

October 21, 2014

ERIE COUNTY COUNCIL – Regular Meeting

Dr. Foust, Chairman, called to order a Regular Meeting of the Erie County Council at 7:00 p.m. at the Erie County Courthouse, County Council Chambers, Erie, PA.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Dr. Foust asked for a moment of silence in memory of Peter Nye, Wesleyville Borough Manager, who passed away suddenly this past week. Dr. Foust commented that anyone who knew Pete knew that he was a real class act, a real gentleman, was always very cooperative anytime you had to deal with issues in the borough. He was a very dedicated family man and will be sorely missed by the members of the Wesleyville community and all his family and friends. He served from 1998 to 2003 as a borough councilman and had been the borough manager since 2004.

Mrs. Loll then recited the following prayer:

“Let us pray. Somewhere, deep in the heart of every one of us there is the most human desire to be able to be our truest selves. Not to be the richest or most liked, but to be the best we can and admired for our work. We will fix our thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right when doing our jobs. In the bustle of life let us take our time to be the best guardians of the revenues acquired from the taxpayers as we can. We ask for support from Christ our Savior. Amen.”.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Dr. Foust, Chairman
Mr. Leone, Vice Chairman
Mr. Breneman
Mr. DiMattio
Mr. Fatica
Mr. Horton
Mrs. Loll

Members Absent: None.

Also Present: Douglas R. Smith, County Clerk
Joseph Maloney, CPA
Sue Ellen Pasquale, General Accounting Manager
James Sparber, Finance Director

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Randy Barnes, Harborcreek Township; Mr. Barnes noted the agenda could be printed on both sides and cut paper costs in half and he challenged those in County government to look for those types of savings; he then reviewed his comments from previous meetings regarding the \$7 million that has been spent on the Erie Inland Port Project. The one year anniversary of the announcement of the Harborcreek Rail Terminal is coming up and Mr. Barnes noted that \$2.6

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million was spent on this terminal, and last month it was announced that they are not going to pursue it any further. He again noted that no jobs have been created with that \$7 million. He then stated that there is a job proposed in the County budget for economic development. Mr. Barnes stated that in 2010, the lead economic development agency CEO made \$110,000. Three years later he made \$192,000. This is an 80% increase to the CEO's salary, with \$7 million being spent and no jobs. He felt that maybe a pay for performance rather than an 80% increase over three years. He commented that maybe having a County Council that is responsible for economic development and looks over the shoulders of these authorities would be in order. He hoped that Council would do their due diligence and start holding people responsible and see some real economic development in Erie County.

Lou Aliota, Millcreek Township; Mr. Aliota read headlines from the Erie Times Letters to the Editor, including, "Dahlkemper faces big test of her ability to deliver", "Dahlkemper out of touch", "Does Dahlkemper feel people's pain", "Aide's raise easily resolved", "Dahlkemper faces criticism", "Tax hike/budget not acceptable", "Raise sought for Aide", "Tax hike gets re-boot". Mr. Aliota commented that there is a reserve in the County of a little less than \$34 million as of 12/31/13. He questioned the proposed tax increase by the Administration and where that money would be going. He stated that County Council is the oversight watchdogs of taxpayer money. Mr. Aliota stated that a comment was made by the Dahlkemper administration that the emergency 9-1-1 project will not cost the taxpayer any money because it would be funded with a bond issue – but a bond issue is taxpayer money. He then questioned Mr. Fatica as to when the last annual assessment or validation of the financial management of the Department of Health relative to the mandatory vs. discretionary program was evaluated by Mr. Fatica, since he is the liaison oversight Council member for the Department of Health. Mr. Aliota stated some of the line items in the Department of Health need to be reviewed to see where the money is actually going. He suggested looking at the mandatory programs and whether money that is allocated to that particular program is being used in other areas.

Doug Massey, Director of Business Outreach at the Erie Regional Chamber and Growth Partnership. Mr. Massey gave an overview of economic development information he has conducted over the past ten months. Mr. Massey has reached out to over 500 companies regarding business retention, growth, and outreach initiatives. There have been over 773 company interactions resulting in action items in productivity, as well as business attraction, start-up company surveys, and other supportive activities. He also spoke about the Project Jobs initiative.

**APPROVAL OF
MINUTES**

Mr. Leone moved to approve the minutes from October 7, 2014. This was seconded by Mr. Horton and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

**COUNTY EXECUTIVE
AND/OR HER
DESIGNEE**

Mr. Sparber stated there was no report this evening.

**FINANCE
COMMITTEE
REPORT**

Mr. Fatica reported that the Finance Committee met on October 16, 2014, and agreed to move the following items onto the agenda: under Old Business - Ordinance 116, and under New Business - Ordinances 117 through 123, the possible reappointment of Paul Manzi to the Erie County Care Management Board, possible appointment of Carmen Dawson to the Erie County General Authority, along with the Sale of Parcels as listed.

**PERSONNEL
COMMITTEE
REPORT**

Mr. DiMattio reported that the Personnel Committee did not meet as there was nothing on the agenda. He did state he initiated a discussion concerning possible changes to and investigating the personnel code as far as having updates made as the last updates made were in 1985. Mr. DiMattio

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stated a letter would be going to the County Executive and other members expressing what he felt should be done with putting a committee together to explore that subject in the very near future.

Dr. Foust noted that the audience could look at the projector screen to see the contents of tonight's agenda in layman's terms.

OLD BUSINESS

Ord. 116, 2014 –
Gen. Fund. SA of
\$12,555 for Ct. Admin.
Release of Divorce
Masters Restricted
Fund Balance

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 116, 2014, "Thirty-Second 2014 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$12,555 for Court Administration to Release Divorce Masters Restricted Fund Balance". This was moved by Mr. Leone, seconded by Mrs. Loll, and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion to Amend Agenda

Mr. Fatica made a motion to amend tonight's agenda and move Ordinances 117 through 123 to second readings. This was seconded by Mr. Leone and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Ord. 117, 2014 –
Library Fund Budget
SA of \$38,700 for
Library Branches

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 117, 2014, "Fourth 2014 Library Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$38,700 for Library Branches". This was moved by Mr. DiMattio, seconded by Mr. Leone, and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Ord. 118, 2014 –
Gen. Fund Budget SA
Of \$38,700 for Library
Tx to Cover Add'l
Branch Expenses

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 118, 2014, "Thirty-Second 2014 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$38,700 for Library Transfer to Cover Additional Branch Expenses". This was moved by Mr. DiMattio, seconded by Mr. Fatica, and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Ord. 119, 2014 –
Gen. Fund Budget SA
Of \$34,600 for Data Proc.
Costs in Gen. Acctng

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 119, 2014, "Thirty-Third 2014 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$34,600 for Data Processing Costs in General Accounting". This was moved by Mr. Leone, seconded by Mr. Horton, and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Ord. 120, 2014 –
Public Health Budget
SA of \$3,082 & Creation
Of Grant Exp. Line for
Tx of Safe Kids Pgm to
LECOM

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 120, 2014, "Eleventh 2014 Public Health Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$3,082 and Creation of *Grant Expense* Line Item for Transfer of Safe Kids Program to LECOM". This was moved by Mr. Fatica, seconded by Mr. Breneman, and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

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Ord. 121, 2014-
Public Health Budget
Rev. Exp. Of \$2,280
& Creation of *Part
Time Pension Eligible*
Line for *Nurse Home
Visitation Grant*

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 121, 2014, “2014 Public Health Fund Budget Revised Expenditures of \$2,280 and Creation of *Part Time Pension Eligible* Line Item for *Nurse Home Visitation Grant*”. This was moved by Mr. Leone, seconded by Mr. Fatica, and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Ord. 122, 2014 –
Gen. Fund Budget
SA of \$5,000 in Add'l
Drug Forfeiture Rev.
& Exp.

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 122, 2014, “Thirty-Fourth 2014 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$5,000 in Additional *Drug Forfeiture Revenue & Expense*”. This was moved by Mr. DiMattio, seconded by Mr. Leone, and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Ord. 123, 2014 –
Gen. Fund Budget
SA of \$37,500 & Creation
Of New Line for Penn
State-Behrend Matching
Funds for EMTA

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 123, 2014, “Thirty-Fifth 2014 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$37,500 and Creation of New Line Items for Penn State-Behrend Matching Funds for EMTA Programming”. This was moved by Mr. Horton, seconded by Mr. Leone, and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

It should be noted that Ordinance Numbers 118, 119, 122, and 123 were read into the record as Thirty-Second, Thirty-Third, Thirty-Fourth, and Thirty-Fifth 2014 General Fund Supplemental Appropriation...., respectively. The supplemental appropriation numbering was discovered after the meeting as incorrect, and should have been Thirty-Third, Thirty-Fourth, Thirty-Fifth, and Thirty-Sixth, respectively. This has been rectified on the original Ordinances.

**BOARD/
AUTHORITY
APPOINTMENTS**

Mr. Fatica moved to reappoint Paul Manzi to the Erie County Care Management Board. This was seconded by Mr. Leone and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Mr. Horton moved to appoint Carmen Dawson to the Erie County General Authority. This was seconded by Mr. Breneman and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

SALE OF PARCELS

Mr. Leone moved to approve the sale of parcel from repository for unsold property at Index Numbers #33-016-034.2-003.94 and #45-031-047.3-001.89. This was seconded by Mr. Horton and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Deneé M. Breter, Council Secretary
