

MINUTES

Erie County Council

View More At
www.eriecountypa.gov



Terry M. Scutella, Chairman
Rock Copeland, Vice Chairman
Charlie Bayle
Chris Drexel
André R. Horton
Ellen Schauerman
Jim Winarski

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

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, January 28, 2025

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Scutella called the meeting to order at 6:04 P.M. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

OPTIONAL PRAYER OR REFLECTION

Mrs. Schauerman read a reflection.

ROLL CALL

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

Others present: Karen Chillcott, Megan Moore, Attorneys Tom Talarico and Jay Stranahan and Colin Domowicz, Financial Advisor

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Jerry Servidio

Jerry Servidio, Millcreek: Mr. Servidio relayed his disappointment that Mr. Scutella was Chair again, and referenced the tradition that the Chair changed annually. He voiced the need for a new and updated assessment on property for Erie County. He asked one be ordered and that a two-year wait be waved. He offered his belief that the market was overpriced and a new assessment would help all property owners.

Others - 3 minutes

Freda Tepfer, City of Erie: Ms. Tepfer made a public service announcement regarding the primary election. She encouraged those that wanted a voice to be registered and volunteer with campaigns; the first day of petition circulation will be February 18th. She expressed hope that County Council would sue the County Executive over the 2025 Budget. She suggested county and municipal offices do not cooperate with ICE and federal agencies concerning deportation, but defend immigrants, no matter their status, as everyone was once an immigrant. She addressed the limitations to the DEI and Accessibility made by the federal

government, and stated her hope that the Human Relations Commission will stand up for that part of society and help to address complaints.

Art Leopold, Millcreek: Mr. Leopold discussed the invisibility and dismissal of parts of society historically, but noted there had been a glimmer of hope the last several years of a change. He stated that it was evident the federal government would no longer support that change, and help had to come locally. He offered approval of the court decision regarding the past budgets and cautioned Council on the 2025 Budget. He congratulated the Chair.

Hon. Philip English, City of Erie: Mr. English stated local economic development and investment in the community, what the Erie County Redevelopment Authority does, would be very important in the next couple of years, and was the reason he worked hard to obtain this appointment. He noted there were federal, state, and local partners that needed engagement. He acknowledged that he wanted to be part of the chorus to speak for revitalizing the community, growing the economy, and attracting investment. He stated his belief that more jobs, affordable housing, and more opportunities to address social injustices such as the racial wealth gap. He suggested that the work could be done across party and ideological lines, and thanked the Council.

Debra Cameron, Summit Township, Erie County Tax Collectors Association-President: Ms. Cameron stated that elected tax collectors do not receive pay increases annually. She explained that the salaries had to be set by February 14th by law, and would any questions they had regarding their recommendations to the Council.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

December 6, 2024 - Special Meeting	Mr. Copeland motioned to accept the minutes. Seconded by Mrs. Schauerma and carried 7-0.
November 21, 2024 – Budget Regular Meeting	Yea: 7
January 14, 2025- Regular Meeting	Nay: 0

REPORTS OF COUNTY OFFICIALS

County Executive and/or his Designee

Finance Committee - Mr. Copeland	Mr. Copeland reported the Finance Committee met on January 23, 2025 and submitted to Old Business A and B as well as New Business A thru C and H.
---	---

Personnel Committee - Mr. Winarski	Mr. Winarski stated that the Personnel Committee met on January 23, 2025 and submitted Old Business letter C.
---	---

Other

Mr. Copeland motioned for Ordinance 6, 2025 be moved to a second reading, was seconded by Mr. Winarski, and carried, 7-0.

Yea: 7

Nay: 0

OLD BUSINESS

Ordinance Number 1, 2025, "2025 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$124,227 for Prosecuting Cold Cases Using DNA Grant and Creation of New Line Items" (First Read 1/14/25) (Finance Committee) A motion was made by Mrs. Schauerman to accept Ordinance 1, 2025, seconded by Mr. Bayle. Motion carried, 7-0.

Yea: 7

Nay: 0

Ordinance Number 2, 2025, "Approval of Waiver of Bid Requirements under the Purchasing Code and Approval of Sole Vendor Contract between Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc. (ESRI) and the Erie County Health Department" (First Read 1/14/25) (Finance Committee) A motion was made by Mrs. Schauerman to accept Ordinance 2, 2025, seconded by Mr. Winarski. Motion carried, 7-0.

Yea: 7

Nay: 0

Ordinance Number 5, 2025, "2025 Appointed Official Salary Ordinance-Full Time Assistant Public Defender" (First Read 1/14/25) (Personnel Committee) A motion was made by Mrs. Schauerman to accept Ordinance 5, 2025, seconded by Councilman Mr. Drexel. Motion carried, 7-0.

Yea: 7

Nay: 0

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance Number 6, 2025, "Waiver of Bid Requirements under the Administrative Code and Approval of the County Audit Agreement with Zelenkofske Axelrod, LLC" A motion was made by Mr. Copeland to accept Ordinance 6, 2025, seconded by Mrs. Schauerman. Motion carried, 7-0.

Yea: 7

Nay: 0

**for the Year Ending
December 31, 2024"
(Finance Committee)**

Ordinance Number 7, 2025 Ordinance 7, 2025- Mr. Copeland explained that the exhibits, requested from the
"Elected Officials Salary Administration, had not been submitted on time for publication with the agenda
Ordinance 2026-2029" but would be attached on the next Finance and Personnel agenda. The ordinance
(Finance Committee) received a first reading.

Resolution Number 1, 2025, A motion was made by Mrs. Schauerman to accept Resolution 1, 2025,
"Approval of Amendment seconded by Mr. Bayle. Motion carried 7-0.
to Resolution Number 25, Yea: 7
2024" (Finance Committee) Nay: 0

Possible appointment of A motion was made by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Bayle, to appoint
Anthony Simmons to the
Diversity, Equity and
Inclusion Commission. Motion
Term to expire December carried 7-0.
31, 2027. (Bayle) Yea: 7
Nay: 0

Possible appointment of A motion was made by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Winarski to appoint
Lori Robson to the Erie
County Drug & Alcohol
Advisory Board. Motion
Term to expire December carried 7-0.
31, 2027. Yea: 7
(County Executive) Nay: 0

Possible appointment of A motion was made by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Bayle to appoint
Kristie Nosich to the Erie
County Drug & Alcohol
Advisory Board. Motion carried 7-0.
Term to expire December Yea: 7
31, 2027. Nay: 0
(County Executive)

Possible appointment of the A motion was made by Mr. Winarski, seconded by Mrs. Schauerman to appoint
Honorable Philip English to the Hon. Philip English to the Redevelopment Authority. Mr. Horton stated
the Erie County that he had come with the intention to vote no on this appointment, but changed
Redevelopment Authority. his mind because of Mr. English's words that night. He noted his pause was due
Term to expire December Mr. English's talk of working across the aisle, but said there should be no aisle;
31, 2029. (County it was what was best for the citizens. He expounded on the work done to get out
Executive) of silos, and stated the current County Executive and divisive politics had
undone that good work, and it hurt the county. Motion carried 6-1.
Yea: 6
Nay: 1 (Drexel)

"Possible Sale of a Parcel A motion was made by Mrs. Schauerman to accept the sale of a parcel from the
from the Repository for repository, seconded by Mr. Winarski. Motion carried, 7-0.
Unsold Property at Index

Number: 38-013-017.0-002.51

Yea: 7
Nay: 0

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Copeland motioned to adjourn and Chair Scutella did so at 6:33 P.M.

***The next Finance and Personnel Committee Meetings - Thursday, February 6, 2025.**

***The next Regular Meeting of County Council - Tuesday, February 11, 2025.**