

October 30, 2012

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, a moment of silence was held in memory of Craig Plyler.

Moment of Silence

Mr. Giles asked that a moment of silence be observed in memory of Craig Plyler who was a former county employee. At the age of 48, he died in a terrible industrial accident. His wife is a current county employee. Mr. Plyler left behind a young family.

Mrs. Loll recited a prayer:

Let us pray. Let us worship in spirit and truth rising together to serve the residents of Erie County. Let us be united in all we consider once decided. Let us be trusted to be dependent upon and carry the burden of government and be mindful of the needs of the residents. We ask this in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Roll Call

The County Clerk called the roll:

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

Members Absent: Mr. Beeman
Mr. Leone

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

Hearing of the Public

Patricia Timko, President of the Erie County Chapter of the Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees, Diane Grzelak, Member of PASR and Co-Chairman of Community Service, and Judith Newlin, President Elect of PASR, presented members of Council with a check representing the value of the volunteer hours the members of PASR in Region 9 have contributed to various charities and non-profits throughout 2011. These members come from all areas of school employment. Ms. Timko explained that members contributed 116,622 hours valued at \$3,473,615. This is in keeping with one of the purposes of PASR of encouraging members to volunteer in the community.

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Finance Committee

Mr. Giles reported that the Finance Committee met on Thursday, October 25, 2012 and agreed to place on the agenda for second readings Ordinances 101 and 102 along with first readings for budget ordinances 103 through 120 and to move ordinances 121 through 127 to second readings. Also on the agenda are Resolution 44, the appointment of Mr. DeLuca to the Redevelopment Authority and the sale of a parcel from the repository.

Mr. Giles further reported that the Legislative Budget Finance Committee of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania performed a thorough analysis of the 911 Emergency Telephone System for funding expenditures and future challenges and opportunities. This was an extensive study on all of the 911 programs in the Commonwealth. Erie County is detailed in the report as well. Mr.

Giles explained that the Committee would not move forward with any changes with respect to the 911 system until this was done. A copy has been printed out for Council as well.

Mr. Giles noted that an issue that everyone should be aware of is the Sequestration Transparency Act for 2012. NACo has done a presentation for state executives regarding this particular topic. Mr. Giles provided copies to Council. This is an issue that will impact what is available by way of resourcing starting January 2013. It is a Power Point analysis in terms of what sequestration means and details the calendar, what is exempt from the law, the impact of sequestration and what the expectation is along with a curve and charts regarding both the increase in revenues and the surrounding tax issues. MH/MR, Children and Youth, Drug and Alcohol and a variety of all human services programs funding starts with the federal government, goes to the state government and in turn goes to the counties who then distribute that to the various agencies. This will have a dramatic impact in that funding stream. He believes this is one of the best summaries he has seen and is one of the first work products of the newly appointed Executive Director of NACo. A copy of the act itself is also available for review.

Mr. Giles also reported that the state created a block grant for human services funding. Erie County is one of a small number of counties selected to participate in the state model for the Human Services Block Grant. This will provide flexibility at the local level in deciding the distribution of these monies. Shari Gross held a public meeting at the library today to share this information. The process is still moving forward. Mr. Giles congratulated everyone involved because this was a very competitive selection process. The legislature now wants to change the number of counties involved to more than twenty. Dr. Foust asked whether any discussion was held regarding service providers and out-patient services closing due to lack of money. Mr. Giles replied this may have the potential to address some of those needs. The unfortunate part is that the block grant, although flexible, is not a huge amount of money. When looking at the information regarding the sequestration issue and the numbers, Mr. Giles believes this is the beginning of some challenges for everyone due to limited resources and a plan of action needs to be determined.

Mr. Fatica asked about Erie County's status of urban vs. rural area. Ms. Pasquale replied that the state will be holding a meeting tomorrow organized by Senator Earll to determine a final resolution. Mr. Giles noted they are caught between two separate systems, the Work Investment data and human services. Mr. Giles noted that anyone who knows Secretary Alexander knows that he is a difficult negotiator.

Personnel Committee

Mrs. Loll reported that the Personnel Committee met immediately following Finance and agreed to place Ordinance 98 of the agenda regarding the upgrade of a Planner II to a Planner IV. This was previously tabled and remains tabled. Mr. Fatica noted that he has not received a letter from the Director of Administration addressing this issue.

Interest Free Loan To PRM For Sprinkler Water & Sewer Prjcts

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 101, 2012, "2012 Gaming Fund Budget Interest Free Loan To Pleasant Ridge Manor For Sprinkler, Water And Sewer Projects." Mr. Giles moved to adopt; Dr. Foust seconded, and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Purch. Veh. w/Super. Fees

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 102, 2012, "2012 General Fund Budget Revised Expenditures Of \$57,000 In Adult Probation For The Purchase Of Vehicles With Supervision Fees." Mr. Cleaver moved to adopt; Dr. Foust seconded, and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Agenda Amended

Mr. Giles moved to amend the agenda to include Ordinances 121 through 127 as second readings. Dr. Foust seconded, and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote. Mr. Giles explained that these are fairly routine ordinances and this will clear the agenda for the budget issues in the next meeting.

First Rdgs.

Mr. Smith gave first readings of the following ordinances:

- Ordinance Number 103, 2012, "2013 Erie County Care Management Budget"
- Ordinance Number 104, 2012, "2013 Domestic Relations Fund Budget"
- Ordinance Number 105, 2012, "2013 Planning Fund Budget"
- Ordinance Number 106, 2012, "2013 Library Fund Budget"
- Ordinance Number 107, 2012, "2013 Public Health Fund Budget"
- Ordinance Number 108, 2012, "2013 Public Safety Fund Budget"
- Ordinance Number 109, 2012, "2013 Pleasant Ridge Manor Fund Budget"
- Ordinance Number 110, 2012, "2013 Pleasant Ridge Manor Depreciation Reserve Fund Budget"
- Ordinance Number 111, 2012, "2013 Health Choices Fund Budget"
- Ordinance Number 112, 2012, "2013 Drug And Alcohol Fund Budget"
- Ordinance Number 113, 2012, "2013 Children And Youth Services Fund Budget"
- Ordinance Number 114, 2012, "2013 Mental Health/Mental Retardation Fund Budget"
- Ordinance Number 115, 2012, "2013 Liquid Fuels Fund Budget"
- Ordinance Number 116, 2012, "2013 Gaming Fund Budget"
- Ordinance Number 117, 2012, "2013 Debt Service Fund Budget"
- Ordinance Number 118, 2012, "2013 Employee Fringe Benefit Fund Budget"
- Ordinance Number 119, 2012, "2013 General Fund Budget"
- Ordinance Number 120, 2012, "2013 Real Estate Tax Levy"

PH SA for Incr.
TB Grant

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 121, 2012, "Eighth 2012 Public Health Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation Of \$16,660 For Increase In Tuberculosis Grant." Mr. Giles moved to adopt; Dr. Foust seconded. Mr. Fatica noted that tuberculosis is on the rise in certain areas, including Erie County. This is money from the state. He called for a vote on the ordinance, and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Lib. SA Donation
For Equip. in Lib.
Heritage Room

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 122, 2012, "Sixth 2012 Library Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation Of \$3,000 Donation For Equipment In The Library Heritage Room." Dr. Foust moved to adopt; Mr. Cleaver seconded. Dr. Foust noted that when he wrote his master's thesis, it was written almost exclusively using microfilm from the library. This equipment helps read microfilm which is still a heavily used resource tool. Mr. Fatica called for a vote on the ordinance, and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Planning Fund
SA for Act 137
Housing Prjcts

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 123, 2012, "Second 2012 Planning Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation Of \$60,000 For Act 137 Affordable Housing Projects

Budgeted In 2011 But Completed In 2012.” Mr. Giles moved to adopt; Dr. Foust seconded. Mr. Giles congratulated the Planning Department for hosting the Pennsylvania Annual Conference for Planners. This is the first time it has been held locally in a long time. Every planner from across the Commonwealth was here and most impressed by the bayfront. Mr. Fatica called for a vote on the ordinance, and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Gen. Fund SA
Trans to Planning
For Act 137 Prjcts

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 124, 2012, “Twenty-Fourth 2012 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation Of \$60,000 For Transfer To Planning For Act 137 Projects Budgeted In 2011 But Completed In 2012.” Dr. Foust moved to adopt; Mrs. Loll seconded, and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Gen Fund SA
HUD Grant in HRC

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 125, 2012, “Twenty-Fifth 2012 General Fund Supplemental Appropriation Of \$25,000 For HUD Grant In Human Relations Commission And The Creation Of A New Line Item.” Mr. Giles moved to adopt; Dr. Foust seconded.

Mr. Giles moved to amend the ordinance as follows to include the creation of two line items:

“Twenty-Fifth 2012 General Fund Supplemental Appropriation Of \$25,000 For HUD Grant In Human Relations Commission And The Creation Of A New Line Items.” Dr. Foust seconded, and inquired as to the number of line items being created. Mr. Smith responded there were two. Mr. Fatica called for a vote on the motion to amend, and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

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

Apprv. Revis.
LERTA in Erie

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 126, 2012, “Waiving Section 4 Of Erie County LERTA Ordinance 59, 1980 And Approving The Revised LERTA Program In The City Of Erie.” Mr. Cleaver moved to adopt; Dr. Foust seconded. Mr. Fatica noted that Council is the last body to agree to this. He called for a vote on the ordinance, and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Apprv. Revis.
LERTA Hbk Twp

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 127, 2012, “Waiving Section 4 Of Erie County LERTA Ordinance 59, 1980 And Approving The Revised LERTA Program for Harborcreek Township.” Dr. Foust moved to adopt; Mr. Cleaver seconded, and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Exon. Taxes on Props
Owned by Union City
Pride

Mr. Smith gave a reading of Resolution Number 44, 2012, “Exoneration Of Taxes On Five (5) Properties Owned By Union City Pride, Inc.” Mrs. Loll moved to adopt; Dr. Foust seconded, and it carried in a roll call vote of 4-1, Mr. Cleaver voting no.

William DeLuca, Jr.
Appt'd to Redev. Auth.

Dr. Foust moved to appoint William DeLuca, Jr. to the Erie County Redevelopment Authority; Mrs. Loll seconded, and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Sale of Parcel apprvd.

Dr. Foust moved to approve the sale of parcel from the Repository for Unsold Properties at Index No. 33-016-019.1-268.51. Mr. Giles seconded, and it carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Mr. Fatica gave a reminder that next Tuesday is Election Day and asked that everyone cast their vote.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Ann M. Bruno, Council Secretary
