

# **Allegheny County Council**

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## **Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, February 14, 2006**

**5:00 PM**

**Conference Room 1**

## **Committee on Budget and Finance**

*William Russell Robinson, Chair; Jim Burn, Joan Cleary, Matt Drozd, Mike Finnerty, Brenda Frazier, Vince Gastgeb, and Rich Nerone*

**I. Call to Order**

**Summary:** *The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM, then recessed at the call of the Chair. The meeting reconvened at 5:10 PM*

**Invited Guests:**

**Jim Flynn, County Manager or Designee**

**Amy Girser, Director, Budget & Finance**

**Derek Uber, Assistant County Manager**

**Summary:** *Invited Guests in attendance: Ms. Griser and Mr. Uber*

*Council staff in attendance: Joe Catanese, John Mascio, and Jared Barker*

**II. Roll Call**

**Summary:** *Ex-Officio Member in attendance - Council President Fitzgerald*

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

**III. Approval of Minutes**

**2378-06** Motion to approve the Minutes of the November 17, November 29, December 1 and December 13, 2005 Budget & Finance Committee Meeting.

**Summary:** *The Chair welcomed the new members of the committee and provided them with an overview of the mission, purpose and procedures of the committee. The new members of the committee opted to abstain from voting on the minutes since they were not present at the meetings.*

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

**Votes:** Yes: 3 - Cleary, Frazier and Chair Robinson  
Abstain: 4 - Burn, Drozd, Finnerty and Nerone  
Absent: 1 - Gastgeb

**IV. Agenda Items****Resolution**

**2371-06** A Resolution of the County of Allegheny amending the Grants and Special Accounts Budget for 2006 (Submission #01-06).

**Sponsors:** Chief Executive

**Summary:** *The Chair explained the procedure for approving Grants Budget amendments. He said that even though the bill contains separate items, they are bundled together in one bill for convenience and they vote on them as a group. He said that if a committee member has a problem with one of the items, he would be inclined to hold the entire bundle.*

*Mr. Fitzgerald asked why the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding is*

*less than last year. The Chair said that was because there was not as much money available from the federal government. Mr. Exler explained the formula for CDGB funding made available to the county. He indicated that they try to predict how much they will receive, but they received less than they predicted. The Chair asked if the federal government's reduction in CDBG funds would have an impact on the county's fiscal position and budget process. Ms. Griser said that it has no impact on the operating budget but will impact the number of projects they could implement.*

*Mr. Drozd asked if they could prioritize CDBG projects for the communities. Mr. Exler said that they receive applications for funding far in excess of the amount available. He broke down the percentage of appropriation per types of projects.*

*Mr. Fitzgerald said that the committee could have the county's Economic Development team give a presentation regarding the CDBG process to the new council members. The Chair agreed and said that should be standard practice for this council. He said that he would rely on Mr. Fitzgerald to arrange this.*

*The Chair said that there were discussion with the administration as to whether Council should be more involved in the process. He said that this Council desired a more substantial role but that has yet to be identified. He said that they need to find a way to work closer with the administration on this. He said that Council needs to have a more defined role. He said that he introduced legislation providing a formula for Council to appropriate some funding to their constituents. He said that the committee has the option of not moving on this legislation until Economic Development made their presentation and talk further with the administration and constituents to see how they would want to move.*

*Ms. Griser said that holding the bill may present a problem since they need to finalize the CDBG budget by March 1, 2006, and there is a process involved even after Council's approval that would take some time. The Chair reminded the committee that they passed legislation which would place 3 members of Council in the reviewing process - The Finance Chair, Economic Development Chair, and the President of Council. The Chair asked Mr. Fitzgerald to contact the administration to make sure that Council is in the loop. He said that he is inclined to allow this bill to move forward if there were no objections. There were none.*

**Action:**      **A motion was made by Burn, seconded by Finnerty, that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Votes:**      Yes: 7 - Burn, Cleary, Drozd, Finnerty, Frazier, Nerone and Chair Robinson  
                 Absent: 1 - Gastgeb

## **V.      Adjournment**

**Summary:**      *The meeting adjourned at 5:55 PM*