

May 19, 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:

“This month is the time when we show our appreciation to the veterans that fought for the freedom of our country. As we pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, we ask God to be there for our country and stand by us and guide us. As Ronald Reagan said, ‘America was founded by people who believe that God was their rock of safety. I recognize we must be cautious in claiming that God is on our side, but I think it’s all right to keep asking if we’re on His side’. Amen.”.

**ROLL CALL**

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  
Gary Lee, Director of Administration

**HEARING OF  
THE PUBLIC**

Michael X. Anderson, city of Erie; Mr. Anderson read from an article, quoting Secretary of Corrections, John Wetzel, and statistics from 2010. Mr. Anderson also discussed the Pittsburgh Summer Youth Program, where they employed 317 young people and were able to obtain \$800,000 through various grants. He stated concerns he had about the proposed summer jobs program and the perception of how this came about. He also had concerns regarding family members or close friends of County Council being involved in certain initiatives that may give the perception of self-serving to the community.

Gary Horton, city of Erie; Mr. Horton commented that the city is under siege and does not need a token response to a crisis that has been percolating in the community for a number of years. He stated the elected officials need to give the young people hope that they can be included in the economic vitality of the community. He felt that the plan that has been presented is anything but bold, it’s a token job program that the workforce should have been doing the last several years. He

May 19, 2014

wanted a plan where the public sector takes a public position to address a crisis that the public faces. He stated that he did not attend the previous meetings with the idea that the private sector would help solve the crisis because the private sector will not even employ the parents of these kids. He felt that 100 jobs across the county is an insult when the County has the resources to put more into a summer job program. He stated it was distressing to him that the County could not make a larger contribution to the community than \$100,000. He further commented that they will go to the City and ask that they balance their community policing approach with a contribution to the jobs program.

**APPROVAL OF  
MINUTES**

Mr. Leone moved to approve the minutes from the May 6, 2014, regular meeting. This was seconded by Mr. Horton and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

**COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
AND/OR HER  
DESIGNEE**

Mr. Lee stated there was no report for this meeting.

**FINANCE  
COMMITTEE  
REPORT**

Mr. Fatica reported that the Finance Committee met on May 15, 2014, and agreed to move the following items onto the agenda: Under Old Business – Ordinance Number 60; Under New Business – Ordinances 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70; Resolutions 33, 34, and 35, and the possible reappointment of Joseph Mineo to a second three year term on the Erie County Library Board. Mr. Fatica also moved to amend the agenda to include the possible appointment of Darcy Antonelli-Koper to the Erie County Children and Youth Advisory Board. This was seconded by Mrs. Loll and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

**PERSONNEL  
COMMITTEE  
REPORT**

Mr. DiMattio reported on the Personnel Committee meeting that immediately followed the Finance Meeting on May 15, 2014. He stated that the Personnel Committee agreed to add the following items to the agenda: Under New Business – Ordinances 71, 72, and 73.

**REPORTS BY  
COUNCIL**

Mr. Breneman read the following statement for the record: “The proposed county-wide summer jobs program is by no means an anti-violence initiative. This is not because it only supports 100 positions, nor is it because of those who are behind the program. It is because violence is much more complex than the lack of summertime work or job skill building for youth. Might it reduce delinquency? Quite possibly, but we must recognize that delinquency does not always lead to violence and though many of our young men and women are prone to delinquency because of idleness and social norms, that does not mean that they are likely to make the jump from rule breaking to committing acts of violence. The antecedent to violence must be addressed through comprehensive efforts that involve family members, neighbors, community organizations, educators, law enforcement, faith and business leaders, and social services. This generation of young adults needs opportunity and they need hope, and they need to be rooted with the full support of the entire community who recognizes the value that they bring for all of us. Let us not trick ourselves to believe that the summer jobs program will reduce violence or violent crime this summer. If we set that as a measure for success, then the program will surely prove to be a failure. The only way we can tie this program to violence reduction is if participation is strictly limited to those with a history of violence or demonstrated violent tendencies, and wrapping those individuals with rigorous counseling and therapy, peer and familial support, and positive civic engagement experiences in the neighborhoods where they live well beyond a summer season. If further changes are made to the summer jobs program so that it ties in directly and not generically with established anti-violence efforts, then it could prove efficacious toward that end. Thankfully, we do have anti-violence efforts taking place in Erie County. Some have a long history. Some are quite new, so it will take time before we can measure results for the new ones. Organizations such as the Crime Victim Center, Safenet, and Mothers Against Teen Violence provide preventative

May 19, 2014

education and outreach. The Erie Unified Youth Violence Reduction Initiative utilizes research driven best practices to involve the public and organizations from many different sectors through a three prong strategy of prevention, enforcement, and re-entry. Neighborhood watch groups bring together citizens to work to diminish criminal activity in their neighborhood, while the newly formed Neighborhood Resource Organization will significantly bolster their efforts. There are many more public and non-profit efforts tackling this issue and its root causes. We, the County government, must be part of the solution in reducing violence and crime. If we want to reduce Court and prison costs, we must take part in proactive measures to stop the prison pipeline and the long term economic and social burden all taxpayers are left with. In the coming months, I will be bringing forth greater focus on this cause and the strategies to slow the flow of the prison pipeline. But even with all of this, more can be done if we put aside our differences, turf mindsets, and past grievances, and choose to move beyond talk and really dig in and work collaboratively. We have to go and ask ourselves – How can we make this work and how can I be a part of that effort? We must get to the fight and we must share the path with others. But let us recognize the summer jobs program for what it really is, an economic development program. It is not the brick and mortar project mostly associated with economic development, it is an investment toward a factor that is often overlooked – the human element. This program furthers the ability by our young adults to gain the skills and experiences to successfully enter our local workforce in a productive and capable manner. Sadly, poverty often robs our youth of this and this is something to which I can personally attest. Such a delay hurts all of us, but it is often associated with a perceived fault of the young adult in poverty instead of the structural inadequacies that are not only present in our communities, but are indeed changeable if we so choose to act. Hastily spending money is not an answer, but thankfully, a coalition of private and public organizations, including the County Executive's office and members of this Council, have answered the call for impact and measurability, a necessity for transparency and accountability. We must see success and sustainability before we put all our cards in one effort. We owe this to the taxpayers of Erie County as stewards of the public trust and long term regional well-being. Despite the unnecessary tension found at the beginning of this process and the unfortunate erosion of public confidence and buy in that it cost, this group came together and designed a comprehensive initiative on very short notice. This is a testament to the commitment by these organizations and public leaders to effect positive change in our communities and their commitment to cross-sector collaborations. The summer jobs program is not merely busywork, nor is it a handout. It is a hand up for our employers and our future workforce. If approved, County Council will show that we not only believe in the advancement of our region through job pipeline development, but that we are willing to set the example for other governing bodies and public leaders through our substantial investment. Hopefully, others will follow our lead and demonstrate that they do indeed care about our young people and our future workforce.”

**MOTION TO AMEND**  
**THE AGENDA**

Mr. Leone moved to amend the agenda and move Ordinances 64 through 73 to a second reading. This was seconded by Mr. Fatica, and carried in a 6-1 vote, with Mr. DiMattio voting no.

Mr. Fatica also moved to amend the agenda to include the appointment of Darcy Antonelli-Koper to the Children and Youth Advisory Board, to replace Mrs. Iavarone who resigned. This was seconded by Mrs. Loll, and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

**Ord. 60, 2014 –**  
**Planning Fund Rev.**  
**Exp. For Local Asset**  
**Inventory**

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 60, 2014, “2014 Planning Fund Budget Revised Expenditures of \$30,016 for Conduct of Local Asset Inventory”. This was moved by Mr. Leone, seconded by Mr. DiMattio, and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

May 19, 2014

**SECOND READINGS**

**Ord. 64, 2014** – Gen.  
Fund. SA & Line Item  
For APOC Grant  
Funding

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 64, 2014, “Twelfth 2014 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$38,410 and Creation of Line Item for AOPC Grant Funding MDJ Safety Improvements.”. This was moved by Mrs. Loll, seconded by Mr. Leone, and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

**Ord. 65, 2014** – Gen.  
Fund SA & Line Item  
For PCorp Grant  
Funding

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 65, 2014, “Thirteenth 2014 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$12,500 and Creation of Line Item for PCorp Grant Funding Erie County Prison Safety Improvements.”. This was moved by Mr. Leone, seconded by Mr. Fatica, and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

**Ord. 66, 2014** –  
Public Health Rev.  
Exp. For Injury Prev.  
Grant Bureau

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 66, 2014, “2014 Public Health Fund Budget Revised Expenditures of \$16,743 for *Injury Prevention Grant Bureau*”. This was moved by Mr. Fatica, seconded by Mr. Horton, and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

**Ord. 67, 2014** – Gen.  
Fund SA for Tx to  
Planning

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 67, 2014, “Fourteenth 2014 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$10,372 for Transfer to Planning for Reallocation of Wages and Fringes to Other Projects.”. This was moved by Mrs. Loll, seconded by Mr. Horton, and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

**Ord. 68, 2014** –  
Planning Fund SA  
& PennDOT Special  
Studies Line

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 68, 2014, “Second 2014 Planning Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$67,500 and Creation of *PennDOT Special Studies Line Item* for City of Erie Comprehensive Plan.”. This was moved by Mr. Breneman, seconded by Mr. Leone, and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

**Ord. 69, 2014** – Library  
Fund Rev. Exp. &  
AV Material Line

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 69, 2014, “2014 Library Fund Budget Revised Expenditures of \$60,789 and Creation of *Audio Visual Materials Line Item* for New District Services Plan.”. This was moved by Mrs. Loll, seconded by Mr. Leone, and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

**Ord. 70, 2014** –  
Gen. Fund SA for  
Pilot Jobs Program

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 70, 2014, “Fifteenth 2014 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$100,000 and Creation of New Line Item for Contribution to Youth Summer Jobs Pilot Program.”. This was moved by Mr. Horton and seconded by Mr. Leone.

May 19, 2014

Mr. Breneman proposed the following amendments to Ordinance Number 70, 2014, after the last graph:

1. Disbursement of County Funds is contingent upon approval and disbursement of \$100,000 by the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority.
2. The program implement pre- and post- testing of participants in skill building, and provide 6 month and 12 month follow-up surveys to measure long term outcomes and future program sustainability and funding outlook.
3. Venango Training and Development Center must provide program reporting to County Council at Council's first meeting in August and Council's first meeting following the end of the program, then subsequently 6 months and 12 months after the end of the program, to report outcomes of participants.
4. The program provides a separate application and selection period for participants. Qualified participants must then be chosen at random, and not on a first-come first-serve basis.
5. 50% of the participants reside in the city of Erie and 50% of participants reside outside the city of Erie.

Mrs. Loll seconded these amendments. Dr. Foust stated that he agrees with the spirit of what is being proposed by Mr. Breneman, but regarding the reporting amendment, Item #3, he felt that meeting in August and within six months after, would be ample opportunity to discuss what is going on with the program. Dr. Foust emphasized that he is committed to doing this program on a year in year out basis provided funding is found for it. He felt that if they are going to have it in their budget for next year, it really forces their hand to meet within 6 months after program end. Dr. Foust felt that reporting would be too frequent as amended. Dr. Foust further commented that in regards to Item #4, he could live with it but did not want to hamstring the Venango Training Development Center too much. He asked that Items #3 and #5 be separated. Dr. Foust thought it would be important to get through the first year as far as how the program works, how the application procedure works, who is interested and who isn't, and then work them in better next year.

Dr. Foust asked for a separate vote on Items #3 and #5. He clarified that a meeting in August, and a meeting within 6 months after, would be more than sufficient. Mr. Breneman agreed with the suggestion, and amended his previous amendment proposed.

Mrs. Loll commented on Item #5. She stated that all of the municipalities in Erie County are taxed equally according to their property values. She felt that if all of Erie County is going to be taxed on something, it should be decided ahead of time that all of Erie County would benefit from this program. Mrs. Loll did not want to leave out the fact that any municipality might end up with the lion's share of these funds when all of Erie County contributes. One municipality should not be the benefactor of County tax dollars.

Dr. Foust questioned if only people from within the city limits apply, would 50% of them be rejected because they lived in the city of Erie. There is no knowledge of where the applications are going to come from and he felt it is dangerous to put percentages on the program. There will likely be more people from the city of Erie applying and get jobs in the largest municipality in the county.

Mr. DiMattio respectfully disagreed with Dr. Foust and agreed with Mrs. Loll in that if you look at population, there are 100,000 citizens in the city and 180,000 outside the city. He felt that no matter how he voted this evening, he would be in a catch 22 because he agreed that the program is an excellent idea and a step in the right direction, but conversely he represents a lot of people who are poverty stricken. He commented that this is not a turf war, but the poverty in his district where people have dirt floors in their homes is quite disheartening. In looking at the statistics, a vast majority living at the 235% poverty line and below do reside in the county and not in the city. He did not feel that because of that the County should have more jobs, but it is a first year pilot and it should be fair.

May 19, 2014

Mr. Fatica asked Mr. Breneman if he would add some type of contingency at the end of Item #5 if the county does not have a 50% application amount, the rest could go to the city. Dr. Foust interjected that Council needs to be very careful about how far they go. Council is a legislative body that appropriates funding and does not administer a program. Dr. Foust commented that he is not disagreeing with the spirit with which these amendments were offered or the goals they hope to achieve, but Council needs to be careful about going too far. Dr. Foust stated he would prefer to vote Item #5 up or down rather than try to find a middle of the road.

Mr. Breneman stated that he would like to point out that the City has a number of economically disadvantaged high school students – the City has 2,326 while the County has 3,017. He also pointed out that the VJTP was looking to do 50-50, and that if Council is a primary investor of public funding, they should hold whoever receives these funds accountable to make sure that when they do go out and market this program, they take the extra step to get that fair representation.

Mr. Leone commented that he believed that Mr. Breneman did make some concessions on Item #5 and felt that the organization that is going to run the program also indicated it would be a 50-50 program. Mr. Leone was in agreement with that.

Dr. Foust asked for a roll call vote on amendments 1-4 only. Amendments 1-4 passed in a 6-1 vote, with Mr. Horton voting no.

Dr. Foust then asked for a roll call vote on amendment 5. Amendment 5 passed in a 5-2 vote, with Mr. Horton and Dr. Foust voting no.

Mr. DiMattio further commented that no matter how he votes on this, he wanted it to be known that he feels the program is a good idea. He stated that some people feel that 100 jobs is not a big step this year, but he felt it is a start. The next meeting would be June 17<sup>th</sup> and the reason he voted not to take this to a second reading was because he did not see any reason why these things couldn't be hashed out to obtain a clearer picture by June 17<sup>th</sup>. The program is not intended to start until June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. DiMattio read an article from the VDC and explained that it is part of ECGRA's logic behind their consideration of funding this program. "There is a long history of publicly funded summer jobs in our community. From 1966 through 1999, federal employment and training dollars flowed through three successive programs – Manpower, Comprehensive Employment and Training Act, and the Job Partnership Act. Federal funding fluctuated over the years ranging from \$279,000 to \$584,000. In 1992, there were 689 participants. Following the Job Partnership Act, the summer jobs programming for youth became one component of the Workforce Investment Act. From 2000 to 2012, either GECAC or the Erie School District ran the WIA each year in our County. All of these programs were authorized by Federal acts of the same name and funded through the Department of Labor. The peak year for youth served was 2001, with 492 participants. Numbers declined in subsequent years."

Mr. DiMattio questioned why the numbers declined and how successful those programs were. He wanted a little more time to research this information. He stated that the people of his district elected him to represent them and he appreciated Mr. Breneman's efforts in including both the City and County.

Mr. Horton then commented that he did not think the topic would merit so much passion and felt it was really low hanging fruit. He stated that he pitched the program to the County Executive, CareerLink, the WIB and many other community partners, and it was always with the purpose of looking out for children throughout the County. The County spends money year in and year out on a myriad of brick and mortar projects, the arts, studies, and wondered at what point do we invest in our children. Mr. Horton hoped to do something bold and while everyone wants a part in the program, money is what really is needed. He stated that he reviewed the summer jobs programs over the years and is a product of one of those programs which most certainly helped him to where he is today. Mr. Horton stated it was never an attempt to negate or impact balance on either side. He felt that all the resources the community has put into the enforcement side of dealing with

May 19, 2014

violence could be better spent. He commented that he appreciates funding for 100 jobs, but is disappointed that more wasn't proposed. He stressed that he looks at what is going on throughout the County and wants to be a beacon of hope throughout the County. He noted that back in January, Council passed a \$60 million bond in less time for a hotel and did not feel that the discussion from Council was as spirited on that issue. He further noted that on June 10<sup>th</sup>, thousands are going to be let out of school and he prays that they do make it through the summer. The jobs were intended to help those kids who are on the fringes to keep them from sliding into a negative path. He thanked his colleagues for their time invested and deliberation and he remains hopeful for next year.

Mr. DiMattio clarified that he was not just looking out for his constituents and not the rest of the County. He agonized over this for quite some time and talked to many of his constituents. He stated that reaching out to the school districts and trying to come up with other funding was suggested, and that's why he felt it was important not to rush this through. He firmly believed that if more time were given, more funding could be obtained.

Mr. Horton commented that he did not feel that Mr. DiMattio was only looking out for his constituents. When this issue is over, all will move on and work together.

In closing comments, Dr. Foust stated that with any issue before Council, there is an old saying that issues come before governing bodies half compromised half improvised. That is how this particular issue is, there is no easy solution that will solve every societal issue out there, but this is a first step, and a concrete step to take forward. He believes that idle hands are the devil's workshop and this program could help with the violence. Dr. Foust further commented that there is no initiative that should be purely public because that is a temporary solution. He would like to see private employers hire these kids, even if they wouldn't hire the parents. That cycle is never going to stop until they start hiring these kids and realize that because of the color of their skin is no reason not to hire them. They can be responsible and they can do the job just like any other kid that is out there. This is a first step for that as well. It's not going to be the final step. Job programs that were out there stopped for lack of initiative and lack of funding. Funding usually has more to do with it than anything else. Dr. Foust commended Council and the County, and the righteous indignation that has come forward to compel Council to do this. He felt that this is something Council can proudly look back on and the fact it is being done with local dollars and not relying on someone else is commendable. The reason the County is fiscally solvent is because Council does not throw money at problems at the County level.

Dr. Foust then asked for a roll call vote on Ordinance Number 70, 2014, as amended. Ordinance 70, 2014, as amended, passed in a 7-0 vote.

**Ord. 71, 2014 –**  
Public Health  
Rev. Revenue &  
Exp. For Funding  
Positions

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 71, 2014, "2014 Public Health Fund Budget Revised Revenue & Expenditures of \$19,440 for Funding of Positions through December 31, 2014." This was moved by Mr. Fatica, seconded by Mr. DiMattio, and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

**Ord. 72, 2014 –**  
Planning Fund  
SA & Unempl.  
Comp. Line

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 72, 2014, "Third 2014 Planning Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$30,016 and Creation of *Unemployment Compensation* Line Item for the Reallocation of Wages and Fringes to Other Projects." This was moved by Mr. Leone, seconded by Mr. Breneman, and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

May 19, 2014

**Ord. 73, 2014** – OCY  
SA & Caseworker  
Visit Formula Line

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 73, 2014, “First 2014 Children & Youth Services Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$12,383 and Creation of *Caseworker Visit Formula* Grant Line Item.”. This was moved by Mr. Breneman, seconded by Mr. Leone, and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

**RESOLUTIONS**

**Res. 33, 2014** –  
CDBG Citizen  
Part. Plan

Mr. Smith gave a reading of Resolution 33, 2014, “Resolution Adopting a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program Citizen Participation Plan for the County of Erie and the County of Erie ‘On Behalf Of’ Edinboro Borough, Girard Township, McKean Township, and North East Borough.”. This was moved by Mr. DiMattio, seconded by Mrs. Loll, and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

**Res. 34, 2014** –  
EC Hosp. Auth.  
Tax Exempt Note -  
Barber Center Project

Mr. Smith gave a reading of Resolution 34, 2104, “Erie County Hospital Authority Not to Exceed \$13,500,000 Tax-Exempt Note (Dr. Gertrude A. Barber Center, Inc. Project).”. This was moved by Mr. Fatica, seconded by Mr. Leone, and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

**Res. 35, 2014** –  
Exon. Taxes in  
NESD & NE Twp

Mr. Smith gave a reading of Resolution 35, 2014, “Exonerating Taxes on One Abandoned Trailer/Property (#37-025-088.4-015.81) in North East Township and the North East School District.”. This was moved by Mr. Fatica, seconded by Mr. Leone, and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

**BOARD/AUTHORITY  
APPOINTMENTS**

Mr. Fatica moved to reappoint Joseph Mineo to a second three year term on the Erie County Library Board. This was seconded by Mr. Horton and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Mr. Fatica moved to appoint Ms. Darcy Antonelli-Koper to the Erie County Children and Youth Advisory Board to replace Thelma Iavarone. This was seconded by Mr. Leone and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Deneé M. Breter, Council Secretary

\*\*\*\*\*