

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 24, 2022

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Shank led the Pledge of Allegiance.

OPTIONAL PRAYER OR INVOCATION

Mrs. Schauerma led the invocation.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Chairman Shank, Vice-Chairwoman Rennie, Mr. Bayle, Mr. Horton, Mrs. Schauerma, Mr. Scutella, and Mr. Winarski
Others Present: Julie Slomski, Jim Sparber, Ericka Knight, Tom Talarico, Esq., Amy Swartzfager, CPA, and Megan Moore

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Karen Kephart

Ms. Kephart was not in attendance.

Freda Tepfer, Erie: Ms. Tepfer expressed her concerns regarding the Recycle Plan referencing IRG, the County Executive trying to add people out of turn, and the future of the Human Relations Committee. She hoped that the government of the area would respect the process and consider everybody.

Gerald Servidio, Millcreek: Mr. Servidio voiced his displeasure towards the actions of the County Executive regarding the Erie County Redevelopment Authority. He stated his belief that the code of conduct and ethics in the workplace is being disregarded by the County Executive concerning the ECRDA. He stated Erie County deserves better than it gets. Mr. Servidio asked for a moment of silence for the victims in Uvalde, Texas.

Deonte Cooley, Erie: Mr. Cooley stated the actions of the County Executive were concerning. He stated his actions appear to be based more on personal vendettas than what was best for the people of Erie County. He voiced his distress about the direction the County was headed. He noted it seemed people were being bullied out of their positions because of a difference of opinion.

Lou Aliota, Millcreek: Mr. Aliota stated he can never get a response from people

in the government. He asked what the County Council is doing about Right to Know appeals and requests. He also questioned emails between governments and public entities. He would also like a review of the transportation issue in Erie County.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

May 3, 2022 - Regular Meeting

Vice-Chairwoman Rennie made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Mr. Scutella, and carried 7-0.

REPORTS OF COUNTY OFFICIALS

County Executive and/or his Designee

There was no report offered by the Administration.

Finance Committee - Mrs. Schauerman

Mrs. Schauerman stated the Finance Committee met on Thursday May 12th and submitted Old Business: A and New Business: A-G, I, J, and S-U on the agenda.

Personnel Committee - Mr. Scutella

Mr. Scutella stated the Personnel Committee met on Thursday May 12th and submitted New Business: H & L on the agenda.

Other

Citation-Robert V. Smith presented by County Council

Ms. Slomski read the citation for Robert Smith.

Mr. Horton stated he had the privilege of working with Mr. Smith and his team over the last eight years. He stated he was humbled by the work they do. He stated he learned that Mr. Smith has a servant's heart. He commended Mr. Smith and his staff for their work during the pandemic. He proclaimed Mr. Smith was always a gentleman, and always prepared for the Council. He thanked Mr. Smith on his and the Council's behalf.

Vice-Chairwoman Rennie stated Mr. Smith did an incredible job over his lifetime, but especially during the pandemic. The burden he overtook was unbelievable. There is no way to put into words the debt owed by the people and County. She extended her respect to him, saluted him, and wished him well.

Mrs. Schauerman stated it has been an absolute honor and pleasure to work with Mr. Smith. She stated he was a man of integrity and respected him immensely. She expressed her thanks and wished him well in his retirement.

A co-worker of Mr. Smith spoke from the audience, thanking and congratulating

him.

Chairman Shank stated that the pandemic started shortly after their terms began. He stated during the time he was in office, Mr. Smith had been ready for anything asked of him. The outcome of the pandemic at Pleasant Ridge was due to Mr. Smith's diligence and leadership, and he thanked him.

Chairman Shank presented the citation to Mr. Smith.

Mr. Smith stated he is humbled by the citation, and looks forward to spending time with his family.

**Citation-Al Klugiewicz
presented by Chairman
Shank**

Chairman Shank stated, Mr. Klugiewicz was a 105-year-old veteran who was originally in the Calvary unit. He recently met the veteran while volunteering with an organization to build him a ramp. He stated Mr. Klugiewicz is the last surviving member of his unit to liberate a town from the Nazis at the end of World War II, and we owe him our gratitude.

**Citation-Claire L. Wilson
presented by Chairman
Shank**

Chairman Shank noted his history with Mr. Wilson. He stated he had been a member of the fire department for about 30 years, and would be missed.

Statements from Council members:

Vice-Chairwoman Rennie stated she wanted to speak about the situation with the Erie County Redevelopment Authority. She first voiced her appreciation for the County Executive's energy, was ready to work with him, and expected good things to come from his tenure, with qualifications. She hoped that they would not see things happen again as they had over the weekend. She noted her appreciation for her colleagues on Council. She stated they bring care and hard work to the job, and have integrity. She upheld the idea that Council members can disagree, and agree to disagree and still respect one another; they must agree to *respect the process*. She announced that Council members were the last to know what was going on with the ECRDA and the agenda, and it should never happen like this. She claimed the Boards and Authorities of Erie County are the workhorses of operations, and brought accountability and expertise. They exist independently of county government with their own mission, bylaws, and structure. She voiced the need for the Council and county government to be cautious, and not compromise the work of the Boards and Authorities. Ms. Rennie revealed the work ECRDA had been doing. She stated they were a success. Ms. Rennie cited the reason given for the County Executive's actions, that it did not fit his economic development strategy, and that did not make sense. She stated she was offended on behalf of the members of the ECRDA board and how this was brought to the Council. She stated the County Executive is having private meetings with only some Council members, not being transparent, and trying to cut out the process of County Council. She extended her apologies to the ECRDA Board, and stated the rest of the Council, the County Executive, and the Administration should as well. In closing, she declared the process, procedure, and conduct of members should not be questionable.

Mr. Horton expressed his embarrassment at this situation. He cited his discussion with the County Executive, and told him he could not remove board members without cause. He stated the County Executive claimed he did have cause because their philosophy didn't align with his plans. Mr. Horton stated that ECRDA is doing a great job, and the economy is booming. He expressed pride in Erie and the municipalities coming together, and rowing in the same direction. He noted the county has received national recognition for its new renaissance. He maintains that County Executive Davis has chosen to divide rather than unite; he has never seen the county and the council be so divided. He mentioned the crises of the county, such as poverty, addiction, and crime. He stated this is where the people of Erie County need assistance, in human services. He stated what the county didn't need was more economic development, when there are 26 organizations already. He stated a teamwork approach is needed from the County Executive. He expressed hope that they could find common ground. In the event they can't, he declared he would push back vehemently for the people of not only the 2nd District, but all of Erie County. Mr. Horton promised to be more vocal because he felt they were being bullied, to avoid a constitutional crisis, and a lawsuit. He apologized to members of the board, and stated they are an autonomous body regulated by the State. He noted there are three equal bodies in the county government: administration, courts, and legislative. He stated he would sit with Mr. Davis, but as an equal. In closing, he thanked Mrs. Rennie for speaking the truth, and stated the truth was that the things the Administration had been doing were wrong or illegal.

Mr. Scutella stated he too was disturbed by the request for the resignations of ECRDA members. Just a few weeks prior, he stated he was at an ECRDA event with members of the administration who spoke eloquently and in favor of the progress made by ECRDA. He declared this act by the Administration was nothing more than character assassination, and ridiculous. He questioned who would want to serve on a board and be treated like that by the Administration. He stated he had offered to talk with the County Executive, and find common ground. Mr. Scutella described the actions of Election night, and 4-5 different departments working together for the good of the people, and hoped the County Executive would follow suit.

OLD BUSINESS

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" (1st

Ms. Slomski gave a Second 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". A motion was made by Mrs. Schauerma, seconded by Mr. Bayle, and carried 7-0.

**Read 5/3/22) (Finance
Committee)**

NEW BUSINESS

Vice-Chairwoman Rennie made a motion to amend the agenda to move items B-G to a second reading, and striking items K, N, O, P, Q, and R, seconded by Mr. Scutella, and carried 7-0.

First Reading of Ordinance Number 70, 2022, "Twenty-seventh 2022 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$25,000 For Creation of Safety And Training Bureau in Courts Budget" (Finance Committee) Ms. Slomski gave a First Reading of Ordinance Number 70, 2022, "Twenty-seventh 2022 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$25,000 For Creation of Safety And Training Bureau in Courts Budget".

First Reading of Ordinance Number 71, 2022, "Twenty-eighth 2022 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$42,300 For Completion of Pleasant Ridge Manor Demolition" (Finance Committee) Ms. Slomski gave a Second Reading of Ordinance Number 71, 2022, "Twenty-eighth 2022 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$42,300 For Completion of Pleasant Ridge Manor Demolition". A motion was made by Mr. Horton, seconded by Mr. Scutella, and carried 7-0.

First Reading of Ordinance Number 72, 2022, "Third 2022 Library Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$14,707 For Erie Regional Library Foundation Grant" (Finance Committee) Ms. Slomski gave a Second Reading of Ordinance Number 72, 2022, "Third 2022 Library Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$14,707 For Erie Regional Library Foundation Grant". A motion was made by Mr. Horton, seconded by Mrs. Rennie, and carried 7-0.

First Reading of Ordinance Number 73, 2022, "First 2022 Capital Projects Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$537,760 For Completion of Public Safety Parking Lot Paving Project" (Finance Committee) Ms. Slomski gave a Second Reading of Ordinance Number 73, 2022, "First 2022 Capital Projects Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$537,760 For Completion of Public Safety Parking Lot Paving Project". A motion was made by Mrs. Schauerma, seconded by Mr. Scutella, and carried 7-0.

First Reading of Ordinance Number 74, 2022 "2022 Public Health Fund Budget Revised Expenditures of \$3,500 for Creation of Line Item in Mosquito Borne Disease Bureau" (Finance Committee) Ms. Slomski gave a Second Reading of Ordinance Number 74, 2022 "2022 Public Health Fund Budget Revised Expenditures of \$3,500 for Creation of Line Item in Mosquito Borne Disease Bureau". A motion was made by Mrs.

Revised Expenditures of \$3,500 for Creation of Line Item in Mosquito Borne Disease Bureau" (Finance Committee)	Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Horton, and carried 7-0.
First Reading of Ordinance Number 75, 2022, "Fourth 2022 Library Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$25,000 For Keystone Recreation, Park & Conservation Fund Grant For The Millcreek Branch Feasibility Study" (Finance Committee)	Ms. Slomski gave a Second Reading of Ordinance Number 75, 2022, "Fourth 2022 Library Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$25,000 For Keystone Recreation, Park & Conservation Fund Grant For The Millcreek Branch Feasibility Study". A motion was made by Mr. Scutella, seconded by Mrs. Rennie, and carried 7-0.
First Reading of Ordinance Number 76, 2022, "Amending Exhibit B of Ordinance 62, 2022 "Twenty-third 2022 General Fund Supplemental Appropriation of \$330,000 to Create Three Positions in the Business & Economic Development Bureau". (Finance Committee)	Ms. Slomski gave a Second Reading of Ordinance Number 76, 2022, "Amending Exhibit B of Ordinance 62, 2022 "Twenty-third 2022 General Fund Supplemental Appropriation of \$330,000 to Create Three Positions in the Business & Economic Development Bureau". A motion was made by Mr. Winarski, seconded by Mrs. Schauerman, and carried 4-3. Mrs. Rennie stated she would vote against it due to the fact she did not support the original ordinance.
First Reading of Ordinance Number 77, 2022, "Twenty-ninth 2022 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$40,985 For Tipstaffs and Jury Clerk Salary Increase" (Personnel Committee)	Vice-Chairwoman Rennie made a motion to amend the ordinance to include "and waiver of Section 9C of the Human Resources Code" on the face sheet title and clause, and to move to a second reading, seconded by Mr. Winarski, and carried 7-0.
Resolution Number 13, 2022 "Re-Appointment of Zelenkofske Axelrod, LLC to Perform Comprehensive Single Audit for Erie County and Related Funds for the Year Ending December 31, 2021" (Finance Committee)	Ms. Slomski read Resolution Number 13, 2022 "Re-Appointment of Zelenkofske Axelrod, LLC to Perform Comprehensive Single Audit for Erie County and Related Funds for the Year Ending December 31, 2021" . A motion to table the item was made by Mrs. Rennie, seconded by Mr. Horton, and carried 7-0.

Resolution Number 14, 2022 "Approving an Erie County 5-Year Recycling Strategic Plan" (Finance Committee)

Ms. Slomski read Resolution Number 14, 2022 "Approving an Erie County 5-Year Recycling Strategic Plan". A motion was made by Mrs. Schauerma, seconded by Mr. Winarski, and carried 6-1.

Resolution 15, 2022 "Removing Board Members from the Erie County Redevelopment Authority" (Chairman Shank)

Item was struck from the agenda.

Possible Appointment of Marcie Morgan to the Office of Children and Youth Advisory Board. Term to expire December 31, 2025. (Councilman Scutella) (Personnel Committee)

A motion was made by Mrs. Schauerma, seconded by Mr. Scutella, and approved 7-0.

Possible Appointment of Kathryn Schaaf to the NWPA Job Connect Workforce Development Board. Term to expire June, 30, 2025. (County Executive)

A motion was made by Mr. Winarski, seconded by Mr. Bayle, and approved 7-0.

Possible Appointment of Timothy McCormick to the Erie County Redevelopment Authority. Term to expire December 31, 2023. (County Executive)

Item was struck from the agenda.

Possible Appointment of David Knapp to Erie County Redevelopment Authority. Term to expire December 31, 2022. (County Executive)

Item was struck from the agenda.

Possible Appointment of Charles "Boo" Hagerty to

Item was struck from the agenda.

**the Erie County
Redevelopment Authority.
Term to expire December
31, 2025. (County
Executive)**

**Possible Appointment of
Matthew Clark to the Erie
County Gaming Revenue
Authority. Term to expire
December 31, 2025.
(County Executive)**

Item was struck from the agenda.

**Waiver of the
Administration Code and
Possible Reappointment of
John Laird to the Erie
County Redevelopment
Authority. Term to expire
December 31, 2026.
(County Executive)**

Item was struck from the agenda.

**Possible Sale of a Parcel
from the Repository for
Unsold Property at Index
Number: 18-051-026.0-
135.00**

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

**Possible Sale of a Parcel
from the Repository for
Unsold Property at Index
Number: 18-051-001.0-
216.00**

A motion was made by Mr. Winarski, seconded by Mr. Scutella, and approved 7-0.

**Possible Sale of a Parcel
from the Repository for
Unsold Property at Index
Number: 18-051-016.0-
201.00**

Vice-Chairwoman Rennie made a motion to table the item, was seconded by Mr. Horton, and carried 7-0.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Horton. The meeting adjourned at 7:12pm.

**-The next Finance/Personnel
Committee Meetings are Thursday,
June 2, 2022 at 4pm in room 114A,
Erie County Courthouse or via
Zoom.**

-The next Regular Meeting of County Council is Tuesday June 7, 2022 at 6pm in room 117, Erie County Courthouse or streamed live 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.