

# **Allegheny County Council**

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## **Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, July 11, 2007**

**4:00 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 4:00 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. Uber for himself and Mr. Flynn; and Ms. Griser*

*Recognized attendees: Dennis Davin, Bob Hurley, and Jack Excler from the Department of Economic Development; and Jerry Tyskiewicz from the Courts.*

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

**II. Roll Call**

***Roll Call:*** Present: Joan Cleary, Matt Drozd, Michael Finnerty, Brenda Frazier, and Chair William Robinson  
Absent: Jim Burn, William Lestitian, and Vince Gastgeb  
Phone: Susan Caldwell

**III. Approval of Minutes**

**3335-07** Motion to approve the Minutes of the June 26, 2007 Budget & Finance Committee Meeting.

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

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

**3036-07** An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, amending and supplementing the Allegheny County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 475, entitled "Taxation," Article V, entitled "Senior Citizen Relief," to further define the applicability of the Longtime Senior Citizen Owner/Occupant Tax Relief Program.

**Sponsors:** Susan Caldwell, Vince Gastgeb, Matt Drozd, Michael Finnerty, William Russell Robinson, Brenda Frazier, Bob Macey, Jan Rea, John DeFazio, Rich Fitzgerald, Jim Burn and Joan Cleary

**Summary:** *Ms. Caldwell, one of the prime sponsors of the bill, said that she would like to hold this bill in committee because she is working on another version.*

**Action:** **Held in Committee**

**3135-07**

An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, amending and supplementing the Allegheny County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 475, entitled "Taxation," Article VI, entitled "Property Tax Relief Program," to further define the residency requirement for disabled individuals participating in the Property Tax Relief Program.

**Sponsors:** Susan Caldwell and Vince Gastgeb

**Summary:**

*Prior to any discussion, the Chair indicated that Bill Numbers 3135-07, 3186-07, and 3230-07 required fiscal notes. He reviewed the fiscal notes for the required bills. Ms. Caldwell asked that this bill (Bill No. 3135) be held in committee.*

**Action:**

**Held in Committee**

**3186-07**

An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, amending and supplementing the Allegheny County Code of Ordinances, Division 2, entitled "County Government Operations," by creating a new Article 208, entitled "Impact Analysis Program," in order to establish a policy of providing for disseminating information about proposed projects having community impacts to community and private-sector groups when the County provides capital funding through a direct appropriation, a subsidy or deferment of taxes, or a bond project.

**Sponsors:** William Russell Robinson

**Summary:**

*The Chair asked Mr. Barker to provide a summary of the bill based on the Briefing Report that he submitted to Council. He said that Bill No. 3186-07 is an ordinance that would create a new County Impact Analysis Program. Briefly stated, this program would require the distribution of information pertaining to large economic development projects early in the approval process for those projects.*

*He said that projects for which information would have to be distributed are those (a) receiving capital funding in excess of \$100,000 from the County, (b) requiring infrastructure improvements costing \$100,000 or more, or (c) requiring legislative or discretionary approval by Council, the Executive, or any other administrative department of the County. Information in the form of an Impact Analysis Report would have to be posted on the County's web site and at public libraries within one-half mile of the project site, and copies would have to be given to the public on request and to the Council, Chief Executive, and the County Manager.*

*The Impact Analysis Report would be subject to at least one public hearing, and the project could not be approved until at least 30 days after that public hearing.*

*Each Impact Analysis Report would have to include (a) a description of the cost of and tax revenue anticipated from the project, (b) the number and type of construction and permanent jobs that will be generated by the project, (c) any anticipated positive or negative impacts on existing businesses and employment patterns in the vicinity of the project, (d) the number, type and size of housing units to be created, (e) whether or not LEED certification will be attained for the project, (f) current and proposed land uses and ownership at the project site, (g) an intended time line and projected costs for construction and completion, and (h) a breakdown, by category, of the numbers of*

*anticipated displacements of existing residents, businesses, or services to make way for the project.*

*The Chair asked Mr. Davin, Mr. Hurley, and Mr. Excler to be seated at the committee table. Ms. Frazier asked Mr. Davin to comment on the bill. He said that he had some questions regarding what the bill meant. He asked if it was geared towards TIF projects. He said that he thinks it would have a negative impact on development based on time frames and bureaucracy. He said that his department already does a lot of community outreach and asked what is the intent of the bill?*

*The Chair said that there are dollar amounts and square footage thresholds which would eliminate some projects. He said the bill was written to address issues as to what the impact of a project would be. He said it would not affect most TIF's.*

*Mr. Davin asked the Chair if there is concern that there is information not being given to adjacent property owners or community groups. He asked if Council heard complaints that they were not getting information out to the communities. The Chair said that they did not receive complaints, but heard the opposite, that they are doing a great job in that regard. He said that the bill was not born out of complaints, but to help the Department of Economic Development and community groups to work together.*

*Mr. Davin said that he would review the bill and get back to Council regarding any changes that he thinks may be necessary. The Chair said that if there are any concerns regarding the drafting of the legislation that Mr. Davin should contact Mr. Barker to discuss that. He also said that he is acceptable to Mr. Davin presenting Council with some kind of plan. He also said that this bill was not intended to affect every project, just the larger projects.*

*Mr. Finnerty asked Mr. Davin what does this bill require that is different from what they are already doing. Mr. Davin said that was on of his questions also but said that he still thinks it would include too many projects and it may be too much for the Department of Economic Development to handle.*

*The Chair said he would hold this bill for more information.*

**Action:**

**Held in Committee**

**3230-07**

An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, amending and supplementing the Allegheny County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 475, entitled "Taxation," and creating a new Article XII, entitled "Overseas Military Service Property Tax Relief."

**Sponsors:** Vince Gastgeb, Susan Caldwell, Jan Rea and Matt Drozd

**Summary:**

*The Chair said that one of the prime sponsors of the bill, Mr. Gastgeb, indicated to him that this bill may be very difficult to implement. Ms. Caldwell said that she would rather discuss it when Mr. Gastgeb was present and asked that the bill be held.*

*Mr. Drozd spoke in favor of the bill.*

**Action:**

**Held in Committee**

3332-07

Resolution authorizing the issuance of a Tax and Revenue Anticipation Note in the maximum principal amount of \$44,200,000; providing for the date, interest rate, maturity date, place of payment and prepayment provisions in respect of the note; accepting the proposal of Mellon Bank, N.A. for the purchase and financing of the note; providing for the security of the note; authorizing the proper officers to execute and deliver the note; authorizing and directing the preparation, certification and filing of the proceedings with the Department of Community and Economic Development; providing for a paying agent; setting forth a form of note; and repealing inconsistent resolutions.

**Sponsors:** Chief Executive

**Summary:**

*Ms. Liptak provided a summary of the bill. She said that for more than fifteen (15) years, Allegheny County has participated in the Nursing Home Intergovernmental Transfer (IGT) Program. In 2003, County Council authorized participation in the IGT program through fiscal year 2007-2008 by Resolution which authorized the County to borrow an amount not exceeding forty-four million two hundred thousand dollars (\$44,200,000) for the funding of the revenue anticipation note for the 2007-2008 program year.*

*She also said that the County, and other Pennsylvania counties that operate nursing homes, participate in the IGT program in cooperation with the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP) and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The program assists the Department of Public Welfare in generating additional funding and maximizing the amount of federal funding available for both county and private nursing homes in Pennsylvania. Some areas of funding include long term care, outpatient medical assistance, and behavioral health and mental retardation services. The program is designed to permit the repayment of the loan the same day as it is executed. There is no cost to the County for participation in this program.*

*Ms. Caldwell asked that the committee be informed when this happens and of the outcome.*

**Action:**

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

3333-07

A Resolution of the County of Allegheny amending the Grants and Special Accounts Budget for 2007 (Submission #10-07).

**Sponsors:** Chief Executive

**Summary:**

*Ms. Liptak provided the committee with a summary of the bill. She said that she invited Jerry Tyskiewicz from the Courts in case anyone had any questions regarding the Courts grant.*

*Mr. Drozd asked Mr. Tyskiewicz about the millions of dollars that the State owes the County for court costs. Mr. Tyskiewicz said that the Commonwealth does provide the County with some revenue. Mr. Drozd said that he needs more detail and he will research this issue and get back to Mr. Tyskiewicz.*

*The Chair said that he was aware of this issue.*

*Discussion took place relative to the reimbursements that the State owes the County for court costs.*

*Mr. Tyskiewicz said that he did not think that the State was going to provide any more funding. He referred to the Montomurro Report and said that the report only suggested that the state fund the courts, it was not a mandate.*

*Mr. Finnerty said that this issue was not on the agenda and should not be discussed at this time. He said it was not fair to Mr. Tyskiewicz to ask him questions outside the purview of the bill before the committee. He said that if the committee wants to discuss this they should put it on the agenda and discuss it at another meeting.*

*The Chair concurred with Mr. Finnerty and asked the members to stay within the purview of the bills before them.*

*Mr. Finnerty asked Mr. Tyskiewicz to explain the grant that was within the bill. Mr. Tyskiewicz did that to the committee's satisfaction.*

**Action:**

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

**V. Adjournment**

**Summary:**

*The meeting adjourned at 4:50 PM*