

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

SPECIAL VETO MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, April 18, 2024

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Scutella called to order a Special Veto Meeting of the Erie County Council at 03:07 PM and led 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 via phone, 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

Art Leopold

Art Leopold, Millcreek: Art emphasized opposition to the Gannon and Blasco Lease, urging the Council to override the Executive's veto.

Juan Llarena

Juan Llarena, Millcreek: Juan analyzed the lab description intended for the Blasco Library to reinforce opposition to the Gannon and Blasco Library Lease.

Other

Katie E. White, District 4: Katie expressed opposition to the Gannon and Blasco Library Lease, specifically urging the representative of District 4 to vote to override the Executive's veto.

Jim, Millcreek: Jim urged the Council to override the Executive's veto.

Marcy Benciveaga, District 7: Marcy addressed the Council to advocate for overriding the Executive's veto. Marcy referenced the voices of those opposing the Gannon and Blasco Lease.

Kim Hunter, Erie: Kim urged the Council not to override the Executive's Veto, highlighting the benefits of the program at the Blasco Library.

Ruth Swaney, District 2: Ruth supported the NePTWNE project but opposed the Gannon and Blasco Library Lease.

Freda Tepfer, City of Erie: Freda voiced opposition to the Gannon and Blasco Lease and urged the Council to override the Executive's veto.

Sandra Ebert, Harborcreek: Sandra expressed opposition to the Gannon and Blasco Lease.

Helen, City of Erie: Helen referenced prior speaking restrictions and voiced opposition to the Gannon and Blasco Lease, urging the Council to rescind it.

Cole Schenley, City of Erie: Cole expressed opposition to the Gannon and Blasco Lease, urging the Council to consider the concerns of constituents who share this sentiment.

Sally Driscoll, Edinboro: Sally voiced intention to support the Library and persuade the Council to override the Executive's veto.

Mary Rennie, former Council Member of District 3: Mary urged the Council to open their minds and hearts to the concerns raised by the public regarding the Gannon and Blasco Library Lease. Mary presented facts to support the necessity of the Council overriding the Executive's veto.

Victoria B., Millcreek: Victoria explained the personal importance of rescinding the Gannon and Blasco Lease to the Council.

Albert Boorady, Millcreek: Albert emphasized the significance of the daughter's support for the Library and urged the Council to rescind the Lease due to opposition to the Gannon and Blasco Library Lease.

Susan Payne, District 3: Susan expressed opposition to the Gannon and Blasco Lease, citing feelings of being misled about the agreement.

Matt, Economic Research Analyst from Penn State Behrend: Matt expressed support for the Gannon and Blasco Lease, thanking the Council for taking appropriate action and urging them to continue by not rescinding the Lease.

Mulnah Dovat, City of Erie-District 2: Mulnah expressed opposition to the Gannon and Blasco Lease, citing concerns about the disruption of patrons' peace and quiet due to Gannon's lab being in the Library. They highlighted key points in the Lease that they believed would negatively affect the Library.

Beverly Potts, District 7: Beverly opposed the Gannon and Blasco Library Lease, urging the Council to override the Executive's veto.

Alan Swigonski, City of Erie: Alan expressed respect for everyone who has shared before the Council. Alan voiced support for the Gannon and Blasco Library Lease and advocated for project NePTWNE.

Chuck Pora, Millcreek: Chuck stated there is a silent majority in favor of the Gannon and Blasco Lease, urging the Council not to override the Executive's veto and to uphold the Lease agreement.

Nancy Schea, Millcreek: Nancy voiced opposition to the Gannon and Blasco Library Lease, urging the Council to rescind the Lease and not support the deal.

Krista Perry Lamb, District 4: Krista urged the Council to slow down and consider the public's needs before proceeding with the Gannon and Blasco Lease. Furthermore, advocated for overriding the Executive's veto and rescinding the Lease.

Cathay Kramer, City of Erie: Cathay expressed opposition to the Gannon and Blasco Lease, drawing parallels between the situation in Erie County and themes from the book "The Giver".

Graham Mashner, Girard: Graham highlighted a lack of respect among representatives in the current situation regarding the Gannon and Blasco Library Lease, underscoring opposition to the Gannon NePTWNE project's location at the Blasco Library.

Ruth Ann Scanzillo, District 3: Ruth Ann expressed opposition to the Gannon and Blasco Library Lease, emphasizing the importance of ensuring that all information and voices presented before the Council were heard.

Arin Misner, District 2: Arin remarked on agreeing with the previous speakers important and the point Arin discussed how the Library is beneficial personally to support opposition to the Gannon and Blasco Lease to persuade Council to rescind the Lease.

75-year old member of the public: The individual requested that Council reach a compromise on the current situation before them today and they support the Library.

Lucy, City of Erie: Lucy expressed support for project NePTWNE but opposed the Gannon and Blasco Lease, urging Council to rescind it.

Joe Waskiewicz, North East: Joe voiced opposition to the Gannon and Blasco Library Lease, urging Council to vote to override the Executive's veto.

Anna McCartney, North East: Anna expressed opposition to the Gannon and Blasco Library Lease, highlighting a lack of supporters beyond a small group and noting the submission of thousands of signatures in opposition to the Lease in a previous petition to Council.

Shawn Held, Millcreek: Shawn attempted to speak on the character of the County Executive and Chair Scutella called for Shawn to speak only on the agenda item.

Doris Cipolla, Harborcreek: Doris expressed opposition to the Gannon and Blasco Library Lease.

Kristen, North East: Kristen expressed concern about the perceived unfair treatment of a previous speaker and voiced opposition to the Gannon and Blasco Lease.

Kathy Perry, District 5: Kathy voiced opposition to the Gannon and Blasco Lease and referred to email communications with specific Council members regarding the matter.

Mike Fetzner, Millcreek: Mike expressed support for the Gannon and Blasco Library Lease, providing reasons to persuade Council to honor the binding contract.

Kathy Lutz, Millcreek: Kathy opposed the Gannon and Blasco Library Lease, citing that the space should not be rented to anyone.

Cathy Carlson, City of Erie: Cathy provided facts about Dr. Blasco and his dream for libraries. Cathy asked Council to vote in favor of what was right for the Library.

Maryellen Magoc, District 4: Maryellen strongly opposed the Gannon and Blasco Library Lease. Furthermore, Maryellen stated never hearing from the district 4 representative. Maryellen requested that the Council respect the citizens who voted for them and not fear the threat of a lawsuit.

NEW BUSINESS

Chair Scutella asked if there were any members of Council who would like to comment prior to New Business.

Jim Winarski expressed support for the project at the Library, believing it would benefit the County by attracting more Library patrons and believes in the project and supports the Gannon NePTWNE project.

Chair Scutella explained his decision to dismiss a speaker for discussing off-agenda personal matters with the County Executive. Additionally, he acknowledged that Council members vote independently based on their districts' interests.

Ordinance Number 29, 2024, "County Council Action to Override the Executive's Veto of March 27, 2024"

Ms. Chillcott read Ordinance Number 29, 2024, "County Council Action to Override the Executive's Veto of March 27, 2024". This was moved by Schauerma, seconded by Winarski and carried in a 4 - 3 vote.

Schauerma emphasized the importance of hearing from all sides of the issue, not just those who attend meetings. She highlighted the significance of listening to everyone to fulfill their duty effectively. Schauerma also touched on strategies for preserving libraries and their future.

Copeland expressed respect for all public speakers and called for continued decorum. He reiterated his commitment to keeping the Library public and upheld his opinion on the matter.

Horton criticized the price of \$7 per square foot as immoral and disagreed with allocating ARPA funds to the project instead of aiding those impacted by Covid-19. He expressed frustration and affirmed his intention to vote to override the Executive's veto. To override the veto a super majority vote was required (5-2), and so the vote failed 4-3.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Winarski moved to adjourn at 05:23 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