

January 8, 2015

ERIE COUNTY COUNCIL – Reorganization Meeting

Douglas Smith, Acting Chairman, called to order a Reorganization Meeting of the Erie County Council at 12:03 p.m. at the Erie County Courthouse, County Council Chambers, Erie, PA. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Mr. Smith took the roll.

ROLL CALL

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

Members Absent: None.

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

**HEARING OF
THE PUBLIC**

None.

**NOMINATIONS
FOR CHAIRMAN**

Mr. Smith opened the floor for nominations of Chairman. Dr. Foust moved to nominate Mr. Leone as Chairman for 2015, and Mr. Fatica seconded the motion. Dr. Foust then moved to close the nominations. This nomination passed in a unanimous roll call vote. Mr. Smith then handed the meeting over to Mr. Leone.

**NOMINATIONS
FOR VICE CHAIR**

Dr. Foust moved to nominate Mr. Fatica as Vice Chairman of Council for 2015. This was seconded by Mr. DiMattio. Dr. Foust then moved to close the nominations, which was seconded by Mr. Horton. This nomination for vice chairman passed in a unanimous roll call vote.

**COMMENTS BY
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN**

Mr. Leone presented Dr. Foust with the book, "Erie Memories" from his colleagues. Mr. Leone commented that Dr. Foust did a superb job as Council chair for 2014. Mr. Leone then made the following comments:

"First, let me thank members of Council for their vote to elect me as Chair for the year. Next, let me congratulate Kyle for his superior services as the past Chair of this Council. The position of

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Chairman is difficult, and not just for a few moments but for a full year. That's why I would like to commend Dr. Kyle Foust for his superior leadership in 2014 as Chair of this Council. His leadership led to a no tax increase year. I again commend him for his services. Hopefully, I can take the gauntlet and carry on the task as Dr. Foust has. I am not minimizing the Council's role. This Council has stepped to the line and performed in an excellent manner in representing their constituents. I am proud of them.

As Chair, I have selected for the Finance Chair – Mr. Jay Breneman, and to assist him as Vice-Chair, Dr. Kyle Foust. In Personnel, I have selected Mr. André Horton and for his Vice-Chair, Mr. Phil Fatica. I seriously believe that these individuals are ready to take over these positions and feel they will strive to achieve excellence in each of these areas. The Retirement Board will remain the same, with myself, Dr. Foust, and Phil Fatica. This year, as in the past, I will ask Council members if they want a change as liaisons to the positions they are presently representing. After that process is finalized, hopefully within a week, then I will ask other Council members to serve on other liaison positions. I feel we need to have, at times, a break from some of the meetings we attend as liaisons. That's the purpose in appointing a second liaison. We need to set our priorities this year. Obviously, the very first is to decide how to go forward with the 911 services and the communications system recommended. We seem to be in agreement that this is a necessity and its time has come. In an effort to speed this process and accomplish the goals we have projected, I am appointing Joe Maloney, our CPA, Councilman Dr. Foust as Chair of this committee, along with Carol Loll, and Phil Fatica. They will return to this Council after meeting with all involved and make a final recommendation to Council as to the funding process, along with all issues involved with the system. This process should be completed for final adoption by the last meeting in February. I realize this is an aggressive move, but I think it has to be done and I think it should be done as soon as possible.

Next I feel the pay grades and classifications were a priority and I believe we need to do this in conjunction with the Administrative branch of government. Hopefully, we can resolve this issue as soon as possible. The committee to review the pay grades and classifications will be André Horton, Ed DiMattio, and Carol Loll. Mr. Horton, as Personnel Chair, will chair this committee. This goal must be accomplished prior to the end of the year. Please refer to Resolution Number 70, 2014, for guidelines in reference to committees.”.

Mr. Leone also asked Council members on the Pay Review Committee to keep in mind that Council is a part time Legislative branch of government and there are times that Council members have stepped over the line into the Administrative end of government. This is something he believes Council has to back off of and start looking from the point of view as a Legislative body rather than the Administrative branch. He would appreciate any comments or recommendations at the members' convenience and asked for any comments from Council prior to adjournment.

Dr. Foust congratulated Mr. Leone and stated that Mr. Leone has led Council many times in the past and will do just a good a job as has been done in the past. Regarding the Public Safety Committee, Dr. Foust, as chair of that committee, would like someone from the Administration to serve on the committee as well, whether it be the County Executive, Director of Administration, Sue Ellen Pasquale or John Grappy. Dr. Foust stated that their input is needed to have one formal “voting member” but also if it is not Sue Ellen Pasquale and her finance aplomb, Joe Maloney will work well as they have in the past. Dr. Foust requested to meet on Tuesday, January 13, 2015, since there will be a regular Council meeting that evening. He would like the meeting scheduled sometime between 5:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m that day. He did not feel that there were a lot of decisions to make, but the three or four that have to be made are going to require some thought and some perspective. He thanked Mr. Leone for charging him with the task.

Mrs. Loll thanked Dr. Foust for being Chairman last year. She commented that it is an extra job and quite a bit of extra time and he really did very well and kept things moving forward. She was very pleased with his accomplishments. She then congratulated Mr. Leone for his nomination as Chairman. She has worked with him previously and he did a beautiful job and will again this year. She stated she is looking forward to that. She then read a prayer: “We are in the season of a new beginning and have had a celebration of a year of hard work and accomplishments. We are

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different as fingerprints and all of us have different lives. We are looking forward to a new year of challenges and tasks. Guide us to see whatever is true, honorable, upright, and admirable for the new year to come. We ask this in the name of our Lord. Amen.”.

Mr. Horton wanted to echo the sentiments of his colleagues in expressing his sincere gratitude to Dr. Foust and the rest of Council. He stated this was his first year, it was an informative year, a learning year, and a year that has catapulted Council to where they are now. He looks forward to the year with hope and full of expectation of all the great things that Council is poised to do for the residents of Erie County. He also congratulated Mr. Leone for his ascension to the Chairmanship and commented that this is probably old hat for him. Mr. Horton further commented that each time Mr. Leone has held that mantle, he has done a great job and each time was equally as important as the first time. He then thanked Mr. Fatica and Mr. DiMattio for chairing the Finance and Personnel Committees last year. Mr. Horton thanked Mr. DiMattio for his leadership in the herculean effort of the reclassification to this point. He understands it is something that hasn't been done in 25-30 years. He looks forward to working with Mr. Callan, Mr. Lee, and the County Executive on this issue and any other issues regarding the benefit of the citizens of Erie County.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:14 p.m.

Deneé M. Breter, Council Secretary
