

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 30, 2021

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Anderson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

OPTIONAL PRAYER OR INVOCATION

Councilwoman Schauerma led the optional invocation: Be grateful, a grateful heart is a magnet for miracles.

ROLL CALL

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

Also Present: Douglas Smith; James Sparber; Helen Lucas; Amy Swartzfager; Nicole Inan; Megan Moore

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

The public was called upon thrice. No one was present.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

A motion was made by Mr. Horton, seconded by Mrs. Clear, to approve all minutes: October 26 Regular Meeting; November 16 Public Budget Hearing; November 16, Regular Meeting. This was carried by a 7-0 vote.

October 26, 2021 - Regular Meeting

November 16, 2021 - Public Budget Hearing

November 16, 2021 - Regular Meeting

REPORTS OF COUNTY OFFICIALS

County Executive and/or her Designee

The County Executive offered no report at this time.

Finance Committee -Mrs.

Finance Chairwoman Clear reported that the Finance Committee met on

Clear	Saturday November 20, 2021 and submitted to the agenda: Items A-T. Mrs. Clear also gave thanks to all who worked on the budget.
Personnel Committee - Mrs. Rennie	Personnel Chairwoman Rennie stated there are no specific Personnel Committee items to submit, other than what is included in the Budget.
Other	Chairman Anderson reminded the public of the 40th Anniversary of Aids Day, and that in recognition there would be a ceremony at the Blasco Library at 5pm tomorrow. Mrs. Clear made a motion to amend the Agenda to include Ordinance 121, seconded by Mrs. Schauerman, and was carried 7-0. Mrs. Clear made a motion to move Ordinance 121 to a second reading, and was seconded by Mrs. Schauerman. Mrs. Clear made a motion to include the following language in Ordinance 121: Once the ARPA Funding is received, all of the line items will be placed into restricted accounts and remain there until a progress report with parameters set forth by council is given by each individual bureau. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Rennie and carried 7-0. Mr. Smith gave a Second Reading of Ordinance 121, 2021, "2022 American Rescue Plan Fund Budget". Motion by Mrs. Clear, seconded by Mrs. Rennie, and carried 7-0. Mrs. Clear made a motion to amend the Ordinance to include action sheets 1, 3-23, vote on them separately, and to include any changes to the face sheet if appropriate; seconded by Mrs. Rennie. Mrs. Clear made a motion for action item 1 , seconded by Mrs. Rennie; 7-0. (reduced) pass Chairman Anderson gave instructions on the vote; a yes vote would reduce funding, a no vote would keep funding. Mrs. Clear made a motion for action item 3, seconded by Mrs. Rennie; 4-3 . (reduced) pass Mrs. Rennie spoke about not hobbling the program by reducing the funding at this time, and giving it a chance. She stated there is no reason to reduce funding at this time. Chairman Anderson expressed his support of this program, but worried that it would not be supported by new administrations at a later time. He proposed that for the strength and longevity of the program, the amount had to be reduced, and adhere to the original cycle. Mrs. Schauerman agreed with Chairman Anderson's comments, wholeheartedly, and stated they need to mirror what was done previously to maintain the monies for the future. Mr. Horton stated he was voting no, not to reduce the amount. He expressed that he, sadly, was not surprised to see things promised and not come to fruition. He stated it was appalling, almost criminal, and embarrassing what is being given to black and brown communities from funding. He referenced Resolution 43, 2020 passing, and how the following week the Council voted down a diversity officer. He agreed with Mrs. Rennie, and doesn't believe it is right to hobble this group. He stated that if this doesn't pass, and it looks like it won't, he hopes they can still be proud of themselves. He also stated he was saddened by the Democrats' actions. He reiterated that one out of every three blacks live in poverty, and

Latinos are doing worse, and that the 16501 zip code is the poorest in the United States. He also stated he found it troubling that the liaison to the Commission brought forth the action sheet to take away their money. Mrs. Clear stated she would vote no, and keep the funding because the spirit of the ARPA funding has been recognized by the conversations the Council has had about it. She submitted this is supposed to be money to change the trajectory of Erie County, and we are only as strong as our weakest and poorest, and until we raise them we will only go so far. She urged the Council to give funds for the future of Erie County and its residents, so all people can rise to the level of our greatest potential. Chairman Anderson rebutted that his vote yes would be to ensure the continuation of this Commission to be able to flourish in the future, and he never committed to giving any more than the 3.5 million, and his word is his bond. He pointed out that he was the Council member who worked with others to put the whole thing together, otherwise they wouldn't be discussing any Diversity Commission. He expressed he would not be on the Council and have the opportunity to advocate for the Commission later, and is doing what he feels is right. Mrs. Schauerman asked to speak, and was told the Chairman had the last word. Mr. Horton voiced discrepancies with that statement, as the Council was in the discussion phase, had not yet voted, and there was more to say. Mr. Horton stated he has no doubt everyone on Council does their best, but is leery of a person saying "I" did this, and that the community was involved. He stated there are seven members of the Council, and that they succeed and fail together. Chairman Anderson stated that was what he said.

Mrs. Clear made a motion for action item 4, seconded by Mrs. Rennie; 6-1 (reduced) pass

Mrs. Clear made a motion for action item 5, seconded by Mrs. Rennie; 3-4 (retained) fail

There is an inaudible discussion on the action sheets, and clarification of a no or yes vote.

Mrs. Clear made a motion for action item 6, seconded by Mrs. Rennie; 3-4 (retained) fail

Mrs. Rennie asked for clarification of what funding would be eliminated in the action sheet with each vote.

Mrs. Clear made a motion for action item 7, seconded by Mrs. Rennie; 1-6 (retained) fail

Mrs. Clear made a motion for action item 8, seconded by Mrs. Rennie; 1-6 (retained) fail

Mrs. Clear and Mr. Rastetter asked for clarification about a yea vote and a no vote. Mrs. Clear stated, for the record, as she will not be here on Council, that she hopes the DEIC will continue to be funded and receive the ARPA money. Chairman Anderson also stated that he strongly hopes this funding is retained, and that there is no further decrease to the program. Mr. Rastetter stated they agreed on 3.5 million, not the extra money from the County Executive.

Mrs. Clear made a motion for action item 9, seconded by Mrs. Rennie; 0-7 (retained) fail

Mrs. Clear made a motion for action item 10, seconded by Mrs. Rennie; 0-7 (retained) fail

Mrs. Clear made a motion for action item 11, seconded by Mrs. Rennie; 0-7

(retained) fail

Chairman Anderson stated it is imperative that the tuition waiver, funding and momentum the Council has created continues to move forward, and that it is a game changer for the community.

Mrs. Clear made a motion for action item 12, seconded by Mrs. Rennie; 0-7

(retained) fail

Mrs. Clear made a motion for action item 13, seconded by Mrs. Rennie; 0-7

(retained) fail

Chairman Anderson stated that this is a critical component after coming out of the Pandemic. It is affecting our community in a negative light, and the homeless. He stated setting aside this fund, working with the HOME team, the Administration, and Human Services, with hopes of being matched with funding from other sources to make an impact on homelessness in our community.

Mrs. Clear made a motion for action item 14, seconded by Mrs. Rennie; 0-7

(retained) fail

Mrs. Clear made a motion for action item 15, seconded by Mrs. Rennie; 0-7

(retained) fail

Mrs. Clear made a motion for action item 16, seconded by Mrs. Rennie; 0-7

(retained) fail

Mrs. Clear made a motion for action item 17, seconded by Mrs. Rennie; 0-7

(retained) fail

Mrs. Clear made a motion for action item 18, seconded by Mrs. Rennie; 4-3

(reduced) pass

Chairman Anderson stated he believes in the Blue Zones program, but since there is not more time to find partners to fund it, he is voting yes on this item. He also stated the program would not be affected, and he doesn't want to tie funds up on something that isn't moving forward.

Inaudible commentary from Amy Swartzfager.

Mrs. Clear made a motion for action item 19, seconded by Mrs. Rennie; 0-7

(retained) fail

Mrs. Clear made a motion for action item 20, seconded by Mrs. Rennie; 0-7

(retained) fail

Mrs. Clear made a motion for action item 21, seconded by Mrs. Rennie; 0-7

(retained) fail

Mrs. Clear made a motion for action item 22, seconded by Mrs. Rennie; 0-7

(retained) fail

Mrs. Clear made a motion for action item 23, seconded by Mrs. Rennie; 7-0

(reduced) pass

Mrs. Clear pointed out that a yes is to include the four items.

Mrs. Swartzfager gave an updated amount for the face sheet.

Mrs. Clear expressed that she is very proud of all the work that has been done.

She stated that a lot of work had been done to leverage the funding for the greater good, and created some great ideas.

Chairman Anderson stated that everyone does not always agree on the bottom line, but that they do a good job of coming together in unity to move projects forward. He stated that Erie County is one of the few that has their act together in dealing with the ARPA funding. He also stated that next year the federal government are going to eliminate any criteria within the ARPA funding, making

it 100% revenue replacement, and we need to stay vigilant, and committed to the programs. He hoped future Council members would act accordingly.
A motion was made by Mrs. Clear, seconded by Mrs. Rennie, for Ordinance 121 as amended, carried 7-0.

OLD BUSINESS

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

Mr. Smith gave a Second Reading of Ordinance 115, 2021, "Appointment of Members to the Erie County Rail Futures Commission", including the reading of the names presented. A motion was made by Mrs. Clear, seconded by Mrs. Rennie, and carried 7-0.

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

Mr. Smith gave a Second Reading of Ordinance Number 116. 2021 "Approving the 2022 Erie County Community College Budget". Motion by Mrs. Clear, seconded by Mrs. Rennie, and carried 7-0.

Second Reading of Ordinance Number 93, 2021 "2022 Debt Service Fund Budget" (Finance Committee)

Mr. Smith gave a Second Reading of Ordinance 93, 2021, "2022 Debt Service Fund Budget". Motion by Mrs. Clear, seconded by Mrs. Rennie, and carried 7-0.

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

Mr. Smith gave a Second Reading of Ordinance 94, 2021, "2022 Employee Fringe Benefit Fund Budget". Motion by Mrs. Clear, seconded by Mrs. Rennie, and carried 7-0.

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

Mr. Smith gave a Second Reading of Ordinance Number 95, 2021, "2022 HealthChoices Fund Budget". Motion by Mrs. Clear, seconded by Mr. Horton. Mrs. Clear made a motion to amend the Ordinance to include action sheets 1 and 2 and vote on them as one, and seconded by Mr. Horton; carried 7-0.
A motion was made to amend Ordinance 95 by Mr. Horton, seconded by Mrs. Clear, and carried 7-0.

Second Reading of Ordinance Number 96, 2021 "2022 Mental Health/Intellectual Disabilities Fund Budget"

Mr. Smith gave a Second Reading of Ordinance Number 96, 2021, "2022 Mental Health/Intellectual Disabilities Fund Budget". Motion by Mrs. Clear, seconded by Mrs. Rennie, and carried 7-0.

Mrs. Clear made a motion to amend the Ordinance to include action sheets 1 and

(Finance Committee)	2, and vote on them as one, seconded by Mrs. Rennie; carried 7-0.
Second Reading of Ordinance Number 97, 2021 "2022 Drug and Alcohol Abuse Fund Budget" (Finance Committee)	Mr. Smith gave a Second Reading of Ordinance 97, 2021, "2022 Drug and Alcohol Abuse Fund Budget". Motion by Mrs. Clear, seconded by Mrs. Rennie, and carried 7-0. Mrs. Clear made a motion to amend the Ordinance to include action sheets 1 and 2, and vote on them as one, seconded by Mrs. Rennie; carried 7-0.
Second Reading of Ordinance Number 98, 2021 "2022 Children and Youth Services Fund Budget" (Finance Committee)	Mr. Smith gave a Second Reading of Ordinance 98, 2021, "2022 Children and Youth Services Fund Budget". Motion by Mrs. Clear, seconded by Mrs. Rennie, and carried 7-0. Mrs. Clear made a motion to amend the Ordinance to include action sheets 1-4, and vote on them as one, and was seconded by Mrs. Rennie.; carried 7-0 Mrs. Swartzfager gave an updated amount for the face sheet. Mr. Smith pointed out that, as amended, it could include the updated face sheet.
Second Reading of Ordinance Number 99, 2021 "2022 Planning and Community Development Fund Budget" (Finance Committee)	Mr. Smith gave a Second Reading of Ordinance 99, 2021, "2022 Planning and Community Development Fund Budget". Motion by Mrs. Clear, seconded by Mrs. Rennie, and carried 7-0. Mrs. Clear made a motion to amend the Ordinance to include action sheets 1 -3, and vote on them as one, and seconded by Mrs. Rennie; carried 7-0. Mrs. Swartzfager gave an updated amount for the face sheet.
Second Reading of Ordinance Number 100, 2021 "2022 Domestic Relations Fund Budget" (Finance Committee)	Mr. Smith gave a Second Reading of Ordinance 100, 2021, "2022 Domestic Relations Fund Budget". Motion by Mrs. Clear, seconded by Mrs. Rennie, and carried 7-0. Mrs. Clear made a motion to amend the Ordinance to include action sheets 1 -4, vote on them as one, and to include any changes to the face sheet if appropriate; seconded by Mrs. Rennie, and carried 7-0. Mrs. Swartzfager gave an updated amount for the face sheet.
Second Reading of Ordinance Number 101, 2021 "2022 Library Fund Budget" (Finance Committee)	Mr. Smith gave a Second Reading of Ordinance 101, 2021, "2022 Library Fund Budget". Motion by Mrs. Clear, seconded by Mrs. Rennie, and carried 7-0. Mrs. Clear made a motion to amend the Ordinance to include action sheets 1 -7, vote on them as one, and include any appropriate changes to the face sheet; seconded by Mrs. Rennie. Passed 7-0.
Second Reading of Ordinance Number 102, 2021 "2022 Public Health Fund Budget" (Finance Committee)	Mr. Smith gave a Second Reading of Ordinance 102, 2021, "2022 Public Health Fund Budget". Motion by Mrs. Clear, seconded by Mrs. Rennie, and carried 7-0. Mrs. Clear made a motion to amend the Ordinance to include action sheets 1 -5, vote on them as one, and to include any changes to the face sheet if appropriate; seconded by Mrs. Rennie, and carried 7-0. Mrs. Swartzfager gave an updated amount for the face sheet.

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

Mr. Smith gave a Second Reading of Ordinance 103, 2021, "2022 Public Safety Fund Budget". Motion by Mrs. Clear, seconded by Mrs. Rennie, and carried 7-0. Mrs. Clear made a motion to amend the Ordinance to include action sheets 1 -7, vote on them as one, and to include any changes to the face sheet if appropriate; seconded by Mrs. Rennie, and carried 7-0. Mrs. Swartzfager gave an updated amount for the face sheet.

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

Mr. Smith gave a Second Reading of Ordinance 104, 2021, "2022 Gaming Fund Budget". Motion by Mrs. Clear, seconded by Mrs. Rennie, and carried 7-0. Mrs. Clear made a motion to amend the Ordinance to include action sheets 1,3-5, vote on them as one, vote on action sheet 2 separately, and to include any changes to the face sheet if appropriate; seconded by Mrs. Rennie, and carried 7-0. Mrs. Clear made a motion for action item number 2, seconded by Mrs. Rennie; carried 5-2. Mrs. Swartzfager gave an updated amount for the face sheet.

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

Mr. Smith gave a Second Reading of Ordinance 105, 2021, "2022 Liquid Fuels Fund Budget". Motion by Mrs. Clear, seconded by Mrs. Rennie, and carried 7-0.

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

Mr. Smith gave a Second Reading of Ordinance 106, 2021, "2022 Pleasant Ridge Manor Operating Fund Budget". Motion by Mrs. Clear, seconded by Mrs. Rennie, and carried 7-0. Mrs. Clear made a motion to amend the Ordinance to include action sheets 1 -2, vote on them as one, and to include any changes to the face sheet if appropriate; seconded by Mrs. Rennie, and carried 7-0. Mrs. Swartzfager gave an updated amount for the face sheet.

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

Mr. Smith gave a Second Reading of Ordinance 107, 2021, "2022 Pleasant Ridge Manor Depreciation Reserve Fund Budget". Motion by Mrs. Clear, seconded by Mrs. Rennie. Mrs. Clear made a motion to amend the Ordinance to include action sheet 1, vote as one, and to include any changes to the face sheet if appropriate; seconded by Mrs. Rennie, and carried 7-0. Mrs. Swartzfager gave an updated amount for the face sheet. Motion, as amended, by Mrs. Rennie, seconded by Mrs. Clear; carried 7-0.

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

Mr. Smith gave a Second Reading of Ordinance 108, 2021, "2022 Erie County Care Management Budget". Motion by Mrs. Clear, seconded by Mrs. Rennie, and carried 7-0. Mrs. Clear made a motion to amend the Ordinance to include action sheets 1 -3, vote on them as one, and to include any changes to the face sheet if appropriate; seconded by Mrs. Rennie, and carried 7-0.

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

Mr. Smith gave a Second Reading of Ordinance 109, 2021 "2022 General Fund Budget". Motion by Mrs. Clear, seconded by Mrs. Rennie, and carried 7-0.

Mrs. Clear made a motion to amend, 1-38 with 8, 12, 37, and 39 separately, seconded by Mrs. Rennie, carried 7-0.

Mrs. Clear made a motion for action item 8, seconded by Mrs. Rennie, and carried 6-1.

Mr. Shank stated he doesn't see a lot of gain from this, it is something extra that is not needed, so his vote will be no.

Mrs. Rennie stated that right now we need to invest in our elections, to show there is integrity and competency, all the things that are under attack today.

Mrs. Clear made a motion for action item 12, seconded by Mrs. Rennie, failed 3-4.

Chairman Anderson stated that working with the Administration, and having a detailed plan, he would vote no to not removing the funding for an additional position. Mrs. Schauerma asked for clarification on the position. Mrs. Clear asked for clarification on the result of the vote. Chairman Anderson gave more details about the office positions. Amy Swartzfager gave information.

Mrs. Clear made a motion for action item 37, seconded by Mrs. Rennie, carried 5-2.

Mrs. Clear asked for clarification on the amounts in the item. Chairman Anderson gave details on the item. Mr. Horton stated he wouldn't support this because they have already given money, and not a lot of success has been seen. Mrs. Clear made a motion for action item 39, seconded by Mrs. Rennie, carried 7-0.

Mrs. Rennie stated she originally was going to vote no, but will now vote yes. She stated the Council are over expending the gaming revenue line, and that they could not be everything to the community. The Council needs to look critically at the funding they provide.

Mr. Horton stated the program has made great strides, and has only asked for funding twice. Things have been put in place to make it self-sustaining. Mr. Horton detailed the programs and what they provide for those on probation, and the community. Chairman Anderson stated he would support the item. The funding given previously was not taken, so this will replace that money.

Amy Swartzfager presented action sheet 40, with the transfer of fund differences, and the vote would be to accept those changes.

Mrs. Clear made a motion for action sheet 40, with all changes, seconded by Mrs. Rennie, carried 7-0.

Mrs. Clear made a motion for Ordinance 109, as amended with all changes, seconded by Mrs. Rennie, carried 7-0.

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

Mr. Smith gave a Second Reading of Ordinance 110, 2021, "2022 Real Estate Tax Levy". Motion by Mrs. Clear, seconded by Mrs. Rennie, and carried 7-0.

Chairman Anderson congratulated everyone involved on their work to pass the budget.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business brought forth.

NONE

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment by Chairman Anderson at 10:14pm.