

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, June 29, 2021

5:30 P.M. – Council Caucus
6:00 P.M. – Council Meeting

**On-the-Road Series: District 7
Andover Bank (rear) 53 East State Street, Albion PA 16401**

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
2. **OPTIONAL PRAYER OR INVOCATION**
3. **ROLL CALL**
4. **HEARING OF THE PUBLIC**
5. **MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

June 8, 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. Citations in Memorium
Mr. Mark Miller
 - E. Other

Ordinance 44, 2021 ad hoc Committee Report

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" (Finance Committee)(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) (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. The Council Solicitor, the Library Director and Newsbank are working on a solution. Possible vote this evening.
- 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) (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 Council Solicitor, the Library Director and Newsbank are working on a solution. Possible vote this evening.
- D. 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/ Tabled 6/8/21)(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 the of oversight and attention required by PA Human Services. There are no County funds in this request. Likely vote this evening.
- E. Second Reading of Ordinance Number 46, 2021 "Comprehensive Revision and Re-enactment of the Erie County Government Administrative Code" (First Reading on 6-8-21)(Finance Committee)
The Home Rule Charter for the County requires that every four years, the Erie County Administrative Code, a generalized "operating manual" for Erie County Government, must be updated and re-approved via ordinance by Erie County Council. Likely vote this evening.
- F. Second 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" (First Reading 6-8-21)(Personnel Committee)

The Erie County District Attorney's office is seeking to dedicate a position as Domestic Violence Prosecutor to head a newly created Domestic Violence Unit. With the pandemic, there has been a noticeable rise in domestic conflict as individuals were forced to isolate in their homes. Likely vote this evening.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- A. First Reading of Ordinance Number 51, 2021 "Seventeenth 2021 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation for Donation of 25 Personal Contractor First Aid Kits to Sheriff Department by JRG Tools, LLC" (Finance Committee)
Councilman Shank from District 5 has found a firm willing to donate First Aid kits for use in Sheriff Department vehicles. They have a retail value of \$625. Donated items must approved and accepted in the same manner as a supplemental appropriation of funds. Possible Second Reading and vote.
- B. First Reading of Ordinance Number 52, 2021, "Twentieth 2021 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$66,379 And Creation of New Line Item For District Services State Aid Carryover from Prior Year" (Finance Committee)
The funds are Deferred Revenue from July - December 2020, and are part of a negotiated agreement between Crawford and Erie County libraries. Possible Second Reading and vote.
- C. First Reading of Ordinance Number 53, 2021, "Second 2021 Child & Youth Services Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$771,968 and Creation of Line Items for the Division X Grant" (Finance Committee)
The additional grant comes in in support of young adults in foster care, during the pandemic. Allowable assistance includes expenses includes continued foster care service past age 23; re-entry into foster care for those "aged out " of the system; aftercare for those aged up to 26, and transportation assistance for youth or housing expenses. Possible Second reading and vote this evening.
- D. First Reading of Ordinance Number 54, 2021, "Approving Waiver of Bid Requirements of County Purchasing Code to Select Gohrs/Haines Printing for Erie County Elections in 2021" (Finance Committee)
Gohrs/Haines Printing was selected by Council as the only local company certified through Dominion for printing of election ballots. The amount spend in the Primary Election, in regard to printing and duplicating ballot materials necessary per Act 77 amounted to over \$158,000. Per the Purchasing Code of the Administrative Code, items exceeding \$25,000 must be put out for bid, or be put up for consideration of waiver to Council. Possible Second Reading and vote.
- E. First Reading of Ordinance Number 55, 2021, "Twenty-First 2021 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$300,000 and Creation of New Line Items for Additional Election Costs" (Finance Committee)
The amount required for ballot printing in 2021 was severely underestimated during the budget process. The four ballot questions on the Primary ballot led to a 50% increase in per

ballot cost, which also raised costs. Funds from other lines were needed to pay for printing costs. This action provides funding for printing 85% of registration in every district. That level will provide enough ballots for regular, mail and provisional voters; and avoid shortages on Election Day. It also refills the Election Fees line for paying poll workers, the temporary work line for per diems, and the new postage line in conduct of elections. The new postage line in conduct will allow for better budgeting in the future. Voter Registration has mailings pertinent to its mission, while conduct will cover the cost of mailing ballots. Additionally, a reserve fund of \$25,000 is created. The money cannot be used unless County Council releases it through official action.

- F. First Reading of Ordinance Number 56, 2021, "Twenty-Second 2021 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$1,000 for Creation of Temporary Staff Line Item in the County Executive's Office" (Finance Committee)

County Executive Dahlkemper desires to use temporary help for the Administrative Assistant duties in her office, rather than hire a full time employee who may not be retained when the County Administration changes. The Ordinance would establish a new line for which the County Executive may move money from the unused wages of a currently vacated position to pay a temporary employee.

- G. First Reading of Ordinance Number 57, 2021, "Twenty-Third 2021 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$19,953 For Creation of New Position in the Erie County Prison" (Personnel Committee)

The Erie County Prison is looking to add the position of Inmates Services Clerk-Position (Number 0-04110-190) for assistance with clerical needs, including processing inmate mail, handling inmate electronic messaging systems, handling of inmate electronic devices, inventory, and working with the vendor for replacements and ticketing. This item previously failed with monies coming from commissary funds, it is being reintroduced utilizing the General Fund Budget. Likely Second Reading and vote.

- H. Possible Sale of a Parcel from the Repository for Unsold Property at Index Number: 18-050-013.0-209.00 333 E 20th St 41.25X135.

A \$250 offer by Charles Stepp for the property at 333 East 20th Street, City of Erie, has been approved by the other municipalities.

- I. Possible Sale of a Parcel from the Repository for Unsold Property at Index Number: 19-062-031.0-115.00 PT LT8 BLK G 45X119.055

A bid of \$250 by Besim Alsic for vacant property in the Sixth Ward of the city of Erie has been approved by the other taxing boding. The property requires significant clean up.

9. ADJOURNMENT

- A. Upcoming Meeting Information

The next Finance & Personnel Committee Meetings will occur July 15, 2021 at 4:00pm in room 114A of the Erie County Courthouse, 140 West Sixth Street, Erie PA 16501

The next Regular Meeting of Council will be on-the-road, July 20th, 2021 at 6:00pm. at Asbury Woods Nature Center, 4105 Asbury Rd., Erie, PA 16506. Caucus will begin at 5:30pm.

Visit www.eriecountypa.gov, click on Departments then County Council for agendas, meeting recordings, and schedules including information regarding the On-the-Road Series.

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