

MINUTES

Erie County Council

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Terry M. Scutella, Chairman
Chris Drexel, Vice Chairman
Charlie Bayle
Rock Copeland
André R. Horton
Ellen Schauerma
Jim Winarski

Erie County Courthouse
140 West 6th Street, Room 117
Erie, PA 16501

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday, December 18, 2023

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Shank.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Chairman Shank, Vice Chairman Scutella, Charlie Bayle, Andre Horton, Ellen Schauerma, Tom Spagel (via Zoom), Jim Winarski

Others Present: Karen Chillcott, Megan Moore, Solicitor Tom Talarico, Deputy Solicitor Jay Stranahan, Financial Advisors Kenny Bonus and Colin Domowicz, Erie County Solicitor William Speros

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Chairman Shank reminded everyone about the Erie County Administrative Code. Referring to the need for adherence to the code, he emphasized the importance of maintaining focus, time, and civility during the meeting. He read Section 8: Public Participation in the Administrative code.

Mary Rennie

Mary Rennie, Erie: Mrs. Rennie raised concerns about the suggestion that only one person could speak on behalf of the library. She expressed confusion about the rules and objected to distilling everyone into the same group, citing the Pennsylvania Sunshine Laws and the First Amendment. She argued against arbitrary grouping, emphasizing the right of individuals to give their public testimony in a public forum.

Mr. Horton interjected, explaining that the discussion pertained to Item C, related to public awareness of important issues. He cited the Administrative Code, stating that when a group of persons wished to address the County Council on the same subject, it was proper for the presiding officer to request a spokesperson chosen by the group and to limit the number of persons addressing the Council on the same matter. He continued, citing Item E, and suggested that representatives of various groups or organizations could be invited to participate in a public discussion on relevant issues. He advocated for transparency and public input and proposed a straw poll among County Council members on whether the individuals should speak.

Mrs. Rennie clarified her intent to speak on three collectively grouped vetoes related to the Human Relations Commission, Pleasant Ridge Manor, and the Library, representing all three groups.

Mr. Shank indicated that the timer had stopped, asking Mr. Talarico for his input.

Mr. Talarico explained that the Chairman had the authority to control the etiquette and conduct of meetings. He acknowledged the difficulty in defining the subject and mentioned that while the Chair's decision was within his discretion, it could be overruled by a Council vote. He emphasized the Chairman's right to control the meeting and determine whether individuals were speaking on the same subject, with the option to limit the number of speakers.

Mr. Shank initiated the three-minute timer for her to continue her speech.

Mrs. Rennie proceeded to voice her concerns about the County Administration, acting in collaboration with a majority on County Council, allegedly conspiring to keep the public uninformed of official actions. She criticized the move to silence the public and described it as inappropriate for a public forum. She argued that each speaker brought a unique perspective, even if they discussed the same subject, and limiting individuals was not right. She emphasized that such restrictions should have been published on the agenda to allow adequate preparation. She stated that she believed that the action violated Pennsylvania Sunshine Laws and infringed upon First Amendment rights and asserted that shutting down multiple people for every comment made on an agenda item was wrong. She expressed her opposition to the County Executive's vetoes, considering them out of left field, and criticized the notion that if one person spoke on a topic, no one else could talk.

Freda Tepfer

Freda Tepfer, Erie: Mrs. Tepfer, a retired Asbury employee and SEIU 668 retiree, expressed her opposition to agenda items related to Q&R, particularly the Administration's alleged misuse of ARPA funds. She condemned the treatment of ARPA like a "candy store" and found it shameful. She voiced her disapproval of taking money from Pleasant Ridge and described the financial maneuvering as "voodoo accounting." She highlighted the extensive coverage provided by the HRC in Erie compared to the state commission and argued against diverting funds from essential services like homelessness support.

Jerry Servidio

Mr. Servidio did not speak.

Doris Cipolla

Doris Cipolla, Harborcreek: Ms. Cipolla asserted that leasing Blasco Library to a private institution violated the First Amendment and democracy. She urged the County Council to protect public assets rather than privatizing them. She criticized the leasing of the Library to Project NePTWNE, viewing it as an attack on public libraries akin to modern book burning. She questioned the priorities of the Council and emphasized the need to balance the budget for essential services benefiting vulnerable and economically depressed populations.

Anna McCartney	Anna McCartney, Northeast: Ms. McCartney addressed the frustration felt by the public when decisions were made without considering their input. She questioned the Council's preference for Gannon's interests over taxpayer concerns and emphasized the importance of answering citizens' questions. She expressed opposition to Brenton Davis's actions, including cuts to library services and positions, questioning the Executive's commitment to public well-being.
Jenny Tompkins	Jenny Tompkins, Meadville: Ms. Tompkins, a clean water policy advocate for the Pennsylvania Lake Erie Watershed, expressed concern about the lack of clarity regarding public comments. She urged the Council to uphold ethical standards beyond legal requirements and emphasized the need for transparency and open communication with the public. She encouraged the Council to reflect on its role as a check on executive powers and to rebuild trust with the community.
John Vanco	John Vanco, Erie: Mr. Vanco shared the history of Emma Howell and James Ford, former slaves who purchased 45 acres in 1811 at 12th and Parade street and operated a significant Underground Railroad site until the Civil War. He praised Kevin Johnson's research through the Heritage Room at the Blasco Library and expressed concern about the impact of library cutbacks on vital community services. He emphasized the enduring value of the Library, drawing from personal experiences and the ongoing success of programs like the bookmobile.
Pamela Tilley	Pamela Tilley, Erie: Ms. Tilley spoke about the importance of public institutions, specifically public libraries. She criticized Brenton Davis's approach to leasing prime waterfront property to Gannon for a fraction of its worth, questioning the rush and transparency of the decision. She urged the Council to act independently, protect public resources, and vote against the lease. She highlighted the wide range of services provided by public libraries and shared a list of diverse activities happening at the Blasco Library. Chairman Shank called for a recess, allowing those who wished to speak on behalf of the library to gather their thoughts. He explained that the spokesperson for the group would then be given 10 minutes to address the Council collectively.
Others - 3 Minutes	Krista Perry Lamb, Erie: Ms. Lamb expressed her deep connection to the Erie County Library, emphasizing its profound impact on her life. She recounted childhood memories when the library served as a refuge from instances of bullying and underscored its role as a sanctuary for solace and imagination. Drawing attention to the empowering influence of Wonder Woman and literature, she highlighted the transformative power of a library in overcoming personal challenges. She underscored the broader significance of public libraries as essential gateways to art and ideas which shape the intellectual and cultural landscape of communities. She stressed the Library's sacred and beloved status among thousands of Erie County residents, urging the Council to recognize its pivotal role as a cherished institution in the community.

Mr. Shank expressed the Council's intent to efficiently navigate through the extensive agenda. He acknowledged the importance of First Amendment rights and clarified that the Council had no intention to suppress or infringe upon those rights. Drawing on his experience, particularly as a veteran, he emphasized his commitment to upholding principles. He inquired about the presence of an official spokesperson representing the Library. He requested that, if individuals were planning to discuss topics unrelated to the Library, they refrain from doing so to expedite the proceedings.

Ms. Issy Lawrie responded that she and others intended to speak on behalf of the Library. She asked that her time begin. Mr. Shank reiterated his request for a designated spokesperson and warned that those deviating from the procedure would be removed from the Courthouse one by one.

As tensions escalated, Mr. Shank assertively declared that individuals not adhering his rules would be removed. Chairman Shank had Mary Rennie removed by the Sheriff's Deputies. Issy Lawrie continued to speak and was removed by the Sheriff's Deputies. A third participant, Jerry Beemer, stood to speak for three minutes regarding the attack on the library and its staff and by the order of Chairman Shank was removed by the Sheriff's Deputies.

Jacob Chemsak, Edinboro: Mr. Chemsak, representing a group of concerned citizens regarding realty clerks and the clearing of vacant positions, expressed concerns about the Council's conduct. He stated that he perceived it as an attempt to silence citizens when their actions result in mass attendance at proceedings. He highlighted the importance of continued scrutiny of elected officials' conduct and pledged to use public forums to document any misconduct for the public record.

Mary Jo Campbell: Ms. Campbell, Chair of the Human Relations Commission, expressed concerns about the proposed defunding of the HRC. She provided statistics on the work carried out by the HRC and emphasized its importance in handling investigations and intakes. She urged the Council to consider the legal implications of reducing or eliminating funding for the HRC, stressing the ongoing duty to provide services to those in need.

Alex Sphon, Erie: Mr. Sphon, Chairman of the Erie County Human Relations Advisory Board, commended the Council for its hard work and acknowledged the difficult decisions they face. He discussed the history of attempts to dismantle the Erie County HRC and highlighted the differences between the Pennsylvania State HRC and the Erie County HRC in terms of protected categories. He advocated for the continued funding of the HRC and shared his commitment to serving the queer community.

Art Leopold, Millcreek: Mr. Leopold expressed gratitude for the opportunity to address the Council. He highlighted his history of addressing the Council over several years, emphasizing the presentation of specific facts for investigation. He urged the Council to consider the broader impact of recent decisions on funding and the potential consequences for underserved communities.

Carl Anderson, Erie: Mr. Anderson, former Chairman of Erie County Council, questioned the legacy of the Council. He raised concerns about perceived compliance with the County Executive and alleged financial incompetence, sexism, ageism, and racism. He emphasized the importance of unity, compromise, and protecting those most in need.

Scott Rastetter, Erie: Mr. Rastetter, a conservative Republican and former County Council member, criticized current funding decisions. He argued against diverting public money to private entities, emphasizing the importance of addressing the needs of the people and avoiding big-ticket items. He urged the Council to focus on community growth.

Shane Clark: Mr. Clark, Director of District Council 85 AFSCME, urged the Council to reconsider cutting \$500,000 from Pleasant Ridge Manor's budget. He emphasized the impact on vulnerable residents and highlighted the importance of union jobs in the community. He addressed the misinformation regarding union contracts and advocated for retaining seven positions at the public library.

Mike Wood: Mr. Wood, an employee with 30 years of service at Pleasant Ridge Manor, pleaded with the Council not to cut the proposed \$500,000 from the budget. He shared personal experiences of serving residents and fixing issues, underscoring the positive impact on their lives. He highlighted the importance of maintaining funding to ensure the well-being of those residing at Pleasant Ridge Manor.

Molna Dovat, Erie: Dovat expressed concern about the proposed defunding of the social media coordinator position at the library. They emphasized the value of social media in public outreach, raising awareness about valuable resources offered by the library.

Tyler Titus, Erie: Mr. Titus, a parent, advocate, and queer person, emphasized the importance of visibility and representation. He highlighted the significance of using his voice for those who may be too afraid to speak. He addressed the value of union jobs in the community and urged the Council to fulfill its duty to hear every voice, even those challenging to understand.

Anna May, District 6: Ms. May noted that she had intended to discuss the library but pivoted to address uncomfortable truths about the state of the county government. As a mom and a mandated reporter, she expressed concern about certain videos and actions by a council member. She noted that she had documentation of all of it. Refraining from slander, she urged the Council to consider the fitness of that person to serve, both as a leader and a human being.

Cole Schenley, Erie: Mr. Schenley implored the Council to override all vetoes. He warned of the persistent public outcry if the Council continued down a contentious path. Expressing determination from the community to hold the Council accountable, he called for a reconsideration of the decisions and urged the Council to stand with the citizens.

REPORT OF COUNTY OFFICIAL:

County Solicitor, Mr. Bill Speros, expressed gratitude to the Chairman and Council members. He clarified that he aimed to address procedural aspects related to the Vetoed Items and provide factual information on specific budget reductions. He highlighted the legality of executive actions to alter the adopted budget and urged Council members to vote on the override of vetoes. He discussed key vetoes, starting with Action Sheet 25D (Item 6A) related to adoption subsidies. He emphasized that the essential services, funded by state and federal sources, would not be affected by the executive veto. He proceeded to discuss Action Sheet 29 (Item 6B) on marketing for the Community Development Block Grant program, recommending a vote against the override to avoid adding money back to the county general fund. Regarding Action Sheet 70 (Item 7A), involving a union increased accounting error, he suggested voting against the override to prevent redundant spending. For Action Sheets 74 (Item 7B), addressing conflict attorneys, he proposed using the General Fund for a responsible approach. Concerning the public library, he clarified that the proposed cuts were not targeting Blasco specifically and were made with careful consideration to maintain compliance with state funding requirements. He urged council members to consider the information provided when voting on the override of vetoes, offering to answer any questions.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Scutella made a motion to untable and vote on items A, B, C, and D as one vote. This was seconded by Schauerman and passed 7-0.

Ms. Chillcott read Exoneration of Taxes on Four Parcels. A motion was made by Winarski, seconded by Horton, and passed 6-1. (Horton)

**Exoneration of Taxes on
Parcel 47-007-021.0-018.50
(Finance Committee)**

**Exoneration of Taxes on
Parcel 46-008-061.0-001.27
(Finance Committee)**

**Exoneration of Taxes on
Parcel 24-004-007.2-012.91
(Finance Committee)**

**Exoneration of Taxes on
Parcel 27-053-213.0-001.30
(Finance Committee)**

NEW BUSINESS

**Ordinance Number 134,
2023 "County Council
Action to Override the
Executive's Veto of
December 11, 2023"**

Ms. Chillcott read Ordinance Number 134, 2023 "County Council Action to Override the Executive's Veto of December 11, 2023."

**COUNTY EXECUTIVE
ACTIONS FOR OVERRIDE
CONSIDERATION:
County Council moves to
override the following
vetoes of the Executive as
each attempts to increase or
add to the budget contrary
to the budgetary process
outlined under the Home
Rule Character Article
VIII, Sections 3 through 6:**

**Veto of Action Sheet 25d, to
increase adoption subsidies to
\$1,201,344, of Ordinance
Number 102, 2023 "Children
and Youth Services Fund
Budget"**

**Veto of Action Sheet 29, to
increase advertising by
\$22,500, of Ordinance
Number 103, 2023 "2024
Planning and Community
Development Fund Budget"**

**Veto of Action Sheet 72, to
add position #002200-010 HR
Generalist and increase
expenditures by \$68,427, of
Ordinance Number 114, 2023
"2024 General Fund Budget"**

**Veto of Action Sheet 73, "to
add position #002812-005 IT
Specialist II and increase
expenditures by \$64,101, of
Ordinance 114, 2023 "2024
General Fund Budget"**

Mr. Horton made a motion to strike items 6A, 6B, 6C, and 6D from their agenda, the first four veto items. He emphasized that the items under consideration were not legal and constituted a violation of the Home Rule Charter. Acknowledging their ongoing legal challenges related to some of them, he recommended adhering to the guidance provided by their accountant and legal counsel. This was seconded by Scutella and passed 4-3. (Spagel, Bayle, Schauerma)

**COUNTY EXECUTIVE
ACTIONS FOR
OVERRIDE
CONSIDERATION:
County Council moves to
override the following
vetoes of the Executive
reducing the wages and**

Per the Home Rule Charter of Erie County Article II Section 3D(1) the County Council...may override such veto by the affirmative vote of a majority plus one of the members of the County Council (5).

benefits of the Planning Department and eliminating the funding of outside counsel for the position of legal services to our indigent population:

Veto of Action Sheet 70, to reduce Wages and Benefits, of Planning of Ordinance Number 103, 2023 "Planning and Community Development Fund Budget"

Ms. Chillcott read Veto of Action Sheet 70, to reduce Wages and Benefits, of Planning of Ordinance Number 103, 2023 "Planning and Community Development Fund Budget." A motion was made by Bayle, seconded by Schauerma, and failed 0-7. The vote failed to override the veto.

Veto of Action Sheet 74, to reduce ARPA funding of outside counsel department (\$1,600119), of Ordinance 113, 2023 "2024 American Rescue Plan Act Fund Budget"

Ms. Chillcott read Veto of Action Sheet 74, to reduce ARPA funding of outside counsel department (\$1,600119), of Ordinance 113, 2023 "2024 American Rescue Plan Act Fund Budget."

Mr. Horton expressed his previous opposition to the allocation, citing his belief that American Rescue Plan funds were intended for historically discriminated entities and communities most impacted by the pandemic. He highlighted concerns about the initiative not being thoroughly vetted to justify using funds meant for those in need. While acknowledging the initiative's merits, he suggested leaving it to the state. He affirmed his support for restoring ARPA funds, clarifying his stance on the matter.

A motion was made by Schauerma, seconded by Winarski, and carried 4-3. (Bayle, Schauerma, Spigel) The vote failed to override the veto.

COUNTY EXECUTIVE ACTIONS FOR OVERRIDE CONSIDERATION: County Council moves to strike the following reductions to the budget as none of the items which the Executive now seeks to reduce or defund were included in the Executive's proposed budget submitted to Council on October 1, 2023, contrary to the budgeting process outlined under the Home Rule Charter Article VIII, Sections 3 through 6:

Line Item Reduced: 054-017100-043 occupied bargaining position (Blasco) Library Clerk (\$51,755.78) to \$0.	Ms. Chillcott read "Line Item Reduced: 054-017100-043 occupied bargaining position (Blasco) Library Clerk (\$51,755.78) to \$0." A motion was made by Schauerman, seconded by Bayle, and passed 5-2. (Spagel, Bayle) The vote overrode the veto. Mr. Horton clarified to the listeners and attendees that a "yes" vote indicated support for overriding the veto.
Line Item Reduced: 054-017100-047 occupied bargaining position (Blasco) Library Clerk (\$31,865.80) to \$0	Ms. Chillcott read "Line Item Reduced: 054-017100-047 occupied bargaining position (Blasco) Library Clerk (\$31,865.80) to \$0." A motion was made by Schauerman, seconded by Scutella, and passed 5-2. (Spagel, Bayle) The vote overrode the veto.
Line Item Reduced: 054-017100-040 occupied bargaining position (Blasco) Library Clerk (\$31,865.80) to \$0.	Ms. Chillcott read "Line Item Reduced: 054-017100-040 occupied bargaining position (Blasco) Library Clerk (\$31,865.80) to \$0." A motion was made by Schauerman, seconded by Winarski, and passed 5-2. (Spagel, Bayle) The vote overrode the veto.
Line Item Reduced: 054-017100-038 occupied bargaining position (Blasco) Library Clerk (\$81,491.86) to \$0.	Ms. Chillcott read "Line Item Reduced: 054-017100-038 occupied bargaining position (Blasco) Library Clerk (\$81,491.86) to \$0." A motion was made by Schauerman, seconded by Scutella, and passed 5-2. (Spagel, Bayle) The vote overrode the veto.
Line item Reduced: 054-017100-042 vacant part-time bargaining position (Blasco) Library Clerk (\$17,144.91) to \$0	Ms. Chillcott read "Line item Reduced: 054-017100-042 vacant part-time bargaining position (Blasco) Library Clerk (\$17,144.91) to \$0." A motion was made by Schauerman, seconded by Scutella, and failed 2-5. (Horton, Scutella) The vote failed to override the veto.
Line Item Reduced: 054-017100-066 occupied part-time bargaining position (Blasco) Library Clerk (\$22,397.89) to \$0	Ms. Chillcott read "Line Item Reduced: 054-017100-066 occupied part-time bargaining position (Blasco) Library Clerk (\$22,397.89) to \$0." A motion was made by Schauerman, seconded by Scutella, and passed 5-2. (Spagel, Bayle) The vote overrode the veto.
Line Item Reduced: 054-017100-039 occupied bargaining position (Blasco) Technical Services Clerk (\$46,650.01) to \$0	Ms. Chillcott read "Line Item Reduced: 054-017100-039 occupied bargaining position (Blasco) Technical Services Clerk (\$46,650.01) to \$0." A motion was made by Schauerman, seconded by Scutella, and passed 5-2. (Spagel, Bayle) The vote overrode the veto.
Line Item Reduced: 054-017100-002 vacant non-bargaining (Blasco) Social Media Coordinator position (\$46,650.01) to \$0	Ms. Chillcott read "Line Item Reduced: 054-017100-002 vacant non-bargaining (Blasco) Social Media Coordinator position (\$46,650.01) to \$0." A motion was made by Schauerman, seconded by Scutella, and failed 1-6. (Horton) The vote failed to override the veto.

Line Item Reduced: 054-017100-002700 Fees and Services for the cost of paid interns, to reduce to \$22,200 from \$40,200	Ms. Chillcott read "Line Item Reduced: 054-017100-002700 Fees and Services for the cost of paid interns, to reduce to \$22,200 from \$40,200." A motion was made by Schauerman, seconded by Scutella, and failed 2-5. (Horton, Scutella) The vote failed to override the veto.
Line Item Reduced: 054-017300-006 occupied part-time bargaining position (Millcreek Branch) Part-Time Clerk (\$37,975.11) to \$0	Ms. Chillcott read "Line Item Reduced: 054-017300-006 occupied part-time bargaining position (Millcreek Branch) Part-Time Clerk (\$37,975.11) to \$0." A motion was made by Schauerman, seconded by Scutella, and passed 4-3. (Spagel, Bayle, Shank) The vote failed to override the veto.
Line Item Reduced: 054-002330 Library Maintenance & Repair, reduce to \$50,000 from \$70,000	Ms. Chillcott read "Line Item Reduced: 054-002330 Library Maintenance & Repair, reduce to \$50,000 from \$70,000." A motion was made by Schauerman, seconded by Scutella, and failed 2-5. (Horton, Scutella) The vote failed to override the veto.
Line Item Reduced: 001-003210-013 Realty Records Clerk (\$42,618.14), a vacant bargaining position in the Recorder of Deeds office to \$0	Ms. Chillcott read "Line Item Reduced: 001-003210-013 Realty Records Clerk (\$42,618.14), a vacant bargaining position in the Recorder of Deeds office to \$0." A motion was made by Schauerman, seconded by Scutella, and failed 2-5. (Horton, Scutella) The vote failed to override the veto.
Line Item Reduced: 001-004010-006 Clerk Typist/Receptionist (\$40,271.28), a vacant non-bargaining position in Adult Probation, reduce to \$0	Ms. Chillcott read "Line Item Reduced: 001-004010-006 Clerk Typist/Receptionist (\$40,271.28), a vacant non-bargaining position in Adult Probation, reduce to \$0." A motion was made by Schauerman, seconded by Scutella, and failed 0-7. The vote failed to override the veto.
Line Item Reduced: 050-003710-025 Administrative Clerk (\$55,517.56), a vacant non-bargaining position in Domestic Relations, reduce to \$0	Ms. Chillcott read "Line Item Reduced: 050-003710-025 Administrative Clerk (\$55,517.56), a vacant non-bargaining position in Domestic Relations, reduce to \$0." A motion was made by Schauerman, seconded by Scutella, and failed 0-7. The vote failed to override the veto.
Line Item Reduced: County Council 002520 – Professional Fees (\$270,400), reduce to \$239,400	Ms. Chillcott read "Line Item Reduced: County Council 002520 – Professional Fees (\$270,400), reduce to \$239,400." A motion was made by Schauerman, seconded by Scutella, and passed 5-2. (Spagel, Bayle) The vote overrode the veto.
Line Item Reduced: various budget lines under the Human Relations	Ms. Chillcott read "Line Item Reduced: County Council 002520 – Professional Fees (\$270,400), reduce to \$239,400." A motion was made by Schauerman, seconded by Scutella, and passed 7-0. The vote overrode the veto.

**Commission (\$258,380),
reduce to \$1 per line**

Line Item Reduced: 001-003230-4051 Register of Wills software (\$60,000), reduce to \$0

Ms. Chillcott read "Line Item Reduced: 001-003230-4051 Register of Wills software (\$60,000), reduce to \$0." A motion was made by Bayle, seconded by Schauerman, and failed 2-5. (Horton, Scutella) The vote failed to override the veto.

Line Item Reduced: 001-003240-4051 Prothonotary software (\$133,000) reduce to \$0

Ms. Chillcott read "Line Item Reduced: 001-003240-4051 Prothonotary software (\$133,000) reduce to \$0." A motion was made by Schauerman, seconded by Scutella, and failed 2-5. (Horton, Scutella) The vote failed to override the veto.

Line Item Reduced: 008650 – Pleasant Ridge Manor (\$999,996) reduce to \$500,000

Ms. Chillcott read "Line Item Reduced: 008650 – Pleasant Ridge Manor (\$999,996) reduce to \$500,000." A motion was made by Bayle, seconded by Schauerman, and passed 6-1. (Spagel) The vote overrode the veto.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Horton expressed gratitude for Chairman Shank's two-year tenure, acknowledging the challenges and compromises faced. He thanked Chairman Shank for his dedication and service, recognizing the sacrifices and pressure that came with public office. Despite differing opinions, he commended Chairman Shank's commitment.

Mr. Scutella shared anecdotes about his interactions with Chairman Shank, highlighting both disagreements and moments of camaraderie. He emphasized the importance of teamwork and acknowledged the support staff, particularly mentioning the County Council Solicitor and the unsung heroes working behind the scenes.

Chairman Shank expressed his appreciation for the county staff, acknowledging their role in the Council's work. He thanked his colleagues, even those he disagreed with, and recognized the deputies and media personnel.

A motion to adjourn was made by Scutella.