

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, May 6, 2025

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was called to order at 5:58 P.M. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

OPTIONAL PRAYER OR REFLECTION

Mrs. Schauerman delivered 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, Tom Talarico, Esq., Jay Stranahan, Esq., and Colin Domowicz, Financial Advisor

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Others - 3 minutes

Matt Texter, City of Erie: Mr. Texter addressed Ordinance Number 27, 2025. He stated that Erie County should not participate in an association with ICE and people who are not given due process. He asked for the funds not to be released.

Carlos Mora, Summit Township: Mr. Mora addressed Ordinance Number 27, 2025. He stated that as an immigrant and spokesperson for the immigrant community, and contrary to the narrative of the president, 99.9% of immigrants come here to work hard and have a better life. He asked that Erie County, his second home, be on the right side of history.

Cole Shenley, City of Erie: Mr. Shenley stated his opposition to Ordinance Number 27, 2025 and wanted the Council to think about what the consequences would be to support this action.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

April 22, 2025 - Regular Meeting

A motion was made by Mrs. Schauerman and seconded by Mr. Horton to accept the minutes dated April 22, 2025. Motion carried, 7-0.

Yea: All

Nay: None

REPORTS OF COUNTY OFFICIALS**County Executive and/or Designee**

The County Executive or designee offered no report.

Finance Committee - Mr. Copeland

Mr. Copeland reported on items from the Finance Committee that were moved to the Council's meeting agenda.

Personnel Committee - Mr. Winarski

Mr. Winarski reported on items from the Personnel Committee that were moved to the Council's meeting agenda.

Other

Mr. Drexel offered updates on the upcoming election that could be found on the Council's new website, <https://www.eriecountycouncilpa.gov/county-council>.

Mr. Copeland remarked on the immigration and deportation issues. He noted that not all counties have an agreement like Erie County. He stated it was a bad deal for taxpayers and a liability. He offered different scenarios of those detained and commented on due process.

OLD BUSINESS**Ordinance Number 20, 2025, "Third 2025 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$25,000 for Safety and Security Improvements with AOPC Safety & Security Grant Reimbursement" (First Read 4/22/25) (Finance Committee)**

A motion to adopt Ordinance Number 20, 2025 was made by Mr. Horton, seconded by Mrs. Schauerman, and carried 7-0.

Yea: All

Nay: None

A motion to move Ordinance Numbers 24, 25, and 26 of 2025 to a second reading was made by Mr. Copeland. Mr. Horton seconded the motion, and it carried 7-0.

Yea: All

Nay: None

A motion to move Ordinance Number 30, 2025 to a second reading was made by Mr. Copeland, seconded by Mrs. Schauerman, and carried 7-0.

Yea: All

Nay: None

There was casual discussion about what else should change on the agenda.

A motion to remove from the table the possible appointment of Carl J. Anderson III to the Erie Community College Board of Trustees was made by Mr. Copeland. The motion was seconded by Mr. Winarski and carried 5-3.

Yea: 5 (Bayle, Copeland, Drexel, Schauerman, Scutella)
Nay: 2 (Horton, Winarski)

Ordinance Number 21, 2025, "Amendment to Ordinance Number 9, 2025" (First Read 4/22/25) (Finance Committee) A motion to adopt Ordinance Number 21, 2025 was made by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Winarski, and carried 7-0.
Yea: All
Nay: None

Ordinance Number 22, 2025, "Repeal of Resolution Number 28, 2017" (First Read 4/22/25) (Personnel Committee) A motion to adopt Ordinance Number 22, 2025 was made by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Winarski, and failed 3-4.
Yea: 3 (Bayle, Schauerman, Winarski)
Nay: 4 (Copeland, Drexel, Horton, Scutella)

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance Number 23, 2025, "Fourth 2025 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$125,228 for Release of Restricted Fund Balance of Adult Probation Supervision Fees" (Finance Committee) A first reading of Ordinance Number 23, 2025 was recited by Ms. Chillcott.

Ordinance Number 24, 2025, "Fifth 2025 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$86,353 for Release of Restricted Automation Fees in the Clerk of Courts Office" (Finance Committee) A motion to adopt Ordinance 24, 2025 was made by Mr. Copeland, seconded by Mr. Winarski, and carried 7-0.
Yea: All
Nay: None

Ordinance Number 25, 2025, "Sixth 2025 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$90,259 for Release of Restricted Automation Fees in the Prothonotary Office" (Finance Committee) A motion to adopt Ordinance 25, 2025 was made by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Horton, and carried 7-0.
Yea: All
Nay: None

**Ordinance Number 26,
2025, "Seventh 2025
General Fund Budget
Supplemental
Appropriation of \$185,937
for Release of Restricted
Automation Fees in the
Register of Wills Office"
(Finance Committee)**

A motion to adopt Ordinance 26, 2025 was made by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Winarski, and carried 7-0.

Yea: All
Nay: None

**Ordinance Number 27,
2025, "Eighth 2025 General
Fund Budget Supplemental
Appropriation of \$433,620
for Additional Federal
Revenue for Housing
Immigration Detainees"
(Finance Committee)**

A first reading of Ordinance Number 27, 2025 was recited by Ms. Chillcott.

**Ordinance Number 28,
2025, "Approval of a
Waiver of the Bid
Requirements under the
Purchasing and Sales
Procedures of the
Administrative Code and
Approval of a Sole Vendor
Contract between
FirstMatch and County of
Erie Juvenile Probation"
(Finance Committee)**

A first reading of Ordinance Number 28, 2025 was recited by Ms. Chillcott.

**Ordinance Number 29,
2025, "Amending the Erie
County Administrative
Code to Remove Erie
County Care Management,
Inc. and All References
Thereto from Article II,
Section 5(B) of the Code,
Including Removal of All
Provisions of Subsection
(1)(a) of the Code, on the
Condition that Section 12 of
Its Articles of
Incorporation, Regarding
Distribution of Its Property**

A first reading of Ordinance Number 29, 2025 was recited by Ms. Chillcott.

**to the County of Erie in the
Event of Its Dissolution,
Shall Not be Amended or
Deleted; and Repealing All
Inconsistent Ordinances"**

**Ordinance Number 30,
2025, "Reintroduction of
Ordinance Number 17,
2025"**

A motion to adopt Ordinance Number 30, 2025 was made by Mr. Copeland and seconded by Mr. Drexel.

Mr. Bayle clarified what this ordinance entailed, ESRI software for GIS which offered lifesaving emergency services location statuses; how it could be reintroduced, by someone who voted no or if substantial changes had been made to it. He noted that there were no changes made to the ordinance. He stated that the previous vote of no was only due to one of three reasons. He listed the reasons as due diligence had not been done, it was inappropriate (which he stated they all had agreed it was appropriate), or because of politics over the people. He stated that he hoped his vote was always for the good of the people of Erie County as it had been on this ordinance.

Mr. Horton stated that this was just GSI, just mapping, and not high priority or lifesaving. He stated it identified spaces and took pictures. He noted that maybe 2% would be used as lifesaving, but otherwise it was mapping. He said you could carry one on your backpack because he had in construction. He stated he was ready to vote no again.

Mr. Copeland emphasized that he was the one who took issue with the ordinance at the last meeting, and if he hadn't said anything it probably would have passed. He mentioned that the administration did not give a report nine times out of ten at the Council meetings, and no one had been at the Finance meeting. He stated that it was the only time the Council could speak to employees. He remarked that if it was as dire as Mr. Bayle stated they should be there to defend it. He stated, "you have to win my vote, it ain't free."

The motion carried 7-0.

Yea: All

Nay: None

**Possible reappointment of
Melissa Doerr Zdunski to
the Erie County Board of
Assessment Appeals. Term
to expire December 31,
2028. (Drexel & Bayle)
(Personnel Committee)**

A motion to reappoint Melissa Doerr Zdunski to the Erie County Board of Assessment Appeals was offered by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Winarski and carried 7-0.

Yea: All

Nay: None

**Possible appointment of
Mary Kay Eisert to the Erie
County Mental Health and
Intellectual Disabilities
(MHID). Term to expire
December 31, 2027.**

A motion to appoint Mary Kay Eisert to the Erie County Mental Health and Intellectual Disabilities Board was offered by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Winarski, and carried 7-0.

Yea: All

Nay: None

**(County Executive)
(Personnel Committee)**

Possible reappointment of Dominic Maleno to the Erie County Agricultural Land Preservation Board. Term to expire December 31, 2027. (County Executive) (Personnel Committee)

A motion to reappoint Dominic Maleno to the Erie County Agricultural Land Preservation Board was offered by Mr. Bayle, seconded by Mr. Winarski, and carried 6-1.

Yea: 6 (Bayle, Drexel, Horton, Schauerman, Scutella, Winarski)
Nay: 1 (Copeland)

Possible appointment of Carl J. Anderson, III to the Erie County Community College Board of Trustees. Mr. Anderson will replace Rev. Dr. Charles Mock who resigned. Term to expire August 31, 2026. (Winarski) (Personnel Committee) (Tabled 3/25/25)

A motion to appoint Carl J Anderson, III to the Erie County Community College Board of Trustees was offered by Mr. Winarski and seconded by Mrs. Schauerman.

Mr. Copeland stated that there was a conflict of interest due to Mr. Anderson's seat on the Community Foundation Board.

Mr. Horton agreed with Mr. Copeland. He stated he had hoped Mr. Anderson would have withdrawn his name for this appointment.

The motion failed 1-6.

Yea: 1 (Winarski)
Nay: 6 (Bayle, Copeland, Drexel, Horton, Schauerman, Scutella)

ADJOURNMENT

***The next Finance/Personnel Committee Meetings are Thursday, May 15, 2025.**

***The next Regular Meeting of County Council is Tuesday, June 3, 2025.**

There was no motion, but the meeting adjourned at 6:35pm.