

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, June 21, 2022

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Shank.

OPTIONAL PRAYER OR INVOCATION

A quote by Douglas MacArthur was read by Mr. Bayle. He thanked McLane Church for hosting the meeting that evening.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Chairman Shank, Vice-Chairwoman Rennie, Charlie Bayle, Andre Horton, Ellen Schauerma, Terry M. Scutella, and Jim Winarski
Also Present: Julie Slomski, Tom Talarico, Esq., Amy Swartzfager, CPA, Jim Sparber, and Megan Moore

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Freda Tepfer

Freda Tepfer, Erie: Ms. Tepfer stated she understood it would be a positive recommendation for the Human Relations Commission. She stated it was important for the County to have a functional HRC, and an open process to apply to serve on the boards and authorities. She also expressed the need for the HRC to be made known to the public and to be user-friendly. She stated her appreciation for the people working in the Elections Office after watching the January 6th hearings.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

June 7, 2022- Regular Meeting

Mr. Horton made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Schauerma, to approve the minutes of the June 7th meeting. The motion passed 7-0.

REPORTS OF COUNTY OFFICIALS

County Executive and/or his Designee

There was no report given by the County Executive or his designee.

Finance Committee - Mrs.

Mrs. Schauerma stated the Finance Committee met on Thursday June 16th, and

Schauerman submitted to the agenda:
New Business: A-B & D- F

Personnel Committee - Mr. Scutella Mr. Scutella stated the Personnel Committee met on Thursday June 16th, and submitted to the agenda:
New Business: C & G

Other There were no other reports given at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS Mrs. Rennie made a motion, seconded by Mr. Horton, to move items A-C to a second reading. Motion passed 7-0.

First Reading of Ordinance Number 86, 2022, "Eighth 2022 Public Health Fund Budget Supplemental Reappropriation of \$404,490 for unexpended 2021 Grant Funds in the Immunization Bureau" (Finance Committee) Ms. Slomski gave a Second Reading of Ordinance Number 86, 2022, "Eighth 2022 Public Health Fund Budget Supplemental Reappropriation of \$404,490 for unexpended 2021 Grant Funds in the Immunization Bureau". A motion was made by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Horton, and carried 7-0.

First Reading of Ordinance Number 87, 2022 "Waiver of Purchasing Code and Approval of Addendum to Agreement between Erie County Public Library and Innovative Interfaces Incorporated dated 6-15-2016"(Finance Committee) Ms. Slomski gave a Second Reading of Ordinance Number 87, 2022 "Waiver of Purchasing Code and Approval of Addendum to Agreement between Erie County Public Library and Innovative Interfaces Incorporated dated 6-15-2016". A motion was made by Mr. Winarski, seconded by Mr. Scutella, and carried 7-0.

First Reading of Ordinance Number 88, 2022, "Thirty-Third 2022 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$18,613 and Waiver of Human Resources Code For Director of Assessment Salary and Hours Increase" (Personnel Committee) Ms. Slomski gave a Second Reading of Ordinance Number 88, 2022, "Thirty-Third 2022 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$18,613 and Waiver of Human Resources Code For Director of Assessment Salary and Hours Increase". A motion was made by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Bayle, and carried 7-0.

Mr. Horton stated he would support this ordinance, but wanted to give an explanation of it. He expressed the importance of the position, and the need to pay for the experience. The Assessment office needs the best employee that the County can hire.

Resolution Number 17, Ms. Slomski read Resolution Number 17, 2022 "Ratify Amendment to

2022 "Ratify Amendment to Agreement–4000024226 between the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania–Department of Health and the Erie County Department of Health, to Ratify and Approve the Agreements between the Erie County Department of Health and Latino Connection, LLC, and the Agreement between the Erie County Department of Health and Rescue(Rescue Agency Public Benefit LLC)" (Finance Committee)

Agreement–4000024226 between the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania–Department of Health and the Erie County Department of Health, to Ratify and Approve the Agreements between the Erie County Department of Health and Latino Connection, LLC, and the Agreement between the Erie County Department of Health and Rescue(Rescue Agency Public Benefit LLC)" . A motion was made by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Horton, and carried 7-0.

Resolution Number 18 , 2022 "Approval of Lease Renewal For 901 West 12th St. #202" (Finance Committee)

Ms. Slomski read Resolution Number 18 , 2022 "Approval of Lease Renewal For 901 West 12th St. #202" . A motion was made by Mr. Winarski, seconded by Mr. Scutella, and carried 7-0.

Resolution number 19, 2022 "Approval of HRC Ad Hoc Committee Recommendation"(Finance Committee)

Ms. Slomski read Resolution number 19, 2022 "Approval of HRC Ad Hoc Committee Recommendation". A motion was made by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Horton, and carried 7-0.

Mrs. Schauerman stated, as liaison of the HRC since her tenure began, she has witnessed the important work that they do. She affirmed that the work of the HRC is important and needed by the citizens of Erie County. She stated there may not be many cases that go to court, but that is because the HRC alleviates the situation before it gets to that point. The recommendation is to continue the HRC, revamp the written material, hire a proactive director, and resurrect the entire HRC.

Chairman Shank thanked the ad hoc committee, and stated the Council would work together to make a better HRC.

Possible appointment of David Knapp to the Erie County Redevelopment Authority. Term to expire December 31, 2026. (County Executive) (Personnel Committee)

Mr. Horton questioned if there had been any information sent by the Administration, and stated if not it should be tabled to find an answer about serving on two redevelopment boards.

Mr. Talarico did not reply to the question about the information, and stated a motion was made, and a second was needed.

Mr. Horton then made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Rennie, to table the appointment. Mrs. Schauerman questioned Mr. Talarico whether he had received a response from the Administration, as previously asked.

The motion was withdrawn by Mr. Horton and Mrs. Rennie to have discussion on the item.

Mr. Talarico stated he did not receive anything from the Administration, but had researched the Urban Redevelopment Law and stated there was no direct conflict of interest listed for serving on two separate Redevelopment boards. He stated a future conflict may arise between the two redevelopment boards, and in that instance the person should recuse themselves.

Mr. Horton said recusal is more than not voting, but not discussing as well; a decision is sometimes made long before the vote.

Mr. Talarico stated that the Council has the right to interview appointments.

Mr. Talarico also stated he hasn't seen a lot of appointments coming from the Council members.

Mr. Horton stated he didn't know Mr. Knapp, and isn't trying to hinder his appointment. It is an unusual situation (Mr. Knapp sits on the Corry Redevelopment Board), and he doesn't want to set a precedent. He would like to hear from a higher power.

Mr. Talarico said he can't say there is a conflict of interest by law. The ECRDA could change their by-laws.

A motion was made by Mr. Horton to table the appointment, seconded by Mrs. Rennie, and failed 3-4.

A roll call vote of 5-2 to appoint Mr. Knapp.

Mrs. Rennie stated that she had nothing against Mr. Knapp, but does have concern about the overlap. She, too, would feel better with advice from the State.

ADJOURNMENT

The motion to adjourn made by Mr. Horton, and the meeting ended at 6:32pm.