

The City Council met in regular session in the Council Chambers on Wednesday, November 14, 2012 at 7:30 P.M.

Council Members present: Brennan, Evans, Horan-Kunco, Merski, Winarski, Witherspoon and Jones. 7. Nays. 0.

On motion of Mr. Witherspoon, Seconded by Mrs. Horan-Kunco, the reading of the minutes of the Meeting of November 7, 2012 were dispensed with and same adopted with copies furnished to the members of City Council by yeas Council Members Brennan, Evans, Horan-Kunco, Merski, Winarski, Witherspoon and Jones. 7. Nays. 0.

Copies of the bills under date of November 16, 2012, were given to City Council and same adopted by yeas Council Members Brennan, Evans, Horan-Kunco, Merski, Winarski, Witherspoon and Jones. 7. Nays. 0.

By Mr. Witherspoon, Council File No.15818, Pending Official File Ordinance No. 37-2012

An Ordinance appropriating the sum of **\$85,000.00** from unanticipated and unappropriated revenue in the City of Erie Capital Fund. This amount represents a donation from Gannon University for the purchase of capital assets in the Department of Public Safety.

November 14, 2012. City Council on motion of Mr. Witherspoon, Seconded by Mr. Merski having read Council File No.15, 818, now known as Pending Official File Ordinance No. 37-2012 does hereby adopt on Final Passage by yeas Council Members Brennan, Evans, Horan-Kunco, Merski, Winarski, Witherspoon and Jones. 7. Nays 0.

November 14, 2012, Signed by the President. Attested by the City Clerk.

2013 BUDGET ADDRESS TO ERIE CITY COUNCIL

- Good evening, tonight I present you with the 2013 budget for the City of Erie.
- Once again, it is a balanced budget that reflects the true costs providing safety and services to our citizens, as well as accurate revenue projections necessary for providing these services.
- It does not include any tax or fee increases
- The 2013 budget reflects the ongoing stability in our municipal operation that we have worked very hard to develop, by finding new efficiencies and ways of controlling our costs of doing business.
- Over these seven years we have addressed the root problems and created realistic solutions. The result is a much more stable operating model that allows us to accurately anticipate attainable revenues and contemplate the true cost of providing public safety and services at the level required to properly serve this community.
- My administration continues to keep its promise to the citizens of Erie, that we will administer city government in an efficient and effective manner. Our department heads, Bureau Chiefs, Supervisors and staff have all worked diligently to find new ways to conduct operations so as to save money for our taxpayers, while continually refining our methods so that services would not be compromised.
- Some examples that you see reflected in this budget, as well as previous ones include:
 - In the area of risk management, our enhanced safety programs have lead to a noticeable decline in property casualty, workman's comp and heart lung claims. This year, alone, these initiatives will yield savings of over \$750,000. Over the past seven years, we have saved our taxpayers millions of dollars by effectively lowering our risk and diligently managing claims to conclusion.

- The upgrade of our bond rating has allowed us to save large sums money through the lower cost of financing our debt, as well as lower property casualty insurance premiums
- In the area of purchasing, we continue to closely scrutinize every contract and purchase being made by all departments. The pursuit of competitive bidding and pricing has resulted in significant savings in each of the departments, every year.
- The development of our rental inspection and fire detector programs have created a much safer housing stock within the community. These efforts have lowered the number of fire incidents and has helped to contain our operational costs in the Erie Fire Department.
- Through more aggressive pursuit of grant monies we have been able to address many of our capital needs with minimal impact to the general fund, resulting in large scale savings to our taxpayers.
- We have developed a cooperation with Gannon, Mercyhurst, LECOM and other non-profits, through which we cultivated voluntary contributions used to defray the cost of our public safety capital equipment. Over these seven years institutions and organizations have helped us to purchase police cars, fire vehicles and operating equipment for our police and fire personnel. This has saved hundreds of thousands of dollars.
- Finally, all departments continue to make all efforts to reduce the cost of operating supplies and other below the line expenses. Although this is only a small portion of our budget, even small savings add up to a larger impact.
- Through these and other creative and innovative efforts, we have developed a more efficient, cost effective way to administer municipal government services, and to lessen the impact of the ever increasing costs of doing business in a government operation. Our diligence in these areas has saved our taxpayers millions of dollars over the course of this administration.
- As you review your budget materials, you will also see some increases in areas of greatest need. For example:
 - You will see an increase in police overtime. This is directly tied to our efforts to combat gun violence and property crime within our community. In 2011, we developed a series of special operations designed to get chronic violent offenders and illegal guns off the streets of Erie. This required an additional investment to fund these operations. The results show that this was money well spent. Over the past year, we have made over 100 arrests of violent criminals and taken more than 100 guns off of our streets. We will continue these efforts in 2013, to maintain peace and safety in our city.
 - You will also see an increase in the line item for our summer recreation programs. In 2012 we lost our long-standing partner, the Erie School District, due to their financial difficulties. This required us, along with our remaining partners, to invest more in these very valuable programs. It is critical to the community that we provide our young people with constructive activities in there off-school months, so that they don't resort to crime and other negative behaviors.
- We are able to fund increases such as these through the savings we have realized in the areas mentioned earlier, without having to pass the cost along to our taxpayers.
- It is this philosophy of prioritizing, focusing on our core competencies and vigorous monitoring of spending that allows us to continue to remain financially healthy while providing top quality safety and services to our citizens.
- This has made Erie a model for cities across Pennsylvania who have also faced financial hardships.
- We have shown that financial insolvency can be overcome if we are willing to face the issues head-on, make hard decisions and formulate real solutions to restore stability and promote future prosperity.
- The work that we have done to keep Erie out of Act 47 intervention and to isolate and engage the real challenges facing our city has become the driving force behind the Communities in Crisis Task Force formed by the Pennsylvania League of Cities. We have inspired other cities to band with us in order to formulate an agenda of change and challenge Harrisburg to address the root of the common problems so that long-term stability for our cities can be achieved.

- This is something that we as a community can be proud of.
- The budget I present today will continue our progress.
- It reflects true revenue projections as well as real cost estimates. It also honestly contemplates the needs for 2013 and the best way to apply our resources to meet those needs.
- As I promised with each of the previous budgets, our goal is to administer an efficient, effective and progressive operation. As the results of each of the seven years of this administration shows, we did just that. .
- This budget is no different. Once again:
 - It does NOT include a property tax increase; and
 - It does not include any new personnel or programs, it simply supports current services and capital needs in these areas.
- In this budget, we are also dealing with the impact of the recent county reassessment. As a result of the County's reassessment, the value of properties in the city increase by an average of 27%. In order to make this truly revenue neutral and lessen the impact on our taxpayers as much as possible, we will be lowering our tax millage rate to the level where we will collect the same total revenue as we would have if the reassessment had not occurred, in order to make it as uniform as possible.
- Finally, I would like to thank every department head, bureau chief and employee of the City of Erie who continue to do everything in their power to make the city operations affordable to the taxpayers. They are to be commended for their dedicated efforts.
- I would like to thank you, our City Council for continuing to work with us, in a positive and proactive manner. We have all been part of the successes we have realized over the past seven years. I would like to commend you for your work in supporting the hard decisions which brought us through the difficult times and for becoming more aware of the operation of the city and the consequences of the decisions made within this chamber.
- I would also like to thank the City Controller and City Treasurer for continuing to work with us to help easily implement the operation in each of your areas.
- Together we have created an economically stable city government and shown our community that we can work together to create a government that truly operates with their best interest as a first priority.
- The decisions and determinations toward the enactment of the final budget are yours. We ask that you adopt this budget because we believe it truly reflects our communities needs.
- My staff will be available to help you understand the information in the budget and the thought processes that went into each of the decisions comprising the individual budget recommendations.
- Thank You.

By Mr. Jones, Council File No. 15,819

An Ordinance **fixing the tax rate** for all city purposes for the Fiscal Year 2013 (beginning on January 1, 2013 and ending on December 31, 2013).

November 14, 2012. City Council on motion of Mr. Jones, Seconded by Mr. Winarski having read Council File No. 15,819, does hereby adopt on First Reading by yeas Council Members Brennan, Evans, Merski, Winarski, Witherspoon and Jones. 6. Nays. 1. Mrs. Horan-Kunco.

November 14, 2012. Signed by the President. Attested by the City Clerk.

By Mr. Jones Council File No. 15,820

An Ordinance of the City of Erie, County of Erie, and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, **adopting the General Fund** and certain other budgets for the fiscal year 2013 (beginning January 1, 2013 and ending December 31, 2013).

November 14, 2012. City Council on motion of Mr. Jones , Seconded by Mr. Winarski having read Council File No. 15,819, does hereby adopt on First Reading by yeas Council Members Brennan, Evans, Horan-Kunco, Merski, Winarski, Witherspoon and Jones. 7. Nays. 0.

November 14, 2012. Signed by the President. Attested by the City Clerk.

By Mr. Brennan, Seconded by Council Members Evans, Jones, Horan-Kunco, Merski, Winarski, and Witherspoon.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ERIE THAT

WHEREAS, the City Council would like to pay special tribute to the **Erie Neighborhood Watch Council**, upon celebrating twenty years of citizens, committed to creating positive change in their neighborhoods, and

WHEREAS, the **Erie Neighborhood Watch Council** is a non-profit organization representing watch groups and providing resources and technical support for all members, and,

WHEREAS, the **Erie Neighborhood Watch Council** is recognized by the community at large for their outstanding community service and is a key element in developing community from the “grass roots”, up, and,

WHEREAS, the **Erie Neighborhood Watch Council** is dedicated to foster community based initiatives to assist neighborhood watch leaders improve and maintain safe healthy neighborhoods, which will lead to the eventual revival of our City, so,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the City of Erie that this commendation is hereby presented to the **Erie Neighborhood Watch Council**, and extend to them our heartfelt thanks and admiration for all that you have accomplished for the citizens of the City of Erie.

November 14, 2012. City Council adopt by yeas Council Members Brennan, Evans, Horan-Kunco, Merski, Winarski, Witherspoon and Jones. 7. Nays. 0.

November 14, 2012. Signed by the President. Attested by the City Clerk.

By Robert Merski, Seconded by council Members Brennan, Evans, Jones, Horan-Kunco, Winarski and Witherspoon

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ERIE, THAT

WHEREAS, diabetes is an incurable and debilitating disease that strikes without warning or reason and now affects more than 366 million people worldwide – including nearly 26 million Americans; and type 1 diabetes is one of the most common chronic diseases to affect children of all ages, even toddlers and babies, while type 2 diabetes, once thought of as a disease affecting adults only, is increasing fast among children and adolescents; and

WHEREAS, the cost of diabetes to the United States had been estimated at \$174 billion annually; and each year, 4.6 million deaths are linked directly to diabetes-related causes; and millions of people with diabetes lack the access to the care, treatment, and education that is needed to manage the disease and prevent its serious and costly complications, including heart disease, stroke, kidney failure blindness and lower-limb amputation; and

WHEREAS, an increase in community awareness of risk factors and symptoms related to diabetes can improve the likelihood that people with diabetes receive the attention they need before developing the disease and its devastating complications; and

WHEREAS, the International Diabetes Federation and the World Health Organization have observed World Diabetes Day since 1991, and the United Nations General Assembly has designated the current World Diabetes Day, November 14, as an official United Nations World Health Day; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations encourages the fight against the global diabetes epidemic by encouraging access to diabetes care, treatment, and education;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Erie City Council proclaims November 14, 2012 as World Diabetes Day in Erie, Pennsylvania, during National Diabetes Awareness Month.

November 14, 2012. City Council adopt by yeas Council Members Brennan, Evans, Horan-Kunco, Merski, Winarski, Witherspoon and Jones. 7. Nays. 0.

November 14, 2012. Signed by the President. Attested by the City Clerk.

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

That City Council fully supports and becomes an active member of the Community Action Plan that has been established by the **Communities That Care Committee** which works to improve the Erie community by collaborating with local governmental agencies to help solve the social challenges that face the youth in our community and further order this resolution forwarded to the Erie County District Attorney and the United States Federal Prosecutor's Office.

November 14, 2012. City Council adopt by yeas Council Members Brennan, Evans, Horan-Kunco, Merski, Winarski, Witherspoon and Jones. 7. Nays. 0.

November 14, 2012. Signed by the President. Attested by the City Clerk.

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

That City Council is hereby establishing a new policy, by creating the position of **City Council Youth Member** by inviting a deserving student from our local school district to participate in a monthly City Council meeting as a junior member of our august body, as a youth ambassador allowing them the opportunity to share ideas on how we all can work to develop a better living environment in the City of Erie, thus hopefully promoting a positive view of the youth in our community.

November 14, 2012. City Council adopt by yeas Council Members Brennan, Evans, Horan-Kunco, Merski, Winarski, Witherspoon and Jones. 7. Nays. 0.

November 14, 2012. Signed by the President. Attested by the City Clerk.

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

That City Council approves the request of Atty. Russell S. Warner, 100 State Street, Erie, PA, 16507-1459 for the **transfer of PLCB liquor license** from "The Inn at Presque Isle, Inc.", 2930 West 6th Street, Millcreek Township, County of Erie, Pennsylvania to Pineapple Productions, LLC-A Pineapple Eddie Southern Bistro, to 1402 West 10th Street, Erie, Pennsylvania, is hereby received, and Whereas, pursuant to PA 47 P.S. 4-461(b.3) the City Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to advertise for a public hearing in reference to the above matter, on Wednesday December 5, 2012 at approximately 10:00 AM to hear testimony concerning the Inter Municipal Transfer of Liquor License No. R-08452.

November 14, 2012. City Council adopt by yeas Council Members Brennan, Evans, Horan-Kunco, Merski, Winarski, Witherspoon and Jones. 7. Nays. 0.

November 14, 2012. Signed by the President. Attested by the City Clerk.

By Mr. Evans, Seconded by Mrs. Horan-Kunco, Resolved, etc.

That the proposed Repository Sale of property commonly known as vacant lot East 6th Street and identified by Erie County Assessment Index Number 14-10-23-154 by the Erie County Tax Claim Bureau to Garry and Mary Lou Repp, 734 East 6th Street, Erie, PA in the amount of \$250.00.

November 14, 2012. City Council adopt by yeas Council Members Brennan, Evans, Horan-Kunco, Merski, Winarski, Witherspoon and Jones. 7. Nays. 0.

November 14, 2012. Signed by the President. Attested by the City Clerk.

By Mr. Merski, Seconded by Mr. Brennan, Resolved, etc.

That Change Order #1 on the contract of Mt. Carmel Stabilization Group Inc., PO Box 458, Mt. Carmel, IL 62863 for the Proposed Pavement Reclaiming, Pennsylvania Avenue, Stanton Street and Fargo Street. The original contract was \$73,300.00. The revised contract amount is \$76,877.04. The Change Order total is \$3,577.04.

November 14, 2012. City Council adopt by yeas Council Members Brennan, Evans, Horan-Kunco, Merski, Winarski, Witherspoon and Jones. 7. Nays. 0.

November 14, 2012. Signed by the President. Attested by the City Clerk.

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

That the following amounts are transferred in the Police General Fund

Transferred From			Transferred To		
Amount	Account	Title	Amount	Account	Title
\$ 8,000.00	002-0613-0000-4039	Cons. Items	\$51,215.55	002-0613-0000-4033	Operating Supp.
\$15,000.00	002-0613-0000-4043	Train/Seminar			
\$ 215.55	002-0613-0000-4052	Advertising			
\$18,000.00	002-0613-0000-4056	Repair & Maint			
<u>\$10,000.00</u>	002-0613-0000-4059	Other Svs/Chrgs			
\$51,215.55					

November 14, 2012. City Council adopt by yeas Council Members Brennan, Evans, Horan-Kunco, Merski, Winarski, Witherspoon and Jones. 7. Nays. 0.

November 14, 2012. Signed by the President. Attested by the City Clerk.

By Mr. Witherspoon, Seconded by Mrs. Horan-Kunco, 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. **Witmer Public Safety Group, Inc.**, 104 Independence Way, Coatesville, PA 19320 (13) tasers with 4-year extended warranties, (107) replacement cartridges, and (12) replacement batteries for the Bureau of Police at a total amount of \$15,751.00.

November 14, 2012. City Council adopt by yeas Council Members Brennan, Evans, Horan-Kunco, Merski, Winarski, Witherspoon and Jones. 7. Nays. 0.

November 14, 2012 Signed by the President. Attested by the City Clerk.

November 14, 2012 City Council on motion of Mr. Witherspoon, Seconded by Mrs. Horan-Kunco, adjourned at 8:55 P.M. by yeas Council Members Brennan, Evans, Horan-Kunco, Merski, Winarski, Witherspoon and Jones. 7. Nays. 0.

President of City Council

Attest:

City Clerk