

January 6, 2009            Agenda Amended. Sprtg. Lake Erie Region Conserv. adopted; Arthur L. Smaltz appt'd. to ECGRA; Dr. Hank Hill appt'd. to Erie Cnty Brd of Health; Susan Maghrak appt'd. to ECCM Brd; Jennifer Dobbs-Woods reappt'd. to ECGRA; Dr. Bob Oliver appt'd. to ECCM Brd. Frst Rdg. Gaming Fund SA for Grant to Jefferson Society.

ERIE COUNTY COUNCIL – Regular Meeting

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

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

Members Absent:    None

Also Present:        Douglas R. Smith, County Clerk  
                              Joseph P. Maloney, Council CPA  
                              Thomas Talarico, Council Solicitor  
                              Jim Sparber, Director of Finance

Moment of Silence    Mr. Giles asked that a moment of silence be observed in honor of a colleague on the city side, Joe Borgia, who passed away several days ago. Mr. Borgia did an outstanding job serving the people of our community as a public servant.

Presentation Of Plaque    Mr. Cleaver stated he has the honor of making a presentation to Council's past chairman, Mr. Giles. Mr. Cleaver presented a plaque to Mr. Giles and congratulated him on a job well done on behalf of the Members of Council and the Administration. A round of applause followed.

Mr. Giles thanked Mr. Cleaver and stated it has been very enjoyable working with all members of Council as chairman. Much was accomplished last year; however, there is still much to do, and he is looking forward to working together to achieve these goals.

Presentation of Citation    Mr. Cleaver asked Mr. Giles to make a presentation to a gentleman Mr. Cleaver has a great deal of respect for. From his inception with the Parking Authority, Mr. Cleaver has had the opportunity to work with George Miller. Mr. Miller always gave everyone a fair shot, if someone said something, he printed it, and they had to live with it.

Presentation of Citation to George Miller    Mr. Giles asked Mr. Miller to come forward and offered him his seat on the dais. Mr. Giles remarked that it is the secret dream of every media person to be in this seat. He told Mr. Miller that he will be sorely missed because he is way above in terms of the quality of work, professionalism, and the commitment that Mr. Miller has devoted to his career and his job as a reporter covering County Council and the City. Mr. Miller has done an outstanding job. As Mr. Cleaver indicated earlier, Mr. Miller was very balanced, provocative, and thoughtful in his work. That kind of quality in journalism is something everyone will always remember and appreciate. Mr. Giles asked everyone to stand and give Mr. Miller a round of applause in appreciation for all he's done.

Mr. Miller's  
Comments

Mr. Miller introduced his wife, Terri, to the audience stating that she has been tremendously supportive. When Mr. Miller advised his colleague, Kevin Flowers, that he would be receiving a citation tonight, Mr. Flowers' eyes lit up, and Mr. Miller believes Mr. Flowers was hoping Mr. Miller would cover the meeting for him as well. Mr. Miller also wondered if Mr. Leone would present him with a bill for all the copies he has requested over the years. He showed everyone the front page of his 2004 county budget book which stated "Erie Times News – Retail Value \$350.00."

Mr. Miller has covered Council for hundreds of hours and has always been impressed with their commitment. Members spend a great deal of time debating issues and getting all the facts on the table so a decision can be made. This made his job easier in providing information to the public and he thanked Council. He warned Members he may be attending Council meetings if he goes stir crazy in retirement.

In closing, he thanked Council adding he enjoyed working with them, and deeply appreciates this citation. He shook all Council Members' hands.

Mr. Giles'  
Comments

Mr. Giles stated that, on a personal note, when his mother passed away in 2006, both George Miller and Ed Palattella came to the funeral home. A year later, in November of 2007 when Mr. Giles' sister, a Down Syndrome adult whom he took care of for 49 years, passed away, Mr. Miller and Mr. Palattella came to the funeral home again. This type of thoughtfulness touched Mr. Giles and he will always remember that. From Mr. Giles' point of view, Mr. Miller walked that fine rope of realizing that everyone is in a public world, but are all individual persons. He again thanked Mr. Miller for an outstanding job.

Mr. Fatica's  
Comments

Mr. Fatica recalled that when he was working in the news, young people would come into the newsroom not knowing much about a particular story. These young people would be advised to find George Miller and stay close to him because he knew everything. Mr. Fatica thanked Mr. Miller.

Mr. Foust's  
Comments

Mr. Foust noted that as a young man involved in politics, not knowing what to expect from the press, and thinking there must be an adversarial relationship at heart, found it heartwarming to be able to establish a relationship with Mr. Miller consisting of trust. Mr. Foust was able to tell Mr. Miller things in the background, and it was kept that way. Mr. Foust respected the relationship he was able to have with Mr. Miller. His only complaint is that Mr. Miller asked too many questions; however, that is the sign of a good reporter. Mr. Foust wished Mr. Miller well and good luck in his retirement.

Mr. Leone's  
Comments

Mr. Leone stated that although he may not have always agreed with Mr. Miller on some of the concepts he held as far his articles were concerned, he knows that each person does what they think is right, and that is what is important. Mr. Leone has always had respect for Mr. Miller although many times they were not on the same side of the fence; he understands that each person does what they feel is right in their own field of endeavor.

Finance  
Committee

Mr. Giles reported the Finance Committee met on Friday, January 2, 2009, and agreed to put on the agenda Resolution Number 1 regarding the Lake Erie Watershed Conservation Management Plan along with a series of appointments or reappointments to the Gaming Revenue Authority, Board of Health, and the Erie County Care Management Board.

Agenda  
Amended

Mr. Giles moved to amend the agenda to add Ordinance Number 1, 2009, "First 2009 Gaming Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation For Grant to Jefferson Society" and to add the appointment of Dr. Bob Oliver to the Erie County Care Management Board. Mr. Foust seconded, and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Sprtg. Lake Erie  
Region Conserv.

Mr. Smith gave a reading of Resolution Number 1, 2009, "Supporting the Lake Erie Region Conservancy, Lake Erie Watershed Conservation Management Plan, and Listing the Lake Erie Watershed and Its Tributaries on the Pennsylvania Rivers Registry." Mr. Fatica seconded, and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Appts. Approved

Mr. Giles moved to approve the following:

Appointment of Arthur L. Smaltz to the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority

Appointment of Dr. Hank Hill to the Erie County Board of Health

Reappointment of Susan Maghrak to the Erie County Care Management Board

Reappointment of Jennifer Dobbs-Woods to the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority

Appointment of Dr. Bob Oliver to the Erie County Care Management Board

Mr. Fatica seconded, and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

First Rdg.

Mr. Smith gave a first reading of Ordinance Number 1, 2009, "First 2009 Gaming Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation for Grant to Jefferson Society."

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Ann M. Bruno, Council Secretary

\*\*\*\*\*