

Allegheny County Council

*County of Allegheny
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Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 29, 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: *The meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM*

Invited Guests:

John Weinstein, County Treasurer

Jim Flynn, County Manager or Designee

Amy Griser, Director, Budget & Finance

Derek Uber, Deputy County Manager

Summary: *Invited guests in attendance: Mr. Weinstein, Mr. Flynn, Ms. Griser, and Mr. Uber*

Recognized attendees: Enrico Lunardi, Jan Vinci, and Bob Miecznikowski - Treasurer's Office

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

II. Roll Call

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

III. Agenda Items**Ordinance**

3675-08 An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, directing the County Solicitor to pursue a legal remedy against the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in order to recover any revenues that may be due to the County as a result of continuing County funding of the state's court system.

Sponsors: Matt Drozd

Summary: *Held at the request of the sponsor*

Action: Held in Committee

Discussion Topic:

Treasurer John Weinstein will appear before the Budget and Finance Committee to provide an update on the 2008 1st quarter tax revenue collections.

Summary: *Treasurer John Weinstein provided the committee with his 1st Quarter 2008 Revenue Report. He distributed a hard copy of the report to all Council Members present and provided a page by page description of each revenue and related information regarding these revenues.*

Mr. Weinstein said that some bars are refusing to comply with the provisions of the drink tax Ordinance and not filing tax payments to the county. He said that his office

will pursue this and if they discover that the establishments that are not participating are collecting the revenue and not submitting those revenues to the county then they are committing fraud and will be charged as such. He said that if they are just not charging the drink tax they are in violation of the county ordinance and they will be given written notices and/or citations informing them that they are required to do so.

Chair said that Mr. Weinstein is available to talk to Council Members individually regarding this report if they so choose.

Departmental Fee Presentation

Summary: *Ms. Liptak provided a visual Power Point presentation of the county's Fee Review. She also distributed a hard copy of the presentation to all Members of Council. She provided a general overview of the county's fee structure and a description of each fee by department.*

The Chair informed the committee that this presentation was a direct result of 2 bills that are currently in the Committee on Budget and Finance, Bill No. 3794-08 and Bill No. 3762-08, which address this issue. He said that County Council, through it's Committee on Budget and Finance, has requested a review of all existing fees and charges currently imposed by the County through its Departments, Courts, Authorities, and Independently Elected Offices.

The Chair said that this type of material is provided to Council Members to assist them in their decision making during the budget process. He said it was an Initial review of the county's financial status relative to fees up to this point.

Mr. McCullough asked the Chair if changes in governmental structure alters the fee authorization? The Chair said that the answer to that question is not part of this presentation but he will provide Mr. McCullough the answer to that question at a later date

The Chair informed the committee that all the information that was provided at the meeting is available on file in Ms. Liptak's office.

IV. Adjournment

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