

Allegheny County Council

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Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 28, 2017

4:00 PM

Conference Room 1

Committee on Budget and Finance

Paul Klein, Chair; Patrick Catena, Samuel DeMarco, Nick Futules, Ed Kress, Bob Macey, Charles Martoni, Sue Means and John Palmiere, Members.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:03.

Invited Guests:

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

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

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

II. Roll Call

Members Present: 7 - Patrick Catena, Sam DeMarco, Nick Futules, Paul Klein, Chuck Martoni, Sue Means and John Palmiere

Members Absent: 2 - Ed Kress and Bob Macey

Members 1 - Cindy Kirk

Non-Members:

III. Approval of Minutes

[10222-17](#)

Motion to approve the minutes of the Budget and Finance Committee Meeting held on May 31, 2017.

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

IV. Agenda Items

Resolutions

[10217-17](#)

A Resolution of the County of Allegheny amending the Grants and Special Accounts Budget for 2017 (Submission #07-17).

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 first component is just over \$10,000 to fund motor vehicle fire investigation training 30-50 fire investigators from the County and State Police, as well as insurance investigators, to be conducted by the Public Agency Training Council.

In response to questions from Ms. Means, Ms. Soroka indicated that there is no County match and Mr. McKain noted that the County does receive some insurance-related funding from year to year, but that this is a new grant.

In response to a question from Mr. DeMarco, Mr. McKain indicated that participation would be documented, but that he is not aware of any licensure or certification that results from the training.

Mr. McKain discussed the second component of the proposed amendment, noting that the envisioned grant is just over \$211,000 from the PA Department of Health to fund a 3

year duration program that will entail the hiring of two new County employees who will engage in educational programs throughout the County regarding health and safety of low income and low access communities. Mr. McKain noted that the County would employ advertising, press releases, internet advertising, and the like in order to improve participation in SNAPs, community gardens, participation in farmers' markets, and the like as they relate to nutrition. Mr. McKain indicated that educational programs would also be undertaken to improve motor vehicle safety for drivers over the age of 55, and increase community awareness regarding traumatic brain injuries and child and partner neglect and violence. Mr. McKain and Ms. Soroka noted that there is no County match required. Ms. Soroka noted that the success criteria were set by the granting agencies, and Mr. McKain noted that Dr. Hacker indicated that the criteria appear to be achievable.

In response to a question from the Chair, Mr. McKain indicated that the new employees will be informed that their hiring is the result of a grant and that they may not continue beyond the end of the grant period, depending upon circumstances.

The Chair and Ms. Soroka discussed the possibility of obtaining future grant revenues to continue the program, should it be deemed successful.

In response to questions from Ms. Means, Mr. McKain noted that the two employees' salaries plus fringe benefits would total roughly \$133,000 and that he has no reservations about the funding continuing through the contemplated 3 year program term.

In response to a question from Ms. Kirk, Mr. McKain noted that quarterly reporting is required, and that he is confident that the delineated success criteria can be met based on his interactions with Dr. Hacker.

In response to a question from Mr. DeMarco, Mr. McKain indicated that, while there would only be two new County employees hired, the program will also rely upon support from existing County employees and other agencies.

In response to a question from Mr. DeMarco, Mr. McKain noted that it is comparatively rare that employees are retained in exactly the same positions after their grant funding ends, but that good employees generally find continuing County employment in other positions if that is what they want to do.

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

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:21.