

MINUTES

Erie County Council

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

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

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, December 9, 2025

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 P.M. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

OPTIONAL PRYEAR OR REFLECTION

A reflection was offered 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., and Colin Domowicz, Financial Advisor

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Gerry Servidio

Mr. Servidio did not speak.

Others

Michelle Dovishaw, City of Erie: Ms. Dovishaw expressed disappointment in the budget and its lack of support for programs that support diversity, equity and inclusion.

Patty Williams: Ms. Williams expressed disappointment in the budget and urged Council to help all people. She concluded with thanks to Mr. Horton for his service to Erie County residents.

Jerry Roberts, City of Erie: Mr. Roberts offered thanks to Mr. Horton for his dedication to the people. He also commented on his perceived racism of certain Council members and offered their votes as proof of said racism.

Freda Tepfer, City of Erie: Ms. Tepfer rebuked the discussion at the Caucus meeting regarding information on the pending lawsuit between the County of Erie and Gannon University and the Keep our Library Public group. She

commented on the Council Solicitor's opinions. She thanked Mr. Horton for his service.

Abdullah Washington, City of Erie: Mr. Washington thanked Mr. Horton for his service and commented that because of Mr. Horton, the story of black people in Erie County was told, including Marchello Woodard.

Kennedy Horton, City of Erie: Mr. Horton thanked his father, Andre Horton, for his service and addressed the defunding of Black Wall Street.

Deonte Cooley, City of Erie: Mr. Cooley thanked Mr. Horton for his service, commented on lack of representation for black people on the Council, remarked that Council members support people of color, and about the District Attorney and the Marchello Woodard case.

Malcolm Pulliam, City of Erie: Mr. Pulliam expressed concern for the lack of money to areas that support black needs, how Council decided who deserved funding, the investigation of Marchello Woodard's death and to expect a public reaction if a fair decision was not returned.

Mimi O'Connor, City of Erie: Ms. O'Connor remarked on death and investigation of Marchello Woodard.

Cindy Treiber, Edinboro: Ms. Treiber commented on subtle racism and Council behavior and body language at the meeting the previous night.

Arthur Gamble: Mr. Gamble commented on removal of resources by Council and noted that Erie was ranked one of the worst places to live for African Americans. He commented that Council had missed an opportunity to embrace the diversity of Erie. He expressed his gratitude to Mr. Horton for his time on Council and the good works he had done.

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 moved to the Council agenda.
Personnel Committee - Mr. Winarski	Mr. Winarski reported on the items from the Personnel Committee moved to the Council agenda.
Other	Mr. Horton commented on the accomplishments he had been part of as part of a community, and noted no one accomplished things by themselves, such as a community college, a police athletic league, summer jobs program, and a

humans relations commission; he thanked the Dahlkemper Administration. He thanked his wife, Angela, and his children for their enduring support and hoped he had made them proud. He stated he had tried to be a servant leader and great example of servanthood and tried to model leadership. He explained he had great examples of those qualities in his own parents. He stated he was from the people and for the people with fidelity and that he had a heart for them and they for him and his family.

A citation was presented to Mr. Horton from the County Council and read by Mr. Copeland.

Mr. Horton thanked his colleagues. He stated the last four years had been tough votes, but these were good people and hoped Council could return to leaving disagreements in the meeting and break bread together as had historically been done.

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)**

**Resolution Number 32,
2025, "Approval of
Transfers within the
Conduct of Elections
Budget Exceeding Ten (10)
Percent" (Finance
Committee) (Tabled
11/20/25)**

**Ordinance Number 71,
2025, "Twelfth 2025
General Fund Budget
Supplemental
Appropriation of \$497,755
for Additional Grant
Revenue from the PA
Election Integrity Grant"
(First Read
11/20/25)(Finance
Committee)**

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

Yea: All
Nay: None

Ordinance Number 72, 2025, "Approval of 2026 Erie Non-Bargaining Employees Pay Plan" (First Read 11/20/25) (Personnel Committee)

A motion to table was made by Mr. Copeland, seconded by Mr. Horton, and carried 7-0.
Yea: All
Nay: None

Ordinance Number 73, 2025, "2026 Appointed Official Salary Ordinance – County Clerk" (First Read 11/20/25) (Personnel Committee)

A motion to adopt was made by Mr. Copeland, seconded by Mrs. Schauerman, and carried 7-0.
Yea: All
Nay: None

Ordinance Number 74, 2025, "2026 Appointed Official Salary Ordinance – First Assistant Public Defender" (First Read 11/20/25)(Personnel Committee)

A motion to adopt was made by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Winarski, and carried 7-0.
Yea: All
Nay: None

Ordinance Number 75, 2025, "2026 Appointed Official Salary Ordinance – Full and Part-Time Assistant Public Defenders" (First Read 11/20/25)(Personnel Committee)

A motion to adopt was made by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Winarski, and carried 7-0.
Yea: All
Nay: None

NEW BUSINESS

First Read Ordinance Number 77, 2025, "2026 Appointed Official Salary Ordinance – Director of Human Resources" (Personnel Committee)

Ordinance Number 77, 2025 received a first reading.

First Read Ordinance Number 78, 2025, "2026 Appointed Official Salary Ordinance – Director of Finance" (Personnel Committee)

Ordinance Number 78, 2025 received a first reading.

First Read Ordinance Number 79, 2025, "2026

Ordinance Number 79, 2025 received a first reading.

**Appointed Official Salary
Ordinance – Director of
Administration" (Personnel
Committee)**

**First Read Ordinance
Number 80, 2025, "2026
Appointed Official Salary
Ordinance – Public
Defender" (Personnel
Committee)** Ordinance Number 80, 2025 received a first reading.

**First Read Ordinance
Number 81, 2025, "2026
Appointed Official Salary
Ordinance – County
Solicitor" (Personnel
Committee)** Ordinance Number 81, 2025 received a first reading.

**First Read Ordinance
Number 82, 2025, "2026
Appointed Official Salary
Ordinance – First Assistant
County Solicitor"
(Personnel Committee)** Ordinance Number 82, 2025 received a first reading.

**First Read Ordinance
Number 83, 2025, "2026
Appointed Official Salary
Ordinance – Two Assistant
County Solicitors"
(Personnel Committee)** Ordinance Number 83, 2025 received a first reading.

**Resolution Number 34,
2025, "Approving the 2026
Solicitor Contract for the
Office of the Clerk of
Records of Erie County"
(Finance Committee)** A motion to adopt was made by Mr. Copeland, seconded by Mrs. Schauerma, and carried 7-0.
Yea: All
Nay: None

**Resolution Number 35,
2025, "Approving the 2026
Solicitor Contract for the
Office of the Controller of
Erie County" (Finance
Committee)** A motion to adopt was made by Mr. Copeland, seconded by Mrs. Schauerma, and carried 7-0.
Yea: All
Nay: None

**Resolution Number 36,
2025, "Approval of** A motion to adopt was made by Mrs. Schauerma, seconded by Mr. Winarski, and carried 7-0.

**Tentative Lease Agreement
with Sandi and Norman
Beatty for Office Space
Located at 6880 Rt. 215,
East Springfield,
Pennsylvania for
Magisterial District Judge
Jeffrey Gadley" (Finance
Committee)**

Yea: All
Nay: None

**Resolution Number 37,
2025, "Approving the
Intergovernmental
Transfer Agreement
between the PA
Department of Human
Services-Office of Long
Term Living and the
County of Erie" (Finance
Committee)**

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

Yea: All
Nay: None

**Possible appointment of
Henry Chiapa to the Erie
County Planning
Commission. Term to
expire December 31, 2027.
(Copeland)**

A motion to approve was made by Mr. Copeland, seconded by Mr. Winarski,
and carried 7-0.

Yea: All
Nay: None

**Possible appointment of
William S. Jeffress to the
Erie County Diversity,
Equity and Inclusion
Commission. Term to
expire December 31, 2025.
(Scutella)**

A motion to approve was made by Mr. Winarski, seconded by Mr. Copeland,
and carried 7-0.

Yea: All
Nay: None

ADJOURNMENT

***The Reorganization
Meeting of County Council
is Monday, January 5, 2026
at the Erie County
Courthouse.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:09. P.M.