

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, August 12, 2025

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Scutella opened the meeting and led the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:03p.m.

OPTIONAL PRAYER OR REFLECTION

A reflection was offered by Mrs. Schauerman.

ROLL CALL

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

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

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Lydia Smith

Lydia Smith did not speak.

Chairman Scutella stated that those that did not call to be placed on the agenda would be granted three minutes to speak and all would be heard.

Lou Aliota, Millcreek Township: Mr. Aliota discussed his dissatisfaction that no one had responded to his emails. He threatened to file a federal complaint.

Mable Henderson, City of Erie: Ms. Henderson discussed the death of Marchello Woodard. She stated she wanted justice.

Malcolm Henderson, City of Erie: Mr. Henderson stated he wanted support from council on the "Justice for Chello" movement. He advised Councilman Winarski that people were going to canvass his district to vote against him.

Deonte Cooley, City of Erie: Mr. Cooley stated that he received no response from Council to his recent e-mails and asked for support on the "Justice for Chello" movement. He expressed anger and resentment against Mr. Winarski and his lack of support for Mr. Woodard.

Terry Roberts, City of Erie: Mr. Roberts called for the replacement of the candidate from District 4 and requested support for the "Justice for Chello" movement.

Michelle Dovishaw, City of Erie: Ms. Dovishaw requested support for the "Justice for Chello" movement.

Cindy Treiber, Edinboro: Ms. Treiber stated her disappointed that Councilman Bayle was not present. (Mr. Bayle was present via phone). She requested support for the "Justice for Chello" movement.

Mimi O'Connor, City of Erie: Ms. O'Connor requested support for the "Justice for Chello" movement.

Chanel Caljean, City of Erie: Ms. Caljean questioned why Council was advised not to respond publicly about the case. She requested that a statement be made by Council pertaining concerning the use of body cameras for parole officers.

Michael Woodard, City of Erie: Mr. Woodard requested that Council be transparent during the investigation of the incident in question as well as support the "Justice for Chello" movement.

Sister Natalie Rossi, City of Erie: Sister Rossi stated that the Sisters of Mercy have two important core values that need to be mentioned; they were against violence and discrimination.

Sister Jacqueline Sanchez-Small, Harborcreek: Sister Sanchez-Small requested support to help bring justice for Chello and the Woodard family. She noted her disappointment with the lack of response from Council.

Nellie Crosby, City of Erie: Ms. Crosby demanded justice for the family. She questioned why the alleged shooter was not waiting out his time in prison until the investigation was done.

Chamelle Henderson, City of Erie: Ms. Henderson stated she was the girlfriend of the deceased and wanted justice for Mr. Woodard.

Charles Woodard: Mr. Woodard stated that he was well versed in law enforcement, having received three degrees from Mercyhurst University. He stated this should not have happened and requested support from the Council.

Dr. Susanne Kuligowski, City of Erie: Dr. Kuligowski stated that the heartbreak

was due to the leadership of our County. She requested that Council take a more serious role in the investigation and resolution of the matter.

Abdullah Washington, City of Erie: Mr. Washington stated frustration with the media and government Mr. Woodard. He recited a biblical analogy relating to the incident.

Sarah, Buffalo, New York: The speaker stated she represented the "Black Lives Matter" movement. She questioned why Council members have not been present in support of the "Justice for Chello" movement.

Chase Walker, Buffalo, New York: Mr. Walker shared a personal story about parole officers and how it made him feel. He called for a time of action.

Jared Staszewski: Mr. Staszewski read a letter from County Council Solicitor Talarico which stated he advised Council members not to publicly address the public unless directed to do so by Chairman Scutella. He requested that Mr. Scutella allow all Council members to speak out on this matter.

Carlos Mora: Mr. Mora stated as a college student he was surprised at the racism that he sees towards his black friends and would like everyone to support all black people.

Cole Shenley, City of Erie: Mr. Shenley stated people in Erie were suffering because Council would not make a statement on this case and perhaps it's time to speak up.

Linda Pohl: Ms. Pohl stated her daughter was a parole officer and worked in Erie County for some time, but felt that she had to leave due to the racism in our county. She stated people needed to come together and be respectful.

Sheryl Ann Carter, Harborcreek: Ms. Carter stated that silence made people angry. She asked that Council speak out and be transparent about this case.

Elizabeth Stanton, Harborcreek: Ms. Stanton stated racism goes back to the 1940's in Erie County. She noted it was time to bring us up to the current century and speak out about what was wrong.

Cara Stark, Lawrence Park: Ms. Stark stated Council should all want to know that every person will be protected equally.

Ricky Woodard: Mr. Woodard stated that his nephew had no record of violence. He asked everyone "make some noise for Marchello".

Johnny Shields, City of Erie: Mr. Shields stated not all PO officers were bad, but unfortunately, this PO had a history of doing bad things and he must go.

Others

**MINUTES FROM
PREVIOUS MEETING**

**July 15, 2025 - Regular
Meeting**

A motion to accept the minutes of the July 15, 2025, meeting was made by Mr. Horton, seconded by Mrs. Schauerman, and carried 7-0.

Yea: All
Nay: None

**REPORTS OF COUNTY
OFFICIALS**

**County Executive and/or
Designee**

No report was offered by the County Executive or a designee.

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

Other

Mr. Horton offered his thanks to the speakers for all that they did for the Woodard family and our community. He reminded them that there would be results, just not as timely as everyone wanted, and everyone needed to be patient. He noted it was an epic failure of the State not to communicate with the people of Erie, and that he spoke to Lieutenant Governor Davis; his reply was they do not comment on an active investigation. He stated everyone should continue to attend these meetings and their presence and diversity was necessary and important. He stated that although they may not see the works that were done, doesn't mean they weren't being done, and they should give people the grace to do it. He stated support for Council Solicitor Talarico and the job he does for Council.

Mr. Copeland apologized to those that felt ignored, and stated it was not the intention of Council. He stated it was the sacred right of people to be heard, and it was out of respect the Council did not comment. He stated it was a struggle to know the right words to use to offer comfort and support to the family and friends of the deceased.

Mr. Winarski offered his heartfelt condolences to the family. He stated that he wished the process was quicker, but that those on Council know nothing more about the case than what the public hears on the news. He stated that the district did not matter, but that it happened in the County of Erie did. He again offered his condolences.

Mr. Drexel offered his apologies if he let people down by not speaking. He stated that the community was in pain, and it was his duty to do something about it. He noted it would not happen again. He stated he did not know what it felt like to have to deal with these situations as the people there had dealt with it

their entire lives.

There was an interruption to the Council's responses by the gallery.

Chairman Scutella stated Council and the members of the community wanted transparency. There was another interruption by the gallery. The Chair waited for outbursts to subdue and began the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance Number 37, 2025, "First Public Health Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$4,938 for Additional Tuberculosis Funds from the Pennsylvania Department of Health" Ordinance Number 37, 2025 received a first reading from Ms. Chillcott.

Ordinance Number 38, 2025, "Eighth 2025 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$30,000 and Creation of a New Line Item for New Central Booking Fee" Ordinance Number 38, 2025 received a first reading from Ms. Chillcott.

Ordinance Number 39, 2025, "Ninth 2025 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$366,000 for Federal Reimbursement of County Prison Boiler Replacement" Ordinance Number 39, 2025 received a first reading from Ms. Chillcott.

Resolution Number 17, 2025, "Abatement and Exoneration of Outstanding County Taxes, Interest, Penalties, and Fees on Certain Properties Owned by Child Development Centers, Inc." Resolution Number 17, 2025 was read into the record. A motion to adopt was made by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Winarski, and carried 7-0.
Yea: All
Nay: None

Resolution Number 18, 2025, "To Approve" Resolution Number 18, 2025 was read into the record. A motion to adopt was made by Mr. Horton, seconded by Mrs. Schauerman, and carried 7-0.

Mediation Settlement Agreement"	Yea: All Nay: None
Possible appointment of Carlos Mora Rangel to the Erie County Human Relations Commission Advisory Board. Term to expire December 31, 2028. (Drexel)	A motion to approve the appointment of Carlos Mora Rangel was offered by Mr. Winarski, seconded by Mr. Horton, and carried 7-0. Yea: All Nay: None
Possible reappointment of Jack Lee to the Erie County Land Bank. Term to expire December 31, 2029. (Drexel)	A motion to approve the reappointment of Jack Lee was offered by Mr. Drexel seconded, by Mr. Winarski, and carried 7-0. Yea: All Nay: None
Possible appointment of Lawrence Brown to the Erie County Housing Authority. Term to expire December 31, 2029. (County Executive)	Mr. Copeland noted that this is the third time that Mr. Brown has been on the agenda. Mr. Copeland stated that his vote would still be no. A motion to approve the appointment of Larence Brown was offered by Mr. Winarski, seconded by Mrs. Schauerman, and failed 3-4. Yea: 3 (Bayle, Schauerman, Winarski) Nay: 4 (Copeland, Drexel, Horton, Scutella)
Possible Sale of a Parcel from the Repository for Unsold Property at Index Number: 24-004-007.2-012.81	The parcel sale was approved 7-0 on a motion by Mrs. Schauerman and second by Mr. Winarski. Yea: All Nay: None
Possible Sale of a Parcel from the Repository for Unsold Property at Index Number: 27-006-100.0-007.00	A motion was made by Mr. Copeland to table the sale, seconded by Mr. Winarski, and carried 7-0. Yea: All Nay: None

ADJOURNMENT

The next Finance/Personnel Committee Meetings are Thursday, August 21, 2025.

The next Regular Meeting of County Council is Tuesday, August 26, 2025.

There was no motion made to adjourn the meeting. Chairman Scutella called for adjournment at 7:55pm.