

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
December 10, 2014

Easton, Pa
Tuesday
December 10, 2014
6:00 p.m.

City Council met in stated session at the above date and time, in Council Chambers, located on the 6th floor of City Hall, One South Third Street, to consider any business that may lawfully be brought before the body.

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

ROLL CALL

Present: Brown, Edinger, Mauro, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Panto (7)
Absent: None (0)

Also in attendance were Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk, William Murphy, City Solicitor, and Glenn Steckman, City Administrator. There were approximately forty other persons present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion of Mr. Brown and Mrs. Vulcano the Agenda was amended by adding a Presentation to City Employees before the 4th Street Two Way Plan presentation, by the following vote:

Yeas: Brown, Edinger, Mauro, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Panto (7)
Nays: None (0)

ACTION ON MINUTES

On motion of Dr. Warner and Dr. Ruggles the November 25, 2014 Council Meeting minutes, as submitted, were approved by the following vote:

Yeas: Edinger, Mauro, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Panto, Brown (7)
Nays: None (0)

PRESENTATION

At this time, Terry Faulk and Thomas Hess were presented with clocks for their forty and forty-three years of service to the City and its citizens.

Council offered words regarding their service to the City, Council and its Citizens.

PRESENTATION
4TH STREET TWO-WAY PLAN

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At this time Dave Hopkins, Director of Public Works gave a presentation on a proposed Northampton Street corridor project which included, amongst other things, a proposal to make all of 4th Street a two way thoroughfare. He spoke regarding the Major and Primary objectives, the proposed conditions, and answered questions that Council had regarding turning lanes, lost and adding of parking spaces, designation of lanes, timing of traffic signals, business access, signage and for parking and curb line changes.

Roseann Joseph, 100 N. 3RD Street and as a representative of Our Lady of Lebanon Church spoke to Council regarding parking in front of and across the street from the Church, located on N. 4th Street.

Susan Huxley, 67 N. 4th Street, spoke to Council regarding the need for additional timing for pedestrians crossing at 4th and Northampton Street and the keeping of meter parking on N. 4th Street. She also spoke regarding the need for more police coverage on N. 4th Street.

PUBLIC COMMENT
(Agenda Items Only)

There were no comments from the Audience.

CONSENT AGENDA

On motion of Mayor Panto and Mr. Brown, the following items were adopted by the following vote:

Resolution 171-2014 which authorized the destruction of numerous City departments' records.

Resolution 172-2014 which authorized the increasing of CDBG funds for the 2013 CDBG allocations.

Yeas: Panto, Brown, Edinger, Mauro, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner (7)

Nays: None (0)

REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL

The following report was received by Council:

(a) Fire Department; November Fire Report..

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Brown, Chairman of the Finance Committee, spoke regarding legislation that he would have, for later in the meeting, for repealing Article IV., Per Capita Tax, of Chapter 535,

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Taxation, of the City's Code, for approving the 2015 City Budget, for setting the Tax Rate for 2015, and for approving the 2015 Salary and Wages for all City Employees.

Mrs. Vulcano, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee, reported that the Vacant Property Review Committee met, earlier in the afternoon, and had classified 2 properties on the South Side as blighted properties.

Dr. Warner, Chairman of the Planning Committee, spoke regarding legislation which would have for later in the meeting for approving a contract amendment with Urban Matrix,

Ms. Mauro, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, spoke regarding legislation which she would have for later in the meeting for approving a three-year contract to provide fire service to the Borough of Glendon.

Dr. Ruggles, Chairman of the Public Works Committee reported that Lafayette College is going to give the City a football from the 150th anniversary Lafayette/Lehigh football game that was played at Yankee Stadium.

Mr. Edinger, 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 two litigations, filed in the Northampton County Court of Common Pleas, CV2014-115110 and CV 2014-115101.

Mayor Panto reported that the inside Farmers Market would begin on December 13th, and also asked for volunteers for helping with serving two dinners, being sponsored by Project Hope, at the Our Lady of Lebanon Church on Sunday December 14th at 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. for homeless and needy families, and reported that a peace rally and march will be held on Sunday, from Centre Square to the Easton Area Community Center in remembrance of the Sandy Hook Victims.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill 34, (Ordinance 5479) Amending Section 285-42, Parking Garage Fees of Chapter 285, Fees, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., was adopted on motion of Mayor Panto and Dr. Warner, by the following vote:

Yeas: Brown, Edinger, Mauro, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Panto (7)

Nays: None (0)

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Ordinance 5479 amended the Parking Garage Fees for customers who have contracted for between 40-59 spaces and customers with 60 passes or more.

Bill 35, Repealing Article IV, Per Capita Tax, of Chapter 535, Taxation, of Chapter 535, Taxation of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., was moved by Mr. Brown.

Dr. Warner explained that for all the reasons why she voted to increase the Earned Income Tax she would be voting against this proposed bill and felt that it was wrong to get rid of a revenue generating tax because it was too hard to collect, and gave other reasons.

There was a discussion between Council members, Mr. Heagele, Mr. Steckman and Mr. Murphy on this matter.

On motion of Mr. Brown and Dr. Ruggles, Bill 35 was tabled by the following vote:

Yeas: Edinger, Mauro, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Panto, Brown (7)
Nays: None (0)

Bill 36, (Ordinance 5480, Providing Revenues and appropriating Specific Sums to be required for the City Budget during the Fiscal Year 2015, was adopted on motion of Mr. Brown and Dr. Warner by the following vote:

Yeas: Mauro, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Panto, Brown, Edinger (7)
Nays: None (0)

Ordinance 5480 approved the City budget for 2015.

Bill 37, (Ordinance 5481, Fixing the Tax Rate for all City purposes for the year 2015, was adopted on motion of Mr. Brown and Ms. Mauro by the following vote:

Yeas: Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Panto, Brown, Edinger, Mauro (7)
Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution that would approve an amendment to a contract with Urban Matrix.

On motion of Dr. Warner and Mr. Brown, a Resolution that would approve a Contract Amendment with Urban Matrix was brought back from the table by the following vote:

Yeas: Mauro, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Panto, Brown, Edinger (7)
Nays: None (0)

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The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Warner:

173-2014

Shachi Pandey, from Urban Matrix, spoke regarding what additional work would be done by, her company, which required the amendment and increase in fees.

Council members made comments and asked questions regarding any additional updated graphics to be included in the report, if the contract included the design and the finished plan, why the City should pay an additional \$30,000 when nothing will change for the final deliverables, and if the left over grant funds, that would be used for this increase, were meant to be used for this type of work.

Ms. Pandey, Mayor Panto, Dr. Warner, Mr. Steckman and Mr. Kinney addressed the questions and concerns of Council.

On motion of Dr. Warner and Mr. Brown the proposed Resolution was amended by changing the third Whereas to read "WHEREAS the Bureau of Planning has the appropriate grant money for the Contract Amendment cost not to exceed \$26,000, by the following vote:

Yeas: Mauro, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Panto, Brown, Edinger (7)

Nays: None (0)

On motion of Dr. Warner and Dr. Ruggles the proposed Resolution was further amended by changing the fourth Whereas to read "WHEREAS, the base Comprehensive Plan scope of work and deliverables will be enhanced by this Contract Amendment, by the following vote:

Yeas: Edinger, Mauro, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Panto, Brown (7)

Nays: None (0)

On motion of Dr. Warren and Mr. Brown, the amended Resolution was adopted by the following vote:

Yeas: Mauro, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Panto, Brown, Edinger (7)

Nays: None (0)

NEW BUSINESS

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve the Salary and Wages to be paid to officers and employees during the year 2015.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Brown

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174-2014

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

Yeas: Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Panto, Brown, Edinger, Mauro (7)

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would eliminate the position of Part-time 2nd City Solicitor.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mayor Panto:

175-2014

Dr. Ruggles said that he did not receive a clear understanding, during the Budget reviews, of how this position would be replaced.

Mayor Panto said that the way he implemented this into the budget was that the person in this position would answer to Mr. Murphy, in the legal department, and would do a lot of what the second Assistant City Solicitor did plus overseeing collections.

There was a lengthy discussion between Council members, Mr. Steckman, Mr. Heagele and Mr. Murphy, on the duties of this position, what the City could charge for in fees for delinquent collections.

A motion to table the above proposed Resolution was defeated on motion of Mayor Panto and Ms. Mauro by the following vote:

Yeas: None (0)

Nays: Vulcano, Warner, Panto, Brown, Edinger, Mauro, Ruggles (7)

On motion of Mayor Panto and Ms. Mauro, the above Resolution was adopted by the following vote:

Yeas: Vulcano, Warner, Panto, Brown, Edinger, Mauro, Ruggles (7)

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve a Three (3) year agreement between the City of Easton and the Borough of Glendon to provide fire protection to the Borough.

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A Resolution was introduced by Ms. Mauro that would approve a Three (3) year agreement to provide fire protection to the Borough of Glendon.

Mayor Panto said that he was not in favor of a three year agreement, and with some of the wording contained in the Agreement and explained why.

There were comments from Council, that they had just received this Agreement tonight and that they did not have any time to review it and it seemed that Mr. Murphy had just received it and did not have time to review it.

Mr. Steckman attempted to explain why they had just received the Agreement.

On motion of Ms. Mauro and Dr. Warner the proposed Resolution was tabled until such time that they and Mr. Murphy had a chance to review the proposed Agreement by the following vote:

Yeas: Warner, Panto, Brown, Edinger, Mauro, Ruggles, Vulcano (7)

Nays: None (0)

PUBLIC COMMENT
(On any item)

Kirk Raup spoke to Council about a proposed rail service for the Lehigh Valley.

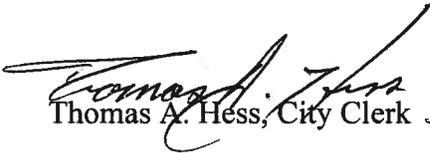
Diego Santaella, 208 N. 11th Street spoke to Council regarding the danger of the intersection at N. 11th and Wood Avenue and speeding on Wood Avenue.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p. m. on motion of Mr. Brown and Dr. Ruggles by the following vote:

Yeas: Mauro, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Panto, Brown, Edinger (7)

Nays: None (0)


Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk

CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA

Stated Session
Wednesday
December 10, 2014
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 – November 25, 2014 Council Meeting.
7. PRESENTATION – 4th Street Two-Way Plan
8. PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda Items Only)
9. CONSENT AGENDA
 - (a) Resolution authorizing disposition of Records.
 - (b) Resolution approving the reallocation of previous year's CDBG funds.
10. REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL
 - (a) Fire Department; November Fire Report
11. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES
 - (a) Finance (Kenneth Brown)
 - (b) Economic Development (Sandra Vulcano)
 - (c) Planning (Elinor Warner)
 - (d) Public Safety (Melanie Mauro)
 - (e) Public Works (Roger Ruggles)
 - (f) Administration (James Edinger)
 - (g) Report of City Solicitor (Attorney William Murphy)
 - (h) Report of Mayor (Salvatore J. Panto Jr.)
12. CORRESPONDENCE
13. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
 - (a) Action on Legislative Bills
 1. Bill 34, Amending Section 285-42, Parking Garage Fees of Chapter 285, Fees, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa.
 2. Bill 35, Repealing Article IV, Per Capita Tax, of Chapter 535, Taxation of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa.

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3. Bill 36, Providing Revenues and Appropriating Specific Sums to be required for the City Budget during the Fiscal Year 2015.

4. Bill 37, Setting the Tax Rate for 2015.

(b) Resolution Approving an Amendment to a contract with Urban Matrix.

14. NEW BUSINESS

(a) Resolution approving 2015 Salary and Wages for all City Employees

(b) Resolution eliminating the position of Part-Time Second Assistant City Solicitor.

(c) Resolution approving an Agreement with the Borough of Glendon.

15. PUBLIC COMMENT – (Any Matter)

16. ADJOURNMENT