

# **Allegheny County Council**

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

**Tuesday, November 10, 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 4:03 p.m.*

**Invited Guests:**

**Jim Flynn, County Manager or Designee**

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

**Derek Uber, Deputy County Manager**

**Summary:** *Invited Guests Present: Jim Flynn, County Manager; Amy Griser, Director of Budget & Finance; Derek Uber, Deputy County Manager*

*Council Staff Present: Jennifer Liptak; Jared Barker; Stephanie Buka*

**II. Roll Call**

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

**III. Approval of Minutes**

**5206-09** Motion to approve the Minutes of the October 22, 2009 Budget & Finance Committee Meeting.

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

**5207-09** Motion to approve the Minutes of the October 27, 2009 Budget & Finance Committee Meeting.

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

**IV. Agenda Items****Ordinances**

**5173-09** 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:** Matt Drozd and Chuck McCullough

**Summary:** *Councilman Drozd explained that this bill would reduce the millage from 4.69 to 4.56 mills, which amounts to \$7 million. Councilman Drozd stated that this tax cut is intended to offer hope to the people of Allegheny County, and would be made possible through the approval of the Essential Services Fee legislation.*

*Chairman Robinson reported that the County is severely challenged in terms of revenues, and he is on record as advocating for an increase in millage.*

*Chairman Robinson discussed the merits of having an approved Essential Services Fee bill prior to considering this proposed legislation.*

**Action:** Held in Committee

**5179-09**

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, Jim Burn, Joan Cleary, John DeFazio, Jim Ellenbogen, Michael Finnerty, Nick Futules, Amanda Green Hawkins, Vince Gastgeb, Bob Macey, Chuck McCullough, Jan Rea, Chuck Martoni and Rich Fitzgerald

**Summary:** *Chairman Robinson provided members with an overview of the legislation which would establish the millage rate for 2010 at 4.69 for real property subject to taxation within Allegheny County.*

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

**Votes:** Yes: 4 - DeFazio, Finnerty, Macey and Russell Robinson  
Abstain: 1 - Drozd  
Absent: 5 - Burn, Cleary, Gastgeb, Green Hawkins and McCullough  
Non-Member: 2 - Fitzgerald and Martoni

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

**Enactment No:** 42-09-OR

**Resolutions**

**5180-09**

A 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, 2010 and ending December 31, 2010.

**Sponsors:** William Russell Robinson, Jim Burn, Joan Cleary, John DeFazio, Michael Finnerty, Nick Futules, Amanda Green Hawkins, Bob Macey, Jan Rea, Chuck Martoni, Rich Fitzgerald and Jim Ellenbogen

**Summary:** *Ms. Liptak reported that the 2009 Operating Budget was \$767 million, and for 2010 it increased 1.4 percent, totaling \$773 million.*

*Councilman Drozd inquired about the alcohol and rental car tax collections for 2009, and he was asked to refer to the most recent Controller's report which contains such data.*

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

**Enactment No:** 39-09-RE

**5181-09**

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, 2010 and ending December 31, 2010.

**Sponsors:** William Russell Robinson, Jim Burn, Joan Cleary, John DeFazio, Michael Finnerty, Nick Futules, Amanda Green Hawkins, Vince Gastgeb, Bob Macey, Jan Rea, Chuck Martoni, Rich Fitzgerald and Jim Ellenbogen

**Summary:**

*Ms. Liptak reported that this is a \$92 million Capital Budget for 2010.*

**Action:**

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

**Enactment No:** 40-09-RE

**5182-09**

Resolution of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, adopting the Grants Budget, Special Accounts Budget, and Agency Fund Budget, by setting forth appropriations to pay said expenses during the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2010 and ending December 31, 2010.

**Sponsors:** William Russell Robinson, Jim Burn, Joan Cleary, John DeFazio, Michael Finnerty, Nick Futules, Amanda Green Hawkins, Vince Gastgeb, Bob Macey, Jan Rea, Chuck Martoni, Rich Fitzgerald and Jim Ellenbogen

**Summary:**

*Ms. Liptak explained this legislation concerning the Grants Budget, Special Accounts Budget, and Agency Fund Budget for fiscal year 2010.*

*Councilman Drozd asked for a break down of the numbers, and Ms. Liptak provided a summary of federal, state and county match dollars.*

**Action:**

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

**Enactment No:** 41-09-RE

**5183-09**

A Resolution of the County of Allegheny amending the Grants and Special Accounts Budget for 2009 (Submission #19-09).

**Sponsors:** Chief Executive

**Summary:**

*Ms. Liptak provided a summary of the amendment to the Grants and Special Accounts Budget for 2009.*

**Action:**

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

**Enactment No:** 38-09-RE

**V. Adjournment****Summary:**

*The meeting adjourned at 5:07 p.m.*