

**PRESENT:** Mario J. Civera, Jr., Chairman; Colleen P. Morrone, Vice Chairman; John P. McBlain, Council Member; Michael F. Culp, Council Member; Michael A. Maddren, Solicitor; Anne M. Coogan, County Clerk; and other department heads.

Prior to opening today's County Council Meeting, Chairman Civera announced a tragic event that occurred on Sunday, April 23, with the sudden death of 37-year old County resident Richard Scharrer. He worked as the Assistant Director of the Delaware County Juvenile Detention Center (Lima) and while coaching Little League with his family, he suffered a heart attack and died. He asked for a moment of silence to be observed in memory of Rich Scharrer.

Chairman Civera called the regular meeting of April 26, 2017 to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag led by Clifford Engel, of the Delaware County Police Chiefs Association. Bill Lovejoy, Director of Veterans Affairs, gave the invocation.

Motion made by Mrs. Morrone approving the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 19, 2017, seconded by Mr. McBlain and carried unanimously.

Motion made by Mrs. Morrone approving Central Tax Collection Department's request for refunds for the years 2016 and 2017 County Real Estate Taxes for 8 property owners due to the overpayment of the amount of taxes due, seconded by Mr. Culp and carried unanimously.

Motion made by Mrs. Morrone approving a Memorandum of Understanding between the Delaware County Weights and Measures and the PA Department of Agriculture regarding the coordination of responsibilities between the Division of Weights and Measures and Local Weights and Measures Program for the period 7/1/2017 to 6/30/2022. The motion is subject to the Solicitor's approval, seconded by Mr. McBlain and carried unanimously.

Chairman Civera called on Adam Matlawski, of the Delaware County Authority, to speak on Agenda Item 7, Resolution 2017-4.

On behalf of the Delaware County Authority, Mr. Matlawski requested the approval of a tax-exempt bond issue in an amount not to be exceed \$55,000,000.00 for Cabrini College. The funds are being used for capital projects throughout the campus including a new resident hall parking structure and some refunding of existing bonds. This does not pledge any tax monies of the county and is not an obligation of debt.

Motion made by Mrs. Morrone approving Resolution 2017-4, the issuance by the Delaware County Authority of the Authority's Cabrini University Revenue Bonds, Series 2017, in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$55,000,000.00. The motion is subject to the Solicitor's approval, seconded by Mr. Culp and carried unanimously.

Chairman Civera called on Joe Dougherty, Director of Human Services, to speak on Agenda Item 8.

Mr. Dougherty asked for the approval of a contract with an Outpatient Drug and Alcohol Services Provider and six (6) Subsidized Day Care Providers of Service for 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. McBlain and carried unanimously.

Chairman Civera called on Mr. Culp to speak on Agenda Item 10, a Resolution recognizing the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Delaware County Hero Bowl.

Every year, Mr. Culp said across the country it seems our communities are shaken by the tragic loss of one of our brave first responders, whether they serve as police officers, firefighters or emergency medical personnel. When that happens, we do our best to come together as a community to support their families and their fellow first responders.

Since 1977, the Hero Scholarship Committee has been raising funds to provide scholarship aid to the children of Delaware County police officers, firefighters and EMS personnel who lost their lives in the line of duty. Since its founding, 35 young people have received scholarships through the Hero Scholarship Fund.

One of the main fundraisers is an all-star football game that involves the top athletes from our local high schools. This year marks the 41<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the Hero Bowl, which is set for 7:30 P.M. Thursday, June 1, at Cardinal O'Hara High School, in Springfield. All proceeds from the game benefit the Hero Scholarship Fund. Tickets are \$5.00. This year's tickets will also be sold at the Franklin Mint Federal Credit Union branches in Delaware County.

Today, Council is presenting a Resolution to recognize the efforts that make this a success from the hard work of the committee to the coordinated work of the athletes and their coaches. We are also grateful to the many sponsors who contribute their time and generosity to this event.

One of the greatest tragedies a community can suffer is the loss of a police officer or emergency responder. These men and women are police officers, firefighters and emergency responders, but they are also fathers, husbands and friends. The Hero Scholarship Fund is one way we can help families in Delaware County, if the worst should happen.

Attending today's meeting on behalf of the Hero Bowl is Robert Lythgoe, Jr., President of the Hero Scholarship Fund and Chairman of the Hero Bowl. Mr. Culp called on Mr. Lythgoe to come forward and say a few words about the Hero Bowl.

Mr. Lythgoe thanked County Council for their continued support of the Hero Scholarship Fund and Hero Bowl over the last 41 years. He also thanked the residents of Delaware County for all their support. He recognized the following sponsorship groups of the Hero Bowl: Franklin Mint

Federal Credit Union, TD Bank, Outback Steakhouse, Run 4 Heroes, Premier Orthopedics, Delaware County Firemen's Association, Delaware County Police Lodge 27, Chester Police Department Lodge 19 Fraternal Order of Police, Chester City Firefighters Association; PECO, Boeing and Comcast.

Chairman Civera called on Mrs. Morrone to speak on Agenda Item 10, the Resolution declaring May 4 as National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day.

Mrs. Morrone said in Delaware County we are pleased to have an extensive System of Care, through our Department of Human Services, Office of Behavioral Health, that helps families and individuals access the services they need to address the mental health of children and youth. Council recognizes that mental health is just as important as physical health.

For many children in Delaware County and across the nation, mental health is a daily challenge in their lives. Each year, thousands of children receive licensed mental health services in Pennsylvania.

Our Department of Human Services has formed a "System of Care" that is a collaborative network of systems and supports that work with youth and their parents. Each year, the System celebrates Children's Mental Health Awareness during the month of May with the actual day of awareness taking place this year on Thursday, May 4. For the main awareness activity, the System members have partnered with *Delaware Valley Rocks* and will be painting rocks with messages of hope and acceptance, which will be placed throughout the county. Additionally, in an effort to raise awareness, the Delaware County Suicide and Prevention Task Force will hold their annual walk/run on May 6 at Ridley Creek State Park.

Council would like to recognize all of these efforts by presenting a Resolution in recognition of Children's Mental Health Awareness and ask Shannon Thomas, the Delaware County's Coordinator of Children's Health and System of Care, to come forward with her partners to tell us more.

Ms. Thomas thanked County Council for inviting them back again this year to recognize Children's Mental Health Awareness. The Delaware County System of Care Children's Cabinet and Coalition are celebrating May 1-7 as Children's Mental Health Awareness Week with the specific day of awareness on Thursday, May 4.

Green Awareness Ribbons are being distributed to many providers and stakeholders which help to start the discussion about the importance of celebrating mental wellness and recognizing the importance of early intervention for those that are struggling with their mental health.

For the past three years, they have been providing an evidence-base model called Youth Mental Health First Aid which helps those that are working with children to identify youth at risk of

suicide. So far, in three years they have trained over 600 Delaware County residents in this model. They are saving lives and helping to decrease the stigma related to mental health.

Ms. Thomas further said, as previously mentioned, they have partnered with the Delaware Valley Rocks movement.

Jamie Sottnick, of Delaware Valley Rocks, said they paint rocks, hide rocks and hunt rocks with inspirational messages to brighten people's day. What better way to spread children's mental health awareness through inspirational rock!

Ms. Thomas introduced Portia Kamara, of Multicultural Community Family Services, to come forward to say a few words about how children's mental health is important to her agency.

Mrs. Kamara said she is the Executive Director for the Multicultural Community Family Services, which is an organization based in Upper Darby providing services to diverse individuals, children, youth and families. Their consumers come from over 35 different nations and speak perhaps 100 ethnic languages.

Specifically, she is from Liberia, West Africa, a country and continent where mental health is something that is not looked upon seriously; it is frowned upon. Because of that, so many people in her community have a history of or have systematic mental health issues. She has experienced these mental issues even in her own family.

Many of the families that they work with come on a daily basis – moms, children referred from schools – very serious adjustment needs with post-traumatic stress disorder, adjustment and attention deficit disorders. There is a grave need for mental health services for members of the immigrant community, not just from Africa, but to those who come to this country from other countries.

They look forward to continuing to work in partnership with the Department of Human Services and the Office of Behavioral Health to do whatever it takes, whatever is necessary, to help people and to help the over 1,000 children, youth and families they serve every year, particularly our youth.

Chairman Civera called on Mr. McBlain to speak on Agenda Item 11, a Resolution declaring May as Older Americans Month.

In Delaware County, Mr. McBlain said we are pleased and grateful for the hundreds of older residents who contribute their time and talent to enhance our lives and our communities. We value them each and every day, but in May we shine a spotlight on the contributions of our senior residents.

Nearly one in every five County residents is a senior. County Council recognizes the contributions of seniors to our businesses, our volunteer organizations, our veterans' groups, our churches and many other valuable activities.

Every year since 1963, May has been designated as Older Americans Month to celebrate the vitality and achievements of our older residents. The 2017 theme is "Age Out Loud" which shines a light on many important trends. More than ever before, older Americans are working longer, trying new things and engaging in their communities. Our seniors are striving for wellness, focusing on independence and advocating for themselves and others. What it means to age has changed and this is a perfect opportunity to recognize and celebrate what getting older looks like today.

During the month of May, we also encourage our seniors to attend one of several events hosted by Council and the County Office of Services for the Aging.

- The *Senior Living Expo* is taking place on Friday, May 5, at Harrah's with the theme "Celebrate Age: Let the Fiesta Begin." People 50 and older can come learn about the many County services available to them.
- One of our favorite events is the *Centenarian Luncheon*, when we recognize all Delaware County residents who are 100 years or older and have amazing stories to tell. That wonderful celebration is Wednesday, May 17 at the Drexelbrook.
- The *Senior Games* will be held on June 12 through 23. Every year, seniors go for the gold in bowling, swimming, table tennis, golf, pickleball and bocce. Be sure to check out the Senior Games Website at [www.delcoseniorgames.org](http://www.delcoseniorgames.org).

Through COSA, Council is dedicated to helping seniors who need assistance in maintaining their independence, dignity and quality of life. COSA offers many helpful programs including health insurance counseling, legal services, in-home supports and community-based services, nursing home eligibility, senior centers and much more.

Mr. McBlain said Council would like to present a Resolution declaring May as Older Americans Month. Attending today's meeting to accept the Resolution on behalf of the senior citizen population were the following individuals: Sheelah Weekes, Deputy Director of COSA, Long Term Services & Supports; Barbara Nicolardi, Planner for COSA; and Elaine Lawley, COSA.

Ms. Weekes thanked County Council for all the support they have given over the years to these events. They could not do this without Council and without the support of their sponsors. She recognized some of the sponsors that attended the meeting today: Always Best Care Senior Services, Bayada Home Health Services, Home Helpers, Independence Blue Cross, Main Line Health and Victoria's Home Care.

Chairman Civera 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 Mr. McBlain and carried unanimously.

**SOLICITOR:** Mr. Maddren asked for Council's authorization to file one (1) Consent for Adoption with the Orphans Court.

Motion made by Mrs. Morrone approving to file one (1) Consent for Adoption with the Orphans Court, seconded by Mr. McBlain and carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** No public comment(s).

**COUNCIL:** Mr. Culp wished all those involved in the upcoming Hero Bowl Games good luck and encouraged everyone to attend the event on June 1. He thanked everyone who came today to show their support in the issues of Children's Mental Health Awareness Day and throughout the year. Lastly, he thanked everyone at COSA who do a tremendous job throughout the year. He looks forward to the Centenarian Luncheon and the Senior Games.

Mr. McBlain thanked all the honorees who attended this morning's meeting. There is that old adage that "*government and society are measured by how they treat people in the dawn of life and the shadows of life and the sunset of life.*" With our honorees here today, he believes that spectrum was represented in all the great things that everybody does. In terms of our Senior Games, Council looks forward to that event.

Mr. McBlain announced some information about the PennDOT Project on Route 322, which is underway. The Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) was thrilled to support that project and has finally put the final funding in place.

Lastly, Mr. McBlain said DVRPC has been in favor and pushed for the rehabilitation of many bridges in the City of Chester (approximately seven), that overpass on Interstate 95. In his opinion, they have not been adequately maintained over the years and have fallen into disrepair and quite honestly look deplorable. DVRPC didn't think that was a pleasant way for people to enter into Pennsylvania to view our state. They have advocated for this project and is now underway. Hopefully, over the next year or so, we will see the revitalization of those bridge spans where it will no longer be an eyesore traveling through the City of Chester. It will be something to be proud of when you enter into Pennsylvania.

Mrs. Morrone extended her congratulations to the organizations that were represented today and the work they do throughout the year to support Delaware County. She thinks this Delaware Valley Rocks idea is great and she looks forward to looking throughout the county for these rocks. It is a great way to promote health in the county and to get people outdoors and to walk our trails and park systems.

Chairman Civera could not be more proud of the work these organizations do. He thanked Portia Kamara for her comments, who was spot on with the comments she made. He thanked Mr. Culp and others for the work they do for the Hero Scholarship Fund/Hero Bowl. Many thanks to COSA and the remarkable work they continue to do for our senior citizens. They go far and beyond to help our seniors.

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

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ANNE M. COOGAN, County Clerk

RECORDED BY: N. J. Scallan