

MINUTES

Erie County Council

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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, February 11, 2025

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Scutella called the meeting and recited the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:01pm.

OPTIONAL PRAYER OR REFLECTION

Mrs. Schauerman read a reflection.

ROLL CALL

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

Others present: Karen Chillcott, Megan Moore, Attorneys Tom Talarico and Jay Stranahan

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Jerry Servidio

Mr. Servidio did not speak.

Others

Freda Tepfer, Erie: Ms. Tepfer relayed a public service announcement regarding petition filings and the necessity of being a registered voter and member of the candidate's political party. She discussed public involvement and informing public officials of the good and the bad. She offered support for Resolution 3, 2025 and noted funds should not be withheld from anyone by the County Executive.

Mary Rennie, District 3: Ms. Rennie presented that she, a former council member, long-time county employee and honest person wanted to offer specifics that refute the Brenton Davis' post on social media that stated Democrats illegally increased taxes in 2025. She stated Mr. Davis posted that the only difference between the 2021 budget and now was who held the position of County Executive, but that was not the full story because with the 2021 budget they were contending with the effects of Covid-19 and the tax increase was not

challenged by Kathy Dahlkemper. She affirmed that the county has binding rules such as the Home Rule Charter, as well as codes, ordinances, and resolutions which protect the legality and long term viability of the county and financial interest of taxpayer; county officials swore an oath to uphold these laws. She noted the sworn duties of the office of county executive and concluded Brenton Davis had verifiably fallen short on all of them. She offered her support to the Council for fighting for their authority and truth.

Deb Cameron, Summit Township: Ms. Cameron, as president of the Tax Collectors Association, thanked the Council for their acknowledgement that tax collectors were an important part of local government and consideration of the compensation increase.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

January 28, 2025 - Regular Meeting Mr. Copeland motioned to accept the minutes. Mrs. Schauerman seconded the motion, which carried 7-0.

Yea : All
Nay: None

REPORTS OF COUNTY OFFICIALS

County Executive or Designee No report offered.

Finance Committee - Mr. Copeland Mr. Copeland announced the items on the agenda from the Finance Committee meeting on February 6.

Personnel Committee - Mr. Winarski Mr. Winarski relayed the Personnel Committee items on the agenda from the meeting on February 6.

Others

OLD BUSINESS

Ordinance Number 7, 2025 "Elected Officials Salary Ordinance 2026-2029" Ordinance 7, 2025 received a second reading by the Clerk. Mr. Copeland motioned to adopt, Mrs. Schauerman seconded the motion, and passed 7-0.

(First Read 1/28/25)(Finance Committee) Yea: All
Nay: None

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance Number 8, 2025, Ordinance 8, 2025 received a first reading.

"2025 Appointed Official Salary Ordinance-Part Time Assistant Public Defender" (Personnel Committee)

Resolution Number 2, 2025, The motion to adopt was made by Mrs. Schauerma n, seconded by Mr. Bayle, "Resolution Authorizing an and carried 4-3.

Application to the

Pennsylvania Municipal Assistance Program" (Finance Committee)

Yea: Bayle, Horton, Schauerma n, Winarski

Nay: Copeland, Drexel, Scutella

Resolution Number 3, 2025, Mr. Copeland made a motion to table Resolution 3, 2025. Mrs. Schauerma n seconded the motion and it carried 6-1.

"A Resolution Directing Council's Solicitor to File

Suit to Enforce the 2025

Annual Budget and Enjoin

the Administration's Illegal

Tax Collection Efforts"

Yea: Bayle, Copeland, Horton, Schauerma n, Scutella, Winarski

Nay: Drexel

Possible appointment of Lawrence Brown to the Erie County Housing Authority. Term to expire December 31, 2029. (County Executive)

Mrs. Schauerma n motioned to approve the appointment of Lawrence Brown. Mr. Winarski seconded the motion, which failed 3-4.

Yea: Bayle, Schauerma n, Winarski

Nay: Drexel, Copeland, Horton, Scutella

Possible appointment of Gregory Gnacinski to the Erie County Human Relations Commission. Term to expire December 31, 2028. (Schauerma n)

Mr. Winarski motioned to approve the appointment of Gregory Gnacinski. Mrs. Schauerma n seconded the motion, which carried 7-0.

Yea: All

Nay: None

Possible appointment of Wayne Patterson to the Erie County Diversity Equity and Inclusion Commission. Term to expire December 31, 2029. (Horton)

Mrs. Schauerma n motioned to approve the appointment of Wayne Patterson. Mr. Horton seconded the motion.

Mr. Bayle announced he would vote yea for the appointment, unlike his counterparts who voted against a previous candidate because it was a request made by the county executive.

(Referencing the possible appointment of Lawrence Brown)

Mr. Drexel stated his nay vote was due to the person.

Mr. Horton stated he was taken aback by Mr. Bayle's statement, and he often voted yes to Executive Davis' appointments. He noted that he looks at the person, not who made the appointment.

Mr. Scutella stated there were issues in Corry currently, and he had received numerous phone calls regarding the situation. He noted there was more motive to the nomination than met the eye.

The motion to approve Wayne Patterson carried 7-0.

Yea: All

Nay: None

**Possible Sale of a Parcel
from the Repository for
Unsold Property at Index
Number: 15-020-045.0-
107.00**

Mrs. Schauerman made the motion to approve the parcel sale. Mr. Winarski seconded the motion and it carried 7-0.

Yea: All

Nay: None

Mr. Copeland motioned for an executive session. Mr. Winarski seconded the motion. The Council entered executive session at 6:17pm and reconvened the council meeting at 6:46pm.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:47pm.

***The next
Finance/Personnel
Committee Meetings are
Thursday, February 20,
2025.**

***The next Regular Meeting
of County Council is
Tuesday, February 25,
2025.**