

# Allegheny County Council

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## Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

5:00 PM

Conference Room 1

## Committee on Economic Development & Housing

*Dewitt Walton, Chair*

*Members; Tom Baker, Sam DeMarco, Mike Finnerty, Nick Futules, Ed Kress, Bob Macey, John Palmiere*

## I. Call to Order

*The meeting was called to order at 5:15.*

### Invited Guests:

**William D. McKain, CPA-County Manager or Designee**

**Robert D. Hurley-Director, Economic Development**

*Mr. McKain was present from the Office of the County Manager.*

*Mr. Hurley, Mr. Exler and Mr. Earley were present from the Department of Economic Development.*

*Ms. Markosh, Mr. Berger, Mr. Hill and Mr. Richardson were present on behalf of Point Park University.*

*Mr. Barker and Mr. Szymanski were present from the Office of County Council.*

## II. Roll Call

**Members Present:** 7 - Walton, Sam DeMarco, Michael Finnerty, Ed Kress, John Palmiere, Paul Klein and Sue Means

**Members Absent:** 2 - Nick Futules and Bob Macey

**Members Phone:** 1 - Tom Baker

## III. Approval of Minutes

[9480-16](#)

Motion to approve the minutes of the Economic Development and Housing Committee meeting of Allegheny County Council held on January 27, 2016

**A motion was made by Palmiere, seconded by DeMarco, that this matter be Passed. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.**

## IV. Agenda Items

### Resolutions

[9474-16](#)

A Resolution of the County of Allegheny approving a project benefitting Point Park University to be financed by the Allegheny County Higher Education Building Authority by the issuance of the Authority's tax-exempt and/or taxable revenue obligations to be issued in an aggregate principal amount not in excess of \$14,000,000, provided that the taxing power of the County of Allegheny, Pennsylvania, shall not be obligated in any way with respect to the obligations, and determining that the purpose of the financing will be to benefit the health and welfare of the citizens of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania.

**Sponsors:** Chief Executive

*At the request of the Chair, the clerk read the title of the bill and the Chair briefly recapped the history of the bond issuance at issue, noting that it had been approved in an amount not to exceed \$12 million last April, and that the new bill would increase the*

*"not to exceed" amount to \$14 million.*

*Mr. Hurley provided a brief overview of the overall project cost and noted that the increased amount actually generates more fees for the Department.*

*In response to a question from Mr. DeMarco, Mr. Berger indicated that the theaters would, from time to time, be the sites of performances that would be open to the public.*

*In response to a question from Mr. Klein, Mr. Berger discussed the physical extent of the theater facilities to be constructed.*

*In response to a question from Mr. Finnerty, Mr. Hurley discussed how the bond fees contribute funding for the Department of Economic Development.*

*In response to a question from Mr. Kress, Mr. Berger noted that the primary contractor will be P.J. Dick, but that all of the subcontractors had not yet been identified. Mr. Hurley noted that the project will be a prevailing wage job.*

*In response to questions from Ms. Means, Ms. Markosh noted that the increase in the bond amount was a result of the bids for the project coming in higher than anticipated, and noted that the University's enrollment remains fairly consistent, and that there should therefore be no concerns relating to tuition funding becoming an issue.*

*In response to questions from the Chair, Mr. Hill discussed M/W/DBE participation goals, noting that the current participation rate is approximately 7%, with a significant number of subcontracts yet to be executed. Mr. Hill indicated that he would have to obtain additional information regarding the specific participation rates among minority, women, and disadvantaged business entities, respectively.*

*Ms. Means and Mr. Palmiere discussed their families' experiences with the University.*

*In response to a question from Mr. Palmiere, Mr. Berger discussed project completion timelines, with a first production taking place in the fall of 2018.*

*Mr. Finnerty emphasized that \$14 million is the "not to exceed" amount for the bond issuance, but that the actual amount issued may be less.*

*In response to a question from Mr. Finnerty, Mr. Berger discussed the design of the facilities.*

*In response to a question from Mr. Kress, Mr. Hurley noted that the property is classified as tax-exempt and that the increased activities in the neighborhood should benefit the County.*

**A motion was made by Finnerty, seconded by Palmiere, that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.**

## V. Adjournment

*The meeting adjourned at 5:44.*