

Allegheny County Council

*County of Allegheny
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Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 29, 2007

5:00 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, Vince Gastgeb, and William E. Lestitian -
Members***

I. Call to Order

Summary: *The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM*

Invited Guests:

Jim Flynn, County Manager or Designee

Amy Griser, Director, Budget & Finance

Derek Uber, Deputy County Manager

Summary: *Invited guests in attendance: Mr. Flynn, Ms. Griser, and Mr. Uber*

Recognized attendees: Bob Hurley, Deputy Director, Economic Development

Council staff in attendance: John Mascio, Jennifer Liptak, and Jared Barker

II. Roll Call

Roll Call: Present: Susan Caldwell, Matt Drozd, Michael Finnerty, Brenda Frazier, and Chair William Robinson

Absent: Jim Burn, and Vince Gastgeb

Non-Member: Joan Cleary, and William Lestitian

III. Approval of Minutes

3233-07 Motion to approve the Minutes of the April 24, 2007 Budget & Finance Committee Meeting.

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

IV. Agenda Items**Resolutions**

3215-07 Resolution ratifying certain year-end transfers pursuant to Section 805.03 of the Administrative Code

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Summary: *The Chair reminded the committee that the Rules of Council provide that the committee may request fiscal notes on legislation to assist Council in making decisions on how to collect and spend taxpayers money. He said that they have to work more diligently on making sure that they do have fiscal notes. He discussed the importance of having these fiscal notes. He asked that the Administration and Council review the Rules regarding this. He said that in the future he will be asking for fiscal notes which will provide information regarding the fiscal impact that certain legislation would have on the County.*

Ms. Liptak distributed a summary of the inter departmental transfers. She provided the committee with a verbal summary of the transfers and described the workings of the Budget Transfer Committee. She said that the Committee determined that the transfers were essential to the operation of the county.

Ms. Frazier asked if services were cut from the Kanes to provide for a transfer from that department. Ms. Griser said that no services were cut. She said some of that was sales tax and some were a result of cost savings.

Mr. Drozd asked Ms. Griser to explain the process of identifying transfers. Ms. Griser did so. She said that her staff and the Department heads were very talented and knowledgeable in this regard.

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

3217-07

A Resolution of the County of Allegheny amending the 2007 Capital Budget for Allegheny County.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Summary: *Ms. Liptak distributed a document which contained various questions that the Chair had asked the Administration regarding the Capital Budget amendments. The document contained the Administration's answers to those questions.*

The Chair referred to one of the questions in which he asked if there were any plans to address the capital funding needs of the Health Department. He said that he interpreted their answer to indicate that there were no specific plans but that there may be in the future. He said that he originally planned to offer an amendment to the bill which would address this, but he would postpone that amendment.

Ms. Liptak provided a summary of the Capital Budget and described the projects which were contained in the document she distributed.

The Chair requested that the next time the Administration presents a Capital Budget bill to Council that they include some plans to address the deplorable conditions at the Health Department.

Ms. Griser provided the committee with a summary of the Capital Budget process.

Ms. Caldwell asked if funding would be in place in time for Boyce Park to renovate the ski lifts. Ms. Griser said they would be operating by winter of 2007.

Ms. Caldwell expressed concern that the Bechtel project may not generate as many jobs as Council thought they would. Mr. Hurley said that they would over a period of time. He said that Bechtel likes to be conservative in their estimates.

Mr. Drozd asked Mr. Hurley to identify some of the return to the County generated by these projects. Mr. Hurley did so.

Ms. Frazier asked Mr. Hurley what type of jobs the VoCollect project would generate. He said that they would mostly be engineering jobs and some high level trade positions. He said they would be well paying jobs.

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

V. Adjournment

Summary: *The meeting adjourned at 6:15 PM*