

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
August 10, 2011

Easton, Pa
Wednesday
August 10, 2011
6:10 p.m.

City Council met in stated session at the above date and time in the 6th floor Conference Room of City Hall, located at One South Third Street, Easton, Pa. to consider any business that may lawfully be brought before the body, and to conduct a Public Hearing regarding the proposed Neighborhood Improvements District.

The invocation was given by Mr. Brown 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, Joel Scheer, Assistant City Solicitor and W. Glenn Steckman, City Administrator. There were approximately eighty other persons present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion of Dr. Warner and Mr. Warren the agenda was approved by the following vote:

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

ACTION ON MINUTES

On motion of Dr. Warner and Mr. Fleck the July 27, 2011 Council Meeting minutes were approved as submitted by the following vote:

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

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

At this time for Police Captain Michael Vangelo was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for his years of service, to the City and its Citizens.

All Council persons spoke regarding Retired Captain Vangelo's service to the Department, the City and its Citizens.

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

August 10, 2011

Mr. Vangelo thanked Council for their words and for the Resolution.

PRESENTATION

At this time a presentation was given by Mr. Dennis Lieb regarding a Parking Benefits District program for the City.

Council members made comments and asked questions, regarding the program, which were answered by Mr. Lieb.

CITIZENS RIGHT TO BE HEARD (Agenda Items Only)

Because the following two persons, who had to be other meetings were allowed to speak regarding the proposed Neighborhood Improvements District before the Public Hearing.

Mr. Mark Mulligan, 322 Northampton Street, Easton and Reverend Michael Dowd, 29 N. 3rd Street, pastor of the First United Church of Christ spoke in favor of the proposed Neighborhood Improvements District.

REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL

The following report was received by Council.

- (a) ESWA – July 11, 2011 meeting minutes.
- (b) EAJSA – March 21, April 18, and May 16, 2011 meeting minutes.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Brown, Chairman of the Finance Committee spoke regarding legislation that would be before Council later in the meeting. He also reported that the Finance Committee met on August 9th, and reported that the next Finance Committee would meet on September 13, 2011.

Mr. Brown asked Mr. Michael Gaul, from KingSpry Law Offices to explain the proposed amendments to Bill No. 25, authorizing the Issuance of its Taxable General Obligation Note, which he did.

Mrs. Vulcano, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee reported that the Public Hearing for the proposed Neighborhood Improvements District would be held before the end of the meeting, and gave an update on Safe Harbor.

Mayor Panto reported that the status of Safe Harbor was where it was because of Federal Government cuts and spoke regarding the benefits of Safe Harbor.

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

August 10, 2011

Dr. Ruggles, Chairman of the Planning Committee spoke regarding legislation that would be before Council later in the meeting.

Mr. Warren, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee spoke regarding legislation that would be before Council later in the meeting, said that the Public Safety Committee would meet on August 23rd and related what would be discussed. He also gave a Farmers Market update.

Dr. Warner, Chairman of the Public Works Committee spoke regarding legislation that would be before Council later in the meeting.

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

Mr. Murphy, City Solicitor, reported that before the meeting Council had met in Executive Session and had discussed purchase of Real Estate, litigation, potential litigation and Police Union negotiations.

Mr. Scheer, Assistant Solicitor had no report.

Mayor Panto provided an update on the Bushkill Drive Bridge construction project, the street construction projects, said that at the next meeting he would like to introduce a Resolution which would urge the Government not to cut CDBG program in its entirety, and reported that the most recent Financial Audit would be presented at the August 24th Council meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No. 24, (Ordinance 5323) Accepting Utilities and Easements for the HOPE VI Project at Neston Heights was Adopted on motion of Dr. Warner and Mr. Fleck by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

Ordinance 5323 accepted Utility Easements for the HOPE VI Project.

Bill No. 25, Authorizing the Issuance of a Taxable General Obligation Note was moved on motion of Mr. Brown and Mrs. Vulcano.

On motion of Mr. Brown and Mr. Fleck Bill No. 25 was amended in the following manner by the following vote:

By amending the amount of \$6,165,000 to \$4,452,000 through out the Ordinance, by naming Merchants Bank of Bangor as the institution for the purchase of the Note, by removing the following wording in the last WHEREAS, of the Ordinance, "to approve the financing study

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
August 10, 2011

presented by the Financial Consultant, by changing the maximum rate of 12% to 3.79 %, and by making the word “month” plural.

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

Amended Bill No. 25, (Ordinance 5324) Authorizing the Issuance of a Taxable General Obligation Note was adopted on motion of Mr. Brown and Mrs. Vulcano by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

This Bill authorized the issuance of a Taxable General Obligation Note in the amount of \$\$4,452,000.

CORRESPONDENCE

Council received no correspondence

NEW BUSINESS

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would declare the intention of the City to incur Debt in connection with the payment of the cost of various City Capital projects, and to reimburse various City funds or accounts for expenditures made towards the cost of then projects.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Brown:

106-2011

Mr. Fleck said that he would vote for the Resolution but did not like a construction item to be paid for with some of the funds.

Mayor Panto and Dr. Warner responded to Mr. Flecks comments.

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

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

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution in which voiced their support of the development of a Skate Park.

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
August 10, 2011

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Warner:

107-2011

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

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

Nays: None

An August 2, 2011, memorandum, regard an Encroachment Request was received from Joseph Mauro, City Engineer.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve a Right of Way Encroachment Agreement with Oscar Oviedo, for the erection of a fire escape onto the 300 Block of Pine Street.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Warner:

108-2011

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

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

Nays: None (0)

An August 3, 2011 memorandum, regarding an Agreement with Bio-Haz Solutions, Inc., was received from Police Chief Lawrence Palmer.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve a Service Agreement with Bio-Haz Solutions, Inc. for the removal of infectious, chemotherapeutic and pathological waste.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Warren:

109-2011

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

Yeas: Warren Panto, Brown, Fleck, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner (6)

Nays: None (0)

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

August 10, 2011

An August 2, 2011 memorandum regarding the Watson Hall and Pardee Drive Courtyard Project, was received from Joseph Mauro, City Engineer.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve a Developers Agreement with Lafayette College for the Pardee Drive/Watson Hall Courtyard Projects.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

110-2011

The above Resolution was amended in the following manner on motion of Dr. Ruggles and Dr. Warner by the following vote:

“By adding the following language to paragraph 6 of page 3 of the Developers Agreement after the words Recreation Fund.”

“Building Permits, and Escrow Funds,”

Yeas: Warren, Panto, Brown, Fleck, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner (6)

Nays: None (0)

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

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

Nays: None (0)

CITIZENS RIGHT TO BE HEARD

Lani Abraham, 207 Church Street questioned the placement of the Public Hearing to at the end of the meeting, rather than at the beginning of the meeting that had been done in the past.

Mayor Panto responded to Ms. Abraham’s comments and questions.

PUBLIC HEARING

At 7:26 p.m. Mayor Panto opened the Public Hearing and turned the hearing over to Mrs. Vulcano, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee:

Mrs. Vulcano read the following:

“Welcome and thank you for attending tonight’s meeting. Since the last hearing, the Greater Easton Development Partnership’s Neighborhood Improvement District Steering Committee

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa. **August 10, 2011**

has compiled comments on it's NID draft plan and will be presenting proposed amendments to the plan to address those comments on its NID draft plan and will be presented propose amendments to the plan to address those comments this evening. Public comment was received via email, mail, at the first public hearing, and at the Mayor's four workshop meetings. Again, it's important to note that City Council will not be making any final decisions regarding the NID tonight and that tonight's meeting is intended to allow property owners to ask questions and provide comments on the proposed changes to the draft Plan. After a presentation by GEDP, members of the p[public will be permitted to make comments or ask questions. At this point, Mayor Panto will introduce the presenter".

Mayor Panto introduced Donna Taggart of New City America East.

Ms. Taggart gave a brief overview of a Neighborhood Improvements District, (NID) which included the following:

- What is an NID
- How does an NID work
- Overview of the proposed Easton NID
- The original Draft NID Plan
- Changes to the Draft NID Plan being considered
- Impacts of various fee rates
- Median Fees in other City Districts
- Sample Fees at 4 mills
- Other changes being considered
- Steps to be taken and estimated timeline

All Council members made comments and asked questions, which were answered by Ms. Taggart and Gretchen Longenbach, Director of Economic Development.

At this time the Mayor opened the floor for comments or questions.

The following persons spoke regarding support and non-support for the proposed plans, and asked questions which were answered by Mayor Panto, Council members, Ms. Taggart and Ms. Longenbach.

1. Charles Elliott 26 N. 3rd St, Easton, Pa.
2. Anthony Marraccini 134 Spring Garden St., Easton, Pa.
3. Larry Holmes 91 Larry Holmes Dr. Easton, Pa.
4. Lani Abraham 207 Church St. Easton, Pa.
5. Bill Burrell 207 Church St. Easton, Pa.
6. Emile Jordan 13 S. 5th St. Easton, Pa.
7. Robert L. Smith 590 S. Delaware Dr. Easton, Pa.
8. Susan Huxley 67 N. 4th St. Easton, Pa.

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 9. William Marley | 64 N. 2 nd St. Easton, Pa. |
| 10. Corinne Buzzuto | 19 S. 7 th St. Easton, Pa. |
| 11. Noel Jones | 800 Ferry St. Easton, Pa. |

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m. on the motion of Dr. Warner and Mr. Warren by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk