

Allegheny County Council

*County of Allegheny
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Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 1, 2005

4:00 PM

Conference Room 1

Committee on Budget and Finance

*William Russell Robinson, Chair; John DeFazio, Ron Francis, Brenda Frazier,
Vince Gastgeb, Jay Jabbour, and Doug Price*

I. Call to Order

Summary: *The meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM*

Invited Guests:

Summary: *Invited Guests Present: Ms. Griser*

Recognized attendees: Dennis Davin, Director, Economic Development: Dennis Biondo - Kane Regional Centers

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

II. Roll Call

Summary: *Non-Committee Council Members in attendance: Council Members Cleary and Martoni*

Roll Call: Present: William Robinson, Brenda Frazier, and Doug Price
Absent: John DeFazio, Ron Francis, Vince Gastgeb, and C.L. Jabbour

III. Agenda Items**Resolutions****2105-05**

A Resolution of the County of Allegheny amending the Grants and Special Accounts Budgets for 2005 (Submission #13-05).

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Summary: *The Chair asked Ms. Liptak to comment on the bill. Ms. Liptak said that she reviewed the bill and everything was in order. Ms. Griser wanted to present an amendment to the bill but the Chair indicated that since there were not the required number of committee members present to amend a bill, the amendment would have to be dealt with at the September 6, 2005 Regular Meeting. Ms. Liptak explained that the amendment would remove a budget block that would not be necessary since the Redevelopment Authority will be the borrower and not the county.*

Mr. Price asked whether there would be any increased matches for the Department of Human Services. Mr. Davin, Director of Economic Development, said there would not be. He said that the matches could be either CDBG funds or funds already allocated. Mr. Price asked if the bill required any new funds. Mr. Davin said no. The Chair asked that in the future the administration group together the grants that required new funds and the grants that do not require new funds.

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

Enactment No: 34-05-RE

2106-05

A Resolution authorizing the issuance of a Tax and Revenue Anticipation Note in the maximum principal amount of \$50,500,000; providing for the date, interest rate, maturity date, place of payment and prepayment provisions in respect of the note; accepting the proposal of Mellon Bank, N.A. for the purchase and financing of the note; providing for the security of the note; authorizing the proper officers to execute and deliver the note; authorizing and directing the preparation, certification and filing of the proceedings with the Department of Community and Economic Development; providing for a paying agent; setting forth a form of note; and repealing inconsistent resolutions.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Summary:

Ms. Liptak provided a summary of the bill. She said that for the past eleven (11) years Allegheny County has participated in the Nursing Home Intergovernmental Transfer Program. She said that there is no cost to the county for participation in the program. Mr. Price asked if this was necessary since the county did it last year. Ms. Liptak said that the county is required to pass this every year. Ms. Frazier asked what the difference was between this year and last year. Mr. Biondo said that the Federal government is phasing out the program and every year this amount will decrease. Ms. Frazier asked where the funds would come from once this is phased out. Mr. Biondo said that the state is working on identifying a funding source.

Action:

A motion was made by Price, seconded by Frazier, that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried unanimously.

Enactment No: 35-05-RE

Ordinances**1728-04**

An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, establishing a policy of providing for an allocation for public art when the County provides capital funding through a direct appropriation, a subsidy or deferment of taxes, a bond project, or appropriate grant funded project.

Sponsors: William Russell Robinson and Doug Price

Summary:

The Chair indicated that a substitute amendment was being proposed but the committee did not have enough members present to consider it in committee. He said that it would be presented at the September 6, 2005 Regular Meeting.

After the bill received affirmative recommendation, Ms. Griser asked the committee to reconsider the recommendation and keep it in committee to address several concerns that the County Solicitor and County Manager have about the bill. The Chair refused that request. He said that he believed that the only concern expressed by the administration was the removal of the word "infrastructure". He said that this has been done and that should have addressed all concerns. He expressed concern that no other issues have ever been raised by the administration and he believed that the administration was bordering on "acting in bad faith" regarding the bill.

Ms. Griser said that they did not have enough time to review the latest version of the bill. The Chair said that he did not think that his colleagues should be burdened with

these types of "tactics."

Ms. Griser said that the concern is that "infrastructure" was replaced by "bridge". Ms. Liptak said that was incorrect since the word "bridge" has been in the bill from the beginning. Ms. Cleary said that maybe the confusion lies in the fact that the word "bridge" was included in the definition of "infrastructure".

Ms. Griser said that their concerns were:

- 1. Applying this bill to the Authorities*
- 2. Procedural complications of having all 9 Board Members expire at the same time.*

She also said that she believes that they should agree on which projects are going to be covered so that they could provide for the funding in the adoption of the capital budget. She also asked whether the bill refers to the general fund and bond funds only or will it include grant money also.

The Chair said that this applies to projects that are paid for with county money. He said that if the bond proceeds are county dollars, then they are applicable. He said that the same applies to grants. He said that he believes that all council member's issues have been addressed and that he is reluctant to nit-pick the bill.

The Chair asked Ms. Griser if Mr. Wojcik planned to submit a Legal Opinion on this bill at the September 6, 2005 Regular Meeting. Ms. Griser said that they could accommodate that and put their concerns in writing.

The Chair said that if there is some confusion about the word "bridge", he is willing to remove that or any item considered infrastructure. He also said that he has no objection to staggering the terms of the board members.

The Chair said that regarding the issue of what type of money is to be used, the Finance Department can help identify that. He said that if it county money, then it is included. If it is not, then it is not included. He said that the issue of identifying the projects in the capital budget is an excellent suggestion and he is willing to accommodate that through the budget process. He said that he does not believe that this needs to be in the legislation.

The Chair suggested that Ms. Griser and Ms. Liptak communicate prior to the September 6, 2005 meeting to address these concerns.

The Chair suggested that he, Ms. Griser and Ms. Liptak meet immediately before the meeting on Tuesday, September 6, 2005 to make sure that they are on the same page.

Mr. Price said that he feels that the problems seem to lie in the definitions and that maybe they can tweak that a little and that would solve many of the problems. Ms. Griser agreed.

Action:

A motion was made by Frazier, seconded by Price, that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried unanimously.

Enactment No: 39-05-OR

V. Adjournment

Summary: *The meeting adjourned at 4:50 PM*