

AGENDA

Erie County Council

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

REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, March 2, 2021

3:30 P.M. – Council Caucus
4:00 P.M. – Council Meeting

Join Via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82052166999?pwd=MUlrVVkwN3JnTXo0eGF4TlE0WEtrQT09>

or Call-in: [1-929-205-6099](tel:1-929-205-6099)

Meeting ID: 820 5216 6999

Passcode: 030221

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
2. **OPTIONAL PRAYER OR INVOCATION**
3. **ROLL CALL**
4. **HEARING OF THE PUBLIC**
 - A. Jim Nuber, IBEW Local 56
 - B. Jeff Bartlett, Western PA NECA
5. **MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**
 - A. February 16, 2021 - Regular Meeting
 - B. February 23, 2021 - Special Meeting
6. **REPORTS OF COUNTY OFFICIALS**

- A. County Executive and/or her Designee
- B. Finance Committee -Mrs. Clear
- C. Personnel Committee - Mrs. Rennie
- D. Other
- E. Citations in Memoria

Mr. John Oregia (Councilman Shank)
Mrs. Lois Owens (Chairman Anderson)
Attorney William Scarpitti, Jr. (Chairman Anderson)
Mrs. Virginia Sundberg (Chairman Anderson)

7. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Second Reading of Ordinance Number 9, 2021, "Fifth 2021 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$33,334, New Line Item and Waiver of Bid Requirements for Administration of Community College RACP Grant" (Rec'd 1st Reading 2/16/21)(Finance Committee)

The County asked four entities to submit bids on the administrative work of the Community College RACP Grant. Two declined, and the ECRDA number was significantly less than an out of town firm. The waiver is needed because the County did an informal search for an administrator, not a full bid procedure. The ECRDA does have significant experience with RACP Grants.

- B. Second Reading of Ordinance Number 12, 2021, "2021 Library Fund Budget Revised Expenditures of \$2,600 for Elimination of Part-Time Position and Creation of Full Time Position" (Rec'd 1st Reading 2/16/21)(Personnel Committee)

The Library desires this position to better serve the increased demands for digital products. This would be a Digital Collections Librarian. The position elimination and two vacancies allow most of the cost to be absorbed by the current Library budget.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- A. First Reading of Ordinance Number 14, 2021 "2021 Public Health Fund Budget Revised Expenditures of \$12,020 for Temporary Increase In Wages and Hours for Acting Director of Public Health" (Finance Committee)

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the current Department of Health

Director has been acting as Commander on the County COVID response. As such, the Acting Director has needed to take on a portion of the Director's duties and is also managing the Tobacco Control Program Supervisory position in the absence of said supervisor. The request for temporary salary increase to step "E" grade 20, would be retroactive to January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021. From a vacancy in positions, there would be funds in the bureau 018015 line to increase with no additional cost to the County.

- B. First Reading of Ordinance Number 15, 2021, "Second 2021 Public Health Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$15,753 To Reinstate Grant Revenue Reduced In the 2021 Budget Process" (Finance Committee)

During the 2021 County Budget (November 17, 2020), Council took action to reduce all non-essential supplies in all departments across the county by 5% and 10% across all county department overtime. The Erie County Department of Health was reduced by a collective \$15,753.00 in grant funded bureaus. These funds will be collected in full through reimbursement from federal and PADOH agencies, and as such are being requested that the funds be reinstated.

- C. First Reading of Ordinance Number 16, 2021, "Third 2021 Public Health Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$343,795 for the Creation of the ELC Cares Covid-19 Funds Department" (Finance Committee)

These EL Cares Grant funds are for the 2021; another \$38,537 will come in 2022 for the total allotment of \$382,333. These funds are to be administered through the "Health Preparedness Bureau of the Health Department. They are to be used for activities related to surveillance and mitigation of the "disease."

- D. First Reading of Ordinance Number 17, 2021, "Sixth 2021 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$3,055,038 for Covid-19 Hospitality Industry Recovery Program and Creation of New Department" (Finance Committee)

Erie County was awarded grant funds to be distributed to eligible business as defined in Act 1 of 2021 to alleviate revenue losses and pay eligible operating expenses due to COVID-19 pandemic. An administrator of funds (Erie County Redevelopment Authority) was named on February 23, 2021. Applications will be processed and the block grant funds will be disbursed until exhausted or the date of June 15, 2021, whichever occurs first.

- E. First Reading of Ordinance Number 18, 2021 "An Ordinance of the County of Erie ("the County") Authorizing and Directing the Execution and Delivery of a Guaranty Agreement for the Benefit of Pleasant Ridge Manor ("Pleasant Ridge") and Compliance with the Provisions Thereof and Incurring Nonelectoral Debt Thereby; Approving a \$700,000 Letter of Credit Agreement from Pleasant Ridge to First

National Bank of Pennsylvania; Directing the Proper Officers of the County to Take Necessary Actions; and Repealing All Inconsistent Ordinances" (Finance Committee)

This letter of Credit is a very inexpensive financial backstop for the Pleasant Ridge Manor Workers Compensation program. It has been done for many years. If the instrument is unused, it is paid back immediately.

- F. First Reading of Ordinance Number 19, 2021, "Seventh 2021 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$149,228 for Second Year Allotment of PCCD Covid Relief Grant and Creation of New Department" (Finance Committee)
Amount presented is a combined total of carryover (\$82,731.47) from 2020 statewide grant Erie was awarded and additional award from 2021 (\$66,497). Items include mostly PPE, a COVID testing machine, testing kits, COVID related overtime, Zoom, and monitors for Probation Offices.

- G. Resolution Number 7, 2021 "A Resolution Establishing A Property Assessed Clean Energy Program In The County Of Erie And Taking And Authorizing Other Action In Connection Therewith" (Finance Committee)

The C-PACE program provides for the financing of energy and water conservation improvements for commercial, agricultural, and industrial properties except for residential properties which are currently excluded if the County agrees to certain administrative covenants and procedures for the tracking of affected properties and collection of taxes. Chester, Northampton and Lehigh passed similar resolutions in 2019. The Chamber, Building Trades and others are supportive. Council first reviewed this at the Finance Committee on January 14, 2021.

- H. Resolution Number 8, 2021 "Joining Together In Unity, With Compassion, Fairness, Justice And Equality As The Basis For Our Democratic Form Of Government And With The Protection Of All Civil Rights We Urge Congress To Enact The Equality Act Swiftly Into Law" (Finance Committee) (Attached)

Urges passage of HR 5- The Equality Act is legislation that would update federal law to include express and enduring nondiscrimination protections for 13 million LGBTQIA+ Americans across virtually every area of daily life.

9. ADJOURNMENT

- A. The next Finance & Personnel Committee Meetings will occur March 11, 2021 at 4:00pm via zoom conference.

The next Regular Meeting of Council will occur March 16, 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.