

MINUTES

Erie County Council

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

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, May 26, 2020

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

OPTIONAL PRAYER OR INVOCATION

Mrs. Clear offered words from Helen Keller: "Keep your face to the sun, and you will never see the shadows."

ROLL CALL

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

May 19, 2020 - Regular Meeting

Brian Shank moved to approve the minutes from the May 19, 2020 Regular Meeting. This was seconded by Ellen Schauerman and carried in a 7 - 0 vote.

REPORTS OF COUNTY OFFICIALS

County Executive and/or her Designee

No report.

Finance Committee -Mrs. Clear

Finance Chair Clear reported that the Finance Committee met on Thursday, May 21, 2020 and put forth on the agenda new items: Ord. 25, 2020 "Fourteenth 2020 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$24,334 for Insurance Coverage Change in Office of Controller," Ord. 26, 2020 "Fifteenth 2020 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$1,500 and Creation of Line Item for Protection from Abuse Fees," Ord. 27, 2020 "Amending Ordinance Number 26, 2018, for the Temporary County Health Department Licensing Fees for Food Service Establishments, Organized Camps and Campgrounds, Public Pools, Manufactured Home Parks, Body Art Establishments Until July 31, 2020," Ord. 28, 2020 "Waiving Section 4 of Erie County LERTA Ordinance 59, 1980 and Approving the Revised LERTA Program in Union City Borough," and Resolution 26, 2020 "Resolution Adopting a Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) Citizen Participation Plan for the County of Erie And the County Of Erie on Behalf of Edinboro Borough, Girard Township, McKean Township and North East Borough."

Mrs. Clear reported that the Audit Committee met May 21, 2020: Highlights from the report include: No discrepancies in management; Net change in Fund Balance was 2.5 Million, leaving the General Fund Balance at 54.65 Million (approximately 54% of annual expenditure); The Unassigned Fund Balance is at 44% of the annual expenditures, which is an extremely healthy fund balance (10% recommended); pensions were well funding from the strong markets of 2019 (18% County, 19% Pleasant Ridge Manor); Looking at a reduction in real estate taxes, hotel taxes, etc. with the COVID-19 issues, they are seeking some CARE funding to help off-set some costs.

Personnel Committee - Mrs.Rennie

Mrs. Rennie reported that the Personnel Committee met Thursday, May 21, 2020; no Personnel Committee items for this meeting.

Other

Mr. Shank presented concerns and questions to the Finance Department with regard to the COVID-19 Funds with respect to being fiscally responsible; requesting clarification on particular line items: \$15,000 on meals, \$30,000 cameras/tables, \$6,000 hotel, \$10,000 interpreters/studio.

Mr. Anderson announced the loss of two public servants, offering condolences to their families, and present to the community citations on their behalves. Mr. Anderson asked that Mr. Smith read both citations in full and that they be added to the minutes:

James T. Casey (1928-2020):

WHEREAS, James T. Casey passed from this world on May 16, 2020 at the age

of 92 years; he was the oldest of four children to the late Frank & Josephine (McLaughlin) Casey; he was a lifelong resident of Erie, living a full life and serving the Erie community; and WHEREAS, Jim was a graduate of Strong Vincent High School in 1947; he joined the Navy and served on the Aircraft Carrier USS Randolph, he also served two years in the Army during the Korean Conflict; and\ WHEREAS, Jim was very active in sports, in his youth playing football at Strong Vincent; played and coached fast pitch and slow pitch softball teams to multiple championships; enjoyed coaching his sons in baseball and football; enjoyed hunting, golfing, pinocle, bocce, and betting on the horses at Presque Isle Downs; and WHEREAS, Jim was employed at Fenestra for 14 years and served eight years as president of the USWA Union; was employed by Erie County Government for 20 years as Personnel Director and Custody Counselor for the Court of Common Pleas, retiring in 1993; was a very proud recipient of the Liberty Bell Award; was elected to Erie City Council for two terms; was a former Chairman of the Soldiers & Sailors Home; and WHEREAS, Jim was a loving father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother and brother-in-law, and husband and will be sadly missed; in addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Lucille (Lattanzi); his brothers, Thomas and Robert Casey; brother-in-law, Richard Moore, and his great-grandson, Gus Swanson. He is survived by his children, Mark (Melody) Casey, of Knoxville, Tenn., David (Terri) Casey, of Eustis, Fl., Diane (Casey) Firch of Erie, Jeffrey (Jame) Casey, of Southern Pines, N.C., and his favorite son-in-law, William Firch of Erie. Also survived by 12 grandchildren, Angela (Alex) England, Adam Casey, Lauren Casey, Tim (Rachel) Casey, Breanne Casey, Josh (Meghan) Velez, Liz Velez, Bill (Julie) Firch, Julie (Mike) Swanson, Miranda Casey, Jimmy Casey, Mitchell Casey and 11 great-grandchildren. He is further survived by his sister, Peggy (Casey) Moore; sisters-in-law, Frances Casey, Virginia Lattanzi and brother-in-law Charles (Mary Grace) Lattanzi. Also survived by many nieces and nephews; and NOW THEREFORE WE THE UNDERSIGNED Members of Erie County Council in celebration of the life and public service of James T. Casey, a man of pride for his family, Country, and the Erie Community will forever be grateful. May he rest in peace. IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have set our hands and the Seal of Erie County this 26th day of May, 2020.

Mr. Anderson remarked that he had the honor to know Mr. Casey for many years and had the opportunity to work with him on public projects when Jim was on the Erie City Council. Mr. Anderson expressed his respect for him and his entire family, including his brother, Tom, who served as many yeas as an Erie City School Director. Mr. Anderson jested that there may have been "something in the water" as many community leaders have come from the 1947 Strong Vincent class, naming former Councilman Paul Foust, Dolores Bristol Anderson (Mr. Anderson's mother) who was friends with Jim and remembered him fondly. Mr. Anderson described Mr. Casey as a gentleman, a community and public servant, and a good friend. Mr. Anderson again offered his condolences to the family. Mr. Horton commented that Mr. Casey was infamously known as "one of the 3

amigos" at City Council. He stated that Mr. Casey was very encouraging to Mr. Horton during his inaugural time. He emphasized that the Erie community has lost a great public servant and humanitarian.

Barry G. Grossman (1946-2020):

WHEREAS, Barry G. Grossman passed peacefully from this world on May 21, 2020 at the age of 74 years, surrounded by his loving family; he was the son of the late Irv and Ruth Grossman; he was a lifelong resident of Erie, living a rich full life with a deep impact on anyone who interacted with him; and WHEREAS, Barry attended Harding Elementary, Roosevelt Jr. High, Strong Vincent High School, and graduated from Cornell University in 1968. He received a Master's Degree from Gannon University, a J.D. Law Degree from Cleveland State University and an ABD Doctoral Program in History from Case Western Reserve; and WHEREAS, Barry had a true zest for life, serving as a lawyer, professor of political science at Mercyhurst University, business executive, restaurateur, radio personality in the 1980's on AM 1330 featuring "We the People" a program for civil discussion, talk show host, sportsman, community leader, world traveler, lecturer, and elected to lead Erie as Erie County Executive from 2010 to 2014; and WHEREAS, Barry was a major force in pushing for the county to establish a community college; he understood that gaps in educational offerings and workforce development were holding back Erie County and its economy; although he was unsuccessful in his venture to convince County Council at that time; and WHEREAS, Barry was passionate about many things including food, history, travel, his many beloved dogs, and searching for ways to keep Erie thriving; he loved his hometown of Erie with all his heart. Barry was a City All Star in both football and baseball at Strong Vincent. His love of sports was enriched by his grandsons who he thoroughly enjoyed watching play baseball, basketball and football. He was blessed to have lifelong friends and he never lost faith as a die-hard Cleveland sports fan; and WHEREAS, Barry will be sadly missed by his many friends but mostly by his wife of 52 years and college sweetheart, Janet Grossman, his daughter, Rebecca Hower and son-in-law, Dr. Robert Hower. He is also survived by his grandsons, Jackson and Jake Hower; and NOW THEREFORE WE THE UNDERSIGNED Members of Erie County Council in celebration of the life and public service of Former County Executive Barry Grossman declare June 11th, 2020 as Barry Grossman Day in Erie County in recognition of a life lived in the service of his family and his community. Barry's commitment to the Erie County Community College effort, paved the way for the County's application to be considered as the 15th community college in Pennsylvania by the Pennsylvania State Board of Education. IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have set our hands and the Seal of Erie County this 26th day of May, 2020.

Mr. Anderson remarked that Mr. Grossman as without question a public servant and someone who loved his community of Erie. He was very close to many of

his supporters, many of whom served with him in county government, namely when he was County Executive. These names include: Ron DiNicola former County Solicitor, Jerry Mifsud former Director of Administration, Jerry DeFazio, Dr. William Jarvy, and so many more. Mr. Anderson noted that Jerry Mifsud said it best that Barry was "one of those people who either loved him or hated him. He didn't leave much in-between. He was a man of conviction, who spoke his mind, and stood up for what he believed." Mr. Anderson noted that one of the things Mr. Grossman believed in deeply was having a community college in Erie; he fought for community college education but was unsuccessful in building the support at the time. Mr. Anderson asked that Council support June 11th as Barry Grossman Day in the City of Erie, as it is the same day that the current application of a community college in heard for a vote. Mr. Anderson stated that he had worked with Barry on many projects over the years. One such instance is when Mr. Grossman, as County Executive, commissioned Mr. Anderson to research the art collection that is owned by the County and housed at the library. Mr. Anderson recalled that Barry had wanted to sell one of the paintings in the collection to help support the library. He undertook a research project, of which Mr. Anderson ran for him, to determine exactly who owned the collection and which paintings were owned by whom. There are only three known copies of that report that exist because it was never released to the public; the copies exist with County Executive's Office, the library, and in Mr. Anderson's home. The artwork belongs in the library and is owned by the County of Erie. His love for history and our community will not be forgotten. Mr. Carl expressed his appreciation for Mr. Grossman and his family and the commitment that they have made to the Erie Community.

Mrs. Rennie remarked that she had the privilege of working under five County Executives. Mr. Grossman tenure as County Executive could not always be termed as harmonious at all times; however, she also noted that some of the County Executives were not always welcomed by the Council Members of their times. Mr. Grossman appointed Mrs. Rennie as Library Director. She stated she did not always agree with him, but he was a singular individual and singular politician. She described Mr. Grossman as intelligent, dynamic, strong willed, passionate, and committed; always to the benefit of others. As a politician, it is easy to walk the thin line of not answering a question/no taking a stance, but that was not Barry Grossman. At one time she was giving a speech on behalf of the library and referenced the voices in the wilderness of politicians. She offered that as a community leader, he was second to none of his time. She offered her condolences to his family and emphasized he will not be forgotten.

Mr. Horton jested that Barry would argue with a stop sign if he thought it would be better for the county. He appointed Mr. Horton to the Community College Planning Committee under his Administration. Chairman Horton stated that Barry was very passionate, upfront, and often times the smartest in the room. Barry left behind the drive for the fight for a community college. Mr. Horton offered his sincere condolences.

OLD BUSINESS

None for discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

Carl Anderson moved to amend the agenda to add Ordinance 28, 2020 "Waiver of Late Fees for Environmental Licenses Issued by the Department of Health" as item E on the agenda. This was seconded by Kim Clear and carried in a 7-0 vote.

Ordinance Number 25, 2020, "Fourteenth 2020 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$24,334 for Insurance Coverage Change in Office of Controller" (Finance Committee)

Mr. Smith gave a first reading of Ordinance Number 25, 2020, "Fourteenth 2020 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$24,334 for Insurance Coverage Change in Office of Controller."

Ordinance Number 26, 2020, "Fifteenth 2020 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$1,500 and Creation of Line Item for Protection from Abuse Fees"(Finance Committee)

Mr. Smith gave a first reading of Ordinance Number 26, 2020, "Fifteenth 2020 General Fund Budget Supplemental Appropriation of \$1,500 and Creation of Line Item for Protection from Abuse Fees."

Ordinance Number 27, 2020 "Waiving Section 4 of Erie County LERTA Ordinance 59, 1980 and Approving the Revised LERTA Program in Union City Borough"(Finance Committee)

Mr. Smith gave a first reading of Ordinance Number 27, 2020 "Waiving Section 4 of Erie County LERTA Ordinance 59, 1980 and Approving the Revised LERTA Program in Union City Borough."

Mr. Smith apologized to Council for not discussing during Caucus, however requested they consider moving to a second reading, as union City is waiting for this LERTA before being able to begin projects it has planned. The Ordinance had been requested previously, but due to some internal office issues was not presented timely.

Mr. Anderson motioned for this to be a second reading, seconded by Mrs. Clear and amended with a 7-0 vote.

Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance Number 27, 2020 "Waiving Section 4 of Erie County LERTA Ordinance 59, 1980 and Approving the Revised LERTA Program in Union City Borough." This was moved by Carl Anderson, seconded by Brian Shank and carried in a 7 - 0 vote.

**Resolution Number 26,
2020 "Resolution Adopting
a Community Development
Block Grant Program
(CDBG) Citizen
Participation Plan for the
County of Erie And the
County Of Erie on Behalf
of Edinboro Borough,
Girard Township, McKean
Township and North East
Borough"(Finance
Committee)**

Mr. Smith gave a reading of Resolution Number 26, 2020 "Resolution Adopting a Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) Citizen Participation Plan for the County of Erie And the County Of Erie on Behalf of Edinboro Borough, Girard Township, McKean Township and North East Borough." This was moved by Carl Anderson, seconded by Ellen Schauerma and carried in a 7 - 0 vote.

ADJOURNMENT

E. Mr. Smith gave a first reading of Ordinance 28, 2020 "Waiver of Late Fees for Environmental Licenses Issued by the Department of Health" Mr. Anderson motioned to moved Ordinance 28, 2020 to a second reading, seconded by Mrs. Schauerma and approved 7-0. Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance 28, 2020, seconded by Schauerma. 7-0. Mr. Smith gave a second reading of Ordinance 28, 2020. Moved by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Shank. Mr. Anderson thanked Solicitor Talarico for working on this Ordinance and bringing it forward timely. Mr. Anderson asked the Solicitor if there are any further comments on the Ordinance before Council votes. Mr. Talarico offered that the previous Ordinance proposed was confusing when trying to apply the Ordinance that it was trying to amend. After speaking with David George, Supervisor for Department of Health, the main concern was to waive late fees, with little concern of licensing fees. Previously the dated middle of the year, however they determined that it would be more practical to be at the years end. Passed in a 7-0 vote.

Mr. Horton asked Mr. Smith and Mr. Anderson to put a press release out regarding poll worker needs.

Mrs. Clear added a thank you to Jim Sparber, Tracey Fugagli, and the Finance Team for the hard work that they put in.

Mr. Horton called the meeting adjourned 4:45pm.

**The next Finance and
Personnel Committee
Meetings are scheduled for
Thursday, June 4, 2020 at 4
pm. The next Regular**

**Meeting of Council is
scheduled for 4 pm on June
9, 2020. Attendance will be
via zoom conference.
Details will be published on
the County website;
www.eriecountypa.gov.**