

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 21, 2026

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M. Chairman Scutella led the Pledge of Allegiance.

OPTIONAL PRAYER OR REFLECTION

A reflection was read by Mrs. Schauerma.

ROLL CALL

Present were Chairman Scutella, Members, Bayle, Copeland, Drexel, Schauerma, Wertz and Winarski.
Also present were County Clerk Karen Chillcott, Attorneys Tom Talarico and Jay Stranahan along with Colin Domowicz, Financial Advisor.

CITATIONS

Gannon University Golden Knights Men's Basketball Team

A presentation was made by Councilman Wertz on behalf of council to the Gannon Men's Basketball coaches, honoring their NCAA Division II National Championship.

Following the presentation, Mr. Wertz noted that there would be another citation to honor a wrestling champion in the future.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Others

Deonte Cooley, City of Erie-Mr. Cooley spoke on the right to use his cell phone to record or photograph during council meetings.

Michelle Dovashaw, City of Erie-Ms. Dovashaw spoke on the Re-entry Services Program stating that she was against the changes approved by council. She questioned the procedure used to pass Ordinance Number 23, 2026 and also the concerns that she had that the public was not afforded the time to voice their opinions on this.

Kendrick Tate, City of Erie-Mr. Tate spoke out against elected officials abusing their power and are not above the rules and standards. He spoke out in support of Unified Erie and had questions on how Ordinance Number 23, 2026 was passed without a second reading or any record of proper procedure.

Cindy Treiber, Edinboro-Ms. Treiber expressed disappointment and frustration over the elimination of the Re-Entry Program after all the success that it has had. She went on to explain some of the programs that were offered and how successful it had been. The loss of the funding of this program is devastating to her and others.

Caleb Sundance, City of Erie-Mr. Sundance spoke out on the FLOCK Safety Cameras, stating that the cameras are easily invaded by others and do not provide the safety that is suggested but are rather invasive.

Theresa Imler, Ms. Imler stated that she was proud of her community and appreciated their voices in the meeting. She expressed that she is working with an organization called TRUST and the goal is to help pass House Bill 2299. She is asking Council to write an e-mail to Representative Ryan Bizzaro to show their support.

Scott Rastetter, Girard-Mr. Rastetter compared DEI to his exploration into campaigning for office. The various parties' reasoning for making it so difficult to run goes back to diversity, equity, and inclusion. He is asking Council to let the independents vote in the Primary.

REPORTS OF COUNTY OFFICIALS

County Executive and/or Designee

Mr. Chris Groner spoke on behalf of the office of the County Executive. He gave a brief update on the things that they are currently working on and when council might expect to see some things in writing. In addition, he reminded everyone that Thursday is bring your children to work day and announced the theme for this year.

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 items from the Personnel Committee that were moved to the Council agenda.

Other

Mr. Copeland stated that the missing video was due to a clerical issue, and he wanted to explain why he voted the way that he did. He felt that he was making a commitment to the people that are served and not walking away.

OLD BUSINESS

Ordinance Number 36, 2026, "Approval of Waiver

A motion was made by Mrs. Schauerman to adopt Ordinance Number 36, 2026, seconded by Mr. Winarski. No discussion noted. Motion carried, 7-0.

of Bid Requirements under the Purchasing Code and Approval of Sole Vendor Contract between Eaton Corporation and the Erie County Public Safety Department" (First Read 4/7/26) (Finance Committee)

Aye-All
Nay-None

NEW BUSINESS

First Read Ordinance Number 38, 2026, "Second 2026 Public Health Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$38,344 and Creation of New Line Items for Great Lakes Restorative Initiative Funding" (Finance Committee)

A first reading of Ordinance Number 38, 2026 was offered.

First Read Ordinance Number 39, 2026, "Third 2026 Public Health Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$105,692 and Creation of New Line Items for Pennsylvania Department of Health Funding for Wastewater Surveillance" (Finance Committee)

A first reading of Ordinance Number 39, 2026 was offered.

First Read Ordinance Number 40, 2026, "Approval of Waiver of Bid Requirements under the Purchasing Code to Contract with Highway Safety Network Inc." (Finance Committee)

A first reading of Ordinance Number 40, 2026 was offered.

Possible Sale of a Parcel from the Repository for Unsold Property at Index Number: 07-026-068.0-

A motion was made for a possible sale of Unsold Property as listed, by Mrs. Schauerman, seconded by Mr. Bayle. No discussion noted. Motion carried, 6-1.
Aye-(Bayle, Drexel, Scutella, Schuerman, Wentz, Winarski)
Nay-(Copeland)

**009.00 (Finance
Committee)**

**Possible appointment of
Jenna Bickford to the Erie
County Redevelopment
Authority. Term to expire
December 31, 2030.
(County Executive)
(Personnel Committee)**

A motion was made for the possible appointment of Jenna Bickford to the Erie County Redevelopment Authority by Mr. Copeland, seconded by Mrs. Schauerman. No discussion noted. Motion passed, 7-0.

Aye-All
Nay-None

Mr. Copeland wanted to express his thanks to the outgoing member of this Authority, for all the hard work done over the years and to wish her well.

**Possible reappointment of
Adam Groves to the Erie
County Library Advisory
Board. Term to expire
December 31, 2028.
(County Executive)
(Personnel Committee)**

A motion was made for the possible reappointment of Adam Groves to the Erie County Library Advisory Board by Mr. Copeland, seconded by Mr. Winarski. No discussion was noted. Motion passed, 7-0.

Aye: All
Nay: None

Mr. Copeland noted that it had been said that Mr. Groves is doing a great job and even though he was nominated by the previous County Executive, the current one noted his efforts and suggested that he stay on. Mr. Copeland was pleased with this nomination due to the hard work and not the political affiliation.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Scutella asked for a motion to temporarily recess the meeting and move into executive session (personnel/legal). Motion made by Mr. Copeland, seconded by Mr. Winarski at 6:44 P.M.

Council returned, and the meeting was pronounced back in session by Chairman Scutella at 8:06 P.M. He then requested a motion to adjourn. So moved by Mr. Copeland, seconded by Mr. Wertz.

**The next Finance/Personnel
Committee Meetings are
Thursday, April 30, 2026.
The next Regular Meeting
of County Council is
Tuesday, May 5, 2026.**