

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, August 20, 2024

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

OPTIONAL PRAYER OR REFLECTION

Mrs. Schauerman provided an inspirational quote.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Chairman Scutella-Via Phone; Vice Chairman Drexel-Via Phone; Mr. Bayle; Mr. Copeland; Mr. Horton; Mrs. Schauerman; Mr. Winarski.

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

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

John May

Did not speak.

Mary Rennie

Mary Rennie - Erie City-District 3: Mary shared a brief history of Erie County Library budget cuts and the difficult decisions librarians faced. She expressed concerns about the current Administration's impact on the public and compared her own experience as Library Director to the current director's challenges. Mary emphasized the need for strategic action to work with the Administration and highlighted the importance of the Library as a proactive solution to community problems, providing tools for the common good.

Mary Lee

Mary Lee- Erie City District 3: Mary stated she is here to speak on the extra funding for transportation and helping people with disabilities and the elderly. Mary emphasized the need for funding people who need the transportation needs met.

Krista Perry Lamb

Krista Perry Lamb - East Side of Erie District 4: Krista expressed support for the Library, emphasizing its importance to the community across generations. She noted that representation seems to have misplaced priorities, rather than mismanagement, and encouraged investment in library services for community betterment. Krista also highlighted the Human Relations Commission as a similarly beneficial, non-political entity that deserves support and improvement.

Anna McCartney

Anna McCartney - North East Township District 2: Anna expressed support for the Blasco Library, emphasizing the need for better working conditions and recognizing the upcoming Labor Day Holiday. She called for solidarity to address these issues, citing a history of employment challenges and administrative actions. Anna also criticized Brenton Davis for not promoting staff retention or hiring.

Others

Jennifer Park - RWE Clean Energy Representative: Jennifer expressed concerns about the SALDO ordinance while complimenting the efforts of those involved. She addressed three specific items: Section 612.4 paragraph A, offering expertise on utility interconnections; Section 612.8, noting weather impacts on time-frames; and Section 612.9, advising on the uncommon practice of allowing an array of rows for emergency vehicles.

Jenny Tompkins - Meadville, Crawford County: Jenny, Penn Future's Clean Water Campaign Manager in Erie, supported recommendations from Greenlight America, Solar United Neighbors, Penn Environment, and other partners. She requested the removal of language in section 612.4 - E of the current amendment, as it creates barriers for solar developers. Jenny urged the Council to reconsider this language to facilitate solar development.

Ann McCarthy - Harborcreek: Ann, coordinating with Benedictines for Peace, expressed support for previous speakers and thanked the Council for listening to the messages. Ann noted that the prepared notes were confiscated due to the courthouse's no-laptop policy. Ann stated that SALDO is a good agreement, but wants it to be great. Ann emphasized the urgency of addressing the climate crisis, citing Pennsylvania's ranking as 49th in renewable energy and its significant greenhouse gas emissions. Ann encouraged the County Council to make a positive impact by promoting renewable energy.

Margaret Watts - Washing Township District 6: Margaret discussed the Erie Times News article on Grow Erie, a commercial aquaponics facility and community greenhouse at Slovakia Park. She noted that \$4 million of the \$5 million goal has been secured from local sources. Margaret emphasized the need for a full audit and questioned why Grow Erie can't provide fresh produce and employment in Erie, citing her own experience living in a food desert.

Gretchen Blow - Edinboro: Gretchen questioned how Gannon's involvement in the NePTWNe Project at the Blasco Library would boost usership. She inquired about recent employment cuts at the Library before budget discussions and potential future changes. Gretchen expressed skepticism about the

Executive's reliability and stressed that our Library staff deserves better.

**MINUTES FROM
PREVIOUS MEETING**

**July 16, 2024 - Regular
Meeting**

Schauerman moved to approve the minutes from the July 6, 2024, Regular Meeting. This was seconded by Winarski and carried in a 7–0 vote.

Scutella- Y (via Phone) Drexel-Y (via Phone)
Bayle- Y Copeland-Y
Horton- Y Schauerman- Y
Winarski- Y

**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, August 22, 2024.

**Personnel Committee - Mr.
Winarski**

Mr. Winarski reported on the items that were moved forward from the Personnel Committee meeting on Thursday, August 22, 2024

Other

OLD BUSINESS

Horton motioned to strike under New Business, the Possible Adoption of Resolution Number 23, 2004 from the agenda tonight, at this time. This was seconded by Bayle and carried by a 7–0 vote.

Scutella- Y (via Phone) Drexel -Y (via Phone)
Bayle- Y Copeland-Y
Horton - Y Schauerman - Y
Winarski- Y

Horton motioned to amend Ordinance Number 49, 2024, "Amending Ordinance 76, 2010 'Erie County Land & Subdivision Ordinance (SALDO)"". The words to strike are the final five words of Ordinance 49, 2024 section 612.4 item E, strike words, "and-has-approved-such-connection". This was seconded by Winarski and carried by a 7-0 vote.

Scutella- Y (via Phone) Drexel -Y (via Phone)
Bayle - Y Copeland-Y

Horton - Y Schauerman - Y
Winarski- Y

Second 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 Read 7/16/24)(Finance Committee)

Ms. Chillcott gave a Second Reading of Ordinance Number 48, 2024, "Fifth 2024 Public Health Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$70,000 for Reimbursement from Maternal Child Health Program" This was moved by Schauerman, seconded by Bayle and carried in a 7 - 0 vote.
Scutella- Y (via Phone) Drexel -Y (via Phone)
Bayle- Y Copeland-Y
Horton - Y Schauerman - Y
Winarski- Y

Second Reading of Ordinance Number 49, 2024, "Amending Ordinance 76, 2010 'Erie County Land & Subdivision Ordinance (SALDO)'" (First Read 7/16/24)(Finance Committee)

Ms. Chillcott gave a Second Reading of Ordinance Number 49, 2024, As Amended "Amending Ordinance 76, 2010 'Erie County Land & Subdivision Ordinance (SALDO)'" . This was moved by Schauerman, seconded by Horton and carried in a 7-0 vote.
Scutella- Y (via Phone) Drexel -Y (via Phone)
Bayle- Y Copeland-Y
Horton - Y Schauerman - Y
Winarski- Y

Second Reading of Ordinance Number 50, 2024, "2024 Appointed Official's Salary Ordinance Full-Time Assistant Public Defender" (First Read 7/16/24)(Personnel Committee)

Ms. Chillcott gave a Second Reading of Ordinance Number 50, 2024, "2024 Appointed Official's Salary Ordinance Full-Time Assistant Public Defender". This was moved by Schauerman, seconded by Bayle and carried in a 7-0 vote.
Scutella- Y (via Phone) Drexel -Y (via Phone)
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 51, 2024, "Ninth 2024 Library Fund Budget Supplemental

Ms. Chillcott gave a First Reading of Ordinance Number 51, 2024, "Ninth 2024 Library Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$21,197 for Donations from the Friends of the Library".

**Appropriation of \$21,197
for Donations from the
Friends of the
Library"(Finance
Committee)**

First Reading of Ordinance Number 52, 2024, "2024 Library Fund Budget Revised Revenue and Expenditures of \$278,420 for Reorganization of Library Staff"(Finance Committee) Ms. Chillcott gave a First Reading of Ordinance Number 52, 2024, "2024 Library Fund Budget Revised Revenue and Expenditures of \$278,420 for Reorganization of Library Staff".

First Reading of Ordinance Number 53, 2024, "2024 General Fund Budget Revised Revenue and Expenditures of \$278,420 for Reorganization of Library Staff"(Finance Committee) Ms. Chillcott gave a First Reading of Ordinance Number 53, 2024, "2024 General Fund Budget Revised Revenue and Expenditures of \$278,420 for Reorganization of Library Staff".

First Reading of Ordinance Number 54, 2024, "Revised Expenditures of \$_____ for Creation of New Line Item, Election Facilities and Equipment Manager Position"(Finance Committee) Ms. Chillcott gave a First Reading of Ordinance Number 54, 2024, "Revised Expenditures of \$_____ for Creation of New Line Item, Election Facilities and Equipment Manager Position".

First Reading of Ordinance Number 55, 2024, "2024 Appointed Official's Salary Ordinance Part-Time Assistant Public Defender"(Personnel Committee) Ms. Chillcott gave a First Reading of Ordinance Number 55, 2024, "2024 Appointed Official's Salary Ordinance Part-Time Assistant Public Defender".

Possible Adoption of Resolution Number 22, 2024, "Approving the County Council Response to the 2025-2027 Erie County Operational & Capital Plan" Ms. Chillcott read in the title only Possible Adoption of Resolution Number 22, 2024, "Approving the County Council Response to the 2025-2027 Erie County Operational & Capital Plan". This was moved by Schauerman, seconded by Winarski and carried in a 7-0 vote.
Scutella- Y (via Phone) Drexel -Y (via Phone)
Bayle- Y Copeland-Y
Horton -Y Schauerman - Y

Capital Plan"(Finance Committee) Winarski- Y

Possible Adoption of Resolution Number 23, 2024, "In Support of a Forensic Audit of the County of Erie to Provide a Greater Degree of Transparency into the Administration's Finances and a Report Disseminating the Findings of the Audit"(Finance Committee) This item was struck from the agenda prior to New Business.

Possible reappointment of T.J. Sandell to the NWPA Job Connect Board - Workforce Development Board. Term to expire June 30, 2028. (County Executive) Ms. Chillcott announced the possible reappointment of T.J. Sandell to the NWPA Job Connect Board - Workforce Development Board. Term to expire June 30, 2028.
This was moved by Schauerman, seconded by Winarski and carried in a 07- 0 vote.
Scutella- Y (via Phone) Drexel-Y (via Phone)
Bayle- Y Copeland-Y
Horton- Y Schauerman- Y
Winarski- Y

ADJOURNMENT Horton moved to adjourn at 06:47 PM.

***The next Finance/Personnel Committee Meetings are Thursday, August 29, 2024, at 4pm in room 114A, Erie County Courthouse or via Zoom.**

***The next Regular Meeting of County Council is Tuesday, September 3, 2024, at 6pm in room 117, Erie County Courthouse or streamed live at the link provided on the County website.**

***Members of the public wishing to speak at an upcoming Regular Meeting of Council or those requiring specific accommodation**

are encouraged to call or email the Council Office at (814) 451-6303 or councilrequests@eriecountypa.gov, no later than the end of business 5 days prior to the meeting. The public must be present at the meeting to speak.