

January 4, 2016

ERIE COUNTY COUNCIL – Reorganization Meeting

Mr. Douglas Smith, acting Chairman, called to order a Regular Meeting of the Erie County Council at 12:00 p.m. at the Erie County Council Chambers, Erie County Courthouse, Erie, Pennsylvania. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Mrs. Loll recited the following prayer:

“Dear Lord, we are entering a new year, with a new start and a new beginning. We enter it with dedication and effort to serve the people who entrusted us to represent them with our vote and actions. We have the responsibility to steer the future of Erie County and we are determined to look forward with diligent effort and learning from the past. We have dedication to continue to improve the new ideas and keep moving forward. We are grateful for the confidence of our ability to lead and govern. Lord with your guidance we will be able to succeed. We ask for your direction in Jesus’ name. Amen.”.

Roll Call

The County Clerk called the roll:

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

Members Absent: None.

Also Present: Douglas R. Smith, County Clerk
Thomas Talarico, Solicitor
Joseph Maloney, Council CPA
James Sparber, Director of Finance
Sue Ellen Pasquale, Manager of Accounting

Hearing of
The Public

None.

Nominations for
Chairman

Mr. Smith opened the floor for nominations for Chairman. Mr. Leone nominated Mr. Horton for Chairman. This was seconded by Dr. Foust. Mr. Leone then moved that the nominations be closed, and this was seconded by Dr. Foust. The vote was unanimous naming Mr. Horton as Chairman of Erie County Council for 2016.

Nominations
For Vice Chairman

Chairman Horton then opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chairman. Mr. Leone nominated Mr. Breneman for Vice Chairman. This was seconded by Dr. Foust. Mr. Leone then moved for nominations to be closed, and this was seconded by Mrs. Fatica. This nomination carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Comments by
Council Members

Chairman Horton congratulated Mr. Breneman on his nomination for Vice Chairman. He then opened the floor for comments by Council members.

Dr. Foust congratulated both Chairman Horton and Vice Chairman Breneman and offered his help if needed. Dr. Foust further welcomed Mrs. Fatica to Council and stated he looks forward to working with her.

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Mr. DiMattio also congratulated Chairman Horton and Vice Chairman Breneman, and welcomed Mrs. Fatica as well. He also thanked Mr. Leone for his leadership over the last year.

Mrs. Loll congratulated both Chairman Horton and Vice Chairman Breneman for stepping up to take on the responsibilities of these seats. She stated it is quite a responsibility but she commented that they are both capable and will do a very good job. She also stated that Mr. Leone did a fantastic job last year as Chairman and put a lot of effort into it and gave a lot of guidance to see how this job is performed. She also thanked Mrs. Fatica and welcomed her to Council.

Mr. Leone congratulated Chairman Horton and Vice Chairman Breneman. He cautioned everyone and stated that every Chairperson has a different method of operating in that role. He commented that he has quite a bit of confidence in all of the individuals on Council, including the newest member, Mrs. Fatica. He believes she will do an excellent job. He congratulated every member of Council because they have made his job as Chairman very easy and he commended them.

Mrs. Fatica commented that she is honored that Council supported her appointment and she does not want to let the members down. She wants as much information and guidance as all of Council can give her. She has never been a person who felt that she knew everything. She wants information from all resources before she makes a decision so she is counting on all of Council for their input. She understands that this is not a quiet group and members off their opinion freely. She looks forward to that.

Mr. Breneman stated that what Mrs. Fatica has said summarizes exactly how his function on Council has been over the last couple of years. He knows that Council may not agree on everything, but they all work diligently and all have very fruitful discussion and debate. He feels that this year, going forward, is crucial to that and it will continue to go that way.

Chairman Horton thanked all of his colleagues for their vote of confidence in him to hold the Chairmanship this year. Going forward, he wanted to thank Mr. Leone and Dr. Foust for making things so seamless for he and Mr. Breneman. There is a nice mix of old and new on Council, but he commented that there is no "I" in Team, and we will go forward together. He commented that he won't be perfect, but he will be committed.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Deneé M. Breter, Council Secretary
