

**ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE  
MEETING NO. 1  
JANUARY 4, 2024**

The Legislature was called to order by the Clerk of the Erie County Legislature

The Roll being duly called by Ms. Olivia M. Owens, Clerk of the Legislature, the following Legislators answered, to wit:

1 <sup>st</sup> District Howard J. Johnson, Jr.	2 <sup>nd</sup> District April N.M. Baskin
3 <sup>rd</sup> District Michael H. Kooshoian	4 <sup>th</sup> District John A. Bargnesi, Jr.
6 <sup>th</sup> District Christopher D. Greene	7 <sup>th</sup> District Timothy J. Meyers
8 <sup>th</sup> District Frank J. Todaro	9 <sup>th</sup> District John J. Gilmour
10 <sup>th</sup> District Lindsay R. Lorigo	11 <sup>th</sup> District John J. Mills

An Invocation was held, led by Ms. Baskin, who offered a prayer.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Mills.

The Oath of Office was administered by the Honorable Dennis E. Ward, NYS Supreme Court Justice.

Item 1 – MS. OWENS called for nominations and the election of Chair of the Legislature for 2024.

MR. MEYERS placed in nomination for CHAIR OF THE LEGISLATURE FOR 2024 APRIL N.M. BASKIN. MR. JOHNSON seconded.

We, the undersigned, representing a majority of the members of the Erie County Legislature do hereby nominate April N.M. Baskin as Chair of the Erie County Legislature for 2024.

Howard J. Johnson, Jr. – 1 <sup>st</sup> District	April N.M. Baskin – 2 <sup>nd</sup> District
Michael H. Kooshoian – 3 <sup>rd</sup> District	John A. Bargnesi, Jr. – 4 <sup>th</sup> District
Christopher D. Greene – 6 <sup>th</sup> District	Timothy J. Meyers – 7 <sup>th</sup> District
Frank J. Todaro – 8 <sup>th</sup> District	John J. Gilmour – 9 <sup>th</sup> District

Lindsay R. Lorigo – 10<sup>th</sup> District

John J. Mills – 11<sup>th</sup> District

MS. OWENS asked if there were any other nominations for the Office of Chair of the Erie County Legislature for 2024.

MR. MEYERS moved to close nominations. MR. JOHNSON seconded.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MS. OWENS moved the question of the election of APRIL N.M. BASKIN as Chair of the Erie County Legislature for 2024, and directed that a roll-call vote be taken.

AYES: MR. GREENE, MS. LORIGO, MR. MILLS, MR. TODARO, MR. BARGNESI, MS. BASKIN, MR. GILMOUR, MR. JOHNSON, MR. KOOSHOIAN and MR. MEYERS.

(AYES: 10; NOES: 0)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MS. BASKIN, having received the required number of votes cast was declared duly elected CHAIR OF THE ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE for 2024.

Item 2 – CHAIR BASKIN called for nominations and the election of Clerk of the Erie County Legislature for 2024.

MR. JOHNSON placed in nomination for Clerk of the Legislature for 2024 OLIVIA M. OWENS. MR. MEYERS seconded.

We, the undersigned, representing a majority of the members of the Erie County Legislature, do hereby nominate Olivia M. Owens as Clerk of the Erie County Legislature for 2024.

Howard J. Johnson, Jr. – 1<sup>st</sup> District

April N.M. Baskin – 2<sup>nd</sup> District

Michael H. Kooshoian – 3<sup>rd</sup> District

John A. Bargnesi, Jr. – 4<sup>th</sup> District

Christopher D. Greene – 6<sup>th</sup> District

Timothy J. Meyers – 7<sup>th</sup> District

Frank J. Todaro – 8<sup>th</sup> District

John J. Gilmour – 9<sup>th</sup> District

Lindsay R. Lorigo – 10<sup>th</sup> District

John J. Mills – 11<sup>th</sup> District

CHAIR BASKIN asked if there were any other nominations for the Office of Clerk of the Legislature for 2024.

MR. JOHNSON moved to close nominations. MR. MEYERS seconded.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CHAIR BASKIN moved the question of the election of OLIVIA M. OWENS as Clerk of the Erie County Legislature for 2024.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MS. OWENS, having received the required number of votes cast was declared duly elected CLERK OF THE ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE for 2024.

Item 3 – CHAIR BASKIN called for the designation of Majority Leader of the Erie County Legislature for 2024.

MR. JOHNSON presented a petition designating TIMOTHY J. MEYERS as MAJORITY LEADER OF THE ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE for 2024.

CHAIR BASKIN directed that the petition be received, filed and printed.

GRANTED.

We, the undersigned, representing a majority of the members of the Majority Caucus in the Erie County Legislature do hereby designate Timothy J. Meyers as Majority Leader of the Erie County Legislature for 2024.

Howard J. Johnson, Jr. – 1<sup>st</sup> District

April N.M. Baskin – 2<sup>nd</sup> District

Michael H. Kooshoian – 3<sup>rd</sup> District

John A. Bargnesi, Jr. – 4<sup>th</sup> District

Timothy J. Meyers – 7<sup>th</sup> District

John J. Gilmour – 9<sup>th</sup> District

Item 4 – CHAIR BASKIN called for the designation of Minority Leader of the Erie County Legislature for 2024.

MR. TODARO presented a petition designating JOHN J. MILLS as MINORITY LEADER OF THE ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE for 2024.

CHAIR BASKIN directed that the petition be received, filed and printed.

GRANTED.

We, the undersigned, representing a majority of the members of the Minority Caucus of the Erie County Legislature do hereby nominate John J. Mills as the Minority Leader of the Erie County Legislature for 2024.

Christopher D. Greene – 6<sup>th</sup> District

Frank J. Todaro – 8<sup>th</sup> District

Lindsay R. Lorigo – 10<sup>th</sup> District

John J. Mills – 11<sup>th</sup> District

Item 5 – CHAIR BASKIN directed that the Designation of Newspapers be Received, Filed and Printed.

GRANTED.

We, the undersigned, a Majority Caucus of the Erie County Legislature, do hereby designate the Buffalo Challenger Newspaper, published in Buffalo, New York, having general circulation in the County of Erie, as the official newspaper for the publication of local laws, notices and other matters required by law to be published for the County of Erie, effective January 1, 2024.

Howard J. Johnson, Jr. – 1 <sup>st</sup> District	April N.M. Baskin – 2 <sup>nd</sup> District
Michael H. Kooshoian – 3 <sup>rd</sup> District	John A. Bargnesi, Jr. – 4 <sup>th</sup> District
Timothy J. Meyers – 7 <sup>th</sup> District	John J. Gilmour – 9 <sup>th</sup> District

We, the undersigned, a Majority Caucus of the Erie County Legislature, do hereby designate the Grand Island Dispatch Newspaper, published in Buffalo, New York, having general circulation in the County of Erie, for the publication of all Concurrent Resolutions of the New York State Legislature, required by law to be published for the year 2024.

Howard J. Johnson, Jr. – 1 <sup>st</sup> District	April N.M. Baskin – 2 <sup>nd</sup> District
Michael H. Kooshoian – 3 <sup>rd</sup> District	John A. Bargnesi, Jr. – 4 <sup>th</sup> District
Timothy J. Meyers – 7 <sup>th</sup> District	John J. Gilmour – 9 <sup>th</sup> District

We, the undersigned, representing a majority of the Minority Caucus of the Erie County Legislature do hereby designate the Lancaster Bee, published in Amherst, New York, having general circulation in the County of Erie, as the official newspaper for the publication of local laws, notices, and other matters required by law to be published for the County of Erie effective January 1, 2024.

Christopher D. Greene – 6 <sup>th</sup> District	Frank J. Todaro – 8 <sup>th</sup> District
Lindsay R. Lorigo – 10 <sup>th</sup> District	John J. Mills – 11 <sup>th</sup> District

We, the undersigned, representing a majority of the Minority Caucus of the Erie County Legislature do hereby designate the East Aurora Advertiser, published in East Aurora, having general circulation in the County of Erie, as the official newspaper for the publication of all Concurrent Resolutions of the New York State Legislature, required by law to be published for the County of Erie effective January 1, 2024.

Christopher D. Greene – 6 <sup>th</sup> District	Frank J. Todaro – 8 <sup>th</sup> District
Lindsay R. Lorigo – 10 <sup>th</sup> District	John J. Mills – 11 <sup>th</sup> District

Item 6 – CHAIR BASKIN directed that the Rules of the Legislature for 2024 be tabled.

GRANTED.

Item 7 – No tabled items.

Item 8 – No items for reconsideration from previous meeting.

Item 9 – MR. MEYERS moved for the approval of the minutes for Meeting Number 24 from 2023. MR. GREENE seconded.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Item 10 – No Public Hearings.

**MISCELLANEOUS RESOLUTIONS**

Item 11 – Miscellaneous Resolutions were offered, as follows:

BASKIN	In Remembrance of Ophelia Charlena Anderson
TODARO	Recognizing Madison Francis for Earning the All-Time Scoring Record for Lancaster High School Basketball
MILLS	Honoring Zachary Seifert on Earning the Rank of Eagle Scout
MILLS	Honoring Lion Richard Maul for Receiving the 70th Year Service Chevron Award with the Orchard Park Lions Club
GREENE	Congratulating Dash’s Markets on 100 Years Serving the Community
GREENE	Congratulating Bob Geiger on His Retirement from the Clarence Town Board
MAJORITY CAUCUS	Honoring National Blood Donor Month January 2024
JOHNSON & BASKIN	Acknowledging and Honoring National Mentoring Month
GREENE	Congratulating Mike Bowers on His Retirement

MR. MEYERS moved for consideration of the above nine items. MR. JOHNSON seconded.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MR. MEYERS moved to amend the above nine items by including Et Al Sponsorship. MR. GILMOUR seconded.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MR. MEYERS moved for approval of the above nine items as amended. MR. JOHNSON seconded.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**LOCAL LAWS**

There are none.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

There are none.

**LEGISLATOR RESOLUTIONS**

Item 12 – MS. LORIGO presented the following resolution and moved for immediate consideration. MR. MILLS seconded.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

RESOLUTION NO. 1

RE: Minority Caucus Appointment to  
the Citizens Salary Review  
Commission  
(INTRO. 1-1)

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:  
The Minority Caucus of the Erie County Legislature  
Legislators Mills, Greene & Todaro

RE: Minority Caucus Appointment to the Citizens Salary Review Commission

WHEREAS, Article 22-A of the Erie County Charter establishes a Citizens Salary Review Commission consisting of nine members representative of taxpayer, civic labor, business, professional, financial, and minority groups in the County of Erie; and

WHEREAS, Five members of the Commission shall be appointed by the County Executive;  
and

WHEREAS, Two of the members of the Commission shall be appointed by a majority vote of the members of the political party whose membership of the County Legislature constitutes a majority of the Legislature; and

WHEREAS, One member of the Commission shall be appointed by a majority vote of the members of the political party whose membership of the County Legislature constitutes a minority vote of the Legislature; and

WHEREAS, One member of the commission shall be appointed by the County Comptroller; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gerald E. Paradise, III, the Minority Caucus appointee, has resigned his seat on the Commission; and

WHEREAS, Section 22-A-01 of the Erie County Charter states that in the case of a resignation, an appointment to fill a vacancy “shall be made for the unexpired term.”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that pursuant to authority granted in Article 22-A of the Erie County Charter, the Minority Caucus hereby appoints:

Mr. Gary Dickson  
543 Union Road  
West Seneca, NY 14224

to serve as our appointment on the Erie County Citizens Salary Review Commission for the remainder of the three-year term, ending on June 30, 2025; and be it further

RESOLVED, that for the purposes of recording this vote, only members of the Minority Caucus shall be polled by the Clerk of the Legislature; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Erie County Executive, the Erie County Comptroller, and Mr. Gary Dickson.

MS. LORIGO moved to amend the resolution by including Co-Sponsorship. MR. GREENE seconded.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CHAIR BASKIN directed that the resolution be received, filed and printed.

Item 13 – MR. MEYERS presented the following resolution and moved for immediate consideration and approval. MR. JOHNSON seconded.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

RESOLUTION NO. 2

RE: Re-Appropriation of Public  
Benefit Funding  
(INTRO. 1-2)

**A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED BY  
LEGISLATOR JOHNSON**

Re: Re-Appropriation of Public Benefit Funding

WHEREAS, Mother Earth Literacies was awarded \$15,000 in public benefit funding by the Erie County Legislature in the 2022 Erie County adopted budget; and

WHEREAS, the organization is not able to accept the funds, and the funding should be transferred to an alternative organization; and

WHEREAS, as in similar 2020, 2021 and 2022 situations, it is the intention of this Honorable Body to transfer such funding to community organizations serving the public.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that authorization is provided to transfer \$15,000 of 2022 public benefit funding to Every Bottom Covered Inc; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Director of the Division of Budget and Management is authorized to make any adjustments necessary to effectuate the intent of this resolution or any other changes identified by the Office of the Erie County Comptroller; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be sent to the Erie County Executive, the Erie County Comptroller, the Director of Budget and Management, and any other party deemed necessary and proper.

**COMMUNICATIONS DISCHARGED FROM COMMITTEE**

There are none.

**SUSPENSION OF THE RULES**

Item 14 - MR. MEYERS moved for a Suspension of the Rules to include an item not on the agenda.

GRANTED.

COMM. 1D-1 from DIRECTOR OF REAL PROPERTY TAX SERVICES Re: Open Item - Department of Real Property Tax Services.

Received and referred to the FINANCE & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.

Item 15 - MR. MEYERS moved for a Suspension of the Rules to include an item not on the agenda.



GRANTED.

COMM. 1E-7 from CHAIR BASKIN Re: 2024 Schedule of Legislative Sessions -  
Invocation & Pledge Schedule

CHAIR BASKIN directed that the item be received and filed.

Item 16 - MR. MEYERS moved for a Suspension of the Rules to include an item not on the  
agenda.

GRANTED.

INTRO. 1-3 from GILMOUR Re: Personnel Policies for FLSA-Exempt Employees

Received and referred to the FINANCE & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.

Item 17 - MR. MEYERS moved for a Suspension of the Rules to include an item not on the  
agenda.

GRANTED.

COMM. 1E-8 from CHAIR BASKIN Re: 2024 Committee Assignments

CHAIR BASKIN directed that the item be received and filed.

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS**

**FROM THE COMPTROLLER**

Item 18 – (COMM. 1E-1) Sales and Compensating Use Tax Report - Sept., Oct., Nov. 2023

Received and referred to the FINANCE & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.

**FROM THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE**

Item 19 – (COMM. 1E-2) NYS Nurses Association Collective Bargaining Agreement  
(2024-2026)

Received and referred to the FINANCE & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.

**FROM THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE**

Item 20 – (COMM. 1E-3) ECSD No. 1 - Order on Consent, Overflow Retention Facility

Received and referred to the ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

**FROM THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE**

Item 21 – (COMM. 1E-4) Authorization to Amend Contract with Cyclomedia Drainage Structure Inventory Data Extraction

Received and referred to the ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE.

**FROM THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE**

Item 22 – (COMM. 1E-5) EC Food Waste Reduction Project - No Cost Time Extension

Received and referred to the ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

**FROM THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE**

Item 23 – (COMM. 1E-6) Trailblazing Women Monument Project - No Cost Contract Extension for Site Design & Construction

Received and referred to the ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE.

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENTS**

There are none.

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PEOPLE AND OTHER AGENCIES**

**FROM THE NYS DEC**

Item 24 – (COMM. 1M-1) Brownfield Cleanup Program - Public Notice Fact Sheet

Received and referred to the ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

**FROM THE NFTA**

Item 25 – (COMM. 1M-2) NFTA Adoption of Operating & Capital Budget

Received and referred to the ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE.

**FROM THE B. GUTOWSKI**

Item 26 – (COMM. 1M-3) Citizen Comment on Golf Rules Changes

Received and referred to the ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Item 27 – Chair Baskin announced that the Legislature will conduct committee meetings on Thursday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024, and the schedule will be distributed. Chair Baskin further announced that the next session of the Legislature will be held on Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

**MEMORIAL RESOLUTIONS**

Item 28 – Legislator Bargnesi requested that when the Legislature adjourns, it do so in memory of Michael Ostrowski.

Item 29 – Legislator Gilmour requested that when the Legislature adjourns, it do so in memory of Steven Alvarez.

Item 30 – Legislator Mills requested that when the Legislature adjourns, it do so in memory of Leonard K. Pero.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Item 31 – At this time, there being no further business to transact, CHAIR BASKIN announced that the Chair would entertain a Motion to Adjourn.

MR. JOHNSON moved that the Legislature adjourn until Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 12:00 Noon. MR. GILMOUR seconded.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CHAIR BASKIN declared the Legislature adjourned until Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 12:00 Noon.

**OLIVIA M. OWENS  
CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE**