

Allegheny County Council

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Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 3, 2016

5:00 PM

Conference Room 1

Committee on Budget and Finance

Mike Finnerty, Chair

Members; Sam DeMarco, Nick Futules, Paul Klein, Ed Kress, Bob Macey, Chuck Martoni, Sue Means, John Palmiere

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:12.

Invited Guests:

William D. McKain, CPA, County Manager or Designee

Mary Soroka, County Budget Director or Designee

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

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

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

II. Roll Call

Members Present: 4 - Finnerty, Paul Klein, Ed Kress and Sue Means

Members Absent: 5 - Nick Futules, Sam DeMarco, Bob Macey, Chuck Martoni and John Palmiere

III. Approval of Minutes

[9873-16](#)

Motion to approve the minutes of the Budget and Finance Committee held on October 19, 2016.

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

IV. Agenda Items**Resolutions**

[9849-16](#)

Resolution of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, adopting the Grants Budget, Special Accounts Budget, and Agency Fund Budget, by setting forth appropriations to pay said expenses during the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2017 and ending December 31, 2017.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

At the request of the Chair, the clerk read the title of the bill.

The Chair noted that he would be sponsoring his own grants & special accounts budget resolution, and highlighted the differences that would exist between the bills. The Chair noted that the primary change would be the removal of the CDBG grant funding, pending the submission of the approved project list, and that another slight change would be for \$2,500 in additional grant funding for Shuman Center that had become available since the Executive finalized his resolution.

In response to a question from Ms. Means, the Chair reviewed the aggregate County match for the budgeted grants and special accounts amount, noting that the County's portion amounted to just under \$7 million, and that this amount leverages significant additional funding, as grant matches tend to be a comparatively small percentage.

The Chair noted that the Executive's resolution contains a total of roughly \$930 million in total grant, special account, and agency fund appropriations.

The Chair summarized the path that he expects to follow with regard to the introduction and processing of his resolution.

In response to a question from Mr. Kress regarding the Apprise Medicare information program, Mr. McKain and Ms. Soroka offered to obtain information regarding the program's funding status from the appropriate human services departmental staff.

In response to a question from Ms. Means, the Chair noted that in 2006, the grants & special accounts budget was approximately \$1.6 billion, and has declined since then, but has remained fairly stable in recent years. Ms. Soroka noted that some of this change is a result of certain types of state funding going directly to providers, rather than passing through the County.

In response to a question from Mr. Kress, Ms. Soroka provided information regarding grants budgeted for the Office of the District Attorney to aid auto theft prosecution efforts, noting that the revenue is coming from the Commonwealth. Mr. Szmanski noted that the funding source is the Commonwealth's Insurance Fraud Prevention Agency. Mr. McKain noted that the County also receives additional revenue for the County Police's insurance fraud enforcement efforts that ultimately comes from the insurance industry.

The Chair discussed scheduling for the November 10 meeting, and the Committee expressed a preference for a 4:00 start time.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:32.