

Allegheny County Council

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Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, July 12, 2017

4:00 PM

Conference Room 1

Committee on Budget and Finance

Paul Klein, Chair; Patrick Catena, Samuel DeMarco, Nick Futules, Ed Kress, Bob Macey, Charles Martoni, Sue Means and John Palmiere, Members.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:00.

Invited Guests:

Mr. McKain was present from the Office of the County Manager.

Ms Soroka, Ms. Brbekec, and Mr. Rambo were present from the Department of Budget & Finance.

Mr. Barker and Ms. Roka were present from the Office of County Council.

II. Roll Call

Members Present: 2 - Paul Klein and John Palmiere

Members Absent: 6 - Sam DeMarco, Nick Futules, Ed Kress, Bob Macey, Chuck Martoni and Sue Means

Members Phone: 1 - Patrick Catena

III. Approval of Minutes

[10255-17](#)

A motion was made by Palmiere, seconded by Klein, that this matter be Passed. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

IV. Agenda Items

Resolutions

[10237-17](#)

A Resolution of the County of Allegheny amending the Grants and Special Accounts Budget for 2017 (Submission #08-17).

Sponsors: Chief Executive

At the request of the Chair, the clerk read the title of the bill and Ms. Soroka summarized its provisions, noting that the grant is for \$50,000 from the Commonwealth to the County's Department of Human Services in order to establish a fund for remediating damages incurred by landlords that rent property to high-risk tenants. Mr. McKain noted that this is a new grant, and indicated that Director Cherna regards the program as desirable as a means of getting individuals into housing as a means of stabilizing their residence and disincentivizing recidivism while mitigating any potential risk to the landlords involved.

Mr. Palmiere indicated a willingness to follow Director Cherna's lead regarding the program.

In response to questions from the Chair, Ms. Soroka noted that the grant is for one year, with potential for renewals in future years depending on the indicia of success for year one. Mr. McKain noted that the funds would be spent throughout the County in accordance with the income guidelines.

Mr. Palmiere and Ms. Soroka discussed funding conditions.

In response to a question from the Chair, Ms. Soroka and Mr. McKain noted the existence of other housing grants and indicated that she is not aware of any other programs with precisely this focus.

Mr. Catena noted that he is comfortable with the program, and indicated that Ms. Soroka had answered all of his questions in a separate conversation earlier in the day.

A motion was made by Palmiere, seconded by Catena, that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

10238-17

A Resolution ratifying certain year-end transfers pursuant to Section 805.03 of the Administrative Code

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Mr. McKain summarized the bill, noting that the year end transfer process allows the County to adjust revenue to account for expenditures that may have been a bit higher in some areas and lower in others than anticipated. Mr. McKain noted that the Budget Transfer Committee oversees the process throughout the year, and that on an \$855 million operating budget, only 1.3% changed through the interdepartmental transfer process and only 0.5% changed through the intradepartmental transfer process. Mr. McKain discussed the recent unassigned fund balance history, noting its improvement by about 678% in the last several years and that this is indicative of a healthy fiscal situation.

Ms. Soroka described some of the larger transfers, highlighting transfers to the Department of Human Services in order to maximize the ability of the Department to react to potential shortfalls in Commonwealth human services funding. Mr. McKain noted that some of the transfers were made to facilitate the purchase of new park equipment with excess appropriations originally made for other purposes.

In response to a question from the Chair, Ms. Soroka described the process through which both intra- and inter- departmental transfers are made, noting that intradepartmental transfers are signed off upon as they come up by the administration, Council and the Controller's Office, while interdepartmental transfers are typically made after a fiscal year ends as part of the process of closing the budget year out.

Mr. Palmiere indicated that the actual expenditures were fairly close to the budgeted amounts.

Mr. Catena expressed comfort with the proposed ratification.

A motion was made by Palmiere, seconded by Catena, that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:21.