

MINUTES

Erie County Council

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

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

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Scutella called to order a Regular Meeting of the Erie County Council at 06:02 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

OPTIONAL PRAYER OR REFLECTION

Mrs. Schauerman recited an inspirational quote.

ROLL CALL

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

Council Staff: Clerk Karen Chillcott, Deputy Clerk Megan Moore, Solicitor Tom Talarico, Financial Advisors Kenny Bonus & Colin Domowicz

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Lou Aliota

Lou Aliota, Millcreek: Lou addressed Chair Scutella's remarks from the April 9, 2024, public meeting, feeling personally attacked and questioning the legality of Scutella's statements. Lou demanded Scutella's resignation and sought a legal opinion on the matter.

Council member Horton asked for a point of order. Horton reminded attendees about avoiding personal attacks or name-calling, expressing surprise at the Chair's tolerance of such remarks. He emphasized the importance of refraining from personal attacks on colleagues during discussions.

Lou inquired if this is an action to be silenced, to which Mr. Horton reiterated the stance against personal attacks. Lou proposed seeking a legal opinion from Solicitor Talarico regarding the defamatory statements made by Scutella.

Mr. Talarico informed the Council there is lack the legal authority to continue discussing matters unrelated to government processes or address personal issues.

Beverly Potts

Beverly Potts District 7: Beverly reiterated support for democratic principles and the definition of government processes, particularly in the context of the previous meeting's discussion on the Gannon and Blasco Library Lease.

Krista Perry Lamb

Krista expressed opposition to the Gannon and Blasco Library Lease and reflected on her initial experience attending meetings. Krista highlighted the passion that has motivated her to remain an activist on the issue.

Others

Scott Johnson – Summit Township: Scott, the Roofers Local Union #210 business manager, submitted a bid for the Prison Roof and shared details about the bid process and the rejected bids. He expressed opposition to awarding the bid to a non-union contractor unfamiliar with working on prison projects.

Art Leopold, Millcreek: Art expressed concern about the Council's adherence to the Home Rule Charter, noting that the Executive appears to be exerting excessive influence over the Council's decisions, contrary to Art's interpretation of the Charter.

Valerie Pesta, Girard Township: Valerie from the West County Citizens Coalition spoke to the Council about the Pleasant Ridge Manor (PRM) Trustees, opposing the Executive's actions regarding the land. Valerie urged the trustees to reclaim their stewardship of the PRM Farm, citing the Executive orders conflicting with the land's needs.

Carl Anderson, City of Erie: Carl expressed support for the Roofer's Union and the West County Citizens Coalition, provided information on a new tax bill benefiting the County, currently active in only two counties. Carl offered services once the program was implemented in Erie County.

Jerry Servidio, Millcreek: Jerry supported the Election's staff from firsthand experience and raised questions about the premature presence of an EMS Authority on the County website and the Administrative Director's pay. Jerry encouraged Council to heed the advice of the previous speaker regarding the Executive's influence on Council decisions.

Scott Rastetter, Washington Township - Former Council Member from District 6: Scott continued to oppose the Library deal but stressed the importance of supporting the Council. He advocated for constructive public input while discouraging negativity and suggested media coverage of meetings, emphasizing the need to keep the NePTWNE project separate from the Library and not solely under Administration control.

**MINUTES FROM
PREVIOUS MEETING**

Horton moved to approve the minutes from the February 27th and March 12 Regular Meetings. This was seconded by Winarski and carried in a 7 - 0 vote.

**February 27, 2024 -
Regular Meeting**

**March 12, 2024 -
Regular Meeting**

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

REPORTS OF COUNTY OFFICIALS

County Executive and/or his Designee

Finance Committee - Mr. Copeland Copeland reported on the items that were moved forward from the Finance Committee meeting on Thursday, April 18th.

Personnel Committee - Mr. Winarski Winarski reported on the items that were moved forward from the Personnel Committee meeting on Thursday, April 18th.

Other

OLD BUSINESS

Vice Chair Drexel moved to amend the agenda to move New Business Ordinance Number 21, 2024, "First 2024 Public Health Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$2,649 for Additional Grant Award from the National Environmental Health Association" to a second reading. This was seconded by Copeland and carried by a 7 - 0 vote.

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

Second 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" (First Read 4/9/24)(Finance Committee) Ms. Chillcott gave a second 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" This was moved by Copeland, seconded by Winarski 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 25, 2024, "Second 2024 Library Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$64,586 for State Aid-District Deferred Revenue for July-December 2023" (First Read 4/9/24)(Finance Committee) Ordinance Number 25, 2024, "Second 2024 Library Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$64,586 for State Aid-District Deferred Revenue for July-December 2023". This was moved by Horton, seconded by Bayle and carried in a 7 - 0 vote.

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

Ms. Chillcott gave a second reading of

Second Reading of Ordinance Number 26, 2024, "Third 2024 Library Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$9,857 for Additional State Aid-Local Funds" (First Read 4/9/24)(Finance Committee)

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

This was moved by Horton, seconded by Winarski 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 27, 2024, "Fourth 2024 Library Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$3,582 for Additional State Aid-District Funds" (First Read 4/9/24)(Finance Committee)

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

This was moved by Horton, seconded by Copeland 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 28, 2024, "Fifth 2024 Library Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$5,769 for Additional State Aid-County Funds" (First Read 4/9/24)(Finance Committee)

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

This was moved by Horton, seconded by Bayle and carried in a 7 - 0 vote.

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

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)

Copeland made a motion to un-table Ordinance Number 17, 2024. This was seconded by Vice Chair Drexel.

Copeland discussed the explanation of Ordinance 17 to pay for items in the GIS department. Copeland stated that it was for software and there were other line items. Copeland stated his vote was a no.

Mr. Talarico clarified the vote before Council was to just remove the item from the table. Roll call vote 7-0.

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

Ms. Chillcott gave a reading of 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".

This was moved by Schauerma, seconded by Horton and failed in a 2 - 5 vote.

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

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 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)

Copeland motioned to un-table the Possible reappointment of Dean Curtis to the Erie County Conservation District. This was seconded by Winarski, carried in a 7-0 vote.

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

Ms. Chillcott announced the possible reappointment of Dean Curtis to the Erie County Conservation District. Term to expire December 31, 2027.

This was moved by Horton, seconded by Winarski and carried in a 7 - 0 vote.

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

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

Copeland motioned to un-table the Possible reappointment of Julie Leonard to the Erie County Conservation District. This was seconded by Bayle, carried in a 7-0 vote.

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

Ms. Chillcott announced the possible reappointment of Julie Leonard to the Erie County Conservation District. Term to expire December 31, 2027.

This was moved by Copeland, seconded by Winarski and carried in a 7 - 0 vote.

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

NEW BUSINESS

First Reading of Ordinance Number 21, 2024, "First 2024 Public Health Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$2,649 for Additional Grant Award from the National Environmental Health Association" (Finance Committee)

Ms. Chillcott gave a first reading of Ordinance Number 21, 2024, "First 2024 Public Health Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$2,649 for Additional Grant Award from the National Environmental Health Association".

First Reading of Ordinance Number 30, 2024, "Appointed Official's Salary Ordinance – Deputy County Clerk" (Personnel Committee)

Ms. Chillcott gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 30, 2024, "Appointed Official's Salary Ordinance – Deputy County Clerk". This was moved by Horton, seconded by Winarski and carried in a 7 - 0 vote.

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

Possible Adoption of Resolution Number 11, 2024, "Approving the 2024 Erie County Emergency Operations Plan" (Finance Committee)

Horton made a motion to table Resolution Number 11, 2024, and seconded by Copeland, and carried in a 7-0 vote.

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

Possible Adoption of Resolution Number 12, 2024, "Adoption of the 2023 Erie County Hazard Mitigation Plan" (Finance Committee)

Horton made a motion to table Resolution Number 12, 2024, and seconded by Copeland and carried in a 7-0 vote.

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

Possible Sale of a Parcel from the Repository for Unsold Property at Index Number: 16-030-043.0-111.00 (Finance Committee)

Ms. Chillcott stated the parcel number, 16-030-043.0-111.00 brought forth for sale. This was moved by Winarski, seconded by Bayle and carried in a 7 - 0 vote.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Horton moved to adjourn at 06:58 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