

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, August 16, 2022

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Shank.

OPTIONAL PRAYER OR INVOCATION

Mr. Scutella welcomed everyone to the Council meeting, and stated he was happy to see all the people in attendance. Mr. Scutella read a quote from Arnold Schwarzenegger.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Chairman Shank, Vice-Chairwoman Rennie, Charlie Bayle, Ellen Schauerman, Terry Scutella, and Jim Winarski
Others Present: Julie Slomski, Megan Moore, James Sparber, Ericka Knight, and Amy Swartzfager, CPA

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

3 Minutes

Lou Alliota, Millcreek: Mr. Alliota stated for the past two years, he has been looking at public entities, one being the Erie Regional Airport Authority. He stated everyone on the mailing list had received inquiries he had brought up and those had not been answered. He stated he sent an email, the latest on August 15th, about issues and liabilities. He referred to the County Executive's memo about Boards, Authorities, Commissions, and other organizations of Erie County government. He said as public officials they took an oath of office, and there has been negligence in their duty. He referenced a petition to remove school directors who breached their oath, and legal ethics for solicitors and board of trustees in a politically charged environment.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

July 19, 2022- Regular

A motion to accept minutes was made by Mr. Scutella, seconded by Vice-Chair

Meeting Rennie, and carried 7-0.

REPORTS OF COUNTY OFFICIALS

County Executive and/or his Designee The County Executive, nor his designee, had a report.

Finance Committee - Mrs. Schauerman Finance Chair Schauerman stated the Finance Committee met on Thursday, August 11th and submitted to the agenda: New Business: Items A-H and M-U.

Personnel Committee - Mr. Scutella Personnel Chair Scutella stated the Personnel Committee met on Thursday, August 11th and submitted to the agenda: Old Business: A, and New Business: I-L and V-AA.

Other Vice-Chair Rennie gave a report as Chair of the Election Board. She noted Ordinance 103, 2022 regarding Act 88 amending the Election Code, and offering an Election Integrity Grant. She stated Erie County would receive \$911,743, but prohibits the County from accepting any other funding from non-governmental entities. She noted that Act 77 had deep consequences, but didn't offer assistance with the cost incurred, which was approximately 1 million dollars. The office was able to utilize a tech grant at the time, which was within the law. The office and all those involved in the elections worked very hard, and she was very proud of them. She stated this new Act (88) and its funding would provide some very welcome assistance. It will allow for additional technology. She stated this mandate from the State, unlike past ones, will be funded, and the assistance would be welcomed to improve the effectiveness of the process. Vice-Chair Rennie also declared that it was Help America Vote Day, proclaimed by Acting Secretary of the Commonwealth, Leigh Chapman. It encourages eligible Pennsylvanians to become poll workers, and the Elections Office was reaching out to our communities to sign-up and work the polls.

OLD BUSINESS

Second Reading of Ordinance Number 95, 2022, "Thirty-Sixth 2022 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$37,101 For Creation of GIS Manager Position in Director of Administration Bureau" (Personnel Committee) (First Reading 7-19-22) Ms. Slomski gave a Second Reading of Ordinance Number 95, 2022, "Thirty-Sixth 2022 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$37,101 For Creation of GIS Manager Position in Director of Administration Bureau". A motion was made by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mrs. Rennie, and carried 7-0.

NEW BUSINESS

First Reading of Ordinance Number 97, 2022, "Second 2022 Capital Projects Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$235,514 to Move the Location of the Match for Keystone Grant For Blasco Library Renovations to the Capital Projects Budget" (Finance Committee)	Ms. Slomski gave a First Reading of Ordinance Number 97, 2022, "Second 2022 Capital Projects Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$235,514 to Move the Location of the Match for Keystone Grant For Blasco Library Renovations to the Capital Projects Budget" .
First Reading Ordinance Number 98, 2022, "Ninth 2022 Library Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$235,514 to Move the Location of the Match for Keystone Grant For Blasco Library Renovations to the Capital Projects Budget" (Finance Committee)	Ms. Slomski gave a First Reading Ordinance Number 98, 2022, "Ninth 2022 Library Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$235,514 to Move the Location of the Match for Keystone Grant For Blasco Library Renovations to the Capital Projects Budget" .
First Reading Ordinance Number 99, 2022, "Thirty-Eighth 2022 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$117,757 to Move the Location of the Match for Keystone Grant for Blasco Library Renovations to the Capital Projects Budget" (Finance Committee)	Ms. Slomski gave a First Reading Ordinance Number 99, 2022, "Thirty-Eighth 2022 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$117,757 to Move the Location of the Match for Keystone Grant for Blasco Library Renovations to the Capital Projects Budget" . Vice-Chair Rennie made a motion to amend the agenda to move items D-H, J, K, and L to a second reading. It was seconded by Mrs. Schauerman, and carried 7-0.
First Reading Ordinance Number 100, 2022, "Thirty-Ninth 2022 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$100,000 and Creation of Bureau and Budget Lines for FY 2021-2024 Operation Stone Garden Grant" (Finance Committee)	Ms. Slomski gave a Second Reading Ordinance Number 100, 2022, "Thirty-Ninth 2022 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$100,000 and Creation of Bureau and Budget Lines for FY 2021-2024 Operation Stone Garden Grant" . A motion was made by Mr. Horton, seconded by Mr. Bayle, and carried 7-0.

First Reading Ordinance Number 101, 2022, "Fortieth 2022 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$63,018 and Creation of Budget Lines for AOPC Security Grant In Courts - MDJ Bureau" (Finance Committee)	Ms. Slomski gave a Second Reading Ordinance Number 101, 2022, "Fortieth 2022 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$63,018 and Creation of Budget Lines for AOPC Security Grant In Courts - MDJ Bureau" . A motion was made by Mr. Horton, seconded by Mrs. Rennie, and carried 7-0.
First Reading Ordinance Number 102, 2022 "Adoption of the Local Tax Collection Law, as Amended, Act of July 11, 2022, P.L. 701, No. 57" (Finance Committee)	Ms. Slomski gave a Second Reading Ordinance Number 102, 2022 "Adoption of the Local Tax Collection Law, as Amended, Act of July 11, 2022, P.L. 701, No. 57" . A motion was made by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Winarski, and carried 7-0.
First Reading of Ordinance 103, 2022 "Ratifying Erie County Board of Elections Resolution 7, 2022"	Ms. Slomski gave a Second Reading of Ordinance 103, 2022 "Ratifying Erie County Board of Elections Resolution 7, 2022". A motion was made by Mrs. Rennie, seconded by Mrs. Schauerman, and carried 7-0.
First Reading of Ordinance Number 104, 2022 "Approving the Sales Proposal for Services to be Rendered by Opex Corporation"	Ms. Slomski gave a Second Reading of Ordinance Number 104, 2022 "Approving the Sales Proposal for Services to be Rendered by Opex Corporation". A motion was made by Mr. Winarski, seconded by Mrs. Rennie, and carried 7-0.
First Reading Ordinance Number 105, 2022 "2022 Public Health Fund Budget Revised Expenditures of \$14,932 for Elimination of Epidemiological Research Assistant Position and Creation of Public Health Preparedness Coordinator Position" (Personnel Committee)	Ms. Slomski gave a First Reading Ordinance Number 105, 2022 "2022 Public Health Fund Budget Revised Expenditures of \$14,932 for Elimination of Epidemiological Research Assistant Position and Creation of Public Health Preparedness Coordinator Position" .
First Reading Ordinance Number 106, 2022, "2022 General Fund Budget Revised Expenditures of	Ms. Slomski gave a Second Reading Ordinance Number 106, 2022, "2022 General Fund Budget Revised Expenditures of \$2,756 for Job Reclassification in the General Accounting Office" . A motion was made by Mrs. Rennie, seconded by Mrs. Schauerman, and carried 7-0.

**\$2,756 for Job
Reclassification in the
General Accounting
Office" (Personnel
Committee)**

First Reading Ordinance Number 107, 2022, "Forty-First 2022 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$3,277 for Elimination of Risk Coordinator Position and Creation of Sr. HR Generalist/Risk Management Position in Human Resources" (Personnel Committee)

Ms. Slomski gave a Second Reading Ordinance Number 107, 2022, "Forty-First 2022 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$3,277 for Elimination of Risk Coordinator Position and Creation of Sr. HR Generalist/Risk Management Position in Human Resources" . A motion was made by Mrs. Rennie, seconded by Mr. Scutella, and carried 7-0.

First Reading Ordinance Number 108, 2022 "2022 Office of Children and Youth Fund Budget Revised Expenditures of \$2,824 for Edmund L Thomas Detention Center Administrative Assistant I and II Pay Increases" (Personnel Committee)

Ms. Slomski gave a Second Reading Ordinance Number 108, 2022 "2022 Office of Children and Youth Fund Budget Revised Expenditures of \$2,824 for Edmund L Thomas Detention Center Administrative Assistant I and II Pay Increases" . A motion was made by Mrs. Rennie, seconded by Mr. Bayle, and carried 7-0.

Resolution Number 23, 2022 "Approval of the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Grant Application and the Cooperation Agreement between the General Authority, Impact Corry, and the County of Erie for the Corry Tech-Accelerator" (Finance Committee)

Resolution Number 23, 2022 "Approval of the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Grant Application and the Cooperation Agreement between the General Authority, Impact Corry, and the County of Erie for the Corry Tech-Accelerator" was read by Ms. Slomski. A motion was made by Mr. Horton, seconded by Mr. Bayle, and carried 7-0.

Resolution Number 24, 2022 "Approval of the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Grant Application and the Cooperation Agreement between the General Authority, Impact Corry, and the County of Erie for the Green Junction Park Project" (Finance Committee)

Resolution Number 24, 2022 "Approval of the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Grant Application and the Cooperation Agreement between the General Authority, Impact Corry, and the County of Erie for the Green Junction Park Project" was read by Ms. Slomski. A motion was made by Mr. Scutella, seconded by Mr. Horton, and carried 7-0.

General Authority, Impact Corry, and the County of Erie for the Green Junction Park Project" (Finance Committee)

Resolution Number 25, 2022 "Abatement and Exoneration of Taxes and Fees for Union City Pride Inc." (Finance Committee)

Resolution Number 25, 2022 "Abatement and Exoneration of Taxes and Fees for Union City Pride Inc." was read by Ms. Slomski. A motion was made by Mr. Bayle, seconded by Mrs. Schauerman, and carried 6-1. Mr. Horton stated he would not vote for this. He did not have an issue going forward with the group being tax exempt, but they should have to pay their past taxes like everyone else. Mr. Bayle stated it should be on the record that the Council is the only one who can exonerate the taxes, and these taxes occurred prior to ownership by Union City Pride.

Resolution Number 26, 2022 "County of Erie Fair Housing Resolution" (Finance Committee)

Resolution Number 26, 2022 "County of Erie Fair Housing Resolution" was read by Ms. Slomski. A motion was made by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Horton, and carried 7-0.

Resolution Number 27, 2022 "Approving Agreements between Thirteen County School Districts, the Tri-County Intermediate Unit and the Erie County Department of Health" (Finance Committee)

Resolution Number 27, 2022 "Approving Agreements between Thirteen County School Districts, the Tri-County Intermediate Unit and the Erie County Department of Health" was read by Ms. Slomski. A motion was made by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Scutella, and carried 7-0.

Resolution Number 28, 2022 "Sole Vendor Contract between Gannon University and Erie County for the Conduct of Viral Sequencing to Improve Regional Response Through Identification of COVID Variants" (Finance Committee)

Resolution Number 28, 2022 "Sole Vendor Contract between Gannon University and Erie County for the Conduct of Viral Sequencing to Improve Regional Response Through Identification of COVID Variants" was read by Ms. Slomski. A motion was made by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mrs. Rennie, and carried 7-0.

Resolution Number 29, 2022 "Approving Sole Vendor Contract between Erie County and Infinity Resources Inc." (Finance Committee)

Resolution Number 29, 2022 "Approving Sole Vendor Contract between Erie County and Infinity Resources Inc." was read by Ms. Slomski. A motion was made by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Winarski, and carried 7-0. Mr. Horton questioned how much had already been spent. (Answered as 39K) Mrs. Rennie stated she would support this resolution, as the lesser of two evils. She stated the Administration had a lot to handle coming in; being new to the

process, having contract negotiations, and a vacant HR Director position for so long. It's understandable therefore to be at this point, although it should be bid out. Infinity had been used before at the County, and she thought they would do a fine job.

**Resolution Number 30,
2022 "Supporting the
Pennsylvania Commission
for the United States
Semiquincentennial"
(Finance Committee)**

Resolution Number 30, 2022 "Supporting the Pennsylvania Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial" was read by Ms. Slomski. A motion was made by Mr. Horton, seconded by Mr. Winarski, and carried 7-0.

**Resolution Number 31,
2022 "Approving the 25
year extension to the Erie
Metropolitan Transit
Authority(EMTA)
Charter" (Finance
Committee)**

Resolution Number 31, 2022 "Approving the 25 year extension to the Erie Metropolitan Transit Authority(EMTA) Charter" was read by Ms. Slomski. A motion was made by Mr. Horton, seconded by Mrs. Rennie, and carried 7-0. Chairman Shank stated this was a good thing for Erie County, and that folks that can't afford a car have a way to get around town. The new facility is very impressive, and they have done a lot of work. This is an investment with tax payer dollars, and they have done an amazing job in the last ten years. This is a win-win-win , the facility is amazing, and there are big plans on the horizon.

**Resolution Number 32,
2022 "Approval of Job
Description and Ordinance
for Deputy Solicitor"
(Personnel Committee)**

Resolution Number 32, 2022 "Approval of Job Description and Ordinance for Deputy Solicitor" was read by Ms. Slomski. A motion was made by Mr. Bayle, seconded by Mr. Scutella, and carried 7-0.

**Possible appointment of
Robert W. Merrill to the
Erie County Community
College Board of Trustees.
Term to expire on August
31, 2028. (Councilwoman
Schauerman) (Personnel
Committee)**

Possible appointment of Robert W. Merrill to the Erie County Community College Board of Trustees. A motion was made by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Scutella, and carried 7-0.

**Possible Waiver of
Administrative Code
Article II Section 5 A (1)(e)
and Appointment of David
J. Basnak to the Children
and Youth Advisory Board.
This appointment will run
concurrent with
Councilman Winarski's
term and will expire on
December 31, 2025.
(Councilman Winarski)**

Possible *Waiver of Administrative Code Article II Section 5 A (1)(e)* and Appointment of David J. Basnak to the Children and Youth Advisory Board. A motion to waive the Administrative Code Article II Section 5A (1)(e) was made by Mrs. Rennie, seconded by Mr. Winarski, and carried 6-1. Mr. Winarski stated it was sometimes difficult to fill positions for Boards and Authorities, and that people weren't knocking down doors for the job. Mr. Basnak reached out as an interested party, and although not part of District 4, is highly involved in the community and OCY. Mr. Horton stated, Mr. Basnak was a wonderful person, and will do a wonderful job. He voted against waiving the Administrative Code, and stated it is highly unlikely that out of 40k constituents, a member of the District could not be found.

- (Personnel Committee)** Mr. Winarski made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Rennie, and carried 7-0.
- Possible appointment of Brandy Cortes to the Erie County Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Commission. Term to Expire December 31, 2024. (Chairman Shank) (Personnel Committee)** Possible appointment of Brandy Cortes to the Erie County Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Commission. A motion was made by Mrs. Rennie, seconded by Mr. Horton, and carried 7-0. Chairman Shank stated Ms. Cortes was a go-getter, and ready to work. Any person who volunteers for one of these jobs, he salutes them.
- Possible appointment of Robert S. Oberlander to the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority. This term will expire December 31, 2026. (Councilman Bayle) (Personnel Committee)** Possible appointment of Robert S. Oberlander to the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority. A motion was made by Mr. Bayle, seconded by Mrs. Schauerma, and carried 7-0.
- Possible reappointment of John Gennaro to the Erie County Hospital Authority. Term to expire December 31, 2027. (County Executive) (Personnel Committee)** Possible reappointment of John Gennaro to the Erie County Hospital Authority. A motion was made by Mrs. Schauerma, seconded by Mr. Scutella, and carried 7-0.
- A motion was made by Mrs. Rennie to enter into an executive session at 6:44pm. The County Council returned from the executive session on a motion from Mrs. Rennie, and a second from Mr. Horton, at 6:58pm.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Horton, meeting adjourned at 6:59pm.

- The next Finance/Personnel Committee Meetings are Wednesday, August 31, 2022 at 4pm in room 114A, Erie County Courthouse or via Zoom.
- The next Regular Meeting of County Council is Tuesday September 6, 2022 at 6pm at the McKean Township Municipal Building.
- 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.**