

Allegheny County Council

*County of Allegheny
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Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 17, 2005

4:00 PM

Conference Room 1

Committee on Budget and Finance

*William Russell Robinson, Chair; John DeFazio, Ron Francis, Brenda Frazier,
Vince Gastgeb, Jay Jabbour, and Doug Price*

I. Call to Order

Summary: *The meeting was called to order at 4:10.*

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*

Recognized Attendees: Commander Rizzo, Sheriff's Office

Council Staff In Attendance: Jennifer Liptak and Jared Barker

II. Roll Call

Summary: *Non-Committee Council Members Present: Ms. Cleary and Ms. Watt*

Roll Call: Present: William Robinson, John DeFazio, Brenda Frazier, and Vince Gastgeb
Absent: Ron Francis, C.L. Jabbour, and Doug Price

III. Approval of Minutes

2220-05 Motion to approve the Minutes of the October 20, October 25 and November 9, 2005 Budget & Finance Committee Meetings.

Summary:

Action: **A motion was made by DeFazio, seconded by Gastgeb, that this matter be Passed. The motion carried unanimously.**

IV. Agenda Items**Resolutions**

2206-05 A Resolution of the County of Allegheny approving certain Inter-Departmental Transfers in the Operating Budget for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2005 and ending December 31, 2005.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Summary: *The Chair indicated that this bill essentially balances the County's Books for 2005.*

Ms. Liptak indicated that Council had set aside about \$6 million to cover anticipated increases in health care costs, and that this bill simply shifts those funds to the appropriate departments.

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

Enactment No: 50-05-RE

2207-05

A Resolution of the County of Allegheny amending the Grants and Special Accounts Budgets for 2005 (Submission #19-05).

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Summary:

Ms. Liptak summarized the grants and special accounts bill and noted that it appears to be in order.

In response to questions from Mr. DeFazio and Mr. Gastgeb, Ms. Liptak noted that the Sheriffs will need to pay an arbitration award at soe point in 2006, and the portion of this bill pertaining to the Sheriff accounts for that.

Action:

A motion was made by Frazier, seconded by DeFazio, that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried unanimously.

Enactment No: 54-05-RE

2217-05

Resolution of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, adopting an Operating Budget pursuant to Article IV, §2 and Article VII, §4 of the Home Rule Charter, by setting forth appropriations to pay the expenses of conducting the public business of Allegheny County and for meeting debt charges for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2006 and ending December 31, 2006.

Sponsors: William Russell Robinson, Rich Fitzgerald, John DeFazio, Brenda Frazier and Joan Cleary

Summary:

The Chair requested that the following memo dated November 16, 2005, sent to all Members of Council from Ms. Liptak relative to the budget amendment process be entered into the record. The memo is as follows:

"The Budget Legislation has been placed on the Thursday, November 17th 4 pm Budget and Finance Committee meeting agenda. As you may recall, the Rules of Council were amended this year to allow the Budget and Finance Committee to amend the budget legislation in committee. Please note that this does not preclude any Member from amending the budget legislation at a Regular Meeting of Council. I have included Article V Section D of the Rules of Council (as amended 8/30/05 – Bill No. 1939-05) for your information.

D. Rules for Proposing Modifications to Budgets

1. Council members may propose amendments to the budget legislation under consideration. All recommendations must be submitted in writing to the Budget & Finance Committee prior to the last scheduled committee meeting before the second reading of the tax ordinance and budget resolution at a meeting of Council.

i. All proposed changes to the budget must be in writing.

ii. All proposed changes submitted to the Budget & Finance Committee will be considered for inclusion. A simple majority vote of the seated committee members in the affirmative will amend the original legislation. The vote for recommendation will then be taken by the Committee on the amended budget pursuant to the provisions of the Home Rule Charter, the Administrative Code, and these Rules.

iii. Proposed amendments may be submitted in person at a committee meeting, or, in the event that the person proposing the amendments cannot attend the meeting, they may

submit the amendments through Council's Budget Officer. Amendments must address both expenditures and revenues in order to maintain a balanced budget unless the amendment is intended to reduce the overall spending level without affecting revenues. Amendment in committee shall not preclude the presentation of amendments at a regularly scheduled Council meeting, provided that the content of said amendments is in compliance with this Section.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or if you would like for me to prepare an amendment to the budget legislation for you."

Mr. DeFazio noted that the original budget allocated funding to the Library Association Operating Budget in order to fully fund the bookmobile program.

The Chair discussed Mr. Jabbour's amendment to increase the Clerk of Courts' Operating Budget by \$54,200 in funding to be removed from the Administrative Services Operating Budget. This would be done to increase the efficiency of the Clerk of Courts by allowing the hiring of two additional employees. In the absence of Mr. Jabbour, consideration of this amendment was deferred.

Ms. Watt introduced an amendment that would provide \$15,000 in funding for a veterans' business symposium to be held at CCAC. Ms. Watt described a similar program in Lorraine, Ohio, and answered questions from Council Members Frazier and Cleary about the program's form and function.

Action:

Amended & Held in Committee

Enactment No: 55-05-RE

2218-05

Resolution of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, adopting a Capital Budget pursuant to Article IV, §2 and Article VII, §4 of the Home Rule Charter by setting forth appropriations to pay the expenses for capital expenditures during the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2006 and ending December 31, 2006.

Sponsors: William Russell Robinson, John DeFazio, Rich Fitzgerald, Brenda Frazier and Joan Cleary

Enactment No: 56-05-RE

2219-05

Resolution of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, adopting the Grants, Special Accounts, and Agency Fund Budgets, by setting forth appropriations to pay said expenses during the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2006 and ending December 31, 2006.

Sponsors: William Russell Robinson, John DeFazio, Rich Fitzgerald, Brenda Frazier and Joan Cleary

Summary:

The Chair discussed an amendment to make a correction, but that amendment was held for consideration at the November 29 meeting.

Enactment No: 57-05-RE

Ordinance**2212-05**

An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, establishing the tax levy upon all real property subject to taxation within the limits of Allegheny County.

Sponsors: William Russell Robinson, John DeFazio, Rich Fitzgerald, Brenda Frazier, Joan Cleary and C.L. Jabbour

Enactment No: 53-05-OR

V. Adjournment

Summary: *At 4:56, the meeting was recessed until November 29, 2005 at 4:00 p.m.*