

Allegheny County Council

*County of Allegheny
436 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Phone (412) 350-6495
Fax (412) 350-6499*



Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 13, 2005

4:00 PM

Conference Room 1

Committee on Budget and Finance

*William Russell Robinson, Chair; John DeFazio, Ron Francis, Brenda Frazier,
Vince Gastgeb, Jay Jabbour, and Doug Price*

I. Call to Order

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

Invited Guests:

Jim Flynn, County Manager or Designee

Amy Girser, Director, Budget & Finance

Derek Uber, Assistant County Manager

Summary: *Invited Guests Present: Mr. Uber, Warren Finkel for Ms. Griser*

Council Staff Present: John Mascio, Jennifer Liptak, and Jared Barker

II. Roll Call

Roll Call: Present: William Robinson, John DeFazio, Brenda Frazier, Vince Gastgeb, and C.L. Jabbour
Absent: Ron Francis, and Doug Price

III. Agenda Items**Ordinance****2240-05**

An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, amending Ordinance No. 14-01, approved February 6, 2001, broadening the qualifications of the Longtime Senior Citizen Owner/Occupant Tax Relief Program, by providing for a thirty percent (30%) discount on the gross or face amount of Allegheny County real property taxes.

Sponsors: Rich Nerone

Summary: *The bill was held because the sponsor was not present.*

Action: **Held in Committee**

Resolution**2236-05**

A Resolution of the County of Allegheny amending the Grants and Special Accounts Budgets for 2005 (Submission #20-05).

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Summary: *The Chair referred to supporting documentation and indicated that there were no County matches required for the grants. He said this was merely a process of accommodating foundations that desire to use the County as a fiscal agent. Ms. Liptak said that everything appeared to be in order.*

Mr. Gastgeb asked if this was the same as accepting a gift, which would require an ordinance. Ms. Liptak said no because that requirement is based on acceptance of real property. The Chair said that there may be some personal property involved, but that it is just a continuation of a program that was launched last year. He said they are providing the county with the funds and the county made arrangements to hire staff. He said that these funds are just to put the program together. He asked Ms. Liptak to check

with the Law Department regarding this and that he would circulate the information to Council prior to the December 20th Regular Meeting.

Mr. Gastgeb suggested that Council pass the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Budget by Council District. He said that this would allow Council to have a greater role in the process. He asked what the next step would be in order to implement his idea. The Chair said that he had discussions with the Council of Governments (COG) and they have a different view of this. He said that after the first of the year it would be appropriate to address this issue. He said that he would like to have Ms. Griser appear before the committee to discuss this. He also suggested that the President of Council initiate a conversation with the Chief Executive regarding this.

Mr. Jabbour said that he would be hesitant to get that involved in this process. He said that he thinks that this is heading in the wrong direction. He said he does not believe Council has the authority to say yes or no to grants. He said that this is already been taken care of.

The Chair said that the even though the Administration is reluctant to involve Council in the process they should give them one more chance to allow this to happen. He also said that Council needs to develop an internal process before they even begin to do this.

Mr. Gastgeb said that the COG's fear is unfounded because their appropriation would not change at all. He said that his main goal is to involve Council in the process. He said that if they appropriated by district they would have a better scope on what is going on.

The Chair said that the Department of Economic Development did provide Council with a list of all CDBG eligible projects by district and he encouraged Council to read it.

General discussion took place on the pros and cons of doing this. Mr. Jabbour spoke against this and Mr. Gastgeb continued to support it. The Chair said that he thinks that Council should not appropriate the funds unless they are involved in the process. Mr. DeFazio said that they need to schedule a meeting with the Administration. The Chair said that he would try to arrange this through the President of Council.

Mr. Jabbour and Mr. Gastgeb commended Mr. Robinson on his work with he Budget and with the committee in general.

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

IV. Adjournment

Summary: *The meeting adjourned at 4:50 PM*