

Allegheny County Council

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



Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 3, 2019

4:00 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 4:00.

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.

Mr. Szefi was present from the Law Department.

Ms. Soroka, Mr. Cox, Mr. Humenik, Ms. Perez, Mr. Lentz, Mr. Rambo and Ms. Brbekec 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: 3 - Sue Means, Paul Zavarella and Paul Klein

Members Absent: 4 - Sam DeMarco, Nick Futules, Bob Macey and John Palmiere

III. Approval of Minutes

[11191-19](#)

Motion to approve the minutes of the Committee on Budget and Finance meeting held on August 22, 2019.

IV. Agenda Items

Ordinances

[11183-19](#)

An Ordinance amending the Allegheny County Code of Ordinances, Division 1, entitled "Administrative Code," Article 808.A, to comply with recent amendments made by the Pennsylvania General Assembly to Article II of the Act of March 4, 1971 (P.L. 6, No.2), known as the Tax Reform Code of 1971.

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 proposed amendment would preserve alcoholic beverage tax collections from craft brewery-type entities. Mr. Szefi indicated that the General Assembly has made a change to the Tax Reform Code of 1971 such that alcoholic beverages served at craft breweries will remain subject to the County's alcoholic beverage taxes. Mr. Szefi noted that this change takes effect on September 30, 2019, and renders craft brewery alcoholic beverage sales subject to a Commonwealth sales tax at a reduced rate, but also noted that the County's drink tax ordinance when enacted had created an exemption for sales that were otherwise subject to Commonwealth taxes. Mr. Szefi noted that the provisions of the Commonwealth law making the change (Act 13 of 2019) specifically authorize the continuation of County drink tax collections on these types of transactions.

In response to a question from Ms. Means, Mr. Szefi noted that the consequence of not making the change would be loss of the County's drink tax revenues from craft brewery-type entities selling alcoholic beverages directly to their customers.

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

Resolutions

[11187-19](#) A Resolution of the County of Allegheny amending the Grants and Special Accounts Budget for 2019 (Submission #05-19).

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 administration first came to Council in May to accept some funding from the same source for high intensity drug enforcement assistance for the County Police, but that additional funding had become available. Mr. McKain noted that the funding would run through December 31, 2021 and that most of the funds would be expended in enforcement actions that take place outside of the City of Pittsburgh, most notably in the Eastern suburbs, Mon Valley, and near Western suburbs. Mr. McKain highlighted some of the hardware and software that would be purchased, including GPS equipment and covert video surveillance equipment, as well as somewhat distressed undercover vehicles. Mr. McKain noted that the amount of the additional funding is \$104,000, and that there is no County match required.

In response to a question from Ms. Means, Ms. Soroka noted that this grant together with the one received in May amounts to a combined total of \$204,000.

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

V. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:13.