

Allegheny County Council

436 Grant Street
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Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 29, 2017

4:00 PM

Conference Room 1

Committee on Budget and Finance

Paul Klein, Chair; Patrick Catena, Samuel DeMarco, Nick Futules, Ed Kress, Bob Macey, Charles Martoni, Sue Means and John Palmiere, Members.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:03.

Invited Guests:

William D. McKain, CPA, County Manager or Designee

Mary C. Soroka, Director, Budget and Finance or Designee

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

Ms. Soroka, were present from the Department of Budget & Finance.

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

II. Roll Call

Members Present: 6 - Paul Klein, Ed Kress, Bob Macey, Chuck Martoni, Sue Means and John Palmiere

Members Absent: 1 - Patrick Catena

Members Phone: 2 - Sam DeMarco and Nick Futules

Members 1 - DeWitt Walton

Non-Members:

III. Approval of Minutes

[10412-17](#)

Motion to approve the minutes of the Committee on Budget and Finance meeting held on November 1, 2017.

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

IV. Agenda Items

Ordinances

[10343-17](#)

An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, establishing the tax levy upon all real property subject to taxation within the limits of 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 budget is balanced and that the County has been able to absorb increased costs attributable to factors like increasing healthcare and supply costs due to increased revenues and fiscally responsible practices without increasing the millage rate.

Mr. Futules thanked everyone for their efforts at keeping the budget within the County's fiscal reach.

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

Resolutions[10388-17](#)

A Resolution of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, adopting an Operating Budget pursuant to Article IV, §2 and Article VII, §4 of the Home Rule Charter, by setting forth appropriations to pay the expenses of conducting the public business of Allegheny County and for meeting debt charges for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2018 and ending December 31, 2018.

Sponsors: Council Member Klein

At the request of the Chair, the clerk read the title of the bill and Mr. McKain summarized its provisions, noting that the operating budget provided adequate resources for the various County agencies, row offices, and departments to fulfil their functions while remaining balanced.

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

[10389-17](#)

Resolution of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, adopting a Capital Budget pursuant to Article IV, §2 and Article VII, §4 of the Home Rule Charter by setting forth appropriations to pay the expenses for capital expenditures during the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2018 and ending December 31, 2018.

Sponsors: Council Member Klein

At the request of hte Chair, the clerk read the title of the bill and Mr. McKain summarized its provisions, noting that the capital budget had been formulated to provide adequate resources to meet the County's capital needs and that it, too, is budgeted.

In response to a qestion from Ms. Means, Mr. McKain discussed the Treasurer's budget request for additional funding to obtain computer software, noting that the County had to be judicious about allocating capital funds and that the Treasurer had some existing capital appropriations available from previous years that could perhaps be repurposed.

Ms. Means expressed a desire to see road projects specifically delineated within the capital budget, rather than general paving projects, but while still allowing the necessary flexibility for shifting circumstances. Mr. McKain expressed understanding of her position, and noted that the Department of Public Works typically waits until after the final snowfall in the spring to fully finalize the paving program plan, because road conditions are often changed by winter weather. Mr. McKain suggested that it would be wisest to provide a list of the planned projects after the plan is more solidified, rather than in the fall, because he would not want to give rise to an imipression that a particular road would be re-paved and have it turn out not to be due to shifting priorities. Mr. Macey expressed understanding for this notion.

Ms. Means and Mr. McKain discussed the process through which the Corrigan Road bicycle lane project was evaluated, and Mr. Palmiere noted that bicycle lane usage is likely to be fairly weather-dependent, with less usage in the winter months.

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

[10390-17](#)

Resolution of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, adopting the

Grants Budget, Special Accounts Budget, and Agency Fund Budget, by setting forth appropriations to pay said expenses during the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2018 and ending December 31, 2018.

Sponsors: Council Member Klein

At the request of the Chair, the clerk read the title of the bill and Ms. Soroka summarized its provisions, noting that the County's grant funding - and by extension, the grants budget - is growing and that the extra funding is well worth the small matching contribution that the County sometimes must make.

Mr. Macey noted that many grant programs are need-based, and that he often reminds the communities that he represents to request funding when it is needed and appropriate.

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

10407-17

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

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 2013 appropriation had originally been requested with an eye towards making the renovations that would have been necessary to keep the 911 call center in its Lexington location, but that once the space was evaluated, the needed renovations turned out to be far in excess of the requested appropriation. Mr. McKain indicated that the City had also approached him, as the Urban Redevelopment Authority owns the Lexington site, and had an interest in pursuing a development project on the site. Mr. McKain indicated that, because the Airport Authority had acquired the former USAirways call center at Pittsburgh International Airport, and that with significantly less in the way of renovations, that facility could be made into a state of the art 911 facility. Mr. McKain noted that the rent for the new facility would be higher than it was at Lexington, but that the difference would be far less than the cost of the renovations that would have had to take place there.

Mr. Macey noted that there is a significant amount of economic development taking place the western part of the County, and that, while he understands the suitability of the former USAirways site, he would also like to see future projects taking place in a geographically diverse function in order to be equitable. Mr. McKain indicated that he understands Mr. Macey's point and agrees with the equitable considerations, and that, while this site was too good of a match to pass up, his intent is to pursue projects in locations throughout the County in the future.

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

V. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:31.