

# **Allegheny County Council**

*County of Allegheny  
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## **Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, November 14, 2006**

**4:00 PM**

**Conference Room 1**

## **Committee on Budget and Finance**

***William Russell Robinson, Chair; Jim Burn, Susan Caldwell, Joan Cleary, Matt Drozd, Mike Finnerty, Brenda Frazier, and Vince Gastgeb - Members***

**I. Call to Order**

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

**Invited Guests:**

**Jim Flynn, County Manager or Designee**

**Amy Griser, Director, Budget & Finance**

**Derek Uber, Deputy County Manager**

**Summary:** *Invited Guests Present: Mr. Flynn, Ms. Griser, and Mr. Uber*

*Council Staff Present: Jennifer Liptak, John Mascio, and Jared Barker*

**II. Roll Call**

**Summary:** *Non Committee Council Members in attendance: Council Member Rea*

**Roll Call:** Present: Jim Burn, Susan Caldwell, Joan Cleary, Matt Drozd, Michael Finnerty, Brenda Frazier, Vince Gastgeb, and Chair William Robinson

**III. Approval of Minutes**

**2857-06** Motion to approve the Minutes of the October 19, 2006 Budget & Finance Committee Meeting.

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

**IV. Agenda Items****Ordinance**

**2852-06** An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, amending and supplementing the Allegheny County Code of Ordinances, Division 2, entitled "County Government Operations," by creating a new Article 208, entitled "Community Benefits Program," in order to establish a policy of providing for community and private-sector input when the County provides capital funding through a direct appropriation, a subsidy or deferment of taxes, or a bond project.

**Sponsors:** William Russell Robinson

**Summary:** *Chairman Robinson read the bill and, as the bill's sponsor, described the purpose of the bill to Members. The Chair asked if any Members had any questions regarding his legislation and mentioned that Mr. Barker was also available to answer questions. Committee Member Cleary asked how members of the Community Based Program committee would be determined. Chairman Robinson indicated that Council could be included in the selection of the Committee and deferred to Mr. Barker for concurrence. Mr. Barker concurred. Chairman Robinson continued to describe how he envisioned the process for this program and the selection of the committee members. Committee Member Frazier asked if Council could be involved in the process. Chairman Robinson indicated that he believed Council could be a part of this process.*

*Committee Member Gastgeb asked if the Route 65 project could be included in this bill. Chairman Robinson indicated that he did not believe that the Route 65 project would be included. Mr. Barker indicated that the process contained in the bill is an incentive process not a mandatory process. Committee Member Gastgeb indicated that he feels that this should be a mandatory process. Chairman Robinson indicated that it was not his intent to challenge state law by regulating business. This bill is designed to help coordinate cooperation.*

*Council Member Cleary asked for County Manager Flynn to answer a question- Can this process be voluntary? Chairman Robinson invited County Manager Flynn to the table to response to Committee Member Cleary's question.*

*County Manager Flynn indicated that he believes that the County needs to be invited to participate in a project. He felt that the County's Law Department should review the legislation because it deals with binding agreements. He also indicated that Director Davin/Economic Development should be invited/present to comment on this legislation and clarify the County's current process.*

*Chairman Robinson indicated that it was not his intent to move the bill tonight; this meeting was intended to allow Members to discuss the bill. He asked Mr. Barker to discuss the structure of the bill.*

*Mr. Barker described the bill. Committee Member Finnerty indicated that binding agreements may need to be incorporated into the bill's process.*

*Committee Member Drozd discussed the Route 65 project and how it relates to the bill.*

*Chairman Robinson indicated that he would hold the bill to allow the Members/Administration to review the bill.*

**Action:** Held in Committee

## Resolution

### 2842-06

A Resolution of the County of Allegheny amending the Grants and Special Accounts Budget for 2006 (Submission #12-06).

**Sponsors:** Chief Executive

**Summary:** *Chairman Robinson asked Members to review the bill and attached information prior to taking a vote and asked Ms. Liptak to briefly describe the content of the bill. Ms. Liptak indicated that the content included in the bill appears to be in order. Chairman Robinson called for a vote. Council Member Finnerty made a motion to approve 2842-06. Council Member Gastgeb gave a second*

*Chairman Robinson asked if any member had any questions. Chairman Robinson called for a vote. Voice vote - all yes*

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

Enactment No: 46-06-RE

## Discussion Topic:

**The 2007 Comprehensive Fiscal Plan**

**Summary:** *Chairman Robinson indicated that if members want to participate in the budget drafting process, they need to coordinate with him and Ms. Liptak to ensure that the budget is balanced. He continued to discuss the rules regarding the budget/amendment process.*

*Ms. Liptak described the budget process and provided draft budget working documents for the Members to review. Ms. Liptak described the changes that are in the draft documents as they relate to the 2007 Comprehensive Fiscal Plan as prepared by the Chief Executive. She continued by provided Members with a deadline for recommendations/changes for the 2007 budget legislation.*

*Committee Member Gastgeb asked about the process for the CDBG appropriation for 2007. Chairman Robinson indicated the he anticipated using the same process as used in the previous two years. The Committee continued to discuss the relationship between the Council of Governments and CDBG funding.*

*Chairman Robinson indicated that the Councils second Department/Row Office Budget Inquiry would be provided to Members next week. Ms. Liptak indicated that she would provide those responses to Members next week.*

*Council Member Gastgeb indicated he wanted additional information on the use of CDBG, and Tobacco control funds. Ms. Liptak discussed these funds and explained how they are generally used.*

*Mr. Robinson asked Ms. Liptak to make any necessary corrections to the draft documents discussed this evening and distribute those updated documents to all Members.*

*Chairman Robinson indicated that he would recess the meeting to the call of the Chair. He anticipated reconvening the meeting next Tuesday.*

**V. Adjournment**

**Summary:** *The meeting was recessed at 5:00 PM*