

Allegheny County Council

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Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 10, 2016

4:00 PM

Conference Room 1

Committee on Budget and Finance

Mike Finnerty, Chair

Members; Sam DeMarco, Nick Futules, Paul Klein, Ed Kress, Bob Macey, Chuck Martoni, Sue Means, John Palmiere

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:03.

Invited Guests:

William D. McKain, CPA, County Manager or Designee

Mary Soroka, County Budget Director or Designee

Ms. Parees was present from the Office of the County Manager.

Ms. Soroka, Mr. Lentz and Ms. Berbekec were present from the Department of Budget and Finance.

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

II. Roll Call

Members Present: 4 - Finnerty, Sam DeMarco, Ed Kress and Sue Means

Members Absent: 4 - Paul Klein, Bob Macey, Chuck Martoni and John Palmiere

Members Phone: 1 - Nick Futules

III. Approval of Minutes

[9899-16](#)

Motion to approve the minutes of the Budget and Finance Committee Held on November 3, 2016.

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

IV. Agenda Items

Resolutions

[9902-16](#)

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, 2017 and ending December 31, 2017.

Sponsors: Council Member Finnerty, Council Member DeMarco, Council Member Macey, Council Member Martoni, Council Member Means and Council Member Palmiere

At the request of the Chair, the clerk read the title of the bill. The Chair explained the differences between this bill and the one sponsored by the Chief Executive, noting that the Community Development Block Grant funding had been removed, pending project identification and approval, and that a small grant totalling \$2,500 had been received since the Executive introduced his bill.

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

Discussion Topic**The 2017 Grants and Special Accounts Budget, the 2017 Capital Budget and the 2017 Operating Budget.**

At the request of the Chair, Ms. Soroka and Mr. Lentz came to the table to discuss the capital budget.

The Chair noted that there had been a request made by a Council Member to establish appropriations to refurbish the Settler's Cabin swimming pool and for a pair of paving projects.

Ms. Soroka provided a basic overview of the capital budget, noting that just over 50% of the most recent total bond issuance is being appropriated for projects this year due to the Courthouse roof refurbishment project.

In response to a question from the Chair, Mr. Lentz noted that federal bridge project funding requires a 15% match from the Commonwealth and a 5% match from the County.

Ms. Soroka noted the various categories of capital expenditures, including bridges, the Port Authority and roads, and described the changes in how the information relating to capital projects has changed for the 2017 CFP information books.

In response to a question from Mr. DeMarco, Mr. Lentz noted that state bridge projects that do not have a federal funding component generally require a 20% County match, and that these typically relate to smaller bridges.

In response to a question from the Chair, Ms. Soroka gave a basic overview of the County's five year capital funding plan, noting the bridge project funding is expected to increase over the course of the five years, while road project funding is anticipated to remain relatively consistent.

In response to a question from Mr. DeMarco, Ms. Soroka noted that capital appropriations do not expire, and described some of the circumstances that can impact the timing of capital projects, but also noted that there is no formal process for determining when a capital project is completed.

The Chair noted that the Department of Public Works has started providing periodic notifications of projects that are beginning.

In response to a question from Mr. Kress, Mr. Lentz indicated that very often appropriations for bridge projects are planned in phases, and as a result, multiple appropriations appear over the course of different years.

The Chair and Ms. Means discussed the 16th Street Bridge cleanup suggestion made during public comment at the last regular meeting.

Ms. Soroka noted that each of the County parks received the anticipated park improvement funding.

The Chair noted that the paving program is important to a large number of constituents, and indicated that the \$5 supplemental registration fee generates revenue to help with this program.

The Chair and Ms. Means discussed the possible mechanisms for requesting specific capital projects.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:26.