

June 18, 2015

ERIE COUNTY COUNCIL – Special Meeting

Fiore Leone, Chairman, called to order a Special Meeting of the Erie County Council at 12:00 p.m. at the Erie County Council Caucus Room, 140 West 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 114A, 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

Members Absent: Mrs. Loll

Also Present: Joseph Maloney, CPA  
Sue Ellen Pasquale, General Accounting Manager  
James Sparber, Finance Director  
Bryan Spry, Esquire

**HEARING OF  
THE PUBLIC**

None.

**APPROVAL OF  
MINUTES**

None.

**REPORTS BY  
COUNTY OFFICIALS**

Director of Administration, Gary Lee, gave an update regarding Pleasant Ridge Manor East. At a previous meeting, Mr. Lee had shared with Council that the County Executive was looking at all options. There was an option that was reviewed as far as an outside source for the property. That option has not panned out so the Administration looked at an internal option to see if there was a fit with the Department of Human Services. Mr. Lee stated that the Administration has come up with a potential use for the space and the County Executive will be meeting with the architect of record to review that scope as far as potential use for the Department of Human Services.

**MEMBERS OF COUNTY  
COUNCIL REPORTS**

None.

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**NEW BUSINESS**

**Res. 36, 2015 –  
In Support of  
Designation &  
Development of  
Marine Sanctuary**

Mr. Smith gave a reading of Resolution Number 36, 2015, “In Support of the Designation and Development of a Proposed National Marine Sanctuary in the Pennsylvania Waters of Lake Erie, Including Presque Isle Bay”. This was moved by Dr. Foust and seconded by Mr. Fatica.

Mr. DiMattio stated that in Caucus, there was a lengthy discussion on the marine sanctuary. Mr. DiMattio has been in contact with the state of Oregon and state of Alaska, who also had this issue before them. Both passed a resolution stating they did not want to designate specific areas as a national marine sanctuary, having some issue with NOAA. Mr. DiMattio felt that it would be prudent to do further investigation and asked the legal counsel to do so. Mr. DiMattio then made a motion to table this resolution until more research is done and some questions are answered.

Dr. Foust seconded the motion to table Resolution Number 36, 2015. The motion to table then carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

**Res. 37, 2015 –  
Resolution Rejecting  
Amendment to Extend  
Existence of EMTA**

Mr. Smith gave a reading of Resolution Number 37, 2015, “A Resolution Rejecting the Proposed Amendment to Extend the Existence of the Erie Metropolitan Transit Authority”. This was moved by Mr. Breneman and seconded by Dr. Foust.

Mr. Breneman moved to amend Resolution Number 37, 2015, to reflect the following changes:

Paragraph 3:

**WHEREAS**, the demographics of the City and County have significantly changed over the past fifty (50) years, the population of the City of Erie has steadily declined while the populations of Millcreek, Summit, and Harborcreek Townships have steadily increased, the manufacturing industry which sustained the local economy following World War II has all but dwindled while businesses, shopping malls and plazas, big box stores and eateries have grown up outside the city limits; ~~the Authority, for all intents and purposes, has limited transportation services to the City of Erie, failing to stimulate and facilitate transportation of the public from municipalities outside the City to the City, and from the City of Erie to municipalities outside the City of Erie; and~~

Paragraph 4:

**WHEREAS**, transit authorities and transportation services are vital to the socio-economic growth and progress of ~~a sprawling community~~ **an expansive yet**

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**interdependent region**, transportation facilities and services should extend to the surrounding environs ~~of the City of Erie and~~ within Erie County. It is in the best interest of ~~Erie County~~, **all** municipalities within Erie County, ~~the City of Erie~~, **as well as** the taxpayers of Erie County who depend upon and regularly use transportation services, that a regional countywide transportation authority replace the existing transportation Authority.

Dr. Foust seconded the motion to amend Resolution Number 37, 2015. The amendments carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Dr. Foust commented that Council has taken this action today in the interest of starting a serious dialogue about transitioning EMTA from a service that was chartered in 1966 to one that is chartered in 2016. Dr. Foust stated he hopes it is an honest and worthwhile discussion and that is why he is supporting this resolution and hopes this dialogue will come about.

Resolution Number 37, 2015, as amended, then carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:09 p.m.

Deneé M. Breter, Council Secretary

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