

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, April 7, 2026

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was called to order at 5:59 P.M. by Chairman Scutella who then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

OPTIONAL PRAYER OR REFLECTION

A reflection was offered by Mrs. Schauerma.

ROLL CALL

Present were Chairman Scutella, Council members Bayle, Copeland, Drexel, Schauerma, Wertz and Winarski.
Also present were County Clerk Karen Chillcott, Attorney Tom Talarico, Attorney Jay Stranahan and Colin Domowicz, Financial Advisor.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Dr. Gregory Rys, North East Borough-Spoke out against any Erie County possible involvement with the ICE Task Force. He also thanked Council for their transparency with the ICE detention plans.

Deonte Cooley, City of Erie-Requesting that Council considers unlocking phones, so people can record throughout the building except for actual trials. Mr. Cooley is also requesting a meeting with Councilman Winarski.

Prior to the next speaker, Councilman Wertz noted that while there is some difficulty with the speaker system, the meeting was being live-streamed correctly over YouTube.

Henry Chiapa, City of Erie-Speaker requested that council be aware of increased action concerning internet schemes, especially with any business that have government contracts. He asked that council reach out to businesses in their District and remind them to be aware.

Cindy Treiber, Edinboro-Expressed her frustration with the lack of communication between herself and the area Police Chiefs. Stated that she has submitted Right to Know forms, and due to the lack of response she has filed appeals with the state.

**MINUTES FROM
PREVIOUS MEETING**

March 24, 2026 - Regular Meeting

A motion was made by Mrs. Schauerman to accept the minutes from the meeting dated March 24, 2026, seconded by Mr. Winarski. Motion carried, 7-0.
Aye: All
Nay: None

**REPORTS OF COUNTY
OFFICIALS**

County Executive and/or Designee

On behalf of Christina Vogel, Chris Groner gave updates on things happening in the Executive's office. He stated that they are working on bringing forward a project labor agreement, responsible contracting ordinance, preparing for the three year plan, asking departments about their capital needs as the budget may look different this year to include a capital plan. They are also reviewing activity at the state level with House Bill 2303 relating to temporary lodging and short term rentals. The County Wide Engagement Officer started this week. He announced that April 23, 2026, is bring your son or daughter to work day. He encouraged staff to do that if it appropriate. The theme this year is "The Future Is at Work".

Finance Committee - Chris Drexel

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

Personnel Committee - Rock Copeland

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

Other

A motion was made by Mr. Drexel to move Ordinance Number 37, 2026 to second read, seconded by Mr. Copeland. Motion carried, 7-0.
Aye: All
Nay: None

OLD BUSINESS

Ordinance Number 25, 2026, "First 2026 Public Health Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$40,943 for Additional Opioid Settlement Funds Received from the Office of Drug and Alcohol Abuse" (First Read 3/24/26) (Finance Committee)

A motion was made to adopt Ordinance Number 25, 2026 by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Winarski. No discussion noted. Motion carried, 7-0.
Aye: All
Nay: None

- Ordinance Number 28, 2026, "Third 2026 Library Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$1,000 for Donation from VistErie" (First Read 3/24/26) (Finance Committee)** A motion was made to adopt Ordinance Number 28, 2026 by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Wertz. No discussion noted. Motion carried, 7-0.
Aye: All
Nay: None
- Ordinance Number 29, 2026, "2026 General Fund Budget Revised Expenditures of \$8,227 and Creation of New Line Items in Various Departments" (First Read 3/24/26) (Finance Committee)** A motion was made to adopt Ordinance Number 29, 2026 by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Winarski. No discussion noted. Motion carried, 7-0.
Aye: All
Nay: None
- Ordinance Number 30, 2026, "2026 Appointed Official Salary — Director of Human Resources" (First Read 3/24/26) (Personnel Committee)** A motion was made to adopt Ordinance Number 30, 2026 by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Wertz. Mr. Copeland made a motion to amend the Ordinance to change the salary to \$93,000, seconded by Mr. Winarski. No further discussion was noted. Motion carried, 7-0.
Aye: All
Nay: None
- Ordinance Number 31, 2026, "2026 General Fund Budget Revised Expenditures of \$6,678 for Reorganization of the Human Resources Department and Reclassification of Three Positions" (First Read 3/24/26) (Personnel Committee)** A motion was made to adopt Ordinance Number 31, 2026 by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Wertz. No discussion noted. Motion carried, 7-0.
Aye: All
Nay: None
- Ordinance Number 34, 2026, "2026 General Fund Budget Revised Expenditures of \$40,788 for Salary Increases and Approval of a One-Year MOU/Agreement between the Lieutenants and the County of Erie" (First Read 3/24/26) (Personnel Committee)** A motion was made to adopt Ordinance Number 34, 2026 by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Bayle. No discussion noted. Motion carried, 5-2.
Aye: 5 (Bayle, Schauerman, Scutella, Wertz, Winarski)
Nay: 2 (Copeland, Drexel)

Ordinance Number 35, 2026, "2026 General Fund Budget Revised Expenditures of \$18,849 for Salary Increases to the Prison Fund Budget" (First Read 3/24/26) (Personnel Committee)

A motion was made to adopt Ordinance Number 35, 2026 by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Winarski. No discussion noted. Motion carried, 5-2.
Aye: 5 (Bayle, Schauerman, Scutella, Wertz, Winarski)
Nay: 2 (Copeland, Drexel)

NEW BUSINESS

First Read Ordinance Number 36, 2026, "Approval of Waiver of Bid Requirements under the Purchasing Code and Approval of Sole Vendor Contract between Eaton Corporation and the Erie County Public Safety Department" (Finance Committee)

First read of Ordinance Number 36, 2026 was offered by Ms. Chillcott.

First Read Ordinance Number 37, 2026, "2026 Appointed Official Salary - Part-Time Assistant Public Defender" (Personnel Committee)

A motion was made to adopt Ordinance Number 37, 2026 by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Wertz. No discussion noted. Motion carried, 7-0.
Aye: All
Nay: None

Resolution Number 21, 2026, "Approving the 2026 Erie County Emergency Operations Plan" (Finance Committee)

A motion was made to adopt Resolution Number 21, 2026 by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Wertz. No discussion noted. Motion carried, 7-0.
Aye: All
Nay: None

Resolution Number 22, 2026, "Approving a Two-Year Erie County Brighter Futures Agreement between the County of Erie and Greater Erie Community Action Committee, Inc." (Finance Committee)

Possible appointment of Kimberly Garnon to the NWPA Job Connect Board.

A motion was made for the possible appointment of Kimberly Garnon to the NWPA Job Connect Board by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Wertz. No discussion noted. Motion carried, 7-0.

Term to expire May 15, 2030. (County Executive) (Personnel Committee)

Aye: All
Nay: None

Possible reappointment of John Hallenburg to the Erie County Conservation Board. Term to expire December 31, 2029. (County Executive) (Personnel Committee)

A motion was made for the possible appointment of John Hallenburg to the Erie County Conservation Board by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Winarski.
No discussion noted. Motion carried, 7-0.
Aye: All
Nay: None

Possible appointment of Morgan Gilmore to the Erie County Conservation Board. Term to expire December 31, 2029. (County Executive) (Personnel Committee)

A motion was made for the possible appointment of Morgan Gilmore to the Erie County Conservation Board by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Wertz. No discussion noted. Motion carried, 7-0.
Aye: All
Nay: None

ADJOURNMENT

The next Finance/Personnel Committee Meetings are Thursday, April 16, 2026. The next Regular Meeting of County Council is Tuesday, April 21, 2026.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:28 P.M. by Chairman Scutella.