

MINUTES

Erie County Council

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

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, April 5, 2022

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Shank.

OPTIONAL PRAYER OR INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Mrs. Schauerman.

ROLL CALL

Members present: Mr. Shank, Mrs. Rennie, Mr. Bayle, Mr. Horton, Mrs. Schauerman, Mr. Scutella, and Mr. Winarski

Also present: Megan Moore, James Sparber, Ericka Knight, Tom Talarico, and Amy Swartzfager

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Tiffany Oliver

Ms. Oliver was not present.

Members of the Community, 3 Minutes

Freda Tepfer, Erie: Ms. Tepfer stated her hope that there would be a liaison list available soon, so that people are aware of which Council member to speak to about their issues and concerns. Ms. Tepfer voiced the need for the process for appointments to be opened so that people with interests and qualifications can apply to fill the vacancies. She also expressed that the Board of Health should be free of political influence, and should not be overly weighted with the health care industry, but with those that benefit from the Health Department.

Lou Aliota, Millcreek: Mr. Aliota voiced that the salary for hired positions should have a set range prior to the hire, or it appears deceptive to the public. Mr. Aliota questioned the practice of public officials disseminating confidential information to the private industry through private emails, and that he has had no response from the Council or Administration.

Art Leopold, Millcreek: Mr. Leopold revealed the information about Erie Earth Day in Perry Square on April 23, 2022 from 12 to 2pm. He stated that boards and committees can get additional outside help without having to add additional members to the board. He reemphasized that the previous Council took much

care and research to administer the ARPA money, and those areas should be honored and respected.

Catherine O'Neil, Millcreek: Ms. O'Neil stated she had concerns about altering the Board of Health. She expressed her fear of consequences if the state mandate was violated, especially when coming out of a pandemic, and the extreme need for the services provided by the Health Department, like mental health. She voiced that avoiding conflict is best, although sometimes difficult.

Gerald Servidio, Millcreek: Mr. Servidio addressed certain Council members' reactions to the hire of Julie Slomski, and stated they were out of line. He stated that she should be allowed to do the job without an attack on her integrity. He stated the community was waiting for this great transition of county government, and they should quit opposing it and let it happen.

Jim McCall, Summit: Mr. McCall stated his empathy for people serving in government because you have to listen to so many voices, but the best voice is your conscience. He stated the position of County Clerk should have two votes, to hire and the salary. The vote on the salary should not be used against the person though, because they were not your choice of hire. It should be set on qualifications, experience, and fairness. The expectation of the Council and the Clerk is that you will fulfill your oath of office, objectively and fairly.

Denise Caruana, Erie: Ms. Caruana stated her concerns about giving a raise to a position that a person hasn't started yet. She stated that any other job you produce, and then you get a raise. She said she can't justify that kind of money when the city is struggling, and she's thinking of the folks of Erie.

Chairman Shank stated there were emails sent by people that were too busy to be there that were given to the Council members, and he urged them to read and consider them.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

On a motion by Mr. Scutella, and seconded by Mr. Winarski, the minutes were approved 7-0.

March 15, 2022 - Regular Meeting

February 17, 2022 Special Meeting

REPORTS OF COUNTY OFFICIALS

County Executive and/or his Designee

No report at this time.

Finance Committee - Mrs. Schauerman The Finance Committee met on Thursday March 31st and submitted to the agenda: Old Business: A&B, and New Business: A-E, L,M, and X-LL.

Personnel Committee - Mr. Scutella The Personnel Committee met on Thursday March 31st and submitted to the agenda: New Business: F-K, and N-W.

Other

Posthumous Citation to Sister Bernadette Sullivan, OSB by Mrs. Schauerman. Mrs. Schauerman stated she had the honor and privilege of working with Sister Bernadette at UPMC Hamot Medical Center. She recalled working with Sister Bernadette on many different programs, including the NODA program, No One Dies Alone. She voiced how Sister Bernadette was always there when anyone needed anything, and what a loss it was to the hospital when she retired. She stated this citation was the least she could do for her.

Mr. Horton stated he felt compelled to speak because there is something of an impasse currently. This is a young council, not everything will be perfect, and they will make mistakes, but he is embarrassed at the turn of events. He stated that the talk about pay should be about the position, not the person. He welcomed the new County Clerk, Julie Slomski, and then apologized to her for the public and private vitriol from members of Council. He stated it was a tough job because you work for all seven people. He affirmed that the salary is not a raise, it is within the range that was founded by J.L. Nick, and took umbrage at people saying otherwise.

OLD BUSINESS

Second Reading of Ordinance Number 46, 2022, "Eleventh 2022 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$6,000 to Receive Donations in Veterans Affairs for Veterans Treatment Court" (Finance Committee) Ms. Moore gave a Second Reading of Ordinance Number 46, 2022, "Eleventh 2022 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$6,000 to Receive Donations in Veterans Affairs for Veterans Treatment Court". A motion was made by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Bayle, and passed 7-0. Chairman Shank thanked everyone for this. It will help do a lot of good for our veterans.

Second Reading of Ordinance Number 47, 2022 "Amending Article II, Section 5D 2(c)(iv) of the Administrative Code of Erie County-Board of Health" (Finance Committee) Ms. Moore gave a Second Reading of Ordinance Number 47, 2022 "Amending Article II, Section 5D 2(c)(iv) of the Administrative Code of Erie County-Board of Health". Mrs. Rennie made a motion to strike, seconded by Mrs. Schauerman, and carried 7-0. The ordinance was struck.

NEW BUSINESS

- First Reading of Ordinance Number 48, 2022 "2022 Library Fund Budget Revised Expenditures of \$2,500 And Creation of New Line For Temporary Staff In County Coordination Aid Bureau" (Finance Committee)** Ms. Moore gave a First Reading of Ordinance Number 48, 2022 "2022 Library Fund Budget Revised Expenditures of \$2,500 And Creation of New Line For Temporary Staff In County Coordination Aid Bureau".
- First Reading of Ordinance Number 49, 2022, "Eighteenth 2022 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$15,359 for Second Year Allotment of PCCD Covid Relief Grant Funds to be Extended into 2022" (Finance Committee)** Mrs. Rennie made a motion to move items B-J to a second reading, seconded by Mrs. Schauerman, and carried 7-0.
Ms. Moore gave a Second Reading of Ordinance Number 49, 2022, "Eighteenth 2022 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$15,359 for Second Year Allotment of PCCD Covid Relief Grant Funds to be Extended into 2022". A motion was made by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Winarski, and carried 7-0.
- First Reading of Ordinance Number 50, 2022, "First 2022 Library Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$235,514 And New Line for the Library Keystone Grant Award" (Finance Committee)** Ms. Moore gave a Second Reading of Ordinance Number 50, 2022, "First 2022 Library Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$235,514 And New Line for the Library Keystone Grant Award". A motion was made by Mrs. Rennie, seconded by Mr. Scutella, and carried 7-0.
- First Reading of Ordinance Number 51, 2022 "Nineteenth 2022 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$117,757 in Match Funds for Keystone Grant Award" (Finance Committee)** Ms. Moore gave a Second Reading of Ordinance Number 51, 2022 "Nineteenth 2022 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$117,757 in Match Funds for Keystone Grant Award". A motion was made by Mr. Scutella, seconded by Mrs. Rennie, and carried 7-0.
- First Reading of Ordinance Number 52, 2022, "Sixth 2022 Public Health Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$4,955 for Additional Tuberculosis** Ms. Moore gave a Second Reading of Ordinance Number 52, 2022, "Sixth 2022 Public Health Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$4,955 for Additional Tuberculosis Grant Funds". A motion was made by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Winarski, and carried 7-0.

Grant Funds" (Finance Committee)

First Reading of Ordinance Number 53, 2022, "Twentieth 2022 General Fund Supplemental Appropriation of \$15,321 for Creation of Deputy Position & Elimination of Manager Position in HR" (Personnel Committee) Ms. Moore gave a Second Reading of Ordinance Number 53, 2022, "Twentieth 2022 General Fund Supplemental Appropriation of \$15,321 for Creation of Deputy Position & Elimination of Manager Position in HR". A motion was made by Mr. Horton, seconded by Mrs. Rennie, and carried 7-0.

First Reading of Ordinance Number 54, 2022, "Seventh 2022 Public Health Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$33,924 for Increase in Hours and Salary of Director" (Personnel Committee) Ms. Moore gave a Second Reading of Ordinance Number 54, 2022, "Seventh 2022 Public Health Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$33,924 for Increase in Hours and Salary of Director". A motion was made by Mr. Scutella, seconded by Mr. Winarski, and carried 6-1.
Mr. Horton asked Ms. Swartzfager for clarification on the salary for the position.

First Reading of Ordinance Number 55, 2022, "Twenty-first 2022 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$33,924 for Increase in Hours and Salary of Director" (Personnel Committee) Ms. Moore gave a Second Reading of Ordinance Number 55, 2022, "Twenty-first 2022 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$33,924 for Increase in Hours and Salary of Director". A motion was made by Mrs. Schauerma, seconded by Mr. Winarski, and carried 6-1.

First Reading of Ordinance Number 56, 2022 "2022 Planning Fund Budget Waiver of HR Code to Increase Salary of Vacant Planning Director Position" (Personnel Committee) Ms. Moore gave a Second Reading of Ordinance Number 56, 2022 "2022 Planning Fund Budget Waiver of HR Code to Increase Salary of Vacant Planning Director Position". A motion was made by Mr. Bayle, seconded by Mrs. Schauerma, and carried 6-1.
Mr. Horton and Mr. Scutella questioned Ms. Swartzfager about the salary of the position.

First Reading of Ordinance Number 57, 2022, "2022 General Fund Budget Waiver of HR Code to Increase Salary and Hours of the Veterans Affairs Director Position" (Personnel Committee) Ms. Moore gave a Second Reading of Ordinance Number 57, 2022, "2022 General Fund Budget Waiver of HR Code to Increase Salary and Hours of the Veterans Affairs Director Position". A motion was made by Mr. Scutella, seconded by Mr. Winarski, and carried 7-0.
Mr. Horton questioned Ms. Swartzfager about the salary amount for the position.

First Reading of Ordinance Number 58, 2022 "Appointed Official Salary Ordinance – County Clerk" (Personnel Committee)	Ms. Moore gave a First Reading of Ordinance Number 58, 2022 "Appointed Official Salary Ordinance – County Clerk". Mr. Winarski made a motion to amend the ordinance to add the dollar amount to be \$80,574, seconded by Mrs. Rennie, and carried 6-1. Mrs. Rennie made a motion to move to a second reading, seconded by Mr. Horton, and carried 5-2. Mrs. Rennie stated she understood there are passionate beliefs about things, and they will not always agree. She stated it was unfortunate a lot of falsehoods have been put out there. They have used the same formula for every position to determine salary. She stated previously when the Clerk was asked to remove himself for two weeks during the election in 2020, they stood with the Clerk, and argued in support of the office, in support of the belief the office rises above politics. She stated the staff of the offices of the Clerk and Elections serve admirably, with integrity and honor. She stated there is a distinction between public service and politics, and the Council would accept nothing less in their offices. She agreed with Mr. Horton's statements that some of the things on social media were an embarrassment to the Council, and hoped to put it behind them. Mr. Scutella stated he was amazed at some of the things he was shown on social media that were being said, but mostly by Senator Laughlin stating Ms. Slomski was his cousin. He announced that, for the record, she was not related to him. Mr. Winarski clarified for the record that he was not related to Ms. Slomski. Mr. Horton disclosed, for full transparency, that he too was not related to Ms. Slomski. A motion was made for Ordinance 58, 2022, as amended, by Mr. Horton, seconded by Mr. Winarski, and carried 5-2.
Resolution Number 8, 2022 "Erie County Hospital Authority Not To Exceed \$10,000,000 Tax-Exempt Revenue Note (Sarah A. Reed Retirement Center Project)" (Finance Committee)	Ms. Moore read Resolution Number 8, 2022 "Erie County Hospital Authority Not To Exceed \$10,000,000 Tax-Exempt Revenue Note (Sarah A. Reed Retirement Center Project)". A motion was made by Mr. Horton, seconded by Mrs. Schauerma, and carried 7-0.
Resolution 9, 2022 "Naming a Designated Agent for Erie County's Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant" (Finance Committee)	Ms. Moore read Resolution 9, 2022 "Naming a Designated Agent for Erie County's Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant". A motion was made by Mrs. Schauerma, seconded by Mr. Winarski, and carried 7-0.
Possible Appointment of	Mrs. Rennie made a motion to amend the agenda to combine items N-W in one

**Giovonna Rogers to the Erie County Office of Children & Youth Advisory Board. Term to expire December 31, 2022.
(County Executive)
(Personnel Committee)**

vote, seconded by Mr. Horton, and carried 7-0.

A motion was made for all appointments by Mr. Horton, seconded by Mr. Scutella, and approved 7-0.

**Possible Appointment of John Comstock to the Erie County Mental Health Intellectual Disabilities Board. Term to expire December 31, 2024.
(County Executive)
(Personnel Committee)**

**Possible Reappointment of Reverend Higginbottom to the Erie County Mental Health Intellectual Disabilities Board. Term to expire December 31, 2024.
(County Executive)
(Personnel Committee)**

**Possible Reappointment of Terri Pomorski to the Erie County Mental Health Intellectual Disabilities Board. Term to expire December 31, 2024.
(County Executive)
(Personnel Committee)**

**Possible Reappointment of Marie Hackshaw to the Erie County Mental Health Intellectual Disabilities Board. Term to expire December 31, 2024.
(County Executive)
(Personnel Committee)**

Possible Appointment of Dominic Maleno to the Erie County Agricultural Land Preservation Board. Term

**to expire December 31,
2024. (County Executive)
(Personnel Committee)**

**Possible Reappointment of
Faith Kindig to the Erie
County Agricultural Land
Preservation Board. Term
to expire December 31,
2024. (County Executive)
(Personnel Committee)**

**Possible Reappointment of
Jack Pfadt to the Erie
County Agricultural Land
Preservation Board. Term
to expire December 31,
2024. (County Executive)
(Personnel Committee)**

**Possible Reappointment of
Timothy McGahen to the
Erie County Hospital
Authority Board. Term to
expire December 31, 2027.
(County Executive)
(Personnel Committee)**

**Possible Reappointment of
Brian McGrath to the Erie
County Land Bank
representing District 1.
Term to expire on
December 31, 2026.
(Councilman Scutella)
(Personnel Committee)**

**Possible Sale of a Parcel
from the Repository for
Unsold Property at Index
Number: 47-026-077.0-
018.00 (Finance
Committee)**

Mrs. Rennie made a motion to combine items X-LL into one vote, seconded by Mr. Horton, and carried 7-0.

A motion for the parcel sales was made by Mr. Scutella, seconded by Mr. Horton, and approved 7-0.

**Possible Sale of a Parcel
from the Repository for
Unsold Property at Index
Number: 30-003-022.0-**

**050.00 (Finance
Committee)**

**Possible Sale of a Parcel
from the Repository for
Unsold Property at Index
Number: 27-053-213.0-
001.99 (Finance
Committee)**

**Possible Sale of a Parcel
from the Repository for
Unsold Property at Index
Number: 18-051-001.0-
207.00 (Finance
Committee)**

**Possible Sale of a Parcel
from the Repository for
Unsold Property at Index
Number: 18-051-025.0-
324.00 (Finance
Committee)**

**Possible Sale of a Parcel
from the Repository for
Unsold Property at Index
Number: 18-051-025.0-
323.00 (Finance
Committee)**

**Possible Sale of a Parcel
from the Repository for
Unsold Property at Index
Number: 18-051-021.0-
213.00 (Finance
Committee)**

**Possible Sale of a Parcel
from the Repository for
Unsold Property at Index
Number: 16-030-043.0-
142.00 (Finance
Committee)**

**Possible Sale of a Parcel
from the Repository for
Unsold Property at Index**

Number: 18-050-023.0-223.00 (Finance Committee)

Possible Sale of a Parcel from the Repository for Unsold Property at Index Number: 18-052-014.0-219.00 (Finance Committee)

Possible Sale of a Parcel from the Repository for Unsold Property at Index Number: 18-051-050.0-108.00 (Finance Committee)

Possible Sale of a Parcel from the Repository for Unsold Property at Index Number: 18-051-050.0-107.00 (Finance Committee)

Possible Sale of a Parcel from the Repository for Unsold Property at Index Number: 18-051-020.0-124 (Finance Committee)

Possible Sale of a Parcel from the Repository for Unsold Property at Index Number: 18-051-020.0-123.00 (Finance Committee)

Possible Sale of a Parcel from the Repository for Unsold Property at Index Number: 18-051-020.0-122.0 (Finance Committee)

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Rennie made a motion to go to Executive Session, and was seconded by Mr. Horton. The County Council went into Executive Session at 7:08pm and returned to the meeting at 7:27pm. A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Horton, meeting adjourned at 7:31pm.

