

May 26, 2008

ERIE COUNTY COUNCIL – Public Hearing on FY 2009 CDBG Program

Mr. Cleaver, Chairman, called to order a Public Hearing on Erie County's FY 2009 CDBG Program at 6:00 p.m. in the Erie County Council Chambers, Erie County Courthouse, Erie, Pennsylvania. 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 Berdis, Planner IV, Department of Planning

Hearing of the  
Public

Mr. Berdis, Planner IV with the Department of Planning stated that the purpose of this hearing was to provide the public with an opportunity to comment on how Erie County proposes to utilize its FY 2009 Community Development Block Grant funds, as well as the additional CDBG monies the County will receive through the "American Recovery and Re-investment Act" (ARRA).

He explained that the County will receive \$392,595 which is \$8,905 more than last year's allocation and represents an increase of 2.3%. The County has also been informed that it stands to gain an additional \$80,320 in CDBG monies through the "American Recovery and Re-investment Act."

Mr. Berdis pointed out that in regard to the CDBG monies, three issues need to be kept in mind:

- 1) The funds are to be used only to assist the County's non-entitlement municipalities. Of the 38 municipalities in Erie County, 30 are considered non-entitlement.
- 2) Funds must be used for "eligible" activities such as housing rehabilitation, water, sanitary, sewer and storm sewer construction, sidewalk and curb construction, street reconstruction, and handicapped accessibility improvements.
- 3) Funds must be used for "fundable" activities. Fundable activities are those which meet the National Objective of the CDBG Program which is to benefit low to moderate income persons. According to HUD, a project meets the fundability requirement if at least 51% of the persons to benefit from the activity are of low-to-moderate income. Low-to-moderate income persons are defined as those whose income is 80% of median income.

Mr. Berdis further explained that application packages were mailed out last May to each of the 30 non-entitlement municipalities informing them of the availability of CDBG funds for Fiscal Year 2009. Six (6) applications meeting the criteria were submitted for funding consideration and ranked by the Erie County Planning Commission. The projects selected and the amounts of funds tentatively awarded were:

- 1) \$100,000 for the Union City Municipal Authority Warden Street Sanitary Sewer Line Replacement Project. This project involves the replacement of 515 feet of 8 inch diameter clay tile pipe with 8 inch diameter PVC pipe, 2 manholes and 15 service connections along Warden Street, from Putnam Street to East High Street in Union City Borough. This project will benefit 15 families totaling 38 persons, 26 of whom are LMI or 68% LMI.

2) \$97,600 for the Union City Borough Atlantic Street Storm Sewer Construction Project which involves the installation of 1,250 feet of 12", 15", and 18" diameter HDPE storm sewer pipe and 14 inlets along Atlantic Street, from Washington Street to Sixth Street, in Union City Borough. This project will benefit 11 families consisting of 28 persons, 25 of whom are LMI or 89% LMI.

3) \$124,995 for the Waterford Municipal Authority West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Sanitary Sewer Line Construction Project. This project involves the installation of 1,500 feet of 8 inch diameter PVC sanitary sewer line, 7 manholes and 150 feet of 6 inch diameter sewer lateral along West 4<sup>th</sup> Street, from West Street to Circuit Street in Waterford Borough. This project will benefit 7 families totaling 20 persons, 11 of whom are LMI or 55% LMI.

4) \$70,000 will go towards program administration.

May 26, 2009

Mr. Berdis stated that the next highest ranked project on the County's list was the selection process used for undertaking the project using "ARRA" funding. This project was the Union City Municipal Authority Putnam Street Sanitary Sewer Line Replacement Project in the amount of \$80,320. This project involves the replacement of 435 feet of 8 inch diameter clay tile pipe with 8 inch diameter PVC pipe, 1 manhole and 15 service connections along Putnam Street, from Warden Street east to Prospect Street in Union City Borough. This program will benefit 11 families totaling 36 persons, 25 of whom are LMI or 69% LMI.

Mr. Berdis asked for any questions regarding the proposed use of FY 2009 CDBG allocation or ARRA monies. Mr. Cleaver referred to Exhibit 4 noting there were six qualified applicants. There are three zeros and he asked if the other three would be getting no monies. Mr. Berdis confirmed that was correct and explained the projects are ranked by the highest priority, and at the time the ranking was undertaken in November of last year, it was assumed there would be \$314,690 available for projects. Mr. Cleaver understood the Putnam Street project was accepted. Mr. Berdis again confirmed that was correct. He explained the 2009 monies will pay for the top three projects. The ARRA monies are additional monies the County will be receiving through the stimulus bill and those monies will go to the fourth ranked project which is Putnam Street. Mr. Mitchell noted that Conneaut Township has 1,040 minority people and questioned whether that was a Hispanic population. Mr. Berdis replied that number goes to the Albion Prison located in the area. Mr. Fatica suggested that be asterisked so people could be aware of that information, and Mr. Berdis agreed that would be a good idea. Mr. Fatica then pointed out that the ADA compliant curb cuts in Wesleyville will not be funded. Mr. Berdis replied that it will not be funded through Block Grant monies; however, Wesleyville has gone ahead and will fund that project with their local monies. In fact, they have gone out for bid on that particular project and he understands the bid came in at around \$75,000 compared to the original estimation of \$140,000. Mr. Berdis then opened the floor for comments from the public.

Marsha Tomcho, Manager of the Union City Municipal Authority, thanked Council on behalf of the Authority and Board Members for their projects. This money is well needed in Union City and their projects move forward and are completed in a timely manner.

Bruce Coffin, Waterford Township Municipal Authority Manager, explained to Council that their project is being done with Block Grant monies which really helps the community involved, especially those low to moderate income. When he first started 17 years ago, the goal was to provide sewer access to the entire town of Waterford. These monies have been a great help and practically everyone has access to sewer. He explained that the cost for a one to two hundred thousand dollar project, when there are only 530 customers really hurts the monthly bill, and this program helps.

Mr. Berdis explained that a requirement of the CDBG application process is the development of a Three Year Community Development Plan. He referred Council to Exhibit 7 which is a summary of the County's Plan. The Erie County Department of Planning is responsible for the administration of

the County's CDBG Program and administering the grants of three entitlement municipalities, Girard Township, McKean Township, and North East Borough. He referred to Exhibit 8 which identifies the projects to be undertaken by these municipalities with their FY 2009 and ARRA grant monies.

Mr. Berdis advised Council that they will consider passing a resolution on June 9, 2009 approving the application. The deadline to submit the application to DCED is June 12, 2009.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the Public Hearing adjourned at 6:11 p.m.

Ann M. Bruno, Council Secretary

May 26, 2009 Minutes of Reg. Mtg. of May 12, 2009 approved. Gen. Fund SA for Transfer to C&Y Svcs Fund adopted; Gen. Fund SA for Transfer to PH Fund adopted; Gen Fund SA for Merit Incr. for Prison Wrks Tabled; Appt'd Off. Salary Pt. Time Asst. PD adopted; C&Y SA for Transfer of Pos. Btwn ELT Shelter & Deten. Cntr adopted; PH SA for Upgrade of Environ. Health Pos. Per Arb. Award adopted; PH Rev. Expt. For Per Diem Line Item in Tobacco Grant adopted. First Rdgs: Gen. Fund Rel. of Unrest. Gaming Funds for Comm. Assets & Spec. Events; Gen. Fund SA for Transfer to Pub. Safety Fund; Gen Fund Wvr of Purch. Code to Sell Property; Comprehen. Rev. & Re-enact. Of Adm. Code; Pub. Safety SA for Reorg. of Dept. In Sprt. of HB 463 adopted.

Mr. Cleaver, 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, 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  
Sean Wiley, Director of Administration  
James Sparber, Director of Finance  
Sue Ellen Pasquale, Manager of Accounting

Hearing of the Public

Stacy Sharples, 1138 East 20<sup>th</sup> Street, Erie, approached Council to apologize for asking to be placed on the agenda to discuss a very important issue dealing with the Office of Children & Youth because now she has decided she cannot talk about this at the present time for fear of losing her daughter. Ms. Sharples cannot think of what her daughter would go through, like her brothers and sisters who live in different homes and are apart.

Matthew Edward Rogala, 1019 1/2 Parade Street rear, Erie, stated his biological name is Mathias Daniel Mattson. He stated that OCY pulled him from his mother when he was born and feels that is wrong. The Office of Children & Youth does not deserve its title. He was told his family never wanted him and that his biological parents were dead. Living with his adoptive family was horrible.

He never received love or affection. He was only rewarded when playing football or at Christmas. He had to raise himself; teach himself right from wrong. He made himself tv dinners to eat. Living with his biological family is much better and he loves being with them. He gets told the truth, not lies. He asked to find out where his cousins were who had been adopted.

Peggy Kaspar, 1019 ½ Reed Street, Erie, stated that Matt has proven how adoptees are being treated. She feels they need to be told the truth, and asked what right OCY has to tell adoptees their families are dead when everyone is alive. They make threats against people and get away with it. She stated she is Matthew Rogala's biological aunt and wondered what will happen to the other children OCY has waiting for adoption. She believes they will end up as mental cases or in prison because they are being told a bunch of lies. Matt was born in 1987 which shows how long this has been going on. Council needs to help these people and not believe the lies OCY keeps telling.

Ray Grabowski, Jr., 9535 Bliley Road, Greene Township, stated he is the president of Lakeshore Railway Historical Society in North East and has received notification that the Erie County Gaming Committee has declined funding their application and he is here to ask Council to reconsider that decision. Lakeshore Railway is working on a project that will increase visitors to Erie County. Lakeshore Railway has been operating a museum for 45 years by volunteers and has not been on the public dole. Having these gaming funds available has been a great opportunity and he thanked Council for what the society has received so far. He invited Members of Council to visit. On the agenda is a first reading of an ordinance for General Fund Budget Release of Unrestricted Gaming Funds, and he asked Council to consider putting Lakeshore Railway back on that list.

Minutes Mr. Giles moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held May 12, 2009. Mr. Leone seconded, and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Report from Administration Mr. Wiley reported that he had submitted a report to Members of Council via email regarding the Fiscal Responsibility, Stability and Accomplishments of Mr. DiVecchio's Administration. This document can viewed in its entirety on the County website at [www.eriecountygov.org](http://www.eriecountygov.org).

Finance Committee Mr. Leone reported the Finance Committee met on Thursday, May 21, 2009 and decided not to remove Ordinance Number 66, 2009 from the table. The Committee did agree to place on the agenda for second readings Ordinances 74 and 75, and to move Ordinance 79 to a second reading. For first readings, the Committee placed on the agenda Ordinances 80, 81, 82, and 83 as well as the possible adoption of Resolution 31, 2009.

Personnel Committee Mr. Fatica reported the Personnel Committee met on Thursday, May 21, 2009 and agreed to place on the agenda for second readings Ordinances 70, 76, 77, and 78, and for a first reading Ordinance 84.

Community College Public Meeting Mr. Cleaver pointed out that on Thursday, May 28, 2009, a public meeting regarding the proposed community college will be held. He expects to see all of his colleagues there, except Mr. Mitchell who will be late, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Hirt Auditorium in the Blasco Library.

Gen. Fund SA for Transfer to C&Y Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 74, 2009, "Twenty-Sixth 2009 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation For Transfer To The Children & Youth Services Fund." Mr. Giles moved to adopt; Mr. Leone seconded, and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Gen. Fund SA for Transfer to PH Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 75, 2009, "Twenty-Seventh 2009 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation For Transfer To The Public Health Fund." Mr. Leone moved to adopt; Mrs. Loll seconded, and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Pt Time PD Position	Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 76, 2009, "2009 Appointed Official's Salary Ordinance Vacancy In Part Time Assistant Public Defender Position." Mr. Giles moved to adopt; Mr. Leone seconded, and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.
Ord. 70 Tabled	Mr. Giles moved to table Ordinance Number 70, 2009, "Twenty-Fifth 2009 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation For Merit Increase For Prison Maintenance Workers." Mr. Foust seconded, and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.
C&Y SA for Transfer Of Positions Btwn ELT Shelter & Deten. Cntr	Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 77, 2009, "Second 2009 Children & Youth Services Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation For Transfer Of Positions Between ELT Shelter and ELT Detention Center." Mr. Mitchell moved to adopt; Mr. Fatica seconded, and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.
PH SA for Upgrade of Env.Health Pos.	Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 78, 2009, "Sixth 2009 Public Health Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation For Upgrade Of Environmental Health Position Per Arbitration Award." Mrs. Loll moved to adopt; Mr. Fatica seconded, and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.
Agenda Amended	Mr. Giles moved to amend the agenda to include Ordinance Number 79, 2009 for a second reading. Mr. Leone seconded, and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.
Per Diem Line Item in Tobacc. Grant	Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 79, 2009, "2009 Public Health Fund Budget Revised Expenditures For Per Diem Line Item In The Tobacco Grant And Creation Of A New Line Item." Mrs. Loll moved to adopt; Mr. Leone seconded, and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.
First Rdgs.	Mr. Smith gave first readings of the following ordinances: <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Ordinance Number 80, 2009, "2009 General Fund Budget Release Of Unrestricted Gaming Funds For Community Assets And Special Events"</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Ordinance Number 81, 2009, "Twenty-Eight 2009 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation For Transfer To Public Safety Fund"</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Ordinance Number 82, 2009, "2009 General Fund Budget Waiver Of The Purchasing Code To Sell Property ID #16-030-051.0-249.00"</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Ordinance Number 83, 2009, "Comprehensive Revision And Re-enactment Of The Administrative Code"</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Ordinance Number 84, 2009, "Seventh 2009 Public Safety Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation For Reorganization Of Department And Waiver Of Section 11AJ Of The Personnel Code"</p>
In Sprt of HB 463	Mr. Smith gave a reading of Resolution Number 31, 2009, "In Support Of House Bill 463." Mr. Leone moved to adopt; Mr. Giles seconded.

Mr. Leone asked that this resolution be forwarded to local legislators and to CCAP to make them aware of this. Mr. Cleaver called for a vote on the resolution, and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Mr. Foust's  
Comments

Mr. Foust asked Mr. Talarico to have the information that is needed on Ordinance 70, 2009 completed by the next Finance Committee meeting as this is an ordinance that has already been held back.  
May 26, 2009

Mr. Mitchell's  
Comments

Mr. Mitchell stated he would like to roll out the red carpet for everyone on June 9<sup>th</sup>. He explained that the Council meeting will be held in Corry, which is part of his district, and he welcomes everyone.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Ann M. Bruno, Council Secretary

\*\*\*\*\*