

The City Council met in regular session in the Council Chambers on Wednesday, November 20, 2013 at 7:30 P.M.

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

On motion of Mr. Witherspoon, Seconded by Mr. Winarski the reading of the minutes of the Meeting of November 6, 2013 were dispensed with and same adopted with copies furnished to the members of City Council by yeas Council Members Brennan, Evans, Horan-Kunco, Jones, Merski, Witherspoon and Winarski. 7. Nays. 0.

Copies of the bills under date of November 22, 2013 and November 29, 2013 were given to City Council and same adopted by yeas Council Members Brennan, Evans, Horan-Kunco, Jones, Merski, Witherspoon and Winarski. 7. Nays. 0.

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### **2014 Budget Address to City Council**

- Good evening. Tonight I present you with the 2014 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.
- This budget does not include a property tax increase.
- The 2014 Budget reflects the continued stability in our municipal operation that we have worked very hard to develop by finding new efficiencies and ways to control our costs of doing business.
- Over these 8 years we have addressed structural budget 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 supervise 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:
  - a. This year we negotiated a new contract with our Police Department. Included in this agreement is the provision that they will pay 15% of the cost of their health insurance benefits. With this contract, all City employees are now contributing to the cost of their health insurance at the 15% level.
  - b. We have managed our street paving program so that we are now paving more with our in-house resources and contracting out less. This has allowed us to save enough money so that we can plan an additional year to pave many more streets without any additional cost to the taxpayers.
  - c. In the area of risk management, our enhanced safety programs have led to a noticeable decline in workman's comp claims. Over the past 8 years, we have saved our taxpayers millions of dollars by effectively lowering our risk and diligently managing claims to conclusion.
  - d. The upgrade of our bond rating continues to save large sums of money through the lower cost of financing our debt, as well as lower property, casualty insurance premiums.

e. In the area of purchasing, we continue to closely scrutinize every contract and purchase being made in all departments. The pursuit of competitive bidding and pricing has resulted in significant savings in each of the departments, every year.

f. This year, we were able to renegotiate our utility contracts so that we will realize significant savings on the energy costs required to maintain each of our public buildings.

g. In the Fire Department, our overtime costs are down 15% this year. We believe that the development of our rental inspection and fire detector programs have created a much safer housing stock within the community. The programs have lowered the number of incidents and helped to contain our operational costs.

h. 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.

i. We have developed Cooperation Agreements with Gannon, Mercyhurst, LECOM and other non-profits, through which we cultivate voluntary contributions used to defray the cost of our public safety capital equipment. Over these 8 years, institutions and organizations have helped us to purchase police cars, fire vehicles and needed operating equipment for our police and fire personnel. This has saved hundreds of thousands of dollars.

j. Finally, all departments continue to make tremendous effort 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 efforts, we have developed a more efficient cost effective way to administer municipal government services, and saved our taxpayers millions of dollars over the course of this administration.

- This year's budget does include an increase in both sewer and refuse fees. This is the first increase in these rates in 4 years.

- The sewer rate will be increased \$9.00 per quarter and the refuse rate will be raised \$7.00 per quarter.

- Our Finance Department, along with the Department of Public Works, is working with the Erie City Water Authority to explore methods to improve collection of past due refuse fees.

- These increases directly reflect the increased cost of providing services in each of these departments. But even with these increases we manage to keep our cost of these services below most municipalities.

- We continue to pursue a philosophy of priority: focusing first on our core competencies and secondly, vigorously monitoring spending which 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 avoided 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 repair Erie's financial hardships has become the driving force behind the Communities in Crisis Task Force and the Coalition for Sustainable Communities, 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 we are challenging Harrisburg to address the root of the common problems so that long-term stability for all 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 honestly contemplates the needs for 2014 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. After 8 years of this administration, the results show we did just that.

- This budget is no different. Once again:

- a. It does NOT include a property tax increase;
  - b. It includes only those fee increases necessary to adequately provide sewer and refuse service to our constituents; and
  - c. It does not include any new personnel or programs, it simply supports current services and capital needs in each department.
- 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 8 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 have shown our constituents that we can work together to create a government that truly operates with their best interest as their 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 community's needs.
  - My staff will be available to help you understand the individual budget recommendations and the thought processes that went into each one.
  - Thank you.

By Mr. Winarski, Council File No 15,849.

An ordinance **fixing the tax rate** for all city purposes for the Fiscal Year 2014 (beginning on January 1, 2014 and ending on December 31, 2014).

November 20, 2013. City Council on motion of Mr. , Seconded by Mr. having read Council File No.15849 does hereby adopt on First Reading by yeas Council Members Brennan, Evans, Horan-Kunco, Jones, Merski, Witherspoon and Winarski. 7. Nays. 0.

November 20, 2013. Signed by the President. Attested by the City Clerk.

By Mr. Winarski, Council File No. 15,850

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 beginning January 1, 2014 and ending December 31, 2014.

November 20, 2013. City Council on motion of Mrs. , Seconded by Mr. having read Council File No. 15,850 does hereby adopt on First Reading by yeas Council Members Brennan, Evans, Horan-Kunco, Jones, Merski, Witherspoon and Winarski. 7. Nays. 0.

November 20, 2013. Signed by the President. Attested by the City Clerk.

By Mr. Merski, Council File No. 15,851

An ordinance appropriating the sum of **\$5,060.46** from unappropriated and anticipated revenue to provide for the expenditure thereof for Construction Monitoring Services for the Norman Way Bridge Replacement, Supplemental Agreement No. 010U19-A.

November 20, 2013. City Council on motion of Mr. , Seconded by Mr. having read Council File No. 15,851, does hereby adopt on First Reading by yeas Council Members Brennan, Evans, Horan-Kunco, Jones, Merski, Witherspoon and Winarski. 7. Nays. 0.

November 20, 2013. Signed by the President. Attested by the City Clerk.

By Mr. Evans, Council File No. 15,852

An ordinance appropriating the sum of **\$81,202.55** from unappropriated and anticipated revenue; \$74,427.73 received earnings from the Enterprise Zone Revolving Loan Fund and \$6,774.82 program income. These funds are to be allocated into the following Enterprise Zone Program accounts.

November 20, 2013. City Council on motion of Mr. , Seconded by Mr. having read Council File No. 15,852, does hereby adopt on First Reading by yeas Council Members Brennan, Evans, Horan-Kunco, Jones, Merski, Witherspoon and Winarski. 7. Nays. 0.

November 20, 2013. Signed by the President. Attested by the City Clerk.

By Mr. Witherspoon, Council File No. 15,853

An ordinance appropriating the sum of **\$43,794.00** from unappropriated and anticipated revenue and providing for the expenditure thereof. 2013 JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT.

November 20, 2013. City Council on motion of Mr. , Seconded by Mr. having read Council File No. 15,853, does hereby adopt on First Reading by yeas Council Members Brennan, Evans, Horan-Kunco, Jones, Merski, Witherspoon and Winarski. 7. Nays. 0.

November 20, 2013. Signed by the President. Attested by the City Clerk.

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Pursuant to the provisions of Zoning Ordinance No. 80-2005, and of the proper legal advertising, the City Council held a **Public Hearing at approx. 8:30 PM in City Council Chambers, 626 Street, Erie, PA 16501**, to consider an amendment to the City of Erie Zoning Code, requesting the rezoning of property located at 3503 Peach Street, being the back portion of said property from R-1A (Traditional Single Family Residential) to that of RLB (Residential Limited Business) at the request of Attorney James Toohey, representing Erie Federal Credit Union (EFCU).

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

**To approve the Annual Budget of the Erie Area Council of Governments for the calendar year ending December 31, 2014.**

**WHEREAS**, The City of Erie is a member of the Erie Area Council of Governments (EACOG); and

**WHEREAS**, The EACOG has proposed its Annual Budget for its financial activities for the 2013 calendar year which will be voted upon for approval at the EACOG's continuation of the General Assembly Meeting of November 6, 2013 on December 11, 2013; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of the City of Erie has reviewed the Proposed Annual Budget for 2014, a copy of which is attached hereto, and finds it to be in good order; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of the City of Erie acknowledges its proportionate share of the Members Dues as listed therein.

**IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** by the City Council of the City of Erie, Erie, County, Pennsylvania that the proposed Annual Budget for the calendar year ending December 31, 2014 is approved by the City Council of the City of Erie.

ADOPTED this 20th day of November 2013.

November 20, 2013. City Council adopt by yeas Council Members Brennan, Evans, Horan-Kunco, Jones, Merski, Witherspoon and Winarski .7. Nays. 0.

November 20, 2013. Signed by the President. Attested by the City Clerk.

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

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Bureau of Point and Non-Point Source Management RESOLUTION FOR PLAN REVISION FOR NEW LAND DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS, Section 5 of the Act of January 24, 1956, P.L. 1535, No. 537, known as the "Pennsylvania Sewage Facilities Act", as Amended and the Rules and Regulations of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (Department) adopted thereunder, Chapter 71, Title 25, of the Pennsylvania Code, requires the municipality to adopt an Official Sewage Facilities Plan providing for sewage services adequate to prevent contamination of waters of the commonwealth and/or environmental health hazards from sewage wastes, and to revise said plan whenever it is necessary to determine whether a proposed method of sewage disposal for a new land development conforms to a comprehensive program of pollution control and water quality management, and,

WHEREAS, Erie Insurance, land developer, has proposed the development of a parcel of land identified as Erie Insurance Armory Place, name of subdivision, and described in the attached Sewage Facilities Planning Module, and proposes that such subdivision can be served by: (list all that apply), sewer tap ins, sewer extension, new treatment facility, individual on-lot systems, community on-lot systems, spray irrigation, retaining tanks, other, Sewer Tap-Ins

WHEREAS The City of Erie finds that the subdivision described in the attached Sewage Facilities Planning Module conforms to applicable sewage related zoning and other sewage related municipal ordinance and plans, and to a comprehensive program of pollution control and water quality management.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Erie hereby adopt and submit to the Department of Environmental Protection for its approval as a revision to the "Official Sewage Facilities Plan" of the municipality the above referenced Sewage Facilities Module which is attached hereto.

I, James Klemm, (James Klemm), City Clerk, of the City of Erie City Council hereby certify that the forgoing is a true copy of the City Resolution #129-266-A adopted November 28, 2013.

Municipal Address:

City of Erie  
626 State Street, Room 104  
Erie, PA 16501  
Telephone: 814-870-1291

November 20, 2013. City Council adopt by yeas Council Members Brennan, Evans, Horan-Kunco, Jones, Merski, Witherspoon and Winarski. 7. Nays. 0.

November 20, 2013. Signed by the President. Attested by the City Clerk.

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

That the Mayor and City Controller are authorized to execute **Reimbursement and Maintenance Agreement** No. 010U94 between the City of Erie and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Transportation for the following: S. R. 4016-B0 Bridge Rehabilitation. The City of Erie (local – 20%) share is estimated to be \$3,992.00.

November 20, 2013. City Council adopt by yeas Council Members Brennan, Evans, Horan-Kunco, Jones, Merski, Witherspoon and Winarski. 7. Nays. 0.

November 20, 2013. Signed by the President. Attested by the City Clerk.

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

That the Mayor and City Controller are authorized to execute the **Federal Aid Reimbursement Agreement** No. 010N58 (MPMS No. 58233) between the City of Erie and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Transportation for the Construction of the Norman Way Bridge Replacement Project and Whereas the Selected Consultant (Construction Monitoring Services) for the project is Urban Engineers, Inc., 1319 Sassafras Street, Erie, PA, 16501. Whereas Engineering Agreement 010U19 has been executed through PennDOT between the City of Erie and the Consultant. Supplemental Engineering Agreement 010U19-A is hereby awarded in the sum of \$5,326.80 and the proper City Officials be and they are hereby authorized and directed to sign said agreement on behalf of the City of Erie. Original agreement \$71,687.90. Revised agreement \$77,014.70.

November 20, 2013. City Council adopt by yeas Council Members Brennan, Evans, Horan-Kunco, Jones, Merski, Witherspoon and Winarski. 7. Nays. 0.

November, 2013. Signed by the President. Attested by the City Clerk.

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

That the **Change Order No. 1** on the contract of Tony Baiano Construction Company, 4842 Streets Run Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15236 for the Perry Square Streetscape, Phase 3 MPMS No. 92864 as recommended and concurred with by the Bureau of Engineering, be approved as follows. Net change \$3,427.26. the original contract was \$370,000.00. The revised contract amount is \$373,427.26. The Change Order total is \$3,427.26.

November 20, 2013. City Council adopt by yeas Council Members Brennan, Evans, Horan-Kunco, Jones, Merski, Witherspoon and Winarski. 7. Nays. 0.  
November 20, 2013. 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. **G&G Businesses LLC/P&G Emergency Equipment**, 13382 State Highway 8, Titusville, PA 16354 for emergency lights and siren to outfit the Deputy Chief's vehicle for the Bureau of Police at a total amount of \$2,159.45.
2. **Atlantic Irrigation Specialties, Inc.** 111 Lafayette Avenue, N. White Plains, NY 10603, for the 1 year renewal of Downing and JC Martin Golf Courses golf irrigations system electronic maintenance agreement at a cost of \$5,427.00.
3. **Amendola Development Co.** 4153 Feidler Drive, Erie, PA 16506, for the construction and installation of new concrete sidewalk at Baldwin Park at a total cost of \$3,690.00.
4. **A&H Equipment**, 1124 McLaughlin Run Road, Bridgeville, PA 15017 for the emergency purchase of a rebuilt water pump for the 2005 Vactor Sewer Cleaning Truck for the Bureau of Sewers at a total cost of \$12,500.00.
5. **David Milano Construction**, 2202 Zimmerly Road, Erie, PA 16506 for materials only for repairing a sanitary and storm main and man hole at 6<sup>th</sup> and Plum Street & repairing a sanitary main at 617 Marne for the Bureau of Sewers as follows: 9,271.65 (Material Costs Only). \$2,288.02 (Material Costs Only). Total Cost \$11,559.67.
6. **Al Xander Company**, 36 East south Street, Corry, PA 16407 for intercool NFE (glycol) for the Wastewater Treatment Plant for the Bureau of Sewers at a total amount of \$3,525.00.

November 20, 2013. City Council adopt by yeas Council Members Brennan, Evans, Horan-Kunco, Jones, Merski, Witherspoon and Winarski. 7. Nays. 0.  
November 20, 2013 Signed by the President. Attested by the City Clerk.

November 20, 2013 City Council on motion of Mr. Witherspoon, Seconded by Mr. Winarski adjourned at 8:49 P.M. by yeas Council Members Brennan, Evans, Horan-Kunco, Jones, Merski, Witherspoon and Winarski. 7. Nays. 0.

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President of City Council

Attest:

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City Clerk