

MINUTES

**Erie County Council**

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André R. Horton, Chairman  
Carl Anderson, III, Vice Chairman  
Kim Clear  
Scott Rastetter  
Mary Rennie  
Ellen Schauerma  
Brian Shank

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**Tuesday, April 7, 2020**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**OPTIONAL PRAYER OR INVOCATION**

Mrs. Rennie led the optional prayer: I would like to offer this invocation by first acknowledging the fear and uncertainty of the present. We are facing the loss of lives. Many are facing the loss of a means and a way of life. Let us take hope in the compassionate words of the Dalai Lama: "It is under the greatest adversity that there exists the greatest potential for doing good, both for oneself and for others." And as we are frequently exhorted lately to relieve anxiety through conscious breath, this wisdom: "As you breathe in cherish yourself. As you breathe out, cherish all human beings."

**ROLL CALL**

Via Zoom

Conference:

Members Present: Mr. Anderson; Mrs. Clear; Mr. Horton; Mr. Rastetter;  
Mrs. Rennie; Mrs. Schauerma; Mr. Shank

Also Present: Douglas R. Smith, James Sparber, Tracey Fugagli,  
Thomas Talarico; Nicole Inan

**HEARING OF THE PUBLIC**

None to be heard.

**MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

Kim Clear moved to approve the minutes from the March 17th and 24th Regular Meetings. This was seconded by Brian Shank and carried in a 7 - 0 vote.

**March 17, 2020 - Regular Meeting**

**March 24, 2020 - Special Meeting****REPORTS OF COUNTY OFFICIALS****County Executive and/or her Designee**

County Executive Dahlkemper thanked Council for the rising for the pledge and the prayer in this time of community emergency. The spread of COVID 19 is minimum in our community at this time; however they are tracking spread which may be hindered by not knowing where positive individuals have traveled or in what cases it was contracted from another individual. Erie is the 15th largest County in Pennsylvania; there are 30 Counties with more cases at this time. She feels that it was the best call of the County to have put in place the stay at home order in its early stages. The County Executive feels blessed to have a team of people led by the County Health Dept. who have come together in a collective manner. County Executive Dahlkemper offered some clarification on the COVID 19 Bureau that Council will be voting on: stating that the Bureau is about creating a location for all of the revenue sources -- Health Dept., Justice Grant, FEMA, State Stabilization, Potentially more Stimulus Packages, etc. Emailed each Council Member the organizational chart for the chain of command; utilizing various employees from a multitude of county offices. Enforcement of the businesses, assisted and enforced by County Sheriff's, Detectives, and alike. Creating the Bureau to track and report the revenue and expenses for maximum reimbursement specifically for this time period only. She is hopeful that this Bureau would not be in the budget for next year, and that COVID would be a thing of the past. The County Executive stressed not bringing in new employees, rather moving people to accommodate the current need. The overall goal is to help capture the overall cost of this pandemic to the County. PEMA is only giving a 75% reimbursement, so the County would be responsible for the remaining 25%. Ultimately this is about saving lives, and helping the community to survive. This is the reason that they would prefer the Bureau to be in the General Fund, not specifically in the Health Dept.

Mr. Rastetter stated he has had multiple calls about the County Employees, now that they are not in the Courthouse - what are they doing, are they getting paid, and is the tax dollar going towards that pay? County Executive Dahlkemper clarified that all County Employees are getting paid on the normal payroll although this is being evaluated, and essential employees are rotating. In the Courts, prisoners are being met virtually with the judges. Non-essential employees are not working; they are completing trainings and many people are working remotely to continue the social distancing efforts. The individuals who are working directly on the COVID 19 project, will look to be paid on the COVID payroll reimbursement. Finance team is led by James Sparber to monitor and track finances. Trying to utilize individuals that are already county

employees.

Chairman Horton questioned the validity of employees that have been working on the COVID relief getting paid retroactive to March or only going forward. County Executive confirmed if the retroactive is allowed, then the tracking will be beneficial in paying for those positions.

County Executive also stated that this week is Public Health Week. Next week is Telecommunications Week.

**Finance Committee -Mrs. Clear**

Mrs. Clear reported that the Finance Committee met on Thursday, April 2, 2020 and have put forth for the agenda Old Business Item A: Ord. 12, 2020 - First 2020 Capital Projects Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$750,000 and Creation of New Line Items For Children & Youth Renovations on 2nd Floor Office; and New Business Items A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H: Ord. 18, 2020 - Second 2020 Library Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$15,179 To Appropriate State Aid-District For Funds Carried Over as Deferred Revenue From July-December 2019, Ord. 19, 2020 - Extending the Discount Rate for the Payment of County Real Estate from April 30, 2020 to June 30, 2020, Ord. 20, 2020 - Ninth 2020 General Fund Supplemental Appropriation of \$950,060 and Creation New Bureau for COVID 19 Grant and Expense Lines, Ord. 21, 2020 - Tenth 2020 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$150,000 for Transfer to ECGRA COVID-19 Response Fund, and Parcels I-O.

**Personnel Committee - Mrs. Rennie**

Mrs. Rennie reported that the Personnel Committee met on Thursday, April 2, 2020 and have put forth for the agenda Old Business Items B, C, & D: Ord. 13, 2020 - 2020 General Fund Budget Revised Expenditures of \$36,724 and Creation of New Maintenance Supervisor Position for County Facilities, Ord. 14, 2020 - First 2020 Public Health Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$41,263 Data Analysis Grant and Creation of New Special Project Secretary II Position, and Ord. 15, 2020 - Eighth 2020 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$32,044 For District Attorney Office Elimination of Chief Deputy District Attorney & Creation of Assistant District Attorney Position.

**Other**

Mr. Anderson acknowledged the work that the public health and safety workers have put forth in this emergent time: "They deserve to be recognized for their efforts." He went on to thank his colleagues for their diligent work in making sure the community is taken care of. Mr. Anderson specifically applauded Mr. Horton in the amount of work he has devoted to the community and the leadership he has proven. Mr. Anderson went on to acknowledge Mr. Talarico's efforts in assuring that Council is proceeding in the most legal yet efficient ways possible. He complimented the Council staff and the efforts being put forth to make sure everything is accurate. He thanked Mrs. Rennie and Mrs. Clear for their attention and efforts on maintaining clarity for the agendas.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Second Reading of Ordinance Number 12, 2020, "First 2020 Capital Projects Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$750,000 and Creation of New Line Items For Children & Youth Renovations on 2nd Floor Office" (First Reading on 3-17-20)(Finance Committee)**

Mr. Smith gave a Second Reading of Ordinance Number 12, 2020, "First 2020 Capital Projects Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$750,000 and Creation of New Line Items For Children & Youth Renovations on 2nd Floor Office." This was moved by Carl Anderson, seconded by Brian Shank and carried in a 7 - 0 vote.

**Second Reading of Ordinance Number 13, 2020, "2020 General Fund Budget Revised Expenditures of \$36,724 and Creation of New Maintenance Supervisor Position for County Facilities." (First Reading 3-17-20)(Personnel Committee)**

Mr. Smith gave a Second Reading of Ordinance Number 13, 2020, "2020 General Fund Budget Revised Expenditures of \$36,724 and Creation of New Maintenance Supervisor Position for County Facilities." This was moved by Carl Anderson, seconded by Scott Rastetter and carried in a 7 - 0 vote.

**Second Reading of Ordinance Number 14, 2020, "First 2020 Public Health Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$41,263 Data Analysis Grant for Creation of New Special Project Secretary II Position"(First Reading 3-17-20)(Personnel**

Mr. Smith gave a Second Reading of Ordinance Number 14, 2020, "First 2020 Public Health Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$41,263 Data Analysis Grant for Creation of New Special Project Secretary II Position." This was moved by Carl Anderson, seconded by Mary Rennie and carried in a 7 - 0 vote.

**Committee)**

**Second Reading of Ordinance Number 15, 2020, "Eighth 2020 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$32,044 For District Attorney Office Elimination of Chief Deputy District Attorney & Creation of Assistant District Attorney Position" (First Reading 3-17-20)(Personnel Committee)**

Mr. Smith gave a Second Reading of Ordinance Number 15, 2020, "Eighth 2020 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$32,044 For District Attorney Office Elimination of Chief Deputy District Attorney & Creation of Assistant District Attorney Position." This was moved by Scott Rastetter, seconded by Kim Clear and carried in a 7 - 0 vote.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mrs. Clear motioned to amend the agenda to move Ordinance 21, 2020 to a Second Reading, and Parcel Items I thru O to one motion. This was Seconded by Mr. Anderson. The amendment was carried in a 7-0 vote.

**First Reading of Ordinance Number 18, 2020, "Second 2020 Library Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$15,179 in District Library State Aid as Deferred Revenue From 2019. (Finance Committee)**

Mr. Smith gave a First Reading of Ordinance Number 18, 2020, "Second 2020 Library Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$15,179 in District Library State Aid as Deferred Revenue From 2019."

**First Reading of Ordinance Number 19, 2020 "Extending the Discount Rate for the Payment of**

Mr. Smith gave a First Reading of Ordinance Number 19, 2020 "Extending the Discount Rate for the Payment of County Real Estate from April 30, 2020 to June 30, 2020."

**County Real Estate from April 30, 2020 to June 30, 2020." (Finance Committee) (Attached)**

**First Reading of Ordinance Number 20, 2020 "Ninth 2020 General Fund Supplemental Appropriation of \$950,060 and Creation New Bureau for COVID 19 Grant and Expense Lines" (Finance Committee) (Attached)** Mr. Smith gave a First Reading of Ordinance Number 20, 2020 "Ninth 2020 General Fund Supplemental Appropriation of \$950,060 and Creation New Bureau for COVID 19 Grant and Expense Lines."

**First Reading of Ordinance Number 21, 2020 "Tenth 2020 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$150,000 for Transfer to ECGRA COVID-19 Response Fund" (Finance Committee) (Attached)** Mr. Smith gave a Second reading of Ordinance Number 21, 2020 "Tenth 2020 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$150,000 for Transfer to ECGRA COVID-19 Response Fund." This was moved by Carl Anderson, seconded by Mary Rennie and carried in a 7 - 0 vote.

Mr. Anderson thanked Council for their diligence in passing these essential funds for the community, and specifically Chairman Horton for the work he has done and his diligence in helping the County of Erie.

Mr. Horton is proud of the work that has been done collectively. He asked each Council Member to evaluate their districts and evaluate the needs of their area. He urged them to call EGRA to make them aware of an extenuating circumstances in their respective districts with respect to the COVID 19 pandemic. He emphasized that people often do not know where to look for help.

**Resolution 14, 2020 "To Continue the State of Emergency in Erie County" (Finance Committee) (Attached)** Mr. Smith gave a title-only reading of Resolution 14, 2020 "To Continue the State of Emergency in Erie County." This was moved by Mary Rennie, seconded by Kim Clear and carried in a 7 - 0 vote.

**Resolution Number 15, 2020 "Approving the 2020 Solicitor Contract for the Office of the Erie County Controller" (Finance Committee)** Mr. Smith gave a title-only reading of Resolution Number 15, 2020 "Approving the 2020 Solicitor Contract for the Office of the Erie County Controller." This was moved by Scott Rastetter, seconded by Ellen Schauerman and carried in a 7 - 0 vote.

**Resolution Number 16, 2020 "Designation of Agent Resolution for PEMA/FEMA Disaster Aid" (Finance Committee)(Attached)** Mr. Smith gave a title-only reading of Resolution Number 16, 2020 "Designation of Agent Resolution for PEMA/FEMA Disaster Aid." This was moved by Carl Anderson, seconded by Kim Clear and carried in a 7 - 0 vote.

**Resolution Number 17, 2020 "Erie County Contribution of \$150,000 to COVID-19 Response Fund" (Finance Committee) (Attached)** Mr. Smith gave a title-only reading of Resolution Number 17, 2020 "Erie County Contribution of \$150,000 to COVID-19 Response Fund." This was moved by Scott Rastetter, seconded by Brian Shank and carried in a 7 - 0 vote.

**Possible Sale of a Parcel from the Repository for Unsold Property at Index Number: 27-025-010.0-010.00** Mr. Smith called a roll call vote for the Possible Sale of all Parcel Items I through O; this was motioned by Mrs. Clear and Seconded by Mr. Rastetter, and carried in a 7-0 vote.

**Possible Sale of a Parcel from the Repository for Unsold Property at Index Number: 47-012-028.0-002.00**

**Possible Sale of a Parcel from the Repository for Unsold Property at Index Number: 16-030-056.0-125.00**

**Possible Sale of a Parcel from the Repository for Unsold Property at Index Number: 16-030-046.0-113.00**

**Possible Sale of a Parcel  
from the Repository for  
Unsold Property at Index  
Number: 16-030-026.0-  
234.00**

**Possible Sale of a Parcel  
from the Repository for  
Unsold Property at Index  
Number: 18-050-079.0-  
212.00**

**Possible Sale of a Parcel  
from the Repository for  
Unsold Property at Index  
Number: 14-010-022.0-  
338.00**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**The next  
Finance/Personnel Meeting  
is scheduled for April 16,  
2020 at 4:00 PM. The next  
Regular Meeting of Erie  
County Council is  
scheduled for April 21,  
2020. Zoom-Conferencing  
information to be made  
available to public prior to  
the meetings.**

Mrs. Clear moved to adjourn. Mr. Horton adjourned the meeting at 5:11pm.