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COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Council votes to cancel contracts

Gainey says members lack authority to force him to terminate agreements

By Megan Guza
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Pittsburgh City Council members — many dissatisfied with the return on investment so far from a multimillion-dollar comprehensive plan — voted this week to cancel those contracts in an attempt to reclaim whatever remains of the initial \$6 million deal.

But outgoing Mayor Ed Gainey has said council doesn't have the authority to force him to terminate the contracts, and he won't abide by the legislation.

"A majority of council — from very different parts of the city, from very different ideologies — all agree that this process is not working, has not been valuable, is not creating an output that we want to support," Councilman

Bob Charland said ahead of the Monday vote. "For something that's supposed to be driving where the city goes until 2050, a majority of council members say the directions are bad."

Proponents of the plan say it would lay out a vision for city public policy for much of the next three decades, addressing issues such as land-use regulations and zoning restrictions.

But specific results seem to be few: Residents have complained that the comprehensive plan seemed to be vague on issues such as "housing," "clean water" and "economic opportunity." Council members have questioned how those overarching ideas would translate into specific strategies and policies.

In a statement Dec. 17, Mr. Gainey said council's proposals to cancel the contracts amounted to "legislative overreach," maintaining that he has the sole authority to terminate contracts and council cannot compel him to do so.

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WARNING FOLLOWS NIGERIA AIRSTRIKES

Security analysts caution administration on conflict

By Rachel Chason and Abiodun Jamiu
The Washington Post

Top Nigerian officials said Friday that U.S. attacks in the country on what President Donald Trump called "ISIS Terrorist Scum" could mark the opening salvo in a campaign against militant groups there. But security analysts warned that Trump administration officials appeared to be stepping into a complex, long-running conflict that they may not fully understand.

Trump has in recent months repeatedly warned that he would intervene in Nigeria — which is afflicted by widespread violence — if the killing of Christians does not stop. He made good on that promise Thursday, announcing "numerous perfect strikes" on Christmas night and promising more if the "slaughter of Christians continues."

Western and Nigerian security analysts said the attacks marked the first time in decades that the United States had launched such strikes in Nigeria, a country of more than 230 million people split about equally between Muslims and Christians. The analysts said that violence, particularly by Islamist militants in the north, has sometimes targeted Christians but that Muslims have also been affected.

Neither Trump nor the U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) specified exactly who was killed in the strikes, which both the U.S. and Nigeria's government said were conducted with the approval of Nigeria's

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Justin Guido/Post-Gazette photos

RAIN SOAKS REGION BUT ICE STORM A DUD

Above, raindrops flow down a window as a pedestrian slogs along Main Street in Butler on Friday. At right, a truck plows through standing water along Route 356 in Butler. Much of Western Pennsylvania escaped the brunt of a storm that produced freezing rain, but it fell heavily in areas north of Interstate 80. **Story, A3.**



Zelenskyy, Trump to meet in Fla.

Ukraine security and economy topics of talks

By Illia Novikov
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Friday that he will meet with President Donald Trump in Florida over the weekend.

Mr. Zelenskyy told journalists that the two leaders will discuss security guarantees for Ukraine during Sunday's talks, and that the 20-point plan under discussion "is about 90% ready."

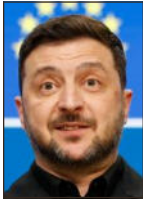
An "economic agreement" also will be discussed, Mr. Zelenskyy said, but he was unable to confirm "whether anything will be finalized by the end."

The Ukrainian side will also raise "territorial issues," he said.

Mr. Zelenskyy said that Ukraine "would like the Europeans to be involved," but doubted whether it would be possible at short notice.

"We must, without doubt, find some format in the near future in which not only Ukraine and the U.S. are present, but Europe is represented as well," he said.

The announced meeting is the latest



Zelenskyy

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Giuseppe LoPiccolo/Post-Gazette

Jacob Beighel, 15, a student and member of the student tech team at Gateway High School in Monroeville, works on a computer earlier this month.

EDUCATION

Student tech teams learning life skills

By Megan Tomasic
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Students and teachers in the Gateway School District struggling with their iPads or Chromebooks don't need to look far for help — student tech teams are always nearby.

Much like Best Buy's Geek Squad, groups of students in the middle and high school spend time repairing devices and helping teachers set up technology such as smartboards.

The teams, which assist already busy IT help desks in completing day-to-day tasks, use study hall time

to give students experience that could help them in the workforce. That's key for Monica Kraykovic, the student help desk coordinator at Gateway Middle School, who pointed to basic life skills that students are learning in addition to independence and knowing when to ask for help.

"If they're able to learn all of these things early on, it actually helps them in the future," Ms. Kraykovic said.

Across the region, Gateway and

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