

AGENDA

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

Tuesday, May 25, 2021

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

Join Via Zoom:

Online: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86308886108?pwd=eGVrNzZNR081S3IxQzkyVVpIL0VVZz09>

Or Call-in: 1-929-205-6099

Meeting ID: 863 0888 6108

Passcode: 052521

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
2. **OPTIONAL PRAYER OR INVOCATION**
3. **ROLL CALL**
4. **HEARING OF THE PUBLIC**

A. Terri Twillie, Erie, PA

B. Other

5. **MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

May 4, 2021 - Regular 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

7. **OLD BUSINESS**

- A. Resolution Number 10, 2021 "Approving A Professional Services Contract For Zelenkofske & Axelrod, Certified Public Accountants For Consultation On Pandemic Related State And Federal Funding" (Tabled 3/16/21)

Item was tabled owing to conflict of interest concerns. ZA is the currently the County's Auditing firm. Hiring them to provide advice in the funding arena sets up a scenario wherein they" review their own advice". Council has asked the Administration to explore other firms for this service.

- B. Second Reading of Ordinance Number 26, 2021, "Fifth 2021 Library Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$105,500 for Libraries' Historic Newspaper Digitization Project and Approval of a 6 Year Purchase Agreement with NEWSBANK" (Finance Committee)(1st Reading 4/6/21) (Tabled 5-4-21)

The Library desires a six-year agreement with the NEWSBANK Company, which OWNS the rights to historic Erie newspapers going back from 1888 to 1994. This contract will provide purchase of a perpetual license for Erie County's rights to this material. Council has concerns over the lack of a clear and precise contract between the parties; something that protects the County's investment.

- C. Second Reading of Ordinance Number 27, 2021, "Ninth 2021 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$105,500 for Library's Historic Newspaper Digitization Project" (Finance Committee)(1st Reading 4/6/21) (Tabled 5-4-21)

This is a companion to the previous ordinance showing the General Fund side of the financial transaction. This item was also tabled on 5-4-21 due to the lack of a clear and concise contract between parties. The Administration has not pursued such an instrument.

- D. Possible Motion to Reintroduce a Defeated Resolution Number 16, 2021, "Approval of Tentative Lease Agreement between the County of Erie and Lessor Norman Beatty for the Offices Occupied by Magisterial District Judge Christopher MacKendrick" (Failed 5/4/21)

This lease agreement was voted down due to concerns over price. After some review of other MDJ leases and the amount of this rent over the last eight years, Council is bringing the matter back to reconsider. Such a motion may be made by a Member who voted against the measure previously.

- E. Second Reading of Ordinance Number 35, 2021, "First 2021 Capital Projects Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$445,000 and Creation of New Line Items for Public Safety Parking Lot Replacement and Expansion"(1st Reading 5/4/21)(Finance Committee)

Capital Expenditure Projects proposed as by Facilities Director Brad Hirschman to the Administration. The Public Safety parking area is crumbling due to water issues. This project would rebuild it from the substrate, repair drains and expand the number of spaces.

- F. Second Reading of Ordinance Number 36, 2021 "Second 2021 Capital Projects Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation Of \$120,000 And New Line Items For Blasco Library Fire Alarm System Replacement" (1st Reading 5/4/21)(Finance Committee)

Fire Alarm System at Blasco Library is aged. It is expensive to fix and replacement parts are difficult to find. This will bring it in line with other systems in County properties.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- A. First Reading of Ordinance Number 41, 2021, "Fourteenth 2021 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$10,000 and Creation of Tuition Reimbursement Line Item in the County Prison Budget" (Finance Committee)

An employee recently requested utilization of tuition reimbursement; this line is necessary to be in compliance with Section 42.3 A 3 of the collective bargaining agreement between Erie County and the Pennsylvania Social Services Union (PSSU).At the time of the budget no employees were utilizing it, so the line was removed for 2021.

- B. First Reading of Ordinance Number 42, 2021, "Fifteenth 2021 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$6,000 from Increase to the Public Defender Data Processing Costs " (Finance Committee)

The Public Defender Office relocation to new building require the installation of internet networking equipment and increased month costs.

- C. First Reading of Ordinance Number 43, 2021, "Sixteenth 2021 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$300,776 and New Line for Demolition of Former PRM East Building" (Finance Committee)

The County had a public bid process to find a firm to handle the demolition of this now empty building. a local firm, Empire Excavation & Demo Inc had the low bid of \$294,000.The firm has agreed to remove asbestos floor tiles, and

roofing, flashing compounds prior to demolition.

- D. First Reading of Ordinance Number 44, 2021 "2021 Children and Youth Fund Budget Revised Expenditures of \$811,466 for Creation of 29 New Positions Approved in the State's Needs Based Budget" (Personnel Committee)

In October 2020 the State redefined the type of "referrals" that require investigation by OCY, as a result there has been a 30% increase in caseload. The State has approved these positions so Erie County may provide the oversight and attention required by PA Human Services. There are no County funds in this request.

- E. First Reading of Ordinance Number 45, 2021, "Seventeenth 2021 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$19,953 for Creation of New Position in the Erie County Prison" (Personnel Committee)

The creation of this NB5 Clerical position would primarily be responsible for inmate mail and the inmate tablet program and electronic messaging duties, along with back up of the other clerical positions.

- F. Resolution Number 19, 2021 "Approving The Financial Statements And Independent Auditor's Report For The County Of Erie And Related Funds For Calendar Year Ending December 31, 2020" (Finance Committee)

The County of Erie engaged Zelenkofske Axelrod LLC to perform a comprehensive audit of Erie County Government and its related funds via Resolution 57, 2020 for the year ending December 31, 2020. The audit was completed earlier this year. This action officially accepts the work.

- G. Resolution Number 20, 2021 "Exonerating Outstanding County Taxes, Fees and Interest on 2947 Happy Valley Rd. #13, E. Springfield Pennsylvania, Parcel 39-006-007.1-007.78" (Finance Committee)

Taxes from 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 & 2017 totaling \$3176.18 have lapsed. Springfield Township and the Northwestern School District have both agreed to abate their portions. County Taxes account for \$1,637.67 of the total.

- H. Resolution Number 21, 2021 "Exonerating Outstanding County Taxes, Fees and Interest on 23 Emory Dr. TRL, Washington Twp. Pennsylvania, Parcel 45-029-050-0-017-87" (Finance Committee)

Taxes from 2016 & 2017 totaling \$335.99 have lapsed. Washington Township and the General McLane School District have both agreed to abate their portions. County Taxes account for \$207.44 of the total.

- I. Resolution Number 22, 2021 "Exonerating Outstanding County Taxes, Fees and Interest on 10099 Meadville St. Lot 51 TRL, Cranesville Pennsylvania, Parcel 09-00400-4-2-012-25"(Finance Committee)
Taxes from 2014, 2015, 2016 & 2017 totaling \$779.42 have lapsed. The Borough of Cranesville and the Northwestern School District have both agreed to abate their portions. County Taxes account for \$699.05 of the total.
- J. Resolution Number 23, 2021 "Exonerating Outstanding County Taxes, Fees and Interest on 5 Highland Dr. TRL, Union City Pennsylvania, Parcel 41-004-006.2-008.34"(Finance Committee)
Taxes from 2016 totaling \$545.87 have lapsed. The Borough of Union City and the Union City Area School District have both agreed to abate their portions. County Taxes account for \$417.69 of the total.
- K. Resolution Number 24, 2021 "Exonerating Outstanding County Taxes, Fees and Interest on 1 Diane Ct. Lot 114 TRL, McKean Pennsylvania, Parcel 31-009-017.4-003.52"(Finance Committee)
Taxes from 2014 totaling \$153.51 have lapsed. McKean Township and the General McLane School District have both agreed to abate their portions. County Taxes account for \$139.20 of the total.
- L. Resolution Number 25, 2021 "Exoneration of Delinquent Trailer Property Taxes Parcel: 31-009-017.2-003.26, 18 Faucette Ct. Lot 149 TRL, McKean Pennsylvania"(Finance Committee)
Taxes from 2018 & 2019 totaling \$1553.15 have lapsed. McKean Township and the General McLane School District have both agreed to abate their portions. County Taxes account for \$854.67 of the total.
- M. Resolution Number 26, 2021 "Exoneration of Delinquent Trailer Property Taxes Parcel: 31-013-047.1-003.37, on 307 Maple St. TRL, McKean Pennsylvania"(Finance Committee)
Taxes from 2015, 2016, 2017, & 2018 totaling \$1244.27 have lapsed. McKean Township and the General McLane School District have both agreed to abate their portions. County Taxes account for \$852.50 of the total.
- N. Resolution Number 27 "Exonerating Outstanding County Taxes, Fees and Interest on 27 Cherokee Dr. Lot 109 TRL, McKean Pennsylvania, Parcel 31-009-016.2-003.33"(Finance Committee)

Taxes from 2018, 2019, & 2020 totaling \$423.36 have lapsed. McKean Township and the General McLane School District have both agreed to abate their portions. County Taxes account for \$402.58 of the total.

- O. Possible Sale of a Parcel from the Repository for Unsold Property at Index Number:
302-04 E 26ST 2525 GERMAN ST

An offer of \$250 by Tommy Lee Clanton for the parcel at 302 04 E 26ST 2525 German St, Erie PA. Other taxing bodies have approved the sale.

- P. Possible Sale of a Parcel from the Repository for Unsold Property at Index Number:
18-050-025.0-210.00 634 E 21 ST 35x135.

An offer of \$250 by Richard Flemings for the parcel at 634 E 21 ST, Erie PA. Other taxing bodies have approved the sale.

9. ADJOURNMENT

- A. The next Finance & Personnel Committee Meetings will occur June 3, 2021 at 4:00pm via zoom conference.

The next Regular Meeting of Council will occur June 8, 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).

At which time Council reconvenes in-person meetings, the public will be duly notified. Agendas and zoom information available at www.eriecountypa.gov. Call the Council office at 451-6303 for specific inquiries.