

Allegheny County Council

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Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 16, 2020

4:00 PM

Conference Room 1

Committee on Economic Development & Housing

*Sam DeMarco, Chair; Tom Baker, Liv Bennett, Tom Duerr, Nick Futules, Bob Macey
and Anita Prizio, Members*

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:0

Invited Guests:

William D. McKain, CPA, Allegheny County Manager or designee(s)
Lance Chimka, Director, Allegheny County Department of Economic Development

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

Mr. Chimka was present from the Department of Economic Development.

Mr. Rail was present from Eckert Semans.

Ms. Faber was present from Duquesne University.

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

II. Roll Call

Members Present: 2 - Tom Baker and Sam DeMarco

Members Absent: 3 - Olivia Bennett, Nick Futules and Bob Macey

Members Phone: 5 - Tom Duerr, Anita Prizio, Bethany Hallam, Patrick Catena and Paul Klein

III. Approval of Minutes

IV. Agenda Items

Resolutions

11517-20

A Resolution approving a project for the benefit of Duquesne University of the Holy Spirit (referred to variously as the "**Borrower**" or the "**University**") to be financed by the Allegheny County Higher Education Building Authority (the "**Authority**") by the issuance of the Authority's taxable or tax-exempt revenue bonds, in one or more series, to be designated "Allegheny County Higher Education Building Authority, University Revenue Bonds, Series A of 2020 (Duquesne University)" (or such other designation as may be determined by the Authority and the University), in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$80,000,000 (the "**Bonds**"), provided that the taxing power of the County of Allegheny, Pennsylvania (the "**County**") shall not be obligated in any way with respect to the Bonds, and declaring the financing of such project as desirable for the health, safety, and welfare of the people in the County.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

At the request of the Chair, the clerk read the title of the bill and Mr. McKain summarized the background of the bill, and Mr. Chimka summarized its provisions, noting that the University intends to acquire and re-develop a 1.2 acre site currently occupied by Life's Work within the City of Pittsburgh, to become the site of a new 80,000 square foot

School of Osteopathic Medicine. Mr. Chimka noted that the resolution constitutes a standard health/safety/welfare declaration, and that the site is currently owned by a non-profit, so the transaction will have no impact upon the County's tax revenues.

In response to questions from the Chair, Ms. Faber indicated that the University expects to close on the property within a day, and that the groundbreaking was delayed as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak, and would likely be pushed into 2021. Ms. Faber and Mr. Chimka noted that the project was still in the design phase, and no contractor has been selected yet. Ms. Faber discussed the work that has gone into the project so far, and the University's commitment to proceeding.

In response to a question from Mr. Baker, Ms. Faber noted that the enrollment drops nationwide are currently being experienced in undergraduate populations, rather than graduate students like doctoral candidates.

Mr. McKain and Mr. Chimka described the fees that would be generated by the issuance, noting that it would amount to about \$20,000 per year. Mr. Rail noted that the bonds would be issued for a 20 or 30 year maturity term.

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

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at

A motion was made by Baker, seconded by Duerr, that this matter be Approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.