

# Allegheny County Council

*County of Allegheny  
436 Grant Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
Phone (412) 350-6490*



## Meeting Minutes - Approved

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

4:00 PM

Conference Room 1

## Committee on Government Reform

*John DeFazio-Chair*

*Members: Jim Ellenbogen, Mike Finnerty, Nick Futules, Amanda Green Hawkins, Ed Kress, Charles Martoni, & Sue Means*

## I. Call to Order

*The meeting was called to order at 4:04.*

### Invited Guests: William D. McKain, CPA-County Manager or Designee

*Mr. McKain was present from the Office of the County Manager.*

*Mr. Tyskiewicz was present from the Department of Administrative Services.*

*Mr. Majewski was present from the Office of Property Assessment.*

*Mr. Montgomery was present as solicitor to BPAAR.*

*Mr. Barker and Mr. Szymanski were present from the Office of County Council.*

## II. Roll Call

**Members Present:** 3 - DeFazio, Michael Finnerty and Ed Kress

**Members Absent:** 4 - Jim Ellenbogen, Amanda Green Hawkins, Chuck Martoni and Barbara Danko

**Members Phone:** 2 - Nick Futules and Sue Means

**Members** 1 - Jan Rea

**Non-Members:**

## III. Approval of Minutes

[8810-15](#)

Motion to approve the minutes of the Government Reform Committee of Allegheny County Council held on February 18, 2015

**Passed**

## IV. Agenda Items

### Ordinances

[7976-14](#)

An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, amending and supplementing the Administrative Code of Allegheny County, Article 207, entitled "New Board of Property Appeals Assessment and Review," §5-207.06, entitled "Rules and regulations for appeals," in order to establish a mechanism for electronic and/or regular mail filing of appeals.

**Sponsors:** Council Member Kress and Council Member Macey

*At the request of the Chair, the clerk read the title of the bill and Mr. Kress explained the intent behind and objective of the bill.*

*Mr. Kress expressed a desire to amend the bill such that it only authorizes the electronic filing of assessment appeals, rather than to the submission of evidence electronically.*

*Mr. McKain noted that the administrative supports the use of technology in accordance*

*with applicable law and regulation, where appropriate, and noted that appropriate staff and other resources do currently exist to accommodate the provisions of this ordinance.*

*Mr. T indicated that he believes that the measure would provide additional utility for the public, and would likely streamline the process.*

*Mr. Montgomery expressed the support of BPAAR for the measure, and asked whether taxing bodies and/or representatives for filing parties would be able to file electronically. Mr. T indicated that they would, and he, Mr. McKain and Mr. Majewski discussed the mechanics of the filing process, and the potential to cut down on duplicate filings.*

*Mr. Finnerty asked if commercial properties would be eligible for electronic filing, and Mr. T indicated that they would.*

*Mr. McKain and Mr. T discussed the mechanism that exists for catching false or fraudulent appeals.*

*Mr. Finnerty and Mr. Majewski discussed the current website, noting that the existing content indicates which properties are subject to pending appeals.*

*Mr. Kress, Mr. T and Mr. Majewski discussed the other procedural options that can be exercised electronically.*

*Mr. Kress and Mr. Montgomery discussed the relative paucity of false or fraudulent appeals at the present time, with Mr. Montgomery noting that he is unaware of any criminal charges ever stemming from such a filing.*

*Mr. Finnerty and Mr. Kress discussed the content and impact of the amendment.*

*Mr. Montgomery, Mr. Majewski and Mr. McKain discussed the possibility of establishing an automatic notification to the taxing bodies when an appeal is filed electronically.*

*Mr. Kress moved to amend, Mr. Finnerty seconded, and the motion passed unanimously among the members present.*

**Amended and Affirmatively Recommended as Amended**

Enactment No: 10-15-OR

## V. Adjournment

*The meeting adjourned at 4:21.*