

The City Council met in regular session in the Council Chambers on Wednesday, August 6, 2014 at 9 A.M.

Council Members present: Brennan, Horan-Kunco, Jones, Merski, Winarski and Witherspoon. 6. Nays. 0. Mr. Kwitowski was absent.

On motion of Mr. Witherspoon, Seconded by Mrs. Horan-Kunco the reading of the minutes of the Meeting of July 16, 2014 were dispensed with and same adopted with copies furnished to the members of City Council by yeas Council Members Brennan, Horan-Kunco, Jones, Merski, Winarski and Witherspoon. 6. Nays. 0.

Copies of the bills under date of August 1, 2014 and August 8, 2014 were given to City Council and same adopted by yeas Council Members Brennan, Horan-Kunco, Jones, Merski, Winarski and Witherspoon. 6. Nays. 0.

MAYOR SINNOTT 2014 MID-YEAR REPORT

Good Morning. Today I present you with the 2014 mid-year financial report for the City of Erie. The figures in this report continue to reflect stability in municipal operations and cost control; as well as the advantage of the transparent budget and spending system we have implemented. It shows the continued commitment of all departments to stay within budgetary constraints, find new efficiencies, and to keep our operations affordable to the tax payers. Once again, all of our department heads, bureau chiefs, and employees of the City of Erie are to be commended for their vigilance in these areas.

As you are aware from the discussions at each of the monthly finance committee meetings, my administration has achieved a stability which has allowed us to keep the cost of doing business within budget throughout the past eight years. We have also continued to find new operational savings, to minimize the impact of annual increases in the cost of doing business. At a time when most cities across America are experiencing significant financial distress, our pledge to create an efficient, cost effective operation has kept Erie stable and vibrant. Because of our successes in redesigning the way municipalities do business, we have avoided the consequences associated with insolvency and state intervention.

As the financial issues facing the federal and state governments continue to grow, it is evident that we will not be receiving additional support from these sources. Therefore, we continue to find ways to do more with less and to control our costs in every department, so as to provide the best level of safety and services for our constituents at the lowest possible cost.

This model is reflected in the numbers you will review in the body of this report. You will find that total revenue projections are slightly above the budgeted amounts, with individual line items varying according to different circumstances that have arisen throughout the year. Although some of the state-funded entitlement grants that we are accustomed to receiving are down, we expect to collect \$228,000 more in total revenues, than was anticipated in the budget.

You also see significant savings on the expenditure side. We are anticipating nearly \$917,000 less in expenditures than was originally budgeted. This is a result of overtime savings in uniform services as well as continually working to find additional savings in every area of the operation. The vigilance of the department heads, bureau chiefs and managers has proven effective, and, over the years, we have managed to save our tax payers millions of dollars.

One area where we are experiencing some difficulty is in our sewer fund. This year, sewer revenues are expected to be down a million and a half dollars due to the decreased use of the system in this comparatively wet year. We have managed to offset this impact somewhat by finding savings of over a half a million dollars. We do, however anticipate a total shortfall of 1 million dollars. This will be covered by existing cash balance in that fund.

In the refuse department our estimates show that we will meet budget in both revenue and expenditures. Throughout this year, we have been working with the Water Authority to address the ongoing issue of delinquent bill collections. A revision to the collection agreement between the City and

Water Authority has been agreed upon and changes to the billing system are currently being implemented. We are optimistic that this will help to eliminate the existing balances.

As you review this report, you will see that all departments, other than sewers, are expected to, again, meet their target budgets. This proves that we have been able to determine the true cost of doing business, budget accordingly and manage our operation in order to stay within expected expenditures. This is a pledge that we as an administration and council promised our taxpayers eight and a half years ago. We have fulfilled that promise each and every year.

Our projections are only estimates, but are based on trends we have seen throughout the course of this administration. There may be deviations in the second half of the year, but we expect all departments to operate within our budget constraints again this year.

My staff and I will be available to address any questions you may have after you've 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 vibrant community. We will continue on our mission to make Erie a model for cities across the Commonwealth of how they can succeed despite the challenges facing all communities.

By Mrs. Horan-Kunco, Council File No.15, 881, Pending Official File Ordinance No. 27 -2014
An ordinance amending the Codified Ordinances of the City of Erie Part One-Administrative Code, Title Seven-Employment Provisions, Pensions, Article 145. Officers' and Employees' Retirement System by amending Sections 145.02 and 145.15 (f) by adding a definition relating to "Surviving Spouse," and amending the definition of Survivor," and amending the provision regarding Anti-Alienation in order to clarify the status of former spouses under the Plan.

August 6, 2014. City Council on motion of Mrs. Horan-Kunco Seconded by Mr. Merski having read Council File No. 15,881, now known as Pending Official File Ordinance No. 27-2014 does hereby adopt on Final Passage by yeas Council Members Brennan, Horan-Kunco, Jones, Merski, Winarski and Witherspoon. 6 Nays 0.

August 6, 2014, Signed by the President. Attested by the City Clerk.

By Mr. Jones, Council File No. 15,882

An ordinance appropriating the sum of **\$88,349.57** from unappropriated and anticipated revenue; \$87,431.37 received earnings from the Enterprise Zone Revolving Loan Fund and \$918.20 program income. These funds are to be allocated into the Enterprise Zone Program accounts.

August 6, 2014, City Council on motion of Mr. Jones , Seconded by Mrs. Horan-Kunco having read Council File No.15,882 does hereby adopt on First Reading by yeas Council Members Brennan, Horan-Kunco, Jones, Merski, Winarski and Witherspoon. 6. Nays. 0.

August 6, 2014. Signed by the President. Attested by the City Clerk.

Pursuant to the provisions of proper legal advertising a **public hearing was held on Wednesday, August 6, 2014 at approximately 9:30 AM In City Council Chambers, 626 State Street, Municipal Building, Erie, Pa** for Waterfront Conditional Use submitted by Kidder Wachter Architecture and Design in conjunction with the Erie County Convention Center Authority for construction of a new hotel to be attached to the existing Erie County Convention Center at 1 Sassafra Pier and parking garage to be adjacent to the hotel with a covered walkway.

August 6, 2014, City Council recess at 10:56 and by yeas Brennan, Horan-Kunco, Jones, Merski, Winarski and Witherspoon. 6 Nays. 0.

August 6, 2014. City Council reconvened at 11:00 AM by yeas Brennan, Horan-Kunco, Jones, Merski, Winarski and Witherspoon. 6 Nays 0.

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

That Ruth Moore is hereby appointed Deputy City Clerk for the City Council of the City of Erie.

August 6, 2014. City Council adopt by yeas Council Members Brennan, Horan-Kunco, Jones, Merski, Winarski and Witherspoon. 6 Nays. 0.

August 6, 2014. Signed by the President. Attested by the City Clerk.

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

That the proper City officials are authorized to enter into a Second Amendment to License and Capital Contribution Agreement for Antenna Site, between the City of Erie and Verizon Wireless providing for the replacement of an antenna and related equipment on the City's radio tower located at 808 Hilltop Road, City of Erie.

Pursuant to the terms of the Lease entered into by the parties April 6, 2006, as amended January 11, 2010, the City Engineer and Director of Public Works reviewed and approved an engineering study commissioned by Verizon. The firm that conducted the engineering study was approved by the City of Erie.

The work in question will be performed at Verizon's expense, per the Lease.

August 6, 2014. City Council adopt by yeas Council Members Brennan, Horan-Kunco, Jones, Merski, Winarski and Witherspoon. 6 Nays. 0.

August 6, 2014. Signed by the President. Attested by the City Clerk.

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

Receiving the communication from the City Planning Commission recommending the request for Waterfront Conditional use submitted by Thomas Kennedy for the construction of a three story [hotel](#) at the foot of Liberty Street (just off the Bayfront Parkway) be hereby approved and the City Clerk is authorized and directed to advertise notice of a **Public Hearing to be held before City Council, in City Council Chambers, 626 State Street, Erie, PA on Wednesday, September 3, 2014 at approximately 9:30 AM** concerning the said request.

August 6, 2014. City Council adopt by yeas Council Members Brennan, Horan-Kunco, Jones, Merski, Winarski and Witherspoon. 6 Nays. 0.

August 6, 2014. Signed by the President. Attested by the City Clerk.

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

That the following individual as Probationary Patrolman at the current salary of \$40,005.11 in the City of Erie Bureau of Police as they appear on the current Civil Service Eligibility List, for the probation period of one year from the date of his appointment on August 18, 2014.

1. **Brian Barber** 2815 Harvard Road, Erie, PA 16508
2. Matthew Smith 1245 Belle Village Drive N. Erie, PA 16509
3. Parris Dawson 1334 Buffalo Road, Erie, PA 16503

August 6, 2014. City Council adopt by yeas Council Members Brennan, Horan-Kunco, Jones, Merski, Winarski and Witherspoon. 6 Nays. 0.

August 6, 2014. Signed by the President. Attested by the City Clerk.

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

That the proper City officials are authorized to exonerate the real estate taxes on the real estate owned by the Multicultural Community Resource Center and located at 538-540 East Tenth Street, bearing County Index Numbers: 15-20-26-127, 15-20-26-125 and 15-20-26-125.99 for the tax year 2013. This also includes any interest and/or penalties on the properties for the tax year 2013. All other taxing bodies have agreed to the tax abatement for 2013.

August 6, 2014. City Council adopt by yeas Council Members Brennan, Horan-Kunco, Jones, Merski, Winarski and Witherspoon. 6 Nays. 0.

August 6, 2014. Signed by the President. Attested by the City Clerk.

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

That the following amounts are transferred in the Home Program.

Transferred From			Transferred To		
Amount	Account	Title	Amount	Account	Title
\$12,346.00	505-1240-2004-4400	ADDI-BEST	\$12,346.00	505-1240-2004-4480	ADDI-CITY

August 6, 2014. City Council adopt by yeas Council Members Brennan, Horan-Kunco, Jones, Merski, Winarski and Witherspoon. 6 Nays. 0.

August 6, 2014. Signed by the President. Attested by the City Clerk.

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

1. **Vavala Concrete Construction LLC**, 2059 West 20th Street, Erie, PA 16502, for the 2014 Curb Ramps II Project in the amount of \$263,807.50 for the Bureau of Engineering.

August 6, 2014. City Council adopt by yeas Council Members Brennan, Horan-Kunco, Jones, Merski, Winarski and Witherspoon. 6 Nays. 0.

August 6, 2014. Signed by the President. Attested by the City Clerk.

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

1. **Bigfoot Smartware Group**, P.O. Box 188, Center Harbor, NH 03226 for a new maintenance software package for the Wastewater Treatment Plant in the amount of **\$5,908.00**
2. **Bucks Fabricating**, 3547 Perry Highway, Hadley, PA 16130 for 1 roll off can for the Sewer Maintenance Division of the Bureau of Sewers in the amount of \$4,467.00.
3. **CDW-G**, 75 Remittance Drive, Suite 1515, Chicago, IL 60675 for ten (10) Lenovo PC's and ten (10) monitors for the Office of Computer Services for the City of Erie in the amount of \$6,325.00
4. **Enterprise Network System**, 1800 Elmerton Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17110, for the annual data circuit lease for **NCIS/CLEAN** system, for the Bureau of Police in the amount of \$3,500.00.
5. **Grafix Shoppe**, 3240 Mike Collins Drive, Eagan, MN 55121, for custom non-reflective graphic kits for the Police Explorers for the Municipal Garage of the City of Erie in the amount of \$2,236.00.
6. **John M. Lipchik**, 10163 Sampson Road, Erie, PA 16509, for demolition at 212 East 26th Street for the Department of Economic & Community Development of the City of Erie in the amount of \$8,500.00.
7. **Plyler Overhead Door**, 8850 Fry Road, McKean, PA 16426, for the purchase of a garage door for Marsh Street, for the Parks Bureau, Department of Public Works of the City of Erie in the amount of \$2,458.00.
8. **RABE Environmental**, 2300 West 23rd Street, Erie, PA, 16506, for emergency repairs to the **chiller units**, for the Bureau of Sewers, Department of Public Works of the City of Erie in the amount of \$3,058.08.
9. **RABE Environmental**, 2300 West 23rd Street, Erie, PA, 16506, for materials for the emergency repairs to the chiller units, for the Bureau of Sewers, Department of Public Works of the City of Erie in the amount of \$7,500.00
10. **Kovatch Mobile Equipment**, One Industrial Complex, Nesquehoning, PA 18240, for a Pump Fire Control for Engine F, for the Bureau of Fire of the City of Erie at a total cost of \$2,631.68.

August 6, 2014. City Council adopt by yeas Council Members Brennan, Horan-Kunco, Jones, Merski, Winarski and Witherspoon. 6 Nays. 0.

August 6, 2014. Signed by the President. Attested by the City Clerk.

Mr. Winarski left at 11:02.

August 6, 2014. City Council on motion of Mr. Witherspoon, Seconded by Mrs. Horan-Kunco adjourned at 11:20 A.M. by yeas Council Members Brennan, Horan-Kunco, Jones, Merski, and Witherspoon. 5. Nays. 0.

President of City Council

Attest:

City Clerk