

April 5, 2011

Minutes of March 22, 2011 Reg. Mtg. apprvd. Gen Fund SA for Intensive/Aftercare Comp. Dev. Grant adopted; Gen. Fund SA Victim Awareness Trng Grant; Cap. Prjct Fund SA for Tech. Upgrades adopted; C&Y SA for Elim. Of Clk III adopted; Gen. Fund SA Transfer to C&Y adopted; C&Y Rev. Exp. Due to Hiring of New OCY Sol. adopted. First Rdgs: Donation from Friends of Library; PS SA Admin. Reorg.; Gen. Fund SA Transfer to PS Fund. Exon. Taxes on Abandoned Trailer/Props in McKean Twp, Washington Twp, Gen. McLane SD; City of Corry, Corry Area SD, Millcreek Twp & SD, Wesleyville Borough, Iroquois SD, NE Twp & SD adopted. Bishop Sean Rowe appt'd to Housing Auth. Christopher Parker appt'd. to Airport Auth. Robert MacIsaac appt'd to Tax Assess. Appeals; Ron Jones appt'd to ECGRA; Robert Tidmore reappt'd to Housing Auth. Labor Agrmt btwn Erie Cnty Govt & ECAPE apprvd. Sale of Parcel from Respository apprvd.

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:

Members Present: Mr. Leone, Chairman
Mr. Beeman
Mr. Cleaver
Dr. Foust
Mr. Giles
Mrs. Loll

Members Absent: Mr. Fatica, Vice Chairman

Also Present: Douglas R. Smith, County Clerk
Joseph P. Maloney, Council CPA
Jim Sparber, Director of Finance
Sue Ellen Pasquale, Manager of Accounting

Mr. Leone recognized students, Stephanie and Rachael, from Gannon University.

Minutes

Mr. Giles moved to approve the minutes of the March 22, 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 Thursday, March 31, 2011 and agreed to place Ordinances 26, 27 and 28 on the agenda for second readings; Ordinances 32, 33 and 34 for first readings, along with the possible adoption of Resolutions 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 which exonerate abandoned trailers throughout the county. Also on the agenda are possible appointments to four boards in Erie County as well as the possible sale of a parcel from the repository for unsold properties.

Personnel
Committee

Mrs. Loll reported that the Personnel Committee met following the Finance Committee and agreed to place Ordinances 29, 30 and 31 on the agenda for second readings. Also on the agenda is the possible motion to approve the labor agreement between Erie County Government and the Erie Court Association of Professional Employees (ECAPE).

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Mr. Fatica's
Submitted
Comments

Mr. Fatica submitted the following comments for inclusion in the minutes:

A Public Safety Newsletter for the months of February/March 2011 has been published. This is a well done and very informative report. Mr. Fatica wished to congratulate Denee Breter of the County Executive's Office on a job well done. She is responsible for the design and content of the newsletter.

Gen Fund SA
Compt. Dev.
Grant

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 26, 2011, "Fifth 2011 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation For Intensive/Aftercare Competency Development Grant." Mr. Giles moved to adopt; Dr. Foust seconded, and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Gen Fund SA
Victim Aware
Trng Grant

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 27, 2011, "Sixth 2011 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation For Victim Awareness Training Grant." Mr. Giles moved to adopt; Dr. Foust seconded, and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Capital Prjct
SA for Tech.
Upgrades

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 28, 2011, "2011 Capital Projects Fund Supplemental Appropriation For Technology Upgrades In Finance Department And County Wide Technology Improvements." Mr. Giles moved to adopt; Dr. Foust seconded, and it carried in a roll call vote of 5-1, Mr. Beeman voting no.

C&Y SA for
Elim. Of Clk
& Creat.
Fiscal Tech.

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 29, 2011, "First 2011 Children & Youth Services Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation For Elimination Of Clerk III And Creation Of Fiscal Technician To Comply With State Approved Change." Mr. Giles moved to adopt; Dr. Foust seconded, and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Gen Fund SA
Transfer to
C&Y

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 30, 2011, "Seventh 2011 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation For Transfer To Children & Youth Services Fund." Mr. Cleaver moved to adopt; Mrs. Loll seconded, and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Hiring New
OCY Solicitor

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 31, 2011, "2011 Children & Youth Services Fund Budget Revised Expenditures Due To Hiring Of New OCY Solicitor." Mr. Giles moved to adopt; Mr. Cleaver seconded.

Dr. Foust stated that normally he would not vote in the affirmative for something such as because the rate is above 4.2%. However, OCY has shown Council some proof that it is almost impossible to hire somebody at this starting salary, and that is why he will vote yes on this ordinance.

Mr. Leone added that this amount is \$10,000 less than what the previous solicitor was receiving. He then called for a vote on the ordinance and it carried in a roll call vote of 5-1, Mr. Beeman voting no.

First Rdgs.

Mr. Smith gave first readings of the following ordinances:

Ordinance Number 32, 2011, "Fourth 2011 Library Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation For Donation From Friends Of The Library"

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First Rdgs.

Ordinance Number 33, 2011, "First 2011 Public Safety Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation For Administrative Reorganization"

Ordinance Number 34, 2011, "Eighth 2011 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation For Transfer To The Public Safety Fund"

Exoneration of Taxes on Abandoned Trailers/Props

Mr. Giles moved to adopt the following resolutions:

Resolution Number 10, 2011, "Exonerating Taxes On Two Abandoned Trailers/Properties In McKean Township, Washington Township And The General McLane School District"

Resolution Number 11, 2011, "Exonerating Taxes On Three Abandoned Trailers/Properties In The City Of Corry And Corry Area School District"

Resolution Number 12, 2011, "Exonerating Taxes On Four Abandoned Trailers/Properties In Millcreek Township And Millcreek School District"

Resolution Number 13, 2011, "Exonerating Taxes On Four Abandoned Trailers/Properties In Wesleyville Borough And Iroquois School District"

Resolution Number 14, 2011, "Exonerating Taxes On Five Abandoned Trailers/Properties In North East Township And North East School District"

Dr. Foust seconded, and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Appointments Approved

Mr. Giles moved to approve the following appointments:

Bishop Sean Rowe to the Erie County Housing Authority

Christopher Parker to the Erie Regional Airport Authority

Robert B. MacIsaac to the Board of Tax Assessment Appeals

Ron Jones to the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority

Reappointment of Robert Tidmore to the Erie County Housing Authority

Dr. Foust seconded, and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Labor Agrmt Apprvd

Mr. Giles moved to approve the Labor Agreement between Erie County Government and the Erie Court Association of Professional Employees (ECAPE). Dr. Foust seconded.

Mr. Cleaver wished to tip his hat to the ECAPE members for taking into consideration the County's financial situation. Mr. Leone noted that this contract is the same as those previously approved with a zero increase in salaries for this year and next year. He called for a vote on the motion and it carried in a roll call vote of 5-1, Mr. Beeman voting no.

Sale of Parcel Apprvd.

Mr. Giles moved to approve the Sale of Parcel from Repository for Unsold Properties at Index Number 14-010-039.0-104.00. Dr. Foust seconded.

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Parcels from
Repository

Mr. Cleaver inquired as to what becomes of these properties after they are sold. He asked if anyone does any follow up to see what happens to them.

Mr. Sparber replied that there is a list of 200 to 300 properties that go through the outside sale process and the judicial sale process then end up in the repositories. When those are sold, there is a minimum bid process of \$250. Ideally, those properties then go back on the tax rolls, but no one actually does any follow up to see what happens to the property.

Dr. Foust asked about the typical size of those properties. Mr. Sparber explained that on an average city block a home may be abandoned or the owners cannot pay their taxes so it goes through the sale process. The size could be approximately 35 by 100; the sizes of the lots vary. The property could even be located in the country and a larger size. The more attractive pieces of real estate generally don't make it through the judicial sale process. The very attractive ones don't make it through the outside sale process.

Mr. Leone called for a vote on the sale of parcel from the repository and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

Ann M. Bruno, Council Secretary
