

February 25, 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 Erie County Council chambers, Erie County Courthouse, Erie, Pennsylvania. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Mrs. Loll recited the following prayer:

“Let us pray. Lord, let us lift up our praise and declare you are good. Let us not shun the message of your grace. We raise our voice and ask for the guidance to govern with wise minds and good hearts. May we find that strength to know that we are part of something bigger and do our part here. We know that people need the Lord in their lives and we will never deny that. We pray in your name. Amen.”.

Mr. Breneman recognized the students from the Leadership Development Program of Erie. These high school students are going through an eight week youth leadership program and are exploring local government. He wished them all the best of luck and stated it was important for Council to encourage young individuals to learn about their government and become involved.

Dr. Foust welcomed Mr. Leone and stated it was good to have him back with Council.

Roll Call

Joseph Maloney, in County Clerk Douglas Smith’s absence, called the roll:

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

Members Absent: Mr. Smith, County Clerk

Also Present: James Sparber, Director of Finance  
Sue Ellen Pasquale, Manager of Accounting

Presentation of Citation

Mrs. Loll presented a citation on behalf of Erie County Council to Nathan Tewell, a Northwestern High School sophomore who won the national championship for the NFL’s Punt, Pass and Kick Competition in the 14-15 year old boys’ category. Mrs. Loll expressed congratulations to him on this monumental achievement, and invited Nathan to speak. Nathan stated it was quite an honor and privilege and a great milestone in his young life.

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Hearing of  
The Public

Mr. Michael Skapura, 1508 Lake Street, Girard, PA. Mr. Skapura hoped that the new County Executive will do a good job. He was concerned about Mrs. Dahlkemper wanting to bring in four new positions. At an increase of \$20,000 per year, or \$80,000 for all of them, would be \$320,000 in the next four years. He asked that Council table these positions at the very least. He stated that if these pass, he will circulate petitions to recall the Council members who vote "yes". He wanted Council to remember they are spending taxpayer dollars.

Mr. Gary Horton, Erie, PA. Mr. Horton stated he was at a Council meeting a few weeks ago and spoke about the gaming funds. He stated no one from Council has gotten back to him regarding the issues he brought up. He feels strongly that the use of gaming funds needs to be addressed. He is concerned about the problems the inner city is having regarding youth violence and wants funding from the gaming funds to help address these issues. He feels that the gaming authority is not fair in the way they grant funding and felt that Council has control over the authority and should do something about it.

Approval of  
Minutes

Mr. Leone moved to approve the minutes from the January 28, 2014, and February 11, 2014, meeting. This was seconded by Mr. Breneman and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Finance Committee  
Report

Mr. Fatica stated that the Finance Committee met on February 20, 2014, and agreed to move on tonight's agenda Ordinance 20, 21, 22, 25 for a second reading, as well as Ordinances 28, 29, 30, 31, Resolutions 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, an appointment to the Erie County Drug and Alcohol Advisory Board, as well as adding Resolution 15, 2014, in support of the Western PA Conservancy Greenways application.

Personnel Committee  
Report

Mr. DiMattio reported that the Personnel Committee met immediately following last week's Finance Committee meeting and discussed the possibility of adding Ordinances 32, 33, 34, 35, and 36, with the possibility of moving Ordinance Number 32, 2014, to a second reading.

Reports by Council

Mr. Breneman noted that this Thursday, February 27, 2014, marks the sixth anniversary where three men from his unit were killed in action from a roadside bomb. He commented that there are still men and women dying in Afghanistan today, and thousands of veterans coming back to our communities. Erie is home to nearly 25,000 veterans and there are many issues they are dealing with, including homelessness, jobs, etc. He commented that the position for the coordinator of the Veterans Affairs office is open and he felt it is important that Council looks for someone well skilled for that position, as well as doing what can be done to strengthen that office so it can meet the needs of the 11% of the County's population.

Mr. Leone thanked his colleagues and others for their concern, prayers, well wishes, and phone calls. He is happy to be back and will resume his duties as a councilman. He further responded to Gary Horton's comments this evening. He stated that he understood what Mr. Horton was saying regarding the ECGRA board. He explained that Council was put in the position to create the Board because of the court, it was not something that Council desired. He clarified that the only thing Council has any control over is who is appointed to that Board. In each case, it is hoped that the appointee will do what's right, but if not, there is not much that a Council member can do about it. He further explained to Mr. Horton that the ECGRA board is an independent board of the County.

Second Readings

Mr. Maloney gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 20, 2014, "Second 2014 Public Safety Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$563,615, and Creation of Line Items for Northern Tier Project". This was moved by Mr. Fatica, seconded by Mr. DiMattio, and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

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Mr. Maloney gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 21, 2014, "Third 2014 Public Safety Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$72,600 and Creation of Line Item for JAG Grant and Next Generation Radio System Analysis and Design." This was moved by Mr. Fatica, seconded by Mr. DiMattio, and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Mr. Maloney gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 22, 2014, "Third 2014 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$50,703 for Transfer to Public Safety Fund.". This was moved by Mrs. Loll, seconded by Mr. Breneman, and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Mr. Maloney gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 25, 2014, "Fourth 2014 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$49,094 and Creation of New Line Item for Completion of Sheriff Radio Project". This was moved by Mr. Leone, seconded by Mr. Fatica, and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Mr. Maloney gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 28, 2014, "Sixth 2014 Public Safety Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of Generator with a Value of \$1,169 Donated by the NWPA ERG". This was moved by Mr. Fatica, seconded by Mr. Horton, and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Mr. Maloney gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 29, 2014, "First 2014 Library Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$3,200 for \$5,200 in Donations for Purchase of Equipment in Heritage Room and Furniture in Children's Library". This was moved by Mr. Leone, seconded by Mrs. Loll, and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Mr. Maloney gave a second reading of Ordinance 30, 2014, "Amending Ordinance Number 19, 2014, First 2014 Public Safety Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$45,000 Pass Through Grant for PSAP Regional Shared Services Assessment Guidance". This was moved by Mr. DiMattio, seconded by Mr. Breneman, and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

First Reading of  
Ordinance 31, 2014

Mr. Maloney gave a first reading of Ordinance Number 31, 2014, "Sixth 2014 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$707,222 to Fund Balance, Creating an Equal Reduction in the Budgeted County Transfer to the Debt Service Fund".

Second Reading of  
Ordinance 32, 2014

Mr. Maloney gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 32, 2014, "Seventh 2014 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$41,315 for Creation of School Resource Officer for Fairview School District". This was moved by Mr. Fatica, seconded by Mrs. Loll, and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

First Reading of  
Ordinance 33, 2014

Mr. Maloney gave a first reading of Ordinance Number 33, 2014, "2014 General Fund Budget Revised Expenditures of \$86,990 for Salary and Fringes for County IT Director".

First Reading of  
Ordinance 34, 2014

Mr. Maloney gave a first reading of Ordinance Number 34, 2014, "2014 General Fund Budget Revised Expenditures of \$9,850 for Salary and Fringes for Director of Administration Position".

First Reading of  
Ordinance 35, 2014

Mr. Maloney gave a first reading of Ordinance Number 35, 2014, "2014 Public Health Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$7,603 in Savings from Hire of New Public Health Director".

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First Reading of  
Ordinance 36, 2014

Mr. Maloney gave a first reading of Ordinance Number 36, 2104, "2014 General Fund Budget Revised Expenditures of \$40,441 for Creation of Administrative Officer II Position in Director of Administration Department".

Resolutions

Mr. Maloney gave a reading of Resolution 10, 2014, "Approving a Contract between Richard Perhacs, Esquire, and the County of Erie". Mr. Fatica moved to adopt; Mr. Breneman seconded and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Mr. Maloney gave a reading of Resolution 11, 2014, "Increase of Fees for Services for County Council Certified Public Accounting Firm". Mr. Leone moved to adopt; Mr. Fatica seconded and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Mr. Maloney gave a reading of Resolution 12, 2014, "Exonerating Taxes on One Abandoned Trailer/Property in Union City Borough and the Union City Area School District". Mr. Leone moved to adopt; Mr. Breneman seconded and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Mr. Maloney gave a reading of Resolution 13, 2014, "Exonerating Taxes on One Abandoned Trailer/Property in North East Township and North East School District". Mr. Leone moved to adopt; Mr. Breneman seconded and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Mr. Maloney gave a reading of Resolution 14, 2014, "Exonerating Taxes on Two Abandoned Trailers/Properties in Girard Township and Girard School District". Mr. Leone moved to adopt; Mr. Breneman seconded and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Mr. Maloney gave a reading of Resolution 15, 2014, "In Support of an Application through the Erie County Greenways Program and PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources by Western PA Conservancy for the Lake Pleasant Access Improvement Project". Mr. DiMattio moved to adopt; Mr. Fatica seconded and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Appointments

Mr. Fatica moved to approve the appointment of Mr. Chuck Cammarata to the Erie County Drug and Alcohol Advisory Board for a three year term. This was seconded by Mrs. Loll and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Sale of Parcels  
From Repository

Mr. Leone moved to approve the sale of parcels from repository for unsold property at Index Number 33-053-225.0-001.76. This was seconded by Mr. DiMattio and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Deneé M. Breter, Council Secretary

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