

December 21, 2012 – Special Meeting

Mr. Fatica, Chairman, called to order a Special Meeting of the Erie County Council at 12:00 p.m. in the Erie County Council Caucus Room, Erie County Courthouse, Erie, Pennsylvania. The County Clerk called the roll:

Members Present: Mr. Fatica, Chairman
Mr. Giles, Vice Chairman
Mr. Cleaver
Dr. Foust
Mr. Leone
Mrs. Loll

Members Absent: None

Also Present: Douglas R. Smith, County Clerk
Thomas Talarico, Council Solicitor
Sue Ellen Pasquale, Manager of Accounting

Creation of
Accountant
Position for Prison

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 149, 2012, “2013 General Fund Budget Revised Expenditures of \$47,315 And Creation Of Accountant Position For Corrections.” Dr. Foust moved to table the ordinance. There being no second, the motion to table failed. Mr. Giles moved to adopt the ordinance; Mr. Cleaver seconded.

Dr. Foust reiterated his opinion that he feels it is imprudent for Council to approve this position at this time. He believes there has been a lack of accountability at the prison which has caused the current problems. The prison review will provide some information on how to deal with the accountability issue within a few weeks. Dr. Foust is fully aware of the strain that Mrs. Pasquale’s department is under dealing with the prison payroll. His position is not a reflection of that, but this problem in the prison and the inability to keep track of schedules is because there is no accountability. He believes the prison administration should be accountable for this situation. Dr. Foust expressed his hope this will be defeated. He explained that Mrs. Pasquale’s department is not as intimately involved in the time card process and any other department that has had problems such as Public Safety has been able to fix the problems with the current employee makeup without having to add another position. Dr. Foust does not believe adding a new employee will change this problem. He suggested waiting for the prison review.

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Mr. Giles responded that his understanding is that this position will work closely with Finance and Accounting where the payroll system operates. The prison is a challenging department because of the unique contract and it will require a tremendous amount of work. He noted there are other county departments resistant to the new payroll system as well and may require more involvement. Mr. Giles understands Dr. Foust’s concerns. Trying to get all departments on board with the new system will provide plenty of work once the prison’s system is in place. He expressed his support for this ordinance.

Mrs. Loll suggested amending the ordinance to add a reference that this position be reviewed in one year. As part of the committee to review the prison, she is privy to some information. The NIC will be coming in to take a look at the prison and there will be a new deputy warden for security and safety. Once these two steps have been finalized, Mrs. Loll suggested taking a look at this position to decide the continued need. Dr. Foust stated he believes that can be achieved during

the normal budgetary process. In his opinion, once the position is in place, a way will be found to make it permanent.

Mrs. Loll moved to amend the ordinance to reflect additional language stating that this position be reviewed in one year once all facts have been put together. There being no second, the motion to amend failed.

Mr. Fatica then called for a vote on Ordinance Number 149, 2012 and it carried in a roll call vote of 5-1, Dr. Foust voting no.

First Rdg	Mr. Smith gave a first reading of Ordinance Number 152, 2012, "2013 Appointed Official's Salary Ordinance for Assistant County Solicitor."
Recess	Mr. Fatica called for a recess at 12:09 p.m.
Reconvened	The meeting reconvened at 12:14 p.m.
Atty. Talarico's Comments	<p>Mr. Talarico suggested that since Council has determined the two best candidates thus far, Council should discuss with members why they voted for a particular person and why they believe that person is the best candidate to fill Mr. Beeman's place. A secret ballot can be done and in the event of a tie, Council should either pull a straw or flip a coin which is typically done under the Election Code.</p> <p>Mr. Fatica asked members to share their opinions on the two selected candidates, Trish Shoulders and Edward DiMattio.</p>
Dr. Foust's Comments	Dr. Foust stated that he voted for Ms. Shoulder's because her accounting and business background will be helpful to Council. Although he was impressed with all five candidates, he believed that among the five candidates she brought the most energy and her enthusiasm was genuine.
Mr. Cleaver's Comments	Mr. Cleaver stated that he voted for Mr. DiMattio. Mr. DiMattio indicated that he was a candidate previously who lost to Mr. Beeman and intends to be a candidate next year for this position. Mr. Cleaver also believes this candidate has a lot of charisma and is quite involved in the community.
Mr. Giles' Comments	Mr. Giles stated that he was also impressed by all five candidates. However, Ms. Shoulders impressed him in her discussions with Council. She indicated that she read the minutes from Council meetings to get an idea of Council's dynamics and subject matters. She was the only one who took the time to read the minutes; everyone looked at the budget. Mr. Giles believed that this gives an individual a flavor for the job of a council member, and the fact that she was that thorough impressed Mr. Giles.
Mr. Leone's Comments	Mr. Leone stated that he voted for Mr. DiMattio. It was a difficult decision. Mr. Leone is looking for someone with good common sense and some of Mr. DiMattio's answers were good common sense and he gave the best answers in Mr. Leone's opinion. Mr. Leone also spoke with people who lived within the 6th district to find out about Mr. DiMattio. Mr. Leone learned that he is a very caring individual, very involved with the community, and this is the type of person he would like as a member of Council.
Mrs. Loll's Comments	Mrs. Loll stated that she voted for Mr. DiMattio because he is a businessman, involved in his community and church, and his references were very good. Mrs. Loll also spoke with people and learned that he was an honest man. She liked his answers with regard to Pleasant Ridge

Manor and the community college, and he indicated he would run again. Overall, she was very impressed with his interview.

Mr. Fatica's
Comments

Mr. Fatica stated he did his homework on the candidates and has been through this process before in other venues. When this individual comes on board, they must know what they are getting into. There is an enormous amount of work to catch up on and an enormous amount of legal opinions to understand. Council consists of very different personalities, but yet very much the same in that each member has the county's interest in all matters at heart. As he looks around, he noted Council has good advice coming from all kinds of people. He was impressed with Ms. Shoulders' enthusiasm and thought she was energetic. When Mr. Fatica looked back at all the work Ms. Shoulders has done, he realized it was related to CPA and finance. Council has a lot of people advising them in that area including their own CPA, Mr. Maloney. Mr. Fatica then looked at Mr. DiMattio who necessarily may not have the formal education that everyone else has, but he does not feel that is always the most important thing. Mr. DiMattio has an ability to work with and understand people and he is very community minded. Mr. Fatica expressed his willingness to change his vote and support Mr. DiMattio.

Dr. Foust encouraged all members, based on this information, to support Mr. DiMattio in the roll call vote. Dr. Foust further noted that the two candidates were so close that if there were to be another tie, he would have been willing to change his vote. The person chosen for this position deserves to have a vote, not a coin toss. It gives more legitimacy to this individual.

Mr. Fatica agreed the vote should be unanimous. He believes everyone would agree that the field of candidates was impressive. There were excellent questions. One in particular by Mrs. Loll who asked what Council was doing wrong. Mr. Leone asked about Pleasant Ridge Manor and the community college.

Edward T. DiMattio, Jr.
Apt'd Council Sixth
District Rep.

Mr. Leone moved that Edward T. DiMattio, Jr. be appointed as Council Representative for the Sixth District of Erie County. Mr. Giles seconded, and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:23 p.m.

Ann M. Bruno, Council Secretary

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