

Allegheny County Council

*County of Allegheny
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Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

4:00 PM

*****Reconvened Meeting of March 20, 2007*****

Conference Room 1

Committee on Budget and Finance

***William Russell Robinson, Chair; Jim Burn, Susan Caldwell, Joan Cleary, Matt Drozd, Mike Finnerty, Brenda Frazier, Vince Gastgeb, and William E. Lestitian -
Members***

Reconvened Meeting of 03-20-07**I. Call to Order**

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

Invited Guests:

John Weinstein, County Treasurer or Designee

Jim Flynn, County Manager or Designee

Amy Griser, Director, Budget & Finance

Derek Uber, Deputy County Manager

Summary: *Invited guests in attendance: Mr. Weinstein, Mr. Flynn, Greg Casciato for Ms. Griser, and Mr. Uber*

Council staff in attendance: John Mascio, Jennifer Liptak, and Jared Barker

II. Roll Call

Roll Call: Present: Susan Caldwell, Matt Drozd, Michael Finnerty, Brenda Frazier, Chair William Robinson, Council Member Jan Rea, and Council Member John DeFazio

Absent: Jim Burn, Joan Cleary, William Lestitian, and Vince Gastgeb

III Approval of Minutes

3112-07 Motion to approve the Minutes of the February 27 and March 20, 2007 Budget & Finance Committee Meetings.

Action: **A motion was made by Finnerty, seconded by Caldwell, that this matter be Passed. The motion carried unanimously.**

IV. Agenda Items**Ordinance**

3036-07 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: Susan Caldwell, Vince Gastgeb and Matt Drozd

Summary: *Ms. Caldwell provided the committee with a summary of the results of a meeting she had with Jared Barker and Treasurer Weinstein regarding this bill. She said that she addressed Mr. Weinstein's concerns by offering an amendment by substitution. She explained that the amendment would raise the household income eligibility from \$30,000 to \$35,000 to be consistent with the state.*

Mr. Weinstein addressed various questions from the committee regarding the implementation of the bill.

Mr. Drozd said that he wants to be sure that this does not stretch the county budget and would like to know the fiscal impact this program would have on the county. The Chair said that Ms. Liptak is in the process of researching the fiscal impact of all discount programs for the county.

Mr. Weinstein said that he is in full support of the legislation and is open to work with any member of Council to enhance the program. He asked Ms. Caldwell if the effective date of the bill would be June 30th of this year or June 30, 2008. Ms. Caldwell said that originally she thought it would be 2008. Mr. Weinstein said that he recommends that the effective date be July 31, 2007 for the discount to apply for 2008. Ms. Caldwell agreed and the amendment was changed to add that effective date.

The Chair asked if this discount would be for one year only and would people have to apply every year. Mr. Weinstein said that people would not have to apply every year.

Ms. Caldwell presented a Motion to amend the bill by substitution. Mr. Finnerty seconded the Motion and it was unanimously approved.

The Committee then voted on the bill as amended.

Action:

A motion was made by Caldwell, seconded by Frazier, that this matter be Amended and Affirmatively Recommended as Amended. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution

3092-07

A Resolution of the County of Allegheny amending the Grants and Special Accounts Budget for 2007 (Submission #05-07).

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Summary:

Ms. Liptak provided the committee with a summary of the bill. The Chair indicated that he had no questions.

Mr. Finnerty asked Ms. Liptak about the local matches in the grant. Ms. Liptak said that a lot of grants require matches but those funds are budgeted in the bill.

Action:

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

V. Adjournment

Summary:

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 PM