

April 9, 2013

ERIE COUNTY COUNCIL – Regular Meeting

Mr. Giles, Chairman, called to order a Regular Meeting of the Erie County Council at 7:00 p.m. in the Erie County Council Chambers, Erie County Courthouse, Erie, Pennsylvania. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Mrs. Loll recited the following:

Lord Jesus Christ, by your Holy Spirit you give to some the word of wisdom, to others the word of knowledge, and to some the word of faith. Grant us a wisdom, knowledge and faith to do our best serving others. We give you thanks for teaching us to become more proficient in our responsibilities. We offer to you our thoughts, words and actions in union that we may be worthy. Amen

Roll Call

The County Clerk called the roll:

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

Members Absent: Mr. DiMattio

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

Hearing of the Public

Ed Kissell, 2815 Sigsbee, Erie, addressed Council regarding Resolution Number 18 on the agenda and asked for their support of this resolution. This will allow emergency vehicles and personnel to respond to emergencies in an orderly manner. He stated that by allowing private and/or public participation to match county funding the radolite system can proceed. Mr. Kissell pointed out that Erie County does have a special radio signal for these vehicles. Vehicles without this system can be updated to signal the lights.

Mr. Giles advised Mr. Kissell that there are some language and other details that need to be worked out on this particular resolution. This resolution will be brought forward again at the next Council meeting. Mr. Kissell asked if language could be adjusted to indicate government entities could also contribute funding amounts less than the \$100,000 and still qualify. Mr. Giles stated that is one of the issues being addressed. Mr. Kissell reported that there has been movement by certain individuals to approach corporations and hospitals for funding.

Kenneth Przepierski, 640 East 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Erie, expressed concern regarding Drug & Alcohol Fund administrative costs. He also addressed concerns regarding board members and meeting times on the Drug & Alcohol Advisory Board. He spoke regarding treatment facilities for addiction issues. Mr. Przepierski also commented on the use of gaming funds.

Renee Vendetti, Erie, pointed out that the Home Rule Charter indicates that members of County Council shall not receive a pension; therefore, it is not being followed since Council Members have indicated they qualify for a pension. She also spoke regarding term limits and suggested Council bring that ordinance back for a vote.

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Hearing of  
The Public

Maria Czulewicz, 636 East 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Erie, spoke regarding her dissatisfaction with certain Courthouse departments in their treatment of constituents with respect to producing paperwork and copies. She believes Domestic Relations should have a website addressing child support separately from spousal support.

Mr. Leone's  
Comments

Mr. Leone wished to respond to Ms. Vendetti's remarks regarding the Home Rule Charter pension issue as it related to County Council. Approximately 12-16 years ago, Attorney Onorato, the solicitor at that time indicated this issue was in conflict with state law. Mr. Leone pointed out that the Home Rule Charter also indicates that it cannot be in conflict with state law.

Minutes

Mr. Leone moved to approve the minutes of the March 26, 2013 Regular Meeting. Mr. Cleaver seconded, and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Finance  
Committee

Mr. Leone reported the Finance Committee met on April 4, 2013 and agreed to place Ordinance 25 on the agenda for a second reading which will be amended from \$6,700 to \$5,460. Also on the agenda for second readings are Ordinances 29, 30, 31, 35 and Ordinance 36 for a first reading along with the possible adoption of Resolutions 16, 17, 18 and the possible reappointment of Frank Stefano to the Airport Authority as well as the possible sale of parcels from the repository.

Mr. Giles'  
Report

Mr. Giles reported that the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania held their Spring Conference in Harrisburg from March 17 to the 20<sup>th</sup>. As everyone is aware, Erie County will be hosting the Summer Conference in early August for the first time since 1994. Much of the Spring Conference focused on planning the Summer Conference. He stated that CCAP has two offices in Harrisburg and the Board has approved the borrowing of funds to consolidate them into one facility at the property in the suburbs. He also reported that the AOPC appeared before the Courts and Corrections Committee. There has been pressure for a unified court system in Pennsylvania and the AOPC is ready to promote this issue. Certain offices were taken under their control several years ago, such as Court Administration. There is concern regarding the funding stream that goes through some of these offices. Offices to be taken over will most likely be Mr. Fetzner's and Mr. Gambill's. There is also concern regarding the time for receiving reimbursements which may take up to nine months. Mr. Giles stated the downside is that the money the County receives as a reimbursement will be taken for all of the common pleas judges to cover the impending costs related to each particular judge. That dollar has been going down for several years, starting out at over \$100,000 and now in the neighborhood of \$65,000. The cost of those salaries would be taken from the money received from other costs related to the courts. He does not believe this is an attractive package.

At the end of the conference, there was an opportunity to meet with the newly appointed Secretary of Public Welfare, Beverly Mackereth. This was an interesting meeting.

Mr. Giles further reported that on March 26, 2013 the Pleasant Ridge Manor Board of Directors met. The sprinkler project should be completed by May or mid-June and the municipal water project and sewer project are moving along. Some good news should be received within the next week or two regarding the sale of beds. He noted that the county may be able to apply for a waiver on the sprinkler issue and avoid putting sprinklers in the east side facility. There is also a positive fund balance providing for a positive financial condition for Pleasant Ridge Manor. The State Department of Health completed their survey and found no complaints or problems.

Mr. Giles also reported that on April 5, 2013, the Northwest Planning Commission met in Warren. Erie County is paying member of that organization. The audit was reviewed at this meeting. Counties

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Mr. Giles'  
Report

involved include Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest, Lawrence, Mercer, Venango and Warren. Mr. Giles noted loans offered by the Commission totaled \$1,185,000 in calendar 2012. International sales were \$88,000,000 in 2012 and government sales were \$15,036,000. This report and copies of the audit are available for review. The year is ending with a positive balance.

On April 8, 2013 the Criminal Justice Task Force, Mentally Ill Offender, met. Mr. Giles noted this includes the District Attorney, Probation, Corrections, Public Defender and various other agencies. Millcreek Community Hospital and St. Vincent's are interested in participating as well. He noted that the number of mentally ill offenders has been around 16.5% on average. The Warden indicated that about one-third of the population incarcerated in Erie County's facility is mentally ill. A trend is being seen and the purpose of this Committee to respond to this issue.

On April 9, 2013 the Northwest County Commissioners Association, which has a 16 county membership, met in Kane. One of the issues that concerns counties is sequestration. Mr. Giles distributed copies of a report dealing with how counties will be impacted. This group was hosted in January at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center with a promotion regarding the 1812 Celebration. The Tall Ships schedule was distributed at that time. The last Tall Ships festival was sold out in a matter of days with 8 ships. This year's event includes 12 ships and the expectation is that it will also be a success.

Assess.Appeals  
Ct. Case

Mr. Smith gave a reading of Ordinance Number 25, 2013, "Tenth 2013 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation Of \$6,700 For Assessment Appeal Court Case." Mr. Leone moved to adopt; Mr. Fatica seconded.

Mr. Leone moved to amend the amount in the title and the body of the ordinance from \$6,700 to \$5,460. Mr. Cleaver seconded, and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote. Mr. Giles called for a vote on the ordinance, as amended, and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Greenway Grant

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 29, 2013, "Third 2013 Planning Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation Of \$238,032 And Creation Of Line Items For Act 13 Greenway Grant." Mr. Fatica moved to adopt; Dr. Foust seconded. Mr. Giles noted that this is largely emanating from the proceeds from the Marcellus Shale. Mr. Giles requested the Administration include Council in some planning phase before documents are sent out to entities applying for funds. Council would like to be involved in early discussions rather than after the fact. He expressed gratitude to Mrs. Loll and Mr. DiMattio who were involved in the process. Mr. Giles then called for a vote on the ordinance and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Restitution Fees in  
DA Budget

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 30, 2013, "Eleventh 2013 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation Of \$3,400 And Creation Of Restitution Fees Line Item In District Attorney Budget." Mr. Leone moved to adopt; Mrs. Loll seconded, and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

COPS Grant

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 31, 2013, "2013 Public Safety Fund Budget Revised Revenue And Expenditures of \$175,181 in COPS Grant Budgeted In 2013 But Expended In 2012." Mr. Leone moved to adopt; Mrs. Loll seconded, and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Amending Admin.  
Code

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 35, 2013, "Amending The Administrative Code Of Erie County, Article II, Section 2(c)(i)(ii) Department of Finance Article V, Section 11(A)9 County Council Previously Amended by Ordinance Number 17, 2012." Dr. Foust moved to adopt; Mr. Fatica seconded, and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

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First Rdg. Mr. Smith gave a first reading of Ordinance Number 36, 2013, "Second 2013 Public Health Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation Of \$6,804 And Creation Of Line Item For Unspent Donation For The Community Needs Assessment Project."

Revision to 2011 CDGB Grant Mr. Smith gave a reading of Resolution Number 16, 2013, "Resolution Approving A Revision To Erie County's FY 2011 Community Development Block Grant Program." Mrs. Loll moved to adopt; Mr. Leone seconded, and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Exon. Taxes in Wtfd Twp & Ft. LeBoeuf SD Mr. Smith gave a reading of Resolution Number 17, 2013, "Exonerating Taxes On One Abandoned Trailer/Property In Waterford Township And The Fort LeBeouf School District." Mrs. Loll moved to adopt; Mr. Leone seconded, and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Res. 18 Tabled Dr. Foust moved to table Resolution Number 18, 2013, "In Support Of Corporate And/Or Private Funding As A Match For Erie County's Radolite System Grant" in the interest of gaining more information and follow up on Mr. Kissell's comments during the Hearing of the Public. Mr. Cleaver seconded, and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Frank Stefano, Jr. Reapptd to Airport Auth. Mr. Leone moved to reappoint Frank Stefano, Jr. to a five-year term on the Erie Regional Airport Authority to represent Mr. DiMattio's District. Mrs. Loll seconded, and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Sale of Parcels From Repos. Approved Mr. Leone moved to approve the sale of parcels from Repository for Unsold Properties at Index Numbers 16-030-043.0-230.00 and 43-014-020.0-019.02. Mrs. Loll seconded, and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Adjournment There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Ann M. Bruno, Council Secretary

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