

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, June 8, 2021

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Anderson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

OPTIONAL PRAYER OR INVOCATION

Councilwoman Schauerman gave the optional invocation: Christ has no body but yours, no hands no feet on Earth but yours, yours are the eyes with which he looks through with compassion on this world; yours are the feet with which he walks to do good; yours are the hands with which he blesses all the world; yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his thought.

ROLL CALL

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

Also Present: Douglas R. Smith; Erika Knight; Thomas Talarico; Nicole Inan; Amy Swartzfager; County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

None to be heard.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

May 25, 2021 - Regular Meeting

Councilman Shank moved to approve the minutes from the May 25, 2021 Regular Meeting. This was seconded by Councilwoman Schauerman and carried in a 7 - 0 vote.

REPORTS OF COUNTY OFFICIALS

County Executive and/or her Designee

County Executive Dahlkemper reported that Erie County Programs won 7 national awards (of 8) from the National Association of Counties (NaCo). This is the fifth consecutive year that the county government has received these achievement awards. She reported that over the past five years there have been in

total 33 achievement awards from NaCo. All should be very proud of the work being done in this community supported by County Council and the Administration. The awards received for 2021 include: Fire & EMS Recruitment and Retention Committee (through the Erie County Dept. of Safety); Blue Zones in the Workplace for the County of Erie; Mission Operate and Isolate Quarantine Shelter (Erie County Dept. of Health); Implementation of 24/7 Drug and Alcohol Screening Services to assist individuals in need (Erie County Dept. of Drug and Alcohol); Caring on - Embedded Librarians During Pandemic Times (Erie County Public Library); Thinking Outside the Walls - Take Home Book-Box Program (Erie County Public Library); Leadership Academy (Erie County Department of Human Resources) for people who move into leadership and managerial roles.

Thanked Council Members who were in attendance for the Blue Zones Expansion Presentation presented this morning - Chairman Anderson, Vice-Chairwoman Clear, Councilman Horton, & Councilman Rastetter. Recording will be available.

Chairman Anderson congratulated County Executive Dahlkemper and the Administration. Quite an honor when Erie County is called to receive the awards out of 3322 Counties. This is an example of the commitment to this community that Erie County employees have.

Finance Committee -Mrs. Clear

Finance Chairwoman Clear reported that the Finance Committee met June 3, 2021 and put forth to the agenda: Old Items A through D, and New Business Items A through D and F through K.

Personnel Committee - Mrs. Rennie

Personnel Chairwoman Rennie reported that the Personnel Committee met June 3, 2021 and put forth to the agenda: Old Business Items E & F, and New Business Item E.

Other

Election Board Chairwoman Rennie reported that the Board of Elections met this morning to certify the result of the Primary Election 2021. Results speak for themselves, they are the will of the voters. This is also the time to thank and recognize people for a job well done - the is the Department of Elections and the Office of County Council headed by Doug Smith for the exemplary job they do. Every year it seems to be more demanding. The staff are stewards of democracy and that is no small role, and the weight of that responsibility is heavier with each election. She stated it is an opportunity to report on the health and the functionality of the process, making changes and planning for next elections. She spoke of passing Resolution 2, 2021 "Urging the General Assembly and the Governor to Implement Election Changes before November." She emphasized the need for this, legislators have many election related concerns - issues with accessibility and security cannot and should not be ignored; however should not prevent the General Assembly from taking action on come critically needed items. the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP) made some very common sense recommendations in support of the sustainability of

elections and voting. The Board of Elections is urging our own local legislator to take a leadership role before the November election so that the process runs smoothly and comes to a reasonable conclusion after the election. The Election Code is out of step with the changes that were enacted in 2018. These changes will save counties throughout Pennsylvania money.

Chairman Anderson echoed the remarks in regards to staff and Mr. Smith for the work that they do on behalf of the voters of Erie County. He thanked Chairwoman Rennie and the Board for the work they have done and continue doing.

Vice Chairwoman Clear echoed sentiments to Election Chairwoman Rennie, Mrs. Schauerman and Mrs. Villella with all that's been undertaken to ensure a safe and fair election.

OLD BUSINESS

Chairman Anderson explained that Items A, B, C are tabled items, and during the Caucus there were no apparent interest in removing any items on the table -- Mr. Anderson asked if there were any motions - none.

**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 was taken.

**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)**

No action was taken.

**Second Reading of
Ordinance Number 27,
2021, "Ninth 2021 General**

No action was taken.

**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)**

**Second 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 Read
5-25-21)(Finance
Committee)**

Mr. Smith gave a Second 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" This was moved by Ellen Schauerma, seconded by Brian Shank.

Chairman Anderson stated this is bringing to close a long process that Council and the Administration have worked on. Thanked Carol Loll and Andre Horton in serving on Committees to put together a Pleasant Ridge Manor review. He recognized the work of the Administration, particularly Brad Hirschman, Chuck Crane, Jim Sparber, and Gary Lee.

Motion carried 7 to 0.

**Second 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 Read 5-25-
21)(Personnel Committee)**

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

Chairman Anderson named an Ad Hoc Committee to work with OCY and Administration -- Personnel Chair Rennie, Children and Youth Liaison Rastetter, and Councilman Andre Horton. Council has come up with a general outline of expectations, and in working with Solicitor Talarico and CPA Swartzfager, hope there will be a report at the next Personnel Committee for further clarification.

**Second 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" (First Read 5-25-
21)(Personnel Committee)**

Mr. Smith gave a Second 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" Motioned by Clear, no Second, Item Fails.

NEW BUSINESS

Vice Chairwoman Clear motioned to moved items B, C, & D to a Second Reading, and motioned for the Parcels in Repository (Items H & K) to get

handled in one vote; This was seconded by Councilman Rastetter. Carried 7 to 0.

First Reading of Ordinance Number 46, 2021 "Comprehensive Revision and Re-enactment of the Erie County Government Administrative Code" (Finance Committee) Mr. Smith gave a First Reading of Ordinance Number 46, 2021 "Comprehensive Revision and Re-enactment of the Erie County Government Administrative Code"

First Reading of Ordinance Number 47, 2021, "Seventh 2021 Public Health Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$4,274 for Continued Mosquito - Borne Disease Control" (Finance Committee) Mr. Smith gave a Second Reading of Ordinance Number 47, 2021, "Seventh 2021 Public Health Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$4,274 for Continued Mosquito - Borne Disease Control" This was moved by Ellen Schauerma, seconded by Brian Shank and carried in a 7 - 0 vote.

First Reading of Ordinance Number 48, 2021, "Eighteenth 2021 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$40,380 and New Line Items for Remainder of 2020 Department of Justice Grant for District Attorney Office" (Finance Committee) Mr. Smith gave a Second Reading of Ordinance Number 48, 2021, "Eighteenth 2021 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$40,380 and New Line Items for Remainder of 2020 Department of Justice Grant for District Attorney Office" This was moved by André Horton, seconded by Kim Clear and carried in a 7 - 0 vote.

First Reading of Ordinance Number 49, 2021, "General Fund Budget Revised Expenditures of \$1,000 and Creation of Temporary Staff Line Item in General Accounting" (Finance Committee) Mr. Smith gave a Second Reading of Ordinance Number 49, 2021, "General Fund Budget Revised Expenditures of \$1,000 and Creation of Temporary Staff Line Item in General Accounting" This was moved by Ellen Schauerma, seconded by André Horton.

Chairman Anderson commented that this line item is being created to train due to members of staff planning to retire this year. With the years of expertise, services will still be needed as positions are being filled in. The dedication and commitment of the employees and the knowledge and expertise that they hold over the years in Erie County, we need to ensure that there is a transitional plan set up to train and educate people moving into their positions. There is a cost, but the benefits far outweigh.

Carried in a 7 - 0 vote.

- First Reading of Ordinance Number 50, 2021, "Nineteenth 2021 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$44,177 for Creation of New Position in the District Attorney's office for Domestic Violence Cases" (Personnel Agenda)** Mr. Smith gave a First Reading of Ordinance Number 50, 2021, "Nineteenth 2021 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$44,177 for Creation of New Position in the District Attorney's office for Domestic Violence Cases"
- Resolution 19, 2021 "Erie County Hospital Authority \$10,000,000.00 Tax Exempt Obligations (Saint Mary's Home Of Erie Project)" (Finance Committee)** Mr. Smith gave a Reading of Resolution 19, 2021 "Erie County Hospital Authority \$10,000,000.00 Tax Exempt Obligations (Saint Mary's Home Of Erie Project)" This was moved by André Horton, seconded by Kim Clear and carried in a 7 - 0 vote.
- Possible Appointment of Dr. Quyen Aoh to serve District 7 on the Erie County Library Advisory Board for an unexpired term ending December 31, 2022. (Mrs. Schauerman)** Mr. Smith gave a Reading of the Possible Appointment of Dr. Quyen Aoh to serve District 7 on the Erie County Library Advisory Board for an unexpired term ending December 31, 2022. This was moved by Ellen Schauerman, seconded by Mary Rennie and carried in a 7 - 0 vote.
- Possible Sale of a Parcel from the Repository for Unsold Property at Index Number: 45-031-047.3-001.44 52; Franklin Drive Lot F-13, Washington Township (Finance Committee)** Chairman Anderson asked that the addresses of the following parcels be read in address only. Mr. Smith read them aloud.
On Parcels H through K, Councilwoman Clear made the motion, seconded by Councilman Shank and passed 7 to 0.
- Possible Sale of a Parcel from the Repository for Unsold Property at Index Number: 07-025-052.0-002.00 Grand ST TR 51, Corry, PA (Finance Committee)**
- Possible Sale of a Parcel from the Repository for Unsold Property at Index**

Number: 41-013-053.0-002.00 Lot #71, Elm Street, Union City PA (Finance Committee)

Possible Sale of a Parcel from the Repository for Unsold Property at Index Number: 15-021-027.0-219.00 E 17 ST Lots 4&5, City of Erie, PA (Finance Committee)

ADJOURNMENT

The next Finance & Personnel Committee Meetings will occur June 24, 2021 at 4:00pm via zoom conference.

Vice-Chairwoman Clear motioned to adjourn; Chairman Anderson adjourned the meeting at 4:56pm.

In-person meetings will commence with the next Regular Meeting of Council on June 29, 2021 at 6:00pm. at Andover Bank (rear) 53 East State Street, Albion PA 16401. Caucus will begin at 5:30pm.

Visit www.eriecountypa.gov, click on Departments then County Council. See agendas, zoom information, and schedules including the upcoming On-the-Road Series.

Call the Council office at 451-6303 for specific inquiries.