

MINUTES

Erie County Council

View More At
www.eriecountypa.gov



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

Tuesday, April 9, 2024

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Scutella called to order a Regular Meeting of the Erie County Council at 06:03 PM. and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

OPTIONAL PRAYER OR REFLECTION

Mrs. Schauerma recited an inspirational quote.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Chair Terry Scutella, Vice Chair Chris Drexel, Charlie Bayle, Rock Copeland, Andre Horton, Ellen Schauerma, Jim Winarski

Council Staff: Clerk Karen Chillcott, Deputy Clerk Megan Moore, Solicitor Tom Talarico, Financial Advisor Colin Domowicz -Bonus Accounting

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Lou Aliota

Lou Aliota and Sherrie-Jo Neu, Millcreek: Lou read a letter submitted to the Erie County Board of Elections (BOE) and referenced the Logic and testing directive. He mentioned receiving no response.

Horton raised a point of order, refusing accusations of fraud from Lou as false and disparaging.

Chair Scutella reminded Lou of 50 seconds remaining. Horton reiterated his remarks, and Lou requested a minute restart, seeking clarification on disparaging remarks.

Horton emphasized that he had mentioned disparaging remarks being skirted around about the office. He requested that all further communications on voting and elections be directed to him as the Chair of the BOE.

Juan Llarena

Juan Llarena, City of Erie: Juan expressed opposition to the Gannon and Blasco Lease, citing specific details from the Lease agreement. Juan provided a rebuttal against its perceived benefits to taxpayers and the public.

Gretchen Blough

Gretchen Blough, Edinboro: Gretchen voiced opposition on the Gannon and Blasco Lease and referenced several concerns on eliminating the public opinion on the need or want of the Gannon and Blasco Lease.

Mary Rennie	Mary Rennie, District 3- City of Erie: Mary expressed opposition to the Gannon and Blasco Lease, highlighting specific laws governing interactions between public officials and constituents. Then, emphasized the lack of public input, as evidenced by the absence of statements following meetings.
Krista Perry Lamb	Krista Perry Lamb, District 4: Krista expressed opposition to the Gannon and Blasco Lease, highlighting the importance of the library and the democratic process, allowing people to voice their grievances. Krista mentioned the significant number of 6,000 individuals seeking to express their opposition to the Lease.
Jason Monn	Jason Monn, Concord Township: Jason thanked the Council for their efforts and urged them to improve their handling of issues. Jason emphasized the significance of prioritizing public welfare over financial concerns and overstressed the importance of compromise in government decisions.
Others	Freda Tepfer District 3: Freda echoed points from the previous speaker and expressed opposition to the Gannon and Blasco Lease. Sam Talarico, Chair of the Democratic Party, Erie: Sam affirmed Mr. Horton's remarks regarding the credibility of the Voter Registration office and the voting process. Sam stressed the importance of ceasing false allegations, noting their potential harm. Erin Perry, Corry: Erin shared the personal journey as a woman in recovery and expressed desire to establish a recovery home for women in Corry. Erin urged for increased accessibility to recovery resources in the area. Marcy Benciveaga, District 7: Marcy highlighted that it was National Library Week and expressed opposition to the Gannon and Blasco Lease. Marcy suggested a referendum vote to gauge public opinion on the Lease agreement. Cathay Kramer, City of Erie: Cathay opposed the Gannon and Blasco Lease, expressing concerns about its impact on the Bayfront. They suggested exploring alternative solutions rather than further development. Matt Texter, District 3: Matt expressed opposition to the Gannon and Blasco Lease and urged the Council to rescind it. Beverly Potts District 7: Beverly reaffirmed commitment to opposing the Gannon and Blasco Lease and stressed the importance of using ARPA money for the benefit of the people rather than for Gannon. Graham Mashner, Girard: Graham expressed opposition to the Gannon and Blasco Lease, citing Gannon's religious affiliation as part of the reasoning behind the opposition. Susan Payne, District 3: Susan urged the Council to allow the public to retain access to the library for educational purposes and reiterated opposition to the Gannon and Blasco Lease.

Kathy Lutz, District 1: Kathy voiced opposition of the Gannon and Blasco Lease and questioned the Council about their plans if Gannon demands more in the future.

Scott Rastetter, Washington Township - Former Council Member from District 6: Mr. Rastetter opposed the Gannon and Blasco Lease, emphasizing that the Library serves children's needs. While supportive of removing the LGBTQ+ display, Scott advocated against punishing the Library.

Hugh McCartney, North East Township: Hugh supported the use of Dominion voting machines, countering claims made by the first speaker. Hugh emphasized that Dominion machines are secure and cannot be tampered with to manipulate voting results. Hugh also stated opposition to the Gannon Blasco Lease.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

February 13, 2024 - Regular Meeting

Horton moved to approve the minutes from the February 13, 2024 - Regular Meeting. This was seconded by Schauerman and carried in a 7 - 0 vote.

REPORTS OF COUNTY OFFICIALS

County Executive and/or his Designee

Finance Committee - Mr. Copeland

Mr. Copeland reported on the items that were moved forward from the Finance Committee meeting.

Personnel Committee - Mr. Winarski

Mr. Winarski reported on the items that were moved forward from the Personnel Committee meeting.

Other

Chair Scutella acknowledged Mary Rennie's expertise as a librarian and addressed various topics mentioned. He rebutted negative remarks about the voting process and emphasized his commitment to listening to all speakers during meetings.

OLD BUSINESS

Chair Scutella noted tabled items on the agenda for Old Business and asked for reading of Item E if there was no discussion on the tabled items. Horton clarified that the following items A, B, C & D were tabled, but this was now the time to make a motion to take items off the table.

Ordinance Number 13, 2024 "2024 Appointed Official's Salary Ordinance - Director of Administration" (First Read 2/13/24) (Tabled 2/27/24) (Personnel Committee)

No action was taken.

Ordinance Number 17, 2024, "Fifth 2024 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$50,000 for Shared Costs between the Planning Department and the County GIS Office" (First Read 3/12/24) (Tabled 3/26/24) (Finance Committee)

No action was taken.

Possible reappointment of Dean Curtis to the Erie County Conservation District. Term to expire December 31, 2027. (County Executive) (Tabled 3/26/24) (Personnel Committee)

No action was taken.

Possible reappointment of Julie Leonard to the Erie County Conservation District. Term to expire December 31, 2027. (County Executive)(Table 3/26/24)(Personnel Committee)

No action was taken.

Second Reading of Ordinance Number 20, 2024, "2024 Children and Youth Services Fund Budget Revised Expenditures of \$30,000 for Creation of Expense Line Items Due to Court Ordered Placements" (First Read 3/26/24) (Finance Committee)

Ms. Chillcott gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 20, 2024, "2024 Children and Youth Services Fund Budget Revised Expenditures of \$30,000 for Creation of Expense Line Items Due to Court Ordered Placements". This was moved by Schauerman, seconded by Horton and carried in a 7- 0 vote.

Scutella-Y	Drexel-Y
Bayle-Y	Copeland-Y
Horton-Y	Schauerman-Y
Winarski-Y	

Second Reading of Ordinance Number 22, 2024, "Appointed Official's Salary Ordinance Full Time Assistant Public Defender" (First Read 3/26/24) (Personnel Committee)

Ms. Chillcott gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 22, 2024, "Appointed Official's Salary Ordinance Full Time Assistant Public Defender". This was moved by Schauerman, seconded by Copeland and carried in a 6 - 1 vote.

Scutella-Y	Drexel-Y
Bayle-Y	Copeland-Y
Horton-N	Schauerman-Y
Winarski-Y	

Second Reading of Ordinance Number 24, 2024, "Seventh 2024 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$14,653 for Job Reclassification in County Council Office" (First Read 3/26/24) (Finance Committee)

Ms. Chillcott gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 24, 2024, "Seventh 2024 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$14,653 for Job Reclassification in County Council Office". This was moved by Schauerma, seconded by Horton and carried in a 7 - 0 vote.

Scutella-Y	Drexel-Y
Bayle-Y	Copeland-Y
Horton-Y	Schauerma-Y
Winarski-Y	

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance Number 23, 2024, "Sixth 2024 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$20,774 for State Homeland Security Grant in District Attorney's Office" (Finance Committee)

Ms. Chillcott gave a first reading of Ordinance Number 23, 2024, "Sixth 2024 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$20,774 for State Homeland Security Grant in District Attorney's Office".

Ordinance Number 25, 2024, "Second 2024 Library Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$64,586 for State Aid-District Deferred Revenue for July-December 2023" (Finance Committee)

Ms. Chillcott gave a first Ordinance Number 25, 2024, "Second 2024 Library Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$64,586 for State Aid-District Deferred Revenue for July-December 2023".

Ordinance Number 26, 2024, "Third 2024 Library Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$9,857 for Additional State Aid-Local Funds" (Finance Committee)

Ms. Chillcott gave a first reading of Ordinance Number 26, 2024, "Third 2024 Library Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$9,857 for Additional State Aid-Local Funds".

Ordinance Number 27, 2024, "Fourth 2024 Library Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$3,582 for Additional State Aid- District Funds"(Finance Committee)

Ms. Chillcott gave a first reading of Ordinance Number 27, 2024, "Fourth 2024 Library Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$3,582 for Additional State Aid-District Funds".

Ordinance Number 28, 2024, "Fifth 2024 Library Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$5,769 for Additional State Aid-County Funds" (Finance Committee)

Ms. Chillcott gave a first reading Ordinance Number 28, 2024, "Fifth 2024 Library Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$5,769 for Additional State Aid-County Funds".

Possible Sale of a Parcel from the Repository for Unsold Property at Index Number: 22-011-024.0-014.00 (Finance Committee)

Ms. Chillcott stated the parcel number, 22-011-024.0-014.00 brought forth for sale. This was moved by Schauerman, seconded by Drexel and carried in a 6 - 0 vote. Chair Scutella abstained from the vote.

Scutella-A	Drexel-Y
Bayle-Y	Copeland-Y
Horton-Y	Schauerman-Y
Winarski-Y	

ADJOURNMENT

Horton moved to adjourn at 07:25 PM.

County Council Meetings are documented by action minutes. For a detailed account of the meeting, please view the recording at <https://www.youtube.com/@eriecountypa>

/jk