

February 15, 2011 Minutes of Feb. 1, 2011 Reg. Mtg. apprvd. Agenda Amended. Change in Alloc. Of Wages Btwn Safe Kids & Cancer Prevention adopted; Elected Off. Salaries adopted; PRM \$1,000,000 Line of Credit adopted; PRM \$1,700,000 Ltr of Credit adopted; Auto Fees in Pro. Ofc adopted; Donation by Target for Summer Rdg. Prgrm adopted; Gate Security System at Iroquois adopted. First Rdgs. Lib. SA Sunday Hrs at Blasco, Gen Fund SA Transfer for Lib. for Sunday Hrs. Gen. Auth. Myrtle St. Prjct adopted; Carla Picardo, M.D., MPH appt'd to Erie Cnty Brd of Health.

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, Mrs. Loll recited a prayer. The County Clerk called the roll:

Roll Call  
Members Present: Mr. Leone, Chairman  
Mr. Fatica, Vice Chairman  
Mr. Beeman  
Mr. Cleaver  
Dr. Foust  
Mr. Giles  
Mrs. Loll

Members Absent: None

Roll Call  
Also Present: Douglas R. Smith, County Clerk  
Joseph P. Maloney, Council CPA  
Thomas Talarico, Council Solicitor  
Gerald Mifsud, Director of Administration  
Jim Sparber, Director of Finance  
Sue Ellen Pasquale, Manager of Accounting

Minutes  
Mr. Giles moved to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2011 Regular Meeting. Dr. Foust seconded, and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Finance  
Committee  
Dr. Foust reported the Finance Committee met on February 10, 2011 and agreed to place Ordinance Number 12 on the agenda for a second reading. Also on the agenda under New Business are Ordinances 14 through 20. Dr. Foust noted that Ordinances 14 through 18, inclusive, may be moved to second readings since they are either grant funds or time sensitive. The Committee also agreed to place Resolution Number 6 and the possible appointment of Carla Picardo, M.D. to the Erie County Board of Health.

Personnel  
Committee  
Mr. Cleaver reported the Personnel Committee met on February 10, 2011 following the Finance Committee and agreed to place on the agenda for a second reading Ordinance Number 13 regarding the Elected Officials' Salaries.

Mrs. Loll's  
Report  
Mrs. Loll reported that she received an exciting telephone call from Patty Puline, the Safe Kids Coordinator for the Health Department, regarding a letter and Safety Award she had sent to Sarah Palin. Ms. Puline congratulated Ms. Palin for teaching bear safety to the US citizens through the TLC Network. Ms. Puline has viewed Ms. Palin's television show and was impressed that safety was stressed first. Ms. Palin had responded to Ms. Puline with a note thanking her for her kindness and continued support. Mrs. Loll provided copies of the letter, citation and response for each Council member. Mrs. Loll stated that this employee should be

commended for her initiative in promoting the Safe Kids program. Mrs. Loll wished to personally thank Ms. Puline for her enthusiasm in this program.

Mrs. Loll further reported that she was contacted by the Albion Newspaper editor who wrote an article about Pleasant Ridge Manor after interviewing Mrs. Loll. She noted that the West County residents are showing support for Council's decision regarding Pleasant Ridge Manor. They are quite enthusiastic about the project. Mrs. Loll provided a copy of the article.

Mrs. Loll also received a letter from Blake Holiday, Chairman for the Springfield Township Supervisors:

Dear County Council:

The Supervisors of Springfield Township would like to express our deepest concern for any plans the council might contemplate for the replacement or improvement of the county's health care facilities. The facility at Pleasant Ridge Manor in Girard has been a valuable asset to our community in West County for many years. Its value to West County is twofold. A localized professional and affordable facility for our elderly and convalescents has been of immeasurable comfort to so many in our area. This facility has been a career for so many citizens out here as well. Not many opportunities exist in West County in the healthcare field. Even our industrial and commercial industries have suffered as a result of regional shifts and the advent of the superstores. Please seriously consider Pleasant Ridge Manor and its surrounding properties as the logical "best" sight in your plan of a quality county health care facility for the future.

Sincerely,

/s/ Blake Holiday, Chairman  
Springfield Township Supervisors

As Mrs. Loll had stated at an earlier meeting, her district is well on board with Pleasant Ridge Manor moving forward.

#### Mr. Giles' Report

Mr. Giles reported that on February 14 and 15, as the County Commissioners Association Chair, a series of meetings were conducted in Harrisburg with the leadership in the House, Senate and the Lieutenant Governor's Office. The schedule was as follows:

9:00 a.m. – Casey Long, staff to Senator Joe Scarnati (Senate President Pro Tempore) 292 Main Capitol  
9:30 am. – Senator Jake Corman (Senate Appropriations Committee Chair) 281 Main Capitol  
10:00 a.m. – Shelley Lindner, staff to Representative Stan Saylor and Rep. Stan Saylor (House Republican Whip)  
121 Main Capitol  
11:00 a.m. – Press conference in Capitol Rotunda  
12:00 p.m.. – Alumni luncheon with elected officials from county level now members of House and Senate, Room  
108 Irvis Building  
12:30-1:30 – Lt. Governor Cauley (former County Commissioner from Buck County) important meeting to make certain county issues were being brought forward as state goes through difficult period regarding resources and policy  
3:00 p.m. – Rep. John Maher (Hous Majority Agriculture Committee Chair) 535 Main Capitol  
4:00 p.m. – Sen. Vince Hughes (Senate Democratic Appropriations Chair) 535 Main Capitol  
4:30 p.m. – Sen. Dominic Pileggi (Senate Majority Leader) 350 Main Capitol

Mr. Giles noted this last meeting was interesting in that the general attitude and what was being promoted is the idea that if counties cannot get more resources to support mandates, then perhaps reduce the mandates counties are facing, and possibly facing without the resources to execute them. There is a huge list of mandates among which include the elimination of jury commissioner. This has already been accomplished through Home Rule in Erie County. Another idea is the change of rules regarding public notification so that legal notices do not have to be executed in the standard way through the press which can be very expensive. This could be done electronically, through technology or other means. Mr. Giles stated there is much interest in the list of mandate relief.

Some of the discussion included a potential reduction of 14% in every line item that would affect counties. Mr. Giles has known Lt. Governor Cauley for a number of years, and although it was a very candid discussion, it was still unknown as to what the Governor will do by way of a budget. Both republicans and democrats indicate that the administration has been very tight lipped as far as releasing budget information. The budget will be released on March 8<sup>th</sup> and it is hoped to have the budget in place by June 1<sup>st</sup>. This will be a very dramatic budget by everyone's expectation.

Mr. Giles further reported that a meeting was held this morning with freshmen members of the House and Senate in concert with the League of Cities, the Boroughs Association Leadership, and the Townships Association Leadership. Everyone had an opportunity to speak with the new members and acquaint them as to what officials do at the local level and how that connects with what the state officials do by way of policy and resource. He noted this was a most informative meeting, but did not leave this meeting with much relief. Mr. Giles believes the general attitude is that this is how it's going to be, and everyone will have to live with it with no accommodations or negotiations. However, the mandate issue was pressed that counties are not in a position to add resources to fill in what the state does not fund.

Mr. Giles wished to extend his congratulations to the administration. He explained that at the beginning of every calendar year, the insurance pools set the rates for the year and the county, in particular, Luigi Pasquale, Pete Callan and the risk manager have done such a good job that Erie County is now at the experience mod of below 1. Mr. Giles stated this is not an easy task and makes a big difference. For example, Erie County's insurance premium for workman's comp is approximately \$1 million per year. By the work this group has done, this county will see a 5% discount on that premium. Mr. Giles stated it was nice to see a downward trend in costs. He noted this is because Council and the administration have worked together to see the risk manager position in place which certainly has had an impact.

Mr. Giles further noted that unemployment compensation is an issue, but every time positions are eliminated from the budget, and it happens in every county, there will be a hit on the cost side.

Dr. Foust's  
Comments

As the Chairman of the Finance Committee, Dr. Foust explained that he sits on the Audit Committee which held its first meeting today to prepare for the outside audit. He stated that the County won an award and asked Mrs. Pasquale to elaborate.

Mrs. Pasquale stated that for the 18<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, Erie County has received a Certificate in Excellence in Finance Reporting from the Governmental Finance Officers Association. She stated this was a true team effort. Mr. Giles pointed out that this was accomplished with a leaner staff. Dr. Foust acknowledged that this award was definitely well deserved and offered his congratulations.

Chng in Alloc. Btwn  
Safe Kids & Cancer  
Prevention Grant

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 12, 2011, "2011 Public Health Fund Budget Revised Expenditures And Creation Of New Line Items For Change In Allocation Of Wages Between Safe Kids Grant And Cancer Prevention Grant." Mr. Giles moved to adopt; Mr. Fatica seconded, and it carried in a roll call vote of 6-1, Mr. Beeman voting no.

2012-2015 Elctd  
Off. Salary Ord.

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 13, 2011, "2012-2015 Elected Officials' Salaries Ordinance." Mr. Giles moved to adopt; Mr. Cleaver seconded.

Mr. Giles stated that, as Chairperson of the Committee, he would like to express his appreciation to the other two members, Mr. Cleaver and Mr. Beeman. The Committee concluded its business within one session and wound up with unanimity and absolute affirmative support for all the items before it. There are no pay increases for the first two years. Mr. Giles noted there is an issue that the current committee inherited from the prior committee which would have consisted of members from 1, 3, 5,

and 7. The salary for the Chairman of Council would go from \$500 to \$1000. The recommendation of the current committee is that amount be retained at the \$500 level. Dr. Foust recalled that he was not a member of the prior committee as he was a candidate for Congress at that time.

Mr. Giles moved to amend Exhibit A of the ordinance to change the amount of the stipend for the County Council Chairman to current level of \$500 in 2012 and continuing through 2015. Mr. Cleaver seconded the motion.

Dr. Foust wished to clarify that this particular recommendation came from the Finance Committee meeting which included members of Council Districts 1, 3, 5, and 7; it did not come from the Salary Committee.

Mr. Leone called for a vote on the amendment to Exhibit A of Ordinance Number 13, 2011 and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Dr. Foust stated that Council's concern was that the salaries be kept at the same level. The \$500 bump had already been in place for the chairman.

Mr. Leone called for a vote on the ordinance, as amended, and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Agenda  
Amended

Dr. Foust moved to amend the agenda to include Ordinances 114, 115, 116, 117, and 118 for second readings. Mr. Giles seconded, and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

PRM \$1 Million  
Line of Credit  
Note

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 14, 2011, "An Ordinance Of The County Of Erie, Pennsylvania (The "County") Authorizing And Directing The Execution And Delivery Of A Guaranty Agreement For The Benefit Of Pleasant Ridge Manor ("Pleasant Ridge") And Compliance With The Provisions Thereof And Incurring Lease Rental Debt Thereby; Approving A \$1,000,000 Committed Line Of Credit Note From Pleasant Ridge To PNC Bank, National Association; Directing The Proper Officers Of The County To Take Necessary Actions; And Repealing All Inconsistent Ordinances." Mr. Giles moved to adopt; Dr. Foust seconded, and it carried in a roll call vote of 6-1, Mr. Beeman voting no.

PRM \$1.7 Million  
Letter of Credit  
Agrmt

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 15, 2011, "An Ordinance Of The County Of Erie, Pennsylvania (The "County") Authorizing And Directing The Execution And Delivery Of A Guaranty Agreement For The Benefit Of Pleasant Ridge Manor ("Pleasant Ridge") And Compliance With The Provisions Thereof And Incurring Lease Rental Debt Thereby; Approving A \$1,700,000 Letter Of Credit Agreement From Pleasant Ridge To PNC Bank, National Association; Directing The Proper Officers Of The County To Take Necessary Actions; And Repealing All Inconsistent Ordinances." Mr. Giles moved to adopt; Mr. Cleaver seconded, and it carried in a roll call vote of 6-1, Mr. Beeman voting no.

Auto. Fees in  
Pro. Ofc

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 16, 2011, "Third 2011 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation For The Release Of Restricted Automation Fees In The Prothonotary Office." Dr. Foust moved to adopt; Mrs. Loll seconded, and it carried in a roll call vote of 6-1, Mr. Beeman voting no.

Lib. SA Donation  
By Target for  
Rdg. Prgrm

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 17, 2011, "First 2011 Library Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation From Donation By Target For Summer Reading Program." Dr. Foust moved to adopt; Mrs. Loll seconded, and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

February 15, 2011

Gate Secur. System  
At Iroquois Ave.  
Branch

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 18, 2011, "Second 2011 Library Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation For Gate Security System At Iroquois Avenue Branch." Mr. Giles moved to adopt; Dr. Foust seconded, and it carried in a roll call vote of 6-1, Mr. Beeman voting no.

First Rdgs.

Mr. Smith gave first readings of the following ordinances:

Ordinance Number 19, 2011 "Third 2011 Library Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation For The Continuation Of Sunday Hours At Blasco Library From April Through December"

Ordinance Number 20, 2011, "Fourth 2011 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation For Transfer To Library Fund For Continuation Of Sunday Hours"

Gen. Auth. Myrtle  
St. Prjct.

Mr. Smith gave a reading of Resolution Number 6, 2011, "Erie County General Authority 1501-1503 Myrtle Street Project." Mrs. Loll moved to adopt; Mr. Fatica seconded, and it carried in a roll call vote of 6-1, Mr. Beeman voting no.

Carla Picardo, MD  
Appt'd to Brd. Of  
Health

Dr. Foust moved to appoint Carla Picardo, M.D., MPH, to the Erie County Board of Health. Mr. Cleaver seconded, and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Ann M. Bruno, Council Secretary

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