

MINUTES

Erie County Council

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Brian Shank, Chairman
Terry M. Scutella, Vice Chairman
Charlie Bayle
André R. Horton
Ellen Schauerman
Tom Spagel
Jim Winarski

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Shank led the Pledge of Allegiance.

OPTIONAL PRAYER OR REFLECTION

Mrs. Schauerman recited the reflection.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Chair Brian Shank, Vice Chair Terry Scutella, Charlie Bayle, Ellen Schauerman, Thomas Spagel and Jim Winarski

Absent: Andre Horton was absent due to a family difficulty.

Others Present: Megan Moore, Karen Chillcott, Solicitor Tom Talarico

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Jerry Servidio

Jerry Servidio, Millcreek: Mr. Servidio congratulated Mrs. Chillcott for her new role, emphasizing the importance of integrity, transparency, and impartiality. He extended those principles to Mr. Spagel. He admitted feeling wary when he voted yes on an agenda item despite limited knowledge. He congratulated the Council for rescuing the Fairview Business Park and commended Mr. Lichtenwalter for a well-prepared report at the last meeting. He pointed out that the high volume of money he oversaw necessitated the need for a financial advisor beyond his abilities. He discussed the contract with the clerical staff, expressing disappointment in the three-tier contract and the way raises were awarded. He believed that such an approach created an atmosphere that could lead to ongoing issues, especially given the current pay rates in the County. He urged the Council to consider those things when decision-making. He encouraged the Council to uphold the values of integrity, transparency, and impartiality for the benefit of Erie County's progress.

Angela Held

Angela Held, Erie: Ms. Held, a concerned citizen and mother, expressed her pride in her children. She highlighted the compassion and advocacy her sons demonstrated for those who could not speak for themselves. She stated she was there to address the wrongful termination of her son, Sean Held, from Edmund L. Thomas. She voiced her shock at Sean's termination, as he had been

advocating for the children in his care. She contended that Mr. Davis's actions had silenced a valuable advocate for children. She raised questions about the food served at Edmund L. Thomas and the lack of food inspections at both the facility and the prison, citing information she found on the department's website. She pointed out that while inspections were easily accessible for many other juvenile centers and prisons in Pennsylvania that was not the case for the City of Erie. She noted that she went on to investigate Trinity Food Services, and revealed numerous lawsuits related to their food labels and allegations of government officials who received kickbacks. She presented the Council with printed reference materials and questioned why such a company was chosen to provide food for the community's youth. She pondered if her son's termination was related to his discoveries and questioned the integrity of Mr. Davis. She emphasized that his social media accounts supported her concerns about his views on race and gender. She strongly urged everyone to, at the very least, examine Trinity Food Service and assess the quality of the food it provided.

Mary Rennie

Mrs. Rennie did not speak.

Other Speakers - 3 Minutes No other speakers wished to be heard.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

A motion to accept the minutes was made by Scutella, seconded by Spagel, and passed 6-0.

**August 15, 2023- Special
Meeting**

**August 29, 2023- Regular
Meeting**

**September 12, 2023-
Regular Meeting**

REPORTS OF COUNTY OFFICIALS

**County Executive and/or
his Designee**

**Finance Committee - Mrs.
Schauerman**

Mrs. Schauerman reported that the Finance Committee met on September 21st, and submitted to the agenda Old Business: A and New Business: A-E.

**Personnel Committee - Mr.
Scutella**

Mr. Scutella reported that the Personnel Committee met on September 21st, and submitted to the agenda New Business: F and G.

Other

Mr. Bayle delivered a brief overview of recent activities involving the election office, which included the scheduled logic and accuracy testing for the next day. He expressed his optimism for a smooth testing process and emphasized the successful completion of poll worker training. He mentioned that they had granted a small pay raise to the poll workers, funded by the Election Integrity

Grant without any cost to the County. He stressed the importance of poll workers in the election process and mentioned various equipment and improvements they had acquired to enhance the election process. He informed the room that in-person voting was set to begin in the upcoming week, followed by the distribution of mail-in ballots. He noted a few changes in polling locations, such as moving the Harborcreek District 2 polling site to Alliance Church on Eastlake Road and relocating Millcreek 24 to the Asbury Woods Nature Center. He assured everyone that the staff had diligently considered these changes for the benefit of the community.

OLD BUSINESS

Second Reading of Ordinance Number 80, 2023, "Fifteenth 2023 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$71,636 For Release of Restricted Automation Fees in Prothonotary Office" (First Read 9/12/23) (Finance Committee)

Ms. Moore gave a Second Reading of Ordinance Number 80, 2023, "Fifteenth 2023 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$71,636 For Release of Restricted Automation Fees in Prothonotary Office". A motion was made by Schauerma, seconded by Spagel, and carried 6-0.

NEW BUSINESS

A motion to amend the agenda to move items D, F, and G to a second reading was made by Scutella, seconded by Mrs. Schauerma, and passed 6-0.

First Reading of Ordinance Number 83, 2023 "2023 General Fund Budget Waiver of County Purchasing Code for a Three Year Contract for Westlaw Patron Access Plan for Law Library" (Finance Committee)

Ms. Moore gave a First Reading of Ordinance Number 83, 2023 "2023 General Fund Budget Waiver of County Purchasing Code for a Three-Year Contract for Westlaw Patron Access Plan for Law Library".

First Reading of Ordinance Number 84, 2023, "Seventeenth 2023 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$25,000 for AOPC Reimbursable Grant for Courts Security Equipment" (Finance Committee)

Ms. Moore gave a First Reading of Ordinance Number 84, 2023, "Seventeenth 2023 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$25,000 for AOPC Reimbursable Grant for Courts Security Equipment".

First Reading of Ordinance Number 85, 2023, "Fifth 2023 Library Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$5,000 for Opioid Settlement Grant"
 Ms. Moore gave a First Reading of Ordinance Number 85, 2023, "Fifth 2023 Library Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$5,000 for Opioid Settlement Grant".
 (Finance Committee)

First Reading of Ordinance Number 86, 2023 "2023 General Fund Budget Revised Revenue of \$13,193 for Return of Unused Funds from the CCAP Annual Conference"
 Ms. Moore gave a Second Reading of Ordinance Number 86, 2023 "2023 General Fund Budget Revised Revenue of \$13,193 for Return of Unused Funds from the CCAP Annual Conference". A motion was made by Schauerman, seconded by Bayle, and passed 6-0.
 (Finance Committee)

First Reading of Ordinance Number 87, 2023 "Amending Ordinance Number 68, 2023"
 Ms. Moore gave a First Reading of Ordinance Number 87, 2023 "Amending Ordinance Number 68, 2023".
 (Finance Committee)

First Reading of Ordinance Number 88, 2023 "Appointed Official's Salary Ordinance- County Clerk"
 Ms. Moore gave a Second Reading of Ordinance Number 88, 2023 "Appointed Official's Salary Ordinance- County Clerk". A motion was made by Schauerman, seconded by Winarski, and passed 6-0.
 (Personnel Committee)

First Reading of Ordinance Number 89, 2023 "Approval of Agreement between the County of Erie and Clerical and Professional Units of AFSCME Local 2666"
 Ms. Moore gave a Second Reading of Ordinance Number 89, 2023 "Approval of Agreement between the County of Erie and Clerical and Professional Units of AFSCME Local 2666". A motion was made by Schauerman, seconded by Spagel, and passed 6-0.
 (Personnel Committee)

ADJOURNMENT Mr. Spagel made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:20pm.

***The next Finance/Personnel Committee Meetings are Thursday, October 12, 2023 at 4pm in room 114A, Erie County Courthouse or via Zoom.**

***The next Regular Meeting of County Council is Tuesday, October 17, 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.**