

Allegheny County Council

436 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
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Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 15, 2020

4:10 PM

Conference Room 1

Committee on Budget and Finance

Robert Palmosina, Chair; Liv Bennett, Sam DeMarco, Tom Duerr, Nick Futules, Cindy Kirk and Bob Macey, Members

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:12.

Invited Guests:

William D. McKain, CPA, County Manager or Designee(s)

Mary C. Soroka, Director, Budget and Finance or Designee(s)

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

Ms. Soroka was present from the Department of Budget & Finance.

Mr. Szefi was present from the Law Department.

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

II. Roll Call

Members Present: 1 - Robert Palmosina

Members Absent: 0

Members Phone: 6 - Olivia Bennett, Sam DeMarco, Tom Duerr, Nick Futules, Cindy Kirk and Bob Macey

Members Non-Members: 6 - Tom Baker, Patrick Catena, Bethany Hallam, Anita Prizio, DeWitt Walton and Paul Zavarella

III. Approval of Minutes

[11607-20](#)

Motion to approve the minutes of the August 11, 2020 meeting of the Committee on Budget & Finance.

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

IV. Agenda Items

Ordinances

[11601-20](#)

An ordinance amending the definition of rental vehicle set forth in the Allegheny County Code of Ordinances, Division 1, the Allegheny County Administrative Code, Article 808.B entitled "Rental Vehicle Taxation."

Sponsors: Chief Executive

At the request of the Chair, the clerk read the title of the bill and Mr. Szefi summarized its provisions, noting the history of the rental vehicle tax and its purpose to help fund the transit system. Mr. Szefi discussed the \$2 tax on rental vehicles and noted this amendment would clarify excluding motorcycles and scooters from the definition of rental vehicle for rental vehicle taxation purposes. He noted the language was taken from the state legislation and these types of transactions were not meant to be taxed under this ordinance.

In response to a question from Mr. Futules, Mr. Szefi noted that human powered vehicles

are already excluded from this legislation.

In response to a question from Ms. Hallam, Mr. Szefi noted that the downside would be giving up some revenue, but the original intent of the legislation was not to include these types of vehicles. Mr. Szefi noted that these transactions could be crippling to a startup's business model and they do not want to put individuals out of business when they were never intended to be considered in this legislation.

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

11602-20

An Ordinance approving the sale of a parcel of property identified as McWhinney Street, Borough of Munhall, PA, Block and Lot 182-A-9, for the sale price of \$1,500.00 to Gregory Baranowski, an adult individual and Munhall resident.

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 this ordinance would authorize the conveyance of the County's interest in a parcel of property located in Munhall to a Munhall resident for the appraised price. He also noted that this property is currently owned by the three taxing bodies within which the parcel is located, the sale would return the property to the tax rolls and there is no value to the County. Mr. McKain noted that the property was acquired by Munhall on June 27, 1984 and the resident has agreed to pay for the appraised value of \$1,500 and the other fees associated with the transaction.

In response to a question from the Chair, Mr. McKain noted that there is no opposition that he was aware of.

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

Resolutions

11576-20

A Resolution of the County of Allegheny amending the Grants and Special Accounts Budget for 2020 (Submission #07-20).

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 first grant is for the Office of the Medical Examiner to advance the quality system of the office through training and education of five scientists and the expansion of instrument capabilities with the purchase of a hydrogen generator. He noted that the current generator is near the end of its useful life and the new generator would be installed and provide enhancement for optimal use.

Mr. McKain discussed the second grant funding from UPMC Children's Hospital to purchase technology for youth in the juvenile justice system. He noted this funding would allow for the purchase of additional tablets to enable remote participation in treatment and education programming provided by the court. Mr. McKain noted that the CISP program is administered by the court and this funding will help the youth who are committed to this program.

In response to a question from the Chair, Mr. McKain noted that approximately 10 tablets could be purchased with this funding.

In response to a question from Ms. Hallam, Ms. Soroka noted that this program is already being conducted but this funding will allow the court to have more tablets to continue using this program.

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

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:25.