

Allegheny County Council

*County of Allegheny
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Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 26, 2009

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, Amanda Green, Bob Macey, and Chuck McCullough - Members

I. Call to Order

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

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

Invited Guests:

Jim Flynn, County Manager or Designee

Amy Griser, Director of Budget & Finance

Dennis Davin, Director, Economic Development

Derek Uber, Deputy County Manager

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

Recognized Attendees: Pete Schepis, Deputy Director, Budget & Finance; Cassandra Collinge, Assistant Manager, Housing Division, Economic Development Department; Jack Exler, CDBG Administrator, Economic Development Department; Reginald Young, Deputy Director, Office of Community Services, Department of Human Services

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

II. Roll Call**III. Approval of Minutes**

4888-09 Motion to approve the Minutes of the May 12, 2009 Budget & Finance Committee Meeting.

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

IV. Agenda Items**Resolution**

4849-09 A Resolution of the County of Allegheny amending the Grants and Special Accounts Budget for 2009 (Submission #08-09).

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Summary: *Mr. Exler explained how the Economic Development Department chose 15 projects for the Community Development Block Grant Recovery (CDBG-R) Program. He agreed to identify the CDBG-R projects by Council District per Chairman Robinson's request.*

Ms. Collinge described the process involved for the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program, and said the RFP would go out next week. Mr. Exler added that the City and County are working on this program together.

Concerning the \$8.1 million expected from the Energy Efficiency and Conservation

Block Grant (EECBG) Mr. Exler told members that the application is due by June 25, 2009. He described ideas and possible projects that the Economic Development Department is considering.

Chairman Robinson stated that if Council as a whole approves this bill, he expects the Administration to return to the Committee on Budget & Finance to explain exactly how they plan on spending these funds.

Councilman Drozd asked for clarification on whether or not stimulus monies would be used to help communities affected by flooding. Ms. Liptak will respond to this inquiry.

Ms. Collinge told members that the Homeless Prevention & Rapid Re-Housing Program will assist low-income individuals and families with housing, utility assistance, and case management. A database will allow the various agencies administering the program to communicate with each other and prevent abuse.

Ms. Collinge told Councilman Finnerty that Economic Development will provide members with a list of the agencies they choose to contract with, and Mr. Exler told the Councilman that a report of the CDBG projects will be provided as well.

Councilman McCullough asked about the 65 proposals received by Economic Development for CDBG-R funding, and Mr. Exler replied that they were part of the annual solicitations and the standard process.

Councilman Drozd told the representatives from Economic Development that he has a lot of questions concerning the CDBG-R monies. He also inquired about whether or not Council Members can be held personally liable once they receive stimulus monies. Chairman Robinson said Solicitor Wojcik is investigating this matter.

Mr. Schepis described the Senior Community Services Employment Program and an amendment to the Pennsylvania Department of Aging Block Grant funds.

Mr. Young provided members with a summary of the Head Start Program, and \$2.4 million from a Community Services Block Grant to support low-income families and individuals towards self-sufficiency.

Ms. Griser told Chairman Robinson that regarding the impact to the County's budgets, the biggest impact will be realized in the Grants and Special Accounts Budget.

Councilwoman Cleary mentioned the need to consider a time frame for approving this bill. Mr. Exler said the 7 day public comment period will begin tomorrow for the CDBG-R Program.

Chairman Robinson asked Ms. Griser if the approval by Council was received by June 16th, whether that would suffice, and Ms. Griser responded in the affirmative.

Chairman Robinson asked members to send any questions and/or concerns to Ms. Liptak by noon, Friday, May 29th. He said members will anticipate a response from the Administration by the June 9th Regular Meeting of Council.

Action: Held in Committee

V. Adjournment

Summary: *The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.*