

# **Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.**

**April 10, 2013**

Easton, Pa  
Wednesday  
April 10, 2013  
6:00 p.m.

City Council met in stated session at the above date and time, in Council Chambers, 6<sup>th</sup> floor, One S. Third Street to consider any business that may lawfully be brought before the body and to conduct a Public Hearing regarding a request to approve an Intermunicipal transfer of a Restaurant Liquor License.

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

## **ROLL CALL**

Present: Brown, Fleck, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, Panto (7)  
Absent: None (0)

Also in attendance were Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk, William Murphy, City Solicitor, Beth Knickerbocker, Assistant City Solicitor and Glenn Steckman, City Administrator. There were five other persons present.

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

Yeas: Brown, Fleck, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, Panto (7)  
Nays: None (0)

## **ACTION ON MINUTES**

On motion of Dr. Ruggles and Dr. Warner, the March 27, 2013 Council Meeting minutes were approved as submitted by the following vote:

Yeas: Brown, Fleck, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, Panto (7)  
Nays: None (0)

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

There were no remarks from the audience.

## **PUBLIC HEARING** **INTERMUNICIPAL TRANSFER OF A RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE**

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At 6:03 p.m., Mayor Panto opened the hearing and turned it over to Mrs. Vulcano, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee.

Mrs. Vulcano read the following:

“This hearing was requested by Mr. Howard Lieberman on behalf of Batuque LLC. for an Intermunicipal Transfer of a Restaurant Liquor License from the City of Bethlehem to the City of Easton, 154 Northampton Street.

Mr. Philip Mitman, subbing for Mr. Lieberman, is in attendance and will be allowed to address Council on this issue. After he has addressed Council, and has answered any questions that Council may have, the audience will be given a chance to address Council on this issue.”

Philip Mitman, 910 Paxinosa Ave., a representative of the Easton Area Land Developers Corporation, who were the lead financial agency for this project along with the Greater Easton Development Partnership, Lehigh County Revolving Land Fund and the owners of the restaurant owners Antonio and Ana DeMattos, said that he was in attendance to represent the DeMattos’ and to answer any questions that Council and the audience may have regarding this request. He said that the Restaurant was expecting to be opened by the end of April. He said that the owners had owned and operated a Brazilian Steak House Restaurant located in Nazareth, and also a Brazilian Steak House Restaurant in Allentown. He said that the owners found Easton to be a market where they wanted to be and have done a very nice interior fit out job.

Mayor Panto asked for clarification that this was for a regular Restaurant Liquor License and not for an Economic Development Liquor License.

Mr. Mitman said that Council had adopted an earlier Resolution approving an Economic Development Liquor License but that was being rescinded because it was much better collateral for the EAILD for the funds that they have invested in the project and that it was a more valuable license which could be transferred anywhere in Northampton County if anything happened with the restaurant.

Council members made comments and asked questions regarding the Restaurant’s opening date, and the exact address of the business which were answered by Mr. Mitman and Mr. DeMattos.

There were no further questions from Council members or the audience.

Mrs. Vulcano read the following:

“Later in the meeting a Resolution will be introduced and a vote will be taken on this matter.”

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The hearing was closed at 6:10 p.m.

Mr. Mitman thanked the Mayor and Council for all they were doing as City Council, and for the Mayor's dedication, conviction and courage for all that they have been working on for City improvements.

**REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL**

The following report was received by Council:

- (a) The February 2013 Fire Report.

Mayor Panto accepted that report on behalf of Council.

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

Mr. Brown, Chairman of the Finance Committee spoke regarding legislation that he would have for later in the meeting regarding amending the 2013 Salary and Wage Ordinance.

Mrs. Vulcano, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee spoke regarding legislation that she would have for later in the meeting regarding approving the transfer of a Restaurant Liquor License from the City of Bethlehem to the City of Easton. She reported that there would be a Vacant Property Review Committee meeting on April 24, 2013 which would begin at 5:30 p.m.

Dr. Ruggles, Chairman of the Planning Committee, reported that a Planning Committee meeting would be held on April 23, 2013.

Mr. Warren, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee spoke regarding legislation that he would have for later in the meeting for amending the Traffic Control map.

Dr. Warner, Chairman of the Public Works Committee reported that the City auction was rescheduled from April 6, 2013 to April 27, 2013 and would begin at 9:00 a.m.

Mr. Steckman explained why the auction had been rescheduled.

Mr. Fleck, Chairman of the Administration Committee had no report.

Mr. Murphy, City Solicitor reported that he and Assistant Solicitor Knickerbocker had no reports.

Mayor Panto reported that he along with other persons had attended an LCB Hearing on a request for a retail liquor license for Jack's Market located at 222 Northampton Street. He

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reported that the Pennsylvania Municipal League's Southeast meeting and the Convention were scheduled and if any member of Council wished to attend they should contact his office and they would take care of registration. He reported that applications had been sent out to Easton, Wilson and Notre Dame High Schools for the essay scholarship contest, spoke regarding the Card keys and ID's that were issued to City employees and regarding the security in the building.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

The following correspondence was received by Council.

(a) PA Auditor General – Liquid Fuels Tax Fund Examination Report for 2011.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Bill No. 19, Amending Article III, Traffic Control Map of Chapter 560, Vehicles and Traffic of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., was introduced by Mr. Warren and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would amend the Traffic Control Map by authorizing the removal of Parking meters C-4, C-5, C-6 and C-7 located on the outside of the Southwest quadrant of Centre Square, to allow for the creation of a Bus Unload Only zone, increase the Bus Stop on the 300 block of Pine Street to 185', and the creation of a Bus Load/Unload zone on the Southside of the 300 block of Northampton Street from the Southeast corner of the Bank Street pedestrian walkway to the intersection of Northampton Street and Centre Square.

The next item on the Agenda was a Resolution which would amend the 2013 Salary and Wage Resolution.

The following Resolutions were introduced by Mr. Brown:

65-2013

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

Mayor Panto requested a budget amendment for the above amendments.

Yeas: Brown, Fleck, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, Panto (7)

Nays: Nays (0)

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The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve the transfer of a Restaurant Liquor License from the City of Bethlehem to the City of Easton for 154 Northampton Street.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Vulcano:

66-2013

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

Yeas: Fleck, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, Panto, Brown (7)

Nays: None (0)

**CITIZENS RIGHT TO BE HEARD**

Mayor Panto informed everyone that the April 24, 2013 Council meeting would be held at the College Hill Presbyterian Church.

Mr. Kirk Raup, 818 West Union Boulevard, Bethlehem, Pa., gave Council a handout entitled "All three LC cities asked to form a Rail Transit Authority. He said that he had given the same handout to Allentown and Bethlehem, who are working on getting this issue in front of their City Councils. He said that he would like to see the establishment of a Rail Authority. He said that there is a huge support for rail service to and from the Lehigh Valley, and asked Council to address this as soon as possible.

Mayor Panto said that he believed that this Council was on record supporting rail service. He said that he had read the proposal that Mr. Raup had sent to him and had discussed it with the Allentown and Bethlehem's Mayors, but found that the proposal did not show any financial information. He said that he felt that Mr. Raup had to validate how much money he was looking for to raise in the short and long terms.

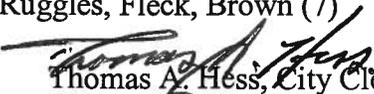
Mayor Panto thanked Senator Toomey for his leadership role in putting together a compromise bill for common sense gun legislation

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:29 p. m. on the motion of Mr. Fleck and Mr. Brown by the following vote:

Yeas: Panto, Warren, Warner, Vulcano, Ruggles, Fleck, Brown (7)

Nays: None (0)

  
Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk

CITY COUNCIL  
AGENDA

Stated Session  
Wednesday  
April 10, 2013  
6:00 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER
  2. INVOCATION
  3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
  4. ROLL CALL
  5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
  6. ACTION ON MINUTES – March 27, 2013 Council meeting minutes
  7. CITIZENS RIGHT TO BE HEARD – (Agenda Items Only)
  8. PUBLIC HEARING –Request to Transfer of a Restaurant Liquor License
- 
9. REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL  
(a) Fire Report for February 2013.
  10. ACCEPTING REPORTS ON BEHALF OF COUNCIL.
  11. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES
    - (a) Finance (Kenneth Brown)
    - (b) Economic Development (Sandra Vulcano)
    - (c) Planning (Roger Ruggles)
    - (d) Public Safety (Jeffrey Warren)
    - (e) Public Works (Elinor Warner)
    - (f) Administration (Michael Fleck)
    - (g) Report of City Solicitor (Attorney William Murphy)
    - (h) Report of Mayor (Salvatore J. Panto Jr.)
  12. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
  13. CORRESPONDENCE
    - (a) Pa Auditor General – Liquid Fuels Tax Fund Examination Report for 2011.
  14. NEW BUSINESS
    - (a) Introduction of Legislative Bills.
      1. Bill 19, Amending Article III, Traffic Control Map.
    - (b) Amending the 2013 Salary and Wage Resolution.(R)
    - (c) Approving the transfer of a Restaurant Liquor License.(R)

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15. CITIZENS RIGHT TO BE HEARD - On any matter.

16. ADJOURNMENT

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