman Civera and carried unanimously.

Motion made by Mrs. Morrone approving to Award Contract No. CP-11317 to furnish and deliver hand soap and hand sanitizer for Fair Acres Geriatric Center to the lowest responsible bidder Health-Care Equipment & Parts Company, Inc. DBA Med-Part in the amount of \$38,313.76. The motion is subject to the Solicitor's approval, seconded by Mr. White and carried unanimously.

Motion made by Mrs. Morrone approving to Award Contract No. E-1,2017 for the construction of the Darby Creek Trail to the lowest responsible bidder N. Abbonizio Contractors, Inc. at their bid price not to exceed \$655,848.00. The motion is subject to the Solicitor's approval, seconded by Mr. Culp and carried unanimously.

Motion made by Mrs. Morrone approving Central Tax Collection Department's request for refunds for the year 2016 County Real Estate Taxes for 6 property owners due to the overpayment of the amount of taxes due, seconded by Chairman Civera and carried unanimously.

Motion made by Mrs. Morrone approving Agenda Item 8, a Professional Services Agreement between the County of Delaware and Joseph Barbato Associates, LLC to provide for a Structural Element Materials Testing Program for the 5th and Penn Streets Building for a fee not to exceed \$52,595.00. The motion is subject to the Solicitor's approval, seconded by Mr. White and carried unanimously.

Councilman McBlain called on Linda Hill, Director of Planning/OHCD, to speak on Agenda Item 9.

Mrs. Hill said Item 9 is a request to enter into a Professional Services Agreement with the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association to provide staff services to their Healthy Communities Task Force. This Task Force is one of twenty-four around the country and is designed to develop a strategy to strengthen the connection between land-use planning and health professionals. She is pleased that her staff has been asked to lead this initiative. Therefore, she asked for Council's approval of this Agenda Item.

Motion made by Mrs. Morrone approving Item 9 to enter into a Professional Service Agreement for the Planning Department staff to act as project manager for the American Planning Association Pennsylvania Chapter (APA PA) on the Healthy Communities Task Force in the amount of \$27,021.00. The motion is subject to the Solicitor's approval, seconded by Mr. Culp and carried unanimously.

Motion made by Mrs. Morrone approving a Resolution authorizing an Account Agreement with TD Bank to be used for E-ZPass and Child Abuse Clearances for the Department of Human Services. The motion is subject to the Solicitor's approval, seconded by Mr. White and carried unanimously.

Motion made by Mrs. Morrone approving a Grant for the year 2017 to the Delaware County Bar Association in the amount of \$35,000.00, subject to the Solicitor's approval, seconded by Chairman Civera and carried unanimously.

Chairman Civera called on Joe Dougherty, Director of Human Services, to speak on Agenda Item 12.

Mr. Dougherty asked for Council's approval of two (2) Subsidized Day Care Providers with Child Care Information Services.

Motion made by Mrs. Morrone approving Agreements, Contracts and Amendments with the Human Services Provider of Services. The motion is subject to the Solicitor's approval, seconded by Mr. White and carried unanimously.

Motion made by Mrs. Morrone approving to reappoint the following individuals to the Delaware County Economic Development Oversight Board for a three (3) year term ending March 31, 2020:

Francis J. Catania
Dominic A. Pileggi
Patrick V. Larkin, Jr.

Upper Darby Township
Concord Township
Marple Township

The motion was seconded by Mr. Culp and carried with an abstention vote registered by Mr. McBlain.

Councilman McBlain called on Mr. White to speak on Agenda Item 14, a Resolution declaring Intellectual Disabilities Month.

Every March, Mr. White said Delaware County Council recognizes the contributions of people with intellectual disabilities who are valued co-workers, family members and friends in our Delaware County community.

Since this observance was started by President Ronald Reagan in 1987, much progress has been made. Working together, we've opened many doors and improved the lives of those living with disabilities.

Today, people with intellectual disabilities are not only included in our public schools, they are now attending college programs and are employed in a broader segment of the workforce. In the Government Center and Courthouse complex, we are proud of the members of our workforce who have intellectual disabilities and we are inspired by their amazing enthusiasm and dedication to their work.

Last Friday, a group of workers from Elwyn's Occupational Training Center received an exclusive tour of the Delaware County Emergency Services Center. There they learned about the county's emergency services, how to call 911, what to do if lost and how to report a crime.

As you can see from the attendance today, we have a very diverse, active community of people with intellectual disabilities who are supported by their friends, families, employers and advocates here in Delaware County.

This year, Delaware County Council is going to recognize three groups who are working to enhance the lives of people who have abilities, but also have intellectual disabilities.

The Delaware County Office of Human Services/Office of Intellectual Disabilities, The Arc of Delaware County and the Delaware County Employment Forum work collaboratively to support individuals with intellectual disabilities to live as fully included members of their communities. Additionally, some of our valued partners include the Delaware County Intermediate Unit and our school districts, agencies such as Elwyn, Devereaux, Melmark, Community Interactions, the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Community Integrated Service and creative programs like New Avenue Foundation and many more.

Mr. White introduced Dr. Susan Proulx, the County's deputy administrator for the Office of Intellectual Disabilities, to come forward to say a few words and introduce the members of her team and some of the representatives we have here today.

Dr. Proulx spoke about some of the initiatives they have and she introduced some of the folks here today who are doing some fantastic work. She introduced the following individuals from the Office of Intellectual Disabilities: Nancy Lowry, Deputy Administrator; Marsha Komara, Consumer and Family Specialist, Administrative Entity; Jean Moran, Unit Manager; Lyndell Evans, SC Supervisor; Rebecca Johnson, SC Supervisor; Rebecca McElwee, SC Supervisor; Juliet Campbell, Supports Coordinator; Hazel Johnson, Supports Coordinator; Dionne Winstead, Supports Coordinator; Callie Evans, Supports Coordinator; Molly Doyle, Supports Coordinator; and Sandra Serrano, Supports Coordinator. She also said her office is pleased to say they enjoy the steadfast support of Joe Dougherty, Director of Human Services and Jonna DiStefano, Administrator of the Office of Behavioral Health.

Mr. White said The Arc of Delaware County is an organization that has advocated for people with disabilities for over 50 years, sometimes being the only voice for individuals who can't always speak for themselves. As an advocacy agency, the Arc has worked with county, state and federal officials to help individuals and their families. One of the most pressing challenges for people with intellectual disabilities is isolation, or difficulty in building friendships beyond their immediate families. The Arc meets that need with a fun, social recreation program that includes dances, a bowling league, movie nights, a miniature golf league, a sibling celebration and other activities that allow individuals to interact with their peers on their own. On a personal level, Mr. White said he knows this is an invaluable service that enhances the lives of people with disabilities.

Ms. MacDonald thanked County Council for continuing to recognize the special community that we work in every day and support. She introduced the following staff members of The Arc that were here today: Vera D'Ercole, Non-Profit Coordinator; Dolores Kent, Administrative Support; Nancy LeClair, Director of Monitoring Programs; Nicole Simon, Education Advocate; and Karissa Desiderio, Adult Advocate.

She said they are a very small group of people with a very large task. The staff at The Arc of Delaware County is probably the most committed group of people that she has ever had the pleasure of working with.

Mr. White said he has a 28-year old son that is intellectually disabled. Prior to his time on County Council, Dr. Proulx actually worked with his son Brian. He understands the importance of these groups, not only for the individual, but for the family. The Arc was a tremendous support group for his wife Debbie and his family 28 years ago and continues today. We recognize them in March but they do this job year round. Brian would not be the person he is today without all their good work.

Mr. McBlain said it was his privilege to begin the recognition for Irish American Heritage Month here in Delaware County.

Americans of Irish ancestry number about 44 million of our nation's citizens and play an important role in the achievements of the United States. The early settlers of Pennsylvania included many farmers who came from the green shores of Ireland and through their grit and determination helped forge American democracy. Many Delaware countians can trace their ancestors to those who braved great hardships to come here from Ireland in the 1840's to escape famine and oppression.

Once a year, on St. Patrick's Day, we like to say everyone is Irish. We highlight the activities that celebrate Irish heritage in Delaware County. This year, the 37th annual Springfield St. Patrick's Day Parade will take place on Saturday, March 11. The following day is the Philadelphia St. Patrick's Day Parade (Sunday, March 12). Two Irish-American Delaware County residents have been named Grand Marshals of the parades, who will lead the festivities in honor of Ireland's Patron, St. Patrick.

Today, we are going to recognize the parade organizers and grand marshals by presenting them with resolutions. Council will also recognize our very own Rose of Tralee, Brigid Gallagher and conclude with a special performance by dancers from the McDade-Cara School of Irish Dance.

Mr. McBlain called on Mike Culp.

Mr. Culp said we will declare March as Irish-American Heritage Month in Delaware County by recognizing two residents who organize these parades: Steve Burns, Chairman of the Springfield Township St. Patrick's Day Parade, and Michael J. Bradley Jr., of Haverford Township, the Director of the Philadelphia St. Patrick's Day Parade. Council would also like to recognize two of our leading residents of Irish heritage, Patrick Mulhern, the 2017 Parade Marshal for the Springfield Parade and Barney Boyce of Upper Darby, who is the 2017 Grand Marshal of the Philadelphia Parade.

Planning and organizing these parades is an enormous undertaking and all of these individuals bring their full determination to make the festivities more exciting each year for our residents to enjoy.

Grand Marshal Pat Mulhern is a longtime resident of Springfield Township and currently the president of the Joseph E. Montgomery Division 65 of the Ancient Order of Hibernians. Pat served this county for 34 years with various federal agencies including the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and Immigration and Customs Enforcement. As a brave and courageous leader, Pat is one of the first federal law enforcement officers to volunteer as an air marshal after the September 11, 2001 attacks.

Mr. Culp called on Chairman Civera.

Chairman Civera said Grand Marshal Barney Boyce has lived in Upper Darby for more than 50 years, and is originally from Milford, Donegal County, Ireland. After moving to the United States in 1957, Barney was drafted into the U.S. Army where he served in Germany for two years. When he returned, he met his wife Carmel, also from Donegal, Ireland and they moved to Upper Darby where they raised six children – Brian, John, Jimmy, Colleen, Michael and Karen. Barney and Carmel, who are here today, have been contributing members of the Irish community for more than 60 years. The entire Boyce family is well-known for lending their musical talents and time to efforts that support the preservation of Irish culture.

All of these men and their families are well respected in the Irish-American community, not only in Delaware County, but throughout the entire Greater Philadelphia region.

Mr. McBlain called on Vice Chairman Morrone to make the next presentation.

Mrs. Morrone said we are also honored to have with us today the 2016 Rose of Tralee, Brigid Gallagher, a Haverford Township native and an Archbishop Carroll graduate.

Celebrating its 15-year anniversary this year, the Philadelphia Rose of Tralee tradition gives young women in the Irish community the opportunity to represent the community on the international stage in Tralee, as well as to be engaged in community-based activities throughout their reign.

Brigid Gallagher was selected as the 2016 Philadelphia Rose last April and has spent the past year serving as an ambassador of the Irish community. In August 2016, she traveled to the Rose of Tralee International Festival in County Kerry, Ireland along with over 60 other Roses from cities all over the world. The Rose of Tralee is a festival and ceremony in one of the most watched television programs in Ireland each year and is one of Ireland's longest running festivals.

Selected because of her outstanding character and Irish decent, Brigid is a successful career woman who is a highly motivated and driven individual. Brigid is a graduate of West Chester University and is currently the executive director of the Philadelphia Veterans House, a nonprofit organization that provides housing for veterans.

Last week, she returned from a trip to a children's orphanage and hospital in Belarus with Chernobyl Children International. She traveled there with other international Roses to provide supplies, as well as to volunteer and to spend time with the children, all of whom live with severe physical, emotional and intellectual disabilities as a result of the lasting effects of the Chernobyl disaster. This type of trip is only one example of the meaningful work that Roses engage in throughout the year.

Mrs. Morrone called on Brigid Gallagher to come forward to accept a Resolution so we can recognize her great achievement. She was accompanied by Karen Conaghan Race,

chairperson of the Philadelphia Rose Center and several members of the committee including the 2013 Rose of Tralee Brittany Carter.

Ms. Gallagher thanked County Council and all our community members for this Resolution. She said it has been an absolute honor to represent Philadelphia and our Irish community for the last year. Her recent trip to Belarus and to work with the children of Chernobyl is absolutely life-changing to say the very least. Seeing children that have these intellectual, physical and emotional disabilities and seeing no care that we would see here in the United States, she was able to bring our love from Philadelphia and really spread it to them. It has been an honor.

She thanked Council for the recognition and for everything they do on a daily basis for our community.

Mr. McBlain thanked Brigid by saying we are honored and proud to have her here. He also recognized two members of the Conaghan family, Mary Conaghan and Karen Conaghan Race, another great Irish-American family, who have committed themselves to so many Irish causes over the years.

Mr. McBlain called on members of the McDade-Cara School of Irish Dance, in Springfield, to come forward. The school is dedicated to preserving and enhancing the rich tradition of Irish step and figure dancing. The following students entertained us with traditional Irish dance: Grace Mulholland, Riley McLaughlin, Norah Maeve Bice, Lauren Rendel, Haley Brooks, Addie Sullivan, Tara Mairead Sheehan, Brianne Shovlin, Sarah Bernadette Breault, Caitlyn Breslin, Erin Berger and Maggie Conway. They were accompanied by their dance instructor Annmarie Sheehan.

Mr. McBlain called on Mrs. Morrone to continue with today's Agenda Items.

Motion made by Mrs. Morrone approving the request by the Controller's Office for payment of current bills, seconded by Chairman Civera and carried unanimously.

SOLICITOR: Mr. Maddren asked for Council's authorization to file three (3) Consents for Adoption with the Orphans Court.

Motion made by Mrs. Morrone approving to file three (3) Consents for Adoption with the Orphans Court, seconded by Mr. White and carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comment(s).

COUNCIL: Mr. Culp thanked Dr. Proulx and her staff, Joe Dougherty, Jonna DiStefano, and all the advocates for the work they do on a daily basis. They truly do an amazing job. Steve Burns and Mike Bradley really know how to run parades. We look forward to this weekend and

hopefully there is no precipitation. Lastly, to Pat Mulhern and Barney Boyce - congratulations. A special thanks to the McDade-Cara Dancers who did a wonderful job this morning.

Mr. White said it is a great day meeting with all these people attending this morning to help celebrate our heritage and for all those who help our intellectually disabled residents.

Mrs. Morrone said it is always a great meeting when we have to open the side rooms in our meeting room, as we did today, to accommodate the large crowd. The representation from our community that serves individuals with intellectual disabilities is always here in force to show us the work that we recognize today, but also what they do every day. It is important that we all have a special purpose and relationship in our community and give back in the ways we can. Being of Irish heritage herself, this is always a special meeting for her to see the community and how we continue to support that heritage in Delaware County.

Chairman Civera said coming together to recognize the intellectual individuals in our community and the Irish heritage, these are some of the things that Delaware County is about. A special thanks to the young dancers from the McDade-Cara School of Dance who did a phenomenal job.

Mr. McBlain echoed everyone's comments and certainly to the honorees here today and the great work here in Delaware County for the intellectually disabled residents. He recognized two individuals who recently participated in a world premiere of a documentary film involving the Delaware County Special Olympics Soccer Team that took place at Villanova University. We have many Council meetings where we will discuss more serious issues and debate other public issues of the day, but the meetings when we get to celebrate the best that Delaware County has to offer are the most special meetings. Certainly the meetings when we celebrate all the different heritages that make Delaware County are among the best.

Mr. McBlain said the Irish have a saying, "It's an Irish thing; you wouldn't understand." Delaware County has that same type thing, "It's a Delco thing; you wouldn't understand."

Thanks to Brigid Gallagher and the Rose Committee. We are so proud when someone from Delaware County represents us in an international competition.

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

ANNE M. COOGAN, County Clerk

RECORDED BY: N. J. Scallan

