

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

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, October 15, 2024

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 P.M. by Chair Scutella. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

OPTIONAL PRAYER OR REFLECTION

Mrs. Schauerma offered an inspirational quote.

ROLL CALL

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

Others Present: Clerk Karen Chillcott, Deputy Clerk Megan Moore, Financial Advisor Colin Domowicz

Absent: Attorney Tom Talarico

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Mary Jo Campbell

Ms. Campbell did not speak.

Christine Mitchell

Ms. Mitchell did not speak.

Gary Bukowski

Gary Bukowski, Sarah Reed-Chair Scutella reminded all that the speaker was a retired County Council person beginning in 1978. Mr. Bukowski, representing Sarah Reed Children's Center and specifically St. Ann's Campus was communicating a need for renovations on the campus and requested 1.3 million dollars of ARPA funds for that project. He stated that the current building was quite old but highly utilized and has been an asset to a highly underserved neighborhood. Plans and bids were in place and ready to go if council offered funds.

Julia Strzalka

Julia and Christopher Strzalka, Julia's House-Ms. Strzalka spoke first, and stated that they represented Julia House Hospice and Palliative Care. She stated that

the need for this facility was great in Erie County, as the closest freestanding Hospice House for patients was Cleveland, Ohio. She requested ARPA funds in the amount of one million dollars. Mr. Strzalka immediately followed to explain what Julia House would mean to the Erie County community and how it would work. He explained that it was a Medicare-based facility and will offer between 30 and 40 new full-time jobs when opened. He went on to state that this project would not compromise nursing facilities but work with them to address an underserved need in our area.

Christopher Strzalka

Tiffany LaVette

Tiffany LaVette-Ms. LaVette spoke on behalf of a network of black and brown childcare providers. She spoke on the number of child care facilities that had closed since the pandemic, and the need in Erie County to support an increase in this business. Ms. LaVette requested 2.5 million dollars to get this started.

Others

Kenya Johnson-City of Erie-Ms. Johnson stated she was the owner of Learning Ladder, a child care facility, located at 25th and Peach Street. She currently works at capacity but has a large waiting list. She stated that a new facility has been purchased that will offer placement for an additional 251 children but was in need of renovations to bring it up to code. Ms. Johnson requested an undisclosed amount of funding for this project.

REPORTS OF COUNTY OFFICIALS

County Executive and/or his Designee

No report was offered by the County Executive or his designee.

Finance Committee - Mr. Copeland

Councilman Copeland reported that the Finance Committee met on October 10, 2024, and brought forward Old Business items A and B also New Business items A and C.

Personnel Committee - Mr. Winarski

Per Councilman Winarski, the Personnel Committee met on October 10, 2024, and brought old business item C and new business items B, D and E.

Other

Andre Horton-District 2-Councilman Horton spoke on ARPA funds and how he believed they were to be used. He spoke about Human Services in Erie County. He noted that childcare should take precedent over economic development. He requested the release of 1.5 million dollars of allocated funds that had yet to be released by the County Executive to Erie County's homeless population. Councilman Horton also mentioned that Council was presented a budget that contained grossly inaccurate information and was unbalanced. He stated that by law, the budget must be balanced when presented. He concluded by thanking Chair Scutella for the time to express his thoughts.

Christopher Drexel-District 5-Councilman Drexel spoke on the unbalanced budget and the misinformation that throws off the budget. He stated that he does not see any commitment to a corrected version of the budget. In addition,

Councilman Drexel spoke about the importance of child care in the county. He stated a difference could be made if the administration worked with the Council. He noted that Council's job would be very difficult if it was not a two-way street.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Horton made a motion to amend the agenda to make Resolution 23 a first reading and was seconded by Mrs. Schauerman. The motion carried-7-0.

Yea: All

Nay: None

Second Reading of Ordinance 60, 2024, "2024 Revised Environmental Fee Schedule in the Erie County Department of Health" (First Read 10/1/24)(Finance Committee)

A second reading of Ordinance 60, 2024 was offered by Karen Chillcott. So moved-Councilman Horton. Seconded by Councilwoman Schauerman. Motion carried-7-0.

Yea: All

Nay: None

Second 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" (First Read 10/1/24)(Finance Committee)

A second Reading of Ordinance 61, 2024 was offered by Karen Chillcott. So moved-Councilman Horton, seconded by Councilwoman Schauerman. Motion carried, 7-0

Yea: All

Nay: None

Tabled Item: Ordinance Number 13, 2024, "2024 Appointed Official's Salary Ordinance - Director of Administration" (First Read 2/13/24) (Tabled 2/27/24)

No action taken at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

First Reading of Ordinance Number 62, 2024, "Fifteenth 2024 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$12,925 and New Line Items for Vehicle Lease Donated by Bradford Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram" (Finance

A first reading of Ordinance Number 62 was offered by Ms. Chillcott.

Committee)

First Reading of Ordinance Number 63, 2024, "2024 Appointed Official Salary Ordinance - Full-Time Assistant Public Defender" (Personnel Committee) A first reading of Ordinance Number 63, 2024 was offered by Karen Chillcott.

Possible Adoption of Resolution 23, 2024, "Approval of Tentative Lease Agreement with Moxie Three Real Estate LLC for Space Located at 901 West 12th Street, Erie, Pennsylvania, Suite #205" (Finance Committee) A first reading of Resolution 23, 2024 was offered by Ms. Chillcott.
Councilman Copeland noted for the public that the agenda says "Possible Adoption" but should read "First Reading".

Possible appointment of Susannah Faulkner to the Erie County Land Bank. Term to expire December 31, 2024. (Copeland) A motion to appoint Susannah Faulkner was made by Mr. Copeland, seconded by Mr. Horton, and approved 7-0.
Yea: All
Nay: None

Possible reappointment of Dr. David A. Rubino to the Erie County Community College Board of Trustees. Term to expire August 31, 2030. (County Executive) A motion to reappoint Dr. David A. Rubino was made by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Winarski and approved 5-2.
Yea: Scutella, Schauerman, Winarski, Bayle, Copeland
Nay: Drexel, Horton

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Horton announced that the groups should make an appointment with the office to present and apply for ARPA funding. He noted there was no application process, but that a proposal should be presented on the business and why it benefits Erie County.
Mr. Horton made a motion to adjourn.

Chair Scutella adjourned the meeting at 6:46 P.M.

***The next Finance/Personnel Committee Meetings are Thursday, October 24, 2024, at 4pm in room 114A, Erie County Courthouse or via Zoom.
*The next Regular Meeting of County Council is Tuesday, October 29, 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.**