

Allegheny County Council

*County of Allegheny
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Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

4:00 PM

Conference Room 1

Committee on Budget and Finance

William Russell Robinson, Chair; Jim Burn, Joan Cleary, John DeFazio, Matt Drozd, Mike Finnerty, Vince Gastgeb, Amanda Green, Bob Macey, and Chuck McCullough - Members

I. Call to Order

Summary: *The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.*

Invited Guests:

Jim Flynn, County Manager or Designee

Amy Griser, Director of Budget & Finance

Derek Uber, Deputy County Manager

Summary: *Invited Guests Present: Jim Flynn, County Manager; Derek Uber, Deputy County Manager; Amy Griser, Director of Budget & Finance*

Council Staff Present: Jennifer Liptak; Jared Barker; Stephanie Buka

II. Roll Call

Roll Call: Present: Matt Drozd, Michael Finnerty, Vince Gastgeb, Bob Macey, William Robinson, and Rich Fitzgerald

Absent: Jim Burn, Joan Cleary, John DeFazio, Amanda Green, and Chuck McCullough

III. Agenda Items**Ordinances****3854-08**

An Ordinance amending and supplementing the Allegheny County Code of Ordinances, Division 1, entitled "Administrative Code," Article 808.B, "Rental Vehicle Taxation," in order to provide consistency with regard to exemptions from the County tax on the rental of certain motor vehicles within the County and the exemptions from taxes imposed by the Commonwealth on such rentals.

Sponsors: William Russell Robinson, Joan Cleary, Vince Gastgeb, Michael Finnerty, Matt Drozd, Nick Futules, Amanda Green, Bob Macey, Chuck Martoni and Jim Burn

Summary: *Ms. Liptak distributed an amendment, sponsored by Councilman Robinson, which would make the effective date 1/1/2010. She also provided a Fiscal Note, which is now permanently attached to the bill.*

Councilman Finnerty asked about the forgone revenue estimate for 2008 and Ms. Liptak responded that \$91,501 is the estimate.

Councilman Finnerty inquired about the forgone revenue scenarios and Ms. Liptak explained that the scenarios cover 0 to 4 percent of tax exempt sales and the estimated forgone tax revenue.

Councilman Gastgeb asked what the original estimate totaled, and Ms. Liptak replied \$4 million. Councilman Gastgeb commented that the County over collected around \$2 million and Ms. Liptak confirmed this assessment.

Chairman Robinson said the amendment will be presented on the floor at the Regular Meeting of Council. If passed, this would make the effective date 1/1/2010, so as not to

disturb the 2008-2009 Budget.

Councilman Drozd said since the County over collected, why can't we implement the bill this year. Chairman Robinson said he doesn't believe they have over collected; they are legally collecting the rental car tax and the issue is one of fairness.

Councilman Gastgeb said the \$91,501 dollars should be put back into the hands of the non-profits, and he would like to see their relief take effect as soon as possible.

Council President Fitzgerald said the non-profits are in tough financial times, and as such, he would like to see this bill come before the full Council for a vote.

Ms. Griser stated that the 2009 Budget was amended with the \$5.8 million rental car tax collection estimate, and while \$91,501 seems like a small figure, she would not recommend adjusting the 2009 Budget at this time.

Chairman Robinson said the intent of the legislation is to offer relief to the non-profits and it is Council's responsibility to initiate such change.

Councilman Macey said he supports the ordinance, but he has concerns over changing the 2009 Budget.

Councilman Gastgeb asked Ms. Liptak if the Treasurer received rental car tax receipts for 2009. Ms. Liptak responded that as of March 4, 2009, the rental car tax collection totaled \$394,000.

Chairman Robinson asked Mr. Barker what the effective date of the bill would be in the event that the amendment fails and Mr. Barker said 60 days out or the day of final approval.

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

4630-09

An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, requiring and authorizing a review of the Allegheny County Clerk of Courts, Prothonotary, Register of Wills and Recorder of Deeds, as well as the former Offices of the Jury Commissioners and Coroner under the terms of Chapter 225 of the Allegheny County Code of Ordinances and Article 1201 of the Administrative Code of Allegheny County.

Sponsors: William Russell Robinson

Summary: *Chairman Robinson said he would like to hold this bill in committee.*

Action: **Held in Committee**

Resolution

4661-09

A Resolution of the County of Allegheny amending the Grants and Special Accounts Budget for 2009 (Submission #04-09).

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Summary: *Ms. Liptak said all items are in order concerning the amendment to the Grants and Special Accounts Budget for 2009.*

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

IV. Adjournment

Summary: *The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.*