

Allegheny County Council

*County of Allegheny
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Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 16, 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***

REVISED**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 and Greg Casciato for Ms. Griser*

Recognized attendees: Dawn Botsford, District Attorney's Office

Council staff in attendance: John Mascio, Jennifer Liptak, Joe Catanese, and Jared Barker

II. Roll Call

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

III. Approval of Minutes

3474-07 Motion to approve the Minutes of the September 4, 2007 Budget & Finance Committee Meeting.

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

IV. Agenda Items**Ordinance**

3375-07 An Ordinance amending and supplementing the Allegheny County Code of Ordinances, Division 1, entitled "Administrative Code," through the creation of a new Article 808, entitled "Taxation," in order to provide for the imposition of a County tax on the sale at retail of liquor and malt and brewed beverages within the County.

Sponsors: William Russell Robinson

Action: **Held in Committee**

3379-07

An Ordinance amending and supplementing the Allegheny County Code of Ordinances, Division 1, entitled "Administrative Code," through the creation of a new Article 808, entitled "Taxation," in order to provide for the imposition of a County excise tax on each transaction in which a rental vehicle is rented within the County.

Sponsors: William Russell Robinson

Action: Held in Committee

Resolution**3449-07**

A Resolution of the County of Allegheny amending the 2007 Capital Budget for Allegheny County.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Summary: *Ms. Liptak provided the committee with a detailed summary of the bill. The Chair asked Ms. Liptak if she knew how much money was in the Jail's Inmate Account. Ms. Liptak said she did not know but would provide him with that information.*

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

3450-07

A Resolution of the County of Allegheny approving certain Inter-Departmental Transfers in the Operating Budget for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2007 and ending December 31, 2007.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Summary: *Ms. Liptak provided the committee with a summary of the bill. She explained that passage of this bill would result in a balanced Operating Budget.*

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

3451-07

A Resolution of the County of Allegheny amending the Grants and Special Accounts Budget for 2007 (Submission #14-07).

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Summary: *Ms. Liptak provided the committee with a summary of the bill and explained the details of the grants. Mr. Finnerty asked her what the Auto Theft Task Force is. The Chair invited Ms. Botsford from the District Attorney's Office to address this question. Ms. Botsford explained that the grant renewal is for the Auto Theft Task Force is made possible by Automobile Prevention Act, 40 p.s. 3601, through the PA State Police. She said that the funds are used in part to reimburse certain expenses incurred by the County associated with participation in task force activities. The County is reimbursement for the expenses directly related to this project.*

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

Discussion Topic:

2008 County Budget Scenarios

Summary: *The Chair called upon Ms. Liptak to provide the committee with a visual Power Point presentation of various 2008 County Operating Budget Scenarios. Ms. Liptak distributed hard copies of this presentation to the committee.*

Following the presentation, the Chair reminded the committee that these scenarios are not the budget nor are they legislation. He said that they were just options they could use to help shape the budget. He recommended that all of Council review this document closely in case they may wish to make some adjustments to the Chief Executive's 2008 proposed fiscal plan.

The Chair also said that he has discussed various concerns with some Council Members. He said that he and Ms. Liptak explored options to find ways to reduce expenses and to support mass transit and to find ways to accommodate growth.

Mr. Gastgeb asked why the estimated revenue from a rental car tax was placed in the Special Accounts Budget and not in the operating budget. The Chair asked Ms. Liptak to relay this concern to the administration and find out why they did that.

The Chair said that could be included in their second set of questions which will be forwarded to the administration. He said he and Ms. Liptak will prepare a type of questionnaire for all Members of Council and any questions or suggestions they may have will be forwarded to the Chief Executive's Office in that format.

V. Adjournment

Summary: *The meeting adjourned at 5:10 PM*