

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

Thursday, November 6, 2025

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

OPTIONAL PRAYER OR REFLECTION

Mrs. Schauerman offered 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

Gerry Servidio

Mr. Servidio did not speak.

Others

Freda Tepfer, City of Erie: Ms. Tepfer stated projects of Erie County that she thought should receive funding, including the Human Relations Commission and Pleasant Ridge Manor, among others, in the Budget. She noted concerns about write-in votes and emphasized the extra work it caused and delay in results. She referenced a Second Harvest donation and that it should be done legally.

Malcolm Pulliam, City of Erie: Mr. Pulliam congratulated Mr. Winarski on his recent election win and relayed they would expect a lot. He requested Council set aside funds to purchase body cameras for all county employees engaged with residents on the streets. He shared an anecdote about Sonya Massey and how body cameras were helpful to expose the truth.

Deonte Cooley, City of Erie: Mr. Cooley congratulated the winning candidates from the recent election. He observed with the departure of Mr. Horton there

would be no representation for people of color. He asked Council to appoint people of color to boards wherever possible. He reminded Council younger people were more interested in government and they needed to be aware of that fact.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

October 7, 2025 - Regular Meeting A motion was made to accept the minutes by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Winarski and carried 7-0.

October 21, 2025 - Regular Meeting 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 congratulated the victors of the recent election. He thanked Mr. Cooley for his words and agreed strongly that representation matters. He noted it was humbling and sad that he was the only person of color to serve on the Council. He gave a warm shout-out to the County Executive Elect, Christina Vogel.

Mr. Copeland referenced the press conference held by the County Executive regarding Second Harvest Food Bank and stated that he had been working on finding a solution all week. He noted there were legal limitations to announcing agenda items and hoped a special meeting would be held Wednesday. He discussed the different problems associated with the federal government cuts, and the budget impasse of both the federal and state governments. He suggested residents should be worried about their neighbors and donate food and money.

Mr. Copeland made a motion to move Ordinance Number 67, 2025 to a second reading, seconded by Mrs. Schauerman, and carried 7-0.
Aye: All
Nay: None

Mr. Copeland made a motion to move Ordinance Number 68, 2025 to a second reading, seconded by Mr. Drexel, and carried 7-0.
Aye: All
Nay: None

Mr. Copeland made a motion to move Ordinance Number 69, 2025 to a second read, seconded by Mrs. Schauerman, and carried 7-0.

Aye: All

Nay: None

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 44,
2025, "Eleventh 2025
General Fund Budget
Supplemental
Appropriation of \$75,000
for Release and Transfer of
Restricted Act 152
Demolition Funds to 2025
Planning Fund" (First
Read 10/21/25)(Finance
Committee)**

A motion to adopt Ordinance Number 44, 2025 was made by Mr. Copeland, seconded by Mrs. Schauerman, and carried 7-0.

Yea: All

Nay: None

**Ordinance Number 45,
2025, "Third 2025 Planning
Fund Budget Supplemental
Appropriation of \$75,000
from Act 152 Demolition
Funds for Professional
Fees" (First Read
10/21/25)(Finance
Committee)**

A motion to adopt Ordinance Number 45, 2025 was made by Mr. Copeland, seconded by Mrs. Schauerman, and carried 7-0.

Yea: All

Nay: None

**Ordinance Number 47,
2025 "2025 Appointed
Official Salary Ordinance -
Full-Time Assistant Public
Defender" (First Read**

A motion to adopt Ordinance Number 47, 2025 was made by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Winarski, and carried 7-0.

Yea: All

Nay: None

**10/21/25)(Personnel
Committee)**

NEW BUSINESS

**Ordinance Number 48,
2025, "Approving the 2026
Erie County Community
College Budget" (Finance
Committee)** Ordinance 48, 2025 received a first reading.

**Ordinance Number 49,
2025, "2026 Debt Service
Fund Budget" (Finance
Committee)** Ordinance 49, 2025 received a first reading.

**Ordinance Number 50,
2025, "2026 Employee
Fringe Benefit Fund
Budget" (Finance
Committee)** Ordinance 50, 2025 received a first reading.

**Ordinance Number 51,
2025, "2026 Health Choices
Fund Budget" (Finance
Committee)** Ordinance 51, 2025 received a first reading.

**Ordinance Number 52,
2025, "2026 Mental Health
/ Intellectual Disabilities
Fund Budget" (Finance
Committee)** Ordinance 52, 2025 received a first reading.

**Ordinance Number 53,
2025, "2026 Drug and
Alcohol Abuse Fund
Budget" (Finance
Committee)** Ordinance 53, 2025 received a first reading.

**Ordinance Number 54,
2025, "2026 Children and
Youth Services Fund
Budget" (Finance
Committee)** Ordinance 54, 2025 received a first reading.

**Ordinance Number 55,
2025, "2026 Planning and
Community Development** Ordinance 55, 2025 received a first reading.

Fund Budget" (Finance Committee)

Ordinance Number 56, 2025, "2026 Domestic Relations Fund Budget" (Finance Committee) Ordinance 56, 2025 received a first reading.

Ordinance Number 57, 2025, "2026 Library Fund Budget" (Finance Committee) Ordinance 57, 2025 received a first reading.

Ordinance Number 58, 2025, "2026 Public Health Fund Budget" (Finance Committee) Ordinance 58, 2025 received a first reading.

Ordinance Number 59, 2025, "2026 Public Safety Fund Budget" (Finance Committee) Ordinance 59, 2025 received a first reading.

Ordinance Number 60, 2025, "2026 Gaming Fund Budget" (Finance Committee) Ordinance 60, 2025 received a first reading.

Ordinance Number 61, 2025, "2026 Liquid Fuels Fund Budget" (Finance Committee) Ordinance 61, 2025 received a first reading.

Ordinance Number 62, 2025, "2026 Pleasant Ridge Manor Operating Fund Budget" (Finance Committee) Ordinance 62, 2025 received a first reading.

Ordinance Number 63, 2025, "2026 Pleasant Ridge Manor Depreciation Reserve Fund Budget" (Finance Committee) Ordinance 63, 2025 received a first reading.

Ordinance Number 64, 2025, "2026 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Ordinance 64, 2025 received a first reading.

Fund Budget" (Finance Committee)

Ordinance Number 65, 2025, "2026 General Fund Budget" (Finance Committee) Ordinance 65, 2025 received a first reading.

Ordinance Number 66, 2025, "2026 Real Estate Tax Levy" (Finance Committee) Ordinance 66, 2025 received a first reading.

Ordinance Number 67, 2025, "2025 Appointed Official Salary Ordinance - Full-Time Assistant Public Defender" (Personnel Committee) A motion to adopt Ordinance Number 67, 2025 was made by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Horton, and carried 7-0.
Yea: All
Nay: None

Ordinance Number 68, 2025, "2025 Appointed Official Salary Ordinance - Full-Time Assistant Public Defender" (Personnel Committee) A motion to adopt Ordinance Number 68, 2025 was made by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Horton, and carried 7-0.
Yea: All
Nay: None

Ordinance Number 69, 2025, "Approval of Returning Assistant District Attorney Salary" (Personnel Committee) A motion to adopt Ordinance Number 69, 2025 was made by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Horton, and carried 7-0.
Yea: All
Nay: None

Resolution Number 22, 2025, "Approving the Tax Exoneration of Multiple Parcels Owned by the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Erie" A motion to adopt Resolution Number 22, 2025 was made by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Winarski, and carried 7-0.
Yea: All
Nay: None

Resolution Number 28, 2025, "Approval of \$4,000 Transfer of Funds from Public Defender Budget to Multiple General Fund Budgets" A motion to adopt Resolution Number 28, 2025 was made by Mr. Copeland, seconded by Mr. Winarski, and carried 7-0.
Mr. Copeland offered clarification. He stated that this showed they were aware of their budget.
Yea: All
Nay: None

Resolution Number 29, 2025, "Approval of \$9,000 Transfer of Funds from Assessment Budget to Coroner Budget"	A motion to adopt Resolution Number 29, 2025 was made by Mr. Copeland, seconded by Mrs. Schauerman, and carried 7-0. Yea: All Nay: None
Resolution Number 30, 2025, "Approval of \$95,000 Transfer of Funds from Public Defender Budget to County Solicitor Budget"	A motion to adopt Resolution Number 30, 2025 was made by Mr. Copeland, seconded by Mr. Winarski, and carried 7-0. Yea: All Nay: None
Resolution Number 31, 2025, "Approval of Transfers within the Human Services Budget Exceeding Ten (10) Percent"	A motion to adopt Resolution Number 31, 2025 was made by Mr. Copeland, seconded by Mr. Drexel, and carried 7-0. Yea: All Nay: None

ADJOURNMENT

The next Finance/Personnel Committee Meetings are Thursday, November 13, 2025.	Mr. Copeland thanked Ms. Chillcott for the ease and efficiency of the election.
The next Regular Meeting of County Council is Thursday, November 20, 2025.	Mr. Horton thanked Ms. Chillcott for overseeing the budget and the election. He added that while there was a meeting on the donation to Second Harvest Food Bank, there was still work to do. No motion was made, Mr. Scutella adjourned at 6:35pm.