

March 20, 2012

Minutes of March 6, 2012 Reg Mtg. apprvd. Agenda Amended. Library SA for Donation of Comp. & Supplies adopted. PH Creation of Temp. Staff Line Item adopted. First Rdgs: Estab. Aux. Appeal Brds; Impos. Unconven. Gas Well Fee; Gen Fund Revis. Rev & Expend. Adult Superv. Fees; PH SA Accreditation Sprt Grant; Bond Issue; Apprvl Agrmt Btwn Erie Cnty & ECCA Payroll; Gen. Auth. \$11,000,000 Rev. Bonds (Erie School District). App't of Gerri Newara to Tax Assess. Appeals.

Mr. Fatica, 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:

Let us pray  
Father in Heaven, the hand of your loving kindness powerfully yet gently guides all of us.  
Direct our steps in our endeavor to govern. Bring us together and guide us in your wisdom. Make us a true, good and honest symbol for all people and help us to show the correct way to be in the leadership of and for the people of Erie County.  
In your name,  
Amen

Roll Call

Mr. Smith, County Clerk, called the roll:

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

Members Absent: None

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

Hearing of  
the Public

Dee Engel, Franklin Township, spoke regarding the situation with Councilman Beeman. She, along with others, wonders what will stop people from applying for a second social security number if Mr. Beeman can get away with a felony. What would happen to the system if everyone in this country took a second social security number. She believes that if someone doesn't want to live in the United States, they should go someplace else. There are rules for a reason. She expressed her hope that Council will correct this situation.

Renee Vendetti, Erie, spoke on behalf of Mr. Beeman. She suggested that members of Council look in the mirror and say they don't have any ethic violations. Members should take a look at themselves when voting because everyone has skeletons in the closet. Other Council members are no better than Mr. Beeman. There are rules for everyone to follow. If all Council members can say they have done everything right and nothing wrong, then Mr. Beeman can be voted out.

Maria Czulewicz, Pennsylvania, suggested that if Mr. Beeman had two social security numbers, he could have paid taxes twice. If an ethics violation is an issue here, she can see that several Council members should be removed. Council has placed ethics in the trash.

Minutes

Dr. Foust moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 6, 2012. Mr. Giles seconded, and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Finance Committee	Mr. Giles reported the Finance Committee met on Thursday, March 15, 2012. John Elliott from the Economic Development Corporation met with Council at that time. At that meeting, the Committee agreed to place Ordinances 24 and 25 on the agenda for a second reading, and ordinances 26 through 30 for first readings. Also on the agenda are the possible adoptions of Resolutions 16 and 17 along with the possible approval of an appointment of Gerri Newara to the Appeals Assessment Board.
Mr. Cleaver's Comments	Mr. Cleaver wished to state for the record that he realizes the law dictates what can and cannot be done in terms of Mr. Beeman. However, Mr. Cleaver stated that he firmly believes that Mr. Beeman should not be recognized as a Council Member. Mr. Beeman claims that he wants to serve the people that elected him. Mr. Cleaver stated that he guarantees that Mr. Beeman has certainly has not done that. For the record, Mr. Cleaver wished to note that if Mr. Beeman does not resign, Council should take some action to remove him.
Library Fund SA Donation of Comp. & Office Supplies	Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 24, 2012, "First 2012 Library Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation For Donation Of Computer And Office Supplies Valued At \$10,810." Mr. Leone moved to adopt; Dr. Foust seconded, and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.
PH Temp Staff Line	Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 25, 2012, "2012 Public Health Fund Budget Revised Revenue Of \$2,925 And Creation Of A Temporary Staff Line Item." Mr. Leone moved to adopt; Mr. Giles seconded, and it carried in a roll call vote of 6-1, Mr. Beeman voting no.
Agenda Amended	Dr. Foust moved to amend the agenda to include Ordinance Number 28, 2012, "2012 General Fund Budget Revised Revenue And Expenditures Of \$24,880 And Creation Of New Line Item In Adult Supervision Fees Department" for a second reading. Mr. Leone seconded, and the motion carried in a unanimous roll call vote.
First Rdgs.	Mr. Smith gave first readings of the following ordinances:  Ordinance Number 26, 2012, "An Ordinance Establishing Auxiliary Appeal Boards"  Ordinance Number 27, 2012, "Imposing An Erie County Unconventional Gas Well Fee"
New Line Item In Adult. Super. Fees	Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 28, 2012, "2012 General Fund Budget Revised Revenue And Expenditures Of \$24,880 And Creation Of New Line Item In Adult Supervision Fees Department." Mr. Giles moved to adopt; Mr. Leone 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 29, 2012, "Fourth 2012 Public Health Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation Of \$23,000 And Creation Of New Line Items For Accreditation Support Grant"  Ordinance Number 30, 2012, "Authorizing The Incurring Of Nonelectoral Debt By The Issuance Of General Obligation Refunding Bonds (The "Bonds") In The Aggregate Principal Amount Of Twenty-Five Million_____ And 00/100 Dollars (\$25,XXX,XXX) Consisting Of Twenty Million_____ And 00/100 Dollars (\$20,XXX,XXX) Series A Of 2012 Tax Exempt Bonds, And Four

Million\_\_\_\_\_ And 00/100 Dollars (\$4,XXX,XXX) Series B Of 2012 Taxable Bonds; Covenanting To Pay And Pledging Unlimited Taxing Power For The Payment Of The Bonds; Establishing A Sinking Fund And Appointing A Paying Agent, Sinking Fund Depository, Registrar And Escrow Agent In Respect Of The Bonds; Fixing The Form, Interest Rate, Maturity, Redemption And Other Provisions For The Payment Thereof; Accepting A Proposal For The Purchase Of The Bonds; Authorizing The Filing Of Required Documents With The Department Of Community And Economic Development; Ratifying And Directing Certain Actions Of Officers; Approving The Official Statement; And Making Certain Other Covenants And Provisions In Respect Of The Bonds”

Agrmt Btwn  
Erie Cnty &  
ECCA Payroll

Mr. Smith gave a reading of Resolution Number 16, 2012, “Approval Of Five Year Agreement Between The County Of Erie And ECCA Payroll + Business Solutions.” Mr. Giles moved to adopt; Mr. Leone seconded.

Mr. Giles congratulated the administration for moving from paper to electronics in regard to payroll and personnel issues. This is a significant step moving forward. Mr. Fatica thanked Mr. Sparber, Ms. Pasquale and all those involved. He called for a vote on the resolution and it carried in a roll call vote of 6-1, Mr. Beeman voting no.

Gen. Auth. Not To  
Exceed \$11 million  
Bonds (SD City of  
Erie Prjct)

Mr. Smith gave a reading of Resolution Number 17, 2012, “Erie County General Authority Not To Exceed \$11,000,000 Guaranteed Lease Revenue Bonds (Federally Taxable), Series Of 2012A (School District Of The City Of Erie Project).” Mr. Giles moved to adopt; Mr. Leone seconded.

Mr. Giles noted that the General Authority has gotten involved in the financial structure to assist the school district regarding some interim financing. The county authority becomes the owner of the property leasing it back to the school district. The payments will be made to the authority. At this time, there are no county funds wrapped in this package. This will give the Erie School District some breathing room in terms of dealing with the current crunch. Mr. Giles would caution that, if the program moves forward at the federal level, the real impact will be felt in every county in regard to human services. Counties across the Commonwealth will be going through a similar situation regarding the funding of many agencies. He explained the funding starts at the federal level, goes through the state and ends up at the county level. There will be a definite impact. Counties do not have the ability to backfill any shortfalls that will occur at that large of a level.

Mr. Fatica added that these numbers are very real and this will cause great harm to those who can least afford to be harmed at all.

Mr. Giles also noted that the Governor’s budget going into July of this current year reflects a 20% reduction across the board to those human services programs. There is already a reduction and it hasn’t been taken into account that the real source of the money that comes to the states comes largely through the federal government. If that is taken away and combined with what the state is already doing, it will cause a very difficult situation. There will be challenging times ahead regarding human services. A large number of agencies are dependent on this funding and the county does not have the wherewithal to replace those funds.

Mr. Fatica pointed out that some of these agencies will not make it; the situation could be that drastic. He called for a vote on the resolution and it carried in a roll call vote of 6-1, Mr. Beeman voting no.

Gerri Newara  
Appt'd to Erie

Dr. Foust moved to approve the appointment of Gerri Newara to the Erie County Board of Tax Assessment Appeals. He noted that Ms. Newara came highly recommended and is well qualified with an extensive background in real estate and he believes she will do well. Mr. Leone seconded, and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Ann M. Bruno, Council Secretary

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