

Allegheny County Council

*County of Allegheny
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Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

4:00 PM

Conference Room 1

Committee on Public Works

***Bob Macey, Chair; Jim Burn, Nick Futules, Vince Gastgeb, Chuck Martoni, and
Bill Robinson - Members***

I. Call to Order

Summary: *The meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM*

Invited Guests:

Jim Flynn, County Manager or Designee

Tom Donatelli, Director, Public Works

Summary: *Invited guests in attendance: Mr. Flynn and Mr. Donatelli*

Recognized attendees: Derek Uber, County Manager's Office

Council staff in attendance: John Mascio and Jared Barker

II. Roll Call

Roll Call: Present: Chair Bob Macey

Absent: Jim Burn, Vince Gastgeb, Member Chuck Martoni, and William Robinson

Phone: Nick Futules

III. Agenda Items**Ordinances**

3678-08 An Ordinance directing the establishment of a Free Cell Phone Parking Zone at Greater Pittsburgh International Airport.

Sponsors: Vince Gastgeb

Summary: *The Chair indicated that he would hold the bill in committee since the sponsor of the bill was not present at the meeting.*

Action: **Held in Committee**

Discussion Topic:**Contractor Licensing/Registration**

Summary: *The Chair referenced Ordinance No. 11-07-OR, entitled, "An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, to facilitate the reporting and recording of information by contractors operating within Allegheny County." He said that he would like to put more teeth into this ordinance in order to establish mandatory registration of contractors. He said this would help prevent victims of contracting scams. He cited a Legal Opinion provided by Council's Legal Advisor Jack Cambest in which Mr. Cambest indicated that making this mandatory may prompt a legal challenge by the ACLU. He said that he would like to work out a compromise with contractors because he did not want to discourage entrepreneurship in the county. He said he would like to work through this before bringing a finished product to council.*

Mr. Flynn said that he agrees that this is important legislation but said that the County Solicitor also has concerns about the legality of making registration mandatory. He said that Ordinance No. 11-07-OR was already the result of a compromise. He said that he

would support a bill but as long as it is within the confines of the law.

The Chair asked Mr. Flynn if he would take part in informal meetings with Council, the Better Business Bureau and trade associations so that they could discuss this. Mr. Flynn said that he would participate.

IV. Adjournment

Summary: *The meeting adjourned at 4:15 PM*