

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, October 7, 2025

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Scutella called the meeting to order at 6:00pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

OPTIONAL PRAYER OR REFLECTION

A reflection was offered by Mrs. Schauerman.

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

Susannah Faulkner

Susannah Faulkner, District 3: Ms. Faulkner addressed the issue of public safety and concerns for the community. She stated that due to the lack of a state budget and a federal government shut down, Council was currently the highest form of democracy. She asked for a town hall meeting and a decision on the Marchello Woodard case. She asked for Council to invest in youth with the 2026 budget.

Seth Trott

Seth Trott: Attorney Trott noted that, as a country, the people decided in 1968 to stand against discrimination. He discussed how today anti-discrimination laws were not enforced by the federal government as they should be. He addressed that it was up to state and local entities to keep sure footing underneath the cause, and the need for the Erie County Human Relations Commission (HRC). He explained that most people cannot afford the cost of an attorney to represent them in discrimination disputes and rely on the HRC to mediate. He proposed that while funding the HRC was a budgetary decision, it was also a moral decision.

Others

Jerry Roberts, City of Erie: Mr. Roberts stated that he was there to represent Justice for Chello. He asked for respect for Mr. Woodard's family and for Council to use their influence to get more information out and bring the case to an end so that the family could grieve.

Scott Rastetter, Washington Township: Mr. Rastetter discussed DEI. He noted it was undeniable the Creator was in love with diversity. He voiced thoughts that equality, inclusion, and self-determination could not be decreed or legislated, but assistance within the community could help. He remarked about political parties and warned of their use was detrimental to democracy when a gang mentality took hold, and people were dedicated to party not community. He continued that blind loyalty was not an asset, and suggested independent voters be included in primary elections to remove party monopolies.

Cindy Treiber-Edinboro: Ms. Treiber suggested the county lead a community policing committee to build a better relationship between law enforcement and the citizens. She compared a shooting case in Millcreek to the Woodard case and questioned why the Millcreek case was more transparent.

Mimi O'Conner: Ms. O'Conner spoke about the Marchello Woodard case. She expressed concern that nothing was said to the public, no one was asking the questions. She stated that it was their duty to make things right.

Terry Roberts: Mr. Roberts stated disappointment that nothing had been done in the Woodard case. He compared it to another case. He stated a normal civilian would go to jail with no bond but the shooter in the Woodard case was at home with his family.

Michelle Dovishaw, City of Erie: Ms. Dovishaw discussed her children's fears about playing outside and being shot. She questioned why people were silent in the Woodard case.

Deonte Cooley, City of Erie: Mr. Cooley offered thanks to Mr. Horton for his service to the community and stated he had no disrespect for him. He questioned the precedent that was set by writing Resolution Number 25, 2025, and quoted Council members' statements including "we only have two jobs, to enact policy and pass the budget." He declared this resolution broke precedent as not being policy or the budget. He also noted this resolution was offered to discredit other council members. He stated that it did not help people when they bend the rules and asked for it not to be done for show. He stated that the people wanted a town hall for conversation. He demanded conversation and education for the people.

Cole Schenley, City of Erie: Mr. Schenley spoke about his frustration over the current language of Resolution 25, 2025. He noted he did not care how the Council voted on this resolution, but to stop making it political.

Heidi Shadduck, Millcreek Township: Ms. Shadduck expressed outrage and fear

of the federal government over the treatment of immigrants. She reported on the deplorable actions of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and ICE. She said that she did not support the contract that Erie County currently has with ICE. She requested Council review the contract with DHS, exhaust legal avenues to terminate the contract, and use the revenue from the contract to counteract the actions of DHS.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

September 9, 2025 - Regular Meeting

Mrs. Schauerma called for a motion to accept the minutes. It was seconded by Mr. Winarski 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 there were no Personnel Committee items on the agenda.

Other

Mr. Horton noted appreciation when citizens ask to be heard. He acknowledged that while there was not engagement back and forth between Council and citizens, there was an exchange, but the public had to be there for it. He countered it was folly and shortsighted to recall support for legislators that have supported the community because they don't do exactly what you want. He stated Council did more than policy and budget. He stated they did not disagree with the Solicitor legally, but politically. He referred to the State's reaction to the Woodard case as an epic failure but stated it was not Council's job. He noted Council works together, and sometimes you get what you want, but not all the time. He stated his belief that Council represents all citizens, not just the ones that support you. He clarified that Council received the resolution from the Justice for Chello group and tried to work together to offer a resolution acceptable to all of Council. He stated people don't get to come into the meeting and spout off without facts, acting immature and petulant, and telling them their job. He stated that it was a good resolution, but Council could not fix the Chello family. Mr. Horton stated he was proud of his colleagues for having discussion. He noted while there will be no town hall as requested, the Council was always available for conversation.

Mr. Copeland motioned to untable Resolution 22, 2025, seconded by Mr. Horton, and carried 7-0.

Yea: All
Nay: None

Mr. Copeland motioned to strike Resolution 22, 2025, seconded by Mr. Horton, and carried 6-1.

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

OLD BUSINESS

**Ordinance Number 41,
2025, "Second 2025
Planning Fund Budget
Supplemental
Appropriation of \$601,724
for Act 13 Greenways
Grant Distribution" (First
Read 9/9/25)(Tabled
9/23/25) (Finance
Committee)**

**Ordinance Number 42,
2025, "First 2025 Mental
Health/Intellectual
Disabilities Fund Budget
Supplemental
Appropriation of
\$1,273,322 for Additional
Revenue for 2025" (First
Read 9/23/25) (Finance
Committee)**

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

Yea: All
Nay: None

**Resolution Number 21,
2025, "Appointment of
Firm to Perform
Comprehensive Single
Audit for Erie County and
Related Funds for the Year
Ending December 31, 2025"
(First Read 9/23/25)
(Finance Committee)**

A motion to adopt was made by Mr. Copeland, seconded by Mrs. Schauerman, and carried 7-0.

Yea: All
Nay: None

**Resolution Number 22,
2025, "Amending
Resolution Number 12,
2012, Previously Amended
by Resolution Number 26,**

**2015" (Tabled 9/23/25)
(Finance Committee)**

**Resolution Number 23,
2025, "Approval of
Extension Agreement for
Five-Year Lease Renewal
with Metro Center, Inc. for
the Erie County Office of
Drug and Alcohol" (First
Read 9/23/25) (Finance
Committee)**

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

Yea: All

Nay: None

NEW BUSINESS

**Ordinance Number 43,
2025, "2025 General Fund
Budget Waiver of County
Purchasing Code for a
Three-Year Contract for
Westlaw Subscription for
Judges Library" (Finance
Committee)**

Ordinance Number 43, 2025 received a first reading by Ms. Chillcott.

**Resolution Number 24,
2025, "County Council
Approval of the 2025 CCAP
Electors" (Finance
Committee)**

A motion to adopt was made by Mr. Copeland, seconded by Mrs. Schauerman, and carried 7-0.

Yea: All

Nay: None

**Resolution Number 25,
2025, "A Resolution of
Council Regarding the
Death of Marchello
Woodard" (Finance
Committee)**

A motion to adopt was made by Mr. Copeland, seconded by Mr. Horton, and carried 5-2.

Mr. Copeland stated that he was happy that this resolution moved forward and read the resolution into the records.

Mrs. Schauerman stated that while she has great empathy for the family and friends of Mr. Woodard, her vote would follow the advice of the solicitor.

Yea: 5 (Drexel, Copeland, Horton, Scutella, Winarski)

Nay: 2 (Bayle, Schauerman)

ADJOURNMENT

**The next Finance/Personnel Committee Meetings are
Thursday, October 16,
2025.**

**The next Regular Meeting
of County Council is
Tuesday, October 21, 2025.**

