

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, February 7, 2023

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Shank.

OPTIONAL PRAYER OR REFLECTION

The optional prayer or reflection was led by Mrs. Schauerman, with a reading of Corinthians. Chairman Shank asked for a moment of silence for former Council member Joe Giles.

ROLL CALL

Members present: Chair Brian Shank, Vice-Chair Mary Rennie (via phone), Charlie Bayle, Andre Horton, Ellen Schauerman, Terry M. Scutella, and Jim Winarski

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

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Sam Talarico

Mr. Talarico did not speak.

Others

Art Leopold, Millcreek: Mr. Leopold stated that he did not believe ARPA dollars should be used to fund Project Neptune, but did support the program itself. He voiced that the ordinance for \$5M that was on the agenda sounded a lot like what ECGRA did already, and did well, and although the funds are needed, didn't think a whole department needed to be created for it. He noted that it was Black History month, and recited quotes from Dr. Martin Luther King, that highlighted topics such as justice delayed and denied, that what affects one affects all, leaders that are in love with justice and humanity versus money and publicity, and what inaction does to the soul. He reminded the Council that ARPA funds were still available, and argued they rightly and deservedly needed to go to lift people up, and were intended for those that had long been denied and forgotten; there were many good programs that still needed funding, and there would not be another opportunity like this one.

Freda Tepfer, Erie: Ms. Tepfer mentioned former Councilman Joe Giles, and stated she would miss him. She discussed the current ordinances on the agenda, and the availability of funds through federal infrastructure bills, and suggested

that all other possible options be exhausted, before ARPA funds are used. She questioned the need for ARPA funds being used to support the Neptune project. She noted her concern that programs were being duplicated, wasting money that could be used to fund already coordinated programs, referencing the County Executive's new homeless program. She questioned the legality of the vetoes by the County Executive, and did not favor memorializing them with the three ordinances on the agenda.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the previous meeting by Mr. Horton, seconded by Mr. Scutella, and approved 7-0.

January 3, 2023 - Reorganization Meeting

January 24, 2023 - Regular Meeting

REPORTS OF COUNTY OFFICIALS

County Executive and/or his Designee

There was no report from the County Executive or his designee.

Finance Committee - Mrs. Schauerman

Finance Chair Schauerman stated the Finance Committee met on Feb. 2nd and submitted to the agenda Old Business: A & B and New Business: A – G and Item K.

Personnel Committee - Mr. Scutella

Personnel Chair Scutella stated the Personnel Committee met on Feb. 2nd and submitted to the agenda Old Business: C and New Business: H – J, and for the record, wanted to note that they had an Executive Session on January 30th and February 2nd in regards to a Personnel matter.

Other

Mr. Horton reiterated that it was Black History month, but stated he was never comfortable saying that because Black History was American History. He argued that if it were properly recorded as American History, they could probably do away with Black History month. He noted that during this month the pleasantries were spoken of, and some of the not so pleasant; the atrocities were never spoken of, and were no less traumatic, agonizing, and brutal than the Holocaust. He noted that not only was it not mentioned historically, but there is a current effort to rewrite it. He stated as they celebrate and hear about all the wonderful contributions of Black Americans during the month, that people should recognize the other side as well; black G.I.s didn't receive the same welcome and benefits as white G.I.s when they came home, a black person couldn't possess a book much less read one, or be killed for it. He urged people not to just think of Dr. King's speech, but of Medgar Evers being shot down in his driveway in front of his family, or Emmett Till, and the countless others lynched for the color of their skin. He suggested learning about the rich history of slavery in Pennsylvania, which was chronicled in the Pennsylvania Manual. He noted that the agenda for the night spoke to some of the same issues that were

created by those types of actions and policies. He stated he didn't want to vilify anyone, but on the agenda for the evening was an ordinance to support giving ARPA money to another institution of higher learning, Project Neptune. He stated that Erie was one spot on the lake, and that they needed to act with due diligence. He noted that he wasn't calling anyone a racist, but one could conclude it was systemic, in that components of the plan are the same as the Savocchio Park plan, and they wouldn't invest in the East Side project, but instead would invest with someone wealthy. He referred to the County Executive's comments that he wants to hold non-profits accountable, but then wants to hand over \$6.5M to them. He stated that they need to remind people, like the Jewish community does, so that it will never happen again. He expressed his belief that it is a mental health illness to believe you are inferior or superior because of the color of your skin. He stated that it wasn't that black people were inferior, but that something had been done, and continues to be done, from slavery to Jim Crow. He stated that while they celebrate Black History and the accomplishments, they would rather be included, and depicted accurately in American history, where they belong.

OLD BUSINESS

Second 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"(First Read 1/24/23)(Finance Committee)

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

Second Reading of Ordinance Number 4, 2023 "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 Read 1/24/23)(Finance Committee)

Ms. Slomski gave a Second Reading of Ordinance Number 4, 2023 "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". A motion was made by Mrs. Schauerma, seconded by Mr. Scutella, and carried 7-0.

Second Reading of Ordinance Number 6, 2023 "2024-2027 Elected

Ms. Slomski gave a Second Reading of Ordinance Number 6, 2023 "2024-2027 Elected Official's Salaries Ordinance". A motion was made by Mrs. Schauerma, seconded by Mr. Bayle, and carried 6-1 (Scutella).

**Officials' Salaries
Ordinance" (First Read
1/24/23)(Personnel
Committee)**

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Schauerman made a motion to amend the agenda, add Resolution 7, 2023, due to the recent time constraint they were made aware of, as discussed in caucus, and to move Ordinance 8, 2023 to a second reading, seconded by Mr. Horton, and carried 7-0.

**First Reading of Ordinance
Number 8, 2023, "Fourth
2023 General Fund Budget
Supplemental
Appropriation of \$5,238
and Creation of New Line
Item to Pay Final PRM
Demo Invoice"(Finance
Committee)**

Ms. Slomski gave a Second Reading of Ordinance Number 8, 2023, "Fourth 2023 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$5,238 and Creation of New Line Item to Pay Final PRM Demo Invoice". A motion was made by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Winarski, and carried 7-0.

**First Reading of Ordinance
Number 9, 2023, "Second
2023 ARPA Fund Budget
Supplemental
Appropriation of
\$1,500,000 and Creation of
New Line Item for Project
Neptune"(Finance
Committee)**

Ms. Slomski gave a First Reading of Ordinance Number 9, 2023, "Second 2023 ARPA Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$1,500,000 and Creation of New Line Item for Project Neptune".

**First Reading of Ordinance
Number 10, 2023, "2023
ARPA Fund Budget
Revised Revenue and
Expenditures of \$5,000,000
for Municipal GAP
Funding"(Finance
Committee)**

Ms. Slomski gave a First Reading of Ordinance Number 10, 2023, "2023 ARPA Fund Budget Revised Revenue and Expenditures of \$5,000,000 for Municipal GAP Funding".

**First Reading of Ordinance
Number 11, 2023,
"Amendment to 2023
Gaming Fund Budget"
(Finance Committee)**

Ms. Slomski gave a First Reading of Ordinance Number 11, 2023, "Amendment to 2023 Gaming Fund Budget".

**First Reading of Ordinance
Number 12, 2023,
"Amendment to 2023
ARPA Fund**

Ms. Slomski gave a First Reading of Ordinance Number 12, 2023, "Amendment to 2023 ARPA Fund Budget".

**Budget"(Finance
Committee)**

First Reading of Ordinance Number 13, 2023, "Amending Ordinance Number 165, 2022 "2023 General Fund Budget"(Finance Committee) Ms. Slomski gave a First Reading of Ordinance Number 13, 2023, "Amending Ordinance Number 165, 2022 "2023 General Fund Budget".

Possible Adoption of Resolution Number 6, 2023, "Documentation of Council Disposition of Executive Veto of the 2023 Budget"(Finance Committee) Ms. Slomski read Resolution Number 6, 2023, "Documentation of Council Disposition of Executive Veto of the 2023 Budget". A motion was made by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded Mr. Horton, and carried 6-1 (Bayle).

Possible Adoption of Resolution Number 7, 2023 "Approval of the Voluntary Agreement for the Payment in Lieu of Taxes by the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine, the Millcreek Township School District, Millcreek Township, the Erie County Board of Assessment Appeals, and the County of Erie for properties located on West 38th Street in Millcreek Township". A motion was made by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Winarski, and carried 7-0.

Possible reappointment of Camille Crenshaw to the Human Relations Commission Advisory Board. Term to expire December 31, 2026. (Winarski) Mr. Winarski offered words of support for Ms. Crenshaw. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Winarski, seconded by Mr. Horton, and carried 7-0.

Possible reappointment of Patricia Lightner to the Erie County Drug & Alcohol Advisory Board. Term to expire December 31, 2025. (County Executive) A motion to approve was made by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Scutella, and carried 7-0.

Possible reappointment of Peter Benekos to the Erie County Drug & Alcohol Advisory Board. Term to expire on December 31, 2025. (County Executive) A motion to approve was made by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Winarski, and carried 7-0.

Possible Sale of a Parcel from the Repository for Unsold Property at Index A motion to approve was made by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Winarski, and carried 7-0.

**Number: 47-026-076.0-
002.00 Lake Leboeuf
Gardens Lot 129**

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:27pm on a motion by Mr. Horton.

***The next Finance/Personnel
Committee Meetings are Thursday,
February 16, 2023 at 4pm in room
114A, Erie County Courthouse or
via Zoom.**

***The next Regular Meeting of
County Council is Tuesday,
February 21, 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.**