

Allegheny County Council

436 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Phone (412) 350-6490



Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 26, 2019

4:00 PM

Conference Room 1

Committee on Budget and Finance

*Paul Klein, Chair; Sam DeMarco, Nick Futules, Bob Macey, Sue Means, John Palmiere
and Paul Zavarella, Members.*

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:04.

Invited Guests:

William D. McKain, CPA, County Manager or Designee(s)

Mary C. Soroka, Director, Budget and Finance or Designee(s)

Mr. McKain was present from the Office of the County Manager.

Ms. Soroka, Mr. Cox, Mr. Humenik, and Mr. Rambo were present from the Department of Budget & Finance.

Mr. Barker and Ms. Roka were present from the Office of County Council.

II. Roll Call

Members Present: 4 - Bob Macey, Sue Means, Paul Zavarella and Paul Klein

Members Absent: 1 - Sam DeMarco

Members Phone: 2 - Nick Futules and John Palmiere

Members 1 - Patrick Catena

Non-Members:

III. Approval of Minutes

[11313-19](#)

Motion to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2019 meeting of the Committee on Budget & Finance.

A motion was made by Macey, seconded by Zavarella, that this matter be Passed. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

IV. Agenda Items

Ordinances

[11241-19](#)

An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, establishing the tax levy upon all real property subject to taxation within the limits of Allegheny County.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

A motion was made by Macey, seconded by Palmiere, that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Resolutions

[11305-19](#)

A Resolution of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, adopting an Operating Budget pursuant to Article IV, §2 and Article VII, §4 of the Home Rule Charter, by setting forth appropriations to pay the expenses of conducting the public business of Allegheny County and for meeting debt charges for the fiscal year

beginning January 1, 2020 and ending December 31, 2020.

Sponsors: Council Member Klein

At the request of the Chair, the clerk read the title of the bill and Mr. McKain commented on the budget, referencing the vetting process of the budget hearings, the County's financial strength. Mr. McKain noted that he believes that the budget is sufficient to fund the County's operations.

A motion was made by Macey, seconded by Palmiere, that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

[11306-19](#)

Resolution of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, adopting a Capital Budget pursuant to Article IV, §2 and Article VII, §4 of the Home Rule Charter by setting forth appropriations to pay the expenses for capital expenditures during the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2020 and ending December 31, 2020.

Sponsors: Council Member Klein

At the request of the Chair, the clerk read the title of the bill and Mr. McKain commented upon the capital budget, noting that he believes that the proposed budget adequately funds the expected needs of the County.

The Chair proposed an amendment on Mr. Catena's behalf, as he is not a member of the Committee, and Mr. Zavarella seconded the motion.

Mr. Catena summarized its the substance of the amendment, noting the benefits of the farmland preservation program, and indicating that the proposed \$30,000 increase for the Conservation District would allow the District to leverage approximately \$1 million in additional funding from the Commonwealth.

Mr. Macey and Mr. Futules expressed support, and the motion to amend passed unanimously.

In response to a question from Ms. Means, Mr. McKain noted that some capital budget amendments that will be discussed in relation to another bill will have an impact on the roads/landslide program.

Ms. Means and Mr. McKain discussed other potential road improvements in South Park, most notably in relation to Hundred Acres Road, and other potential repairs to Fort Couch Road.

Ms. Means indicated that her belief is that South Park is in need of a new nature center, and noted that an appropriation had been made several years before to fund a feasibility study, but also pointed out that no progress had been made to date with regard to actually constructing a new center. Mr. McKain indicated that he would discuss the matter with Director Baechle.

A motion was made by Macey, seconded by Palmiere, that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

[11307-19](#)

Resolution of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, adopting the Grants Budget, Special Accounts Budget, and Agency Fund Budget, by setting forth appropriations to pay said expenses during the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2020 and ending December 31, 2020.

Sponsors: Council Member Klein

At the request of the Chair, the clerk read the title of the bill and Ms. Soroka summarized its provisions, noting that this resolution is nearly identical to the Executive's proposal but for two alterations; the annual CDBG funding appropriation has been removed pending further review, and a grant received by the Office of the District Attorney secured after the Executive's proposal was formulated. Ms. Soroka noted that the County's matching obligation in the budgets at issue is about 1%, and expressed support for approving the bill.

Ms. Means complimented the administration on its efforts across the spectrum of services offered.

A motion was made by Macey, seconded by Futules, that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

[11308-19](#)

A Resolution of the County of Allegheny amending the Capital Budgets for 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

At the request of the Chair, the clerk read the title of the bill and Mr. McKain summarized its provisions, noting that the concept at issue is to use existing capital appropriations - which do not lapse - for older projects that no longer require the same amount of funding due to project completion or other factors and re-purpose the appropriations for projects that are current and necessary. Mr. McKain indicated that the total of the changes would be about \$6.8 million from old project appropriations, to be re-purposed to purchase road construction/maintenance equipment, cover costs in the in-house paving program, technology improvements, facility improvements, road rehabilitation, and landslide and lateral support projects. Mr. McKain highlighted the needs of the new Department of Information Technology and the particularly significant impact of landslides throughout the County due to weather conditions over the last few years.

Mr. Macey highlighted the importance of having the correct equipment and well-trained employees for efficient public works operations.

Ms. Means, Mr. Macey and the Chair thanked everyone for their work on and throughout the budget process.

The Chair thanked Ms. Roka for her dedication throughout the process, and complimented her on her work.

A motion was made by Means, seconded by Macey, that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:31.