

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, January 27, 2026

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

OPTIONAL PRAYER OR REFLECTION

Mrs. Schauerma offered a reflection.

ROLL CALL

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

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

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Others

Mimi O'Connor, City of Erie: Ms. O'Connor remarked on the Marchello Woodard case, inalienable rights of minorities, and righting the wrongs of racism and oppression.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

REPORTS OF COUNTY OFFICIALS

County Executive and/or Designee

County Executive Vogel updated the Council on current projects and bids including the Courthouse Café, land in Fairview, and the tiny homes; she announced a symposium for municipalities on the resources offered by the County.

Finance Committee - Mr. Drexel

Mr. Drexel reported on the items from the Finance Committee moved to the Council agenda.

Personnel Committee - Mr. Copeland Mr. Copeland reported on the items from the Personnel Committee moved to the Council agenda.

Other Chairman Scutella made a public service announcement on the need for blood donations due to a shortage.

Mr. Copeland made a motion to strike Resolution Number 9, 2026, seconded by Mrs. Schauerma, and carried 7-0.

Yea: All

Nay: None

OLD BUSINESS

Ordinance Number 1, 2026, "Approving Harborcreek Township Ordinance 2010-201-8 an Amendment of Real Estate Tax Relief and Effective Date Extension" A motion to adopt Ordinance Number 1, 2026 was offered by Mrs. Schauerma, seconded by Mr. Copeland, and carried 7-0.

(First Read 1/13/26)(Finance Committee) Yea: All

Nay: None

Ordinance Number 2, 2026, "First 2026 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$50,000 and Creation of Line Items for the Central Booking Fee" A motion to adopt Ordinance Number 2, 2026 was offered by Mrs. Schauerma, seconded by Mr. Wertz, and carried 7-0.

(First Read 1/13/26)(Finance Committee) Yea: All

Nay: None

Ordinance Number 3, 2026, "Second 2026 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$608,920 and Creation of Line Items for State Food Purchase Plan Contract with Second Harvest Food Bank" A motion to adopt Ordinance Number 3, 2026 was offered by Mr. Wertz, seconded by Mrs. Schauerma, and carried 7-0.

(First Read 1/13/26)(Finance Committee) Yea: All

Nay: None

Ordinance Number 10, 2026, "2026 County Council Solicitor Retainer" A motion to adopt Ordinance Number 10, 2026 was offered by Mrs. Schauerma, seconded by Mr. Winarski, and carried 7-0.

(First Read 1/13/26)(Finance Committee) Yea: All

Nay: None

**1/13/26)(Personnel
Committee)**

**Ordinance Number 11,
2026, "2026 County
Council Deputy Solicitor
Retainer" (First Read
1/13/26)(Personnel
Committee)**

A motion to adopt Ordinance Number 11, 2026 was offered by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Wertz, and carried 7-0.

Yea: All

Nay: None

NEW BUSINESS

**First Read Ordinance
Number 12, 2026, "2026
General Fund Budget
Revised Revenue and
Expenditures of \$15,513 for
Change in the Public
Defender Position"
(Personnel Committee)**

Ordinance Number 12, 2026 received its first read.

**First Read Ordinance
Number 13, 2026, "2026
General Fund Budget
Revised Revenue and
Expenditures of \$31,888 for
2026 Appointed Official
Salary Ordinance - First
Assistant Public Defender"
(Personnel Committee)**

Ordinance Number 13, 2026 received its first read.

**First Read Ordinance
Number 14, 2026, "Third
2026 General Fund Budget
Supplemental
Appropriation of \$41,618 to
Eliminate the Position of
Assistant Public Defender
and Create the Position of
Trial Chief Deputy"
(Personnel Committee)**

Ordinance Number 1, 2026 received its first read.

**First Read Ordinance
Number 15, 2026, "2026
General Fund Budget
Revised Revenue and
Expenditures of \$17,768
and Waiver of the Human
Resources Code For**

Ordinance Number 15, 2026 received its first read.

Change of Position From Full Time to Part Time in the County Executive Department" (Personnel Committee)

Resolution Number 8, 2026, "Approval of Lease Extension with Salem Investments Inc for Premises Located at 824 East 6th Street, Erie, PA, 16503" (Finance Committee) A motion to adopt Resolution Number 8, 2026 was made by Mrs. Schauerma, seconded by Mr. Wertz, and carried 7-0.
Yea: All
Nay: None

Resolution Number 9, 2026, "In Support for the Workers of IAMAW Local 1211" (Finance Committee)

Resolution Number 10, 2026, "The Abatement of 2024 Costs on Parcel Number 19-061-049.0-211.00, 1703 W 36th ST 143 x 50" (Finance Committee) A motion to adopt Resolution Number 10, 2026 was made by Mr. Winarski, seconded by Mr. Bayle, and carried 7-0.
Yea: All
Nay: None

Possible Sale of a Parcel from the Repository for Unsold Property at Index Number: 07-025-067.0-025.00 (Finance Committee) A motion to approve the sale of parcel number 07-025-067.0-025.00 was made by Mr. Bayle, seconded by Mr. Winarski, and carried 7-0.
Yea: All
Nay: None

Possible reappointment of Marcie Morgan to the Erie County Children and Youth Advisory Board. Term to expire December 31, 2029. (Scutella)(Personnel Committee) A motion to reappoint Marcie Morgan to the Children and Youth Advisory Board was made by Mr. Copeland, seconded by Mr. Wertz, and carried 7-0.
Yea: All
Nay: None

Possible reappointment of Mary Fischer, CUA, ICP-LEA, ICP-MKG to the Erie County Library Board. Term to expire December A motion to reappoint Mary Fisher to the Library Board was made by Mr. Wertz, seconded by Mr. Winarski, and carried 6-0.
Yea: All
Nay: None
Abstain: Copeland

31, 2028.

**(Scutella)(Personnel
Committee)**

Possible reappointment of Thomas G. NeCastro to the Erie County Assessment Appeals Board. Term to expire December 31, 2029. (Copeland, Wertz, Winarski)(Personnel Committee)

A motion to reappoint Thomas G. NeCastro to the Assessment Appeals Board was made by Mr. Wentz, seconded by Mr. Winarski, and carried 7-0.
Yea: All
Nay: None

Possible reappointment of Timothy Pelkowski, MD, MS, FAAFP to the Erie County Board of Health. Term to expire December 31, 2029. (County Executive)(Personnel Committee)

A motion to reappoint Timothy Pelkowski to the Erie County Board of Health was made by Mr. Winarski, seconded by Mr. Copeland, and carried 7-0.
Yea: All
Nay: None

Possible waiver of Administrative Code Article II Section 5 A(1)(o) and reappointment of Richard Ortoski, DO, FACOFP to the Erie County Board of Health. Term to expire December 31, 2027. (County Executive)(Personnel Committee)

A motion to reappoint Richard Ortoski to the Erie County Board of Health was made by Mr. Copeland, seconded by Mr. Wertz, and carried 7-0.
Mr. Bayle commented he had no problems with the waivers and hoped the same would be done for members of the Conservation District.
Yea: All
Nay: None

Possible waiver of Administrative Code Article II Section 5 A(1)(o) and reappointment of Carla Picardo, MD, MPH. to the Erie County Board of Health. Term to expire December 31, 2029. (County Executive)(Personnel Committee)

A motion to reappoint Carla Picardo was made by Mr. Wertz, seconded by Mr. Copeland, and carried 7-0.
Yea: All
Nay: None

Appointment of an Ad Hoc Committee on the Administrative Code Chairman Scutella announced the members of the Ad Hoc Committee as follows:
Mr. Copeland, Chair
Mrs. Schauerman
Mr. Bayle

Appointment of an Ad Hoc Committee to Review Council Budgets, the Davis Administration Vetoes and the Decisions of the Courts of Common Pleas of Erie County and the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania Chairman Scutella announced the members of the Ad Hoc Committee as follows:
Mr. Wertz, Chair
Mr. Drexel
Mr. Winarski

ADJOURNMENT

The next Finance/Personnel Committee Meetings are Thursday, February 5, 2026.
The next Regular Meeting of County Council is Tuesday, February 10, 2026.