

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, September 3, 2024

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Chair Scutella and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

OPTIONAL PRAYER OR REFLECTION

Mrs. Schauerman offered an inspirational quote.

ROLL CALL

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

Also Present: Clerk, Karen Chillcott, Deputy Clerk, Megan Moore, Solicitor Tom Talarico, Financial Advisor Colin Domowicz

Citation

A citation was presented to Joseph Ott and Early Alert Canines declaring September as Service Dog Awareness Month.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Jerry Servidio

Jerry Servidio, Millcreek: Mr. Servidio offered his thanks to current and former employees of the Council and Elections office for always hosting free and fair elections. He questioned the integrity of those that would deny there are fair elections in Erie. Mr. Servidio questioned school districts being able to increase taxes on new homeowners by appealing the sale, and stated 8 of the 9 school districts use the same equation. He gave the numbers of appeals in different districts. He offered the opinion that it was pathetic to make people house-poor, and hoped that the County could revise the assessment process.

Mary Rennie

Mary Rennie, City of Erie: Mrs. Rennie asked the Council to vote no to the Library reorganization plan. She stated it would not even give short-term gains but long-term pains. From her experience, she noted the position of assistant director was the first to get cut, and thought these reorganization positions would end up being cut in a budget session. She furnished the idea that there was a one-

time waiver available by the State if requirements weren't met, as she believed was the case for 2024. She detailed how the Library was more than just collections, and was responsible for bringing the community together.

Others

Krista Perry Lamb, Erie: Ms. Perry Lamb stated she was there to advocate for the Erie Library. She noted how lives are touched by the Library, even without stepping foot in it. She referenced the Library staff as akin to first responders and asked the Council to protect the Library and its staff.

REPORTS OF COUNTY OFFICIALS

County Executive and/or his Designee

There was no report from the County Executive's office.

Finance Committee - Mr. Copeland

Mr. Copeland gave a report of items from the Finance Committee that appeared on the agenda.

Personnel Committee - Mr. Winarski

Mr. Winarski gave a report of items from the Personnel Committee that appeared on the agenda.

Other

Mr. Drexel made a motion to amend Ordinance 54, 2024 to strike "creation of a new line item" and replace it with "reclassification." The motion was seconded by Mrs. Schauerman and carried 7-0.
Mr. Drexel made a motion to amend the agenda to include items L-O, parcel sales, as one vote. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Schauerman and carried 7-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Second Reading of Ordinance Number 51, 2024, "Ninth 2024 Library Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$21,197 for Donations from the Friends of the Library"(First Read 8/20/24)(Finance Committee)

Ordinance 51, 2024 was given a second reading by Ms. Chillcott. A motion was made by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Winarski, and carried 7-0.
Yea: All
Nay: None

Second Reading of Ordinance Number 52, 2024, "2024 Library Fund Budget Revised Revenue and Expenditures of \$278,420 for Reorganization of Library Staff"(First Read

Ordinance 52, 2024 was given a second reading by Ms. Chillcott. A motion was made by Mrs. Schauerman and seconded by Mr. Bayle.
Mr. Copeland offered credit to the Administration, including Director Stefano, for giving information to the Council prior to the placement on the agenda, and stated that is how it should be done. He noted concerns that positions were eliminated, and staff numbers would be at state minimums. He offered support at a later date without personnel cuts.
Mr. Horton concurred with Mr. Copeland and added that no expenditures and

8/20/24)(Finance Committee)	reorganization should be done before the budget. He referenced the current court cases about the previous budgets. He noted the big rush to retain staff and abide by guidelines was self-inflicted, and was avoidable. He repeated that this was better done in the budget, and would vote no. Chair Scutella noted he advised Ms. Stefano would have to face the Council and answer questions. He believed this was a proactive move. He stated that the government doesn't stop for the budget, and he would vote in favor of the ordinance. The motion passed 4-3. Yea: Bayle, Schauerman, Winarski, Scutella Nay: Copeland, Drexel, Horton
Second Reading of Ordinance Number 53, 2024, "2024 General Fund Budget Revised Revenue and Expenditures of \$278,420 for Reorganization of Library Staff"(First Read 8/20/24)(Finance Committee)	Ordinance 53, 2024 was given a second reading by Ms. Chillcott. A motion was made by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Winarski, and carried 4-3. Yea: Bayle, Schauerman, Winarski, Scutella Nay: Copeland, Drexel, Horton
Second Reading of Ordinance Number 54, 2024, "Revised Expenditures of \$8,194 for Creation of New Line Item, Election Facilities and Equipment Manager Position"(First Read 8/20/24)(Finance Committee)	Ordinance 54, 2024 was given a second reading, as amended, by Mrs. Chillcott. A motion was made by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Winarski, and carried 7-0. Yea: All Nay: None
Second Reading of Ordinance Number 55, 2024, "2024 Appointed Official's Salary Ordinance Part-Time Assistant Public Defender"(First Read 8/20/24)(Personnel Committee)	A second reading of Ordinance 55, 2024 was given by Ms. Chillcott. A motion was made by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Bayle, and carried 7-0. Yea: All Nay: None
Tabled Item: Ordinance Number 13, 2024, "2024 Appointed Official's Salary Ordinance - Director of Administration" (First	No action was taken on the tabled item.

**Read 2/13/24) (Tabled
2/27/24)(Personnel
Committee)**

NEW BUSINESS

First Reading of Ordinance Ordinance 56, 2024 received a first reading by Ms. Chillcott.
**Number 56, 2024,
"Thirteenth 2024 General
Fund Budget Supplemental
Appropriation of \$52,000
for Electronic Monitoring
Program
Initiation"(Finance
Committee)**

First Reading of Ordinance Ordinance 57, 2024 received a first reading by Ms. Chillcott.
**Number 57, 2024, "First
2024 Domestic Relations
Fund Budget Supplemental
Appropriation of \$52,000
for Electronic Monitoring
Program Initiation and
Creation of a New Line
Item"(Finance Committee)**

First Reading of Ordinance Ordinance 58, 2024 received a first reading by Ms. Chillcott.
**Number 58, 2024, "County
Council Adoption of the
City of Erie Local
Economic Revitalization
Tax Assistance and
Improvement of
Deteriorating Real
Property or Areas Tax
Exemption
Programs"(Finance
Committee)**

First Reading of Ordinance Ordinance 59, 2024 received a first reading by Ms. Chillcott.
**Number 59, 2024,
"Approval of Agreement
between the County of Erie
and SEIU Local 668 – Erie
County Prison Employees-
Corrections Counselors,
Clerks, and
Bookkeepers"(Personnel**

Committee)

Possible Adoption of Resolution Number 24, 2024, "Approval of Tentative Lease Agreement with Moxie Three Real Estate LLC for Space Located at 901 West 12th Street, Erie Pennsylvania for Erie County Records Warehouse"(Finance Committee)

Mr. Copeland made a motion to table Resolution 24, 2024. The motion was seconded by Mr. Drexel and carried 7-0.

Yea: All

Nay: None

Possible Adoption of Resolution Number 25, 2024, "To Exonerate Delinquent Taxes, Interest and Penalties on Property Acquired by the Erie County Land Bank Erie County Tax Parcel No. (08)-033-156.0-016.00"(Finance Committee)

A motion to pass Resolution 25, 2024 was made by Mr. Copeland, seconded by Mrs. Schauerman, and carried 7-0.

Yea: All

Nay: None

Possible Adoption of Resolution Number 26, 2024, "To Exonerate Delinquent Taxes, Interest and Penalties on Property Acquired by the Erie County Land Bank Erie County Tax Parcel Nos. (41)-005-009.0-009.00"(Finance Committee)

A motion to pass Resolution 26, 2024 was made by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Winarski, and carried 7-0.

Yea: All

Nay: None

Possible appointment of Mary Fischer, CUA, ICP-LEA, ICP-MKG to the Erie County Library Advisory Board. Term to expire December 31, 2025. (Scutella)(Personnel Committee)

The appointment of Mary Fischer was approved 6-0 on a motion by Mrs. Schauerman and a second by Mr. Drexel.

Yea: Bayle, Drexel, Horton, Schauerman, Winarski, Scutella

Nay: None

Mr. Copeland abstained from the vote.

Possible appointment of

The appointment of Geoffrey Groce was approved 7-0 on a motion from Mr.

**Geoffrey A. Groce, MS,
CRC to the Erie County
Community College Board
of Trustees. Term to expire
August 31, 2030.
(Drexel)(Personnel
Committee)**

Drexel and a second from Mrs. Schauerman.
Yea: All
Nay: None

**Possible appointment of
Brandon Schmitt to the
Erie County Convention
Center Authority. Term to
expire December 31, 2025.
(Drexel)(Personnel
Committee)**

The appointment of Brandon Schmitt was approved 7-0 on a motion by Mr. Drexel and a second by Mrs. Schauerman.
Yea: All
Nay: None

**Possible appointment of
Kimberly A. Grove to the
Erie County Library
Advisory Board. Term to
expire December 31, 2024.
(Bayle)(Personnel
Committee)**

The appointment of Kimberly Grove was approved 7-0 on a motion by Mr. Bayle, seconded by Mrs. Schauerman.
Yea: All
Nay: None

**Possible Sale of a Parcel
from the Repository for
Unsold Property at Index
Number: 06-006-014.2-
013.62 (Finance
Committee)**

The sales of all parcels from the repository included on the agenda were approved on motion by Mr. Copeland, seconded by Mrs. Schauerman.
Yea: All
Nay: None

**Possible Sale of a Parcel
from the Repository for
Unsold Property at Index
Number: 18-050-092.0-
209.00 (Finance
Committee)**

**Possible Sale of a Parcel
from the Repository for
Unsold Property at Index
Number: 45-023-054.1-
001.49 (Finance
Committee)**

**Possible Sale of a Parcel
from the Repository for
Unsold Property at Index
Number: 45-031-047.3-**

**001.56 (Finance
Committee)**

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Scutella on a motion by Mr. Winarski at 6:37pm.

m/m