

Allegheny County Council

*County of Allegheny
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Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 28, 2006

4:00 PM

Conference Room 1

Committee on Budget and Finance

William Russell Robinson, Chair; Jim Burn, Susan Caldwell, Joan Cleary, Matt Drozd, Mike Finnerty, Brenda Frazier, and Vince Gastgeb - Members

I. Call to Order

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

Invited Guests:

Jim Flynn, County Manager or Designee

Amy Griser, Director, Budget & Finance

Derek Uber, Deputy County Manager

Summary: *Invited Guests Present: Mr. Flynn, Ms. Griser, and Mr. Uber*

Recognized Attendees: Pete Schepis, County Budget Office

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

II. Roll Call

Summary: *Council President Rich Fitzgerald was present Ex-Officio*

Non Committee Council Members in attendance: Council Members Rea, DeFazio, and Macey

Roll Call: Present: Jim Burn, Susan Caldwell, Joan Cleary, Matt Drozd, Michael Finnerty, Brenda Frazier, Vince Gastgeb, Chair William Robinson, and Council Member Rich Fitzgerald

III. Agenda Items**Ordinance****2882-06**

An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, establishing the tax levy upon all real property subject to taxation within the limits of Allegheny County.

Sponsors: William Russell Robinson, Jim Burn, Joan Cleary, Brenda Frazier and Rich Fitzgerald

Summary: *Prior to discussion on the bill, the Chair asked if anyone had any amendments to offer at this time. There were no amendments presented. He said that any amendment presented at this meeting that is defeated on the floor of this meeting can not be re-presented at the next Regular Meeting in it's current form. He said that he believes that the President would rule that out of order. He said that if someone thinks that an amendment is going to be defeated at this meeting, they may want to wait to present it at the next Regular Meeting.*

Ms. Liptak provided a summary of the bill and indicated that there has been no change in the tax rate from the previous year.

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

Resolutions

2874-06

A Resolution of the County of Allegheny amending the Grants and Special Accounts Budget for 2006 (Submission #13-06).

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Summary:

Ms. Liptak provided a summary of the bill. She said that there were two small amendments - one from Economic Development and one from the Sheriff's Office.

Ms. Cleary asked if this involved new money. Ms. Liptak said that the money for the Economic Development amendment just recently became available and the Sheriff's amendment regarding the use of Tasers is a new program.

Ms. Cleary asked the source of the additional money for the Tasers. Ms. Liptak said it came from the State Department of Community and Economic Development.

Action:

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

2883-06

Resolution of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, adopting the Grants, Special Accounts, and Agency Fund Budgets, by setting forth appropriations to pay said expenses during the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2007 and ending December 31, 2007.

Sponsors: William Russell Robinson and Rich Fitzgerald

Summary:

Ms. Liptak provided a summary of the bill. Mr. Gastgeb expressed concerns relative to the funds appropriated for tobacco control. He asked if this was acceptable to pass this if we did not know what the funds were being used for.

Ms. Liptak said that she could provide him with specific details from the administration. She said it is in the process of being compiled but would give him what she had.

Mr. Schepis said that they do not know exactly how the contract reads but will need to see the latitude they have in the future.

Mr. Gastgeb asked if the intent of the expenditure was compatible with what Council passed in the Smoking Ban Ordinance.

Mr. Flynn said that the grant came from the state from tobacco settlement funds. It then goes to the Health Department and they subcontract with Tobacco Free Allegheny. He said that the funds would be used mainly for anti smoking marketing and school programs to discourage tobacco use. Also for smoking cessation programs. He said that he believes it is compatible with the Ordinance that Council passed.

Ms. Liptak provided the material she received from the administration which provided more detailed information regarding the grant.

The Chair asked if any of the funds could be used for staff to help monitor and enforce the program. Mr. Flynn said that he was not sure. The Chair asked Ms. Liptak to obtain that information for the committee.

Ms. Rea and Mr. Gastgeb said that they would like to see some of the funds used for

enforcement.

Mr. Gastgeb asked if they could remove that portion of the bill. Ms. Liptak cautioned against this because of time restraints on the grant. She said that she would provide him with more information prior to the next Regular Meeting of Council.

The Chair said that he would have Ms. Liptak prepare answers to the questions that were asked at this meeting prior to any final vote being taken on the bill. He also said that they would obtain the last audit from the Controller which would contain information.

The Chair said that he was willing to recess this meeting and reconvene if necessary.

Action: **A motion was made by Frazier, seconded by Finnerty, that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried by the following vote:**

Votes: Yes: 8 - Burn, Caldwell, Cleary, Drozd, Finnerty, Frazier, Chair Robinson and Council Member Fitzgerald
No: 1 - Gastgeb

2884-06

Resolution of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, adopting a Capital Budget pursuant to Article IV, §2 and Article VII, §4 of the Home Rule Charter by setting forth appropriations to pay the expenses for capital expenditures during the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2007 and ending December 31, 2007.

Sponsors: William Russell Robinson and Rich Fitzgerald

Summary: *The Chair asked if anyone had any amendments to offer on this bill. Ms. Frazier said that reference to the Homestead High Level Bridge should be corrected to read Homestead Grays Bridge. The Chair deemed this a clerical change in instructed Ms. Liptak to make that change.*

There were no amendments offered to the bill.

Action: **A motion was made by Finnerty, seconded by Frazier, that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried by the following vote:**

Votes: Yes: 8 - Burn, Caldwell, Cleary, Finnerty, Frazier, Gastgeb, Chair Robinson and Council Member Fitzgerald
No: 1 - Drozd

2885-06

Resolution of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, adopting an Operating Budget pursuant to Article IV, §2 and Article VII, §4 of the Home Rule Charter, by setting forth appropriations to pay the expenses of conducting the public business of Allegheny County and for meeting debt charges for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2007 and ending December 31, 2007.

Sponsors: William Russell Robinson, Rich Fitzgerald and Joan Cleary

Summary: *The Chair recessed the meeting for 4:00 PM Thursday, November 30, 2006 at which time this bill will be considered by the committee.*

IV. Adjournment

Summary: *The meeting was recessed and will reconvene at 4:00 PM Thursday, November 30,*

2006.