

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

October 10, 2012

Easton, Pa
Wednesday
October 10, 2012
6:00 p.m.

City Council met in stated session at the above date and time, in Council Chambers, One S. Third Street to consider any business that may lawfully be brought before the body and to conduct a second Public Hearing for the 2013 CDBG Program.

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 Rita M. Messa, Assistant City Clerk, William Murphy, City Solicitor, Beth Knickerbocker, Assistant City Solicitor, and Glenn Steckman, City Administrator. There were eighteen other persons present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion of Mrs. Vulcano 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. Ruggles and Mr. Fleck the September 24, 2012 Council Meeting minutes and the October 1, 2012 Special Council meeting minutes were approved as submitted by the following vote:

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

PRESENTATION

Girl Scout Troop 81117, of the First United Church of Christ, raised money from selling baked goods and presented the City with a \$100 check to be used towards keeping the Peace Candle lit.

Council members made comments and thanked the Troop for their donation.

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PUBLIC HEARING
2013 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

At 6:06 p.m. Mayor Panto turned the meeting over to Mrs. Vulcano to conduct the public hearing regarding the 2013 CDBG Program.

Mrs. Vulcano read the following:

“The purpose of this evenings hearing is to obtain public comment on the draft consolidated plan for the City of Easton and to provide council the opportunity to discuss the current recommended allocation of community development block grant funding available for 2013.

Applications for 2013 CDBG funding were due on August 13, 2012.

The first public hearing was held on August 22nd which allowed applicants to address city council with regard to their application.

Prior to tonight’s hearing, each council member submitted a recommended 2013 CDBG funding allocation to city staff. The council members suggested allocations were reviewed, combined, and taken into consideration and the current recommended allocation was formed. Council may alter the recommended allocation tonight provided that they adhere to the 15% public service cap and 20% administration cap.

The consolidated plan, which includes the draft recommended allocation of CDBG funding have been available for public inspection at the County Government Center, Easton Neighborhood Center, Easton Public Library, City Clerk’s Office, and the Redevelopment Authority Office since September 21, 2012. Comments will be received until final action is taken by Council on a finalized allocation on October 24, 2012”.

Mrs. Vulcano asked for any comments or questions from the audience.

There were no comments or questions from the audience.

Council members made comments and asked questions regarding how the City came up with their final recommendations which were different from Council’s recommendation, which were answered by Mayor Panto and Ms. Longenbach.

Mr. Fleck asked if the Historical Society could do their proposed project in part or if the project had to be done in full.

Barbara Kowitz, Executive Director of the Northampton County Historical and Genealogical Society said that the project had to be completed in whole. She said that her organization was also looking at other various funding sources.

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Mr. Fleck asked that the \$2,000 recommended to be allocated to the Boys and Girls Club be given to another organization because only three members of Council supported this allocation.

Ms. Longenbach said that it could if that was Council's wish.

There was a discussion on this between Council members.

Mr. Steckman, City Administrator suggested that the entire \$2,000 be allocated for the Ambassador program. Council members were in agreement with that recommendation.

Mrs. Vulcano said that a vote to approve the consolidated plan will take place at the October 24, 2012 Council meeting.

Mrs. Vulcano closed the hearing at 6:20 p.m.

CITIZENS RIGHT TO BE HEARD

There were no comments or questions from the audience.

REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL

There were no reports received by Council:

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Brown, Chairman of the Finance Committee reported that the Finance Committee had met on October 9, 2012 and had discussed parking meters, and asked Mr. Steckman to address Council on this issue.

Mr. Steckman gave a handout, entitled "Proposed Parking Management System Changes" to Council and spoke briefly on the handout. (See attachment).

Council members made comments and asked questions regarding parking meter charges for an hour, charging for Sunday Parking, projected revenue minus expenses for cost of new meters and parking meter enforcement, and multi coin meters which were answered by Mayor Panto, Mr. Steckman, Mr. Heagele, and Police Lieutenant Lohenitz.

Mayor Panto said that the administration would come back with a full study, report, and a Financial Performa.

Mrs. Vulcano, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee had no report.

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Dr. Ruggles, Chairman of the Planning Committee, reported that there would be a Planning Committee meeting on October 23, 2012.

Mr. Warren, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee reported that a Committee meeting had been held on October 9, 2012, and they discussed the lazy double parking issue, as well as possible future legislation to deal with towing in private lots, in terms of clear signage in downtown lots, and designated scooter and motorcycle parking. He reported that he had given an update that the Fire Department was going to need new radios by December 31, 2012 which is mandated by the Federal Government.

Dr. Warner, Chairman of the Public Works Committee spoke regarding legislation she would have later in the meeting regarding amending sections in Chapter 500, Solid Waste; Recycling of the Codes of the City, approving an agreement with the Hugh Moore Historical Park and Museums Inc., to develop roles and responsibilities for the new operations plan for Hugh Moore Park, and approving an agreement with Long Fence Co., Inc. for installation of guiderails in the City. .

Mr. Fleck, Chairman of the Administration Committee spoke regarding legislation he would have later in the meeting regarding amending the City's Municipal Pension Plan administered by the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System.

Mr. Murphy, City Solicitor reported that before the meeting Council had met in Executive Session and had discussed a personnel matter.

Ms. Knickerbocker, Assistant City Solicitor reported that she was coordinating a Right-to-Know workshop for City employees.

Mayor Panto said that City representatives had met with the Delaware River Toll Bridge Commission and said that the Toll Bridge is scheduled to undergo construction in the spring of 2013.

Dr. Ruggles reported that he had walked on the Bushkill Trail and asked if the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation was going to be required to clean their mess up when they leave.

Mayor Panto said that they had a meeting with the District 50 Engineer this week and he said that the City was trying to get trees planted, and clean up.

Dr. Ruggles said that he believed that the State was sandblasting right over the Bushkill Creek and it was not encapsulated.

Mayor Panto said that he or that he would have someone contact the state to discuss this matter.

Mrs. Vulcano asked for an update on the S. 3rd Street construction.

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Mayor Panto said that it was moving along and was scheduled to be completed by the middle of November 2012, but it looks like it could possibly completed by the end of October. He said that street milling begins this evening,

Dr. Ruggles reported that he was told by a 3rd Street business owner that the street would be closed between 6:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. Monday through Wednesday, and that the closing of the street at 6:00 p.m. would hurt his business.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill 40, (Ordinance 5376), Amending its Municipal Pension Plan administered by the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System was adopted on motion of Mr. Fleck and Mr. Brown by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

Ordinance 5376 approves the amendments to the Municipal Pension Plan administered by the Pennsylvania Municipal Pension System.

CORRESPONDENCE

A letter was received by Lisa Patino of Panache Hair Designers regarding parking meters in the downtown area.

NEW BUSINESS

An October 3, 2012 a memorandum was received from Mr. David Hopkins, Director of Public Works requesting a change to the Solid Waste/Recycling Code of the City of Easton, approval of an Agreement with Hugh Moore Park and an Agreement with Long Fence Company.

Bill No. 41, Amending Sections in Chapter 500, Solid Waste; Recycling of the Codes of the City of Easton was introduced by Dr. Warner and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would amend sections in the Solid Waste; Recycling Codes of the City of Easton.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve an Agreement between the City of Easton and Hugh Moore Park which would develop roles and responsibilities of the new operations plans for Hugh Moore Park.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Warner:

146-2012

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

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

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve an Agreement between the City of Easton and Long Fence Company for Guiderail Installation.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Warner:

147-2012

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

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

CITIZENS RIGHT TO BE HEARD

Kirk Raup, 1818 Union Blvd., Bethlehem Pa., spoke to Council regarding rail service to the Lehigh Valley and summarized a draft Resolution regarding this issue.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m. on the motion of Mr. Fleck and Mrs. Vulcano by the following vote:

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



Rita M. Messa Assistant City Clerk



CITY OF EASTON

PENNSYLVANIA

Proposed Parking Management System Changes

Goals

- Create a dedicated funding stream for the Greater Easton Development Partnership (GEDP) and its main programs – the Ambassadors, the Easton Main Street Initiative, and the Easton Farmers' Market.
- Fund future parking management system growth.

Proposal

Parking Meter Changes

- Set Downtown parking meters at 75 cents/hour to be compliant with current City ordinance.
- Change the hours of parking enforcement of all Downtown parking meters. The new timeframe for enforcement would be from 9 AM to 8 PM from Monday to Saturday.
- Begin enforcing certain Downtown parking meters on Sunday. Sunday hours of enforcement would be from 12 noon to 5 PM for all meters on or south of Northampton Street including the entire Centre Square area.
- Increase parking time limit from 2 hours to 3 hours for all Downtown meters except those in the Centre Square area.
- Create motorcycle/scooter parking in spaces that cannot accommodate an automobile.
- Increase the use of technology by
 - Installing credit card meters in the ring road area. This area includes approximately 200 meters with an estimate cost of \$100,000.
 - Installing multi-space boxes at the South Third Street Lot, the Joseph's Lot, and the North Third Street Lot at an estimate cost of \$24,000 - \$40,000.

- Discount all parking tickets paid within 24 hours of issuance by \$5. Tickets issued on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday would need to be paid by close of business Monday to receive the discount.

Hard Parking Asset Changes

- Create trail blazing signage to surface parking lots from major gateway entrances.
- Create a night time employee pass program for the Pine Street garage to provide more curbside spaces to our visitors.
- Repair and brighten existing parking garage signs.
- Consider lowering existing parking rates for the garage from \$1/hour to 50 cents/hour for the four hour period between 5 PM & 9 PM.
- Purchase land for additional surface lots when feasible.

Merchant and Business Owner Outreach

- Partner with the Easton Main Street Initiative to create an educational campaign to encourage downtown merchants and their employees to park away from prime parking locations.
- Partner with the Easton Main Street Initiative, the Easton Business Association, and local business to create and distribute parking space maps.

Estimated Additional Revenue for GEDP Programs

The estimated additional revenue for GEDP programs will be \$235,000 from these changes. The City of Easton has proposed pledging a \$355,000 grant to GEDP as a part of the 2013 budget.

CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA

Stated Session
Wednesday
October 10, 2012
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 – September 24, 2012 Council meeting minutes and October 1, 2012 Special Council meeting minutes.
7. PRESENTATION TO THE CITY BY GIRL SCOUT TROOP 81117
8. PUBLIC HEARING – 2013 CDBG Program
9. CITIZENS RIGHT TO BE HEARD – (Agenda Items Only)
10. REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL
11. ACCEPTING REPORTS ON BEHALF OF COUNCIL.
12. 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.)
13. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
 - (a) Action on Legislative Bills.
 1. Bill No. 40, Electing to amend its Municipal Pension Plan administered by the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System.
14. CORRESPONDENCE
 - Letter from Lisa Patino of Panache Hair Designers regarding parking meters

15. NEW BUSINESS

a. Introduction of Legislative Bills

1. Bill 40, Amending Sections in Chapter 500, Solid Waste; Recycling of the Codes of the City of Easton, Pa.

b. Approving an Agreement with the Hugh Moore Historical Park and Museums Inc.(R)

c. Approving an Agreement with Long Fence Co., Inc.(R)

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

17. ADJOURNMENT