

MINUTES

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 MINUTES

Tuesday, May 25, 2021

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

OPTIONAL PRAYER OR INVOCATION

Vice-Chairwoman Clear offered the optional invocation: "It's understandable that we sometimes think the World's problems are so big that we can do little to help; on our own, we cannot end wars or wipe out injustice - but the cumulative impact of thousands of small acts of goodness can be bigger than we imagine." - Queen Elizabeth, II; 2016. Vice Chairwoman Clear clarified that the quote made her think of all of Council in that alone we can only do so much, but together even more can be accomplished.

ROLL CALL

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

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

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Terri Twillie, Erie, PA Did not appear.

Russ Taylor, Millcreek, PA / Property owner in the City of Erie Mr. Taylor discussed the proposed International Recycling Groups (IRG) post-use plastic sorting facility currently being considered. He stated a concern for the sparse details regarding the environmental impact on the population, infrastructure and natural resources of Erie and the surrounding communities. The site for the plant (SP-3 Industrial Park), is situated in the center of a

residential community, with the Boys & Girls Club, Edison School, the Barber National Institute Senior Center, and the John Horan Apartments as nearby neighbors. He voiced that the safety of the children and elderly in this area should be a primary consideration. The drastic increase in truck traffic, noise, and air pollution is very concerning for these vulnerable populations. He named risks of structural road issues, potential fires, and pollution of the water ways and of the local fish, wildlife and humans as significant issues for consideration. The contamination of the region, by disposing of the unwanted plastic from a 750 mile radius would wreak havoc on the local tourism. There has been very little reasoning on how the IRG would benefit the Erie area financially; the \$100M plant would yield 50 jobs of which would most likely offer mediocre wages as the system would be mostly automated. His hope is that the members of Council and other legislators will provide a thorough cost-benefit analysis. He went on to compare the facility to that of another local similar business of Carbonlite. He reiterated the concern of quality of life issues with local residents as well as property values along the East Lake Rd. corridor. His ask: Council to host public county meetings with representatives from IRG, State and Local Government, Environmental Groups, news media, local investors Plastek and Erie insurance. We need to know why Erie Insurance and Plastek think that this is a good investment for our region. As tax payers, stakeholders, and concerned citizens, we deserve how to know how collecting plastic trash from all over the North Eastern US benefits us.

Other

Issy Lawrie - Girard; Member of Our Water Our Air Our Rights; Member of the Sierra Club; Member of Audubon Society. Spoke on concerns regarding the IRG proposed plastic sorting and flaking plant. She is concerned about the proposed quantity of plastic waste coming to the area; bringing in 275k Tons of plastic waste from a 750mile radius would include New York City and as far down as Atlanta. Concerned increased truck traffic thru residential and environmental justice area. More traffic equals more safety concerns. Improve the community rather than promoting and increased pollution. She urges looking at the big picture, considering the huge Carbon imprint and being better stewards of our land.

James Miller, Erie 16505; Spoke to the IRG issue as well: Strong environmental groups in Canada will surely object to the burning of the plastic waste in Canada with the contamination of air, and to ships/barges to bringing the chipped plastic waste across Lake Erie with the risk of capsizing, leaving the waste in the waterways.

Anne McCarthy, OSB - Harborcreek, office in City of Erie, Speaking for Benedictines on Peace - focus on climate. The solution to climate crisis is global, with solutions incredibly local. Every discussion needs to consider whether: decisions will increase or decrease the carbon footprint, reliance on fossil fuel,

perpetuate over consumption or regenerative, build up or harm the human community - especially the most vulnerable. For these reasons, the Benedictine Sisters have great concern over the IRG plastic waste plant in Erie which will receive unrecyclable plastic from a huge area and shred it into flaked plastic with much of it to be burned across the watershed 40 miles away across Lake Erie. Burning a fossil fuel in the watershed will contaminate the entire watershed - air, water, & soil. She pointed out that it is an environmental justice area, but no environmental impact study has been completed. Ms. McCarthy quoted passages from a news write up by Matthew Rink in the Times News April 8, 2021; referencing the large amount of chemicals that would be needed to burn the large amount of waste, with no other option than the Canadian steel mill.

Juan Llarena, Millcreek; He commended the other environmentalists speaking. He spoke to being a Cuban immigrant, 1st generation to Miami Florida. He served the US Navy, traveling the world - being exposed to all and how interdependent nature is. Retired from Miami to Erie PA, because it's a better option to live during climate change. Fresh waters are being threatened. If we take care of our greatest asset, then there won't be the threat of losing the \$1.2 billion tourist economy, or \$40 million fishing industry. It will not help us financially, in fact will set us back. Fire in sorting plants happen easily - batteries are often thrown into recycling which is an easy source for fire.

Art Leopold, City of Erie; Voiced concerns previously about his concerns for the IRG plant. He reiterated his asks: Hosting public meeting(s) with community and IRG; residents/stakeholder sit on advisory board with IRG in the planning of the plant to ensure concerns are voiced directly to IRG; and to hold IRG accountable if something were to happen.

Chairman Anderson expressed gratitude for the public comments and reminded that if anyone from the public wishes to be on the agenda to receive 5 minutes they need to call prior to publication of the Agenda; 3 minutes otherwise.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

May 4, 2021 - Regular Meeting

Brian Shank moved to approve the minutes from the May 4, 2021 Regular Meeting. This was seconded by André Horton and carried in a 7 - 0 vote.

REPORTS OF COUNTY OFFICIALS

County Executive and/or her Designee

Mr. Sparber had no report on behalf of the County Executive.

Finance Committee -Mrs. Clear Finance Chairwoman Clear reported that the Finance Committee met on Thursday, May 20, 2021 and submit to the agenda: Old Business Items A- F; and New Business Items A through C and F through P.

Personnel Committee - Mrs. Rennie Personnel Chairwoman Rennie reported that the Personnel Committee met on Thursday, May 20, 2021 and submit to the agenda: New Business Items D and E.

Other Councilman Rastetter thanked the public for coming forward in the terrible use of the shoreline. He wishes it would go to a cleaner, more public and friendly use. Although he understands it has to be done somewhere. It is more important to realize that reuse and reducing is much more important than recycling; he suggested there should be a ban on plastic for this reason.

Chairman Horton stated there was extensive discussion over the last week over item F - Res. 19, 2021 and proposed Council acting on it, exercising futility. He stated there is an ambitious schedule ahead.

OLD BUSINESS

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) No Action Taken; item remains tabled.

Second Reading of Ordinance Number 26, 2021, "Fifth 2021 Library Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$105,500 for Libraries' Historic Newspaper Digitization No Action Taken; item remains tabled.

**Project and Approval of a 6
Year Purchase Agreement
with NEWSBANK"
(Finance Committee)(1st
Reading 4/6/21) (Tabled 5-
4-21)**

**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)**

No Action Taken; item remains tabled.

**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)**

Councilwoman Schauerman moved to reintroduce 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; seconded by Councilwoman Clear. On the vote for reconsideration, vote passes 7-0.

Councilwoman Schauerman motioned to approve Resolution 16, as reintroduced; seconded by Councilwoman Clear.

Councilwoman Clear thank everyone, namely Chuck Crane and Ellen Schauerman, for gathering the information better clarification which allows Council to make a better educated decision.

Anderson echoed clears comments; specifically thanking Schauerman on diligence and this item being in her district.

On the motion, passed 6 -1; Mr. Rastetter voting no.

**Second Reading of
Ordinance Number 35,
2021, "First 2021 Capital
Projects Fund Budget
Supplemental**

Mr. Smith gave a 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" This was moved by Ellen Schauerman, seconded by Brian Shank and carried in a 6 - 1 vote; Mr. Rastetter voting no.

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)

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)

Mr. Smith gave a 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" This was moved by André Horton, seconded by Mary Rennie and carried in a 7 - 0 vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Vice-Chairwoman Clear motioned to moved items A &B second reading, G-N 1 Vote, O &P 1 vote; Horton Seconded; motion passed 7 to 0.

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)

Mr. Smith gave a Second 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" This was moved by Brian Shank, seconded by André Horton.

Councilwoman Schauerman followed up with Tracey Fugagli, questioning if there are other contracts that have the same provision; Tracey confirmed that others have been appropriately budgeted for; others would include Adult and Juvenile Probation which are budgeted yearly.

Motion passed 7 - 0.

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

Mr. Smith gave a Second 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 " This was moved by André Horton, seconded by Kim Clear and carried in a 7 - 0 vote.

Committee)

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) Mr. Smith gave a 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"

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) Mr. Smith gave a 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"

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) Mr. Smith gave a 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"

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" Mr. Smith gave a reading of 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"

Vice Chairwoman Clear moved to strike item F - Resolution 19, 2021 from the agenda; after consultation with CPA Swartzfager and the Finance Department item should not receive actions and be removed as it will be completed in the fall; seconded Mrs. Rennie

(Finance Committee)

Chairman Anderson explained that there was presentation made last week of Preliminary report, not Final report. That is why it has been asked to be stricken until the auditors bring a final report ending December 31, 2020.

Motion passes 6 - 1; Mr. Horton voting No.

**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)**

Chairman Anderson reiterated that Items G thru N were motioned to approve in a single motion, exonerating taxes on various parcels in Erie County, as outline in the agenda.

Mr. Smith read all addresses G thru N- called the roll on items G thru N; This was moved by André Horton, seconded by Brian Shank and carried in a 7 - 0 vote.

**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)**

**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)**

**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)**

**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)**

**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)**

**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)**

**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)**

Possible Sale of a Parcel Chairman Anderson reiterated that Items O & P were motioned to approve in a

**from the Repository for
Unsold Property at Index
Number: 302-04 E 26ST
2525 GERMAN ST**

single motion. This was moved by Ellen Schauerman, seconded by Kim Clear and carried in a 7 - 0 vote.

**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.**

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Anderson announced that earlier he attended a WWI Centennial Committee Event. Council had provided this group with a grant a few years back, which was utilized to create two memorials at the Veteran's Memorial park at 26th and State Streets for all families of Erie County residents who perished in WWI. With additional grants, they were able to publish a book "Answering the Call - Erie County, Pennsylvania in World War One." A copy of the book was offered to County Council to be kept in the office. They are having a book signing this evening at the Hagen History Center. All proceeds made from the book will go toward the upkeep of the memorial at 26th and State. He congratulated the committee on their accomplishment.

Vice Chairwoman Clear moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Shank. Meeting Adjourned at 5:30pm.

**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.