

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

BUDGET MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, November 21, 2024

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Terry Scutella at 3:57 P.M.
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by Council, meeting participants and the public.

OPTIONAL PRAYER OR REFLECTION

A reflection was given by Councilwoman Ellen Schauerman.

ROLL CALL

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

Others Present: Clerk Karen Chillcott, Deputy Clerk Megan Moore, Financial Advisors Colin Domowicz, Kenny Bonus, Attorney Tom Talarico

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Linda Pezzino

Linda Pezzino did not speak.

Others

Jack Mehler, Attorney from MacDonald Illig representing Erie Port Authority-Thanked Council for their support of Resolution 31, 2024 pertaining to the Erie Coke plant property. He offered his assistance to Council to answer any questions.

Freda Tepfer-City of Erie-Expressed her gratitude for all the hard work that Council and staff had done. She listed many items that she supported and did not support in the budget. She specifically requested that Council fully fund the HRC and discontinue the use of Gaming Funds. She stated that Gaming Funds were for the Community College. She favored the removal of the Economic Development Department. She stated support for a tax increase.

Art Leopold-Millcreek Township-Expressed thanks for all of Council's hard work. He asked that Council show compassion to people and use ARPA funds

for housing. He asked the Council to support the Community College as well as fund the HRC. He mentioned that taxpayers understood that if they want better services a tax increase may be necessary. He warned Council their actions may affect the bond rating in the future.

Mary Jo Campbell-Washington Township- Stated that she was speaking on behalf of the HRC, and it's importance to the citizens of Erie County. She explained the HRC needs to be fully funded and a good person needs to be hired as Executive Director.

Mary Rennie-City of Erie- Ms. Rennie thanked everyone for their hard work. She noted that the 2025 budget was currently six million dollars "out of whack." She spoke to the Director of Finance but got no response. She commented about the analysis of the budget at the Jefferson Society; it had identified many more problems. She believed that Council had a problem with the budget because they did not have any correct figures. She stated that the Home Rule Charter demands that the County Executive live by the rules and laws of the county government, but he was not abiding by these rules and had not for several years. She was also very concerned about the library lease with Gannon and the changes that will be made.

Sam Talarico-Erie County Democratic Party- Expressed thanks to the Elections office for going over and above the call of duty. He mentioned that on Election Day staff worked non-stop to make sure that all the ballots were counted and correct. He spoke on the importance of the Election Board keeping each vote sacred and that they did a great job. He clarified the 17 ways that a provisional ballot could be disqualified just on the envelope alone. He thanked the Board of Elections for accepting ballots that did not go against the law, and allowed the ballot to be counted.

Victor Ruffa-speaking on the Blasco Library, Mr. Ruffa declared the Library should not be used for Gannon. He noted they have their own library and should not be granted public property. He supported the closing of the Economic Development Department and the Gaming Funds that were used for the Community College. He requested the Council preserve the HRC and listed some of their jobs. He stated help for the underserved was more reliable and faster in person than over the phone. He offered support for affordable housing for all of Erie County and the Police Athletic League (PAL).

Jeff McFadden-City of Erie-Mr. McFadden noted he spoke unofficially on Public Safety and specifically on 911. He offered statistics about 911 and noted it was funded by the State as well as the County. He requested that no positions be cut from the 911 program because the funds for these jobs come from the State.

Tiffany LaVette-ABC-24 Hour Childcare-Ms. LaVette listed the services of her business. She noted the networking resource that she developed with other providers that offered assistance for needs to be met. She asked County Council to dig deep and provide additional funds to all child care providers in Erie

County.

REPORTS OF COUNTY OFFICIALS

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

Finance Committee - Mr. Copeland Councilman Copeland reported that the Finance Committee met on November 14, 2024, and brought forward Old Business item A also New Business items L thru N. He also brought forward the 2nd reading of items A thru T.

Personnel Committee - Mr. Winarski Per Councilman Winarski, the Personnel Committee met on November 14, 2024, and brought forward new business items A thru K.

Other

OLD BUSINESS

Ordinance Number 64, 2024, "Approval of Grant to Fly Erie Fund, LLC" (First Read 10/29/24) (Finance Committee)

Ordinance Number 64, 2024 received a second reading by County Clerk Karen Chillcott. Rock Copeland, seconded by Chris Drexel, made a motion. Chairman Scutella opened the floor for discussion. Councilman Bayle stated that he was in favor of giving the funds to Fly Erie LLC and was okay with any elected official or employee of county government not being appointed to the board, but should hold everyone else to that standard as well, naming the City of Erie.

Councilman Copeland stated that the County Executive had been appointed to the board and then requested funds for them. He noted his belief that this was not proper.

Mrs. Schauermaier stated she wanted the money to go to the airport, but was opposed to the restrictions of the ordinance and telling independent LLCs who can and can't be on their own boards.

Councilman Horton offered that there were already policies in place in the Administrative Code that did not allow for county employees to be on boards and commissions. He was agreeable that the money could go to Fly Erie LLC, but no county employee should be on the board. He stated the code should apply to all, not some.

Chairman Scutella called for the question. Motion carried-5-2.

Yea: Scutella, Horton, Winarski, Copeland, Drexel

Nay: Bayle, Schauermaier

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance Number 85, 2024, "Approval of the 2025 Erie County Non-Bargaining Employees Pay Plan" (Personnel Committee)

First reading of Ordinance Number 85, 2024 was offered by County Clerk Karen Chillcott.

Ordinance Number 86, 2024, "2025 Appointed Official Salary Ordinance - Director of Administration" (Personnel Committee)	First reading of Ordinance Number 86, 2024 was offered by County Clerk Karen Chillcott.
Ordinance Number 87, 2024, "2025 Appointed Official Salary Ordinance - Director of Finance" (Personnel Committee)	First reading of Ordinance Number 87, 2024 was offered by County Clerk Karen Chillcott.
Ordinance Number 88, 2024, "2025 Appointed Official Salary Ordinance - Director of Human Resources" (Personnel Committee)	First reading of Ordinance Number 88, 2024 was offered by County Clerk Karen Chillcott.
Ordinance Number 89, 2024, "2025 Appointed Official Salary Ordinance - County Solicitor" (Personnel Committee)	First reading of Ordinance Number 89, 2024 was offered by County Clerk Karen Chillcott.
Ordinance Number 90, 2024, "2025 Appointed Official Salary Ordinance - First Assistant County Solicitor" (Personnel Committee)	First reading of Ordinance Number 90, 2024 was offered by County Clerk Karen Chillcott.
Ordinance Number 91, 2024, "2025 Appointed Official Salary Ordinance - Two Assistant County Solicitors" (Personnel Committee)	First reading of Ordinance Number 91, 2024 was offered by County Clerk Karen Chillcott.
Ordinance Number 92, 2024, "2025 Appointed Official Salary Ordinance - Public Defender" (Personnel Committee)	First reading of Ordinance Number 92, 2024 was offered by County Clerk Karen Chillcott.
Ordinance Number 93, 2024, "2025 Appointed	First reading of Ordinance Number 93, 2024 was offered by County Clerk Karen Chillcott.

**Official Salary Ordinance -
Full and Part-Time
Assistant Public Defenders"
(Personnel Committee)**

**Ordinance Number 94,
2024, "2025 Appointed
Official Salary Ordinance -
First Assistant Public
Defender" (Personnel
Committee)**

First reading of Ordinance Number 94, 2024 was offered by County Clerk Karen Chillcott.

**Ordinance Number 95,
2024, "2025 Appointed
Official Salary Ordinance -
County Clerk" (Personnel
Committee)**

First reading of Ordinance Number 95, 2024 was offered by County Clerk Karen Chillcott.

**Resolution Number 30,
2024, "Approval of
Application for Funds from
Local Share Assessment
Grant for Hirt
Auditorium" (Finance
Committee)**

Resolution Number 30, 2024 was offered by County Clerk Chillcott. A motion was made by Jim Winarski, seconded by Rock Copeland. Call for the question by Chairman Terry Scutella. Motion carried 7-0.

Yea: All

Nay: None

**Resolution Number 31,
2024, "Exonerating All
Outstanding County
Property Tax, Penalties,
Interest, and Fees for the
Current and Prior Tax
years, for the Erie Coke
Property, Located at the
Foot of East Avenue, Erie,
Pennsylvania, and Bearing
the Following Erie County
Tax ID Number: Parcel ID
#s 14-1025-113, 14-1025-
117, 14-1025-118, 14-1048-
105, 14-1048-107, 14-1034-
201, 14-1034-203, 14-1034-
205, 14-1034-102, 14-1034-
107, 14-1034-108, 14-1034-
110, 14-1034-111
(collectively, the "Tax
Parcels") (Finance
Committee)**

Resolution Number 31, 2024 was offered by County Clerk Chillcott. A motion was made by Rock Copeland, seconded by Andre Horton. Call for the question by Chairman Terry Scutella. Motion carried 7-0.

Yea: All

Nay: None

Resolution Number 32, 2024, "Approving the Intergovernmental Transfer Agreement between the PA Department of Human Services-Office of Long Term Living and the County of Erie" (Finance Committee)

Resolution Number 32, 2024 was offered by County Clerk Karen Chillcott. A motion was made by Andre Horton, seconded by Chris Drexel. Call for the question by Chairman Terry Scutella. Motion carried 7-0.

Yea: All

Nay: None

2025 BUDGET
ORDINANCES

Ordinance Number 65, 2024, "Approving the 2025 Erie County Community College Budget"

Second reading of Ordinance Number 65, 2024 was offered by County Clerk Chillcott. A motion was made by Rock Copeland, seconded by Andre Horton. Call for the question by Chairman Terry Scutella. Motion carried 7-0.

Yea: All

Nay: None

Ordinance Number 66, 2024, "2025 Debt Service Fund"

Second reading of Ordinance Number 66, 2024 was offered by County Clerk Chillcott. The motion was made by Councilman Rock Copeland, seconded by Councilman Chris Drexel. Councilman Copeland motioned to accept the ordinance as amended per action sheet 1 as there would be no financial impact. Action sheet read by Mr. Bonus-To adjust supporting detail to match the budget.

Call for the question by Chairman Terry Scutella. Call to accept ordinance as amended by Mr. Copeland. Seconded by Chris Drexel. Motion carried 7-0.

Yea: All

Nay: None

Ordinance Number 67, 2024, "2025 Employee Fringe Benefit Fund Budget"

Second reading of Ordinance Number 67, 2024 was offered by County Clerk Chillcott. The motion was made by Councilman Rock Copeland, seconded by Councilman Chris Drexel. Councilman Copeland motioned to amend per action sheet one. Per Ken Bonus, no action needed. Councilman Copeland asked to rescind the motion. Call for the question by Chairman Terry Scutella. Motion carried 7-0.

Yea: All

Nay: None

Ordinance Number 68, 2024, "2025 Health Choices Fund Budget"

Second reading of Ordinance Number 68, 2024 was offered by County Clerk Chillcott. The motion was made by Councilman Rock Copeland, seconded by Councilman Chris Drexel. Councilman Copeland motioned to amend per action sheet one and two. Seconded by Councilman Drexel. Mr. Bonus read Action sheet 1-If funding for a position ends, the position cannot be changed to another funding source unless it is approved by County Council and Action sheet 2-All line items which have a \$0 balance are eliminated and are not available for transfers. Chair Scutella called for the question. The vote on the amendment carried 7-0.

Call for the question by Chair Scutella to vote on the ordinance as amended.
Motion carried 7-0.
Yea: All
Nay: None

**Ordinance Number 69,
2024, "2025 Mental
Health/Intellectual
Disabilities Fund Budget"**

Second reading of Ordinance Number 69, 2024 was offered by County Clerk Chillcott. A motion was made by Councilman Rock Copeland, seconded by Councilman Chris Drexel. Councilman Copeland motioned to amend per action sheet one and two. Seconded by Councilman Drexel. Action sheets read by Mr. Bonus-Action sheet 1-If funding for a position ends, the position cannot be changed to another funding source unless it is approved by County Council and Action sheet 2-All line items which have a \$0 balance are eliminated and are not available for transfers. Chair Scutella called for the question. The vote on the amendment carried 7-0.

Call for the question by Chair Scutella to vote on the ordinance as amended.
Motion carried 7-0.
Yea: All
Nay: None

**Ordinance Number 70,
2024, "2025 Drug and
Alcohol Abuse Fund
Budget"**

Second reading of Ordinance Number 70, 2024 was offered by County Clerk Chillcott. Motion made by Councilman Rock Copeland, seconded by Councilman Chris Drexel. Councilman Copeland motioned to amend per action sheet one and two. Seconded by Councilman Drexel. Action sheets read by Mr. Bonus-Action Sheet 1-If funding for a position ends, the position cannot be changed to another funding source unless it is approved by County Council and Action sheet 2-All line items that have a \$0 balance are eliminated and are not available for transfers. Chair Scutella called for the question. The vote on the amendment carried 7-0.

Call for the question by Chair Scutella to vote on the ordinance as amended.
Motion carried 7-0.
Yea: All
Nay: None

**Ordinance Number 71,
2024, "2025 Children and
Youth Services Fund
Budget"**

Second reading of Ordinance Number 71, 2024 was offered by County Clerk Chillcott. A motion was made by Councilman Rock Copeland, seconded by Councilman Chris Drexel. Councilman Copeland motioned to amend per action sheet one, two and three. Seconded by Councilman Drexel. Mr. Bonus read the action sheets-Action sheet 1-All line items which have a \$0 balance are eliminated and are not available for transfers, Action sheet 2-All positions are eliminated when the grant revenue is eliminated, Action sheet 3-If funding for a position ends, the position cannot be changed to another funding source unless it is approved by County Council. Chair Scutella called for the question. The vote on the amendment carried 7-0.

Call for the question by Chair Scutella to vote on the ordinance as amended.

Motion carried 7-0.

Yea: All

Nay: None

**Ordinance Number 72,
2024, "2025 Planning and
Community Fund Budget"**

Second reading of Ordinance Number 72, 2024 was offered by County Clerk Chillcott. A motion was made by Mr. Copeland. Seconded by Chris Drexel.

Councilman Copeland motioned to amend per action sheet one and two.

Seconded by Councilman Drexel. Mr. Bonus read Action sheet 1-If funding for a position ends, the position cannot be changed to another funding source unless it is approved by County Council and Action sheet 2-All line items which have a \$0 balance are eliminated and are not available for transfers. Chair Scutella called for the question. The vote on the amendment carried 7-0.

Councilman Copeland motioned to amend ordinance per action sheet 3.

Seconded by Councilman Drexel. Mr. Copeland, for the clarification of the public, noted that funds were from the gaming fund to the planning fund. The check had no routing number, therefore, unable to cash. Mr. Bonus read action sheet 3-To reduce transfer from gaming fund not appropriately shown coming from the gaming fund by \$100,000 along with reduction of the pass thru grant for \$100,000. Call for the question on the amendment. Motion carried-7-0.

Mr. Copeland motioned to amend ordinance per action sheet 4. Seconded by Mr. Drexel. Mr. Bonus read action sheet 4-To reduce transfer from ARPA fund and fund balance appropriated for \$75,000 and \$825,000 respectively. To reduce the pass thru grant by \$900,000. Call for the question by Chair Scutella. Motion carried 6-1.

Yea: Scutella, Horton, Schauerma, Winarski, Drexel and Copeland

Nay: Bayle

Councilman Copeland motioned to amend ordinance per action sheet 4.1.

Seconded by Councilman Drexel. Mr. Copeland, for the clarification of the public, noted that funds were to be used for the Union City Baseball field only.

Mr. Bonus read action sheet 4.1-To reduce the pass thru grant by \$150,000 and establish Union City Boro Ball Felds account and increase expense by \$150,000 also that it is restricted for that specific purpose. Call for the question on the amendment. Seconded by Mr. Drexel. Motion carried-7-0.

Mr. Copeland motioned to amend ordinance per action sheet 5*. Seconded by Mr. Drexel. Mr. Bonus read action sheet 5*-If general fund action sheet 20 passes (removal of economic development department)-move positions of municipal projects coordinator (NB04) and data center GIS administrator (NB15) along with associated payroll and benefits to planning department along with fees and other reimbursements revenue, travel and computer software expenses. No discussion at this time. Call for the question by Chair Scutella. Motion carried 4-3.

Yea: Drexel, Copeland, Scutella, Horton

Nay: Bayle, Schauerma, Winarski

Mr. Copeland motioned to amend ordinance per action sheet 6*. Seconded by Mr. Drexel. Mr. Bonus read action sheet 6*-If ARPA action sheet 6 passes-to increase transfer from ARPA for \$150,000 and increase expenses for emergency lights (RELCO) for \$150,000, to restrict it for those specific purpose. Mr. Copeland moved to amend the amendment to read as restricted to emergency lights only. Call for the question to approve the amended amendment. Motion carried. 7-0

Call for the question to accept Ordinance 72 with the above listed amendments. Motion carried 5-2.

Yea: Copeland, Drexel, Scutella, Horton, Schauerma

Nay: Winarski, Bayle

**Ordinance Number 73,
2024, "2025 Domestic
Relations Fund Budget"**

Second reading of Ordinance Number 73, 2024 was offered by County Clerk Chillcott. Councilman Copeland motioned to amend per action sheet one, two and three. Seconded by Councilman Drexel. Mr. Bonus read Action sheet 1-All line items which have a \$0 balance are eliminated and are not available for transfers, Action sheet 2-If funding for a position ends, the position cannot be changed to another funding source unless it is approved by County Council and Action sheet 3-All positions are eliminated when the grant revenue is eliminated. Chair Scutella called for the question. The vote on the amendment carried 7-0.

Mr. Copeland motioned to amend per action sheet 4, and noted Courts had a position that was eliminated of which they were not aware. Mr. Bonus read the action sheet-To reinstate a domestic relations position NB06 with wages at \$30,107.41 and associated payroll and benefits expenses. Call for the question by Mr. Scutella. Motion carried 7-0.

Call for the question to accept ordinance as amended. Motion carried 7-0

Yea: All

Nay: None

**Ordinance Number 74,
2024, "2025 Library Fund
Budget"**

Second reading of Ordinance Number 74, 2024 was offered by County Clerk Chillcott. A motion was made by Mr. Copeland, seconded by Mr. Drexel.

Councilman Copeland motioned to amend per action sheet one. Seconded by Councilman Drexel. Mr. Bonus read Action sheet 1-All line items which have a \$0 balance are eliminated and are not available for transfers. No discussion at this time. Chair Scutella called for the question. The vote on the amendment carried 7-0.

Call for the question to accept ordinance as amended. Motion carried 7-0

Yea: All

Nay: None

**Ordinance Number 75,
2024, "2025 Public Health"**

Second reading of Ordinance Number 75, 2024 was offered by County Clerk Chillcott. A motion was made by Councilman Rock Copeland, seconded by

Fund Budget"

Councilman Chris Drexel. Councilman Copeland motioned to amend per action sheet one and two. Seconded by Councilman Drexel. Mr. Bonus read Action sheet 1-If funding for a position ends, the position cannot be changed to another funding source unless it is approved by County Council and Action sheet 2-All line items which have a \$0 balance are eliminated and are not available for transfers. Chair Scutella called for the question. The vote on the amendment carried 7-0.

Call for the question to accept ordinance as amended. Motion carried 7-0

Yea: All

Nay: None

**Ordinance Number 76,
2024, "2025 Public Safety
Fund Budget"**

Second reading of Ordinance Number 76, 2024 was offered by County Clerk Chillcott. So moved by Councilman Rock Copeland, seconded by Councilman Chris Drexel. Councilman Copeland motioned to amend per action sheet one, two and three. Mr. Bonus read Action sheet 1-All positions are eliminated at the end of the present grant. If grant is continued, County Council must approve the position prior to start of the new grant, Action sheet 2- All line items which have a \$0 balance are eliminated and are not available for transfers, Action sheet 3-If funding for a position ends, the position cannot be changed to another funding source unless it is approved by County Council. Chair Scutella called for the question. The vote on the amendment carried 7-0.

Mr. Copeland motioned to amend per action sheet 4, Plan to remove some 911 Call Center and union positions so that funds can be diverted to other employees. Mr. Copeland stated that these negotiations are between the County Executive and union officials and Council was not permitted to make those changes. Mr. Bonus read Action sheet 4-To reverse the admin adjustment in relation to wages and fringe benefits back. Call for the question by Mr. Scutella. Motion carried 7-0.

Call for the question to accept ordinance as amended. Motion carried 7-0

Yea: All

Nay: None

**Ordinance Number 77,
2024, "2025 Gaming Fund
Budget"**

Second reading of Ordinance Number 77, 2024 was offered by County Clerk Chillcott. Motion made by Councilman Rock Copeland, seconded by Councilman Chris Drexel. Councilman Copeland motioned to amend per action sheet one. Seconded by Councilman Drexel. Mr. Bonus read Action sheet 1-All line items which have a \$0 balance are eliminated and are not available for transfers. Chair Scutella called for the question. The vote on the amendment carried 7-0.

Mr. Copeland motioned to amend, per action sheet 2. Seconded by Mr. Drexel. Mr. Bonus read Action sheet 2-To reduce the EMS program from 2,500,000 to zero. A decrease of \$2,500,000. No discussion at this time. Call for the question by Mr. Scutella. Motion carried 4-3.

Yea: Copeland, Drexel, Scutella, Horton

Nay: Bayle, Schauerman, Winarski

Mr. Copeland motioned to amend, per action sheet 3. Seconded by Mr. Drexel. Mr. Bonus read Action sheet 3-To reduce the municipal projects from \$2,000,000 to zero, a decrease of \$2,000,000. Motion carried 4-3.

Yea: Copeland, Drexel, Scutella, Horton

Nay: Bayle, Schauerman, Winarski

Action sheet 3 passed, so no action was needed on action sheet 4*-If gaming action sheet 3 fails-to reduce the municipal projects from \$2,000,000 to \$1,000,000. A decrease of \$1,000,000.

Mr. Copeland motioned to amend, per action sheet 5. Seconded by Mr. Drexel. Chairman Copeland stated that he understands a protest vote but he is asking that all council people vote yes on this question. Mr. Bonus read Action sheet 5-To reduce the fund balance appropriated account from \$4,236,256 to \$0. A decrease of \$4,263,256. Call for the question by Mr. Scutella. Motion carried 4-3.

Yea: Copeland, Drexel, Scutella, Horton

Nay: Bayle, Schauerman, Winarski

Call for the question to accept ordinance as amended. Motion carried 4-3

Yea: Copeland, Drexel, Scutella, Horton

Nay: Bayle, Schauerman, Winarski

**Ordinance Number 78,
2024, "2025 Liquid Fuels
Fund Budget"**

Second reading of Ordinance Number 78, 2024 was offered by County Clerk Chillcott. Motion made by Mr. Copeland, seconded by Mr. Drexel. Councilman Copeland motioned to amend per action sheet one. Seconded by Councilman Drexel. Mr. Bonus read Action sheet 1-Adjust the supporting detail to match the budget. No discussion at this time. Chair Scutella called for the question. The vote on the amendment carried 7-0.

Call for the question to accept ordinance as amended. Motion carried 7-0

Yea: All

Nay: None

**Ordinance Number 79,
2024, "2025 Pleasant Ridge
Manor Operating Fund
Budget"**

Second reading of Ordinance Number 79, 2024 was offered by County Clerk Chillcott. Councilman Copeland motioned to amend per action sheets one and two. Seconded by Councilman Drexel. Mr. Bonus read Action sheet 1-All line items which have a \$0 balance are eliminated and are not available for transfers and Action sheet 2-To restore \$500,000 transfer to Pleasant Ridge Manor from general fund transfers to arrive at Pleasant Ridge Manor request. Mr. Scutella called for discussion. Councilwoman Schauerman stated that she thought that Pleasant Ridge Manor was agreeable to cut funds but Mr. Scutella disagreed. After much discussion on the exact amount it was decided to reinstate 500,000.00 in funds to their budget. Motion to amend action sheet 2 was made by Councilman Copeland, seconded by Councilman Drexel. Motion carried 7-0.

Call for the question to accept ordinance as amended. Motion carried 7-0

Yea: All

Nay: None

**Ordinance Number 80,
2024, "2025 Pleasant Ridge
Manor Depreciation Fund
Budget"**

Second reading of Ordinance Number 80, 2024 was offered by County Clerk Chillcott. Motion made by Councilman Rock Copeland, seconded by Councilman Chris Drexel. Councilman Copeland motioned to amend per action sheet one. Per Councilman Copeland, action sheet one was a place holder and no action was currently necessary. Chair Scutella called for the question. The vote carried 7-0.

Call for the question to accept ordinance-Motion carried 7-0

Yea: All

Nay: None

**Ordinance Number 81,
2024, "2025 Erie County
Care Management Budget"**

Second reading of Ordinance Number 81, 2024 was offered by County Clerk Chillcott. Motion made by Councilman Rock Copeland, seconded by Councilman Chris Drexel. Mr. Horton suggested that an amendment was necessary to remove the stipulation to hire so that it would not be necessary to come before Council for every position that was vacated. Action sheet 1 was not brought forward so no stipulation was suggested at this time. Councilman Copeland motioned to amend per action sheet two and three only. Seconded by Councilman Drexel. Mr. Bonus read Action sheet 2-If funding for a position ends, the position cannot be transferred to another funding source unless it is approved by County Council and Action sheet 3-All line items which have a \$0 balance are eliminated and are not available for transfers. Chair Scutella called for the question. The vote on the amendment carried 7-0.

Call for the question to accept ordinance as amended. Motion carried 7-0

Yea: All

Nay: None

**Ordinance Number 82,
2024, "2025 American
Rescue Plan Fund Budget"**

Second reading of Ordinance Number 82, 2024 was offered by County Clerk Chillcott. Motion made by Councilman Rock Copeland, seconded by Councilman Chris Drexel. Mr. Bonus read Action sheet 1-All line items which have a \$0 balance are eliminated and are not available for transfers. Councilman Copeland motioned to amend per action sheet one. Seconded by Councilman Drexel. Chair Scutella called for the question. The vote on the amendment carried 7-0.

So Moved by Mr. Copeland to amend action sheet 2. Seconded by Mr. Drexel. Mr. Bonus read Action sheet 2-If action sheet 4 in planning passes-to reduce the planning fund transfer of \$75,000. A reduction of \$75,000. Call for question by Chairman Scutella. Motion Carried-4-3.

Yay: Horton, Drexel, Copeland, Scutella

Nay: Bayle, Schauerma, Winarski

Motioned by Mr. Copeland to amend action sheet 3. Seconded by Mr. Drexel.

Mr. Bonus read Action sheet 3-To increase expenses for Diverse Erie (DEI) from \$0 to \$2,500,000 and correspondingly reduce expenses for municipal infrastructure by \$2,500,000. To restrict and obligate the funds to Diverse Erie and obligate administration to pay it by the end of the year. Mr. Copeland discussed the possibility of recommitting funds for DEI. Believed that it had been unfunded by the County Executive. Mr. Horton said that ARPA funds were meant for this type of program (DEI). He stated that he would support this amendment. Mr. Bayle stated that the city of Erie does not contribute to the DEI and also believed that they do not distribute funds fairly, suggesting that the county does not receive much from this program. Mr. Copeland stated that GAP funds are not eligible for the City of Erie but only for the county. He agreed that not all funds were appropriated fairly. Mr. Horton stated that the percentage of population was not in the county and all were welcome to apply. Motion carried-4-3.

Yay: Horton, Drexel, Copeland, Scutella

Nay: Bayle, Schauerma, Winarski

To amend verbiage to restrict funds to this specific purpose

Yay: Horton, Drexel, Copeland, Scutella

Nay: Bayle, Schauerma, Winarski

Motion to amend per action sheet 4 so moved by Councilman Copeland, seconded by Councilman Drexel. Mr. Bonus read Action sheet 4-To create a new account and increase expenses for ECGRA (childcare) from \$0 to \$2,500,000 and correspondingly reduce expenses for municipal infrastructure by \$2,500,000. Restricted for the purposes stated and obligated to ECGRA to obliging administration to commit these funds by end of the year. Call for discussion by Chairman Scutella. Mr. Drexel stated that child care was a county-wide problem. He said that it's also an economic development problem. Mr. Drexel said that we need our workforce so they need dependable childcare. Mr. Copeland stated that ARPA was a once in a lifetime gift to the people of our community and most would not think that they have benefited from it. He believed that the child care industry has been upended by Covid and had his support. Mr. Horton supported the people in this industry. He stated that it was the single most important thing that they could do. Councilman Bayle stated that ECGRA was currently under investigation and therefore had trouble committing funds to them. Chair Scutella stated that ECGRA was not being investigated but audited. He went on to briefly explain the difference. Mr. Copeland then stated that the County Executive attacks those that he doesn't control. He does not have any control over ECGRA. ECGRA has all of their financial transactions on their website for all to see. Councilman Horton reminded all that he believed that county government needs audited. Councilwoman Schauerma stated that there had been little time and information on this topic but believed that more funding would come from the national level. Motion Carried-5-2.

Yea: Horton, Scutella, Copeland, Drexel, Winarski

Nay: Bayle, Schauerma

To amend verbiage to restrict funds to this specific purpose

Yea: All
Nay: None

Motion to amend the amendment to action sheet 5 made by Mr. Copeland, seconded by Mr. Drexel. This will include the right to restrict and obligate funds by the Redevelopment Authority for the sole purpose of Grow Erie. Motioned by Mr. Copeland, seconded by Mr. Drexel. Mr. Bonus read Action sheet 5-To increase expenses for growerie/Redevelopment Authority from \$0 to \$750,000 and correspondingly reduce expenses for municipal infrastructure by \$750,000. Amend this to restrict this to be distributed by Redevelopment Authority for purposes of providing to Grow Erie. Call for question by Mr. Scutella. Motion carried, 4-3

Yea: Horton, Scutella, Copeland, Drexel
Nay: Bayle, Schauerma, Winarski
To amend verbiage to restrict funds to this specific purpose.

Call for the question to accept Ordinance 82 as amended above.
Yea: Horton, Scutella, Copeland, Drexel
Nay: Bayle, Schauerma, Winarski

Motion to amend action sheet 6, so moved by Councilman Copeland, seconded by Councilman Chris Drexel. Mr. Bonus read Action sheet 6-To increase expenses for emergency lights (RELCO) in the planning fund from \$0 to \$150,000 and reduce expenses for municipal infrastructure by \$75,000. Per Mr. Copeland, this amendment is resolved under other areas, including Public Safety so no action is necessary. Chair Scutella called for the question. Motion carried 7-0.

It was suggested by Attorney Talarico that no restriction was put on action sheet 3 to restrict and obligate funds noted on that sheet. So moved by Mr. Copeland, seconded by Mr. Drexel. Call for the question by Chair Scutella. Motion carried 4-3.

Yea: Horton, Scutella, Drexel, Copeland
Nay: Winarski, Schauerma, Bayle

Councilman Copeland stated that he asked for a conversation with the county executive last January to discuss how funds were distributed. He only learned of the procedure when the budget was disclosed. He motioned to amend action sheet 7. Mr. Drexel stated that the Municipal GAP fund had the highest merit. He made a motion to move the funds from housing to the GAP fund. Seconded by Jim Winarski. Mr. Bonus read Action sheet-7-To increase expenses for affordable housing-ECRDA from \$0 to \$750,000 and correspondingly reduce expenses for municipal infrastructure by \$750,000. Call for the question by Chair Scutella. Motion carried 4-3.

Yea: Drexel, Horton, Scutella, Winarski
Nay: Bayle, Schauerma, Copeland

**Ordinance Number 83,
2024, "2025 General Fund
Budget"**

Prior to the reading of Ordinance Number 84 Councilman Copeland requested that a verbiage change may be necessary for action sheet 4 of Ordinance Number 76. Motion to amend action sheet 4 to eliminate the words "to original department request" was made by Mr. Copeland, seconded by Mr. Drexel. No discussion necessary at this time. Call for the question was made by Mr. Scutella, Motion carried 7-0.

Second reading of Ordinance Number 83, 2024 was offered by County Clerk Chillcott. So moved by Mr. Copeland, seconded by Mr. Drexel. Councilman Copeland motioned to amend per action sheet one, two and three. Seconded by Councilman Drexel. Mr. Bonus read Action sheet 1-All individual salaries are to be considered to be a separate line item and subject to all provisions governing transfers, Action sheet 2-All line items which have a \$0 balance are eliminated and are not available for transfers, and Action sheet 3-If funding for a position ends, the position cannot be changed to another funding source unless it is approved by council. No discussion at this time. Chair Scutella called for the question. The vote on the amendment carried 7-0.

Councilman Copeland motioned to amend per action sheet four. Seconded by Councilman Drexel. Mr. Bonus read Action sheet 4-To increase County Council chairperson wages to agree to previously passed ordinance, total wages for chair person should be \$13,654 per previously enacted ordinance. Per Mr. Copeland, this action sheet was for fixing a mistake only. No raises are available for the Chairman of Council for a five year period that was agreed upon during a different budget. Chair Scutella called for the question. The vote on the amendment carried 7-0.

Councilman Copeland motioned to amend per action sheet five. Seconded by Councilman Drexel. Mr. Bonus read Action sheet 5-to add \$18,000 of per diem wages to arrive at original request by department. No discussion at this time. Chair Scutella called for the question. The vote on the amendment carried 7-0.

Councilman Copeland motioned to amend per action sheet six. Seconded by Councilman Drexel. Mr. Bonus read Action sheet 6-To adjust elections office administrator to \$41,691 from current 2025 wages of \$37,980.73, increase of \$3,710.27. No discussion at this time. Chair Scutella called for the question. The vote on the amendment carried 7-0.

Councilman Copeland motioned to amend per action sheet seven. Seconded by Councilman Drexel. Mr. Bonus read Action sheet 7-To adjust deputy clerk to \$70,187 from current 2025 wages of \$64,392.51. Increase of \$5,794.49. Also categorize as NB17 pay grade. No discussion at this time. Chair Scutella called for the question. The vote on the amendment carried 7-0.

Councilman Copeland motioned to amend per action sheet eight. Seconded by Councilman Drexel. Mr. Bonus read Action Sheet 8-If AS4 fails-to adjust deputy

clerk to \$66,324 from current 2025 wages for \$64,392.51. An increase of \$12,931.78. Also categorize as NB17 pay grade. No discussion at this time. Chair Scutella called for the question. The vote on the amendment carried 7-0.

Councilman Copeland motioned to amend per action sheet nine. Seconded by Councilman Drexel. Mr. Bonus read action sheet 9-To adjust computer supplies to \$3,000 as per original department request. No discussion at this time. Chair Scutella called for the question. The vote on the amendment carried 7-0.

Councilman Copeland motioned to amend per action sheet ten. Seconded by Councilman Drexel. Mr. Bonus read Action sheet 10-To adjust worker's compensation amount to the correct amount as the wrong code was entered in budget software. No discussion at this time. Chair Scutella called for the question. The vote on the amendment carried 7-0.

Councilman Copeland motioned to amend per action sheet eleven. Seconded by Councilman Drexel. Mr. Bonus read Action sheet 11-To add new position NB08 election warehouse assistant of \$30,069. No discussion at this time. Chair Scutella called for the question. The vote on the amendment carried 7-0.

Councilman Copeland motioned to amend per action sheet twelve. Seconded by Councilman Drexel. Mr. Bonus read Action Sheet 12-To reinstate Human Relations Bureau as originally submitted by department with the position of director (formerly Executive Director) position (NB15) reduced professional fees, and recalculated associated payroll and benefits expenses. Discussion on this action sheet. Councilwoman Schauerma struggled over her decision on HRC. Councilman Drexel spoke on clarification on action sheet 12 and 13. Reminded everyone to move forward carefully. He stated that the department can't be run without an investigator. Mr. Copeland believes strongly in HRC. Stated that this department needs to be empowered, including the amendments in action sheets 12 and 13. Chair Scutella asked for clarification on the funds if the HRC fails. It was decided that the funds remain with the General Fund. Mr. Copeland stated that if it fails, you begin again and recommit. Mr. Horton stated that there are several lawsuits over this. He went on to say that the county clerk oversees this department, and she is very passionate about it. He said that it is needed now more than ever. Chair Scutella called for the question. The vote on the amendment carried 6-1

Yea: Copeland, Drexel, Scutella, Horton, Schauerma, Winarski
Nay: Bayle

Councilman Copeland motioned to amend per action sheet 13*. Seconded by Councilman Drexel. Mr. Bonus read Action sheet 13*-If action sheet 12 passes-to reinstate Human Relations bureau full time civil rights investigator 1 position (NB12) and associated payroll and benefits expenses. Chair Scutella called for the question. Motion carried 6-1.

Yea: Horton, Schauerma, Winarski, Copeland, Drexel, Scutella
Nay: Bayle

Action sheet 14-if action sheet 12 fails-to increase professional fees in human relations department to 450,000. An increase of \$50,000.

Councilman Copeland motioned to amend per action sheets 15 and 16.

Seconded by Councilman Drexel. Mr. Bonus read Action sheet 15-To adjust worker's compensation amount to the correct amount as the wrong code was entered in budget software and Action sheet 16- To adjust worker's compensation amount to the correct amount as the wrong code was entered in budget software.

Chair Scutella called for the question. Motion carried 7-0.

Councilman Copeland motioned to amend per action sheet 17. Seconded by Councilman Drexel. Mr. Bonus read Action sheet 17-To eliminate the position of administrative assistant 1 (NB06) and related payroll and benefits. Chair Scutella called for the question. Motion carried 4-3.

Yea: Scutella, Horton, Drexel, Copeland.

Nay: Bayle, Schauerma, Winarski

Councilman Copeland motioned to amend per action sheet 18. Seconded by Councilman Drexel. Mr. Bonus read Action sheet 18-To reduce executive assistant increase to reflect an effective increase of 12% rather than an 18% increase. Mr. Copeland explained why the reduction was necessary. He noted that the pay scale was off and needed to be looked at carefully. He stated that this was not personal, nor did it reflect on the staff members and their work.

Chair Scutella called for the question. Motion carried 7-0.

Councilman Copeland motioned to amend per action sheet 19. Seconded by Councilman Drexel. Mr. Bonus read Action sheet 19-To reduce travel work required by \$8000. Councilwoman Schauerma asked for verbiage clarification on this action sheet. Mr. Bonus stated that it was in the budget with those words, so he continued to use them. No further discussion. Chair Scutella called for the question. Motion carried 5-2.

Yea: Scutella, Horton, Drexel, Copeland, Winarski

Nay: Bayle, Schauerma

Councilman Copeland motioned to amend per action sheet 20. Seconded by Councilman Drexel. Mr. Bonus read Action sheet-20-To eliminate the Economic Development Bureau. Mr. Copeland stated that for clarification, the revenue has been moved for this department. Chairwoman Schauerma asked to review verbiage on this action sheet. Mr. Copeland moved to amend the action sheet to read "eliminated" and not removed. Chair Scutella called for the question.

Motion carried 4-3.

Yea: Scutella, Horton, Drexel, Copeland

Nay: Bayle, Schauerma, Winarski

Amendment of verbiage to read eliminate.

Chair Scutella called for the question on the action sheet. Motion carried 5-2

Yea: Scutella, Horton, Drexel, Copeland, Schauerma

Nay: Bayle, Winarski

Councilman Copeland motioned to amend per action sheet 21. Seconded by Councilman Drexel. Mr. Bonus read Action sheet 21-To eliminate the HR Generalist Position (NB11) with wages of \$77,454.19 (NB11) along with associated payroll and benefits expenses. Chair Scutella called for the question. Motion carried 4-3.

Yea: Scutella, Horton, Drexel, Copeland.

Nay: Bayle, Schauerma, Winarski

Action sheet 22 was pulled.

Councilman Copeland motioned to amend per action sheet 23. Seconded by Councilman Drexel. Mr. Bonus read Action sheet 23-To reduce constable fees down to \$125,000. A reduction of \$25,000. Chair Scutella called for the question. Motion carried 6-1.

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

Nay: Copeland

Councilman Copeland motioned to amend per action sheet 24. Seconded by Councilman Drexel. Mr. Bonus read Action Sheet 24-To add \$1000 in the overtime line item to keep it open. Chair Scutella called for the question. Motion carried 7-0.

Councilman Copeland motioned to amend per action sheet 25. Seconded by Councilman Drexel. Mr. Bonus read Action sheet 25-To reduce the manager of procurement (NB16) wages and associated payroll expenses to reflect a 10% raise rather than a 23.5% raise. Chair Scutella called for the question. Motion carried 7-0.

Action Sheet 26* was pulled.

Councilman Copeland motioned to amend per action sheet 27. Seconded by Councilman Drexel. Mr. Bonus read Action Sheet-27-To eliminate the public information officer (NB14) position including wages and associated payroll and benefits expenses. Mr. Drexel stated that for clarification, this position was not a county position but one of the County Executive. Unfortunately, it was used for spreading negativity among the county. Chair Scutella called for the question. Motion carried 4-3.

Yea: Scutella, Horton, Drexel, Copeland.

Nay: Bayle, Schauerma, Winarski

Councilman Copeland motioned to amend per action sheet 28. Seconded by Councilman Drexel. Mr. Bonus read Action sheet 28-To add \$1000 in the overtime line item to keep it open. Mr. Copeland stated that this line is being open and available for fund transfers for overtime as needed. Chair Scutella called for the question. Motion carried 7-0.

Councilman Copeland motioned to amend per action sheet 29. Seconded by

Councilman Drexel. Mr. Bonus read Action sheet 29-To add temporary staff expenses of \$20,000 not originally included in department request. Chair Scutella called for the question. Motion carried 7-0.

Councilman Copeland motioned to amend per action sheet 30 and 31. Seconded by Councilman Drexel. Mr. Bonus read Action sheet 30-To move Fly Erie grant expense of \$50,000 from other general government to grants other organizations subject to restriction based on ordinance #64. Action sheet 31-To move Fly Erie grant expense of \$50,000 from other general government to grants other organizations subject to restrictions based on Ordinance #64. Councilman Copeland asked if council needed to further restrict the funds given to FLY ERIE or will Ordinance Number 64, 2024 state it well enough. Per Solicitor Talarico, the ordinance was clear, and it's not necessary to restate the restriction, but also went on to say that it wouldn't hurt to further restrict the funds in action sheet 30. MR. HORTON INAUDIBLE. Mr. Copeland said that due to Mr. Horton's concerns he would like to make a motion for action sheet 30 to be amended to restrict the funds in Ordinance 64. Mr. HORTON INAUDIBLE. Mr. Copeland said he would withdraw his motion. Chair Scutella called for the question. Motion carried 6-1

Yea: Scutella, Horton, Drexel, Copeland, Schauerma, Winarski
Nay: Bayle

Councilman Copeland motioned to amend per action sheet 32. Seconded by Councilman Drexel. Mr. Bonus read Action sheet-32-To change the "Director of GIS" title (NB15) to "Manager of GIS" (NB15). Per Mr. Copeland, this was simply a title change and not a demotion. Chair Scutella called for the question. Motion carried 7-0. Discussion was had about a data base position change and the verbiage used in action sheet 33. MR HORTON INAUDIBLE. Mr. Copeland made a motion to amend the action sheet to change the word "remove" to eliminate. Mr. Bonus read Action Sheet 33-To eliminate the database administrator position (001 002816-003) NB14 from the IT budget. Chair Scutella called for the question on the amendment for action sheet 33. Motion carried 7-0, then called for the question on action sheet 33 as amended. Motion carried 7-0.

Councilman Copeland motioned to amend per action sheet 34. Seconded by Councilman Drexel. Mr. Bonus read Action sheet-34-If action sheet 33 passes-to add database administrator position NB14 to Courts computer department. Chair Scutella called for the question. Motion carried 5-2.

Yea: Scutella, Horton, Drexel, Copeland, Winarski
Nay: Bayle, Schauerma,

Councilman Copeland motioned to amend per action sheet 35. Seconded by Councilman Drexel. Mr. Bonus read Action sheet 35-To reinstate two court reporter positions (NB13) with wages at \$43,463.94 each and associated payroll and benefits expenses. Chair Scutella called for the question. Motion carried 7-0.

Councilman Copeland motioned to amend per action sheet 36. Seconded by

Councilman Drexel. Mr. Bonus read Action sheet 36-To reduce court reporter fees to \$1000 from the \$50,000 amount shown. Reduction of \$49,000.

Councilman Copeland stated that this looked like there was elimination of revenue but that was not the case. He stated that there were excess funds in that account. Chair Scutella called for the question. Motion carried 7-0.

Councilman Copeland motioned to amend per action sheet 37. Seconded by Councilman Drexel. Mr. Bonus read Action sheet 37-To adjust non-bargaining wages and related fringe benefits as the salary position was inaccurate. Position 003070-004. Mr. Bonus stated that this was an error and should read increase and not decrease. Mr. Copeland stated that this would need to be amended. Went on to make a motion to amend to increase with the same dollar figures. Seconded by Councilman Horton. Chair Scutella called for the question. Motion carried 7-0.

Councilman Copeland motioned to amend per action sheet 38. Seconded by Councilman Drexel. Mr. Bonus read Action sheet 38-To eliminate institutional care of \$50,000 that had been transferred from the prison. Councilman Copeland noted that no one knew what it was. MR. HORTON INAUDIBLE. Mr. Copeland went on to say that it used to be included in the prison budget. Chair Scutella called for the question. Motion carried 7-0.

Councilman Copeland motioned to amend per action sheet 39. Seconded by Councilman Drexel. Mr. Bonus read Action sheet 39-To adjust worker's compensation amount to the correct amount as the wrong code was entered into the budget software. Chair Scutella called for the question. Motion carried 7-0.

Councilman Copeland motioned to amend per action sheet 40. Seconded by Councilman Drexel. Mr. Bonus read Action Sheet 40-To reinstate 1 position of civil records clerk AC06 at budget position number 003240-010 starting rate of \$13.99/hour. Mr. Copeland noted that this position was in the prothonotary department. He stated that these people make money. It was one of the only sources of revenue and needed filled. MR. HORTON INAUDIBLE. Chair Scutella called for the question. Motion carried 7-0.

Councilman Copeland motioned to amend per action sheet 41. Seconded by Councilman Drexel. Mr. Bonus read Action sheet 41-To adjust the salary of position 003220-009 that was originally inaccurate. The action sheet reduces wages to start of \$31,571 plus related fringe benefits. Grade incorrect in budget should be AC08. No discussion. Chair Scutella called for the question. Motion carried 7-0.

Councilman Copeland motioned to amend per action sheet 42. Seconded by Councilman Drexel. Mr. Bonus read Action sheet 42-To add \$8,100 to data processing at budget line item 003240-0022-to return to 2024 budget level. Chair Scutella called for the question. Motion carried 7-0.

Councilman Copeland motioned to amend per action sheet 43. Seconded by

Councilman Drexel. Mr. Bonus read Action sheet 43-To add a sheriff position for \$36,504 plus corresponding payroll and fringe expenses. Councilman Copeland stated that Sheriff Campanelli requested 8 new deputy sheriff positions. Chair Scutella called for the question. Motion carried 4-3.

Yea: Horton, Scutella, Drexel, Copeland

Nay: Bayle, Schauerman, Winarski

Councilman Copeland motioned to amend per action sheet 44. Seconded by Councilman Drexel. Councilman Winarski noted that Sheriff Campanelli did not approach any council member to request additional positions during budget talks. MR. HORTON INAUDIBLE. Councilman Horton stated that while he was in a courtroom last year he saw firsthand how undermanned the Sheriff's Department was. Mr. Bayle stated that there was a need to fill the positions that were currently open prior to asking for more positions. Chair Scutella called for the question. Motion carried 4-3.

Yea: Drexel, Copeland, Horton, Scutella

Nay: Schauerman, Winarski, Bayle

Councilman Copeland motioned to amend per action sheet 45. Seconded by Councilman Drexel. Mr. Bonus read Action sheet 45-To add \$200,000 to the overtime account 003300-001100 that was omitted in the budget. Councilman Copeland noted that this action sheet allowed for overtime as it was excluded. Chair Scutella called for the question. Motion carried 7-0.

Councilman Copeland motioned to amend per action sheet 46. Seconded by Councilman Drexel. Mr. Bonus read Action sheet 46-To add \$92,700 to the temporary staff account 003300-001040 that was omitted in the budget. No discussion needed. Chair Scutella called for the question. Motion carried 6-1.

Yea: Horton, Scutella, Bayle, Copeland, Drexel, Winarski.

Nay: Schauerman

Councilman Copeland motioned to amend per action sheet 47. Seconded by Councilman Drexel. Mr. Bonus read Action sheet 47-To add \$20,000 to the vehicles account 003300-004020. Chair Scutella called for the question. Motion carried 5-2.

Yea: Drexel, Copeland, Horton, Scutella, Winarski

Nea: Bayle, Schauerman

Councilman Copeland motioned to amend per action sheet 48. Seconded by Councilman Drexel. Mr. Bonus read Action sheet 48-To adjust worker's compensation amount to the correct amount as the wrong code was entered in the budget software. Chair Scutella called for the question. Motion carried 7-0.

Councilman Copeland motioned to amend per action sheet 49. Seconded by Councilman Drexel. Mr. Bonus read Action sheet 49-To adjust salary accordingly as the salary of this position (003300-020) was inaccurate. The action sheet increases wages by this amount plus the related fringes. Chair Scutella called for the question. Motion carried 7-0.

Councilman Copeland motioned to amend per action sheet 50. Seconded by Councilman Drexel. Mr. Bonus read Action sheet 50-To eliminate the neighborhood resource expense of \$100,000 and to reduce the police athletic league expense of \$100,000 down to \$10,000 and correspondingly increase the Erie Police Department expense by \$190,000. Councilman Copeland noted that this action sheet corrects funds that were given in error. Councilman Horton agrees with Mr. Copeland. Chair Scutella called for the question. Motion carried 7-0.

Councilman Copeland motioned to amend per action sheet 51. Seconded by Councilman Drexel. Mr. Bonus read Action sheet 51- To shift the expenses from DJ part time pension to overtime account as it had been erroneously entered in wrong account. Chair Scutella called for the question. Motion carried 7-0.

Councilman Copeland motioned to amend per action sheet 52. Seconded by Councilman Drexel. Mr. Bonus read Action sheet 52-To add in overtime as that amount was inadvertently left out of the administrative proposal along with related fringe benefits. Councilman Copeland noted that there were many mistakes in the budget and it was taking up much of Council's time. Chair Scutella called for the question. Motion carried 7-0.

Councilman Copeland motioned to amend per action sheet 53. Seconded by Councilman Drexel. Mr. Bonus read Action sheet 53-To adjust worker's compensation amount to the correct amount as the wrong code was entered into the budget software. Chair Scutella called for the question. Motion carried 7-0.

Councilman Copeland motioned to amend per action sheet 54. Seconded by Councilman Drexel. Motion to amend action sheet as read. Mr. Bonus read action sheet as follows: To reduce DJ part time pension by \$15,000 and increase overtime by \$15,000. So moved by Mr. Copeland, Seconded by Mr. Drexel. Motion carried, 7-0 Chair Scutella called for the question to accept action sheet as amended. Motion carried 7-0.

Councilman Copeland motioned to amend per action sheet 55. Seconded by Councilman Drexel. Mr. Bonus read Action sheet 55-To reduce temporary staff under child abuse investigation from \$15,000 to \$10.00. A reduction of \$14,990. Chair Scutella called for the question. Motion carried 7-0.

Councilman Copeland motioned to amend per action sheet 56. Seconded by Councilman Drexel. Mr. Bonus read Action sheet 56-To reduce temporary staff under district attorney from \$15,000 to \$10. A reduction of \$14,990. No discussion needed. Chair Scutella called for the question. Motion carried 7-0.

Councilman Copeland motioned to amend per action sheet 57. Seconded by Councilman Drexel. Mr. Bonus read Action sheet 57-To adjust worker's compensation amount to the correct amount as the wrong code was entered into the budget software. Chair Scutella called for the question. Motion carried 7-0.

Councilman Copeland motioned to amend per action sheet 58. Seconded by Councilman Drexel. Mr. Bonus read Action sheet 58-To reduce vehicles from \$100,000 to \$20,000. A reduction of \$80,000. Chair Scutella called for the question. Motion carried 6-1.

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

Nay: Copeland

Councilman Copeland motioned to amend per action sheet 59. Seconded by Councilman Drexel. Mr. Bonus read Action sheet 59-To reduce computer equipment from \$157,789 down to \$10,000. A reduction of \$147,789. Mr. Copeland noted that this department has \$487,000 in grant funds. He asked that Council exercise caution when considering this vote. MR. HORTON INAUDIBLE. Chair Scutella called for the question. Motion carried 5-2.

Yea: Scutella, Horton, Schauerman, Winarski, Bayle

Nay: Copeland, Drexel

Councilman Copeland motioned to amend per action sheet 60. Seconded by Councilman Drexel. Mr. Bonus read Action sheet 60-To reduce community expense from \$50,000 to \$0. A reduction of \$50,000. Chair Scutella called for the question. Motion carried 7-0.

Councilman Copeland motioned to amend per action sheet 61. Seconded by Councilman Drexel. Mr. Bonus read action sheet 61-The salary of position 004110-031 was inaccurate and the action sheet increases the wages by \$35,671 plus the related fringe benefits. MR. HORTON INAUDIBLE. Chair Scutella called for the question. Motion carried 7-0.

Councilman Copeland motioned to amend per action sheet 62. Seconded by Councilman Drexel. Mr. Bonus read Action sheet 62-The salary of position 004110-009 was inaccurate due to being currently vacant, this action sheet changes the position to the start grade of NB18. Chair Scutella called for the question. Motion carried 7-0.

Councilman Copeland motioned to amend per action sheet 63. Seconded by Councilman Drexel. Mr. Bonus read Action sheet 63-To increase cooperative extension to \$185,400 from \$150,000. An increase of \$35,400. Chair Scutella called for the question. Motion carried 7-0.

Councilman Copeland motioned to amend per action sheet 64. Seconded by Councilman Drexel. Mr. Bonus read Action sheet 64-To increase Northwestern Community Youth Center from \$0 to \$20,000. An increase of \$20,000. MR. HORTON INAUDIBLE. He noted the area of the county children were from did not matter. MR. HORTON INAUDIBLE. Chair Scutella called for the question. Motion carried 7-0.

Councilman Copeland motioned to amend per action sheet 65. Seconded by Councilman Drexel. Mr. Bonus read Action sheet 65-To create maintenance-

Fairview/Girard and increase the expenses by \$20,000 for maintenance of county-owned property in Fairview and Girard. An increase of \$20,000. Mr. Copeland thanked Mrs. Schauerman for bringing this action sheet forward. He noted that it was much needed. Chair Scutella called for the question. Motion carried 7-0.

Councilman Copeland motioned to amend per action sheet 66. Seconded by Councilman Drexel. Mr. Bonus read Action sheet 66-To increase by \$500,000 transfer to Pleasant Ridge Manor from General Fund Transfers to arrive at Pleasant Ridge Manor request. Chair Scutella called for the question. Motion carried 5-2.

Yea: Copeland, Drexel, Horton, Winarski, Scutella

Nay: Bayle, Schauerman

Councilman Copeland motioned to amend per action sheet 67. Seconded by Councilman Drexel. Mr. Bonus read Action sheet 67-To reduce transfer from gaming fund of \$2,141,976 that was erroneously double transferred. Councilman Copeland noted that the explanation for this action sheet was insulting. Chair Scutella called for the question. Motion carried 7-0.

Yea: Copeland, Drexel, Horton, Winarski, Scutella

Nay: Bayle, Schauerman

Councilman Copeland motioned to amend per action sheet 68. Seconded by Councilman Drexel. Mr. Copeland noted that the revenue is coming from three different places and this action sheet fixes those errors. Chair Scutella called for the question. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion to amend action sheet 66 from Mr. Copeland to state that funds increased by \$500,000 to total \$1 Million for Pleasant Ridge Manor. Seconded by Councilman Drexel. Chairman Scutella called for the question. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion to amend action sheet 68 to change the word "remove" to eliminate from Councilman Copeland. Seconded by Councilman Drexel. Mr. Bonus read Action sheet 68-To eliminate transfer to planning fund of \$25,000 that had not been transferred to the planning fund. Chairman Scutella called for the question. Motion carried 7-0.

Call for the question to approve Ordinance 83 as amended by Chair Scutella. Motion carried. 7-0.

**Ordinance Number 84,
2024, "2025 Real Estate
Tax Levy"**

Mr. Bonus offered a description of the budget as it currently stood. He noted that there was a 6.7 million dollar deficit. With a .5 mill increase, Mr. Bonus believed that it would balance the budget and not cause shock to the public next year. This amount accounted for items that may be vetoed and will provide a small buffer in the budget. Councilman Copeland stated that a percentage of the budget did not get spent. He questioned what happened to those funds and what the total amount was from the year 2023. Mr. Domowicz spoke on this and said

that it would have to come from the County Executive's office as he did not have the exact number. MR. HORTON INAUDIBLE. A .5 mill increase will cost the taxpayers with a home in the \$100,000 range about \$50.00 yearly or \$4.17 per month. The average home in Erie County priced at \$239,679 would be \$119.84 yearly, or \$9.99 monthly. Mr. Bonus stated that his recommendation for the tax increase was .51 mil. This will give the county a more comfortable buffer knowing that some of the amendments may be vetoed over the next few days. Councilman Drexel noted that some employees were only making \$13.99 per hour and that Council would need to be prepared for a time when they were required to pay a higher, livable wage. Councilwoman Schauerman noted that she would be casting a protest vote on the tax increase. Motion by Mr. Drexel on the tax increase, seconded by Mr. Horton. Call for the question by Chair Scutella. Motion carried 4-3.
Yea: Horton, Drexel, Copeland, Scutella
Nay: Bayle, Schauerman, Winarski

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 9:02 P.M.

***The next Finance/Personnel Committee Meetings are Thursday, December 5, 2024, at 4pm in room 114A, Erie County Courthouse or via Zoom.**
***The next Regular Meeting of County Council is Tuesday, December 10, 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.**