

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, January 24, 2023

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Council Chair, Brian Shank.

OPTIONAL PRAYER OR INVOCATION

The moment of reflection was provided by Mrs. Schauerma.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Chair Brian Shank, Vice-Chair Mary Rennie, Charlie Bayle, Andre Horton, Ellen Schauerma, Terry M. Scutella, and Jim Winarski

Others Present: Julie Slomski, Megan Moore, Solicitor Tom Talarico, and Deputy Solicitor Jay Stranahan

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Gerald Servidio

Gerald Servidio, Millcreek: Mr. Servidio thanked the Council for allowing him to speak. He mentioned the County Executive's remarks on the living wage when on a show, and recited the amounts for Erie County; \$15.79/hr. for a single person, \$29.23/hr. for a family of 2 adults and one child, according to livingwage.mit.edu. He didn't feel these amounts were sustainable with the jobs available. He noted that it was sad that the Council didn't have a consensus between them and the bipartisanship exhibited. He believed the budget process to be an embarrassment. He argued that the County Executive, and the Republican Party, should be well aware of scare tactics, when he commented on the Democratic Party's censure of Councilman Winarski as a scare tactic.

Kathy Schaaf

Kathy Schaaf, Erie: Mrs. Schaaf commented on the funding for Savocchio Park being cut. She noted that the area had long been disinvested. She voiced the multiple goods that would come from the project, along with growth and hope, and urged the Council to invest in that area. She spoke about the silo mentality. She referred to the problem of homelessness that plagues the city and county of Erie, and noted that programs are in place, and they should all work together, not in a silo, to address the issue.

Others

Freda Tepfer, Erie: Ms. Tepfer commented on the project at Savocchio Park, and how she discussed wetland restoration and growth of native plants with the

involved parties. She stated it would be a missed opportunity to assist with its development. She was taken aback at the most recent DEI Commission meeting, hearing that several of the board members were supposedly removed from the commission. She stated she saw the appointments for that night to replace them, and doesn't think the Council should be doing that, but keep the chosen and vetted individuals. She noted three appointments for the Library Board, and hoped that they had been carefully evaluated, and the Board wasn't being stacked with people who oppose freedom of choice to read what you want to read. She stated that as the person who instigated the censure against Councilman Winarski, it should be understood that the Democratic Committee wanted to send a message, and to highlight what had been done, because people didn't always pay attention.

Art Leopold, Millcreek: Mr. Leopold mentioned Darnell Stallworth, and appreciated the Council for honoring his memory that night. He thanked the Council for attending the DEI Commission meeting, as well as for those who attended the MLK parade. He noted fiscal responsibility had been emphasized in the last several months by the Council, but something greater was civic responsibility. He stated that the Council wrote their stories by their votes and budgets, and there is still a need in the County. He stated that there had been a misstep with funding for the generationally disenfranchised communities, but that the Council could right that wrong.

Jack Campbell, Millcreek: Mr. Campbell noted that he was a long-term employee of Pleasant Ridge Manor. He also explained how he had personal experiences there, as his parents chose Pleasant Ridge Manor for their own care before passing. He stated that there were others in the community who did not have a choice due to finances or care needs, or both. He described how Pleasant Ridge had a long history of helping members of the community when in need, and assured that care would continue in the future. He mentioned that every dollar invested by the Council for Pleasant Ridge Manor comes back thirty fold in return to the community. He stated that it was owed to the citizens of Erie County to continue supporting this county-wide asset, Pleasant Ridge Manor.

Brad Pagenoff, Erie: Mr. Pagenoff stated he found the article in the newspaper lacking in one area, Robert's Rules of Orders. He claimed it's the chairman that is the last vote and unbiased, and thanked them for their wisdom on electing Chairman Shank. He presented his educational background, as well as some past work experiences. He asked that outside experts be asked to look at the big blueprint for Savocchio Park. He noted he was inducted into the Mound Builders, and thanked them for being able to speak.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

December 6, 2022- Regular Meeting

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

December 15, 2022-Special Meeting Budget Vetoes

REPORTS OF COUNTY OFFICIALS

County Executive and/or his Designee	There was no report by the County Executive or his designee.
Finance Committee - Mrs. Schauerman	Mrs. Schauerman stated the Finance Committee met on January 19th and submitted to the agenda Old Business: A and New Business: A-E, H-L, and LL.
Personnel Committee - Mr. Scutella	Mr. Scutella stated the Personnel Committee met on January 19th and submitted to the agenda New Business: F & G, and M-KK.

Citations

Darnell Stallworth, Jr.	Mr. Darnell Stallworth, Jr. was presented a citation by the County Council posthumously, sponsored by Andre Horton, for his commitment to the community and the election process. His sons accepted the citation on his behalf, and thanked the Council.
Casey Wells	Mr. Casey Wells was presented with a citation by the County Council, sponsored by Brian Shank, honoring his retirement from Erie Events. Mr. Wells accepted the citation, thanked the Council, and stated that the work that was done was successful because his board members, comprised of Democrats and Republicans, work together for the good of the community.
Mike Ruzzi	Mr. Mike Ruzzi was presented with a citation by the County Council, sponsored by Brian Shank, for his media coverage on Vietnam Veterans in the "Vietnam Reflections" series. Mr. Ruzzi accepted the citation, and asked the veterans involved with the production that it be hung at the Wesleyville Legion. He also thanked the owner, producers, and committee members of the series for their support and work.

Certificates of Recognition

James Sharples	Mr. Sharples was presented with a certificate of recognition from the County Council, sponsored by Brian Shank, for his assistance to the fire departments on the scene of a fire during severe weather. Mr. Sharples was unable to attend.
Constable Michael Kudlak	Constable Michael Kudlak was presented with a certificate of recognition from the County Council, sponsored by Brian Shank, for going above and beyond the call of duty on Election Day. Mr. Kudlak accepted the certificate and offered his appreciation to the Council.
Constable John Wilson	Constable John Wilson was presented with a certificate of recognition from the County Council, sponsored by Brian Shank, for going above and beyond the call of duty on Election Day. Mr. Wilson was unable to attend.

Other**OLD BUSINESS**

Second Reading of Ordinance Number 190, 2022, "First 2023 General Fund Supplemental Appropriation of \$12,100 for Completion of Safety and Security Upgrades Started in 2022 in 2023 Budget and Creation of New Line Item" (First Read 12/20/22)(Finance Committee)

Ms. Slomski gave a Second Reading of "First 2023 General Fund Supplemental Appropriation of \$12,100 for Completion of Safety and Security Upgrades Started in 2022 in 2023 Budget and Creation of New Line Item". A motion was made by Mrs. Schauerma, seconded by Mr. Winarski, and carried 7-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Schauerma made a motion to move items 1,2,5, and 7 to a second reading, and amend Ordinances 2 and 5 to read Second and Third General Fund Supplemental Appropriation, respectively. The motion was seconded by Mr. Scutella, and carried 7-0.

First Reading of Ordinance Number 1, 2023 "First 2023 Public Health Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$54,855 to Correct Action Sheet #10"(Finance Committee)

Ms. Slomski gave a Second Reading of Ordinance Number 1, 2023 "First 2023 Public Health Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$54,855 to Correct Action Sheet #10". A motion was made by Mrs. Schauerma, seconded by Mr. Bayle, and carried 7-0.

First Reading of Ordinance Number 2, 2023 "First 2023 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$830,747 to Appropriate 2022 Funds for PA Election Integrity Grant and the Recreation of Bureau and Line Items"(Finance Committee)

Ms. Slomski gave a Second Reading of Ordinance Number 2, 2023 "First Second 2023 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$830,747 to Appropriate 2022 Funds for PA Election Integrity Grant and the Recreation of Bureau and Line Items". A motion was made by Mrs. Schauerma, seconded by Mr. Scutella, and carried 7-0.

First Reading of Ordinance Number 3, 2023 "First 2023 ARPA Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$1,064,296 to Transfer 2022 Funds into the 2023 Budget"

Ms. Slomski gave a First Reading of Ordinance Number 3, 2023 "First 2023 ARPA Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$1,064,296 to Transfer 2022 Funds into the 2023 Budget".

**Budget"(Finance
Committee)**

First Reading of Ordinance Number 4, 2023 "First 2023 Children and Youth Services Fund Budget Revised Expenditures of \$248,268 for the Creation of Expense and Revenue Line Items Required by the Commonwealth of PA for New Grant Reporting"(Finance Committee) Ms. Slomski gave a First Reading of Ordinance Number 4, 2023 "First 2023 Children and Youth Services Fund Budget Revised Expenditures of \$248,268 for the Creation of Expense and Revenue Line Items Required by the Commonwealth of PA for New Grant Reporting".

First Reading of Ordinance Number 5, 2023, "Second 2023 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$454,899 for Distribution of Dividend Check Received from PCOMP"(Finance Committee) Ms. Slomski gave a Second Reading of Ordinance Number 5, 2023, "Second Third 2023 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$454,899 for Distribution of Dividend Check Received from PCOMP". A motion was made by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Winarski, and carried 7-0.

First Reading of Ordinance Number 6, 2023 "2024-2027 Elected Officials' Salaries Ordinance"(Personnel Committee) Ms. Slomski gave a First Reading of Ordinance Number 6, 2023 "2024-2027 Elected Officials' Salaries Ordinance".

First Reading of Ordinance Number 7, 2023 "Four-year Agreement between the County of Erie and the Erie County Detectives Association"(Personnel Committee) Ms. Slomski gave a Second Reading of Ordinance Number 7, 2023 "Four-year Agreement between the County of Erie and the Erie County Detectives Association". A motion was made by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Bayle, and carried 7-0.
Mr. Horton stated he would support the ordinance, but felt very uncomfortable not having seen the agreement beforehand, and having no supporting documents, and would prefer to leave it to a first read.

Possible Adoption of Resolution Number 1, 2023 "Waiver of the Purchasing Code and Ratifying the Sale of Real Property Parcel Number 41-011-038.0-009.00"(Finance Committee) Ms. Slomski read Resolution Number 1, 2023 "Waiver of the Purchasing Code and Ratifying the Sale of Real Property Parcel Number 41-011-038.0-009.00". A motion was made by Schauerman, seconded by Winarski, and carried 7-0.

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| <p>Possible Adoption of Resolution Number 2, 2023 "Approving an Application to the PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) for Funding Assistance Under the Whole-Home Repairs Program"(Finance Committee)</p> | <p>Ms. Slomski read Resolution Number 2, 2023 "Approving an Application to the PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) for Funding Assistance Under the Whole-Home Repairs Program". A motion was made by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Scutella, and carried 7-0.</p> |
| <p>Possible Adoption of Resolution Number 3, 2023, "Sole Vendor Contract between ESRI and Erie County to Execute a Geospatial Strategy for Department of Health Initiatives"(Finance Committee)</p> | <p>Ms. Slomski read Resolution Number 3, 2023, "Sole Vendor Contract between ESRI and Erie County to Execute a Geospatial Strategy for Department of Health Initiatives". A motion was made by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Bayle, and carried 7-0.</p> |
| <p>Possible Adoption of Resolution Number 4, 2023, "In Support of a Real Estate Tax Exemption for Non-Wartime Veterans that are 100% permanently disabled and Surviving Spouses"(Finance Committee)</p> | <p>Ms. Slomski read Resolution Number 4, 2023, "In Support of a Real Estate Tax Exemption for Non-Wartime Veterans that are 100% Permanently Disabled and Surviving Spouses". A motion was made by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Bayle, and carried 7-0.</p> |
| <p>Possible Adoption of Resolution Number 5, 2023, "In Support of a Real Estate Tax Exemption for Surviving Spouses of Service Members Killed in Action"(Finance Committee)</p> | <p>Ms. Slomski read Resolution Number 5, 2023, "In Support of a Real Estate Tax Exemption for Surviving Spouses of Service Members Killed in Action". A motion was made by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Bayle, and carried 7-0.</p> |
| <p>Possible appointment of Marie Antoinette Wells to the Erie County Diversity Equity and Inclusion Commission. Term to expire December 31, 2023 (Bayle)(Personnel Committee)</p> | <p>A motion to approve was made by Schauerman, seconded by Bayle, and carried 7-0.</p> |

Possible appointment of Peter J. Burton to the Erie Regional Airport Authority. Term to expire December 31, 2025 (Shank)(Personnel Committee) A motion to approve was made by Schauerman, seconded by Scutella, and carried 7-0.

Possible reappointment of Quyen L. Aoh, Ph.D. to the Erie County Library Advisory Board. Term to expire December 31, 2025 (Schauerman)(Personnel Committee) A motion to approve was made by Schauerman, seconded by Scutella, and carried 7-0.

Possible appointment of Laura R. Schaaf to the Human Relations Commission Advisory Board. Term to expire December 31, 2025 (Rennie)(Personnel Committee) A motion to approve was made by Scutella, seconded by Schauerman, and carried 7-0.

Possible appointment of John H. Groh to the Human Relations Commission Advisory Board. Term to expire December 31, 2026. (Scutella)(Personnel Committee) A motion to approve was made by Schauerman, seconded by Scutella, and carried 7-0.

Possible appointment of Emily J. Hirsch to Erie County Care Management. Term to expire December 31, 2026 (Rennie)(Personnel Committee) A motion to approve was made by Schauerman, seconded by Bayle, and carried 7-0.

Possible appointment of Giovonna Rogers to the Erie County Children & Youth Advisory Board. Term to expire December 31, 2026 (County Executive)(Personnel Committee) A motion to approve was made by Winarski, seconded by Schauerman, and carried 7-0.

Committee)

Possible appointment of Kylie Morris, DO to the Erie County Drug & Alcohol Advisory Board. Term to end December 31, 2025. (County Executive)(Personnel Committee)

A motion to approve was made by Schauerman, seconded by Scutella, and carried 7-0.

Possible appointment of Jennie L. Hagerty to the Erie County Housing Authority. Term to expire on December 31, 2027 (County Executive)(Personnel Committee)

A motion to approve was made by Winarski, seconded by Schauerman, and carried 7-0.

Possible reappointment of Jeanne Miller to the Erie County Planning Commission. Term to expire December 31, 2026 (County Executive)(Personnel Committee)

A motion to approve was made by Schauerman, seconded by Bayle, and carried 7-0.

Possible reappointment of Kara Murphy to the Erie County Public Library Advisory Board. Term to expire December 31, 2025 (County Executive)(Personnel Committee)

A motion to approve was made by Schauerman, seconded by Scutella, and carried 7-0.

Possible appointment of Adam Groves to the Erie County Public Library Advisory Board. Term to expire December 31, 2025 (County Executive)(Personnel Committee)

A motion to approve was made by Schauerman, seconded by Winarski, and carried 7-0.

Possible appointment of Chief Carter Mook,

A motion to approve was made by Schauerman, seconded by Bayle, and carried 7-0.

**Millcreek Township Police
Department, to the Erie
County Public Safety
Advisory Committee. Term
to expire December 31,
2023 (County
Executive)(Personnel
Committee)**

**Possible appointment of
Chief Angela Vincent,
PennWest Police
Department, formerly
Edinboro University, to the
Erie County Public Safety
Advisory Committee. Term
to expire December 31,
2023 (County
Executive)(Personnel
Committee)**

A motion to approve was made by Schauerman, seconded by Horton, and carried 7-0.

**Possible appointment of
Michelle Jaggi, Executive
Director, Erie Area Council
of Governments, to the Erie
County Public Safety
Advisory Committee. Term
to expire December 31,
2023 (County
Executive)(Personnel
Committee)**

A motion to approve was made by Schauerman, seconded by Scutella, and carried 7-0.

**Possible appointment of
David Basnak,
President/Executive
Director, EmergyCare, to
the Erie County Public
Safety Advisory
Committee. Term to expire
December 31, 2024 (County
Executive)(Personnel
Committee)**

A motion to approve was made by Schauerman, seconded by Winarski, and carried 7-0.

**Possible appointment of
Richard Shopene, Deputy
Director of Police &
Security, LECOM, to the
Erie County Public Safety**

A motion to approve was made by Schauerman, seconded by Bayle, and carried 7-0.

Advisory Committee. Term to expire December 31, 2024 (County Executive)(Personnel Committee)

Possible appointment of Chief Joseph Walko, Erie City Fire Department, to the Erie County Public Safety Advisory Committee. Term to expire December 31, 2024 (County Executive)(Personnel Committee)

A motion to approve was made by Schauerman, seconded by Winarski, and carried 7-0.

Possible appointment of Charles Heffner, Safety Officer, West Ridge Fire Department, to the Erie County Public Safety Advisory Committee. Term to expire December 31, 2024 (County Executive)(Personnel Committee)

A motion to approve was made by Schauerman, seconded by Scutella, and carried 7-0.

Possible appointment of James Carstater, Fairview Fire Department, to the Erie County Public Safety Advisory Committee. Term to expire December 31, 2025 (County Executive)(Personnel Committee)

A motion to approve was made by Schauerman, seconded by Scutella, and carried 7-0.

Possible appointment of Fire Chief James Rosenbaum, West Ridge Fire Department, to the Erie County Public Safety Advisory Committee. Term to expire December 31, 2025 (County Executive)(Personnel Committee)

A motion to approve was made by Winarski, seconded by Scutella, and carried 7-0.

Possible appointment of John Bonnett, Vice President/Crisis Prevention and Management, Erie Insurance, to the Erie County Public Safety Advisory Committee. Term to expire December 31, 2025 (County Executive)(Personnel Committee) A motion to approve was made by Schauerman, seconded by Bayle, and carried 7-0.

Possible reappointment of Deborah Phillips to the Erie County Conservation District. Term to expire December 31, 2026 (County Executive)(Personnel Committee) A motion to approve was made by Schauerman, seconded by Scutella, and carried 7-0.

Possible appointment of Christopher John Spriegel to the Erie County General Authority. This will also seat Mr. Spriegel to the Erie County Community Services Financing Authority. Term to expire December 31, 2027 (County Executive)(Personnel Committee)(Personnel Committee) A motion to approve was made by Schauerman, seconded by Winarski, and carried 7-0.

Possible appointment of Saeedullah Taraky to the Erie County Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Commission. Term to expire December 31, 2023. (County Executive) A motion to approve was made by Schauerman, seconded by Bayle, and carried 7-0.

Possible Sale of a Parcel from the Repository for Unsold Property at Index Number: 18-050-016.0-224.00 E 19 St 32 X 135 Between 434-438 E 19.(Finance Committee) A motion to approve was made by Schauerman, seconded by Winarski, and carried 7-0.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05p.m. on a motion by Winarski.

***The next Finance/Personnel Committee Meetings are Thursday, February 2, 2023 at 4pm in room 114A, Erie County Courthouse or via Zoom.**

***The next Regular Meeting of County Council is Tuesday, February 7, 2023 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.**