

Allegheny County Council

*County of Allegheny
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Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 31, 2006

4:00 PM

Conference Room 1

Committee on Economic Development

***Brenda Frazier, Chair; Jim Burn, Joan Cleary, John DeFazio, Dave Fawcett,
Mike Finnerty, Jay Jabbour, Jan Rea, Eileen Watt - Members***

I. Call to Order

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

Invited Guests:

Jim Flynn, County Manager or Designee

Dennis Davin, Director, Economic Development or Designee

Summary: *Invited Guests in attendance: Mr. Flynn and Mr. Davin*

Recognized Attendees: Ruth Byrd-Smith, Director, Minority, Women and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (MWDBE); Maurice Strul, Economic Development; Ted Trbovich, County Solicitor's Office

Council Staff in attendance: John Mascio, Joe Catanese, Jared Barker

II. Roll Call

Summary: *Non-Committee Council Members in attendance: Councilmembers Robinson and Gastgeb.*

Ex-Officio Member in attendance: Council President Rich Fitzgerald

Roll Call: Present: Chair Brenda Frazier, Jim Burn, Joan Cleary, Dave Fawcett, Michael Finnerty, C.L. Jabbour, and Eileen Watt
Absent: John DeFazio, and Jan Rea

III. Approval of Minutes

IV. Agenda Items

Ordinance

2302-06

An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, amending Article 903, § 5-903.02. of the Administrative Code providing for the Purchasing Officer, as head of the Division of Purchasing and Supplies, to create a policy which establishes a 3% government-wide procurement goal for participation by small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans.

Sponsors: Eileen Watt, C.L. Jabbour, William Russell Robinson, Michael Finnerty and Matt Drozd

Summary: *The Chair provided the Committee with a summary of the bill taken directly from Council's Briefing Report. She indicated that the bill would require that the Purchasing Officer formulate a policy establishing a 3% government-wide goal for participation in the formal procurement process by small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans. The 3% goal would not be not mandatory; in situations in which the goal is unattainable, the regular formal procurement procedures would be followed.*

In order to qualify as owned by a service-disabled veteran under this ordinance, a business would have to be at least 51% owned by one or more individuals with disabilities incurred or aggravated in the line of duty in the active military, naval or air services. The Purchasing Officer would be left free to determine what businesses will qualify as "small businesses" for the purposes of the policies.

As noted above, the policies required by this ordinance would only apply to the formal procurement process. Under the terms of §5-903.02 of the Administrative Code, this process governs "all contracts or purchases in excess of \$30,000."

Ruth Byrd-Smith distributed to the committee a packet which described the MWDBE Program. She said that she thought that 3% was too high and she believed that the correct percentage would be 2%. She also said that she believed that the Program already provided for these people. Ms. Watt said that she obtained the 3% number from Federal Guidelines.

Ms. Watt asked Ms. Byrd-Smith what her concerns were. Ms. Byrd-Smith said that she just wanted to make sure that Council was aware of what the program offers.

Discussion took place on who would qualify for the program. Ms. Byrd-Smith said that it goes on a case by case basis.

Mr. Trbovich discussed the qualification process. He said that maybe the provisions of the bill could tie into the existing program.

Mr. Burn asked where the provision was that addressed disabled veterans. Byrd-Smith said that it fell under cultural bias. Ms. Watt expressed concern over this and said that some veterans may fall through the cracks based on the existing guidelines. She said that her main objective was to show appreciation for those that were injured in the service of our country.

Mr. Jabbour asked if the bill would be an asset or a detriment to the program. Mr. Trbovich said that he would need to study the bill more closely to determine that.

The Chair asked if implementing this would have a negative affect on other categories. Ms. Byrd-Smith said she also would have to examine the bill closer to determine that.

Discussion took place on procedures for implementing this bill if it were to pass.

Ms. Cleary said that she would like to see a definition of Small Business in the Ordinance. Mr. Finnerty agreed with this. Mr. Trbovich also agreed. He said that it is possible to have a disabled vet with a multi-million dollar business.

Mr. Flynn suggested that the committee form a working group to try to resolve some of these issues. He said he would be willing to pursue that. The Chair asked the committee if that was ok with them. They agreed to it.

The Chair asked Ms. Watt, Mr. Jabbour, and Ms. Byrd-Smith if they would be part of the working group. They agreed. She also said that she would invite someone from the

Administration and the Veterans Association to participate.

At that point Mr. Robinson and Mr. Burn offered an amendment to the bill which would create anti-sweatshop provisions. The Chair suggested that this be introduced as a separate piece of legislation. Mr. Robinson said he did not have a problem with that and he withdrew his amendment. Mr. Burn agreed.

Action: Held in Committee

Resolutions

2283-06

A Resolution of the Council of the County of Allegheny adopting and authorizing participation in a tax increment financing plan presented by the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh, and authorizing related agreements for financing a portion of the costs of structured parking facilities and other necessary public improvements and infrastructure in a new development to be located within a portion of Redevelopment Area #50 - J & L Second Avenue (West Oakland) known as the Pittsburgh Technology Center TIF District .

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Summary: *The Chair presented a summary of the bill directly from Council's Briefing Report. She indicated that the bill would adopt and authorize participation in a tax increment financing plan as presented by the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh, and authorizing related agreements for financing a portion of the costs of structured parking facilities and other necessary public improvements and infrastructure in a new development to be located within a portion of Redevelopment Area on Second Avenue (West Oakland) known as the Pittsburgh Technology Center (PTC) TIF District .*

The Chair said that the committee asked for an economic impact study of the TIF and they received it. She presented a summary of that study to the committee. She asked Mr. Davin if he had anything to add. Mr. Davin said he did not and that it was a well done study.

The Chair offered an amendment which would deal with excess revenue that may be collected. She explained the amendment and the distribution of this excess revenue. Mr. Finnerty seconded the amendment.

Mr. Davin expressed concerns regarding the time frame of implementing this amendment. He said that he believes that the existing language in the bill accomplishes the intent of the amendment. Mr. Strul said that if this were in the Resolution then it would also have to be in the Cooperation Agreement. Mr. Strul discussed excess revenue and how they deal with it.

The Chair asked the committee if they were comfortable with the way the Resolution was written. Mr. Burn said he thought there were enough measures in place. Mr. Finnerty said he thought it was fine the way it was.

The Chair withdrew the amendment.

Note: Council Member Watt had to leave the meeting prior to the vote on a Motion for an Affirmative Recommendation on the bill and thus did not register a vote on that Motion.

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

2323-06 Resolution authorizing an Amendment and Supplement to Amended and Restated Cooperation Agreement between the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County and Related Action

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Summary: *Mr. Uber asked the Chair if she would transfer the bill to Council's Committee on Budget and Finance. The Chair said she would do that.*

Action: **Referred to the Committee on Budget and Finance**

Discussion Topic:

Discussion on a status update for the Pittsburgh Mills TIF

Summary: *The Chair said she met with representatives and the update that they were preparing was not complete so she said she would schedule them to appear at a future date.*

V. Adjournment

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