

# **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.*