

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

March 10, 2010

Easton, Pa.
Wednesday
March 10, 2010
6:00 P.M.

City Council met in stated session, in Council Chambers, Room 514, 5th 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 Mr. Fleck, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: Kenneth Brown
Michael Fleck
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, Beth Knickerbocker, Assistant City Solicitor, and Glenn Steckman, City Administrator. There were thirteen other persons present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Warren made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fleck to amend the Agenda by withdrawing a proposed Resolution which would urge the governments of Northampton and Lehigh Counties to work for the establishment of a Regional Health Department.

A discussion followed the motion between Council members regarding the withdrawing of the proposed Resolution.

After the discussion Mr. Warren withdrew his motion to amend the Agenda and made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fleck, to table the proposed Resolution until the April 14, 2010 City Council meeting, motion was carried by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

On motion of Mr. Warren and Dr. Ruggles, the Agenda was approved by the following vote:

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
March 10, 2010

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

ACTION ON MINUTES

The February 24th Regular Council meeting minutes were approved, as submitted, on motion of Mr. Fleck and Dr. Warner 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 comments

REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL

The following report was received by Council:

(a) ESWA February 8, 2010 meeting minutes and the March 1, 2010 Engineer's Report.

Mayor Panto accepted the report on behalf of Council.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

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

Mrs. Vulcano, Chairperson of the Economic Development Committee reported that the prospective Director interviews for the West Ward Neighborhood Partnership Program would begin very soon, reported that the new Southside CVS Store would open sometime in March, and reported that the minutes of meetings of the Greater Easton Development Partnership Program and the West Ward Neighborhood Partnership Program were placed in the book in the Clerks Office for review.

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

Mr. Warren, Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee, had no report.

Dr. Warner, Chairperson of the Public Works Committee, reported that the Public Works Committee had met earlier at 4:30 p.m. and had discussed the City's swimming pools, the management of the pools and a proposed Dog Park.

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
March 10, 2010

Mr. Fleck, Chairperson of the Administration Committee, asked for additional persons to assist him with the proposed amendments to the City Codes and to the City Charter, said that he would be inviting some people to the next Council Conference meeting to speak with Council regarding perceived unfair labor practices by Lafayette College, and reported that sometime in the future he would like to proposed an Ordinance to allow health care coverage for City Employees for same sex partners.

Ms. Knickerbocker, Assistant City Solicitor had no report.

Mayor Panto reported that new and promoted Fire Fighters were sworn in, spoke about an excessive force lawsuit against the Easton Police Department being dismissed, and also reported that many applications had been received for Police Officer positions on the department.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No. 8, An Ordinance to amend the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., Chapter 92, thereof, entitled, Map, Official City, to amend Section 92-1 in its entirety was amended on motion of Dr. Warner and Mr. Fleck by including the following, by the following vote:

“ This amendment does not repeal or alter the “Official Zoning Map” and the “Official Map of the City of Easton” as set forth in Section 595-3 (A) of the Easton Zoning Code, which shall remain in full force and effect. “

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

Nays: None (0)

Bill No. 8 was further amended on motion of Dr. Ruggles and Mr. Brown by removing the words “one inch equals 460 feet” and replacing them with the words “scaled accordingly”, by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

Amended Bill No. 8, (Ordinance 5248), An Ordinance to amend the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., Chapter 92, thereof, entitled, Map, Official City, to amend Section 92-1 in its entirety was adopted on motion of Dr. Warner and Mr. Fleck by the following vote:

Bill No. 9, Amending Section 285-46 Fees, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., was amended on motion of Mr. Brown and Dr. Warner by including the following on the proposed Bill, by the following vote:

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

March 10, 2010

“RESIDENT	NON-RESIDENT
ADULT (12-61) \$5.00	ADULT (12-61) \$7.00
SENIOR (62+) \$3.00	SENIOR (62+) \$5.00
CHILD (6-11) \$3.00	CHILD (6-11) \$5.00

TWILIGHT SWIM RATE \$2.00 AFTER 4:30 P.M.

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

Nays: None (0)

Amended Bill No. 9, (Ordinance 5249), Amending Section 285-49 Fees, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., was adopted on motion of Mr. Brown and Mrs. Vulcano by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was received by Council.

(a) Easton Environmental Advisory Council, copy of a letter requesting that Council request a thirty-day extension for the Stone Energy Dockets.

NEW BUSINESS

A March 3, 2009 memorandum, regarding a Resolution for amending Article 1367, §554-11 of the Planning and Zoning Code was received from Brian William Gish, AICP, Chief Planner.

Bill No. 10, Amending Section 554-11, Approval street tree species list for the City of Easton, of Chapter 554, Trees, Shade, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., was introduced by Dr. Ruggles and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would replace the existing Street Tree Species List in its entirety.

Bill 11, Amending Section 520, Attachment 1, Appendix B, Plant Materials List, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., was introduced by Dr. Ruggles and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would amend the Attachment in its entirety.

A March 3, 2010 memorandum, regarding City Council Agenda Items was received from David Hopkins.

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
March 10, 2010

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution that would approve a Management Agreement for the City's Swimming Pools.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Warner:

47-2010

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

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

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve an Agreement with the Men's Senior Baseball League to utilize the Upper Hackett Hardball Field.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Warner:

48-2010

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

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

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution that would approve a Cost Proposal submitted by Pennoni Associates, for streetscape and traffic improvements.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Warner:

49-2010

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

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

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution that would authorize the waiving of a \$20.00 Berkheimer Administrative Fee.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Brown:

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
March 10, 2010

50-2010

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

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

Nays: None (0)

CITIZEN'S RIGHT TO BE HEARD

Rich Hieshetter, 304 W. Monroe Street spoke regarding the existing Railroad Station "Valley Station", regarding the proposed Bus Depot and the proposed amendments to the Street Tree Ordinance.

Mayor Panto responded to Mr. Hieshetter's comments and questions.

There were no more comments or questions asked by the Ordinance.

Council held a discussion regarding future Council Conference meetings, Regular Council meetings, Council District meetings, and dates for Budget Review Sessions, and the possible elimination of Council Conference meetings.

After the discussion Council decided the following:

1. The September 8, 2010 Regular Council meeting would be rescheduled to September 7th.
2. The November 24, 2010 Regular Council meeting would be rescheduled to November 23, 2010.
3. The following locations will be set for the Council District meetings:
 - April 28, 2010, College Hill Presbyterian Church
 - May 26, 2010, Easton Area Community Center
 - September 22, 2010, St. Paul's Lutheran Church
4. The following dates have been designated for Budget Presentation and Budget Review sessions.
 - September 30, 2010 – Budget Presentation
 - October 26, 2010 Budget Review Session
 - November 9, 2010 Budget Review Session
 - November 16, 2010 Budget Review Session
5. Council Conference meetings would be eliminated, and replaced with Committee meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
March 10, 2010

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m. on motion of Mr. Warren and Mr. Fleck by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk