

MINUTES

Erie County Council

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Carl Anderson, III, Chairman
Kim Clear, Vice Chairwoman
André R. Horton
Scott Rastetter
Mary Rennie
Ellen Schauerman
Brian Shank

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

**PLEDGE OF
ALLEGIANCE**

**OPTIONAL PRAYER OR
INVOCATION**

Mrs. Schauerman led the optional invocation: May love and laughter light your days and warm your heart and home; May good and faithful friends be yours wherever you may roam; May peace and plenty bless your world with joy that long endures; May all life's passing seasons bring the best to you and yours.

ROLL CALL

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

Also Present: Douglas R. Smith; James Sparber; Tracey Fugagli; Attorney Thomas Talarico; Nicole Inan; CPA Amy Swartzfager

**HEARING OF THE
PUBLIC**

None to be heard.

**MINUTES FROM
PREVIOUS MEETING**

**March 2, 2021 - Regular
Meeting**

Brian Shank moved to approve the minutes from the March 2, 2021 Regular Meeting. This was seconded by Kim Clear and carried in a 7- 0 vote.

**REPORTS OF COUNTY
OFFICIALS**

County Executive and/or her Designee	No report.
Finance Committee -Mrs. Clear	Finance Chairwoman Clear reported that the Finance Committee met Thursday March 11, 2021 and present for the agenda: Old items - A & B and New items A through J.
Personnel Committee - Mrs. Rennie / Mr. Shank	Personnel Chairwoman Rennie reported that the Personnel Committee met Thursday, March 11, 2021, led by Personnel Vice-Chairman Shank in her absence. Personnel Committee brings forth new items K through P.

Citations in Memoria

Mr. Richard Tome (Presented by Chairman Anderson)	Chairman Anderson requested the citation for Mr. Richard "Dick Tome" be read in title only. Mr. Smith read aloud "County of Erie Citation for Mr. Richard Tome (1929-2021)."
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Chairman Anderson expressed that Mr. Tome was a classmate of his fathers from grade school through high school, graduating from Academy in 1948. Although the two gentlemen's family and work paths took them in separate directions, they maintained a friendship. Chairman Anderson acknowledged Mr. Tome's support when he sought public office; offering a personal story on how the two met while campaigning and the friendship that developed thereafter. Mr. Anderson expressed Mr. Tome's dedication to work and family, and his personal appreciation for all that he contributed to the community.

Mr. Nathan Everhart (Presented by Councilman Rastetter)	Chairman Anderson requested the citation for Mr. Nathan Everhart be read in title only. Mr. Smith read aloud "County of Erie Citation for Mr. Nathan Edgar Everhart (1963 - 2021)."
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Councilman Rastetter expressed the loss that Mr. Everhart's passing has left on his community. Mr. Rastetter admits, he did not know Mr. Everhart personally, but was touched deeply by his story. He stated that the staff and students at General McLane loved him. Mr. Rastetter summarized that Mr. Everhart died at age 57, he was active in the community, and enjoyed the social activities our community offered. Mr. Everhart was part of a neighborhood watch, a faithful servant of Christ, and a loving husband and father.

Other	Co-Chairwoman Clear gave an update of the COVID Impact & Economic Revitalization Committee:
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The Committee has been meeting at least weekly since the second week of January. She announced that Erie County will be the recipient of the American Rescue Plan Act Grant Funding. Mrs. Clear recalled when Councilman Anderson discussing this Committee with her before it even began, and how his vision was a springboard for Erie to survive and flourish after the pandemic. The Committee will be meeting with members from various areas of the community beginning on Thursday.

Mrs. Clear listed members of the Committee including: herself, Co-Chair Anderson, Councilwoman Mary Rennie, Councilman Brian Shank, Dr. Perry Wood (ECGRA), Tammi Michali (ECGRA), Amy Murdock (Erie Chamber and Growth Partnership), Dr. Ferretti (Jefferson Historical Society), Jessica Horan-Kunco (COG), Honey Stempka (Erie County Planning Department), & Dr. Parris Baker.

The mission of the Committee as a community outreach body, is to investigate the COVID is having on Erie County - individuals, businesses, municipalities, non-profits, minority groups, etc. She stated that they are still in the investigation and data collecting stages because there is just so much information being gathered and such a wide range of outreach. The Committee has been receiving surveys, hearing from business leaders, and various other areas around the County to help gauge where they are in their lives, their economic situations, and their existing plans in place and working with identifying resources on how to utilize them in relation to the effects COVID has had on Erie County as well determining how sustainable and viable our the local governments and non-profits.

Experts that the Committee has been hearing from thus far include: Bruce Katz - world renowned for helping cities design, transform, finance, and deliver an inclusive and sustainable growth; Dr. Ken Louie of Penn State Behrend - health of Erie economy / lack thereof health; Erie Regional Chamber and Growth Partnership - have shared their findings and continue to do surveys of the Erie area; ECGRA - Have coordinating all of the meetings as well as setting up main street surveys; Review of the Urban/Rural divide; Jessica Horan-Kunco - Erie County Council of Governments (COG) - information from municipalities and which direction their paths are taking, especially with taxes; Cathy von Birgelen of Ben Franklin Technologies - impact on women; Non Profit Partnership in Erie Bank Sports Park; The Erie Convention Center Authority; Dr. Parris Baker & Gary Horton - addressing the impact on minority communities. Also potential upcoming presentations might include: Pleasant Ridge Manor, Bob Smith; Bishop Brock; Autumn Anderson; James Sherrod; and so many more. The Committee is trying to see the global impact of this pandemic on the Erie community. The effect has been wide reaching from urban to rural and no group is exempt.

Co-Chair Clear ended with: We need to act now, and her appreciation for all of the work members and the community have invested.

Chairman Anderson / Co-Chair of the COVID Impact & Economic Revitalization Committee recognized Mrs. Clear's contributions and her tireless work to move the project forward. He explained that when the Committee was first formed, the hope was to be able to prioritize and strategize with every group and every organization throughout Erie County. The number one goal of this Committee is to make sure that everybody is touched and that there is equity across all of Erie County because everyone in this pandemic has been effected and inequity has been amplified. He continued, structurally there need to be changes, and social issues need to continue being moved forward. He is also very concerned about the destabilization of our institutions, that meaning every single aspect that effects every one of our daily lives. The long term vision that we need to take on all of these institutions, as we as a community unite in moving this community forward coming out of this pandemic - we need to ensure that we are stronger and more stable than even before the pandemic. "A crisis is a terrible thing to waste." Coming out of this crisis we need to have a new trajectory and new vision for the community. He was hopeful that by the third quarter this Committee would have reports that sparked interest from the local philanthropic community and other members, that perhaps would lead to grant monies from the federal government; what has actually happened has been reverse of that and that federal government and monies have begun to come to our community first, which he feels will spur more commitment, investment, and interest from those other entities.

Chairman Anderson voiced that he is appreciative of County Executive Dahlkemper and her Administration for being the watchdogs over this relief act and its transcendence into the Erie Community. It is anticipated that it will be about 60 days before receiving the money, and the County will have until the end of 2024 to spend it. County Executive Dahlkemper has called a meeting for this Thursday for the leadership of Erie County including members of different municipalities and school districts. He concurs with her that it is important that everyone works together in collaboration, however he also believes the other communities need to maintain their autonomy as well as that willingness to collaborate. He is hopeful that the other groups, like county government, will form their own autonomous entities within their municipalities, prioritize their listings and agenda on how to strategically use this money, and then as we join together be able to have a committee of leaders from all of the various groups come together as a county-wide group ensuring to leverage the monies potentially to the best benefit of all tax payers across the county. He spoke of the possibility of receiving RCAP funds for various projects, expand on the various projects that are being supported, ensuring equity across the board - including

outer parts of the county, volunteer fire departments, bridge work, and that all of these various projects are explored and funds are leveraged to the best potential ability. He expressed that through various silos of this, there are potentials to receive as much as \$100 million more in federal funding. He stated that it is important to move methodically through the process with the County Executive, the Administration, and this Committee in unity to ensure that the trajectory of this community is moved forward in a positive way coming out of the pandemic. Suggested to members of the community that if there are things that are important to anyone in various areas of the county that have not have a chance to speak in front of the Committee, to reach out and share those ideas. Chairman Anderson also mentioned that the Committee will begin to move forward are listening sessions throughout each Council District in the County, presenting opportunities for individuals from every district in Erie county to discuss what's important to them.

OLD BUSINESS

Second Reading of Ordinance Number 14, 2021 "2021 Public Health Fund Budget Revised Expenditures of \$12,020 for Temporary Increase In Wages and Hours for Acting Director of Public Health" (Rec'd 1st Read 3/2/21)

Mr. Smith gave a Second Reading of Ordinance Number 14, 2021 "2021 Public Health Fund Budget Revised Expenditures of \$12,020 for Temporary Increase In Wages and Hours for Acting Director of Public Health" This was moved by André Horton, seconded by Ellen Schauerman.

Councilman Horton stated that he would be supporting this Ordinance in acknowledgement of the work that the Health Department does. He stated that everyone has been placed under duress and have been asked to do more and often times with less. Even with extensive debate, no one can disagree with is that the Health Department has stepped up in service to this community. He speaks with Director Lyon, and it is 3-4x more work than they have been accustomed to doing. He quoted a phrase he is familiar with "The laborer is truly worthy of its hire." Although he wishes that all employees of Erie County who have shown up in these times could receive a raise, Council is charged with being fiscally responsible. He voiced that this is grant money, and not coming out of the General Fund; he asked his colleagues to join him in support.

Councilwoman Clear expressed her shared appreciation for the Health Department. Having someone perform additional services and to get paid for it is important. She thanked the Health Department for everything they have done and continue to do throughout the County and the leadership that they have provided. She expressed her enthusiasm for stories such as the Booker T. Washington Center being flooded with people to get their COVID vaccine; these are affirmations of what the Health Department has been doing to help keep us healthy and safe.

Chairman Anderson thanked Director Lyon for all of the work she has done. He called the amount of work to be done unprecedented, the time to do it unending, and the commitment of those doing the work unwavering. He stated we need to have the strength of all of those things as we continue to move through the pandemic. With the additional responsibilities that have been added on to this position as Acting Director, Director Lyon has taken on additional responsibilities for the COVID pandemic and its containment; we need to recognize the important of the people that are put in leadership positions to do this work. Chairman Anderson voiced that this is an example of how Council continues to be open-minded to changing times and changing circumstances, that occur within county government, and within the pay plan itself that show from time to time there needs to be adjustments made. Government is always moving, reforming, and reshaping.

Carried in a 7 - 0 vote.

Second Reading of Ordinance Number 19, 2021, "Seventh 2021 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$149,228 for Second Year Allotment of PCCD Covid Relief Grant and Creation of New Department" (Rec'd 1st Read 3/2/21)

Mr. Smith gave a Second Reading of Ordinance Number 19, 2021, "Seventh 2021 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$149,228 for Second Year Allotment of PCCD Covid Relief Grant and Creation of New Department." Motioned by Councilwoman Clear and Seconded by Councilman Horton.

Councilwoman Clear motion to amend the language anywhere in the Ordinance or exhibits where noted as "Department," become language of "Bureau." Seconded by Councilwoman Schauerma. Amendment passed 7 to 0.

Councilman moved to accept the Ordinance, as amended, Seconded by Councilwoman Schauerma, and passed 7 to 0.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairwoman Clear moved to amend the agenda to have New Business items A & B moved to a Second Reading; Items E through J to be considered in one motion; and Items K through P to be considered in one motion. This was Seconded by Councilman Horton, and passed 7 to 0.

First Reading of Ordinance Number 20, 2021, "Second 2021 Mental Health\Intellectual Disabilities (MHID) Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$17,740,092 for Emergency Rental Assistance Grant Funding" (Finance

Mr. Smith gave a Second Reading of Ordinance Number 20, 2021, "Second 2021 Mental Health\Intellectual Disabilities (MHID) Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$17,740,092 for Emergency Rental Assistance Grant Funding." This was moved by Kim Clear, seconded by Brian Shank and carried in a 7 - 0 vote.

Chairman Anderson commented that this program is a critical element to helping those in need of assistance and an opportunity to create equity. He expressed his hopes that the poor, socially disadvantaged, and homeless will have an opportunity to have these funds utilized. He has high expectations that the

Committee) ECCM will work diligently to disperse funding.

First Reading of Ordinance Number 21, 2021, "Eighth 2021 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$196,000 Tourism Grant to VisitErie" (Finance Committee) Mr. Smith gave a Second Reading of Ordinance Number 21, 2021, "Eighth 2021 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$196,000 Tourism Grant to VisitErie" This was moved by André Horton, seconded by Kim Clear. Chairman Anderson thanked John Oliver and VisitErie for the community spirit shown at the end of the year and his fiscal responsibility in returning the funds that were not spent at the time so that they could be reallocated. These are the types of community partnerships that are recognized.

Ordinance carried in a 7 - 0 vote.

Resolution Number 9, 2021, "Authorizing the Filing of a Proposal for Funds with the Department of Community and Economic Development Commonwealth of Pennsylvania" (Finance Committee) Mr. Smith gave a Reading of Resolution Number 9, 2021, "Authorizing the Filing of a Proposal for Funds with the Department of Community and Economic Development Commonwealth of Pennsylvania" This was moved by Ellen Schauerma, seconded by Kim Clear and carried in a 7 - 0 vote.

Resolution Number 10, 2021 "Approving A Professional Services Contract For Zelenkofske & Axelrod, Certified Public Accountants For Consultation On Pandemic Related State And Federal Funding" (Finance Committee) Mr. Smith gave a Reading Resolution Number 10, 2021 "Approving A Professional Services Contract For Zelenkofske & Axelrod, Certified Public Accountants For Consultation On Pandemic Related State And Federal Funding" Councilwoman Clear motioned to Table; Seconded by Councilman Shank, approved to table 7 to 0.

Possible Sale of a Parcel from the Repository for Unsold Property at Index Number: 14-010-032.0-234.00 Motion for all parcels was moved by André Horton, seconded by Brian Shank and carried in a 7 - 0 vote.

Possible Sale of a Parcel

**from the Repository for
Unsold Property at Index
Number: 14-010-028.0-
234.00**

**Possible Sale of a Parcel
from the Repository for
Unsold Property at Index
Number: 14-010-028.0-
229.00**

**Possible Sale of a Parcel
from the Repository for
Unsold Property at Index
Number: 16-030-026.0-
112.00**

**Possible Sale of a Parcel
from the Repository for
Unsold Property at Index
Number: 18-050-043.0-
100.00**

**Possible Sale of a Parcel
from the Repository for
Unsold Property at Index
Number: 15-020-026.0-
118.00**

Possible reappointment of Diana Ames to a Four-Year Term on the Human Relations Commission Advisory Board to Represent Council District 7. The Term would run from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2024 (Mrs. Schauerman)	Councilman Shank moved to approve all appointments in one motion; seconded by Councilwoman Schauerman. Councilwoman Schauerman clarified that Diana Ames is a reappointment to the HRC Advisory Board. She has served in this position for a lengthy period of time and is highly recommended. Chairman Anderson commented on the County Executive's reappointment of Owen McCormick to a second term serving the Industrial Development Authority; He is committed to Erie County and the work being done in Erie County. His family has been invested in the Erie Community for years.
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Slate of appointments passed 7 to 0.

Possible reappointment of Owen McCormick to a second five-year term to the Erie County Industrial Development Authority. The term will run from January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2023 (County Executive Dahlkemper)

Possible reappointment of Ralph DeRose to a five-year term to the Erie County Industrial Development Authority. This will be Mr. DeRose's first full term on the Erie County Industrial Development Authority. The term will run from January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2021 (County Executive Dahlkemper)

Possible reappointment of Ms. Jean Langer to a five-year term to the Erie County Industrial Development Authority. This will be Ms. Langer's first full term on the Erie County Industrial Authority. The term will run from January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2023 (County Executive Dahlkemper)

Possible appointment of Timothy Zieziula to the Erie County Board of Health. This would be an additional member to the

required five member board. The term will expire December 21, 2024. (County Executive Dahlkemper)

Possible appointment of Laura Lewis, PhD to the Erie County Board of Health. This partial term would be to fill the vacancy left by Carolyn Master, PhD, RN. The term will expire December 31, 2021. (County Executive Dahlkemper)

ADJOURNMENT Chairman Anderson mentioned a phone call regarding movement regarding construction pay and its costly fees to tax payers. Several meetings have occurred regarding this effect on the construction industry and the black eye that it's leaving on the industry. A presentation has been brought forth for consideration. It would affect all of the taxing bodies. He proposed before April 1st prior to Finance and Personnel Meetings the Carpenters Association would present; Staff will make arrangements.

Councilman Shank moved to adjourn; meeting adjourned 5:37pm.

To watch this meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/tgyDyO0GGT7ZeJpye2mv5eADbGxhVqpBKz4IrQOOTrgFiVVSlyYOqT4fbwZbAzjr.Gm5XZ16sEFAPyBw6> Passcode: YL2\$z^tk

The next Finance & Personnel Committee Meetings will occur April 1, 2021 at 4:00pm via zoom conference.

The next Regular Meeting of Council will occur April 6, 2021 at 4:00pm. Caucus will begin at 3:30pm.

For social-distancing

measures and consistency with CDC Guidelines, meetings will be held via zoom conferencing (zoom.us). At which time Council reconvenes in-person meetings, the public will be duly notified. Agendas and zoom information available at www.eriecountypa.gov. Call the Council office at 451-6303 for specific inquiries.