

Allegheny County Council

436 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Phone (412) 350-6490



Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 2, 2015

4:00 PM

Conference Room 1

Committee on Budget and Finance

*Michael Finnerty, Chair;
Nick Futules,
Amanda Green Hawkins,
Heather Heidelbaugh, Terri Klein,
Bob Macey,
Sue Means,
John Palmiere and
Jan Rea
-Members*

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:04.

Invited Guests:

William D. McKain, CPA, Allegheny County Manager or designee
Mary Soroka, Director, Department of Budget and Finance

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

Ms. Soroka, Mr. Cox and Mr. Lentz were present from the Department of Budget & Finance.

Ms. Weise was present from the Office of the Controller.

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

II. Roll Call

Members Present: 3 - Sue Means, Terri Klein and Michael Finnerty

Members Absent: 6 - Amanda Green Hawkins, Heather Heidelbaugh, Bob Macey, John Palmiere, Jan Rea and Nick Futules

III. Approval of Minutes

[9315-15](#) Motion to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2015 meeting of the Committee on Budget and Finance.

A motion was made by Finnerty, seconded by Klein, that this matter be Passed. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

[9316-15](#) Motion to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2015 meeting of the Committee on Budget and Finance.

A motion was made by Finnerty, seconded by Klein, that this matter be Passed. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

IV. Agenda Items

Resolutions

[9288-15](#) A Resolution of the County of Allegheny amending the 2009 Capital Budget for Allegheny County.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

At the request of the Chair, the clerk read the title of the bill and Mr. McKain discussed the intent behind the bill, noting that capital appropriations do not expire, and that some appropriations that were made in the past are no longer necessary for the projects that were originally envisioned, and it periodically becomes desirable to shift those appropriations to other projects in order to facilitate their completion.

Mr. McKain noted that the Sheriff had brought the administration's attention to the

condition of the "Bridge of Sighs," which is used for prisoner transfers, and indicated that the Sheriff had expressed concerns about the safety of the bridge for this function and requested that the County improve the condition of the bridge.

In response to a question from Ms. Klein, Mr. McKain noted that the bridge is not used for ADA-accessibility purposes.

In response to a question from Ms. Means, Mr. McKain noted that, on occasion, single projects are funded through capital appropriations in multiple budget years and that the Bull Creek restoration project related to remediation of erosion damage caused during Hurricane Ivan, and that grant funding became available after the appropriations were made, which eliminated the need for some of the originally contemplated capital funding.

A motion was made by Means, seconded by Klein, that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

[9289-15](#)

A Resolution of the County of Allegheny amending the 2010 Capital Budget for Allegheny County.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

At the request of the Chair, the clerk read the title of the bill. The Chair noted that this amendment also relates to the Bull Creek Restoration project.

In response to a question from Ms. Means, Mr. McKain noted that this and all of the other capital amendments before the committee at this session involved transfers of funding from the Bull Creek project to the Bridge of Sighs project.

In response to a question from Ms. Means, Mr. McKain indicated that the administration's practice is to review capital appropriations occasionally to see where excess funding may exist in prior years capital budgets, and that in this instance, the funding was not reprogrammed sooner because there was a desire to be conservative and obtain all necessary approvals for the completed Bull Creek project before reprogramming was done.

A motion was made by Means, seconded by Klein, that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

[9290-15](#)

A Resolution of the County of Allegheny amending the 2011 Capital Budget for Allegheny County.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

At the request of the Chair, the clerk read the title of the bill.

The Chair noted that this amendment entailed transfers from the 2011 Bull Creek Restoration appropriation, as well as from the 4th Avenue garage demolition. Mr. McKain indicated that the demolition was actually accomplished for less than originally budgeted, and that this latter appropriation was going to be reprogrammed to roof and elevator restoration projects.

In response to a question from Ms. Klein, Mr. McKain noted that elevators and roofs always seem to be prioritized after other projects, and that as a result there are significant needs in this area.

In response to a question from Ms. Means, Mr. McKain indicated that the Health Department roofing issues could be remedied through this appropriation, if necessary.

A motion was made by Klein, seconded by Means, that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

[9291-15](#)

A Resolution of the County of Allegheny amending the 2012 Capital Budget for Allegheny County.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

At the request of the Chair, the clerk read the title of the bill.

The Chair noted that this amendment is reprogramming Bull Creek Restoration funding to the Bridge of Sighs project, as was the case with the bills already reviewed by the committee.

In response to a question from Ms. Means, Mr. McKain discussed the deferred maintenance needs of the County.

A motion was made by Klein, seconded by Means, that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

[9292-15](#)

A Resolution of the County of Allegheny amending the 2013 Capital Budget for Allegheny County.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

At the request of the Chair, the clerk read the title of the bill.

The Chair noted that this is another Bull Creek Restoration funding reprogramming to the Bridge of Sighs project.

A motion was made by Means, seconded by Klein, that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

[9293-15](#)

A Resolution of the County of Allegheny amending the 2014 Capital Budget for Allegheny County.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

At the request of the Chair, the clerk read the title of the bill and Mr. McKain summarized its provisions, noting that the North Park barn rehabilitation project was originally expected to be undertaken in 2014, but the condition of the structure deteriorated to the point that the building had to be demolished. Mr. McKain noted that this freed up the rehabilitation funding, and that the desire is to use this funding for parks metering in order to derive a more detailed picture of how much the County is expending on utilities at various facilities within the parks for both sustainability and cost efficiency purposes.

In response to a question from Ms. Means, Mr. Lentz noted that the County had applied for a DCNR grant for the renovation project, but that this grant was rendered inapplicable by the demolition. The Chair noted that the DCNR grant appeared in the original 2014 capital budget because the administration anticipated receiving that revenue when the budget was formulated. Mr. McKain indicated that the DCNR grant is noted on the amendment summary merely to reflect the full extent of the original North Park barn restoration appropriation.

In response to a question from Ms. Means, Mr. McKain indicated that he would be able to provide the committee with an aggregate amount that the County spends for utilities within the parks at this time.

The Chair and Mr. McKain noted that more specific metering will enable the County to determine things like how much high efficiency lighting actually saves the County in utility payments for the parks.

In response to a question from Ms. Klein, Mr. McKain noted that the County does explore bundling purchases in the parks in order to realize whatever savings is possible.

In response to a question from Ms. Means, Mr. McKain indicated that this appropriation would not enable full utility metering in the parks, but that it would be a start.

A motion was made by Means, seconded by Klein, that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Discussion Topic

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35.