

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, June 17, 2025

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Scutella opened the meeting and led the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:00p.m.

OPTIONAL PRAYER OR REFLECTION

Mr. Bayle read a reflection.

ROLL CALL

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

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

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Margaret Watts, Washington Township: Ms. Watts remarked on ICE using the Erie County Prison and the procedures used to detain people. She talked about the federal government keeping all the procedures "in-house", the lack of legal representation, and cruel treatment. She commented on the contradiction of an ICE detention center versus the City of Erie as a welcoming city.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

June 3, 2025 - Regular Meeting

REPORTS OF COUNTY OFFICIALS

County Executive and/or Designee

The County Executive or a designee offered no report.

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

Personnel Committee - Mr. Winarski Mr. Winarski had no report to offer, the Personnel Committee did not meet.

Other

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance Number 34, 2025, "2025 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of 2008 65' Mobile Communications Trailer and 2011 Ford F-550 from NWPA Emergency Response Group" (Finance Committee) The ordinance received a first reading from Ms. Chillcott.

Ordinance Number 35, 2025, "First 2025 Capital Projects Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$943,817 and Creation of a New Line Item for Renovations at the Blasco Library Children's Department from a Multi-Purpose Community Facility Grant" (Finance Committee) The ordinance received a first reading from Ms. Chillcott.

Ordinance Number 36, 2025, "Approving the Agreement between the COUNTY OF ERIE and PHOENIX GRAPHICS INC" (Finance Committee) The ordinance received a first reading from Ms. Chillcott.

Resolution Number 7, 2025, "Approval of Tentative Lease Agreement with the Masonic Temple Association for Space Located at 24 West 8th Resolution 7, 2025 was read into the record. A motion to adopt was made by Mr. Copeland and seconded by Mr. Horton.
Mr. Copeland made a motion to amend to "approve the lease as written subject to a friendly amendment between the solicitor and lessor". The motion to amend was seconded by Mr. Horton and carried 6-0.
The resolution was adopted as amended 6-0.

Street, Erie Pennsylvania"
(Finance Committee)

Yea: All
 Nay: None

Resolution Number 8, 2025, "Approval of Personal Service Contractor Under Section 601(a)(3) of the Real Estate Tax Sale Law" (Finance Committee)

Resolution 8, 2025 was read into the record. A motion to adopt was made by Mr. Copeland, seconded by Mr. Winarski, and carried 6-0.

Yea: All
 Nay: None

Resolution Number 9, 2025, "In Support of the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority" (Finance Committee)

Resolution 9, 2025 was read into the record. A motion to adopt was made by Mr. Copeland, seconded by Mr. Horton, and carried 5-1.

Mr. Bayle thanked the Auditor General for their work. He commented that this was a bipartisan request. He noted that the audit only went back three years, and it should have gone much further and deeper. He stated there were other issues with how ECGRA was run; for example, how millions of dollars sat in a bank account with the interest accrued paying for the administrative costs of ECGRA. He stated the people he talked to wanted to know why the money was in a bank account, when it was advertised as taxpayer relief.

Mr. Horton made a point of order about the scope of comments, but did use the microphone and was inaudible.

Mr. Bayle stated he was justifying his vote and Council members were allowed discussion, and he had made his point.

Mr. Copeland stated that an audit was asked for and done, and now it was not a good enough audit; this was why the resolution was needed. He stated that audits were a lot of work, and after an exhaustive search no problems were found; the only violation was that the County of Erie owed ECGRA money. He noted his frustration that after the results were released, Brenton Davis thumped his chest and stated he did not accept the results and would not give ECGRA the money. He stressed the County of Erie was bound by law to pay the money to ECGRA.

Mr. Drexel stated that in fairness, Council members should be able to express their feelings and how they voted. He noted that sometimes they strayed a little outside the scope but there should be grace in those situations. He also publicly invited the Administration to open their books in the way that was demanded of ECGRA.

Mr. Horton called for another point of order, did not use his microphone and was inaudible.

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

Resolution Number 10, 2025, "Authorizing the Exoneration of Outstanding Property Tax, Penalties,

Resolution 10, 2025 was read into the record. A motion to adopt was made by Mr. Copeland, seconded by Mr. Bayle, and carried 6-0.

**Interest, and Fees for Tax
Year 2024 for 516 South
Second Avenue, Corry,
Pennsylvania Bearing Tax
ID No. (8)-37-127-18"
(Finance Committee)**

Yea: All
Nay: None

**Resolution Number 11,
2025, "Authorizing the
Exoneration of Outstanding
Property tax, Penalties,
Interest, and Fees for Tax
Year 2024 for 19 West Park
Place, Corry, Pennsylvania,
Bearing Erie County Tax
ID No. (7)-23-91-13"
(Finance Committee)**

Resolution 11, 2025 was read into the record. A motion to adopt was made by Mr. Copeland, seconded by Mr. Bayle, and carried 6-0.

Yea: All
Nay: None

**Resolution Number 12,
2025, "Authorizing the
Exoneration of Outstanding
Property Tax, Penalties,
Interest, and Fees for Tax
Year 2024 for 146 Mott
Street, Corry, Pennsylvania
bearing Erie County Tax
ID No. (7)-26-88-12"
(Finance Committee)**

Resolution 12, 2025 was read into the record. A motion to adopt was made by Mr. Copeland, seconded by Mr. Bayle, and carried 6-0.

Yea: All
Nay: None

**Possible Sale of a Parcel
from the Repository for
Unsold Property at Index
Number: 18-051-020.0-
204.00 (Finance
Committee)**

The parcel sale was approved 6-0 on a motion by Mr. Copeland and second by Mr. Winarski.

Yea: All
Nay: None

**Possible Sale of a Parcel
from the Repository for
Unsold Property at Index
Number: 18-051-030.0-
208.00 (Finance
Committee)**

The parcel sale was approved 6-0 on a motion by Mr. Copeland and second by Mr. Winarski.

Yea: All
Nay: None

**Possible Sale of a Parcel
from the Repository for
Unsold Property at Index
Number: 18-051-030.0-**

The parcel sale was approved 6-0 on a motion by Mr. Copeland and second by Mr. Winarski.

Yea: All
Nay: None

**209.00 (Finance
Committee)**

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Copeland. The meeting adjourned at 6:20pm.

***The next
Finance/Personnel
Committee Meetings are
Thursday, July 10, 2025.
*The next Regular Meeting
of County Council is
Tuesday, July 15, 2025.**