

MINUTES

Erie County Council

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

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

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, September 9, 2025

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Scutella opened the meeting and led the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:02p.m.

OPTIONAL PRAYER OR REFLECTION

A reflection was read by Mrs. Schauerma.

ROLL CALL

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

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

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Jeremy Roberts

Jeremy Roberts did not speak.

Michael Podskalny

Michael Podskalny did not speak.

Randy Barnes

Randy Barnes did not speak.

Peter Burton

Peter Burton, Borough of Girard: Mr. Burton, Mayor of Girard, questioned whether the Greenway Grant was going to be made available or if they should look for other funding for their project. He stated that the municipality had applied one year ago but has not had a response yet.

Others

Deonte Cooley, City of Erie: Mr. Cooley requested support from County Council for Marchello Woodard. He stated it was uncomfortable for people to come to the meeting and ask for help when Council didn't respond. He asked for resources for Erie's east side. He voiced concern about what appeared to be a lack of concern for all people of Erie.

Brenda Cannell, Edinboro: Ms. Cannell stated that as the interim Manager of Edinboro Borough she applied for the Greenway Grant over a year ago. She

noted they still had not heard anything. She listed the reasons such as tourism that they would like to update and remodel the lake bathhouse. She stressed the need for the funds and questioned when they would be available.

Reem Al-Misky, Millcreek: Ms. Al-Misky stated that she was a therapist previously from Syria. She ranted about voting for all political parties and no one did anything. She continued about Palestine, tax dollars to Israel, student protesters, that her family was privileged, mental health patients, and Council doing nothing about it.

Chamere Henderson, City of Erie: Ms. Henderson discussed the HRC dismissing her claim of discrimination. She alleged that she was offered money that was not enough and did not accept it, then her case was dismissed.

Chamelle Henderson, City of Erie: Ms. Henderson expressed ongoing support for Mr. Marchello Woodard. She stated her appreciation for what has been done but continued to request that Council speak out and offer more support.

Malcolm Pullium, City of Erie: Mr. Pullium stated someone should have reached out to Woodard family and friends by now. He stated that he was afraid for his five sons and their safety. He asked for Council to offer usable resources.

Chanel Caljean, City of Erie: Ms. Caljean stated her belief that Erie County leadership was silent. She suggested that leadership give periodic and timely updates. She asked Council members to do better.

Dr. Susanne Kuligowski, City of Erie: Dr. Kuligowski stated statistics about gun violence in the United States corresponding to race and law enforcement. She asked for reform and accountability in Erie County as well as justice for Marchello.

Jared Staszewski, City of Erie: Mr. Staszewski asked when will there be justice for Chello? He asked how much longer the wait would be. He requested a special meeting with Council to address concerns in Erie County. He suggested ways to show solidarity within the community.

Mike Woodard, City of Erie: Mr. Woodard asked members of Council if they speak or think about what was said by the community after each meeting. He asked that Council reach out to family members and provided them with phone numbers. He stated funding was needed for the community when problems arise.

Michael Podskalny: Mr. Podskalny offered support to the Woodard family. He voiced concern for the Palestinian people and how it related to the issues in Erie. He suggested there were real issues with segregation and questioned the lack of justice in our community.

Verna Spears: Ms. Spears asked Council why they sit stoically when people

were speaking about Mr. Woodard while the community was tearful? She demanded that Council step up.

Mabel Henderson, City of Erie: Ms. Henderson told the Council members to "Treat us as you want to be treated."

Amy Tackacs: Ms. Tackacs rebuked the Council member for not writing down the phone numbers of the Woodard family. She stated that it was unfeeling.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

August 12, 2025 - Regular Meeting A motion was made by Mrs. Schauerman to accept the minutes, seconded by Mr. Copeland, and carried 6-0.

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.

Mr. Copeland made a motion to strike from Resolution Number 21, 2025 from the agenda. It was seconded by Mr. Horton and carried 6-0.
Yea: All
Nay: None

Mr. Copeland made a motion to un-table Possible Sale of Parcel 27-006-100.0-007.00. It was seconded by Mrs. Schauerman and carried 6-0.
Yea: All
Nay: None

Personnel Committee - Mr. Winarski Mr. Winarski reported there were no Personnel Committee items on the agenda.

Other

Mr. Horton stated that he had no idea how other people felt, only how he felt. He believed that all want the same thing throughout the community. He hoped for a transparent investigation, but reminded people that these things take a great deal of time. He mentioned the length of time it took for his own family's similar experiences. He stated that County Council had two jobs, policy and budget, and was unable to force the completion of this or any other investigation. Mr. Horton reminded the community that they do not respond to questions or concerns at the meetings because it was the speaker's time to talk. He offered to support Mr. Woodards family and friends.

Chairman Scutella stated on behalf of the entire Council, they all agreed with Mr. Horton. He noted Council could not do any more than was currently being done. He reiterated that Council was strictly policy and budget but would always be available to listen and offer advice.

OLD BUSINESS

**Possible Sale of a Parcel
from the Repository for
Unsold Property at Index
Number: 27-006-100.0-
007.00 (Tabled 8/12/25)**

Mrs. Schauerma motioned the sale, it was seconded by Mr. Copeland and carried 6-0.

Yea: All

Nay: None

NEW BUSINESS

**Ordinance Number 40,
2025, "Tenth 2025 General
Fund Budget Supplemental
Appropriation of \$150,000
and Creation of a Line Item
for East County EMS for
Purchase of an
Ambulance" (Finance
Committee)**

A motion to move Ordinance Number 40, 2025 to second reading was made by Mr. Copeland, seconded by Mr. Horton, and carried 6-0.

Yea: All

Nay: None

Mr. Copeland stated that an EMS grant was approved but the funds were not paid out. He stated that those funds should be used prior to asking for more. He stated for this reason, he would vote No.

Mr. Horton reiterated the statements of Mr. Copeland, and offered his vote would be No.

Mr. Drexel stated that he did not know what would come from the State and wanted to remain a good steward for the County's money. He noted since the state had no budget, he would also vote No.

Mr. Bayle stated that the money was for scholarships and staff training. He noted money had been taken away from EMS but that was not mentioned. He offered he would vote Yes.

Mrs. Schauerma stated that she agreed with Mr. Bayle and would vote Yes.

Chairman Scutella stated that the money was still available, but this was political. He believed that the County Executive should be present at the meeting but was not. He would vote No.

A motion to approve Ordinance Number 40, 2025 was made by Mrs. Schauerma, seconded by Mr. Bayle, and failed 2-4.

Yea: 2 (Bayle, Schauerman)
Nay: 4(Copeland, Drexel, Horton, Scutella)

Ordinance Number 41, 2025, "Second 2025 Planning Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$601,724 for Act 13 Greenways Grant Distribution" (Finance Committee)

Ordinance 41, 2025 received its first reading.

Resolution Number 20, 2025, "Addressing the Consequences of Missed Commonwealth Budget Deadlines" (Finance Committee)

A motion to accept Resolution Number 20, 2025 was made by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Copeland, and carried 6-0.

Yea: All
Nay: None

Resolution Number 21, 2025, "County Council Approval of the 2025 CCAP Electors" (Finance Committee)

Item was struck from the agenda.

Possible Sale of a Parcel from the Repository for Unsold Property at Index Number: 18-051-011.0-105.00

A motion was made to approve the sale of Parcel 18-051-011.0-105.00 by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Copeland, and carried 6-0.

Yea: All
Nay: None

Possible Sale of a Parcel from the Repository for Unsold Property at Index Number: 07-025-067.0-026.00

A motion was made to approve the sale of Parcel 07-025-067.0-026.00 by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Bayle, and carried 6-0.

Yea: All
Nay: None

ADJOURNMENT

The next Finance/Personnel Committee Meetings are Thursday, September 18, 2025. The next Regular Meeting of County Council is Tuesday, September 23, 2025.