

# **Allegheny County Council**

*436 Grant Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
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## **Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, November 16, 2016**

**4:00 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 4:01.*

**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, Mr. Humenik, Mr. Lentz and Mr. Rambo were present from the Department of Budget & Finance.*

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

**II. Roll Call**

**Members Present:** 5 - Finnerty, Sam DeMarco, Bob Macey, Sue Means and John Palmiere

**Members Absent:** 4 - Nick Futules, Paul Klein, Ed Kress and Chuck Martoni

**Members** 2 - John DeFazio and DeWitt Walton

**Non-Members:**

**III. Approval of Minutes**

[9907-16](#)

Motion to Approve the Minutes of the Budget and Finance Committee Meeting held on November 10, 2016.

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

**IV. Agenda Items****Discussion Topic**

**Primary Discussion Topic - The 2017 Capital Budget**

**Secondary Discussion Topic - The 2017 Operating Budget**

*At the request of the Chair, Mr. Szymanski distributed the side-by-side comparison of the Chief Executive's proposed capital budget and the Chair's anticipated capital budget.*

*The Chair summarized the difference, highlighting funding for the South Park wave pool locker room improvement, and a change to the roadway lateral support appropriation to accommodate parks road projects. Mr. Macey expressed concern regarding the reduction for the lateral support program appropriation, and Mr. McKain noted that there is some revenue still left in the lateral support appropriation from the 2016 capital budget, so between the two, funding should be adequate for 2017 even with the change.*

*Mr. Macey noted that the supplemental vehicle registration fee appears to have made a tangible difference to road and bridge funding.*

*In response to a question from Mr. DeMarco, Mr. McKain discussed the methodology that*

*he uses to evaluate what a suitable funding level is for parks roadway projects, and indicated that the assessment is not yet complete, but that it is underway.*

*Ms. Means and Mr. McKain discussed the parks roadways and their importance to individuals who use the parks.*

*The Chair noted that the County's capital budget has expanded from roughly \$50 million to about \$105 million in the past two budget years.*

*At the request of the Chair, Mr. Szymanski distributed the side-by-side comparison of the Chief Executive's proposed operating budget and the Chair's anticipated operating budget.*

*The Chair noted that the only anticipated change is an increase in the Vacant Property Review Board's appropriation from \$200,000 to \$300,000, and an equivalent reduction in the non-departmental services appropriation.*

*In response to a question from Mr. DeMarco, Ms. Soroka discussed the non-departmental services line item, noting that the non-departmental expenditures do not relate to any one particular department, and the services line item includes things like constable fees, property insurance expenditures, and the like. Mr. McKain noted that the reduction should still allow an appropriation sufficient to cover necessary expenses.*

*In response to a question from the Chair, Ms. Soroka discussed the concept of fringe benefit recovery, noting that those items are charged to the specific departments involved to the greatest extent possible.*

*The Chair noted that both his operating and his capital budget bills would be circulated for information and co-sponsorship the next day, and informed the committee that the next committee session would be on November 30, with a final vote on the budget bills anticipated on December 6.*

## **V. Adjournment**

*The meeting adjourned at 4:20.*