

The City Council met in regular session in the Council Chambers on Wednesday, August 18, 2010 at 7:30 P.M.

Council Members present: Aleksandrowicz, Cappabianca, Horan-Kunco, Jones, Schember, Winarski, and Thompson. 7. Nays. 0.

On motion of Mr. Thompson, Seconded by Mr. Schember, the reading of the minutes of the Meeting of August 4, 2010 were dispensed with and same adopted with copies furnished to the members of City Council by yeas Council Members, Aleksandrowicz, Cappabianca, Horan-Kunco, Jones, Schember, Winarski and Thompson. 7. Nays. 0.

Copies of the bills under date of August 13, and August 20, 2010 were given to City Council and same adopted by yeas Council Members Aleksandrowicz, Cappabianca, Horan-Kunco, Jones, Schember, Winarski and Thompson. 7. Nays. 0.

---

### **2010 Mid Year Report**

Presented by Mayor Joseph Sinnott

Good evening. Tonight I present you with the financial report for the mid-year 2010. The numbers in this report reflect an ongoing stability in our operation and the integrity of the transparent budget and spending system we have implemented. It shows the commitment of all departments to stay within budgetary constraints and to keep our operation affordable to the taxpayers. All of the department heads, bureau chiefs and employees of the City of Erie are to be commended for their continued vigilance in these areas.

As an organization, we have achieved a stability which has allowed us to keep the cost of doing business within budget in each of the years of this administration. This year will be no different.

In addition, we continue to pursue new sources of funding to meet our capital needs and to expand services where possible. Some examples include securing stimulus monies that funded the hiring of six new police officers in January of 2010.

This has allowed us to create special saturation patrol that concentrates on community policing in some of Erie's most troubled neighborhoods. We have received excellent feed back from the community on this unit and it is having a positive impact on the elimination of crime and street violence.

We also finalized two new cooperative agreements with non-profit institutions that will provide funding for equipment for public safety as well as other cost saving services. The first, in January of 2010, was with the Erie Western Pennsylvania Port Authority. Under this agreement, the Authority assumed the responsibility for lighting and maintenance of several areas previously maintained by the City of Erie. This will save the City taxpayers thousands of dollars each year in maintenance costs. The Authority will also provide two marked police vehicles each year. This will aid in maintaining an updated and modern police cruiser fleet.

Also, in July of 2010, we entered into a cooperative agreement with Gannon University. This agreement provides for, amongst other things, a \$250,000 monetary grant for public safety capital investment. The first installment will be used to replace fire vehicles and to purchase new thermal imaging cameras.

Finally, in the spring of 2010 we renewed our agreement with Mercyhurst College to continue their contribution to these programs.

Looking at the figures within the report itself. First, on the expenditure side, you will see that all departments are expected to, once again, come in within budget. This shows that we have been able to determine the true cost of doing business, budget accordingly and manage the operation to stay within its confines. This is a pledge that we as an administration and council promised our taxpayers four and a half years ago. We have fulfilled that promise each and every year.

When we turn to the revenue side of the report, there are some realities that we will need to address for the future. As with all municipalities, revenue continues to present a challenge. As the national economy remains troubled, we are experiencing decreasing revenue in the areas directly affected by these hard times. Real estate and income taxes have declined as more people find themselves unemployed. Also our tax base continues to shrink because non-profits continue to acquire real estate in the city.

This circumstance will be a driving force for the kind and type of development the city will advocate in areas such as the Bay Front and Mid-City.

We have also have seen a decrease in revenues from building and construction related activities. Even the shared revenues from the Commonwealth, such as pension aide and liquid fuels monies, continue to decline. All tolled, we are expecting a million and a half dollars less in revenue this year.

Although each of the shortfalls can be attributed to a tangible cause, we must begin to look at our revenues and how we will provide the dollars necessary to run the operation through the economic realities that we face.

Although our projections are only estimates and may change in the second half of the year, we still must be aware of the trends we are seeing in several of these areas. These discussions will be ripe at budget time, when we have a better idea of the final yearly figures in each of these areas.

Please take the time to review these numbers carefully. My staff and I will be available to address any questions or concerns you may have after you have had the opportunity to digest this information.

I thank you for your ongoing support of this administration as we work together to make Erie a strong, financially viable community. We will continue in our mission to make Erie a model for Cities across the commonwealth of how municipalities can succeed despite the challenges facing us all.

By Mr. Cappabianca, Council File Ordinance #15,728,

An ordinance appropriating the sum of **\$10,500.00** from unappropriated and anticipated revenue from PLCB Underage/High Risk Drinking Grant Account #274-0613-2010-3331 and providing for expenditure thereof by allocating said funds to various 274-0613-2010-40xx accounts. (Covers costs for patrols near Mercyhurst and Gannon Colleges)

August 18, 2010. City Council on motion of Mr. Cappabianca, Seconded by Mr. Thompson, having read Council File Ordinance #15, 728, does hereby adopt on First Reading by yeas Council Members Aleksandrowicz, Cappabianca, Horan-Kunco, Jones, Schember, Winarski and Thompson. 7. Nays. 0.

By Mr. Cappabianca, Council File Ordinance #15,729,

An ordinance appropriating the sum of **\$2,880.00** from unappropriated and anticipated revenue from Police Drug and Vice PA Operating Grant Account #215-0613-0000-3342 and providing for expenditure thereof by allocating said funds to Account #215-0613-0000-4096 Operating Transfer Out. (Local Match requirement for 2010 PLCB Underage/High Risk Drinking Grant)

August 18, 2010. City Council on motion of Mr. Cappabianca, Seconded by Mr. Thompson, having read Council File Ordinance #15, 729, does hereby adopt on First Reading by yeas Council Members Aleksandrowicz, Cappabianca, Horan-Kunco, Jones, Schember, Winarski and Thompson. 7. Nays. 0.

By Mr. Cappabianca, Council File Ordinance #15,730,

An ordinance appropriating the sum of **\$357.71** from unappropriated and anticipated revenue from JAG Recovery Act Grant Interest Income Account #241-0613-0000-3611 and providing for the expenditure thereof by allocating said funds to Account #241-0613-0000-4033 Operating Supplies.

August 18, 2010. City Council on motion of Mr. Cappabianca, Seconded by Mr. Thompson, having read Council File Ordinance #15,730, does hereby adopt on First Reading by yeas Council Members Aleksandrowicz, Cappabianca, Horan-Kunco, Jones, Schember, Winarski and Thompson. 7. Nays. 0.

By Councilwoman Jessica Horan-Kunco, Resolved, etc.,

That the City Traffic Engineer is respectfully requested to study the feasibility of installing **additional stop signs** on McClelland at East 20<sup>th</sup> Street.

August 18, 2010. City Council adopt by yeas, Council Members Aleksandrowicz, Cappabianca, Horan-Kunco, Jones, Schember, Winarski and Thompson. 7. Nays. 0.

August 18, 2010. Signed by the President. Attested by the City Clerk.

By Councilwoman Jessica Horan-Kunco, Resolved, etc.,

That the proper City of Erie officials are authorized to accept the Application for **Membership of Franklin Township** to the **Erie Area Council of Governments**. The Erie Area COG seeks to expand and strengthen its role as a catalyst for Intergovernmental Cooperation and welcomes the addition of new member governments.

August 18, 2010. City Council adopt by yeas, Council Members Aleksandrowicz, Cappabianca, Horan-Kunco, Jones, Schember, Winarski and Thompson. 7. Nays. 0.

August 18, 2010. Signed by the President. Attested by the City Clerk.

By Mr. Jones, Seconded by Mr. Schember, Resolved etc.,

That the designation of "**Recovery Zone Facility Bonds**", a new category of tax-exempt bonds created by The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 (the Stimulus Act), which may be utilized to finance "Recovery Zone Property" to be used by a "Qualified Business" located within a "Recovery Zone" having significant poverty, unemployment, rate of home foreclosures, or general distress, is hereby authorized to be designated within Census Tracts located in the City of Erie (Except #2, 21, 22, 29, and 28), and designating the authorized issuer of such Bonds (as required by ARRA) as the Erie County General Authority. (The volume cap the Commonwealth of PA has re-allocated to the City of Erie is \$2,082,000.) Each project of the Authority financing Recovery Zone Property must be

specifically approved by the City Council of the City of Erie and there is no liability involving the City of Erie in this process. (Note: GEIDC is asking the city to give them permission to oversee this through one of their affiliate boards. County Council has already approved this on their level.)

August 18, 2010. City Council adopt by yeas, Council Members Aleksandrowicz, Cappabianca, Horan-Kunco, Jones, Schember, Winarski and Thompson. 7. Nays. 0.

August 18, 2010. Signed by the President. Attested by the City Clerk.

By Mr. Jones, Seconded by Mr. Cappabianca, Resolved, etc.

That the following amounts be and they are hereby transferred in the Community Development Block Grant:

<u>Transferred From</u>			<u>Transferred To</u>		
<u>Amount</u>	<u>Account</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Account</u>	<u>Title</u>
\$60,000	501-1252-2010-4448	ERA- Brownfield	\$10,000	501-1238-2010-4056	Tree Rem./Replac.
			<u>50,000</u>	501-1245-2010-4072	
			\$60,000		

August 18, 2010. City Council adopt by yeas, Council Members Aleksandrowicz, Cappabianca, Horan-Kunco, Jones, Schember, Winarski and Thompson. 7. Nays. 0.

August 18, 2010. Signed by the President. Attested by the City Clerk.

By Mr. Jones, Seconded by Mr. Cappabianca, Resolved, etc.,

That the following amounts be and they are hereby transferred in the Community Development Block Grant:

<u>Transferred From</u>			<u>Transferred To</u>		
<u>Amount</u>	<u>Account</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Account</u>	<u>Title</u>
\$1,532.35	501-1251-2008-4031	Office Supplies	\$22,817.20	501-1251-2008-4017	Pension Contributions
470.72	501-1251-2008-4033	Oper. Supplies			
200.00	501-1251-2008-4035	Repr/Maint Supplies			
3,079.38	501-1251-2008-4039	Cons. Items			
3,320.40	501-1251-2008-4043	Educ. & Train.			
2,709.80	501-1251-2008-4045	Communication			
1,216.26	501-1251-2008-4046	Postage			
500.00	501-1251-2008-4048	Tech/Support			
3,595.22	501-1251-2008-4052	Advertising			
451.07	501-1251-2008-4056	Repr/Maint Services			
742.00	501-1251-2008-4059	Other Serv/Charges			
<u>5,000.00</u>	501-1251-2008-4079	Office Equip.			
\$22,817.20					

August 18, 2010. City Council adopt by yeas, Council Members Aleksandrowicz, Cappabianca, Horan-Kunco, Jones, Schember, Winarski and Thompson. 7. Nays. 0.

August 18, 2010. Signed by the President. Attested by the City Clerk.

By Mr. Schember, Seconded by Mr. Jones, Resolved, etc.,

That the Mayor and City Controller are authorized and directed to execute contracts between the City of Erie and the following individuals and/or companies for goods and/or services as noted and the City Council does hereby ratify and confirm the said transactions which are to be charged to the respective Budget Code Numbers, viz:

1. **Vineyard Oil & Gas**, 10299 West Main Road, North East, PA. for a two (2) year contract extension to November of 2012 for approximately 99,000 mcf of natural gas for the Wastewater Treatment Plant, the Erie Zoo, and various City accounts at the Unit Price of \$.54 cents per D/th plus the daily NYMEX price till October 31, 2012, which is a three(3) cent reduction over the current bid price.
2. **Amendola Development Company**, 4153 Feidler Drive, Erie, PA. for the 2010 Curb Ramps III Project for the Department of Economic and Community Development in the amount of \$169,446.75. (lowest responsible bidder of four)
3. **Joseph McCormick Construction Co., Inc.**, 3340 Pearl Avenue, Erie, PA. for the 2010 Proposed Milling and Asphalt Resurfacing of Various City Streets-II for the Bureau of Engineering in the amount of \$160,818.80. (lowest of three bidders)
4. **David Milano Construction**, 2202 Zimmerly Road, Erie, PA. for materials only for performing repair services at several locations for the Bureau of Sewers (Material Costs only) in the amount of \$29,344.38.

August 18, 2010. City Council adopt by yeas, Council Members Aleksandrowicz, Cappabianca, Horan-Kunco, Jones, Schember, Winarski and Thompson. 7. Nays. 0.

August 18, 2010. Signed by the President. Attested by the City Clerk.

By Mr. Cappabianca, Seconded by Mr. Jones, Resolved, etc,

That the Purchasing Agent is authorized and directed to issue purchase orders to the following individuals and/or companies for goods and/or services as noted and the City Council does hereby ratify and confirm the said transactions which are to be charged to the respective Budget Code Numbers, viz:

1. **Blueforce Police Wear**, 1541 Elbridge Street, Philadelphia, PA. for 30 exterior personal vest carriers for the Bureau of Police at a cost of \$5,454.00.
2. **McCann Associates**, 370 Scotch Road, Ewing, NJ for testing materials for the promotional lieutenant exam, for the Division of Civil Service at a total cost of \$3,738.48.
3. **CDW-Government Inc.**, 75 Remittance Drive, Suite 1515 Chicago, IL for annual antivirus support renewal for the Bureau of Computer Services at a total cost of \$3,810.00.
4. **DCED**, Governor's Center for Local Government Services, Commonwealth Keystone, Blvd., 400 North Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Harrisburg, PA., for 927 building permits @ \$4.00 each for the Department of Economic and Community Development at a total cost of \$3,708.00.
5. **Code 3** P.O. Box 957237, St. Louis, MO for three (3) defender light bars for 3 new fire vehicles (\$1,580.26) for the Bureau of Fire at a total cost of \$4,720.16.
6. **ASKCA Inc.**, 410 West 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Parkesburg, PA., for a conflict monitor tester to test new signal controllers for the Department of Public Works, Bureau of Traffic Engineering at a total cost of \$9,447.00.
7. **William T. Spaeder Co.**, 1602 East 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Erie, Pa. for the refurbishing and installation of the filter/silencers on one of two incinerator stacks at the Wastewater Treatment Plant for the Bureau of Sewers at a total cost of \$8,650.00.
8. **Bissnuss, Inc.**, Olde Courthouse Building, Suite 260, Canfield, OH for sprockets for the grit chamber, for the Bureau of Sewers at a total cost of \$5,954.00.
9. **Keystone Electric**, 3125 Brandes Street, P.O. Box 10245, Erie, PA., for installation of 10 new light fixtures on north side of the tanks for the Bureau of Sewers at a total cost of \$7,800.00.
10. **William T. Spaeder Co.**, 1602 East 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Erie, Pa. for replacement piping and gate valves in the flotation building, for the Bureau of Sewers at a total cost of \$9,990.00.
11. **David Milano Construction**, 1827 West 36<sup>th</sup> Street, Erie, Pa. for materials only for performing repair services at 7<sup>th</sup> and Chestnut Street for the Bureau of Sewers at a total cost of \$9,138.90.

August 18, 2010. City Council adopt by yeas, Council Members Aleksandrowicz, Cappabianca, Horan-Kunco, Jones, Schember, Winarski and Thompson. 7. Nays. 0.

August 18, 2010. Signed by the President. Attested by the City Clerk.

**Correspondence:**

Mr. Ken Kensill  
City of Erie Police Pension Board  
City of Erie  
626 State Street  
Erie, PA. 16501

RE: City of Erie Police Pension Board

Dear Ken:

Pursuant to your request, I reviewed our historical files and determined that we have been funding for the 75% of pay disability for officers injured in the line of duty including the Cost of Living at the 75% level since January 1, 2002.

We established an amortization base for the liability under the Plan effective January 1, 2002 for the enhanced disability benefit.

Our figures were based on the actuarial assumptions employed at the time.

If you have any questions regarding this important matter please feel free to call me.

Sincerely,  
BOETGER & ASSOCIATES, INC.  
Don J. Boetger  
410 Cranberry St., Suite 210

August 18, 2010. City Council receives and enters into minutes.

The City of Erie  
Attn: James Klemm, City Clerk  
626 State Street Room 104  
Erie, PA 16501-1128

August 12, 2010

Dear Mr. Klemm,

The Elected Officials Salary Review Committee met on four occasions over the past three months to review the salaries of our City of Erie Elected Officials. Following are our findings and recommendations per City Councils request.

This committee has considered the following data for nine Third Class Cities in Pennsylvania: mayor's salary, size of budget, median value of owner occupied homes, and median household income. The committee observed that the salary for the Mayor of Erie has remained constant for 12 years.

Further, the Salary for the Mayor of Erie is less than the average salary of \$70,284, or the median salary of \$73,459 for the other nine third Class Cities. The committee analyzed available data and studied the relationship between salary and budget, salary and median value of owner occupied homes and salary compared to median household income.

Based on the foregoing review this committee recommends that the mayor's salary be increased by \$4,500 to \$69,500 effective the beginning of the next term of office. Although this represents a 6.9 percent increase, it equates to approximately a one half percent per year increase over the past 12 years. The salary of \$69,500 is still below the median and the average salaries for comparable Third Class Cities.

Furthermore, based on an additional request for our comments, we recommend a similar increase of 6.9 percent to annual pay for council members and the council president, or \$6,414 and \$8,014 respectively.

We recommend a similar review in four years so that consideration of an increase can be made in advance of elections or on a regular basis.

Lastly, due to the lack of data available for the Treasurer and Controller positions this committee cannot make a recommendation as to whether an increase or decrease is warranted for these two positions.

If you or any City Council Member would like to meet concerning the committee's recommendations please let me know.

Sincerely,

Harvey Barber, Facilitator

CC: Mayor Joseph Sinnott

Council Members

David Bertges Committee Member

Bob Cline Committee Member

Richard Galla Committee Member

Don Moore Committee Member

August 18, 2010. City Council receives and enters into minutes.

---

August 18, 2010. City Council on motion of Mr. Jones, Seconded by Mr. Aleksandrowicz adjourned at 8:35 P.M. by yeas Council Members Aleksandrowicz, Cappabianca, Horan-Kunco, Jones, Schember, Winarski and Thompson. 7. Nays. 0.

---

President of City Council

Attest:

---

City Clerk