

Allegheny County Council

*County of Allegheny
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Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 9, 2008

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

Dennis Davin, Director, Department of Economic Development

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

Recognized attendees: Valerie McDonald Roberts, Director, Department of Real Estate; Andy Baechle, Director, Parks & Recreation; Clarence Hopson, Department of Parks & Recreation; Jack Excler and Cassandra Collinge, Economic Development

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

II. Roll Call

Roll Call: Present: Matt Drozd, Michael Finnerty, Amanda Green, Bob Macey, Chair William Robinson, and Council Member Nick Futules
Absent: Jim Burn, Joan Cleary, John DeFazio, Vince Gastgeb, and Chuck McCullough

III. Agenda Items**Ordinances****4498-08**

An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, to amend and revise in part the fees and rates schedule of the Department of Parks for the use of certain County recreational and park facilities, the fees and rates schedule of the County Medical Examiner for certain services provided by the County Medical Examiner and the fees and rates schedule of the County Department of Real Estate for certain services provided by the Department of Real Estate to be effective January 1, 2009.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Summary: *Ms. Liptak provided the Committee with a summary of the bill. She said that this legislation would amend and revise in part the fees and rates schedule of the Department of Parks for the use of certain County recreational and park facilities, the fees and rates schedule of the County Medical Examiner for certain services provided by the County Medical Examiner and the fees and rates schedule of the County Department of Real Estate for certain services provided by the Department of Real Estate to be effective January 1, 2009.*

The Chair said that he was asked by Council President Fitzgerald to review this bill with Councilman Futules, the Chairman of Council's Committee on Parks. He said that they addressed most of the major issues surrounding the bill. Ms. Liptak said that they will need to amend the bill to adjust the effective date for the Department of Real Estate.

Ms. Griser provided a further summary of the bill. She said that she met with respective

department heads and discussed and reviewed various fees, and that it was determined that the proposed fees are necessary and appropriate.

Mr. Macey asked Ms. McDonald-Roberts to explain to the Committee the Miscellaneous Mortgage Fee. She provided that explanation to the Committee.

Mr. Futules asked Mr. Baechle and Mr. Hopson to comment on some of the proposed park fees. They provided detailed information on the fees. Mr. Baechle said that the fees would generate close to \$400,000 of additional needed revenue.

Mr. Macey said that he believes that the park fees are affordable and fair.

Action: **A motion was made by Finnerty, seconded by Macey, that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried unanimously.**

Discussion Topic

The Department of Economic Development will present information on the new Neighborhood Stabilization Program.

Summary: *Mr. Davin, Mr. Excler, and Ms. Collinge collectively provided the Committee with an overview of the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP). They distributed to the committee a document (on file) entitled, "Neighborhood Stabilization Program", and they proceeded to review the document with the Committee. The document included an overview of the program; eligible activities & proposed budget; targeted areas; and a NSP timeline.*

Some discussion took place regarding the targeted areas and how they are determined. Mr. Davin explained how they structure the application process. Mr. Davin also said that the Federal Government (HUD) wants the County to expend these funds quickly. He said that if they do not use the funds in a timely fashion HUD would rescind the unused portion.

IV. Adjournment

Summary: *The meeting adjourned at 4:55 PM*