

Allegheny County Council

*County of Allegheny
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Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

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, Bob Macey, and Chuck McCullough -
Members*

I. Call to Order

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

Roll Call: Present: Joan Cleary, John DeFazio, Matt Drozd, Michael Finnerty, Bob Macey, Chuck McCullough, Chair William Robinson, Council Member Rich Fitzgerald, Council Member Nick Futules, and Council Member Amanda Green
Absent: Jim Burn, and Vince Gastgeb

Invited Guests:

Jim Flynn, County Manager or Designee
Amy Griser, Director, Budget & Finance
Derek Uber, Deputy County Manager

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

Recognized Attendees: Greg Casciato, Budget & Finance

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

II. Roll Call

Roll Call: Present: Joan Cleary, John DeFazio, Matt Drozd, Michael Finnerty, Bob Macey, Chuck McCullough, and Chair William Robinson
Absent: Jim Burn, and Vince Gastgeb

III. Agenda Items

Ordinance

3673-08 An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, amending and supplementing the Allegheny County Code of Ordinances, Division 4, entitled "Finances," through the creation of a new Chapter 485, entitled "Gaming Revenues," in order to provide a uniform mechanism for accepting and disbursing revenues provided to the County under the terms of the Pennsylvania Racehorse Development and Gaming Act, 4 P.S. §1101 et. seq.

Sponsors: Chuck McCullough, Matt Drozd, Vince Gastgeb, Jan Rea, William Russell Robinson, Joan Cleary, Michael Finnerty, Rich Fitzgerald and Bob Macey

Summary: *Councilwoman Cleary asked whether this bill is more or less a bookkeeping bill. Councilman McCullough said it would be a tracking device so that Council is notified when gaming revenues are received by the County. He said it is also to ensure those funds are appropriately accounted for.*

Councilman Finnerty said he wasn't sure this bill was necessary since any revenue would be captured as part of the normal Council budget process. Councilman McCullough responded that \$19.9 million made it's way into the County without Council's knowledge and he doesn't think Council would want that to happen again.

Councilman Drozd asked whether any Council Member knew about the \$19.9 million.

Chairman Robinson responded that they did not know about that money and the Chief Executive stated on the record that he didn't know about it, but Mr. Onorato now knows that Council needs to be notified as soon as he is aware of such a matter. Chairman Robinson said the Chief Executive stated he will notify Council in writing whenever he is in receipt of monies. Councilman McCullough said this isn't a personality directed thing but rather a chance to correct an institutional flaw.

Councilwoman Cleary asked whether or not special revenues have to be approved by Council already and Ms. Liptak responded in the affirmative. Ms. Liptak said the host fees would be placed in the General Fund under operating revenue.

President Fitzgerald said the Home Rule Charter already addresses how revenues are handled and it gives Council that authority. He said he wants the Chief Executive to go after federal and state monies, and then once it does come in to the County, it is up to Council to appropriate it. He asked that his name be removed as a co-sponsor.

Councilwoman Cleary, and Councilmen Finnerty and Macey asked that their name's be removed as a co-sponsor from Bill No. 3673-08.

Council Member McCullough made a motion to affirmatively recommend this bill as amended. Mr. Drozd seconded the Motion. The Motion failed by a vote of 3-4 with Council Members Cleary, DeFazio, Finnerty, and Macey voting no, and Council Members Drozd McCullough and Robinson voting yes.

Action: **A motion was made to Amended & Negatively Recommended as Amended. The motion carried by the following vote:**

Votes: Yes: 4 - Cleary, DeFazio, Finnerty and Macey
No: 3 - Drozd, McCullough and Chair Robinson
Absent: 2 - Burn and Gastgeb

Resolutions

3864-08 A Resolution ratifying certain year-end transfers pursuant to Section 805.03 of the Administrative Code.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Summary: *Ms. Liptak explained that this bill is related to year-end transfers and it deals with expenditures. She said the Department of Public Works went over budget by \$1.4 million. Ms. Liptak said there's about \$12 million in total transfers and she worked with Ms. Griser and the Controller on balancing the books for 2007.*

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

3866-08 A Resolution of the County of Allegheny amending the Grants and Special Accounts Budget for 2008 (Submission #05-08).

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Summary: *Ms. Liptak said there are two budget blocks in this bill amending the Grants and Special Accounts Budget for 2008. She said all is in order.*

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

3867-08 A Resolution of the County of Allegheny amending the 2008 Capital Budget for Allegheny County.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Summary: *Ms. Liptak said this legislation would amend the 2008 Capital Budget for Allegheny County by including Act 44 money of \$1.1 million. Ms. Liptak explained that this money is dedicated for County bridges.*

Councilman Finnerty asked who else is getting part of the \$5 million of Act 44 monies. Mr. Casciato said other counties in Pennsylvania are receiving part of the \$5 million, based on the deck size and percentage of bridges in their jurisdiction.

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

Motion

3816-08 Motion Expressing the Sense of the Council of Allegheny County regarding continued deliberation on and discussion of Bill No. 3663-08, treating the proposed County Essential Services Fee.

Sponsors: Chuck McCullough

Summary: *Chairman Robinson said this motion concerns Bill No. 3663-08 and the proposed County Essential Services Fee. He said there is a public hearing scheduled for today and suggested that this bill be held in committee until after the public hearing.*

Councilman McCullough said he would be happy to continue working on this legislation, if the group would like him to do such.

Chairman Robinson mentioned that Bill No. 3819-08 is the new bill covering the same topic.

Action: **Held in Committee**

Committee Notes:

Controller Mark Patrick Flaherty will appear before the Budget and Finance Committee on April 23, 2008, at 4:00 p.m. to provide an overview on the 2007 CAFR and an update on the 2008 1st quarter revenues and expenditures.

Summary: *Controller Flaherty will attend the Budget and Finance Meeting on 4/23/08 at 4 pm. Chairman Robinson explained to the group that the intent is to use the Controller's expertise and he asked committee members to respect the Controller's independence.*

Treasurer John Weinstein will appear before the Budget and Finance Committee on April 29, 2008, at 4:00 p.m. to provide an update on the 2008 1st quarter tax revenue collections.

Summary: *Treasurer Weinstein will attend the Budget and Finance Meeting on 4/29/08 at 4 pm. Chairman Robinson explained to the group that the intent is to use the Treasurer's*

expertise and he asked committee members to respect the Treasurer's independence.

IV. Adjournment

Summary: *Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.*