

Allegheny County Council

*County of Allegheny
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Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 1, 2009

5:00 PM

Conference Room 1

Committee on Government Reform

*Rich Fitzgerald, Chair; Jim Burn, Jim Ellenbogen, Mike Finnerty, Nick Futules,
Vince Gastgeb, Amanda Green, Bob Macey, and Chuck McCullough - Members*

I. Call to Order

Summary: *The meeting was called to order at 5:01.*

Invited Guests:

Jim Flynn, County Manager or Designee

Allegheny County Board of Investment Members or Designee

Summary: *Invited Guests Present: County Controller Mark Flaherty, Deputy County Manager Derek Uber*

Recognized Attendees: John. Donis, Controller's Office; Guy Tumolo, Deputy County Controller; Amy Griser, Director of Budget and Finance; Kevin Evanto, Director of County Communications

Council Staff Present: Jared Barker, Jennifer Liptak

II. Roll Call

Roll Call: Present: Amanda Green Hawkins, Bob Macey, Chuck McCullough, and Rich Fitzgerald
Absent: Jim Burn, Jim Ellenbogen, Nick Futules, and Vince Gastgeb
Non-Member: Michael Finnerty, and Matt Drozd

III. Approval of Minutes

5132-09 Motion to approve the Minutes of the September 3, 2009 Government Reform Committee meeting.

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

IV. Agenda Items**Ordinances**

4724-09 An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, amending and supplementing the Allegheny County Code of Ordinances, through the creation of a new Chapter 491, entitled "Investment Policy," in order to provide for divestiture of certain County investments in companies doing business with state sponsors of terrorism.

Sponsors: Chuck McCullough, William Russell Robinson, Amanda Green Hawkins and Matt Drozd

Summary: *The Chair read the title of the bill and deferred to Mr. Flaherty, who discussed the activities of the Board of Investment and the potential implications of the bill.*

In response to a question from Mr. Macey, Mr. Flaherty discussed the Board's investment policy with regard to smaller local financial institutions.

The Chair expressed a desire to get a legal opinion on the bill and held the bill in committee.

Action: Held in Committee

4725-09

An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, amending and supplementing the Allegheny County Code of Ordinances, through the creation of a new Chapter 492, entitled "Contract Policy," in order to establish a County policy for contracting with companies doing business with state sponsors of terrorism.

Sponsors: Chuck McCullough, William Russell Robinson, Amanda Green Hawkins and Matt Drozd

Summary: *The Chair read the bill and Mr. Flaherty and Ms. Griser discussed the potential feasibility of the ordinance.*

The bill was held in committee to allow time to obtain a legal opinion.

Action: Held in Committee

5111-09

An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania authorizing the County Controller and Division of Purchasing and Supplies to conduct an Internet auction of the contents of the County Warehouse and former Coroner and Crime Lab equipment and furniture.

Sponsors: Controller

Summary: *The Chair read the title and deferred to Mr. Flaherty, Mr. Tumolo and Mr. Donis, who discussed the proposed internet auction.*

The Chair expressed a desire to attach the list of property to be sold to the ordinance.

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

Enactment No: 36-09-OR

5112-09

An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, permitting PGH Productions, Inc., to use certain County-owned real property in connection with filming a motion picture.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Summary: *The Chair read the title of the bill and deferred to Mr. Evanto who provided the Committee with an summary of the bill.*

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

Enactment No: 37-09-OR

Motion

5127-09

Motion expressing the Sense of Council of Allegheny County urging the General Assembly to reform the real estate property tax and provide a Safe Harbor Alternative for counties from periodic countywide reassessments by permitting counties to adopt a state established schedule of values per square foot for designated land and improvement types in lieu of property assessments.

Sponsors: Chuck McCullough

Summary: *The Chair read the title of the bill and deferred to Mr. McCullough who explained the bill and distributed a draft amendment for discussion.*

The Chair and Ms. Green expressed concerns about the bill's potential regressive effect.

Action: **A motion was made by Green Hawkins, seconded by McCullough, that this matter be Released from the Committee. The motion carried unanimously.**

Discussion Topic:

Allegheny County Board of Investment

Summary: *Mr. Flaherty and Ms. Griser provided the Committee with an overview of the policies and procedures of the Board of Investment.*

V. Adjournment

Summary: *The meeting adjourned at 6:07.*