

Allegheny County Council

*County of Allegheny
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Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 8, 2006

4:00 PM

Conference Room 1

Special Committee on Government Reform

Rich Fitzgerald, Chair -- Committee of the Whole

I. Call to Order

Summary: *The meeting was called to order at 4:03.*

Invited Guests:

John Weinstein, County Treasurer

Jim Flynn, County Manager

Stewart Sutin, President of CCAC

Paul Whitehead, Chairman of CCAC Board

Summary: *Invited Guests Present: Uber, Weinstein*

Recognized Attendees: Bob Polczynski (First Commonwealth Bank)

Council Staff Present: Barker, Liptak

II. Roll Call

Roll Call: Present: Joan Cleary, Michael Finnerty, Brenda Frazier, Chuck Martoni, and Chair Rich Fitzgerald

Absent: Jim Burn, Susan Caldwell, John DeFazio, Matt Drozd, Dave Fawcett, Vince Gastgeb, Rich Nerone, Jan Rea, and William Robinson

III. Agenda Items

Ordinance

2330-06

An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, to facilitate the reporting and recording of information by contractors operating within Allegheny County.

Sponsors: Rich Fitzgerald, Chuck Martoni, Jim Burn, John DeFazio, Vince Gastgeb, C.L. Jabbour, Eileen Watt, Rich Nerone, Joan Cleary, Michael Finnerty and Jan Rea

Summary: *The Chair referred to a letter from Mr. Weinstein regarding the ordinance, and deferred to him.*

Mr. Weinstein noted that he and his solicitor had taken a hard look at the ordinance and came up with a few concerns. First and foremost is the nature of the program; if it is voluntary, he is not sure how effective it will be. Mr. Weinstein also expressed concerns over the authority for administering the program being vested primarily with the Office of the Treasurer, but noted that he does want to work through these issues with Council.

The Chair noted that some of the issues that Mr. Weinstein had mentioned were of concern during the drafting process. Mr. Weinstein noted that enforcement might be an issue as well, because there are no penalties present in the ordinance's current form. Mr. Weinstein suggested getting the input of the District Attorney.

The Chair noted that Mr. Gastgeb has a pending bill that would ask the General Assembly to broaden the County's authority in this area, and elected to hold the bill in

committee.

Action: Held in Committee

2599-06

An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania authorizing acceptance of a donation of personal property for use by the County.

Sponsors: Jim Burn, Joan Cleary, Michael Finnerty, William Russell Robinson, Rich Fitzgerald and Bob Macey

Summary: *The Chair read the title and explained the ordinance, then deferred to Mr. Polczynski.*

Mr. Polczynski noted that he was already familiar with the rules governing the acceptance of property by the County, and that First Commonwealth has already presented reproductions of antique pictures to Westmoreland County as a token of their appreciation. He then described the photograph that was being offered to Allegheny County.

Action: A motion was made by Finnerty, seconded by Cleary, that this matter be Released from the Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

2600-06

Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, amending Ordinance No. 54-05, which established the parameters under which the County administration may enter into discussions regarding the cooperation of the City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County in the performance and exercise of certain governmental functions, to clarify County policy on the pursuit of intergovernmental cooperation with the City of Pittsburgh.

Sponsors: Vince Gastgeb, Jan Rea, Matt Drozd and Susan Caldwell

Summary: *The Chair read the title, noted that no sponsors were present, and held the bill.*

Action: Held in Committee

2601-06

An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, establishing County policy on funding the use of private homes or businesses as polling places in order to assure compliance with the requirements of Act 45 of 2006, the Voter Accessibility Act.

Sponsors: Susan Caldwell, Vince Gastgeb, Jan Rea and Matt Drozd

Summary: *The Chair read the title, noted that no sponsors were present, and held the bill.*

Council Member Finnerty and Vice President Martoni expressed concerns over the bill.

Action: Held in Committee

Resolution

2541-06 A Resolution of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, urging the Pennsylvania General Assembly to adopt provisions requiring a referendum before any school district may raise its property taxes through a millage increase similar to those contained within Act 72 of 2004 pertaining to earned income and personal income tax increases.

Sponsors: Matt Drozd

Summary: *The Chair read the title, noted that no sponsors were present, and held the bill.*

Action: Held in Committee

Discussion Topic:

Discussion on the public's access to records kept by the Community College

Summary: *The Chair noted that this is an issue of extreme importance, and that President Sutin was unavailable to attend this meeting. His appearance has been rescheduled for June 22.*

IV. Adjournment

Summary: *The meeting was adjourned at 4:39.*