

Allegheny County Council

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



Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 26, 2007

4:00 PM

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***

I. Call to Order

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

Invited Guests:

Jim Flynn, County Manager or Designee

Amy Griser, Director, Budget & Finance

Derek Uber, Deputy County Manager

Summary: *Invited guests in attendance: Mr. Flynn, Ms. Griser, and Mr. Uber*

Recognized attendees: Peter Schepis, Office of Budget & Finance

Council staff in attendance: John Mascio and Jennifer Liptak

II. Roll Call

Roll Call: Present: Susan Caldwell, Joan Cleary, Matt Drozd, Michael Finnerty, Brenda Frazier, Vince Gastgeb, Chair William Robinson, Council Member Bob Macey, and Council Member Rich Fitzgerald
Absent: Jim Burn, and William Lestitian

III. Approval of Minutes

3312-07 Motion to approve the Minutes of the May 29, 2007 Budget & Finance Committee Meeting.

Action: **A motion was made that this matter be Passed. The motion carried by the following vote:**

Votes: Yes: 7 - Caldwell, Drozd, Finnerty, Frazier, Gastgeb, Chair Robinson and Council Member Fitzgerald
Abstain: 1 - Cleary
Absent: 2 - Burn and Lestitian
Non-Member: 1 - Council Member Macey

IV. Agenda Items**Resolutions**

3241-07 A Resolution of the County of Allegheny amending the Grants and Special Accounts Budget for 2007 (Submission #08-07).

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Summary: *Prior to discussion on this bill, Ms. Liptak provided the committee with an update on the issue of fiscal notes on 3 bills that were not on the agenda. She said she met with Ms. Griser and Controller Flaherty and they came to an agreement on the process and time line in accordance with the Rules of Council. She said that the meeting was very productive and that additional information would be forthcoming.*

The Chair suggested that the other committee chairs contact Ms. Liptak to discuss what she is developing in regards to fiscal notes. He said that fiscal notes are not intended to

be viewed as a policy statement. He said that Council is free to move on a bill regardless of the fiscal note.

Much discussion took place regarding the purpose and value of fiscal notes. The committee agreed that they would be very useful.

Regarding Bill No. 3241-07, Ms. Liptak provided the committee with a summary of the bill. She said that there were no County matches required and that most of the projects listed in the bill were amendments. She said that the bill seemed to be in order.

Mr. Finnerty asked if the Maternal and Child Health Initiative was a recurring grant. Pete Schepis said it was not.

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

3275-07 A Resolution of the County of Allegheny amending the Grants and Special Accounts Budget for 2007 (Submission #09-07).

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Summary: *Ms. Liptak provided the committee with a summary of the bill and described the purpose of some of the grants.*

Mr. Drozd asked who selects the purveyor of the grants, particularly the 1 million dollar grant to the Medical Examiner. Mr. Schepis explained that the equipment portion of the grant would be done through the regular competitive bidding process established by the Administrative Code. The Chair went on to explain the entire bidding process for the county.

Mr. Fitzgerald reminded Mr. Drozd that there are 2 types of contracts. One was for commodities and the other for professional services.

The Chair advised Mr. Drozd to direct his questions to County Manager Jim Flynn who is the Chair of the Professional Services review committee. Mr. Drozd asked Ms. Liptak to guide him through this process. She said that she would.

Ms. Caldwell asked if the Medical Examiner's Office provides services outside the county, and if so, are they reimbursed for them. The Chair asked Mr. Uber to address this. Mr. Uber said that he is not aware of the Medical Examiner performing work outside the county, but that he would check with them and get back to her.

Mr. Drozd asked if an appointed Medical Examiner has proven more efficient than an elected Coroner. The Chair told him that this committee plans to examine that issue and that Mr. Drozd will have ample time to ask questions regarding that.

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

V. Adjournment

Summary: *The meeting adjourned at 5:05.*