

Allegheny County Council

*County of Allegheny
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Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 23, 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:

Mark Flaherty, County Controller or Designee

Jim Flynn, County Manager or Designee

Amy Griser, Director, Budget & Finance

Derek Uber, Deputy County Manager

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

Council staff in attendance: Jennifer Liptak, Jared Barker, and Joe Catanese

II. Roll Call

Roll Call: Present: Matt Drozd, Michael Finnerty, Chuck McCullough, Chair William Robinson, Council Member Rich Fitzgerald, and Council Member Nick Futules

Absent: Jim Burn, Joan Cleary, John DeFazio, Vince Gastgeb, and Bob Macey

III. Approval of Minutes

3947-08 Motion to approve the Minutes of the March 25 & April 08, 2008 Budget & Finance Committee Meetings.

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

IV. 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: *The Chair asked Mr. Drozd if he was requesting any action this evening. Mr. Drozd indicated that further research on the bill was pending, and referenced the letter Council received from Philadelphia Councilman Bill Green regarding his legislation on court funding. The Chair indicated that his intent is to hold the bill until the next committee meeting, and Mr. Drozd concurred.*

Action: **Held in Committee**

Resolution

3909-08 A Resolution of the County of Allegheny amending the Grants and Special Accounts Budget for 2008 (Submission #06-08).

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Summary: *Ms. Liptak provided the committee with a detailed summary and explanation of the bill.*

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

Discussion Topic:

Controller Mark Patrick Flaherty will appear before the Budget and Finance Committee to provide an overview on the 2007 CAFR and an update on the 2008 1st quarter revenues and expenditures.

Summary: *Mr. Flaherty gave a presentation summarizing the CAFR and the County's financial position for the 1st Quarter of 2008.*

Mr. McCullough asked about the decrease in receipts for fees/fines from the former row offices, and Mr. Flaherty explained the reasons for the decrease. Mr. McCullough asked about long term forecasting, and Mr. Flaherty described the merits of providing more long term forecast information from his perspective.

In response to a question from Mr. Drozd, Mr. Flaherty discussed how state funding for the courts could play into the County's financial position, and about the merits of consolidating services.

In response to a question from Mr. Fitzgerald, Mr. Flaherty discussed the lack of increase in most revenue streams and about the potential for fee adjustment.

Mr. Futules commented about the effect of the base year on the County's revenues.

V. Adjournment

Summary: *The meeting adjourned at 4:56 PM*