

Allegheny County Council

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Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

4:00 PM

Conference Room 1

Committee on Budget and Finance

William Russell Robinson, Chair; Jim Burn, Joan Cleary, John DeFazio, Matt Drozd, Mike Finnerty, Vince Gastgeb, Amanda Green, Bob Macey, and Chuck McCullough - Members

I. Call to Order

Summary: *The meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM*

Invited Guests:

Jim Flynn, County Manager

Amy Griser, Director of Budget & Finance

Derek Uber, Deputy County Manager

Summary: *Invited guests in attendance: Mr. Flynn, Ms. Griser, and Mr. Uber*

Recognized attendees: Jack Exler, Cassandra Collins, and Donna Joyce, Economic Development

Council staff in attendance: John Mascio and Jennifer Liptak

II. Roll Call

Roll Call: Present: Michael Finnerty, William Robinson, and Nick Futules

Absent: Jim Burn, Joan Cleary, John DeFazio, Matt Drozd, Vince Gastgeb, Amanda Green, Bob Macey, and Chuck McCullough

III. Agenda Items**Resolution****4569-09**

A Resolution of the County of Allegheny amending the Grants and Special Accounts Budget for 2009 (Submission #01-09).

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Summary: *Ms. Liptak provided the committee with a summary of the bill. She briefly described each budget block contained in the bill.*

The Chair referenced a memo (on file) dated December 15, 2008, sent to all Members of Council from Ms. Liptak. He asked Ms. Liptak to describe the contents of the memo. She said that the memo contained a list of tentative Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) project funding recommendations prepared by the County's Department of Economic Development. The memo requested that Members of Council review the information and forward to her any questions or comments and she would in turn forward them to the County Manager.

The Chair said that he was going to ask Councilmember Burn, Chairman of Council's Committee on Public Safety, to explore the possibility of the construction of a new facility for the Shuman Center. He said that he believes the current facility has outlived its usefulness. He said that he will share his concerns with Mr. Burn and ask him to explore that through his committee.

Mr. Finnerty had some questions regarding the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP). The Chair referenced an e-mail (on file) dated December 11, 2008, from Ms. Liptak to all Members of Council. The e-mail contained information on the new NSP as

prepared by the County's Department of Economic Development. Mr. Finnerty asked if there were any stipulations on how these funds could be used. The Chair asked Mr. Excler, Ms. Collins, and Ms. Joyce to address this issue. They collectively addressed the issue of eligibility restrictions. They said that there were specific stipulations on the use of the money and they described to the committee what requirements were necessary in order to be eligible to receive these funds.

Action: **A motion was made that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried unanimously.**

Discussion Topic:

1. Department/Office Review Process

Summary: *The Chair referenced a memo (on file) dated January 23, 2009, that he sent to Chief Executive Dan Onorato informing him of the process that the Budget and Finance Committee will use as a means of providing Councilmembers with detailed information of the operations of County Departments as they relate to the overall operations and purpose of County government. He described this process to the committee.*

He said that this is in no way an attempt to perform an official review or an audit. He said that the information will be used by the Committee and Members of Council to assist them in the preparation of the 2010 budget. He urged all Members of Council to be actively involved in this process.

V. Adjournment

Summary: *The meeting adjourned at 4:35 PM*