

MINUTES

Erie County Council

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Carl Anderson, III, Chairman
Kim Clear, Vice Chairwoman
André R. Horton
Scott Rastetter
Mary Rennie
Ellen Schauerma
Brian Shank

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, January 19, 2021

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

OPTIONAL PRAYER OR INVOCATION

Mr. Shank led the optional invocation in words from John F. Kennedy: "One person can make a difference, and everyone should try."

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Chairman Anderson; Vice Chairwoman Clear; Mr. Horton; Mr. Rastetter; Mrs. Rennie; Mrs. Schauerma; Mr. Shank

Also Present: Douglas R. Smith; James Sparber; Tracey Fugagli; Thomas Talarico; Nicole Inan; Amy Swartzfager

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Resident of 1800 West 8th Street, Erie PA: Shared her concern regarding the lack of a buffer zone/planter zone between the road and sidewalk on West 8th street. The speaker stated there are no stop signs from Lincoln to Pittsburgh Avenue, and she has been voicing concern over these items for nearly 13 years. Chairman Anderson requested that the Administrative Assistant provide an email for the resident to send additional information to; at the time these minutes were prepared, no contact had been received from the speaker.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Mrs. Clear moved to pass all minutes in one motion, seconded by Mr. Horton; passed 7 to 0. Meeting minutes from the December 8, 2020 Regular Meeting, December 18, 2020 Special Meeting, and January 5, 2021 Reorganization meetings passed 7 to 0.

December 8, 2020 - Regular Meeting

**December 18, 2020 -
Special Meeting**

**January 5, 2021 -
Reorganization Meeting**

**REPORTS OF COUNTY
OFFICIALS**

**County Executive and/or
her Designee** No report provided.

**Finance Committee -Mrs.
Clear** Finance Chairwoman Clear reported that the Committee met on Thursday, January 14, 2020 and submit to the agenda: Old Business Items A & B; New Business Items A through E & H through K.

**Personnel Committee -
Mrs. Rennie** Personnel Chairwoman Rennie reported that the Committee met on Thursday, January 14, 2020 and submit to the agenda: New Business Items F & G.

Citations / Recognitions Chairman Anderson asked Mr. Shank to lead the recognition of citations.

Mr. Shank offered that this was a time for reflection. He proceeded to list the citations put forth by Mr. Anderson for the record, and asked that the citation for Mr. John Vendetti be read in full. Mr. Shank went on to share a story of his own on the campaign trail and in meeting Mr. Vendetti.

Chairman Anderson stated he had the greatest respect for Judge Vendetti, and offered word on behalf of Judge Carney for Judge Vendetti "John, love ya brother"-from T.C. Chairman Anderson thanked the Vendetti family for sharing him with the community and offered sympathies.

**Presented by Chairman
Anderson**

**John Canavan
Ann Carlin
Jerome Devlin
James Herdzik
Shirley Parker
Gordon Reynders**

Yvonne Strasser

**Presented by Councilman
Shank**

John Vendetti

Other

OLD BUSINESS

**Second Reading of
Ordinance Number 109,
2020 " Thirty-Fourth 2020
General Fund Budget
Supplemental
Appropriation of \$150,000
and New Line for Grant
Funds to Erie Regional
Chamber & Growth
Partnership" (Finance
Committee- First Reading
12-8-20) (Tabled 12-18-20)**

Mrs. Clear moved to remove Ordinance 109, 2020 from the table; seconded by Mr. Shank, and passed 7-0.

Mrs. Clear moved to amend Ordinance 109, 2020 to read "First 2021 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$150,000 and New Line for Grant Funds to Erie Regional Chamber & Growth Partnership; Complimented by Resolution 1, 2021 in Support of Erie Forward, the Community Investment Initiative from Regional Chamber of Growth Partnership." Seconded by Mr. Horton, and passed 7 to 0.

Chairman Anderson called for a second reading of the Ordinance as amended, Mr. Horton moved, seconded by Mrs. Clear, and passed in a 7-0 vote.

**Second Reading of
Ordinance Number 110,
2020 "Thirty-Fifth 2020
General Fund Budget
Supplemental
Appropriation of \$250,000
and New Line for Grant
Funds to Erie County
Redevelopment Authority"
(Finance Committee-First
Reading 12-8-20) (Tabled
12-18-20)**

Mrs. Clear moved to remove Ordinance 110, 2020 from the table; seconded by Mr. Horton, and passed 7-0.

Mrs. Clear moved to amend Ordinance 110, 2020 to read "Second 2021 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$250,000 and New Line for Grant Funds to Erie County Redevelopment Authority," to change all language within the Ordinance to reflect "Diversity" in place "Minority;" Seconded by Mr. Horton, and passed 7 to 0.

Mr. Rastetter thanked Chairman Anderson for looking into the wording of "Minority-based" in the Ordinance. He stated it was very bothersome to him, as the use of "minority" is seemingly condescending. He hates to see it be exclusionary, and admits he does not know enough about this grant program; however, he is willing to give his approval. Mr. Rastetter wished Mrs. Mengine the best of luck.

Mrs. Clear voiced her enthusiasm for having an all-inclusive option for individuals who may not have had a voice for 400 years.

Mr. Horton thanked the Administration and the Redevelopment Authority for putting this Ordinance forward. He pointed out that there has been over 100 years of redlining of black and brown communities. Mr. Horton defined

"redlining" as banks not loaning, financing, or investment in those neighborhoods. He stated that "second-class citizens" were termed such because that is the way blacks were treated. He pointed out that diversity and inclusion are not the same thing; we have a lot of diversity programs, but what is needed is inclusion. He concluded by encouraging all to find out more about redlining in Erie, Pennsylvania.

Chairman Anderson called for a second reading of the Ordinance as amended, Mr. Horton moved, seconded by Mrs. Clear, and passed in a 7-0 vote.

Chairman Anderson also wished Tina Mengine luck in this effort. He emphasized that part of this money is to be utilized as seed money and matching this seed money with other organizations and other grant opportunities to really leverage, have this grow, and make an impact and benefit to the community.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Clear moved to amend the agenda to have new business items A & B as Second Readings, to group H through K as one motion, and add a new item (i.) in the agenda "Resolution 4, 2021, Promoting and Preserving Unity, Mindfulness, Hope, Opportunity, Equality, Justice, and Civility on the Eve of the 46th Presidential Inauguration." Seconded by Mr. Horton, and passed 7 to 0.

First Reading of Ordinance Number 1, 2021 "Third 2021 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$54,140 for Courts Computer Software Upgrade" (Finance Committee) Mr. Smith gave a Second Reading of Ordinance Number 1, 2021 "Third 2021 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$54,140 for Courts Computer Software Upgrade" This was moved by Ellen Schauerma, seconded by Brian Shank and carried in a 7 - 0 vote.

First Reading of Ordinance Number 2, 2021, "First 2021 Mental Health\Intellectual Disabilities (MHID) Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$295,914 in Additional Revenue for Homeless Assistance" (Finance Committee) Mr. Smith gave a Second Reading of Ordinance Number 2, 2021, "First 2021 Mental Health\Intellectual Disabilities (MHID) Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$295,914 in Additional Revenue for Homeless Assistance" This was moved by Kim Clear, seconded by Ellen Schauerma and carried in a 7 - 0 vote.

Resolution Number 1, 2021, Mr. Smith gave a reading of Resolution Number 1, 2021, "In Support of Erie

"In Support of Erie Forward, the Community Investment Initiative from Regional Chamber and Growth Partnership" (Finance Committee)

Forward, the Community Investment Initiative from Regional Chamber and Growth Partnership;" motioned by Mr. Horton and Seconded by Mrs. Clear. Mrs. Clear asked to amend the language of the Resolution to: In Support of Erie Forward, the Community Investment Initiative from Regional Chamber and Growth Partnership; In compliment to Ordinance 109, 2020, First 2021 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$150,000 and new line items for Grant Funds to Erie Regional Chamber & Growth Partnership. Mr. Horton agreed to amend his motion; carried 7 to 0. Mr. Smith read the Ordinance, as amended, carried 7 to 0.

Resolution Number 2, 2021 "Approving the 2021 Solicitor Contract for the Office of the Erie County Controller" (Finance Committee)

Mr. Smith gave a reading of Resolution Number 2, 2021 "Approving the 2021 Solicitor Contract for the Office of the Erie County Controller" Moved by Mrs. Clear, and Seconded by Mrs. Schauerma. Mr. Horton pointed out that over the course of the prior year, the solicitor for Council took on many additional projects including the community college, the election, and general litigation. He stated it as his intent to address reviewing that contract as well. Mr. Smith took roll call vote, passed 7 to 0.

Resolution Number 3, 2021 "Exonerating Taxes for Parcel Number 15-020-016.0114.00, the New Life and Spirit Revival Center" (Finance Committee)

Mr. Smith gave a reading of Resolution Number 3, 2021 "Exonerating Taxes for Parcel Number 15-020-016.0114.00, the New Life and Spirit Revival Center" This was moved by André Horton, seconded by Kim Clear and carried in a 7 - 0 vote.

Possible appointment of Brad Peganoff to five-year term to the Erie County Airport Authority. This term will expire December 31, 2025. (Mr. Shank-District 5)(Personnel Committee)

This was moved by Brian Shank, seconded by Kim Clear. Mr. Shank spoke on behalf of qualifications of Mr. Peganoff, stating he is the right guy for the right job. He is motivated and ready to give back to the community. Carried in a 7 - 0 vote.

Possible appointment of Kathryn DiVittorio to four-year term to the Erie County Human Relations Commission. This term will expire December 31,

This was moved by Scott Rastetter, seconded by Ellen Schauerma. Mr. Rastetter shared that Mrs. DiVittorio works with Impact Erie, several banking positions, Law at Duquesne University. He is looking forward to working with her. Carried in a 7 - 0 vote.

**2024. (Mr. Rastetter -
District 6)(Personnel
Committee)**

**Possible Sale of a Parcel
from the Repository for
Unsold Property at Index
Number: 07-026-078.0-
008.00 (Finance
Committee)**

Mr. Smith read aloud all parcels for the single motion of all. This was moved by Kim Clear, seconded by Brian Shank and carried in a 7 - 0 vote.

**Possible Sale of a Parcel
from the Repository for
Unsold Property at Index
Number: 29-016-064.0-
003.89 (Finance
Committee)**

**Possible Sale of a Parcel
from the Repository for
Unsold Property at Index
Number: 47-002-007.0-
009.03 (Finance
Committee)**

**Possible Sale of a Parcel
from the Repository for
Unsold Property at Index
Number: 33-117-470.0-
025.00 (Finance
Committee)**

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Anderson asked that the added "Resolution 4, 2021, Promoting and Preserving Unity, Mindfulness, Hope, Opportunity, Equality, Justice, and Civility on the Eve of the 46th Presidential Inauguration" be read in its entirety. Mr. Smith requested that Ms. Inan read the Resolution in its entirety; Mr. Anderson concurred.

RESOLUTION NUMBER 4, 2021, Promoting and Preserving Unity, Mindfulness, Hope, Opportunity, Equality, Justice, and Civility on the Eve of the 46th Presidential Inauguration

WHEREAS, Benjamin Franklin, said, [Whilst the last members were signing [the Constitution], looking towards the President's chair, at the back of which a rising sun happened to be painted, observed to a few members near him], "that painters had found it difficult to distinguish in their art, a rising, from a setting sun. I have said he, often and often, in the course of the session, and the vicissitudes of my hopes and fears as to its issue, looked at that behind the President, without being able to tell whether it was rising or setting; but now at length, I have the happiness to know, that it is a rising, and not a setting sun; and WHEREAS, Mary McLeod Bethune, in 1939 said... "the fight for a new America: fearless, free, united, morally re-armed... shoulder to shoulder with their fellow Americans, will strive that this nation under God will have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, for the people and by the people shall not perish from the earth. This dream, this idea, this aspiration, this is what American democracy means to me;" and

WHEREAS, President George Washington, in 1789 said, "...I behold the surest pledges, that as on one side, no local prejudices, or attachments; no separate views, nor party animosities, will misdirect the comprehensive and equal eye which ought to watch over this great assemblage of communities and interests: so, on another, that the foundations of our National policy will be laid in the pure and immutable principles of private morality; and the pre-eminence of a free Government, be exemplified by all the attributes which can win the affections of its Citizens, and command the respect of the world....in humble supplication that since he has been pleased to favour the American people, with opportunities for deliberating in perfect tranquility, and dispositions for deciding with unparalleled unanimity on a form of Government, for the security of their Union, and the advancement of their happiness; so his divine blessing may be equally conspicuous in the enlarged views, the temperate consultations, and the wise measures on which the success of this Government must depend;" and

WHEREAS, President Thomas Jefferson, in 1801 said, "We are all Republicans (today's Democrats), we are all Federalists (today's Republicans). If there be any among us who would wish to dissolve this Union or to change its republican form, let them stand undisturbed as monuments of the safety with which error of opinion may be tolerated where reason is left free to combat it;" and

WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln, in 1865 said, "With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations;" and

WHEREAS, President Theodore Roosevelt, in 1905 said, "We must show not only in our words, but in our deeds, that we are earnestly desirous of securing their good will by acting toward them in a spirit of just and generous recognition of all their rights. But justice and generosity in a nation, as in an individual,

count most when shown not by the weak but by the strong;" and
WHEREAS, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, in 1933 said, "First of all, let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself, nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to convert retreat into advance;" and
WHEREAS, President Dwight Eisenhower, in 1953 said, "How far have we come in man's long pilgrimage from darkness toward light? Are we nearing the light—a day of freedom and of peace for all mankind? Or are the shadows of another night closing in upon us? Great as are the preoccupations absorbing us at home, concerned as we are with matters that deeply affect our livelihood today and our vision of the future, each of these domestic problems is dwarfed by, and often even created by, this question that involves all humankind;" and
WHEREAS, President John F. Kennedy, in 1961 said, "And so, my Fellow Americans: ask not what your Country can do for you – ask what you can do for your country. My fellow citizens of the world: ask not what America will do for you, but what together we can do for the freedom of man;" and

WHEREAS, President Ronald Reagan, in 1981 said, "In this present crisis, government is not the solution to our problem; government is the problem. From time to time we've been tempted to believe that society has become too complex to be managed by self-rule, that government by an elite group is superior to government for, by, and of the people. Well, if no one among us is capable of governing himself, then who among us has the capacity to govern someone else? All of us together, in and out of government, must bear the burden. The solutions we seek must be equitable, with no one group singled out to pay a higher price;" and

WHEREAS, President Barak Obama, in 2009 said, "On this day, we gather because we have chosen hope over fear, unity of purpose over conflict and discord. On this day, we come to proclaim an end to the petty grievances and false promises, the recriminations, and worn-out dogmas that for far too long have strangled our politics. We remain a young nation. But in the words of Scripture, the time has come to set aside childish things. The time has come to reaffirm our enduring spirit; to choose our better history; to carry forward that precious gift, that noble idea passed on from generation to generation: the God-given promise that all are equal, all are free, and all deserve a chance to pursue their full measure of happiness;" and

WHEREAS, Eleanor Roosevelt said, "This nation has placed its destiny in the hands and heads and hearts of its millions of free men and women; and its faith in freedom under the guidance of God. Freedom means the supremacy of human rights everywhere. Our support goes to those who struggle to gain those rights or keep them. Our strength is our unity of purpose. To that high concept there can be no end save victory."

WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr, said, "The true measure of a man is not how he behaves in moments of comfort and convenience but how he stands at

times of controversy and challenges”...”The time is always right, to do the right thing”...“I say to you today, my friends, so even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream. I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal”...“I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.”

AND NOW, THEREFORE, WE, THE MEMBERS OF ERIE COUNTY COUNCIL, on the eve of the Inauguration of this Nation’s 46th President of the United States of America, join together in Unity, as Proud and Patriotic Americans, aware of our Nation’s past differences and mindful of our Nation’s Multicultural and Multidimensionalism direct our positive energy in Hope, Opportunity, Fairness, Equality, Justice and Civility.

Mrs. Clear thanked Chairman Anderson for putting this Resolution together, and the reflection of this nation's unity and why we serve.

Chairman Anderson quoted Benjamin Franklin by saying "Democracy is the worst form of a government that exists, except for any other form of government." Chairman stated that we are fortunate in America to have the opportunity to disagree, and to agree. He suggests that the purpose of this Resolution is to say that no matter our difference, or how deep the divide, what brings us together as a country and as a people and as humankind, are the things that unity us; Love and respect, and the existence of each other and the hopes and opportunities, for the better tomorrow for us and our children, and a better country.

This was moved by Ellen Schauerman, seconded by André Horton and carried in a 7 - 0 vote.

Mr. Shank moved to adjourn at 5:23pm, seconded by Mrs. Clear.

**The next Finance &
Personnel Committee
Meetings will occur
January 28, 2021 at 4:00pm
via zoom conference.**

**The next Regular Meeting
of Council will occur**

**February 2, 2021 at
4:00pm. Caucus will begin
at 3:30pm.**

**For social-distancing
measures and consistency
with CDC Guidelines,
meetings will be held via
zoom conferencing
(zoom.us). Agendas and
zoom information available
at www.eriecountypa.gov.
Call the Council office at
451-6303 for specific
inquiries.**