

Allegheny County Council

*436 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Phone (412) 350-6490
Fax (412) 350-6499*



Meeting Minutes - Approved

Wednesday, February 18, 2015

4:30 PM

Conference Room 1

Executive Committee

Nick Futules, Chair

Members: John DeFazio; Mike Finnerty; Ed Kress; Bob Macey; John Palmiere; Jan Rea

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:31.

Invited Guests:

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

II. Roll Call

Members Present: 5 - DeFazio, Barbara Danko, Nick Futules, Ed Kress and Bob Macey

Members Absent: 2 - John Palmiere and Jan Rea

Members 4 - Chuck Martoni, Sue Means, Michael Finnerty and Jim Ellenbogen
Non-Members:

III. Approval of Minutes

[8804-15](#)

Motion to approve the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting of Allegheny County Council held on January 21, 2015

Passed

IV. Agenda Items**Discussion Topic: IT Proposals**

The Chair gave an overview of the history of the IT proposal process, and summarized the current status.

Mr. Szymanski provided additional detail regarding the various proposals and their respective costs.

The Chair, Ms. Danko and Mr. DeFazio discussed the mechanism by which an IT audit would be authorized, if that proposal were to be accepted. Mr. DeFazio, Mr. Macey, Mr. Finnerty and the Chair suggested that the full Council should vote on any request for an IT audit, and Ms. Danko suggested that requiring a majority to authorize an audit would potentially make it difficult ever to have one.

Mr. DeFazio suggested that the cost of the permanent IT solutions may be out of proportion to any problems that were discovered.

Mr. Macey expressed agreement with Mr. DeFazio, noting that, in his opinion, any of the proposals would not be foolproof.

Mr. Kress suggested that having our own IT system would potentially give the Council more options with regard to supported hardware and software, in addition to addressing at least some security concerns.

Mr. Martoni suggested that it might be helpful for Council to have its own system, but that he also did not see any specific need to pursue it at this time.

Mr. Finnerty noted that he sees no need to pursue an independent server at this time, since, in his opinion, there is no security concern, but suggested that the audit option

may make sense to pursue as an as-needed solution.

Mr. Ellenbogen indicated that, in his opinion, the separate IT system is a solution in search of a problem, but that there may be wisdom in preserving the audit option.

Ms. Means expressed agreement with Mr. Kress, and suggested that the CMIT proposal commended itself to her more than the audit would, since the audit is reactive, rather than proactive.

Ms. Danko framed the issue in terms of separation of powers, suggesting that the legislative branch should be an independent check and balance and not reliant on the executive branch for matters of privacy and security. She additionally stressed that, because the current Chief Executive has expressed varying degrees of opposition to individual Council Members, this concern is heightened in her opinion.

The Chair suggested that the expenditure is out of proportion to the benefit in his opinion.

Mr. Kress and Mr. Ellenbogen discussed differences in character between various types of expenditures within the Office of County Council.

Mr. Finnerty moved to authorize periodic audits pursuant to request and authorization by the full Council, Mr. DeFazio seconded, and the motion carried with Mr. DeFazio, Mr. Macey, Mr. Futules, Mr. Ellenbogen, Mr. Finnerty and Mr. Martoni voting in the affirmative, and Ms. Danko, Mr. Kress and Ms., Means voting in the negative.

V. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:07.