

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, September 6, 2022

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Shank.

OPTIONAL PRAYER OR INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Councilwoman Ellen Schauerma. She stated it was an honor and pleasure to bring the County Council to the McKean Township Building and thanked everyone for coming to the meeting in her district.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Chairman Shank, Vice Chairwoman Rennie, Charlie Bayle, Andre Horton, Ellen Schauerma, Terry M. Scutella, and Jim Winarski
Others Present: Julie Slomski, Megan Moore, Solicitor Tom Talarico, Amy Swartzfager C.P.A., and Paul Lichtenwalter

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Lou Aliota - 5 Minutes

Lou Aliota was not present at his scheduled time.

Chairman Shank allowed Lou Aliota to speak for 5 minutes after the other members of the public spoke.

Lou Aliota, Millcreek: Mr. Aliota stated he hasn't had any response to his numerous communications from the County Executive or the County Solicitor concerning the appeal of open records. He stated the Council had courtesy copies of his correspondence with the Airport Authority. He expected Mr. Scutella to show up for the meetings. He professed he and others got the attention of the FAA, and an investigation started. He questioned where the responsibility was with Mr. Scutella, Chairman Shank, and the rest of the Council in investigating alleged violations. He will write more emails to the solicitors of the County and the Council.

Mr. Scutella stated he could produce a doctor's excuse for not being at the prior meeting.

Chairman Shank called for order in the meeting.

Others - 3 Minutes

Greg Hayes(Erie Airport Authority, Northwest Flight School), Edinboro: Mr. Hayes stated he wanted to update Mr. Scutella and Council that he recently learned the Erie Airport was under investigation, Title 13 FAA Investigation. He

requested a copy of the investigation, what they were looking for, and what he would be responsible for as a board member; he was turned down. He stated that the information should be disseminated to all the Airport Authority Board members.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

August 16, 2022 - Regular Meeting Mrs. Schauerma made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Mr. Horton, and were approved 7-0.

REPORTS OF COUNTY OFFICIALS

County Executive and/or his Designee There was no report from the County Executive.

Finance Committee - Mrs. Schauerma Finance Chair Schauerma reported that the Finance Committee met on Wednesday, August 31st and submitted to the agenda:
Old Business: A-C and New Business: A-F, R-T and V.

Personnel Committee - Mr. Scutella Personnel Chair Scutella reported the Personnel Committee met on Wednesday, August 31st and submit to the agenda:
Old Business: D and New Business: G-Q and U.

Other Mr. Horton stated that as a senior member of the Council, he felt obligated to dispel some comments made tonight by Mr. Aliota, because the Council does not usually comment back and forth. He stated that the Airport Authority is an autonomous authority, regulated by the FAA, not the County Council.

OLD BUSINESS

Second 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 Read 8/16/22) (Finance Committee) Ms. Slomski gave a Second 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. A motion was made by Mr. Horton, seconded by Mrs. Rennie, and carried 7-0.

Second Reading of 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 Read 8/16/22) (Finance Committee)

Ms. Slomski gave a Second Reading of 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. A motion was made by Mr. Winarski, seconded by Mrs. Schauerman, and carried 7-0.

Second Reading of 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" (First Read 8/16/22)(Finance Committee)

Ms. Slomski gave a Second Reading of 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. A motion was made by Mrs. Rennie, seconded by Mr. Horton, and carried 7-0.

Second Reading of Ordinance Number 105, 2022 "2022 Public Health Fund Budget Revised Expenditure of \$14,932 for Elimination of Epidemiological Research Assistant Position and Creation of Public Health Preparedness Coordinator Position" (First Read 8/16/22)(Personnel Committee)

Second Reading of Ordinance Number 105, 2022 "2022 Public Health Fund Budget Revised Expenditure of \$14,932 for Elimination of Epidemiological Research Assistant Position and Creation of Public Health Preparedness Coordinator Position". A motion was made by Mr. Bayle, seconded by Mrs. Schauerman, and carried 7-0.

NEW BUSINESS

First Reading of Ordinance Number 109, 2022, "Forty-Second 2022 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$911,743

Ms. Slomski gave a First Reading of Ordinance Number 109, 2022, "Forty-Second 2022 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$911,743 For PA Election Integrity Grant and Creation of New Bureau and Line Items within the County Council Department" .

**For PA Election Integrity
Grant and Creation of New
Bureau and Line Items
within the County Council
Department" (Finance
Committee)**

First Reading of Ordinance Number 110, 2022, "Forty-Third 2022 General Fund Budget Supplemental A motion was made by Mrs. Rennie, seconded by Mrs. Schauerman, and carried 7-0 to amend the agenda and move items B, N-P to a second reading, and item Q to the end of agenda.

Appropriation and Creation of New Line Items For Vehicle Lease Donation Valued at \$13,361 For the District Attorney's Office"(Finance Committee) Ms. Slomski gave a Second Reading of Ordinance Number 110, 2022, "Forty-Third 2022 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation and Creation of New Line Items For Vehicle Lease Donation Valued at \$13,361 For the District Attorney's Office". A motion was made by Mr. Horton, seconded by Mr. Bayle, and carried 7-0.

First Reading of Ordinance Number 111, 2022 "2022 Children and Youth Services Fund Budget Revised Expenditure of \$92,000 and Creation of New Expense Lines for Court Ordered Placements"(Finance Committee) Ms. Slomski gave a First Reading of Ordinance Number 111, 2022 "2022 Children and Youth Services Fund Budget Revised Expenditure of \$92,000 and Creation of New Expense Lines for Court Ordered Placements".

First Reading of Ordinance Number 112, 2022, "Second 2022 Public Safety Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$5,000 for Creation of Lines for Direct Purchase of Trailer and Reimbursement from NW PA Emergency Response Group"(Finance Committee) Ms. Slomski gave a First Reading of Ordinance Number 112, 2022, "Second 2022 Public Safety Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$5,000 for Creation of Lines for Direct Purchase of Trailer and Reimbursement from NW PA Emergency Response Group".

First Reading of Ordinance Number 113, 2022 "First 2022 Drug and Alcohol Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$673,818 and Creation of New Lines Ms. Slomski gave a First Reading of Ordinance Number 113, 2022 "First 2022 Drug and Alcohol Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$673,818 and Creation of New Lines for PA Opioid Settlement Revenue for Calendar Year 2022" .

**for PA Opioid Settlement
Revenue for Calendar Year
2022" (Finance Committee)**

First Reading of Ordinance Number 114, 2022 "Forty-Fourth 2022 General Fund Supplemental Appropriation of \$217,805 and Creation of New Lines for PA Opioid Settlement Revenue for Calendar Year 2022"(Finance Committee) Ms. Slomski gave a First Reading of Ordinance Number 114, 2022 "Forty-Fourth 2022 General Fund Supplemental Appropriation of \$217,805 and Creation of New Lines for PA Opioid Settlement Revenue for Calendar Year 2022".

First Reading of Ordinance Number 115, 2022, "Forty-Fifth 2022 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$2,279 for Manager of Facilities & Operations Salary Increase"(Personnel Committee) Ms. Slomski gave a First Reading of Ordinance Number 115, 2022, "Forty-Fifth 2022 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$2,279 for Manager of Facilities & Operations Salary Increase".

First Reading of Ordinance Number 116, 2022, "Forty-Sixth 2022 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$3,236 for Job Reclassification in the Procurement Office"(Personnel Committee) Ms. Slomski gave a First Reading of Ordinance Number 116, 2022, "Forty-Sixth 2022 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$3,236 for Job Reclassification in the Procurement Office".

First Reading of Ordinance Number 117, 2022, "Forty-Seventh 2022 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$2,137 for Supervisor of Revenue/Tax Claim Salary Increase"(Personnel Committee) Ms. Slomski gave a First Reading of Ordinance Number 117, 2022, "Forty-Seventh 2022 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$2,137 for Supervisor of Revenue/Tax Claim Salary Increase".

First Reading of Ordinance Number 118, 2022 "2022 General Fund Budget Revised Expenditure of Increase in General Accounting" Ms. Slomski gave a First Reading of Ordinance Number 118, 2022 "2022 General Fund Budget Revised Expenditure of \$2,813 for Manager Salary Increase in General Accounting".

**\$2,813 for Manager Salary
Increase in General
Accounting" (Personnel
Committee)**

First Reading of Ordinance number 119, 2022 "2022 General Fund Budget Revised Expenditure of \$1,847 for Assistant Manager Salary Increase in General Accounting" (Personnel Committee) Ms. Slomski gave a First Reading of Ordinance number 119, 2022 "2022 General Fund Budget Revised Expenditure of \$1,847 for Assistant Manager Salary Increase in General Accounting" .

First Reading of Ordinance Number 120, 2022, "First 2022 Planning Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$3,576 for Job Reclassification in Planning Administration Department"(Personnel Committee) Ms. Slomski gave a First Reading of Ordinance number 119, 2022 "2022 General Fund Budget Revised Expenditure of \$1,847 for Assistant Manager Salary Increase in General Accounting" .

First Reading Ordinance Number 121, 2022, "Forty-Eighth 2022 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$3,576 for Job Reclassification In Planning Administration Department"(Personnel Committee) Ms. Slomski gave a First Reading Ordinance Number 121, 2022, "Forty-Eighth 2022 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$3,576 for Job Reclassification In Planning Administration Department".

First Reading of Ordinance Number 122, 2022 "Reclassification of EMS Plan Administrator Position from NB13 to NB15 Grade Level "(Personnel Committee) Ms. Slomski gave a Reading of Ordinance Number 122, 2022 "Reclassification of EMS Plan Administrator Position from NB13 to NB15 Grade Level ". A motion was made by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Winarski, and carried 7-0.
Mrs. Rennie stated the reason for this change in classification is multiple postings, and no qualified applications.

First Reading of Ordinance Number 123, 2022 "2022 Public Health Fund Budget Revised Expenditure of \$39,800 for Environmental Position Classification Ms. Slomski gave a Second Reading of Ordinance Number 123, 2022 "2022 Public Health Fund Budget Revised Expenditure of \$39,800 for Environmental Position Classification Change from Non-bargaining to Bargaining". A motion was made by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Winarski, and carried 7--0.

Change from Non-bargaining to Bargaining"(Personnel Committee)

First Reading Ordinance Number 124, 2022 "2022 Planning Fund Budget Revised Expenditure of \$15,839.07 for Reclass of Wages to CDBG Millcreek Covid Program and Creation of New Line Items"(Personnel Committee)

Ms. Slomski gave a Second Reading of Ordinance Number 124, 2022 "2022 Planning Fund Budget Revised Expenditure of \$15,839.07 for Reclass of Wages to CDBG Millcreek Covid Program and Creation of New Line Items". A motion was made by Mr. Winarski, seconded by Mrs. Rennie, and carried 7-0.

First Reading of Ordinance Number 125, 2022 "2022 Appointed Official's Salary Ordinance, Director Of Finance"(Personnel Committee)

Mr. Scutella made a motion to amend, and move this ordinance to a second reading and change the salary to \$93,093, seconded by Mrs. Schauerman, and carried 5-2.

Mrs. Rennie stated many concerns were discussed, including the timing of this appointment and the upcoming budget. She stated, in agreement with Mr. Shank, the Council has been squeezed most of the year. The process needs to be cleaned up, and be more transparent to the public. She stated she would be a no vote for these reasons.

Mr. Horton stated he would not be supporting this ordinance. His lack of support is not due to the person or even the salary, but the process as Mrs. Rennie had stated. He stated this doesn't jive with the process, and is awkward for the council and rushed. He stated it is September, and things are still being done the same way. It's beyond a trend, it's the way of business now, and it won't stop until they say NO.

Ms. Slomski gave a Second Reading of Ordinance Number 125, 2022 "2022 Appointed Official's Salary Ordinance, Director Of Finance". A motion was made by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Winarski, and carried 5-2.

Resolution Number 33, 2022 "Abatement and Exoneration of Outstanding County Taxes, Interest, Penalties, and Fees on Certain Properties Owned by Erie Art Museum at East Fifth and State Streets, City of Erie"(Finance Committee)

Ms. Slomski read Resolution Number 33, 2022 "Abatement and Exoneration of Outstanding County Taxes, Interest, Penalties, and Fees on Certain Properties Owned by Erie Art Museum at East Fifth and State Streets, City of Erie". A motion was made by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mrs. Rennie, and carried 7-0.

Resolution Number 34, 2022, "Supporting Operation Green Light for Veterans"(Finance Committee)

Ms. Slomski read Resolution Number 34, 2022, "Supporting Operation Green Light for Veterans". A motion was made by Mr. Bayle, seconded by Mr. Scutella, and carried 7-0.

Mrs. Schauerman read a statement by NACO about Operation Green Light and stated she believed this would pass, and hoped homes throughout the county would partake as well.

Resolution Number 35, 2022 "Approval of Lease Agreement between the County of Erie and Lessor Steve Lewis Contracting Inc for the Offices Occupied by Magisterial District Judge Paul Bizzarro"(Finance Committee)

Ms. Slomski read Resolution Number 35, 2022 "Approval of Lease Agreement between the County of Erie and Lessor Steve Lewis Contracting Inc for the Offices Occupied by Magisterial District Judge Paul Bizzarro". A motion was made by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Winarski, and carried 7-0.

Possible appointment of Kurt E. Hersch to the Erie County Community College Board of Trustees. Term to expire on August 31, 2028. (Councilman Scutella)(Personnel Committee)

Possible appointment of Kurt E. Hersch to the Erie County Community College Board of Trustees. A motion was made by Mr. Horton, seconded by Mr. Scutella, and approved 7-0.

Possible Sale of a Parcel from the Repository for Unsold Property at Index Number: 14-011-026.0-109.00 CHAUTAUQUA BLVD 70 X 85.78 IRREG

Possible Sale of a Parcel from the Repository for Unsold Property at Index Number: 14-011-026.0-109.00 CHAUTAUQUA BLVD 70 X 85.78 IRREG A motion was made by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Horton, and approved 7-0.

A motion to move to an executive session was made by Mrs. Rennie at 6:30pm, seconded by Mr. Scutella. The Chairman brought the meeting back to order at 6:51pm. Ordinance 125, 2022 was then read, see above.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion for adjournment was made by Mr. Winarski, seconded by Mrs. Schauerman, and called by the Chair at 6:56pm.

-The next Finance/Personnel Committee Meetings are Thursday, September 15, 2022 at 4pm in room 114A, Erie County Courthouse or via Zoom.

-The next Regular Meeting of County Council is Tuesday, September 20, 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.