

**Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.  
July 8, 2009**

Easton, Pa.  
Wednesday  
July 8, 2009  
6:00 P.M.

City Council met in stated session, in the Gold Room of the Grand Eastonian Hotel and Suites at 140 Northampton Street, to consider any business that may lawfully be brought before the body, and to conduct a Public Hearing regarding a request for approval of an Intermunicipal Transfer of a Liquor License.

The invocation was given by Mayor Panto followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Kenneth Brown  
Pamela Panto  
Roger Ruggles  
Sandra Vulcano  
Elinor Warner  
Jeffrey Warren  
Salvatore J. Panto Jr. (7)

Absent: None (0)

Also in attendance were Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk, William Murphy, City Solicitor, Joel Scheer, Assistant City Solicitor and Glenn Steckman, City Administrator. There were approximately eighty other persons present in the audience.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

On motion of Mrs. Vulcano and Mrs. Panto the Agenda was approved by the following vote:

Yeas: Brown, P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, S. Panto (7)

Nays: None (0)

**ACTION ON MINUTES**

The June 24, 2009 Council meeting minutes were approved as submitted on motion of Dr. Warner and Mr. Warren by the following vote:

Yeas: S. Panto, Warren, Warner, Vulcano, Ruggles, Brown P. Panto (7)

Nays: None (0)

**CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION**

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Mayor Panto offered kind words regarding Police Captain David Ryan and his service to the City.

At this time a Certificate of Appreciation was read thanking Captain Ryan for his fourteen years of Police services to the City and its citizens. Councilman Warren presented Captain Ryan with a framed certificate, and offered kind words regarding Captain Ryan.

Police Chief Palmer spoke regarding Captain Ryan and presented him with a plaque and a retirement badge.

Captain Ryan thanked everyone for the assistance given to him over the years, and thanked Council for the honor bestowed on him.

At this time the following Police Officers were sworn in, by Mayor Panto, as Captain, Lieutenant, and as new Police Officers.

Carl Scalzo – Captain  
Salvatore Cucciuffo – Sergeant  
Stephen G. Kilroy – Patrolman  
Nathan C. White - Patrolman

**PUBLIC HEARING**  
**Intermunicipal Transfer of a Restaurant Liquor License**

At this time a Public Hearing was held regarding a request to transfer a Restaurant Liquor License from the Township of Williams to the City of Easton. (See separate minutes.)

**CITIZENS RIGHT TO BE HEARD (Agenda Items Only)**

There were no remarks from the audience.

**REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL**

The following report was received by Council.

- (a) Easton Suburban Water Authority June 8, 2009 meeting minutes.

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

Mr. Brown, Chairperson of the Administrative Committee spoke regarding legislation that would be before Council later in the meeting.

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Dr. Warner asked a question regarding proposed legislation to open a bank account at Lafayette Bank which was answered by Mr. Heagele.

Dr. Ruggles voiced his concerns and asked questions regarding the bank account Resolution, and wording concerning the signing of checks.

There was a discussion on this matter between Council members and Mr. Heagele which resulted in consensus to offer an amendment to the proposed Resolution later on in the meeting.

Mrs. Vulcano, Chairperson of the Economic Development Committee spoke regarding legislation that would be before Council later in the meeting,

Mrs. Panto, Chairperson of the Planning Committee reported that the City had received a grant for \$13,650 from the Pa. Historic and Museum Commission for the Historic District for consulting services design, printing and training.

Mr. Warren, Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee, spoke regarding legislation that would be before Council later in the meeting, and regarding the dedication to the Community by the Police Department.

Dr. Warner, Chairperson of the Public Works Committee reported that the Committee had met, earlier in the day, and related what had been discussed.

Dr. Ruggles, Chairperson for Strategic Planning had no report.

Mr. Murphy, City Solicitor, reported that before the meeting, Council had met in an Executive Session and had discussed the Sollman and Renninger litigations, and potential litigation.

Mayor Panto said that by the July 22, 2009 Council meeting, Council would be receiving some type of a short term financing proposal for the City's grant with the Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission for their reimbursement grant. He said that the City had to pay the money out first before the Commission would reimburse the City. He said that the City had to check to see if they could make payments with City funds, and if not Short Term Bridge financing would have to be used.

Mayor Panto spoke regarding the lost and stolen gun ordinances that have been adopted by other municipalities. There was a short discussion between Council members on this matter.

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Mayor Panto reported that the ground breaking ceremonies for the new CVS Store would take place on July 17, 2009 at 11:30 a.m., spoke regarding the design of the store, and regarding a prescription discount program for persons with no prescription coverage.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Action on Legislative Bills

Bill No. 65, (Ordinance 5211), Amending Ordinance 5132, Providing Revenues and Appropriating Specific Sums to be required for the purposes of City Government hereinafter set forth during the Fiscal Year 2009 was adopted on motion of Mr. Brown and Dr. Warner by the following vote:

Yeas: Brown, P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, S. Panto (7)

Nays: None (0)

Ordinance 5211 approves amending the General Fund Budget by increasing Revenues and Expenditures by \$23,000.

Bill No. 66, (Ordinance 5212), Amending the Code of the City of Easton, Chapter 114, thereof, entitled Personnel, was adopted on motion of Mr. Brown and Mrs. Panto by the following vote:

Councilman Ruggles asked a question regarding wording in the proposed Bill which was answered by Attorney Scheer.

Yeas: P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, S. Panto, Brown (7)

Nays: None (0)

Ordinance 5212 creates a new Article VI, entitled Funeral Benefits in the Codes of the City of Easton.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence received by Council:

**NEW BUSINESS**

Introduction of Legislative Bills:

A July 1, 2009 memorandum regarding changes to the 111 Fund was received from Chris Heagele, Director of Finance.

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Bill No. 67, Amending Ordinance 5133, Providing Revenues and Appropriating Specific Sums to be required for the State Highway Aid Fund hereinafter set forth during the Fiscal Year 2009, was introduced by Mr. Brown and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would amend the 2009 State Highway Aid Fund by increasing revenues and expenditures by #133,498.80.

Bill No. 68, Approving a Transfer of Funds in the 2009 State Highway Aid Fund was introduced by Mr. Brown and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would approve the transfer of \$65,265 within revenue line items contained in the 2009 State Highway Aid Fund.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution that agreed that while receiving funds from the Commonwealth pursuant to the Municipal Police Officers Education and Training Act, the City would adhere to the Rules and Regulations of the MPOETC.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Warren:

121-2009

The above Resolution was adopted on motion of Mr. Warren and Dr. Warner by the following vote:

Yeas: Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, S. Panto, Brown, P. Panto (7)

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution to approve appointments and reappointments to Authorities, Boards and Commissions.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mayor Panto:

122-2009

The above Resolution was adopted on motion of Mayor Panto and Dr. Warner by the following vote:

Yeas: Vulcano Warner, Warren, S. Panto, Brown, P. Panto, Ruggles (7)

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution that would approve an Intermunicipal Transfer of a Restaurant Liquor License from the Township of Williams to the City of Easton.

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The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Vulcano:

123-2009

The above Resolution was adopted on motion of Mrs. Vulcano and Mr. Warren by the following vote:

Councilwoman Warner asked a question regarding wording in the proposed Resolution, which was answered by the City Clerk.

Yeas: Warner, Warren, S. Panto, Brown, P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano (7)

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution that would authorize the Mayor and City Controller to sign a grant award agreement from the Pa. Department of Community and Economic Development. .

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Vulcano:

124-2009

The above Resolution was adopted on motion of Mrs. Vulcano and Mr. Warren by the following vote:

Mayor Panto stated that with this grant, within the last eighteen months, the City has received \$975,000 towards the Simon Silk Mill and its future development and not one penny from Easton taxpayers.

Yeas: Warren, S. Panto, Brown, P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner (7)

Nays: None (0)

The next item on Agenda was a proposed Resolution that would authorize the City to enter into an agreement of sale for 1000 Lehigh Street.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Vulcano:

125-2009

The above Resolution was adopted on motion of Mrs. Vulcano and Dr. Warner by the following vote:

Yeas: S. Panto, Brown, P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren (7)

Nays: None (0)

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The next item on the agenda was a proposed Resolution which would authorize the opening of an interest bearing checking account at Lafayette Trust Bank.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Panto

126-2009

On motion of Mayor Panto and Dr. Warner the above Resolution was amended by amending the signers of checks, drafts, notes or acceptances of the City to be the City

Controller or Deputy Controller and either the Mayor or Finance Director, by the following vote:

Yeas: S. Panto, Warren, Warner, Vulcano, Ruggles, P. Panto, Brown (7)

Nays: None (6)

On motion of Mr. Brown and Mrs. Vulcano, the above Resolution, with amendment was adopted by the following vote:

Yeas: Brown, P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, S. Panto (7)

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a Resolution that would approve an Intermunicipal Agreement with the City of Bethlehem regarding the application for a 2009 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Warren:

127-2009

The above Resolution was adopted on motion of Mr. Warren and Mrs. Panto by the following vote:

Yeas: P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, S. Panto, Brown (7)

Nays: None (0)

**CITIZEN'S RIGHT TO BE HEARD**

William Marley, 64 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, spoke regarding the acquisition of Visa Credit Cards by the City with a payback of 1%, and urged the City to negotiate a better rate.

Mayor Panto explained that the City did.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:04 p.m. on motion of Dr. Ruggles and Dr. Warner by the following vote:

Yeas: Brown, P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, S. Panto (7)

Nays: None (0)

Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk