

Allegheny County Council

*County of Allegheny
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Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 13, 2008

4:00 PM

Conference Room 1

Committee on Budget and Finance

William Russell Robinson, Chair; Jim Burn, Joan Cleary, John DeFazio, Matt Drozd, Mike Finnerty, Vince Gastgeb, Bob Macey, and Chuck McCullough - Members

I. Call to Order

Summary: *Meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.*

Invited Guests:

Jim Flynn, County Manager or Designee

Amy Griser, Director, Budget & Finance

Derek Uber, Deputy County Manager

Summary: *Invited Guests Present: Jim Flynn, County Manager; Amy Griser, Director, Budget and Finance; Derek Uber, Deputy County Manager*

Recognized Attendees: Warren Finkel, Budget and Finance; Pete Schepis, Budget and Finance; Greg Casciato, Budget and Finance; Jim Smith, Merrill Lynch; Mossie Murphy, Merrill Lynch; Dean Richardson, Eckert Seamans

Council Staff Present: Jennifer Liptak; Jared Barker; Stephanie Buka

II. Roll Call

Roll Call: Present: Joan Cleary, John DeFazio, Matt Drozd, Michael Finnerty, Bob Macey, Chair William Robinson, Council Member Amanda Green, Council Member Nick Futules, Council Member Chuck Martoni, and Council Member Rich Fitzgerald
Absent: Jim Burn, Vince Gastgeb, and Chuck McCullough

III. Approval of Minutes

4030-08 Motion to approve the Minutes of the April 23 & April 29, 2008 Budget & Finance Committee Meetings.

Action: **A motion was made by Drozd, seconded by Chair Robinson, that this matter be Passed. The motion carried by the following vote:**

Votes: Yes: 9 - DeFazio, Drozd, Finnerty, Macey, Chair Robinson, Council Member Green, Council Member Futules, Council Member Martoni and Council Member Fitzgerald
Abstain: 1 - Cleary
Absent: 3 - Burn, Gastgeb and McCullough

IV. Agenda Items**Ordinances**

3794-08 An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, amending and supplementing the Allegheny County Code of Ordinances, Division 4, entitled "Finances," by the creation of a new Article 490 entitled "Financing Fees," in order to establish a process for reviewing the County's fees for certain financing activities.

Sponsors: William Russell Robinson

Summary: *Chairman Robinson stated that this bill is related to fees that are generated by certain Authorities. This law would put in place a process that would produce a Financing Activity Fee Report which would help Council when shaping the budget and to provide*

oversight of some Authorities.

Councilman Finnerty wanted to know why the Airport Authority was not a part of the legislation. Ms. Liptak said that the Authorities listed benefit the Department of Economic Development and so the focus was placed on those particular Authorities. Councilman Finnerty suggested drafting a separate bill that would cover the Airport Authority.

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

3960-08

An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Pennsylvania, authorizing the incurrence of nonelectoral debt by the issuance of its General Obligation Bonds, Series C-61, in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$53,435,000 ("C-61 Bonds" or the "Bonds").

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Summary: *Chairman Robinson said this bill would allow the County to incur debt in order to finance the 2008 Capital Budget.*

Ms. Liptak said the communication with the Budget and Finance Department has been excellent. She said this is a fixed rate bond not to exceed \$53,435,000.

Director Griser presented the Committee Members with a report that covers the period of 2006 to 2010 and includes projections. She explained that the interest rate is expected to fall between a fixed rate of 4.75 and 5 percent. The rating agencies, including Fitch, Moody's and Standard and Poors have given the County the lowest level of the Upper Grade rating. Moody's is concerned with our fund balance, but Ms. Griser anticipates our rating to be confirmed.

Chairman Robinson explained that the North Shore Connector project and the County's financial commitment to the Port Authority for the project has not changed.

Councilman Drozd said he doesn't support the North Shore Connector project and so he would vote against this ordinance. He added that in his district there are critical roads that require repair and they are not being addressed.

Chairman Robinson asked Director Griser if the road project Drozd was referring to could actually be a part of this ordinance. Ms. Griser said yes, there's some \$5 million available for roads, so it's possible. Chairman Robinson asked the County Manager's Office to work with him to make sure that specific road Councilman Drozd referenced is included.

Action: **A motion was made by Finnerty, seconded by DeFazio, that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried by the following vote:**

Votes: Yes: 5 - Cleary, DeFazio, Finnerty, Macey and Chair Robinson
 No: 1 - Drozd
 Absent: 3 - Burn, Gastgeb and McCullough

Resolution

3972-08

A Resolution of the County of Allegheny amending the Grants and Special Accounts Budget for 2008 (Submission #07-08).

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Summary:

Ms. Liptak said there are additional funds for the Dental Sealant program, four grants being provided through the Department of Community and Economic Development, including one to help reduce the backlog of cases at the Medical Examiner's Office. She stated that everything is in order.

Chairman Robinson will be inviting Director Marc Cherna to meet with the Committee so that Council Members will have a better understanding of the Department of Human Services various projects. He added that it is Council's obligation to evaluate the effectiveness of these programs and Ms. Liptak will coordinate this meeting.

Councilman Finnerty inquired about whether this will help Council determine whether or not the grant does what it is intended to do and Chairman Robinson responded affirmatively.

President Fitzgerald asked if the 9-1-1 System Upgrade was related to the loss of monies from landlines and Ms. Liptak said no.

Councilman Drozd asked where the checks and balances were on these grants since they are acting simply as a pass-through agency. Chairman Robinson said Director Cherna should be able to provide them with more information and clarification concerning these projects.

Action:

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

V. Adjournment**Summary:**

Meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.