

MINUTES

Erie County Council

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Fiore Leone, Chairman
André R. Horton, Vice Chairman
Carl Anderson, III
Kathleen Fatica
Dr. Kyle Foust
Carol Loll
Scott R. Rastetter

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 19, 2019

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Leone called to order a Regular Meeting of the Erie County Council at 4:24 p.m. at the Erie County Council Chambers, 140 West 6th Street, Room 117, Erie, PA. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Mrs. Loll read the following prayer:

OPTIONAL PRAYER OR INVOCATION

"Let us pray. We gather with our fellow Council members to govern. We need to reach beyond everything we know, so we can teach other to use our talents, and our feelings and limitations not for manipulation but for the betterment of all. We are extraordinary in the fact that we can teach each other, help each other, and listen to each other. Help us to listen and never fall short, never fail and be compassionate with each other. Our Divine Savior, help us to expand our views and accomplish all that we can. Teach us how to live through the example of our Heavenly Redeemer. Amen."

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mr. Anderson; Mrs. Fatica; Dr. Foust; Mr. Horton; Mrs. Loll; Mr. Rastetter; Chairman Leone.

Also Present: Douglas R. Smith, James Sparber, Tracey Fugagli, Thomas Talarico, Sam Lynch

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Laurie Nicholson; Girard, PA; Ms. Nicholson is the founder of Parental Alienation Awareness of Pennsylvania. She stated that Pennsylvania has recently recognized parental alienation as abuse. As an advocate, she is unable to refer families anywhere as there are no community resources available. She deals with parents each day and offers support, although this is not what these families need. They need specialized programs to help their families. There are

two parent suicides each hour as a result of being alienated from their children. The effects of alienation on a child include 63% of teen suicides; 70% of juveniles are placed in state operated institutions; 71% are high school dropouts; 75% are children in chemical abuse centers; 85% of children also exhibit behavioral disorders; 90% are homeless or runaways. She stated that the suicide hotlines do not know what parental alienation is. Parents cannot call the United Way 211 and receive assistance or a referral as the subject is unknown. Local mental health professionals lack the education or qualifications to deal with families experiencing alienation. She feels the County needs programs and services in place to assist this growing issue. There are 22 million families nationwide, an average of 50 million children, experiencing alienation. She mentioned that there is the Erie County Re-Entry Services and Support Alliance for criminals; the Justice Youth Works Program for families involved with OCY; numerous programs for addicts, veterans, senior citizens and the mentally ill; the Caring Place for children grieving from the death of a parent. She wanted to know where a child or teen would go who has lost a parent that is very much still alive. She stated that there are no services in Erie County to help with parental alienation. She commented there are 20 parents in her support group and there are 44 children in this area. She is requesting services or programs to be put in place in Erie County for disconnected, targeted families of parental alienation. She offered to meet with any Council member to discuss the topic. She read a partial email response from Council stating, "As a group, Council does not support attaching its name or endorsement to this cause." She wanted to know why Council would not support a cause that would benefit these families.

Paul Kist; Mercer Road, Erie, PA; Mr. Kist thanked Council for opportunity to speak and stated that he is 55 years old, the father of two, and a veteran. He is an alienated parent and commented that nationally and internationally recognized as child psychological abuse in the DSM. He stated that a friend of his is implementing the Toby Center for Family Connections and has spoken out to a similar body to help them understand parental alienation. He stated that children are being psychologically abused daily and the responsibility of parents is to love and nurture. He thanked Council for their time.

Dr. Dickerson; Erie, PA; Dr. Dickerson stated that he is a veteran and has been alienated from his son for 9 years. He hasn't seen him most of his life and gets to talk to his son on the phone but he doesn't know him. Dr. Dickerson feels that we need something in Erie County to help these families.

Chairman Leone thanked the speakers and wanted to explain a few things. He has been on Council for a number of years and has seen projects as far as OCY is concerned and many issues that he sees are issues that have occurred in the past in Erie County. He commented that the issues these families are dealing with have nothing to do with County Council. The issue needs to be changed as

far as the law itself is concerned. Council does not have the ability to change that and they have looked into a lot with OCY to try to make changes. That is the unfortunate part of it as it stems from the law and only the Courts can make any changes. Council has no power to make any change and it has to be done through the legislators and senators at the State level.

**MINUTES FROM
PREVIOUS MEETING**

Dr. Foust moved to approve the minutes from the November 13, 2018 Regular Meeting, the February 5, 2019 Regular Meeting, and the February 14, 2019 Special Meeting. This was seconded by Mr. Rastetter and carried in a 7 - 0 vote.

**REPORTS OF COUNTY
OFFICIALS**

**County Executive and/or
her Designee**

None.

**Finance Committee - Mr.
Anderson**

Mr. Anderson reported that the Finance Committee met on February 14, 2019, and agreed to place Ordinances 5 and 6, and Resolution 6 on the agenda.

**Personnel Committee -
Mrs. Fatica**

Mrs. Fatica reported that the Personnel Committee met immediately following the Finance Committee and agreed to place two board appointments on the agenda.

Other

Mr. Anderson reported on the Election information and discussed vendor demos. Data is being compiled from the surveys and the committee continues to work. He reminded Council that on March 13th, ES&S will be conducting another demo. He also stated that the PRM Committee continues compiling data and hopes to present information to Council within the next month.

Mr. Horton commented about the Erie County Community College issue. He stated that the Department of Education met in January but do not know if our application was taken up at that time. He would like to see more frequency in reporting by the Administration and Mr. Lee who was heading up the application. In 2006 it was agreed by many that there needed to be a community college. In 2010 the request came forward again and the only difference was that the numbers had gotten worse; in 2016, Council has the willingness to say that yes the working men and women in Erie County did deserve to have the opportunities that other youth around the Commonwealth; Erie County does not have a standalone community college. This city is the poorest zip code in the Commonwealth. The dislocated workers from GE need a community college. Mr. Horton is a 30 year member of the trades union and he knows that it is an important piece and educational tool. They need a standalone community college to meet the scale of the problem in Erie County to provide a skilled

workforce. There is not one north of I-80 and the only thing that continues to happen is the numbers are now worse than they were in 2016. They are still managing the decline. He commented that there is no community that can consider itself thriving and the civil rights issue of the day continues to be Brown vs. Board of Education. There is a broken and failing school district and Mr. Horton is imploring the same captains of industry, partnerships, grass roots organizations and the same people who were excited before Council passed the application off to the County Executive they need to come back now. They deserve to earn and learn their way out of poverty.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Anderson moved to amend the agenda to make Ordinances 5 and 6 second readings. This was seconded by Mrs. Fatica and carried in a unanimous roll call vote.

Ord. 5, 2019 – PRM Letter of Credit

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 5, 2019, "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 Nonelectoral Debt Thereby; Approving a \$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". This was moved by Dr. Foust, seconded by Mr. Horton and carried in a 7 - 0 vote.

Ord. 6, 2019 – GF SA of \$10,118 for Rehab of HRC Offices

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 6, 2019, "Sixth 2019 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$10,118 for The Rehab of The Human Relations Commission Office Building and Additional Suite". This was moved by Mr. Horton, seconded by Mr. Anderson and carried in a 7 - 0 vote.

Res. 6, 2019 - Opposing Changes to the Medical Assistance Transportation Program (MATP)

Mr. Smith gave a reading of Resolution Number 6, 2019, "Opposing Changes to the Medical Assistance Transportation Program (MATP)". This was moved by Dr. Foust, seconded by Mr. Horton and carried in a 7 - 0 vote.

Possible appointment of Nathan Miller to the Erie County Planning Commission

This was moved by Dr. Foust, seconded by Mr. Horton and carried in a 7 - 0 vote.

**Possible appointment of
Shantel Hilliard to the
Human Relations
Commission Advisory
Board**

This was moved by Dr. Foust, seconded by Mr. Horton and carried in a 7 - 0 vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Foust moved to adjourn at 5:00 p.m.