

## MINUTES

### Erie County Council

View More At  
[www.eriecountypa.gov](http://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

## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

**Tuesday, July 16, 2024**

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Scutella called to order a Regular Meeting of the Erie County Council at 06:00PM and led the Pledge and Allegiance.

### OPTIONAL PRAYER OR REFLECTION

Mrs. Schauerma provided an inspirational quote.

### ROLL CALL

Members Present: Chairman Scutella; Vice Chairman Drexel; Mr. Bayle; Mr. Copeland; Mr. Horton; Mrs. Schauerma via phone; Mr. Winarski.

Staff Present: Clerk Karen Chillcott; Deputy Clerk Megan Moore; Solicitor Thomas Talarico; Financial Advisor Kenny Bonus.

### HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

**Mary Lee**

Mary Lee did not speak.

Others:

James Johnson, City of Erie – Mr. Johnson addressed the Council on parking issues, quality of life, and safety due to the Bayfront Lounge bar patrons near his home. He had video proof of the illegal and disruptive activity. Mr. Johnson expressed worry about violence that would impact the community.

Robert Mickens, City of Erie - Mr. Mickens informed the Council of a continued public nuisance, crime, and disruption to the quality of life in the community. He relayed he found no recourse despite calling the police 25 times and speaking to the bar owner (Bayfront Lounge), who denied responsibility. Mr. Mickens explained he witnessed gambling and drug use by patrons. He noted contact with the Liquor Board and expressed frustration about the ongoing issues caused by the bar's activities.

Deonte Cooley - City of Erie: Mr. Cooley addressed Council Member Horton's social media post on funding for the BIPOC community, and emphasized his support for BIPOC funding and the DEIC. He shared personal experiences as a BIPOC member and highlighted the critical need for funding for organizations, business owners, and the homeless population. He inquired why, if funding had been allocated and decisions made, the funds had not yet been distributed.

Dr. Rhonda Matthews, City of Erie and COO of Erie Black Wall Street: Dr. Matthews highlighted the need for funding for BIPOC communities and proposed two ideas to the County Council; allocating funds to Erie Black Wall Street's programs and using the funds to support business development for economic growth. Dr. Matthews advocated that funds could be released from

Diverse Erie to various organizations and benefit extensive economic development in Erie.

## **MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

### **June 18, 2024 - Regular Meeting**

Horton moved to approve the minutes from the June 18, 2024, Regular Meeting. This was seconded by Copeland 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 on Thursday, July 11, 2024.

#### **Personnel Committee – Mr. Winarski**

Mr. Winarski reported on the items that were moved forward from the Personnel Committee meeting on Thursday, July 11, 2024.

#### **Other**

Mr. Horton noted that the Council did not respond directly to public comments but wanted to use the time to address a few issues. He stated his opposition to interruptions during his personal and public activities, noting that this meeting was better suited to address public issues. He mentioned the Council's 5-2 vote to release DEIC funds, approved in January but not supplemented by the County Executive. Mr. Horton expressed disappointment over the lack of BIPOC attendance at meetings to address the DEIC grant funding issue. He appreciated public engagement today and encouraged community members to voice their concerns publicly about the \$1.5 million in available funds by contacting the County Executive and coming to future meetings to be heard.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Second Reading of Ordinance Number 40, 2024, "Ninth 2024 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$74,879 for Release of Restricted Automation Fees in the Prothonotary Office" (First Read 6/18/24) (Finance Committee)**

Ms. Chillcott gave a Second Reading of Ordinance Number 40, 2024, "Ninth 2024 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$74,879 for Release of Restricted Automation Fees in the Prothonotary Office". This was moved by Winarski, 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 41, 2024 "Tenth 2024 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$92,017 for Release of Restricted Automation Fees in the Clerk of Courts Office" (First Read 6/18/24) (Finance Committee)**

Ms. Chillcott gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 41, 2024 "Tenth 2024 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$92,017 for Release of Restricted Automation Fees in the Clerk of Courts Office". This was moved by Bayle, 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 42, 2024, "Eleventh 2024 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$174,859 for Release of Restricted Automation Fees in the Register of Wills Office" (First Read 6/18/24) (Finance Committee)**

Ms. Chillcott gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 42, 2024, "Eleventh 2024 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$174,859 for Release of Restricted Automation Fees in the Register of Wills Office".

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 43, 2024, "Twelfth 2024 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$308,973 for Release of Restricted County Record Improvement Funds" (First Read 6/18/24) (Finance Committee)**

Ms. Chillcott gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 43, 2024, "Twelfth 2024 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$308,973 for Release of Restricted County Record Improvement Funds".

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

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

**Tabled Item: 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.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**First Reading of Ordinance Number 48, 2024, "Fifth 2024 Public Health Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$70,000 for Reimbursement from Maternal Child Health Program" (Finance Committee)**

Ms. Chillcott gave a first reading of Ordinance Number 48, 2024, "Fifth 2024 Public Health Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$70,000 for Reimbursement from Maternal Child Health Program".

**First Reading of Ordinance Number 49, 2024, "Amending Ordinance 76, 2010 'Erie County Land & Subdivision Ordinance (SALDO)'" (Finance Committee)**

Ms. Chillcott gave a first reading of Ordinance Number 49, 2024, "Amending Ordinance 76, 2010 'Erie County Land & Subdivision Ordinance (SALDO)'".

**First Reading of Ordinance Number 50, 2024, "2024 Appointed Official's Salary Ordinance Full-Time Assistant Public Defender" (Personnel Committee)**

Ms. Chillcott gave a first reading of Ordinance Number 50, 2024, "2024 Appointed Official's Salary Ordinance Full-Time Assistant Public Defender".

**Possible Adoption of Resolution Number 17, 2024, "To Exonerate Delinquent Taxes, Interest and Penalties on Property Acquired by the Erie County Land Bank Erie County Tax Parcel No. (33)-092-376.0-070.04" (Finance Committee)**

Ms. Chillcott read in the title only Possible Adoption of Resolution Number 17, 2024, "To Exonerate Delinquent Taxes, Interest and Penalties on Property Acquired by the Erie County Land Bank Erie County Tax Parcel No. (33)-092-376.0-070.04".

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

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

**Possible Adoption of Resolution Number 18, 2024, "To Exonerate Delinquent Taxes, Interest and Penalties on Property Acquired by the Erie County Land Bank Erie County Tax Parcel Nos. (05)-27-167.0-5, (08)-034-138.0-010.00, and (08)-037-127.0-008.00" (Finance Committee)**

Ms. Chillcott read in title only Possible Adoption of Resolution Number 18, 2024, "To Exonerate Delinquent Taxes, Interest and Penalties on Property Acquired by the Erie County Land Bank Erie County Tax Parcel Nos. (05)-27-167.0-5, (08)-034-138.0-010.00, and (08)-037-127.0-008.00".

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

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

**Possible Adoption of Resolution Number 19, 2024, "To Exonerate Delinquent Taxes, Interest and Penalties on Property Acquired by the Erie County Land Bank Erie County Tax Parcel No. (21)-076-004.0-006.00" (Finance Committee)**

Ms. Chillcott read in title only Possible Adoption of Resolution Number 19, 2024, "To Exonerate Delinquent Taxes, Interest and Penalties on Property Acquired by the Erie County Land Bank Erie County Tax Parcel No. (21)-076-004.0-006.00".

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 Adoption of Resolution Number 20, 2024, "To Exonerate Delinquent Taxes, Interest and Penalties on Property Acquired by the Erie County Land Bank Erie County Tax Parcel Nos.**

Ms. Chillcott read in title only Possible Adoption of Resolution Number 20, 2024, "To Exonerate Delinquent Taxes, Interest and Penalties on Property Acquired by the Erie County Land Bank Erie County Tax Parcel Nos. (41)-015-070.0-008.00, (42)-015-078.0-007.00, (41)-004-008.0-004.02, and (41)-011-044.0-005.00".

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

|              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| Scutella - Y | Drexel - Y |
|--------------|------------|

**(41)-015-070.0-008.00, (42)-015-078.0-007.00, (41)-004-008.0-004.02, and (41)-011-044.0-005.00" (Finance Committee)**

|              |               |
|--------------|---------------|
| Bayle - Y    | Copeland - Y  |
| Horton - Y   | Schauerman -Y |
| Winarski - Y |               |

Mr. Horton asked to address the members of the public quickly before proceeding to the next item of the agenda.

Mr. Horton acknowledged the children brought to the County Seat by a youth leader. He wanted the young men to know that Council members serve them and encouraged them to feel welcome in the building, despite any differences in appearance or the other types of services that are conducted at the Courthouse. He urged the young men to tell their parents to attend County Council meetings and thanked them for coming. He emphasized the importance of their presence, noting that it was uncommon for young men to attend and that there had not been fair representation of people who looked like them on the Council until he himself was voted into office.

**Possible Adoption of Resolution Number 21, 2024, "To Exonerate Outstanding Taxes, Penalties, Fees, and Interest on 3549 W 22 ST TRL, Parcel No. 33-053-225.0-001.55" (Finance Committee)**

Ms. Chillcott read in the title only Possible Adoption of Resolution Number 21, 2024, "To Exonerate Outstanding Taxes, Penalties, Fees, and Interest on 3549 W 22 ST TRL, Parcel No. 33-053-225.0-001.55".

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 appointment of Peter J. Zaphiris to the Erie County Convention Center Authority. Term to expire December 31, 2025. (Schauerman)**

Ms. Chillcott announced the possible appointment of Peter J. Zaphiris to the Erie County Convention Center Authority. Term to expire December 31, 2025.

This was moved by Schauerman, 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 appointment of Steven G. Inman, CPA, CGMA to the Erie County Hospital Authority. Term to expire December 31, 2024. (County Executive)**

Ms. Chillcott announced the possible appointment of Steven G. Inman, CPA, CGMA to the Erie County Hospital Authority. Term to expire December 31, 2024.

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 |               |

**Possible reappointment of Thomas G. Wilkinson to the Erie County Agricultural Land Preservation Board. Term to expire December 31,**

Ms. Chillcott announced the Possible reappointment of Thomas G. Wilkinson to the Erie County Agricultural Land Preservation Board. Term to expire December 31, 2026.

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

|              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| Scutella - Y | Drexel - Y   |
| Bayle - Y    | Copeland - Y |

**2026. (County Executive)**

|              |               |
|--------------|---------------|
| Horton - Y   | Schauerman -Y |
| Winarski - Y |               |

**Possible appointment of Justin P. Pacansky to the Erie County Agricultural Land Preservation Board. Term to expire December 31, 2026. (County Executive)**

Ms. Chillcott announced the Possible appointment of Justin P. Pacansky to the Erie County Agricultural Land Preservation Board. Term to expire December 31, 2026.

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

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

**Possible appointment of Keith Szewczyk to the Erie County NWP Job Connect Board – Workforce Development Board. Term to expire June 30, 2028. (County Executive)**

Ms. Chillcott announced the Possible appointment of Keith Szewczyk to the Erie County NWP Job Connect Board - Workforce Development Board. Term to expire June 30, 2028.

This was moved by Bayle, seconded by Horton 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 06:37PM.

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