

April 22, 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 Council Chambers, Erie County Courthouse, Erie, Pennsylvania. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Mrs. Loll recited the following prayer:

“Let us pray. In the name of our father, we acknowledge the rugged cross, the cross of Christ, the emblem of suffering and forgiveness. It is the symbol of his redeeming blood. A sign that gives us strength to do the best we can as leaders for the citizens of our county. We pray that we do what we can to make our small part of the world better. We ask this in his name. Amen.”

Roll Call

Mr. Smith called the roll:

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
James Sparber, Director of Finance

Hearing of
The Public

Randy Barnes, Harborcreek Township; Mr. Barnes spoke regarding economic development in Erie County. He stated that when there are jobs for adults there seems to be jobs for kids. He then shifted to the inland port initiative and an article from the Erie Times in February, 2013, regarding rail lines and property in Albion that was going to be used for a multi-million dollar logistics hub in western Erie County. He questioned whether the supervisors there were being deceived because now it's being proposed in Harborcreek.

Bill Sinclair, Harborcreek Township; Mr. Sinclair spoke regarding the intermodal proposal in Harborcreek. He wrote a four page document after having the opportunity to spend three hours with a PennDOT official, where they went to three different sites – North East, Walbridge Road, and Downing Avenue. He gave a copy of this report to Council Chair Foust. He stated that a lot of time was spent at Walbridge Road, where they were able to see many concerns, including high tension wires, a FedEx truck caught between two rail stops, and the traffic situation. He stated the biggest concern is safety for the area.

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Gary Horton, city of Erie; Mr. Horton appealed to Council for help in the inner city with some of the problems that are being faced. He thanked Councilman Leone for his response to the questions that have been asked, stating it's given him hope not to give up. He also thanked Councilman Breneman for meeting with him, and his brother, Councilman Horton, for the meetings that were held. Mr Horton was able to present these concerns to the County Executive and Director of Administration, and presented a proposal to Council.

Bishop Dwayne Brock, 508 Parkway Drive; Bishop Brock also made an appeal to Council for help in regards to a summer jobs program for the African American youth in the inner city. He stated that the young people are in desperate need and he is counting on Councilman Horton to get this initiative going in the African American community this summer.

Pastor John Cross, city of Erie; Pastor Cross echoed the sentiments stated by Mr. Horton and Bishop Brock. He discussed discrimination at his place of employment – First Energy. Out of 155 employees, there are five African Americans. He stated that 65% of the employers in Erie will not look at anyone with a felony charge. He feels that something needs to be done for the young people and if nothing is done, it will be bad for everyone.

Approval of
Minutes

Mr. Leone moved to approve the minutes from the April 8, 2014, regular meeting. 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 for this meeting.

Finance Committee
Report

Mr. Fatica reported that the Finance Committee met on April 17, 2014, and agreed to move the following items onto the agenda: Resolution 20, 2014, Ordinance 57, 2014, Resolutions 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, and 31.

Personnel Committee
Report

Mr. DiMattio's reported on the Personnel Committee meeting that immediately followed the Finance Meeting on April 17, 2014. He stated that the Personnel Committee agreed to add the following items to the agenda: Ordinances 54 and 56, 2014, under Old Business, and Ordinance 58, 2014 under New Business.

Motion to Amend
The Agenda

Mrs. Loll moved to amend the agenda and move Ordinance 57, 2014 to a second reading. This was seconded by Mr. Breneman, and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Second Readings
Ord. 54, 2014
Gen. Fund Change
In Job Title for Dir.
Of Personnel to
Dept. of Human
Resources

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 54, 2014, "2014 General Fund Budget Change in Job Title for Director of Personnel and Personnel Code Nomenclature to Department of Human Resources". This was moved by Mr. Fatica, seconded by Mr. DiMattio, and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

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Second Reading
Ord. 56, 2014
Amending Admin.
Code previously
Amended by Ord.
35, 2013

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 56, 2014, "Amending the Administrative Code of Erie County, Previously Amended by Ordinance Number 35, 2013". This was moved by Mr. Fatica, seconded by Mr. Leone, and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Resolution 20, 2014

Mr. Smith gave a reading of Resolution Number 20, 2014, "In Support of Edinboro University of Pennsylvania and Porreco College Community College Associate Degree and Certificate Program". This was moved by Mr. DiMattio and seconded by Mr. Leone. Mr. Breneman stated that he would be abstaining from voting on the resolution due to his employment at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, and gave Mrs. Breter a letter stating the same, which will be attached to the resolution.

Mr. DiMattio commented that it was noteworthy that the resolution has been presented and stated it was noble that Edinboro University has stepped up and taken the lead for this community college. He further commented that in the past, there has been much discussion and some of the community may say it is not a true "community college", but it is a step in the right direction and it had to start somewhere.

This resolution carried in a 6-0-1 roll call vote.

Ord. 57, 2014
Gen. Fund SA of
\$131,000 for
RELCO Project

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 57, 2014, "Tenth 2014 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$131,000 and Creation of Line Item for Relco Project". This was moved by Mr. Fatica and seconded by Mr. Leone. Mr. Fatica thanked his colleagues for their hard work and support of this project, and all the other parties involved in bringing this project along. He explained that this project involves traffic lights that blink in favor of the emergency vehicles getting the green light to go ahead. This resolution carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Ord. 58, 2014
2014 ECCM Change
Of Three HIFI PT
Positions to FT &
Creation of FT
Position

Mr. Smith gave a first reading of Ordinance Number 58, 2014, "2014 Erie County Care Management Change of Three Part Time HIFI Support Positions to Full Time and Creation of Full Time Position".

Res. 24, 2014
Appt. of Auditors
To Perform Audit of
EC Nurse-Family
Ptshp Pgm for
FY 7/1/08 to 6/30/09,
& 7/1/12 to 6/30/13

Mr. Smith gave a reading of Resolution 24, 2014, "Appointment of Auditors to Perform an Audit of the Erie County Nurse-Family Partnership Program for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2008 to June 30,

2009, and July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013.”. This was moved by Mr. Fatica, seconded by Mr. Leone, and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Res. 25, 2014
Appt. of Auditors
To Perform an Audit
Of the EC Health
Choices Pgm for
Pd. Ending
6/30/14

Mr. Smith gave a reading of Resolution 25, 2014, “Appointment of Auditors to Perform an Audit of the Erie County Health Choices Program for Period Ending June 30, 2014.”. This was moved by Mr. Leone, seconded by Mrs. Loll, and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Res. 26, 2014
Keep PA Civil
Svc. Exam Site
In Erie County

Mr. Smith gave a reading of Resolution 26, 2014, “Keep the PA Civil Service Exam Center Open in Erie County”. This was moved by Mr. Horton and seconded by Mr. Breneman. Mr. Horton stated that over 5,000 individuals tested at the Erie exam site, which was up considerably from the year before. He commented that at a time when jobs are of the utmost concern, he felt it would not be wise to put another impediment into job seekers’ paths in trying to find employment. He was pleased that his colleagues allowed this resolution to move forward.

This resolution carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Resolutions 27
Through 31, 2014

Mr. Smith gave a reading to the following Resolutions:

Resolution 27, 2014, “Exonerating Taxes on One Abandoned Trailer/Property #03-003-00.0-018.36 in Concord Township and the Corry Area School District”.

Resolution 28, 2014, “Exonerating Taxes on One Abandoned Trailer/Property #27-052-157.0-002.6 in Harborcreek Township and the Harborcreek School District.”

Resolution 29, 2014, “Exonerating Taxes on One Abandoned Trailer/Property #40-005-071.0-001.50 in Summit Township and the Fort LeBoeuf School District”.

Resolution 30, 2014, “Exonerating Taxes on Three Abandoned Trailers/Properties #21-053-093.2-051.42, #21-054-092.0-001.17, and #21-054-092.2-001.75 in Fairview Township and Fairview School District”.

Resolution 31, 2014, “Exonerating Taxes on Seven Abandoned Trailers/Properties in Washington Township, McKean Township, and the General McLane School District”.

These were moved by Mrs. Loll, seconded by Mr. DiMattio, and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Deneé M. Breter, Council Secretary
