

October 16, 2007

Grants to Fund Tourism Dev. by Concord Belt Heritage Assoc. adopted; Waiver of Purch. Code for Verizon to transfer E911 & EMA Phone System adopted; Gen. Fund S.A. for Transfer to Health Fund & P.H. S.A. for Diabetes Documentary tabled; Library S.A. for LSTA Grant adopted; Upgrade of Planner I to Planner II adopted; Gen. Fund S.A. New Position Clerk of Courts adopted. First readings Gen. Fund S.A. Grant to Lake Erie Conservancy; Gen. Fund S.A. to Fund Balance of Unused Grant Funds from 2006; Planning S.A. for Agricultural Preserv. & Storm Water Grant Programs; Amending Ord. 59, 2004; Gen. Fund S.A. for Reduction in Transfer to E911; E911 S.A. for Reclass. Of Staff Acct. to Sec/Bookkeeper. Growing Greener II County Environment Initiative adopted.

#### Erie County Council – Regular Meeting

Mr. Leone, Chairman, called to order a Regular Meeting of the Erie County Council at 7:00 p.m. in the Erie County Council Chambers, Erie County Courthouse, Erie, Pennsylvania. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the County Clerk called the roll:

Members Present: Mr. Leone, Chairman  
Mr. Giles, Vice Chairman  
Mr. Augustine  
Mr. Cleaver  
Mr. Foust  
Mrs. Loll  
Mr. Mitchell

Members Absent: None

Also Present: Douglas R. Smith, County Clerk  
Thomas Talarico, Council Solicitor  
Sean Wiley, Director of Administration  
James Sparber, Director of Finance  
Sue Ellen Pasquale, Manager of Accounting

Presentation of  
Award to Mr. Mitchell

Mrs. Loll stated that Mr. Mitchell has received a very distinguished award. He has received the Pennsylvania Library Association Award for his profession. She noted that receiving an award is always an honor, but when one receives an award for their profession, it is very special. She presented a plaque to Mr. Mitchell and a round of applause followed.

Mr. Mitchell's  
Comments

Mr. Mitchell explained that this particular award is a very prestigious award in Pennsylvania. He stated he was very touched to be recognized by his peers to receive this award on a statewide basis. This is not his award alone; it is also this Council's and this County's award because the support that they have given and the positive work done for the libraries has helped him gain this recognition on a statewide level. This has provided Mr. Mitchell a solid base to work from in dealing with the legislature and the Governor's Office showing that this County values libraries. This County has a great library system. Mr. Mitchell wished to honor not only Council, but the Administration and all of the volunteer trustees of Erie County Library. He thanked everyone for their support.

Hearing of the  
Public

Kenneth Francis Simon Przepierski, 640 East 12 Street, Erie, stated he was trying to seek reasons for what Council does. He questioned tax exonerations that had been on the agenda in the past, and referred to Ordinance Number 128, 2007 regarding amending Ordinance 59 of 2004 to comport with HUD requirements. He believes that means the ordinance was written in

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Hearing of  
The Public

a manner not conformable with HUD. When Mr. Foust was chairman, he stated the website would be spectacular and now, it is difficult to acquire much information. Mr. Przepierski also pointed out that the ombudsman never materialized.

Arlene Davis, 2305 Lakeside Drive, Erie, stated she grew up in the Lakewood area, and wondered if Council was aware that the airport where the building currently stands was privately owned and the gentleman who owned it gave it to the city. She agrees with Mr. Foust and believes that the county taxpayers deserve more than four people on the board, although the current members are doing a good job. She referred to the deputies in the schools, explaining she worries about little children.

Renee Vendetti, Erie, spoke about moving ordinances from first to second readings. Council states this is done in an emergency or for financial reasons, but she can prove that's not true. The public does not have an opportunity to speak about this beforehand because they are unaware when an ordinance will be moved from a first to a second reading until after the hearing of the public. The public must know beforehand so they can make objections.

Maria Foster, 2301 Peach Street, Erie, spoke about the county website referring to the fact that council meetings were supposed to be viewed on the website; however, it is still not working. She asked whether there are any plans to fix it. She believes the County wants to take over the city, and have total control of the airport. She would like to know about people who get contracts with county government. County government should spell out what they do instead of trying to deceive the public.

Mr. Wiley's  
Comments

Mr. Wiley explained that in regard to the county website, the new revised site went online October 1<sup>st</sup>. He pointed out this is a work in progress. All financial information as far as the assessment of property values is online and ready to go. Other pages are being continually worked on and it is anticipated the site will be completed by the end of the year.

Mr. Foust stated he went online and found the Council pages seemed to be loading, and asked which pages were still unavailable. Mr. Wiley explained that Council pages are loading and the minutes are available, as well as other additional information. There are other departmental web pages not included at this particular point in time, and it is continually being work on to provide this additional information.

Finance  
Committee

Mr. Foust reported the Finance Committee met on Thursday, October 11, 2007, and agreed to put on the agenda Ordinances 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 125, 126, 127, 128 and 129, and the possible adoption of Resolution 53, In Support of County Projects Funded Through the Growing Greener II County Environmental Initiative. Also, the Committee discussed in greater detail the library plan and those issues will continue to be debated and decided.

Personnel  
Committee

Mr. Cleaver reported the Personnel Committee met on October 11, 2007, and agreed to place on the agenda for second readings Ordinances 123 and 124, as well as Ordinance 130 for a first reading.

Mr. Giles'  
Report

Mr. Giles reported that on August 9, 2007, the Erie County Planning Commission met at the library. The focus of this meeting was to provide an update on the housing plan that Erie County has done in the past. Mr. Giles suggested members review this update because the information provided by the Planning Department will turn around their expectations regarding housing, new housing and current housing. This was an eye opener for everyone on the Planning Commission. This is an interesting study and worth everyone's consideration in terms of what the growth areas are believed to be versus where they actually are both longitudinally and in terms of investment structures.

On August 16, 2007, the Economic Development Corporation held its regular meeting which focused on the preparation for the October Board Retreat. The discussion included the controversial issue of the tire burning plant on the east side as well as some discussion in the economic development group as well.

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Mr. Giles' Report

On September 5, 2007, the Erie County Public Safety Department, through the County Executive, held a preparedness conference at the library. Mr. Giles noted that September was National Preparedness month. This was well attended and much serious discussion was held regarding what one needs to do at the individual level versus what one needs to do as a county and a community.

Mr. Giles also reported that on September 17, 2007, the Erie Neighborhood Watch Council held its board meeting. Much of the issue was focused on restructuring their advisory board which is a large group of citizens from business and industry throughout the community, not necessarily from neighborhoods that are greatly impacted. The board is a resource to make the Neighborhood Watch Council and its initiatives more successful.

On September 18, 2007, a business exchange breakfast was held at Booker T. Washington hosted by the Governor's Advisory Commission on African American Affairs. This event was very well attended.

On September 19, 2007, the Erie County Policy and Planning Council on Children and Families held their general membership meeting. Mr. Giles explained they meet quarterly, and in this review heard a presentation on the Healthy Youth Survey and United Way's plans for our community regarding healthy families and healthy children.

Mr. Giles stated that on September 22, 2007, the County Executive did an outstanding job in terms of gathering together individuals on a Saturday morning for the Erie County Minority Health Disparity Summit. This was very well attended and an engaging debate from all perspectives regarding health, health care and accessibility.

Mr. Giles reported that on October 11, 2007, the Economic Development Corporation held its board retreat which is an all day retreat where they reviewed the foundation of what is happening within our county and our communities regarding economic development. Small groups assembled after lunch to create an agenda that will be advanced both publicly and to Council in the near future.

The 34<sup>th</sup> Annual James Kinnane Criminal Justice Conference was held on October 11, 2007. Mr. Giles reported that he was surprised to receive the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Erie County Public Safety Citizen's Board. Mr. Giles showed the audience the award he received. He noted this involved almost 30 years of a county career focused on public safety issues at the national, state or within the local Criminal Justice Advisory Board in Erie County. This award was certainly a surprise and is appreciated.

Mr. Mitchell's  
Comments

Mr. Mitchell wished to update Council on plans for the new Fairview Branch Library. A meeting was held Friday with the Library Foundation and Mr. Mitchell advised this is moving along very rapidly. He noted the plan looks good and this facility will be very functional for West County. Mr. Mitchell also met Sunday with Katherine Stepanoff, the library consultant, who will be providing her input this week to the staff on this project. There are a few minor concerns to relay.

Mr. Foust's  
Report

Mr. Foust submitted the following report:

On October 6, 2007, Mr. Foust welcomed approximately 70 representatives from the NW Pennsylvania Area Labor Federation to Erie for their annual meeting.

On October 9, 2007, Mr. Foust attended the ribbon cutting ceremony for Erie Biofuels.

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Mrs. Loll's  
Report

Mrs. Loll submitted the following report:

On September 13, 2007, Mrs. Loll attended the Erie County Metropolitan Planning Department Executive Board Meeting.

On September 24, 2007, Mrs. Loll attended a meeting with the Erie County Sheriff regarding his overtime request. She spent additional time in the Sheriff's Department reviewing the procedures and daily activities of the department.

On September 29, 2007, Mrs. Loll attended the annual banquet of the Fairview Fire Department. Many well deserved awards were given to their fellow members.

During the week of October 8<sup>th</sup>, Mrs. Loll attended several meetings regarding gaming funds and the 911 Center.

On October 15, 2007, Mrs. Loll attended a meeting with other members of County Council at City Hall. This meeting was held with City Council to discuss the options and possibilities of funding the runway extension for the airport.

Recess

Mr. Leone called for a recess at 7:22 p.m. to confer with Council Solicitor regarding comments he wished to make. During this recess Mr. Mitchell extended his congratulations to Mr. Giles on his award.

Meeting  
Reconvened

Mr. Leone reconvened the meeting at 7:24 p.m. and reported that on the advice of Council Solicitor, he will make no comments.

Grants to Fund  
Tourism Devel.  
By Concord Grape  
Belt Heritage

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 118, 2007, "General Fund Budget Release of \$3,000 from Restricted Competitive Grants to Fund Tourism Development by the Concord Grape Belt Heritage Association." Mr. Foust moved to adopt; Mr. Giles seconded, and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Waiver of  
Purchasing Code

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 119, 2007, "General Fund Budget Waiver of Section 1D (1) of the Purchasing Code to Allow Verizon to Transfer the 911 & EMA Phone System into the New Facility." Mrs. Loll moved to adopt; Mr. Cleaver seconded, and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Ordinance  
Numbers 120 &  
121 Tabled

Mr. Giles moved to table Ordinance Number 120, 2007, "Thirty-Ninth 2007 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation for Transfer to Public Health Fund" and Ordinance Number 121, 2007, "Twelfth 2007 Public Health Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation for Diabetes Documentary." Mr. Foust seconded, and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Library S.A. for  
LSTA Grant

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 122, 2007, "Seventh 2007 Library Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation for Continuation of LSTA Grant." Mr. Mitchell moved to adopt; Mr. Foust seconded, and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Planner I to  
Planner II

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 123, 2007, "2007 Planning Fund Budget Upgrade of Planner I Position to a Planner II." Mr. Giles moved to adopt; Mrs. Loll seconded, and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

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New Position for Clerk of Courts

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 124, 2007, "Fortieth 2007 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation and Creation of New Position for Clerk of Courts." Mr. Giles moved to adopt; Mrs. Loll seconded, and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

First Readings

Mr. Smith gave first readings of the following ordinances:

Ordinance Number 125, 2007, "Forty-First 2007 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation for a Grant to the Lake Erie Region Conservancy and the Creation of a New Line Item"

Ordinance Number 126, 2007, "Forty-Second 2007 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation to Fund Balance of Unused Grant Funds from 2006 and the Creation of a New Line Item"

Ordinance Number 127, 2007, "Third 2007 Planning Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation for Additional Funds for Agricultural Preservation & Storm Water Grant Programs and the Creation of a New Line Item"

Ordinance Number 128, 2007, "Amending Ordinance 59, 2004, 'Erie County Human Relations Commission' to Comport with HUD Requirements"

Ordinance Number 129, 2007, "Forty-Third 2007 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation for a Reduction in the Transfer to the E911 Fund Budget"

Ordinance Number 130, 2007, "Seventh 2007 E911 Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation for the Reclassification of Staff Accountant to Secretary/Bookkeeper"

Growing Greener II County Environmental Initiative Adopted

Mr. Smith gave a reading of Resolution Number 53, 2007, "In Support of County Projects Funded Through the Growing Greener II County Environmental Initiative." Mr. Giles moved to adopt; Mrs. Loll seconded, and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Ann M. Bruno, Council Secretary

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