

MINUTES

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 MINUTES

Tuesday, November 16, 2021

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Anderson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

OPTIONAL PRAYER OR INVOCATION

Mr. Rastetter offered the optional invocation: Ten Indian Commandments: 1. Treat Earth and all that dwell thereon with respect. 2. Remain close to the Great Spirit. 3. Show great respect for your fellow beings. 4. Work together for the benefit of all humankind. 5. Give assistance and kindness wherever needed. 6. Do what you know to be right. 7. Look after the well-being of mind and body. 8. Dedicate a share of your efforts to the greater good. 9. Be truthful and honest at all times. 10. Take full responsibility for your actions.

ROLL CALL

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

Also Present: Douglas R. Smith; James Sparber; Erika Knight; Nicole Inan; Amy Swartzfager

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

James Rosenbaum, Chair-Public Safety Advisory Committee

Mr. Rosenbaum (Millcreek Twp.) - Spoke on the public safety issues regarding the vacancies at 911 Center and in support of the Ordinance for consideration. Mr. Rosenbaum has been a member of West Ridge Fire for 44 years and has an extensive 911 background in Millcreek Twp. He voiced that the 911 Telecommunicators are the 1st first-responders and the most important in the chain.

Chairman Anderson thanked him for his service and for attending.

John Grappy- Director of Public Safety

Mr. Grappy yielded for others to speak.

3 minutes:

Aaron Depezilla, City of Erie, Member of 911 for 4 yrs. Voiced support for the Public Safety Ordinance. He stated that the people who remain at Public Safety have a commitment and calling for public service; very few people can do this

job as a career. Personally, it has taken him 3 years to become cross-trained; which would be like losing 2 people. He noted that the call center and all of public safety are a necessity in being a lifeline for the public. He views the potential action of Council as a necessity for sustainability. Mr. Anderson thanked him for his service.

Jeff McFadden, City of Erie - Reiterated his prior display of support for the Public Safety Ordinance. Echoed that it takes about 2 years to properly train. He pointed out Morgan Maxwell, the Center's "Spotlight Employee", working 110 hours of overtime since July. He spoke to the commitment of the employees of Public Safety to the welfare of Erie County. Mr. McFadden shared two personal emotionally taxing experiences. Mr. Anderson thanked him for his service.

John Grappy, Girard Borough, Public Safety Director - Spoke to the dedication of the men and women of Public Safety; serving the community with countless hours. They are the 1st first-responders of the community; it starts with the call. He expressed that staff receives countless training and continuing education. On the rationale that was originally provided, Oct 15th, there were 12 vacancies; as of last week 17 vacancies. Mr. Grappy explained that full complement is 52 employees, and as more are lost, a negative impact is growing as those working are having to taking on more hours and stress. He reiterated that when you lose telecommunicators with experience, you lose 2 to 3 years cross trained, and effective community service suffers. He expressed his gratitude in working with Administration, a 3rd party consultant, staff, and Council and respectfully requested a yes vote to ensure recruitment and retainment of workers for public safety.

Chairman Anderson expressed thanks to all of Public Safety.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

None at this time

REPORTS OF COUNTY OFFICIALS

County Executive and/or her Designee	No report provided
Finance Committee -Mrs. Clear	Finance Chairwoman Clear reported that the Finance Committee met on Thursday, November 10, 2021 and submit to the agenda Old Business A-C & New Business items A-CC.
Personnel Committee - Mrs. Rennie	Personnel Chairwoman reported that the Personnel Committee met on Thursday, November 10, 2021 and submit to the agenda New Business items DD - GG.
Other	Mr. Smith read a citation for Carole Brotherson:

Mrs. Carole Brotherson (1937-2021)

WHEREAS, Carole Brotherson met her heavenly father on October 23, 2021 at the age of 84 years. Carole was born on June 21, 1937 to the late L. Kirke and Violet (Weed) Besonson, in Union City, PA; and

WHEREAS, Carole had an idyllic childhood growing up in Canadohta Lake and loved to tell stories of the simple life she shared with her brothers and sisters, aunts, uncles and grandparents on "The Lake". She would later instill those same strong family values in her own children; and

WHEREAS, Carole was a graduate of Union City Joint High School, class of 1955, and briefly attended Edinboro State Teachers College, where she studied Home Economics; this later proved useful when she moved to Erie and met and married her husband, Robert Brotherson on March 26, 1966; and together they built a beautiful life; and

WHEREAS, Carole had a successful career for over twenty years with Sarah Coventry Jewelry, retiring as an Area Manager in the early 80's to pursue her dream of starting a catering business. Together with her husband Bob, they owned and operated Carole's Culinary Cuisine for nearly 40 years. She loved to cook and entertain and always threw the most wonderful soirees! She will always be remembered for her amazing food which she so lovingly prepared; and

WHEREAS, Carole's passions also included theater. She was both a long-time volunteer and an employee of Erie Playhouse, working in sales. She always concentrated on behind-the-scenes work until her friend, David Matthews, once convinced her to join the cast of The Music Man - her only appearance on stage. In addition to the Erie Playhouse, she also worked in advertising sales for the Academy Theatre in Meadville; and

WHEREAS, Carole had a strong faith and for many years was an active volunteer and member of Immanuel Baptist Church, Erie and Camp Judson, in North Springfield, Pa. In later life she attended Glenwood United Methodist Church, Erie and Liberty Baptist Church in St. Petersburg, Florida. She loved her time in Florida, and her friends at Sunset Palms, Pinellas Park. She and Bob spent winters there for over 25 years, enjoying time at the pool, card games with friends, and always entertaining; and

WHEREAS, Carole was preceded in death by her beloved husband Bob and two step-children, Richard Brotherson and Nancy Smith, her nephew, Greg Besonson Jr. and her grandson, Craigie Green II. Those left to share their memories of her include her four children, Craig Green, wife Kim, of McKean, and Bradley Green, and wife Cassie, of Erie, Sonja Nekoloff, and husband John, of Waterford, and Roberta Ebert, and partner Larry Kreakie of Erie, fifteen grandchildren; Jay, Kyle, Brandon and LK Green, Kristi Bailey, JP, Justin and Sean Nekoloff, Laurie Spoto, Jennifer Madara, Erika DeMauri, Leah and Eric Brotherson, and Brendan Smith and Lauren Colligan, 17 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren, twin brothers, Greg Besonson of Erie and Gary Besonson of Michigan, and a sister Brenda (John) Morse of Virginia, a sister-in-law, Marjorie Eaglen, Harborcreek and many nieces, nephews and special cousins; and

NOW THEREFORE WE THE UNDERSIGNED Members of Erie County

Council join in celebrating the life of Carol Brotherson, a woman whose soulful good nature and love for her family, friends, and community will be deeply missed. May she rest in peace.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have set our hands and the Seal of Erie County this 16th day of November, 2021.

Chairman Anderson added that he enjoyed her culinary cuisine for years. He is a 4th descendant cousin and enjoyed sharing family history with her.

Mr. Smith read a citation for Colonel Robert C. Whipple, USAF:

In Praise of Colonel Robert C. Whipple, USAF

WHEREAS, United States Air Force Colonel Robert C. Whipple was born in Erie, Pennsylvania on September 21, 1913, had four siblings--Orville, Kenneth, Jack Whipple and Marianne Rastetter; married to Irene, they had two sons Bret and Gregory, and three grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Whipple graduated from West Point Academy in 1939; was a member of the flying class of 1941; made Air Force history by taking the first mass flight of B-17 Bombers from March Field California to Hawaii; attended Command and General Staff School at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas in 1943; attended the Air Command and Staff School, taking communications and electronics courses at Maxwell Air Force Base; and

WHEREAS, during WW II Colonel Whipple served as Deputy Commander, later Commander of the 456th Bomber Group in Italy; received two distinguished Unit Citations in 1944 for performance at Wiener Neustadt where he led the 456th in adverse weather, withstood repeated attacks by enemy interceptors, and still successfully completed their bombing mission, in Hungary his Bombing group braved severe fighter attacks and anti-aircraft fire to destroy oil facilities in Budapest; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Whipple rose to Commander of the 52nd Bomb Wing of the United States Strategic Air Command; Colonel Whipple's service includes duty at USAF Headquarters in Washington D.C.; served as a logistics expert for Gen. Matthew Ridgeway(former US Army Chief of Staff); served on the Armed Services Petroleum Board of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; served as Base Commander at Davis-Monthan AFB- 1954-1955; graduated from the Air War College at Maxwell AFB 1956; named Deputy Commander of the 376th Bomber Wing; and named Base Commander of the 376th in 1957, succeeding Colonel Ralph J. White; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Whipple died March 1, 1997; finishing his working career as a math teacher at Pompano High School, Pompano Florida, it was said about him by colleagues "he was quite simply, the finest man who ever lived".

NOW THEREFORE WE THE UNDERSIGNED Members of Erie County Council; especially his nephew Scott Rastetter, join a grateful community in recognizing Colonel Robert C. Whipple U.S.A.F.; a native son of Erie whose astounding service record and contributions to aeronautics put him in singular company in the annals of Erie County; qualifying him for placement on the Erie Air Wall of Fame—Erie International Airport.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have set our hands and the Seal of Erie County this 16th day of November, 2021.

Mr. Rastetter shared his surprise. Rastetter commented he didn't know about much of the awards that his uncle had achieved. He noted that additionally there is another son. He reminisced about his mother living with them on several airbases. Colonel Whipple was instrumental in starting the Air force Academy, and the establishment of the Army Aircore. Mr. Rastetter expressed his gratitude to Chairman Anderson for his work.

Election Board Chairwoman Rennie reported that the Election Board met today to certify the 2021 General Election. She called it team effort and challenge and offered kudos to the team - staff, poll workers, inspectors, judges of elections, etc. Chairman Anderson Congratulated Mrs. Rennie on a successful Election.

OLD BUSINESS

Second Reading of Ordinance Number 91, 2021 "2021 General Fund Budget Revised Expenditures of \$25,000 for Election Expenses" (Finance Committee)

Mr. Smith gave a Second Reading of Ordinance Number 91, 2021 "2021 General Fund Budget Revised Expenditures of \$25,000 for Election Expenses" This was moved by Kim Clear, seconded by Mary Rennie and carried in a 7 - 0 vote.

Second Reading of Ordinance Number 82, 2021 "Amending Ordinance 45, 2018 to Revise the Erie County Human Relations Commission Ordinance" (Finance Committee- Tabled 10-26-21)

Item remained tabled.

Resolution Number 41, 2021 "Approval of Payment in Lieu of Taxes Agreement between the County of Erie, the City of Erie, the City of Erie School District and the Lutheran Home for the Aged" (Finance Committee-Tabled 10-12-21)

Item remained tabled.

NEW BUSINESS

Vice Chairwoman Clear moved to amend the agenda to add Resolution 60, and move items A through D, and DD through GG to Second Readings; Second by Mr. Horton and passed 7 -0.

First Reading of Ordinance Number 111, 2021, "Eleventh 2021 Library Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$16,000 for National Endowment of the Arts 2021-2022 Grant" (Finance Committee) Mr. Smith gave a Second Reading of Ordinance Number 111, 2021, "Eleventh 2021 Library Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$16,000 for National Endowment of the Arts 2021-2022 Grant" This was moved by Kim Clear, seconded by Scott Rastetter and carried in a 7 - 0 vote.

First Reading of Ordinance Number 112, 2021 "Amending Ordinance 88, 2021 "Ninth 2021 Library Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$22,450 Friends of the Library Donation" (Finance Committee) Mr. Smith gave a Second Reading of Ordinance Number 112, 2021 "Amending Ordinance 88, 2021 "Ninth 2021 Library Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$22,450 Friends of the Library Donation" This was moved by Ellen Schauerma, seconded by Kim Clear and carried in a 7 - 0 vote.

First Reading of Ordinance Number 113, 2021, "Third 2021 Planning Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$87,339 for PennDot Professional Fees" (Finance Committee) Mr. Smith gave a Second Reading of Ordinance Number 113, 2021, "Third 2021 Planning Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$87,339 for PennDot Professional Fees" This was moved by Kim Clear, seconded by Mary Rennie and carried in a 7 - 0 vote.

First Reading of Ordinance Number 114, 2021, "Thirty-Second 2021 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$85,000 for Public Defender Building Roof Replacement" (Finance Committee-Attached) Mr. Smith gave a Second Reading of Ordinance Number 114, 2021, "Thirty-Second 2021 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$85,000 for Public Defender Building Roof Replacement "This was moved by Kim Clear, seconded by Mary Rennie.

Councilwoman Schauerma expressed her disappointment in the bid, and feels that it was on the high side. She is understanding that the purchase of the building was "as is", but on principle, will not support.

Chairman Anderson echoed similar sentiments in his disappointment of having to make this investment. He explained that with the pandemic and needs for growth in departments, the property purchased on 2nd Street was something they felt they could move into with the possibility of expansion. The monies were set aside in ARPA and CARES to ensure these things were taken care of but has been difficult on multiple levels. He expressed that it is the Council's responsibility to make sure this property thrives.

Motion carried in a 6 - 1 vote; Mrs. Schauerma n voting no.

First Reading of Ordinance Number 115, 2021 "Appointment of Members to the Erie County Rail Futures Commission" (Finance Committee-Attached)

Mr. Smith gave a First Reading of Ordinance Number 115, 2021 "Appointment of Members to the Erie County Rail Futures Commission" with the proposed appointments:

District 1, Kim Clear: Mark Restifo
 District 2, Andre R Horton: Cindy Purvis
 District 3, Mary Rennie: Brian Pitzer
 District 4, Carl Anderson III: Alan Thayer
 District 5, Brian Shank: Ray Grabowski
 District 6, Scott Rastetter: David Skelly
 District 7, Ellen Schauerma n: Kevin Garben

First Reading of Ordinance Number 116, 2021 "Approving the 2022 Erie County Community College Budget" (Finance Committee)

Mr. Smith gave a First Reading of Ordinance Number 116, 2021 "Approving the 2022 Erie County Community College Budget"

Resolution Number 55, 2021 "Appointing the Erie County District Revision Commission" (Finance Committee-Attached)

Mr. Smith gave a reading of Resolution Number 55, 2021 "Appointing the Erie County District Revision Commission" including proposed appointees:

Carl Anderson: Chad Vilushis, Esq.
 Kim Clear: Richard Vendetti, Esq.
 Andre Horton: Freda Tepfer
 Mary Rennie/ Brian Shank: Russell Warner
 Scott Rastetter/Ellen Schauerma n: Thomas Hutzelman

Chairman Anderson thanked Mr. Hutzelman for being on this committee, as he served 10 years ago as well. The Chairman explained the necessity and timeframe of the redistricting. The population has decreased by approx. 3000 per district; each District should have approximately 3700 members represented. Project needs to be completed by January 15th, before petitions of next Primary Election are to be received.

Resolution Number 56, 2021 "Approving the Settlement Agreement Between Millcreek Township, The Millcreek Township School District and National Church Residences (NCR) of Millcreek and the County of Erie" This was moved by Kim Clear, seconded by Mary Rennie and carried in a 7 - 0 vote.

Mr. Smith gave a reading of Resolution Number 56, 2021 "Approving the Settlement Agreement Between Millcreek Township, The Millcreek Township School District and National Church Residences (NCR) of Millcreek and the County of Erie" This was moved by Kim Clear, seconded by Mary Rennie and carried in a 7 - 0 vote.

**Millcreek and the County
of Erie" (Finance
Committee)**

**Resolution Number 57,
2021 " Approving Changes
to the Erie County Public** Councilwoman Clear moved to table, seconded by Councilman Horton, and
passed 7 to 0.

**Safety Advisory Committee
Bylaws" (Finance
Committee)** Chairman Anderson explained that the solicitor did not have the opportunity to
review the item and get back to Council.

**Resolution Number 58,
2021 "Amending
Resolution 38, 2021 to Add
the Northwest Tri-County
Intermediate Unit to the
Agreement between the
Erie County Department of
Health and Thirteen Erie
County School Districts to
Support Enhanced
Pandemic Coordination,
Mitigation and Education"
(Finance Committee-
Attached)** Mr. Smith gave a reading of Resolution Number 58, 2021 "Amending Resolution
38, 2021 to Add the Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit to the Agreement
between the Erie County Department of Health and Thirteen Erie County School
Districts to Support Enhanced Pandemic Coordination, Mitigation and
Education" This was moved by Ellen Schauerma, seconded by André Horton
and carried in a 7 - 0 vote.

**Resolution Number 59,
2021 "Approving
Agreement between the
Erie County Department of
Public Health and the Erie
County Technical School to
Support Enhanced
Pandemic Coordination,
Mitigation and Education"
(Finance Committee-
Attached)** Mr. Smith gave a reading of Resolution Number 59, 2021 "Approving
Agreement between the Erie County Department of Public Health and the Erie
County Technical School to Support Enhanced Pandemic Coordination,
Mitigation and Education" This was moved by Ellen Schauerma, seconded by
Kim Clear and carried in a 7 - 0 vote.

**First Reading of Ordinance
Number 93, 2021 "2022
Debt Service Fund Budget"
(Finance Committee)** Mr. Smith read Ordinances 93 through 110 as first readings.

**First Reading of Ordinance
Number 94, 2021 "2022
Employee Fringe Benefit
Fund Budget" (Finance
Committee)**

**First Reading of Ordinance
Number 95, 2021 "2022
HealthChoices Fund
Budget" (Finance
Committee)**

**First Reading of Ordinance
Number 96, 2021 "2022
Mental Health/Intellectual
Disabilities Fund Budget"
(Finance Committee)**

**First Reading of Ordinance
Number 97, 2021 "2022
Drug and Alcohol Abuse
Fund Budget" (Finance
Committee)**

**First Reading of Ordinance
Number 98, 2021 "2022
Children and Youth
Services Fund Budget"
(Finance Committee)**

**First Reading of Ordinance
Number 99, 2021 "2022
Planning and Community
Development Fund
Budget" (Finance
Committee)**

**First Reading of Ordinance
Number 100, 2021 "2022
Domestic Relations Fund
Budget" (Finance
Committee)**

**First Reading of Ordinance
Number 101, 2021 "2022
Library Fund Budget"
(Finance Committee)**

**First Reading of Ordinance
Number 102, 2021 "2022
Public Health Fund
Budget" (Finance
Committee)**

**First Reading of Ordinance
Number 103, 2021 "2022
Public Safety Fund
Budget" (Finance
Committee)**

**First Reading of Ordinance
Number 104, 2021 "2022
Gaming Fund Budget"
(Finance Committee)**

**First Reading of Ordinance
Number 105, 2021 "2022
Liquid Fuels Fund Budget"
(Finance Committee)**

**First Reading of Ordinance
Number 106, 2021 "2022
Pleasant Ridge Manor
Operating Fund Budget"
(Finance Committee)**

**First Reading of Ordinance
Number 107, 2021 "2022
Pleasant Ridge Manor
Depreciation Reserve Fund
Budget" (Finance
Committee)**

**First Reading of Ordinance
Number 108, 2021 "2022
Erie County Care
Management Budget"
(Finance Committee)**

**First Reading of Ordinance
Number 109, 2021 "2022
General Fund Budget"
(Finance Committee)**

**First Reading of Ordinance
Number 110, 2021 "2022
Real Estate Tax Levy"
(Finance Committee)**

- First Reading of Ordinance 117, "2021 Public Health Fund Budget Revised Expenditures of \$2,000 to Cover Shortage in Temporary Staff Line of Maternal & Child Health Bureau" (Personnel Committee)** Mr. Smith gave a Second Reading of Ordinance 117, "2021 Public Health Fund Budget Revised Expenditures of \$2,000 to Cover Shortage in Temporary Staff Line of Maternal & Child Health Bureau" This was moved by Ellen Schauerma, seconded by Kim Clear and carried in a 7 - 0 vote.
- First Reading of Ordinance Number 118, 2021, "Thirty-Third 2021 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$12,298 for Public Defender Part-time to Full-Time Position and Increase in Expense Lines" (Personnel Committee)** Mr. Smith gave a Second Reading of Ordinance Number 118, 2021, "Thirty-Third 2021 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$12,298 for Public Defender Part-time to Full-Time Position and Increase in Expense Lines" This was moved by Mary Rennie, seconded by André Horton and carried in a 7 - 0 vote.
- First Reading of Ordinance Number 119, 2021 "Amending Ordinance 122, 2020-Erie County Non-Bargaining Employees Pay Plan and Revised Expenditures in the Public Safety Fund of \$34,634" (Personnel Committee)** Mr. Smith gave a Second Reading of Ordinance Number 119, 2021 "Amending Ordinance 122, 2020-Erie County Non-Bargaining Employees Pay Plan and Revised Expenditures in the Public Safety Fund of \$34,634" This was moved by Ellen Schauerma, seconded by Kim Clear.
- Councilman Shank thanked Director Grappy and the dispatchers. He has worn a radio on his hip most of his adult life, and it's the voice in your ear saying everything will be ok, and it's appreciated. Helping people makes it worth it.
- Horton echoed Shank's comments. He has also had the privilege of wearing a radio, and needing dispatch to lead the way. Operators are the First Responders. Commented on the stress of workers, and their families. Enthusiastically support this for the dispatchers. Stated Erie Counties are the best. The return on the investment in the dispatchers is immeasurable. Thanked them on behalf of his colleagues and he and his family.
- Clear expressed gratitude to all who work in Public Safety. True public service is done by all who wear a radio, and those on the other side.
- Schauerma expressed gratitude. As a health care professional, experience means the difference between life and death.
- Rastetter, thank you to Director Grappy and all of public safety.
- Rennie has known Grappy the longest, and has a high regard for him and his staff. This is a long time coming, and it's a salute to his dedication.

Anderson thanked public safety and particularly the 911 center. They have fallen in difficult circumstances. The work is never done, but commitment is unmatched. When the Council votes on this, it has been methodical, and a fiscal commitment. It is appropriate. Concerned that we are not going far enough. This is the beginning of what needs to be addressed. Council wanted to get this right, and will with the second reading tonight.

Motion carried 7 to 0.

First Reading of Ordinance Number 120, 2021"
Approving a Starting
Grade for the New Court
Solicitor" (Personnel
Committee)

Mr. Smith gave a Second Reading of Ordinance Number 120, 2021" Approving a Starting Grade for the New Court Solicitor"
Motion by Schauerma, second by Horton. Passed 7-0.

Clear-shared that positions are open and hiring at a higher rate for the 911 center. Visit the website.

Mr. Anderson recognized the locking in budget and the position.

Mr. Smith read Resolution 60, 2021 in its entirety " Motion by Rastetter, second by Clear.

Anderson gave congratulations to Rastetter and honored his family. Sent to Erie City Council encouraging them to send it to the Erie Airport Authority. Passed 7-0

ADJOURNMENT

The next meetings of Erie County Council:

Finance & Personnel December 9, 2021 at 4:00pm.

Regular Meeting December 14, 2021 at 6:00pm, Caucus at 5:30pm.

Councilwoman Clear moved to adjourn at 7:33pm. The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Anderson.