

September 4, 2012

Mr. Fatica, Chairman, called to order a Regular Meeting of the Erie County Council at 7:00 p.m. at the Millcreek Township Building, 3608 West 26th Street, Erie, Pennsylvania. He thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting which is the last Council "On The Road Show" meeting. He invited everyone to attend Council's Regular meetings scheduled at the County Courthouse. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Mrs. Loll recited a prayer:

Let us Pray, God Our Father, by the labor of man help govern and guide to perfection the work of what is right for most. Hear our prayer and give all men work that enhances their human dignity and draws them closer to each other in the service of others. Amen

Roll Call

The County Clerk called the roll:

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

Members Absent: Mr. Beeman

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

Mr. Fatica's
Comments

Mr. Fatica welcomed everyone to Millcreek Township. He is the representative for Millcreek on County Council. He noted that Millcreek is still one of the best places to live in the country according to CNN Money Magazine. It is the gateway to Presque Isle.

Hearing of
The Public

Matt Tighe, 4774 Crane Road, Edinboro, provided Council information regarding the tax increase at General McLane School District which he believes violates the Pennsylvania Public School Code. He believes all members of the School Board should be present when voting on the annual budget and tax increases. His second grievance involves the actions of the Assessment Office which is keeping secret the formulation of property taxes. This should be an open and transparent process. He asked what the administration is hiding and will await the results of his tax appeal before deciding to file another Right To Know Request. He believes the assessment process is flawed since the public can only bring forth three comparables when the software produces five, and comparables may not even be accepted. Mr. Tighe believes the documentation provided to the public is not complete and is kept off the internet.

Joseph Curlett, 1708 Granada Drive, Millcreek Township, stated he has been telephoning Mr. Fatica for over a month, sent emails and made personal visits and has not received a response. He had an issue with the Human Relations Commission and received a letter from Mr. Smith advising him that he was unwelcome at that office. He believes this is a travesty and wants this issue resolved. He asked for a meeting with Mr. Fatica, Mr. Giles, Attorney Aguglia, the Director of the Human Relations Commission, Ms. Meyer, HRC Investigator and Mr. Smith. He believes the letter sent by Mr. Smith is full of lies and personal attacks. He wants this information verified, when the meeting will be scheduled and why he is unwelcome at the HRC Office.

Dale Reynolds, Ripley, New York, stated that he was arrested and spent two months in Mayville. He was subsequently arrested in Millcreek. He expressed his dissatisfaction with his treatment and believes he has not been treated fairly.

Jason Arndt, 719 Japan Street, Erie, spoke regarding Frank Stefano, the President of the Board of Directors for Erie International Airport. Mr. Stefano posted a picture online that he thinks is political satire. The picture has recently been removed and was a photo of special needs children. Mr. Arndt believes Mr. Stefano used a special program to assign names to these children that Mr. Stefano may have found funny. Mr. Arndt believes them to be inappropriate as one depicts a child in a wheelchair named "Turbo", another is a child named "Spittles." Mr. Arndt understands that Mr. Stefano was appointed by Erie County Council. A disability is never a laughing matter. Mr. Stefano cites his right to free speech, but Mr. Arndt does not believe that free speech can protect one from the consequences of a moral decision.

Dr. Foust suggested that Mr. Arndt bring this to the attention of the other Erie International Airport board members.

Minutes

Mr. Giles moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the August 14, 2012 Regular Meeting. Mr. Leone seconded and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Finance Committee Report

Mr. Giles reported the Finance Committee met on August 30, 2012 and agreed to place on the agenda Ordinances 82, 83, 84 and 85 for second readings. Under New Business the Committee agreed to place Ordinances 89 through 92 and move those to second readings. Discussion was also held regarding the sale of parcel from the repository.

Personnel Committee

Mrs. Loll reported the Personnel Committee met immediately following the Finance Meeting and agreed to place Ordinance Number 88 on the agenda for a second reading. This is in regard to a position at Children and Youth Services.

Mr. Giles' Report

Mr. Giles reported that on August 27, 2012 at the Hirt Auditorium in the Blasco Library, the Finalist Readings were held for the Erie County Poetry Project. After listening to the speakers at tonight's meeting with different issues, he noted that they had one thing in common; that words matter, the kinds of words people use in dialogue routinely and not so routinely. The auditorium was almost packed. This project has been going on for approximately three or four years and it was impressive to see words captured, defined and described. Mr. Giles stated the five finalists were equally impressive. They were Danielle DiCenzo, Ronald Hayes, Tracie Stefurak-Morell, Maria Moks-Unger and Cee Williams. One of the requirements is that the candidate must be published in a legitimate publication. Each candidate made a ten minute presentation and each was very powerful. The Poet Laureate Jury that makes the final decision included Barbara Drew, Helene Grande, the chairperson, Mary Jane Koenig, George Looney from Behrend and Dr. Phil Kelly from Gannon. These individuals function independently in the process. The numbers have been tallied and the announcement will be made tomorrow. Mr. Giles' one regret is that the cable channel was not contacted because he feels this would have been equally impressive to the community to see these five individuals make their presentations. The person who won wrote a poem entitled *Parade Street* which is a very powerful piece of writing. Everyone would have been proud to have seen the caliber, quality and professionalism as well as their topics. One of the candidate's themes was about news stories related to child abuse. The winner will be announced tomorrow at the library.

TONIGHT'S PROGRAM

I. WELCOME BY DR. GREG BROWN, CHAIRMAN ERIE COUNTY POETRY COMMITTEE

II. RECOGNITION OF POET LAUREATE DR. THOMAS FORSTHOEFEL

Would Dr. Thomas Forsthoefel join me up on stage please? Dr. Thomas Forsthoefel has been the Erie County Poet Laureate for the last two years. He is the Chairman of Religious Studies for Mercyhurst University. He is the author of several books and has many published works of poetry to his name. His Project centered on outreach to local high schools students and to providing poetry workshops for inmates at the Albion State Prison and the Erie County Prison. He brought nationally known poets Jane Hirshfield and Jeffrey Harrison to Erie. He also donated \$1300 to the City of Erie School District so that they could resume their district wide poetry contest. Please join me in honoring him for his great work over the last two years. (he might want to say a few words)

III. INTRODUCTION OF JURY BY HELEN GRANDE, CHAIRPERSON, POET LAUREATE JURY

The search for the 2012-2013 Erie County Poet Laureate began this spring with 11 applicants who submitted original poetry, an idea for a community project and a resume attesting to their published works. Five finalists were chosen from that group by the Poet Laureate Jury which consists of:

BARBARA DREW
MARY JANE KOENIG
PROFESSOR GEORGE LOONEY
DR. PHIL KELLY

Keep in mind that the names of the applicants were removed from their submissions. Tonight the Jury will finally connect the poetry with the poets.

IV. REMARKS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF POETS BY JOSEPH GILES, ERIE COUNTY COUNCIL

Please take a moment and recognize these community poets who entered this year's Laureate competition. They all had something important to say and we congratulate these writers for having the courage to share their art:

Eric Botts, Chuck Joy, Keith Moses, Luchetta D. Manus, Kim David Noyes
and Elizabeth Rose Way

V. READINGS BY FIVE POET LAUREATE FINALISTS

Now we come to the highlight of our program---the Finalist readings. These five achieved the highest scores from the Jury for their poetry and for their community project ideas. Scores from tonight's readings will be added to those scores. The poet with the highest combined scores will be named 2012-2013 Erie County Poet Laureate. That announcement will be coming this September. Tonight our finalists will each receive 10 minutes to read their works. Please welcome:

Danielle DiCenzo
Ron Hayes
Marisa Moks-Unger
Tracie Stefurak-Morell
Cee Williams

Please hold your applause until the end of their set.

VI. GREG'S FAREWELL REMARKS & SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Erie County Council
County Executive Barry Grossman
Gannon University

Edinboro University
Mercyhurst University
Penn State University, The Behrend Campus

ERIE COUNTY POET LAUREATE COMMITTEE

Dr. Greg Brown, Chairman, Mercyhurst University
Joseph F. Giles, County Council
Helene Grande, Erie School District (retired)
Dr. Chuck Joy
Mary Jane Koenig, Erie School District (retired)
George Looney, Penn State - Behrend
Berwyn Moore, Gannon University
John Repp, Edinboro University
Douglas R. Smith, County Clerk

POET LAUREATE FINALISTS

Danielle DiCenzo, is the editor for Penn State Behrend's literary journal *Lake Effect*. She earned second place in the University's Creative Writing Contest for the Sonnenburg Award in Poetry for "The Women Removed" and "Outside Bismarck" in 2011. Her published works include "The Women Removed" appearing in *Three Bad Names*, and "The Taxidermist's Son, A Sonnet Crown" appearing in the *Fjord Review* in 2012. Danielle is a 2011, 2012 Chautauqua Scholar.

Ronald Hayes, published works include "Brought To You In Technicolor" (*Gutter Eloquence Magazine* 2011), "The Contemptible Finality Of Daybreak" (*Fractions Installment 2*), "Ten Haiku" (*The Battered Suitcase Vol. 1*), "All That Remains" (*Rosebud No. 14*), and "In Another Meantime" (*Red River Review*). Ron was a finalist in the 2009-2010 Erie County Poet Laureate Competition and served as the Poet Laureate for the City of Erie School District from 2006 through 2009.

Tracie Stefurak-Morell, had 21 poems published 2012 in various journals including *Vox*, *Anemone Sidecar*, *Menacing Hedge*, *B&Y Dog*, and *Inclement*. In 2011, she received the 3rd place award for nonfiction in the Farrell Literary Competition, and placed 3rd for the Sonnenburg Award for Poetry at Penn State Behrend where she graduated with a Distinguished Honors Degree in English Literature.

Marisa Moks-Unger, published works include "Date Night at Bertrand's Bistro in North Park Row" (*Dwelling in Possibility: Voices of Erie County*), "At the Station for the Spiritually Declining" and "Unglued" (*Totem*). Marisa's public readings include Poet's House, Stark Open Mic, and National Arts Club in New York City. Marisa earned an M.A. and a B.A. in English.

Cee Williams, published works include the chapbook "12 Poems", "Last Night" (*Bathtub Gin #19*) and "I am a Poet Not a Plumber" (*Dwelling in Possibility: Voices of Erie County*). Cee founded the Poet's Hall in 2010 and was a Poet Laureate Finalist that same year. His public reading venues include the Bowery Poetry Café in New York, Toronto's Art Bar and Victory Café and Jacksonville's historic Boom Town Theater.

September 5, 2012

Ron Hayes
623 Walnut Street
Erie, PA 16502

Dear Ron,

I am honored to announce your selection as Erie County Poet Laureate for 2012-2013.

Ron, your performance on August 27th at the Hirt Auditorium confirmed your place as Erie County's third Poet Laureate. You moved an audience that memorable night and that is real power. The Laureate Jury recognized the consistency and excellence of your poetry, project, and performance during all phases of this competition.

The Poets Laureate before you have each left a legacy. The challenge which awaits you in the upcoming year is to make the position distinctly your own. I look forward to meeting with you and the Poetry Committee to discuss various facets of the Initiative and to answer any questions.

Please accept my best wishes on behalf of all Erie Countians, the Poet Laureate Jury, and the Erie County Poetry Committee for your selection as 2012-2013 Erie County Poet Laureate.

Warm regards,

/s/ Joseph Giles
Vice Chairman Erie County Council

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| <p>Donation from Friends of the Lib.</p> | <p>Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 80, 2012, "Fourth 2012 Library Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation Of \$8,000 And Creation Of A Line Item For Donation From Friends Of The Library." Mr. Leone moved to adopt; Dr. Foust seconded, and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.</p> |
| <p>Liquid Fuels Rev. Exp. for Rd. Culvert Waterford Bor.</p> | <p>Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 82, 2012, "2012 Liquid Fuels Fund Budget Revised Expenditures Of \$19,380 For Replacement Of Road Culvert In Waterford Borough." Mr. Giles moved to adopt; Mrs. Loll seconded, and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.</p> |
| <p>Gen. Fund Rev. Exp. for Hom. Case</p> | <p>Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 83, 2012, "2012 General Fund Budget Revised Expenditures Of \$6,000 For Homicide Case Assigned To Public Defender." Mr. Giles moved to adopt; Mr. Leone seconded and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.</p> |
| <p>Gen Fund SA & Line Items for AOPC-MDJ Perim. Sec. Grants</p> | <p>Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 84, 2012, "Twenty-First 2012 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation Of \$51,472 And Creation Of Line Items For AOPC – MDJ Perimeter Security Grants." Mr. Leone moved to adopt; Mrs. Loll seconded, and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.</p> |
| <p>Cap. Prjcts SA For PCORP Loss Prev. Grant</p> | <p>Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 85, 2012, "2012 Capital Projects Fund Supplemental Appropriation Of \$10,000 And Creation Of New Line Item For PCORP Loss Prevention Grant." Mr. Giles moved to adopt; Mrs. Loll seconded, and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.</p> |
| <p>C&Y Rev. Exp. Solicitor Position</p> | <p>Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 88, 2012, "2012 Children & Youth Services Fund Budget Revised Expenditures Of \$16,075 And Filling A Vacancy In Department Solicitor Position 005100-033." Mrs. Loll moved to adopt; Dr. Foust seconded, and it carried in a roll call vote of 5-1, Mr. Leone voting no.</p> |
| <p>Agenda Amended</p> | <p>Dr. Foust moved to amend the agenda to include Ordinances 89, 90, 91 and 92 as second readings. Mr. Giles seconded, and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.</p> |
| <p>PH SA For Incr. in Injury Prev. Grant</p> | <p>Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 89, 2012, "Seventh 2012 Public Health Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation Of \$7,537 For Increase In Injury Prevention Grant." Mr. Giles moved to adopt; Mrs. Loll seconded, and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.</p> |
| <p>PH Rev. Exp. for Cancer Grant</p> | <p>Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 90, 2012, "2012 Public Health Fund Budget Revised Revenue And Expenditures Of \$8,503 For The Cancer Grant Which Was Not Renewed By The State." Mrs. Loll moved to adopt; Mr. Leone seconded, and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.</p> |

Apprvg. ICA Btwn
Erie Cnty & Mill Vill.
& Twp of LeBoeuf

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 91, 2012, "Approving An Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement Between The County Of Erie And The Borough Of Mill Village And The Township Of LeBoeuf For Creation Of Regional Emergency Management Agency." Mr. Giles moved to adopt; Mrs. Loll seconded, and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Apprv. Revis. LERTA
For McKean &
Washington

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 92, 2012, "Waiving Section 4 Of Erie County LERTA Ordinance 59, 1980 And Approving The Revised LERTA Program For McKean And Washington Townships And McKean Borough." Mrs. Loll moved to adopt; Dr. Foust seconded, and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Sale of Parcel Apprvd.

Dr. Foust moved to approve the sale of Parcel from Repository for Unsold Properties at Index No. 33-53-225-1.55. Mrs. Loll seconded, and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Mr. Fatica gave a reminder that the next regular meeting will be held at the Erie County Courthouse at 7:00 p.m. on September 18th. The next Finance/Personnel meeting will be scheduled at 4:00 p.m. on September 13th in Room 114A at the Courthouse.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Ann M. Bruno, Council Secretary
