

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, October 1, 2024

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was called to order at 6:02pm 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

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

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Krista Perry Lamb

Krista Perry Lamb, City of Erie- Ms. Lamb stated that she was frustrated with the closing of the HRC. She suggested that ARPA funds could be used to retain HRC. She expressed concern that the empty seats on the HRC Board were not filled and would like to volunteer to take one of those empty seats. She proclaimed that people were there to serve one another and the Council must move forward with this in mind.

Gretchen Blough

Gretchen Blough, Edinboro-Ms. Blough spoke on accountability. She stated that the County Executive's office had eliminated seventy-four jobs and asked why so many people had left these positions? She mentioned that empty fields in west Erie County were not being rented to help generate income, and that the new roof on the prison building was not part of the budget last year yet was replaced. She voiced concern about un-allocated ARPA funds that were at risk. She declared that she was tired of paying for drama.

Anna McCartney

Anna McCartney, North East-Ms. McCartney questioned why Gannon and the County Executive deceived the public and County Council concerning the lease

of the Blasco Library. She went on to ask as to why Gannon received ARPA funds. She stated that Raymond Blasco's donation was specifically for a library and that the project did not meet the requirements of a library. Per speaker, the project no longer fits the ARPA funding. She asked that the fraudulent use of taxpayer money and taxpayer property be stopped.

OTHERS

Christopher Work, North East Township-Mr. Work spoke on election integrity.

He stated that he had two hundred signed and notarized affidavits of people that no longer lived in Erie County but were on the voting rolls. He requested that the County Council write and send an official letter to the controller of voter rolls to handle the problem. He requested that he also be sent a copy of this letter. He communicated that he did not believe that there was any current fraud, but if not addressed, it could lead to fraud in the future.

Mary Ann McDaniels-Kulesa, Harborcreek-Speaker from Harborcreek Senior Apartments. She requested ARPA funds to secure 4 back-up generators to ensure the safety of all the residents. She stated she currently resides on the third floor of the building and had no means of escape in the event that the electricity goes out. She requested 2.5 million dollars of funding for this project.

Art Leopold, Millcreek-Mr. Leopold spoke on behalf of the Erie Race and Just Policy Initiative, which worked in concert with the Better Together Council. He expounded on their efforts to enhance racial justice efforts in Erie and close the racial and gender opportunity gaps. He noted that they promote efforts around current law. He encouraged funds to be released for DEI.

Cole Shenley, Erie-Mr. Shenley stated that he had faith in the election system and especially in the election staff of Erie County.

Mary Rennie, City of Erie-Ms. Rennie stated that she was a veteran of the County Government and was concerned about the out of control budget. She declared that the budget was far from balanced and hadn't been for the last three years. She expressed her belief that the County Executive had no right to tap into the fund balance. She also mentioned that County Council representatives had violated their oath of office.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

September 17, 2024- Regular Meeting

A motion to approve the minutes of the September 17, 2024 meeting was offered by Mr. Horton and seconded by Mr. Copeland. The motion carried 7-0.

Yea: All

Nay: None

REPORTS OF COUNTY

OFFICIALS

County Executive and/or his Designee No report was offered.

Finance Committee - Mr. Copeland Mr. Copeland reported that the Finance Committee met on September 26, 2024, and brought forward New Business items A, B and C.

Personnel Committee - Mr. Winarski Per Mr. Winarski, the Personnel Committee met on September 26, 2024, with nothing to report.

Other

OLD BUSINESS

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)

NEW BUSINESS

First Reading of Ordinance 60, 2024, "2024 Revised Environmental Fee Schedule in the Erie County Department of Health" (Finance Committee) Ordinance 60, 2024 was given a first reading by Ms. Chillcott.

First Reading of Ordinance Number 61, 2024, "Fourteenth 2024 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$30,000 and Creation of a New Line Item for PCorp Loss Prevention Grant" (Finance Committee) Ordinance 61, 2024 was given a first reading by Ms. Chillcott.

Possible Sale of a Parcel from the Repository for Unsold Property at Index Number: 28-004-004.0-001.90 Ms. Chillcott read the property index for sale. A motion was made by Mrs. Schauerma, seconded by Mr. Copeland, and carried 7-0.
Yea: All
Nay: None

ADJOURNMENT

***The next Finance/Personnel Committee Meetings are Thursday, October 10, 2024, at 4pm in room 114A, Erie County Courthouse or via Zoom.**

***The next Regular Meeting of County Council is Tuesday, October 15, 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.**

Prior to adjournment, Mr. Horton requested the Council to think about the \$11 million dollars that needs to be allocated, so they were prepared to discuss this topic at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Scutella on a motion by Mr. Horton at 6:38pm.