

MINUTES

Erie County Council

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Brian Shank, Chairman
Mary Rennie, Vice Chairwoman
Charlie Bayle
André R. Horton
Ellen Schauerma
Terry M. Scutella
Jim Winarski

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, March 1, 2022

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Shank.

OPTIONAL PRAYER OR INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Mrs. Schauerma, "Be grateful for every second of every day that you get to spend with people you love. Life is so very precious."

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Chairman Shank; Vice-Chairwoman Rennie; Charlie Bayle; Andre Horton; Ellen Schauerma; Terry M. Scutella; Jim Winarski

Also Present: Nicole Inan; James Sparber; Ericka Knight; Tom Talarico, Esq.; Amy Swartzfager, CPA; Megan Moore

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Gerald Servidio

Mr. Servidio was unable to attend.

Jennifer Eberlein

Jennifer Eberlein, Erie, Corry Blue Zones: Ms. Eberlein discussed the alarming, but preventable, rate of chronic disease in the area. She also discussed the need to think outside the box to fix these issues, and the solution being the implementation of the Blue Zones Project. She stated the need for the money from Ordinance 31,2022 to fulfill the next phase of the program's expansion in the schools, which would affect everyone's district. She also revealed the positive national exposure this program could have for Erie County, and for the job market of the area. She thanked the Council for listening, and their support.

Ashley Lawson

Ashley Lawson, Erie, Corry Blue Zones Project: Ms. Lawson discussed community and economic development through the Blue Zones Project, working with people, places, and policy. She stated they work to overhaul the community's well-being both physically, but also financially, economically, and socially. She revealed compelling data collected by Boston University on the positive effects in all areas of the Corry community. She shared the community involvement and pride from participation in the Blue Zones Project, as well as community enrichment projects such as 47 miles of fiber optics internet access to over 1800 students in the area. She respectfully asked the Council for their

continued support.

Shannon Wohlford

Shannon Wohlford, Lake City, Corry Blue Zones Project: Ms. Wohlford articulated that the heart of the Blue Zones Project was building community spirit. She stated Blue Zones creates a thriving community where you work, love, learn, and play; and that if you feel better, you do better. This attracts new businesses and a healthy workforce. It empowers people to build a better life for themselves. She stated people cannot perform their best when they are not at their best. The Blue Zones team built valuable partnerships that didn't exist prior to it, connecting people, sharing resources and skills, and committed to community change that built a momentum that is palatable. She asked for the Council support, and to consider the cost of doing nothing.

Lou Aliota

Lou Aliota, Millcreek: Mr. Aliota first stated his support of the Blue Zones Project, which is based on education, enlightenment, and empowerment, and the key to success for any community. He stated his reason for speaking is relative to litigation that started with the previous Administration and County Solicitor. He inquired about previous determinations by the County Solicitor, and the continuation of the litigation with a new administration. He questioned the authority of the assistant Solicitor to continue when there is a new Administration and Solicitor. He respectfully requested that his correspondence be answered in written format, due to differing legal opinions.

Others

Kathy Schaaf, Erie: Ms. Schaaf stated her support of the Blue Zones Project. She attended to voice her support for Sunday hours at the Blasco Library. She stated that for busy families, Sunday is that day of rest when they may be able to get to the library, and that in turn also increases tourism to the Bayfront and downtown area. She also stated that reading needs to be made a priority. She expressed her love of reading from her youth, and the need to promote reading and the library, which is a great asset for all.

**MINUTES FROM
PREVIOUS MEETING**

**February 15, 2022 -
Regular Meeting**

The meeting minutes for February 15, 2022 were approved 7-0 on a motion by Mr. Horton, and a second by Mr. Scutella.

**REPORTS OF COUNTY
OFFICIALS**

**County Executive and/or
his Designee**

There was no report from the County Executive's office.

**Finance Committee - Mrs.
Schauerman**

Finance Committee Chairwoman Schauerman stated the meeting was held on February 24th and submitted to the agenda: Old Business A-D and New Business: A-F.

Personnel Committee - Mr. Scutella Personnel Committee Chairman Scutella stated the meeting was held on February 24th and submitted to the agenda: Old Business E-H and New Business: G-I.

Other Chairman Shank stated there is a lot going on in this world. Let's think about our neighbors, the folks overseas. There are four proud veterans here on the Council, and we are all thinking about our brothers and sisters who are sitting in some foreign country wondering where their day is. Please, take a minute and think and let's really support what we can do to help the men and women overseas that are really struggling.

OLD BUSINESS

Second Reading of Ordinance Number 30, 2022, "Eleventh 2022 General Fund Budget Waiver of Purchasing Code for Multi-Year Voicemail/Auto Attendant Service Contract" (Finance Committee) Ms. Inan gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 30, 2022 "2022 General Fund Budget Waiver of Purchasing Code for Multi-Year Voicemail/Auto Attendant Service Contract".
A motion was made by Mrs. Schauerma, seconded by Mr. Horton, and passed 7-0.

Second Reading of Ordinance Number 31, 2022, "First 2022 ARPA Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$4,272,348 to Appropriate 2021 Funds Into the 2022 Budget" (Finance Committee) Ms. Inan gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 31, 2022 "First 2022 ARPA Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$4,272,348 to Appropriate 2021 Funds Into the 2022 Budget".
A motion was made by Mrs. Rennie, seconded by Mr. Winarski, and passed 7-0.

Second Reading of Ordinance Number 32, 2022, "Twelfth 2022 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$571,284 For Creation of New Line Items and Reappropriation of Revenue Replacement Funds To Be Used in 2022" (Finance Committee) Ms. Inan gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 32, 2022 "Twelfth 2022 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$571,284 For Creation of New Line Items and Reappropriation of Revenue Replacement Funds To Be Used in 2022".
A motion was made by Mrs. Schauerma, seconded by Mr. Scutella, and passed 7-0.

Second Reading of Ordinance 33, 2022 "Thirteenth 2022 General Ms. Inan gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 33, 2022 "Thirteenth 2022 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$85,000 for Reappropriation of 2021 Funds for Public Defender Building Roof

Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$85,000 for Reappropriation of 2021 Funds for Public Defender Building Roof Replacement" (Finance Committee)	Replacement". A motion was made by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Bayle, and passed 7-0.
Second Reading of Ordinance Number 34, 2022, "First 2022 Public Safety Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$73,960 For Creation of New Line Item and EMS Plan Administrator Position and Start Up Equipment" (Finance Committee)	Ms. Inan gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 34, 2022 "First 2022 Public Safety Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$73,960 For Creation of New Line Item and EMS Plan Administrator Position and Start Up Equipment". A motion was made by Mr. Winarski, seconded by Mr. Horton, and passed 7-0.
Second Reading of Ordinance Number 35, 2022 "2022 ARPA Fund Budget Revised Revenue and Expenditures of \$213,353 For Creation of New Line Item, EMS Plan Administrator Position, Start Up Equipment and To Restrict Funds For Use in 2023, 2024, 2025 & 2026" (Personnel Committee)	Ms. Inan gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 35, 2022 "2022 ARPA Fund Budget Revised Revenue and Expenditures of \$213,353 For Creation of New Line Item, EMS Plan Administrator Position, Start Up Equipment and To Restrict Funds For Use in 2023, 2024, 2025 & 2026". A motion was made by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Scutella, and passed 7-0.
Second Reading of Ordinance Number 36, 2022, "Fourteenth 2022 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$51,032 For Creation of New Line Item, EMS Plan Administrator Position and Start Up Equipment" (Personnel Committee)	Ms. Inan gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 36, 2022 "Fourteenth 2022 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$51,032 For Creation of New Line Item, EMS Plan Administrator Position and Start Up Equipment". A motion was made by Mr. Bayle, seconded by Mr. Winarski, and passed 7-0.
Second Reading of Ordinance Number 38,	Ms. Inan gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 38, 2022 "Amending the Human Resource Code – Fifteenth 2022 General Fund Budget Supplemental

2022, "Amending the Human Resource Code - Fifteenth 2022 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$15,380 For Director of Human Resources Salary Increase" (Personnel Committee)

Appropriation of \$15,380 For Director of Human Resources Salary Increase".
A motion was made by Mrs. Rennie to amend to include reducing it to a NB22K for \$90,352.50; seconded by Mr. Winarski, and carried 7-0.
A motion was made by Mr. Scutella, seconded by Mr. Winarski, and carried 7-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Rennie made a motion to move A,B,F, and G to a second reading, and add items J and K, Resolution Number 4, 2022 and Resolution Number 5, 2022; seconded by Mrs. Schauerma, and carried 7-0.

First Reading of Ordinance Number 39, 2022 "An Ordinance of the County of Erie ("the County") Authorizing and Directing the Execution and Delivery of a Guaranty Agreement for the Benefit of Pleasant Ridge Manor ("Pleasant Ridge")and Compliance with the Provisions Thereof and Incurring Nonelectoral Debt Thereby; Approving a \$700,000 Letter of Credit Agreement from Pleasant Ridge to First National Bank of Pennsylvania; Directing the Proper Officers of the County to Take Necessary Actions; and Repealing All Inconsistent Ordinances" (Finance Committee)

Ms. Inan gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 39, 2022 "An Ordinance of the County of Erie ("the County") Authorizing and Directing the Execution and Delivery of a Guaranty Agreement for the Benefit of Pleasant Ridge Manor ("Pleasant Ridge")and Compliance with the Provisions Thereof and Incurring Nonelectoral Debt Thereby; Approving a \$700,000 Letter of Credit Agreement from Pleasant Ridge to First National Bank of Pennsylvania; Directing the Proper Officers of the County to Take Necessary Actions; and Repealing All Inconsistent Ordinances".
A motion was made by Mr. Horton, seconded by Mrs. Schauerma, and passed 7-0.

First Reading of Ordinance Number 40, 2022, "Fourth 2022 Public Health Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$1,437 for Increase in Mosquito Disease Control Grant Funds Awarded by Commonwealth of Pennsylvania" (Finance

Ms. Inan gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 40, 2022 "Fourth 2022 Public Health Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$1,437 for Increase in Mosquito Disease Control Grant Funds Awarded by Commonwealth of Pennsylvania".
A motion was made by Mrs. Schauerma, seconded by Mr. Bayle, and passed 7-0.

Committee)

First Reading of Ordinance Number 41, 2022, "Fifth 2022 Public Health Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$102,500 For Reappropriation of Unexpended 2021 Blue Zones Donations For Use in 2022" (Finance Committee) Ms. Inan gave a first reading of Ordinance Number 41, 2022 "Fifth 2022 Public Health Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$102,500 For Reappropriation of Unexpended 2021 Blue Zones Donations For Use in 2022".

First Reading of Ordinance Number 42, 2022, "Sixteenth 2022 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$102,500 For Carryover of Unspent 2021 Blue Zones Donations to 2022 Public Health Fund Budget" (Finance Committee) Ms. Inan gave a first reading of Ordinance Number 42, 2022 "Sixteenth 2022 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$102,500 For Carryover of Unspent 2021 Blue Zones Donations to 2022 Public Health Fund Budget".

First Reading of Ordinance Number 43, 2021, "Seventeenth 2022 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$819,951 For Creation of New Line Items and PCCD Grant in the District Attorney's Office" (Finance Committee) Ms. Inan gave a first reading of Ordinance Number 43, 2022 "Seventeenth 2022 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$819,951 For Creation of New Line Items and PCCD Grant in the District Attorney's Office".

First Reading of Ordinance Number 44, 2022 "Approving a Waiver of Bid Requirements of County Purchasing Code to Select _____ for Printing Erie County 2022 Primary and General Elections" (Finance Committee) Ms. Inan gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 44, 2022 " Approving a Waiver of Bid Requirements of County Purchasing Code to Select _____ for Printing Erie County 2022 Primary and General Elections".
A motion was made by Mr. Winarski. There was no second, and the item failed.

First Reading of Ordinance Number 45, 2022 " Ms. Inan gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 45, 2022 "Amending Ordinance 37, 2022 "2022 Appointed Official's Salary Ordinance for the Director

Amending Ordinance 37, 2022 "2022 Appointed Official's Salary Ordinance for the Director of Human Resources" (Personnel Committee)	of Human Resources". Mrs. Rennie made a motion to amend the amount to the proper salary, \$90,382.50, according to the previous ordinance, seconded by Mr. Horton, and carried 7-0. A motion was made by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Scutella, and passed 7-0.
Possible Appointment of Gary J. Winschel to the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority representing District 1. Term to expire on December 31, 2026. (Councilman Scutella) (Personnel Committee)	Mr. Scutella stated, Mr. Winschel spent over 30 years in the financial world, and serves on the Millcreek school board. He is involved in the community and will be a perfect fit. A motion was made by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Winarski, and approved 7-0,
Possible Appointment of Thomas G. NeCastro to the Erie County Assessment Appeals Board representing the City of Erie. Term to expire on April 1, 2025. (Councilpersons Horton, Rennie, Winarski) (Personnel Committee)	Mrs. Rennie stated they were happy to bring forth Mr. NeCastro's name. He is well known in the community, served in many different capacities, and known for integrity in his work. Mrs. Schauerman publicly voiced her thanks to Mr. Bihler, who did a wonderful job, but has been termed out of the position. A motion was made by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Horton, and approved 7-0. Ms. Inan read Resolution Number 4, 2022 "Approval of Printing Agreement Between the Erie County Board of Elections and Gohrs". Mrs. Rennie motioned to amend the resolution to include in paragraph three, in accordance with the estimate attached hereto as Exhibit B, is approved; An agreement shall subsequently be entered into between the Election Board and Gohrs subject to approval of Council. This was seconded by Mrs. Schauerman, and approved 7-0. Mrs. Rennie stated that the first order of business is the election, and this needs to move forward. She does not agree with the selection of Gohrs, or the way it came about, but will vote in favor of the resolution in the interest of doing the business of county government. It does not signify her approval, but they will get this job done, and work together to do it. A motion was made by Mr. Winarski, a second by Mr. Scutella, and carried 7-0.
	Ms. Inan read Resolution Number 5, 2022 "A Resolution Urging the Erie County Retirement Board & Pleasant Ridge Retirement Board to Support Pennsylvania House Resolution 175, 2021-2022".

Mr. Horton announced he was pleased to sponsor this resolution with Chairman Shank. He said it was a fitting time, having been honored earlier with a certificate of appreciation by Erie County, and thinking about what it means to be a veteran, having served on foreign soil, and what it means to be an American. He stated this resolution was submitted because they all took that same vow to defend this country against all enemies, both foreign and domestic, and support troops on distant shores. This is submitted in the spirit of following the state and federal governments, that we should not invest in Russia in any way shape or form , and stand in agreement with the rest of the world.

A motion was made by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Horton, and approved 7-0.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned on the motion of Mrs. Rennie at 7:08pm.

The next Finance/Personnel Committee Meetings are Thursday, March 10, 2022 at 4pm in room 114A, Erie County Courthouse or via zoom. The next Regular Meeting of County Council is Tuesday March 15, 2022 at 6pm in room 117, County Courthouse. Members of the public wishing to speak at an upcoming Regular Meeting of Council or those requiring specific accommodation are encouraged to call or email the Council Office at (814) 451-6303 or Councilrequests@eriecountypa.gov.