

MINUTES

Erie County Council

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Charlie Bayle
Rock Copeland
Chris Drexel
André R. Horton
Ellen Schauerma
Terry M. Scutella
Jim Winarski

Erie County Courthouse
140 West 6th Street, Room 117
Erie, PA 16501

ORGANIZATON MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, January 2, 2025

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was called to order by the Clerk, Karen Chillcott at 1:01pm.

ROLL CALL

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

Others Present: Karen Chillcott, Megan Moore, Tom Talarico, Esquire

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

No members of the public requested to speak.

NEW BUSINESS

Nomination of Council Officers; Chair and Vice Chair

Mr. Drexel nominated Rock Copeland as Chair of County Council. He stated that as Finance Chair Mr. Copeland displayed leadership and work ethic, and was the most prepared person for every meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Horton.

Mr. Winarski nominated Terry Scutella. The motion was seconded Mr. Bayle.

Mr. Horton called for a point of order and stated a motion was on the floor.

Mrs. Chillcott stated there was a motion on the floor and called for the vote. The motion failed 3-4. (Copeland, Drexel, Horton)

Mr. Winarski and Mr. Bayle restated their nomination and second.

Mr. Horton prefaced his vote with a statement that the this would be his last year on the Council. He noted that the previous year was the most difficult, to the point of being catastrophic. He noted that there had been no activity from the Council but for the two recommendations for ARP funds. He stated that Council was stunted at every turn. He presented the law suit as the only thing Council had to hang on to, and that was due to the previous wisdom of the Council. He stated in good conscience he would not support the nomination.

Mr. Copeland stated that the body of Council had a long standing tradition of rotating leadership, and that even the strongest members of Council ceded power. He noted it built collegiality of the body. He disagreed with the prior Chair's election to two consecutive terms and noted good policy was not to follow suit. The motion passed 4-3. (Copeland, Drexel, Horton)

Ms. Chillcott passed the gavel to the 2025 Chair of County Council, Terry Scutella.

Mr. Scutella asked for nominations for Vice Chair.

Mr. Drexel nominated Rock Copeland for Vice Chair. The motion was seconded by Mr. Horton and passed 7-0.

**Comments from the Chair
and Members of County
Council**

The Chair asked for any comments.

Mr. Copeland congratulated Mr. Scutella and thanked his colleagues for their support as Vice Chair.

Mr. Horton stated that the vote did not go as he thought it should, but would support the Chair, to the degree it made sense.

Mr. Scutella thanked all his colleagues. He acknowledged that it was a tough year, and stated when you sat as the Chair you take the blame. He hoped to do better this year. He said Council's bigger differences were upstairs. He recognized he had been questioned on his voting record. He stated if he was convinced it was best, he would vote for it no matter who sat upstairs. He voiced that if everyone in the courthouse was an adult there would not be these issues.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Horton made a motion to adjourn and the Chair adjourned at 1:11pm.

**The next Finance and
Personnel Committee
Meetings are Thursday,
January 9, 2025, at 4pm.
Please visit the County
Council webpage for more
information.**