

Allegheny County Council

436 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Phone (412) 350-6490



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 22, 2019

4:30 PM

Conference Room 1

Committee on Budget and Finance

*Paul Klein, Chair; Sam DeMarco, Nick Futules, Bob Macey, Sue Means, John Palmiere
and Paul Zavarella, Members.*

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:30.

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, Ms. Brbekec, Mr. Humenik, Mr. Lentz, Ms. Perez and Mr. Rambo were present from the Department of budget & Finance.

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

II. Roll Call

Members Present: 2 - Paul Zavarella and Paul Klein

Members Absent: 3 - Sam DeMarco, Nick Futules and John Palmiere

Members Phone: 2 - Bob Macey and Sue Means

Members 1 - DeWitt Walton

Non-Members:

III. Approval of Minutes

IV. Agenda Items

Resolutions

[11142-19](#) A Resolution of the County of Allegheny amending the Grants and Special Accounts Budget for 2019 (Submission #03-19).

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 one of the Family Court judges had been in touch with foundations in the area in order to attempt to seek funding for improving the experience for individuals participating in matters pending before the Court, largely relating to the facilities in the Family Law Center. Mr. McKain noted that the first grant item at issue is for a new \$2,000 grant to allow for publication of a guidebook for the adoption process geared for children who are involved, and a \$100,000 grant to be used for improving the facilities in order to render waiting areas quieter and otherwise less stressful, and in order to allow for the utilization of technology to make it easier to be present when cases are called.

Ms. Means expressed appreciation for the Manager's summary, as did Mr. Zavarella.

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

[11177-19](#) A Resolution of the County of Allegheny amending the Grants and Special Accounts

Budget for 2019 (Submission #04-19).

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 would be for just over \$220,000 for Project Safe Neighborhoods activities involving overtime for patrol officers in designated areas as well as a few new hires which will enable enhanced data tracking.

In response to a question from the Chair, Mr. McKain summarized how the officers and areas were selected.

Mr. McKain noted that the second grant at issue is for a \$5 million grant from the Centers for Disease Control to span three years of an Overdose Data to Action program geared towards gathering data to aid in prevention activities for opioid abuse. Mr. McKain noted that, due to the size of the grant, the County would be making a few new hires in order to support the funded activities, and that some of the activities would also be taking place within the County Jail because statistics indicate that a comparatively high percentage of individuals who fatally overdose were incarcerated for some period of time in the past, so it makes logical sense to attempt to provide services at that contact point.

In response to questions from Ms. Means, Mr. McKain reiterated that the funding would be coming from CDC, with no County match required, and that the size and complexity of the program will necessitate some additional staffing.

Mr. Walton expressed support for the program, noting that while opioid overdoses appear to be down at least somewhat in the recent past, this program will give the County a real opportunity to continue comprehensive efforts to ensure that this trend continues.

Mr. McKain noted that the third grant at issue is for just over \$74,000 in funding from PCCD in order to upgrade the Medical Examiner's laboratory through acquiring a gas chromatograph and a mass spectrometer to more precisely identify components of toxicology analyses.

In response to a question from Ms. Means, Mr. McKain and Ms. Soroka noted that there is no County match required.

Mr. McKain noted that the final grant at issue is \$11,000 from the late County photographer Margaret Stanley's foundation (her married name was Raphael) to upgrade the County's Mounted Unit's horse trailer.

Ms. Means expressed appreciation for the donation and noted her fond memories of Ms. Stanley, and Mr. Macey agreed.

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

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:49.