

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, May 3, 2022

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice-Chairwoman Rennie.

OPTIONAL PRAYER OR INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Mrs. Schauerma.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Chairman Shank (via phone), Vice-Chairwoman Rennie, Charlie Bayle, Andre Horton, Ellen Schauerma, Terry M. Scutella, and Jim Winarski

Also present: Julie Slomski, James Sparber, Ericka Knight, Solicitor Tom Talarico, Amy Swartzfager CPA, and Megan Moore

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Jennie Hagerty

Jennie Hagerty, Mercy Center for Women: Ms. Hagerty offered statistics on the positive outcomes of the Center's work with homelessness, addiction, domestic violence, and the overall assistance they offer to these groups. She discussed the newest project, the Mercy Anchor Community Center, and what it will offer to community members in need. She also presented how they acquired funding for this project, and the lack of help from city and county sources. (Time expired, will address Council at another time)

Carl Anderson, Erie: Mr. Anderson addressed the Council regarding Ordinances 61 and 62, 2022. He stated it was important to remain consistent with work that was done regarding ARPA funding. He also voiced the importance of bipartisanship and working together for the community. He stated the Council should look to the future, and work with the Administration.

Teresa Borowy, Mercy Center for Women: Ms. Borowy spoke about the effects of the pandemic on the Center and community members in need. She also spoke about homelessness, and how it could affect future opportunities for the area.

Gary Horton, NAACP: Mr. Horton applauded the work that the Council does for

the community, and encouraged them to do more. He expressed that all young people are not bad; it is a narrow group creating mischief in the community. He stated that there is not enough for kids to do. He asked for funding, and to leverage funding from others, to serve the children of the community. He commended law enforcement for what they have done, and stated if they could have solved the problem they would have by now. He encouraged the Council to invest in kids and families trying to do the right thing.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

April 19, 2022 - Regular Meeting

A motion was made by Mr. Horton, seconded by Mr. Scutella, and passed 7-0 to accept the minutes of the previous meeting.

REPORTS OF COUNTY OFFICIALS

County Executive and/or his Designee

There was no report offered by the Finance Department or the Administration.

Finance Committee - Mrs. Schauerman

Mrs. Schauerman stated the Finance Committee met on Thursday April 28th and submitted to the agenda:
Old Business: A-C
New Business: A, and D-F

Personnel Committee - Mr. Scutella

Mr. Scutella stated the Personnel Committee met on Thursday April 28th and submitted to the agenda:
Old Business: D-F
New Business: B & C

Citation Presentation for Child Care Provider Day

Mr. Scutella voiced appreciation for child care providers. Ms. Slomski read a selection of the citation.

Other

Mr. Horton stated, for public record, he would not support the upcoming ordinances for economic development that were on the agenda; they are a duplication of services. He expounded on the problems facing Erie County concerning homelessness, addiction, violence, and poverty. He voiced the need for the council and county government to support community members and human services.

Vice-Chairwoman Rennie spoke to remind people about the structure of the

county government. She stated they were separate but equal branches of government, and had a fiduciary responsibility to everyone in Erie County, and must serve their constituents.

Solicitor Talarico stated his legal opinion to the County Council on the upcoming ordinances, and the use of ARPA funding. He did not recommend the Council to vote on the ordinances due to insufficient information. He affirmed it was illegal to use ARPA monies to create economic parallels.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Slomski gave a Second Reading of Ordinance Number 59, 2022 "Waiving Section 4 of Erie County LERTA Ordinance 59, 1980 and Approving the Revised LERTA Program in the City of Corry". A motion was made by Mrs. Schauerma, seconded by Mr. Bayle, and passed 7-0.

Second Reading of Ordinance Number 59, 2022 "Waiving Section 4 of Erie County LERTA Ordinance 59, 1980 and Approving the Revised LERTA Program in the City of Corry" (1st Read 4/19/22) (Finance Committee)

Second Reading of Ordinance Number 61, 2022, "Second 2022 ARPA Fund Budget Revised Expenditure of \$280,000 And To Unrestrict Community Futures Funds" (1st Read 4/19/22) (Finance Committee)

Ms. Slomski gave a Second Reading of Ordinance Number 61, 2022, "Second 2022 ARPA Fund Budget Revised Expenditure of \$280,000 And To Unrestrict Community Futures Funds". Mr. Horton made a motion to table, was seconded by Mr. Scutella, and failed 4-3. A motion was made to adopt by Mrs. Schauerma, seconded by Mr. Winarski, and passed 4-3.

Second Reading of Ordinance Number 62, 2022 "Twenty-third 2022 General Fund Supplemental Appropriation of \$330,000 to Create Three Positions in the Business & Economic Development Bureau" (1st Read 4/19/22) (Finance Committee)

Ms. Slomski gave a Second Reading of Ordinance Number 62, 2022 "Twenty-third 2022 General Fund Supplemental Appropriation of \$330,000 to Create Three Positions in the Business & Economic Development Bureau". Mr. Horton made a motion to table, seconded by Mr. Scutella, and failed 4-3. Mr. Bayle made a motion to adopt, seconded by Mrs. Schauerma, and passed 4-3.

Vice-Chairwoman Rennie stated the idea and intention of funding behind the Futures Center was one of hope and representation for all citizens of Erie County, and supported that vision. She stated the County is tasked with many things, economic development is one, but agrees with Solicitor Talarico that there is not enough information about the Fusion Center. She expressed worry that it will be a risk to the taxpayers, and the legality the county could face if it

took the lead in economic development; and if not leading, then this is a duplication of services. She stated the best way for governing is collaboration between the branches of government.

Second Reading of Ordinance Number 64, 2022 "Appointed Official's Salary Ordinance, First Assistant Public Defender" (1st Read 4/19/22) (Personnel Committee)

Ms. Slomski gave a Second Reading of Ordinance Number 64, 2022 "Appointed Official's Salary Ordinance, First Assistant Public Defender" . A motion was made by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Winarski, and passed 7-0.

Second Reading of Ordinance Number 65, 2022 "Appointed Official's Salary Ordinance Full Time Assistant Public Defender" (1st Read 4/19/22) (Personnel Committee)

Ms. Slomski gave a Second Reading of Ordinance Number 65, 2022 "Appointed Official's Salary Ordinance Full Time Assistant Public Defender". A motion was made by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Horton, and passed 7-0.

Second Reading of Ordinance Number 66, 2022" Twenty-fifth 2022 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$40,305 for the Creation of Grant Administrator Position in the Finance Department" (1st Read 4/19/22) (Personnel Committee)

Ms. Slomski gave a Second Reading of Ordinance Number 66, 2022" Twenty-fifth 2022 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$40,305 for the Creation of Grant Administrator Position in the Finance Department" . A motion was made by Mr. Horton, seconded by Mr. Winarski, and passed 7-0.

NEW BUSINESS

First Reading of Ordinance Number 67, 2022, "Twenty-sixth 2022 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$900 for Creation of Line Item for Advertising, Books, and Subscriptions in the Assessment Bureau" (Finance Committee)

Ms. Slomski gave a First Reading of Ordinance Number 67, 2022, "Twenty-sixth 2022 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$900 for Creation of Line Item for Advertising, Books, and Subscriptions in the Assessment Bureau".

First Reading of Ordinance Number 68, 2022,

A motion to amend the agenda to move Ordinance 68 and 69 to a second reading by Mr. Winarski, seconded by Mrs. Schauerman, and passed 7-0.

"Amending Exhibit B of Ordinance 54, 2022 '2022 Public Health Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$33,924 for Director of Public Health Salary and Hours Increase" (Personnel Committee)	Ms. Slomski gave a Second Reading of Ordinance Number 68, 2022, "Amending Exhibit B of Ordinance 54, 2022 '2022 Public Health Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$33,924 for Director of Public Health Salary and Hours Increase". A motion was made by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Bayle, and passed 7-0.
First Reading of Ordinance Number 69, 2022, "Amending Accounting Number(s) on Exhibit A of Ordinance 29, 2022 '2022 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$15,022 for Director of Administration Salary Increase'" (Personnel Committee)	A motion to amend the ordinance to include 'and certification of funds' was made by Mr. Winarski, seconded by Mr. Horton, and passed 7-0. Ms. Slomski gave a Second Reading of Ordinance Number 69, 2022, "Amending Accounting Number(s) on Exhibit A of Ordinance 29, 2022 '2022 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$15,022 for Director of Administration Salary Increase'". A motion was made by Mr. Winarski, seconded by Mrs. Schauerman, and passed 7-0.
Possible Sale of a Parcel from the Repository for Unsold Property at Index Number: 15-020-034.0-223.00 (Finance Committee)	Mr. Horton requested that the parcels be read separately because his constituents would not be happy to have a trailer next door to their property, and he would like his no vote on record. A motion was made by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Scutella, and passed 5-2.
Possible Sale of a Parcel from the Repository for Unsold Property at Index Number: 15-020-034.0-222.00 (Finance Committee)	Mr. Horton reiterated his comments about being on record with a no vote. A motion was made by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Bayle, and passed 5-2.
Possible Sale of a Parcel from the Repository for Unsold Property at Index Number: 38-009-003.0-013.00 (Finance Committee)	A motion was made by Mr. Horton, seconded by Mr. Scutella, and passed 7-0.
<u>ADJOURNMENT</u>	Mr. Scutella stated that what was seen tonight was democracy in action; a difference of opinion between some Council members and the County Executive. He wanted to see more answers, and not rush to judgement before voting, but wished him luck in his endeavor to create a business bureau. Mr. Scutella said he

would rather see ARPA funding go to put a bag of groceries and a gallon of milk on a single parent's table. That's what he can do right now.

Mrs. Schauerman reminded people to exercise their right to vote.

A motion to adjourn was made, and the meeting concluded at 7:00pm.

-The next Finance/Personnel Committee Meetings are Thursday, May 12, 2022 at 4pm in room 114A, Erie County Courthouse or via Zoom.

-The next Regular Meeting of County Council is Tuesday May 24, 2022 at 6pm in room 117, Erie County Courthouse or via livestream at the link provided on the County Website.

-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, no later than the end of business 5 days prior to the meeting. The public must be present at the meeting to speak.