

Allegheny County Council

*County of Allegheny
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Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 24, 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 p.m.*

Invited Guests:

Jim Flynn, County Manager or Designee
Amy Griser, Director of Budget & Finance
Derek Uber, Deputy County Manager
Michael Wojcik, Allegheny County Solicitor

Summary: *Invited Guests Present: Jim Flynn, County Manager; Derek Uber, Deputy County Manager; Michael Wojcik, Allegheny County Solicitor, and Greg Casciato for Ms. Griser*

Recognized Attendees: Jerry Tyskiewicz, Courts

Council Staff Present: Jennifer Liptak; Jared Barker; Joe Catanese; Stephanie Buka

II. Roll Call

Roll Call: Present: John DeFazio, Matt Drozd, Michael Finnerty, Vince Gastgeb, Amanda Green, Bob Macey, Chuck McCullough, William Robinson, Rich Fitzgerald, Chuck Martoni, Jan Rea, and Nick Futules
Absent: Jim Burn, and Joan Cleary

III. Approval of Minutes

4656-09 Motion to approve the Minutes of the February 10, 2009 Budget & Finance Committee Meeting.

Action: **A motion was made that this matter be Passed. The motion carried by the following vote:**

Votes: Yes: 6 - DeFazio, Drozd, Finnerty, Gastgeb, Macey and Robinson
Abstain: 2 - Green and McCullough
Absent: 2 - Burn and Cleary
Non-Member: 4 - Fitzgerald, Martoni, Rea and Futules

IV. Agenda Items**Ordinances**

3854-08 An Ordinance amending and supplementing the Allegheny County Code of Ordinances, Division 1, entitled "Administrative Code," Article 808.B, "Rental Vehicle Taxation," in order to provide consistency with regard to exemptions from the County tax on the rental of certain motor vehicles within the County and the exemptions from taxes imposed by the Commonwealth on such rentals.

Sponsors: William Russell Robinson, Joan Cleary, Vince Gastgeb, Michael Finnerty, Matt Drozd, Nick Futules, Amanda Green and Bob Macey

Summary: *Ms. Liptak said she is in the process of preparing a Fiscal Note for the rental car tax exemption for non-profits, which would mimic the exemption at the state level. She*

commented that the Treasurer and various car rental agencies have been cooperative in providing data. She added that the Fiscal Note would be ready for presentation, as an attachment to the bill, at the next Budget and Finance Committee Meeting.

Councilman Gastgeb mentioned that he introduced similar legislation and requested clarification. Chairman Robinson said this legislation would apply the same exemption that the state provides.

Councilman Gastgeb said the car rental industry's estimate is somewhere around \$100,000. Chairman Robinson said the Fiscal Note will be attached to the bill and provided at the next committee meeting.

Action: Held in Committee

4630-09

An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, requiring and authorizing a review of the Allegheny County Clerk of Courts, Prothonotary, Register of Wills and Recorder of Deeds, as well as the former Offices of the Jury Commissioners and Coroner under the terms of Chapter 225 of the Allegheny County Code of Ordinances and Article 1201 of the Administrative Code of Allegheny County.

Sponsors: William Russell Robinson

Summary: *Chairman Robinson said when the court related offices merged or consolidated, a review did not occur. He said Council has the primary responsibility to fund this new system, and as such, a review of the merger is in order.*

Mr. Barker explained that the bill is drafted as a legislative time-out until the Sunset review is completed, as required by the Code.

Ms. Liptak said Members will receive, within the next few weeks, a copy of the County departments they will be evaluating.

Chairman Robinson said this particular piece of legislation is designed to ensure Council's legal obligation with the Charter and the Code.

Councilman McCullough suggested that a Memorandum of Law from Mr. Barker may be helpful. The Chairman said he would accept such a request in an e-mail.

Councilman Finnerty questioned the financial impact and Chairman Robinson said they would determine such.

Action: Held in Committee

Resolution

4632-09

A Resolution of the County of Allegheny amending the Grants and Special Accounts Budget for 2009 (Submission #03-09).

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Summary: *Ms. Liptak explained the amendment to the Grants and Special Accounts Budget for*

2009 and said everything is in order.

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

V. Adjournment

Summary: *The meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.*