

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 29, 2024

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Scutella called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

OPTIONAL PRAYER OR REFLECTION

ROLL CALL

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

Others Present: County Clerk Karen Chillcott and Financial Advisor Colin Domowicz

CITATION

Fort LeBoeuf Historical Society

A citation was presented to Fort LeBoeuf Historical Society President Patrick Jenks.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Mary Jo Campbell

Mary Jo Campbell-Washington Township, HRC co-chairperson; Ms. Campbell requested funding for the HRC to be reinstated for the year 2025. She stated that she was concerned that the entire County Council was previously on board with keeping the HRC but had now all changed their mind. She questioned why. She stated that the poor and underserved were unable to go to Pittsburgh or Harrisburg for services and needed to rely on Erie County Services.

Christine Mitchell

Christine Mitchell-Harborcreek-Chairwoman of HRC; Ms. Mitchell requested funding be reinstated for the 2025 year. She stated that she was uncertain as to why the Council suggested that they would all be in support of this funding but now had changed their minds. She stressed that Erie's most vulnerable residents that relied on this service were unable to go to Pittsburgh or Harrisburg to be

served properly. She noted most don't have the necessary transportation or, if they did, they don't have the funds.

Others

Lou Aliota-Mr. Aliota spoke to the Council about the letter his attorney sent to them concerning their denial of his civil rights and freedom of speech. He expected discussion to happen during the current meeting. He noted he would exercise his legal civil rights. He demanded the resignation of some Council members. He mentioned that he had more to say at another time on early, in-person voting.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

October 1, 2024 - Regular Meeting

A motion to approve the minutes from the October 1, 2024 Regular Council Meeting was offered by Mr. Horton and seconded by Mr. Winarski. The motion carried 7-0.
Yea: All
Nay: None

October 15, 2024 - Regular Meeting

A motion to approve the minutes from the October 15, 2024 Regular Council 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 by the County Executive or his designee.

Finance Committee - Mr. Copeland

Councilman Copeland reported that the Finance Committee met on October 24, 2024, and brought forward old Business items A and B and New Business items A thru X.

Personnel Committee - Mr. Winarski

Councilman Jim Winarski noted that the Personnel Committee met on October 24, 2024 and brought forward Old Business items C and D.

Other

Councilman Rock Copeland stated that he had heard a lot of disparaging remarks about County Council and wanted to state that a great deal of personal time was spent as an elected official. He stated that County Executive Brenton Davis had an idea to purchase materials to give to other municipalities. Mr. Copeland stated that Mr. Davis has talked about giving out micro-grants but hadn't reported them to the Council. He states that per the Home Rule Charter, Mr. Davis has ten days to notify County Council of this process. Mr. Copeland expressed concern about the number of times this had happened, the amount of money that was involved and the lack of transparency. He believed that Mr. Davis spoke inaccurately and boasted about breaking the law. Mr. Copeland stated that the Controller had found no transactions at that time, but he wanted it noted in the records and to

make all of his fellow members of Council aware of the situation.

Councilman Horton stated that he was concerned that the Finance Director was not abiding by the Home Rule Charter by not supplying requested financial information but estimates only. Councilman Horton stated that he had stopped asking because he was not getting the necessary information. Mr. Horton noted it was unacceptable that the Council members are unable to talk to Directors of County Departments without the Director of Administration, the Finance Director or the Executive Director present.

OLD BUSINESS

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" (First Read 10/15/24) (Finance Committee)

Second reading of Ordinance Number 62, 2024 was offered by Clerk Chillcott. It was moved by Andre Horton, seconded by Chris Drexel. Motion carried 7-0.
Yea:All
Nay:None

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" (First Read 10/15/24) (Finance Committee)

The second reading of Resolution 23, 2024 was offered by Clerk Chillcott. It was moved by Ellen Schauerma, seconded by Charlie Bayle. Motion carried 7-0.
Yea:All
Nay:None

Ordinance Number 63, 2024, "2024 Appointed Official Salary Ordinance - Full-Time Assistant Public Defender" (First Read 10/15/24) (Personnel Committee)

The second reading of Ordinance 63, 2024 was read by Clerk Chillcott. It was moved by Ellen Schauerma, seconded by Jim Winarski. 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

A motion to untable Ordinance Number 13, 2024 was made by Rock Copeland, seconded by Chris Drexel. Motion approved 7-0.

Yea:All
Nay:None

A motion to amend Ordinance Number 13, 2024 to an amount of \$90,000.00 was made by Rock Copeland, seconded by Chris Drexel.

2/27/24)

The motion carried 3-4.
Yea:4 (Copeland, Drexel, Scutella, Horton)
Nay:3 (Bayles, Schauerma, Winarski)

A motion to vote on newly amended Ordinance Number 13, 2024 was made by Andre Horton, seconded by Copeland. Motion carried 3-4.
Yea:4 (Copeland, Drexel, Scutella, Horton)
Nay:3 (Bayles, Schauerma, Winarski)

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance Number 64, 2024, "Approval of Grant to Fly Erie Fund, LLC" (Finance Committee)

A first reading of Ordinance Number 64, 2024 was offered by Clerk Chillcott. Councilman Rock Copeland requested a call for the question on this ordinance as well as a vote at the end of all of the readings.

Resolution Number 27, 2024, "Approval of Expenditure for Sammartino, Stout & Lo Presti and Assessment Evaluation, Inc. for Appraisal of Erie County Properties: 24-012-037.0-001.00, 24-005-035.0-004.00, 21-067-103.0-003.00, 21-067-104.0-001.00, 21-067-105.0-001.00; 33-104-471.0-033.00" (Finance Committee)

The second reading of Resolution Number 27, 2024 was offered by Clerk Chillcott. Rock Copeland clarified, for the citizens in the room or watching live, the location of the property that would be voted on in this resolution. It was moved by Ellen Schauerma, seconded by Rock Copeland. The motion failed 3-4.
Yea:3 (Bayle, Schauerma, Winarski)
Nay:4 (Copeland, Drexel, Horton, Scutella)

Resolution Number 28, 2024, "Supporting Operation Green Light for Veterans" (Finance Committee)

The second reading of Resolution Number 28, 2024 was offered by Clerk Chillcott. It was moved by Ellen Schauerma, seconded by Charlie Bayle. The motion carried 7-0.
Yea:All
Nay:None

Resolution Number 29, 2024, "A Resolution of the County of Erie, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Authorizing the Submission of an Application to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development for Funding through the

The second reading of Resolution Number 29, 2024 was offered by Clerk Chillcott. It was moved by Ellen Schauerma, seconded by Rock Copeland. Motion carried 7-0.
Yea:All
Nay:None

**Community Development
Block Grant (CDBG)
Program, as Authorized
under the Housing and
Community Development
Act [42 USC 5301 and 24
CFR Part 570], and
Further Certifying
Compliance with the
Requirements of Said
Program" (Finance
Committee)**

**Ordinance Number 65,
2024, "Approving the 2025
Erie County Community
College Budget"** A first reading of Ordinance Number 65, 2024 was read by Clerk Chillcott.

**Ordinance Number 66,
2024, "2025 Debt Service
Fund"** A first reading of Ordinance Number 66, 2024 was read by Clerk Chillcott.

**Ordinance Number 67,
2024, "2025 Employee
Fringe Benefit Fund
Budget"** A first reading of Ordinance Number 67, 2024 was read by Clerk Chillcott. It was asked by Rock Copeland to preface each reading by stating first or second reading so that the public would be better informed.

**Ordinance Number 68,
2024, "2025 Health Choices
Fund Budget"** A first reading of Ordinance Number 68, 2024 was offered by Clerk Chillcott.

**Ordinance Number 69,
2024, "2025 Mental
Health/Intellectual
Disabilities Fund Budget"** A first reading of Ordinance Number 69, 2024 was offered by Clerk Chillcott.

**Ordinance Number 70,
2024, "2025 Drug and
Alcohol Abuse Fund
Budget"** A first reading of Ordinance Number 70, 2024 was offered by Clerk Chillcott.

**Ordinance Number 71,
2024, "2025 Children and
Youth Services Fund
Budget"** A first reading of Ordinance Number 71, 2024 was offered by Clerk Chillcott.

**Ordinance Number 72,
2024, "2025 Planning and** A first reading of Ordinance Number 72, 2024 was offered by Clerk Chillcott.

Community Fund Budget"

Ordinance Number 73, 2024, "2025 Domestic Relations Fund Budget" A first reading of Ordinance Number 73, 2024 was offered by Clerk Chillcott.

Ordinance Number 74, 2024, "2025 Library Fund Budget" A first reading of Ordinance Number 74, 2024 was offered by Clerk Chillcott.

Ordinance Number 75, 2024, "2025 Public Health Fund Budget" A first reading of Ordinance Number 75, 2024 was offered by Clerk Chillcott.

Ordinance Number 76, 2024, "2025 Public Safety Fund Budget" A first reading of Ordinance Number 76, 2024 was offered by Clerk Chillcott.

Ordinance Number 77, 2024, "2025 Gaming Fund Budget" A first reading of Ordinance Number 77, 2024 was offered by Clerk Chillcott.

Ordinance Number 78, 2024, "2025 Liquid Fuels Fund Budget" A first reading of Ordinance Number 78, 2024 was offered by Clerk Chillcott.

Ordinance Number 79, 2024, "2025 Pleasant Ridge Manor Operating Fund Budget" A first reading of Ordinance Number 79, 2024 was offered by Clerk Chillcott.

Ordinance Number 80, 2024, "2025 Pleasant Ridge Manor Depreciation Fund Budget" A first reading of Ordinance Number 80, 2024 was offered by Clerk Chillcott.

Ordinance Number 81, 2024, "2025 Erie County Care Management Budget" A first reading of Ordinance Number 81, 2024 was offered by Clerk Chillcott.

Ordinance Number 82, 2024, "2025 American Rescue Plan Fund Budget" A first reading of Ordinance Number 82, 2024 was offered by Clerk Chillcott.

Ordinance Number 83, 2024, "2025 General Fund Budget" A first reading of Ordinance Number 83, 2024 was offered by Clerk Chillcott.

Ordinance Number 84, A first reading of Ordinance Number 84, 2024 was offered by Clerk Chillcott.

**2024, "2025 Real Estate
Tax Levy"**

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Copeland requested an executive session be held at 6:39 p.m. and was seconded by Jim Winarski.

Regular meeting of Erie County Council adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

***The next Finance/Personnel
Committee Meetings are
Thursday, November 14, 2024, at
4pm in room 114A, Erie County
Courthouse or via Zoom.**

***The next Regular Meeting of
County Council is Thursday,
November 21, 2024 - BUDGET, 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.**