

Allegheny County Council

*County of Allegheny
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Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 23, 2009

5:00 PM

Conference Room 1

Committee on Government Reform

***Rich Fitzgerald, Chair; Jim Burn, Jim Ellenbogen, Nick Futules, Vince Gastgeb,
Amanda Green, Bob Macey, and Chuck McCullough - Members***

I. Call to Order

Summary: *The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM*

Invited Guests:

Jim Flynn, County Manager or Designee

Tim Johnson, Director, Administrative Services

Amy Griser, Director, Budget & Finance

Joe Olczak, Director, Department of Public Works

Summary: *Invited Guests in attendance: Derek Uber for Mr. Flynn, Mr. Johnson, Ms. Griser, and Joe Olczak*

Recognized Attendees: Phil La May, Public Works

Council Staff in attendance: John Mascio, Jennifer Liptak, Jared Barker, and Joe Catanese

II. Roll Call

Roll Call: Present: Bob Macey, and Rich Fitzgerald

Absent: Jim Burn, Jim Ellenbogen, Nick Futules, Vince Gastgeb, Amanda Green, and Chuck McCullough

III. Agenda Items

Ordinance

4809-09

An Ordinance amending and supplementing the Allegheny County Code of Ordinances through the creation of a new Chapter 720, entitled "Energy Resources," in order to establish County policy for the use of energy resources derived from property owned by Allegheny County.

Sponsors: Rich Fitzgerald, Bob Macey, John DeFazio, Nick Futules, Vince Gastgeb, Michael Finnerty, Jim Ellenbogen and William Russell Robinson

Summary: *The Chair referred to various questions he sent to Mr. Olczak and Ms. Griser regarding this issue.*

Mr. Olczak and Mr. La May said that the County is receiving 8.1 million dollars from the Stimulus Package for energy conservation projects and initiatives. They said that they are going to propose various projects and programs that they would like to use the money for. Mr. Olczak said that he believes that they have enough information and the right criteria to assure that their proposed projects and programs are approved for funding. He discussed some possible projects and programs.

Ms. Griser explained that these funds are a Federal Grant from the Department of Energy. She described the grant and the processes and procedures necessary to gain federal approval for use of the funds. She described some of the eligible programs and projects that the Federal government will approve.

Ms. Griser said that these projects will have to come through Council to amend the grants budgets. She also provided the committee with a list of county owned buildings that would be eligible for this funding.

Ms. Griser and Mr. Olczak discussed the possible use of these funds for county owned buildings and vehicles.

The Chair asked about the use of these funds for county owned land and facilities. Ms. Griser, Mr. Johnson, and Mr. Olczak provided the committee with a general description of land and facilities that may be eligible for the use of these funds, and discussed possible energy saving initiatives that could be applied to this.

At the request of the Chair, Mr. Johnson discussed alternative energy sources that may be eligible for funding. He discussed general strategies that he is exploring to offset energy costs for the county.

The Chair said that he will have on-going committee meetings to further explore the relationship of these funds to the purpose of his bill.

Action: **Held in Committee**

IV. Adjournment

Summary: *The meeting adjourned at 5:45 PM*