

AGENDA

Erie County Council

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Public invited to attend



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

REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, July 20, 2021

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

Asbury Woods Nature Center
4105 Asbury Road
Erie, PA 16506

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

OPTIONAL PRAYER OR INVOCATION

ROLL CALL

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Speaker

- A. Courtney Sabo
- B. Brenton Davis
- C. Other (3 minutes)

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

- A. June 24, 2021 - Regular Meeting

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. Possible Action to Remove from Table, and 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. Council Solicitor Talarico negotiated a contract providing purchase of a perpetual license for Erie County's rights to this material. The amount will be amended to 102,217 per year, the revised contract will become the new exhibit A. This item will likely come off the table for a vote.

- B. Possible Action to Remove from Table, and 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 have been working in collaboration on this item.

- C. Second 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" (1st Read 6/29/21)

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.

- D. Second 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" (1st Read 6/29/21)

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.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- A. First Reading of Ordinance Number 58, 2021, "Twenty-Fourth 2021 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$19,658 for Creation of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer in Human Resources Department" (Personnel Committee) (Attached)
The requested position is a professional role that will foster the diversity, equity, and inclusion goals of the county. This individual will be responsible for interacting with employee Diversity and Inclusion Council, which includes members of every department, and will continually evaluate and improve our practices in county government to for employees, and citizens utilizing county services. This will be achieved through policy review, employee trainings, departmental collaborations, and additional initiatives.
- B. First Reading of Ordinance Number 59, 2021, "Amending Ordinance 122, 2020 to Change the Position Grade and Salary of the County Clerk Position" (Personnel Committee) (Attached)
The duties and responsibilities of this position have increased over time. It's current grade is not reflective of that reality. The change in grade does not affect the pay in any manner. The County Clerk is an appointed position in the Home Rule Charter with a salary set by County Council, that not necessarily rooted in the pay plan structure. The salary for this position was previously set by Ordinance 119, 2020.
- C. First Reading of Ordinance Number 60, 2021, "Twenty-Fifth 2021 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$24,573 for Creation of Deputy County Clerk Position in Office of County Council" (Personnel Committee)
This position will assist County Council in their daily duties and communications. The changes in election law and procedure over the last two years require more oversight. This position will also provide assistance to the Election Supervisor and the Warehouse Manager, in the overall conduct of elections.
- D. First Reading of Ordinance Number 61, 2021, "First 2021 Planning Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$33,716 for GIS Position Reclassification" (Personnel Committee) (Attached)
Creates GIS Administrator Position at a higher grade than the current GIS Coordinator Position and sends savings back to Fund Balance.
- E. First Reading of Ordinance Number 62, 2021, "Eighth 2021 Public Health Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$17,639 in Additional Funds from Safe & Healthy Communities Grant" (Finance Committee)
Additional unspent grant block funds from the Pennsylvania Department of Health are being offered with stipulation to spent by September 30, 2021. The Erie County Department of Health is respectfully requesting consideration for a second reading due to the limited time to spend the budgeted funds.
- F. First Reading of Ordinance Number 63, 2021, "Twenty-Sixth 2021 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$93,314 for EMTA Local Match Shortfall in 2021-2022" (Finance Committee)
Act 89, the enabling legislation for EMTA's operating assistance grant, requires that state operating assistance be matched by local cash funding. The required amount of local funding for EMTA in fiscal year 20-21 is \$1,153,888. The EMTA has collected \$946,520 of local funding, 82% of the requirement. The Ordinance will make up the difference to maintain

compliance.

- G. First Reading of Ordinance Number 64, 2021, "Third 2021 Mental Health\Intellectual Disabilities (MHID) Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$2,835,469 and Creation of New Line Item for Receipt of Additional Grant Funds" (Finance Committee)
Revenue from the Department of Community and Economic Development, the PA Housing and Affordability and Rehabilitation Enhancement Grant, and the Emergency Rental Assistance Federal will be expended in Homeless Assistance. No County funds are projected for use at this time.
- H. First Reading of Ordinance Number 65, 2021, "Twenty-Seventh 2021 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$26,315,751 and Creation of American Rescue Plan Act Fund Budget" (Finance Committee) (Attached)
Erie County was granted \$26,315,751 from the American Rescue Plan, designed to deliver immediate relief for American workers, encourage nation-wide vaccination for the COVID pandemic, deliver immediate relief to American families, and support communities that are struggling in the wake of the pandemic.
- I. First Reading of Ordinance Number 66, 2021, "Twenty-Eighth 2021 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$7,092,000 and Creation of New Items for Transfer from American Rescue Plan Act Fund for Revenue Replacement" (Finance Committee)
Ordinance reflects funds anticipated for spending of public sector revenue loss.
- J. First Reading of Ordinance Number 67, 2021 "Amending Ordinance Number 50, 2021, "To Correct a New Position Number in the District Attorney Office"
Council passed this Ordinance June 29, 2021; however, at the time the exhibit read the incorrect position number, this Ordinance needs amended to include the corrected position number. Exhibit B to be amended from 0-03400-034 to 0-03400-035. Council may consider a second reading.
- K. First Reading of Ordinance Number 68, 2021 "Twenty-Ninth 2021 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$33,716 for Planning GIS Position Reclassification"
This is the General Fund side of the Ordinance that reclassifies a GIS Position and returns savings to the Fund Balance.
- L. Resolution Number 28, 2021, "Approving a Professional Services Contract for Consultation on Pandemic Related State and Federal Funding" (Finance Committee) (Attached)
The County of Erie wishes to engage a firm to provide technical assistance and advice in relation to the policies, procedures, accountability and monitoring of pandemic related State and federal funding initiatives on a periodic basis. Not all the information was available at the time of printing. Council may consider a firm vetted by County Executive Dahlkemper or table this item.
- M. Resolution Number 29, 2021, "Authorizing Thomas S. Talarico, Esq. as Designated Appointee of Erie County Council in Pursuit of Litigation Related to the Heart & Lung Appeals in 2021" (Personnel Committee)
An Erie County employee claim under the Heart and Lung Act was denied by the Administration. The employee is entitled to a hearing in front of Council or its designee under legislation adopted by Pennsylvania and Erie County in 2012.

- N. Possible Sale of a Parcel from the Repository for Unsold Property at Index Number: 39-006-007.2-007.54
An offer of \$250 by Dawn Griffith for the parcel at 2947 Happy Valley Rd Lot 29, TRL.; other taxing bodies have approved the sale.
- O. Resolution Number 30, 2021 " Enforcement of Ordinance 122, 2020"Approval of 2021 Erie County Non-Bargaining Employees Pay Plan" (Personnel Committee)
Personnel/Legal issue related to this resolution will likely require Council to go into Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

The next Finance/Personnel Meetings are August 12 at the Erie County Courthouse at 4pm in room 114A. A Special Meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday August 5th at the Erie County Courthouse to consider the ARPA Legislation.