

Allegheny County Council

*County of Allegheny
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Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 12, 2008

5:00 PM

Conference Room 1

Committee on Government Reform

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

I. Call to Order

Summary: *The meeting was called to order at 5:20 PM, recessed at the call of the Chair, and reconvened at 5:30PM*

Invited Guests:

Jim Flynn, County Manager or Designee

Mark Flaherty, County Controller or Designee

Summary: *Invited guests in attendance: Mr. Flynn and Guy Tumolo for Mr. Flaherty*

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

II. Roll Call

Roll Call: Present: Jim Burn, Nick Futules, Vince Gastgeb, Bob Macey, Chuck McCullough, Rich Fitzgerald, Council Member Joan Cleary, Council Member John DeFazio, Council Member Matt Drozd, Council Member Michael Finnerty, and Council Member Chuck Martoni
Absent: Jim Ellenbogen

III. Approval of Minutes

3824-08 Motion to approve the Minutes of the February 26, 2008 Government Reform Committee meeting.

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

IV. Agenda Items**Ordinances**

3677-08 An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, establishing "Roberto Clemente Day" throughout Allegheny County on an annual basis.

Sponsors: Chuck McCullough

Summary: *Mr. McCullough provided the committee with a summary of the bill. He said that the bill would establish "Roberto Clemente Day" in Allegheny County on an annual basis. He said that the purpose this bill is to show Allegheny County's appreciation for Roberto Clemente's contributions to both the sport of baseball and to humanity. He said that Opening Day for the Pittsburgh Pirates 2008 home baseball schedule and every Opening Day thereafter would be known as "Roberto Clemente Day" in Allegheny County.*

The Chair said that he too is an admirer of Roberto Clemente. Mr. Futules said that they should contact the Pittsburgh Pirates Organization to discuss this with them. The Chair agreed. The Chair said that he would write a letter to the Pirates Organization to get a feel for what kind of interest they would have in supporting this. Mr. McCullough said he had no problem with that.

Action: Held in Committee

3749-08

An Ordinance amending and supplementing the Allegheny County Code of Ordinances, Division 2, entitled "County Government Operations," through the creation of a new Chapter 221, entitled "Elected Official Travel," through the creation of a new Article I, entitled "Reporting," in order to establish uniform County policies for evaluating the results and efficacy of travel undertaken by County elected officials.

Sponsors: Matt Drozd

Summary: *Mr. Drozd provided the committee with a summary of the bill. He said that the bill would establish a policy for evaluating the results and efficacy of travel undertaken by County elected officials.*

He said it would require the Chief Executive and any County Council Member to generate a written summary of any travel requiring at least one overnight stay and funded with revenues derived from County taxpayers. The summary would include the destination visited, the purpose of travel, the duration of the trip and the results of the trip including a statement describing how it will or is expected to benefit the residents of Allegheny County. Upon returning from travel, the elected official would have 30 days in which to submit the summary.

The summary would be available to the public both in hard copy and on the County's website. In addition, the summary would be distributed to each elected official and the head of each Administrative Department within the County. The elected official would be required to keep a hard copy of any written summary for a period of at least 2 years.

The Chair said that he feels that if an elected official is taking too many trips it is up to the electorate to let the elected official know they do not like it. He asked Mr. Drozd if other counties or levels of government do this. Mr. Drozd said that he knows that most Universities and major corporations require this.

Mr. DeFazio said that if we wanted a report we could request it. The Chair said that he did not believe that they needed an ordinance to accomplish this.

Mr. Flynn said that the responsibilities of elected officials are spelled out in the Home Rule Charter and, with due respect, he does not think that Council has the authority to direct the Chief Executive to do this.

Mr. Gastgeb said that maybe they could request this information in writing.

Mr. Flynn said that they could also just call the Chief Executive and ask about his trip.

Action: Held in Committee

3795-08

An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing the transfer of the County Bureau of Weights and Measures as an office under the County Chief Executive ("Chief Executive") to an office within and under the purview of the Office of the County Controller ("Controller").

Sponsors: Controller, Chief Executive and Rich Fitzgerald

Summary: *Mr. Tumolo and Mr. Flynn provided the committee with a summary of the bill. They said that the bill would transfer the County Bureau of Weights and Measures from the Executive branch to the Controller's office.*

Mr. Flynn said that the Chief Executive has indicated that he believes that the transfer of Weights and Measures to the supervision of the Office of the Controller will enhance the administration of the Bureau, and the Controller is amenable to the transfer. He said that this legislation is required to do that.

Mr. Tumolo said that no substantive change to the activities of the Bureau would be made, and the appropriation to the Bureau would be transferred to the Controller.

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

Resolutions

3738-08

A Resolution of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing a feasibility study of the Allegheny County Airport Authority, Allegheny County Sanitary Authority ("ALCOSAN"), and the Port Authority of Allegheny County ("Port Authority") for the purpose of evaluating dissolution and/or privatization thereof.

Sponsors: Chuck McCullough, Matt Drozd, Vince Gastgeb, Jan Rea, Jim Ellenbogen and Michael Finnerty

Summary: *Mr. McCullough provided the committee with a summary of the bill. He said that the bill would authorize a feasibility study of the Allegheny County Airport Authority, Allegheny County Sanitary Authority, and the Port Authority of Allegheny County for the purpose of evaluating dissolution and/or privatization thereof. The review would be conducted by the Committee on Government Reform, and would be "for the purpose of evaluating the dissolution of any or all of these authorities or privatizing, by sale, lease or otherwise, the facilities overseen by these authorities." An interim report would be required within 90 days, with the final report due 180 days later.*

He then explained his reasoning for requesting these studies.

The Chair asked if there was a cost associated with this. Mr. McCullough said that he would be happy to research the estimated costs of these studies.

He said he would do that and present his findings to the committee and they could decide if they wanted to proceed.

The Chair said that he has concerns about assessing the authorities for this, and said that he would like to bring them before the committee for questioning prior to passage of the bill. He said that he would try to arrange for the Executive Directors of the 3 authorities to be present at the next Government Reform committee meeting.

Action: **Held in Committee**

3760-08

A Resolution of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, urging the United States Congress to act with all deliberate speed to renew the exemption of the steamboat Delta Queen from the terms of the Safety of Life at Sea Act (P.L. 89-777).

Sponsors: Jan Rea

Summary: *The bill was held because the sponsor was not present at the meeting.*

Action: Held in Committee

V. Adjournment

Summary: *The meeting adjourned at 6:20 PM*