

**Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.**  
**February 11, 2010**

Easton, Pa.  
Thursday  
February 11, 2010  
5:00 P.M.

City Council met in a rescheduled 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 Mayor Panto, followed by a moment of silence for the death of Billy Givens and the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Kenneth Brown  
Michael Fleck  
Roger Ruggles  
Sandra Vulcano  
Elinor Warner  
Salvatore J. Panto Jr. (6)  
Absent: Jeffrey Warren (1)

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 twenty-two other persons in attendance.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

Yeas: Brown, Fleck, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Panto (6)  
Nays: None (0)

**ACTION ON MINUTES**

The January 20 and 27, 2010 Special and Regular Council meeting minutes were approved, as submitted, on motion of Dr. Warner and Mr. Fleck by the following vote:

Yeas: Fleck, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Panto, Brown (6)  
Nays: None (0)

**RESOLUTION**

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At this time a Resolution was introduced recognizing the death of Theodore J. Strazewski, a retired City employee.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Warner:

25-2010

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

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

Nays: Nays (0)

Council members offered words of thanks for Mr. Strazewski's service to the city and its citizens.

A representative from the Strazewski family was called forward and presented with a framed Resolution.

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

Noel Jones, 800 Ferry Street, spoke regarding the proposed Street Cleaning Plan and the need for de-conversions of properties in the West Ward

Mayor Panto spoke regarding Ms. Jones' comments and suggestions.

The following persons spoke regarding the proposed Street Cleaning Plan:

1. Steve White, 953 Ferry
2. Dennis Lieb, 1208 Chidsey Street

### **REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL**

The following reports were received by Council:

- (a) Fire Department, January 2010 Fire Report.
- (b) ESWA January 11, 2010 meeting minutes, and the February 1, 2010 Engineer's Report.

### **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

Mr. Brown, Chairperson of the Administrative Committee spoke regarding legislation for later in the meeting, and reported that the next Finance Committee meeting would be held on February 24, 2010 at 4:30 p.m.

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Mrs. Vulcano, Chairperson of the Economic Development Committee spoke regarding legislation for later in the meeting, reported that a Public Hearing had been held during last night's Conference meeting, spoke regarding the most recent Chocolate Soirée and thanked all City personnel involved in the Snow Storm cleanup.

Mr. Fleck, Chairperson of the Planning Committee, echoed Mrs. Vulcano's thanks to all City employees involved in the Snow Storm cleanup. He reported that with the assistance of the Northampton County Executive, Sheriff, City, and West Ward residents the existing parking problems in the West Ward were being worked on.

Mr. Warren, Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee was absent.

Dr. Warner, Chairperson of the Public Works Committee thanked all City employees involved in cleaning the remnants of the two snow storms within one week, and distributed a copy of the Main Street five (5) year work plan.

Mayor Panto asked Dr. Warner to discuss the Swimming Pool Access Fees for Heil and Eddyside pools at the next Public Works Committee meeting and explained why he made that request.

There was a discussion between Council members and Mr. Hopkins, Director of Public Works on this matter.

Dr. Ruggles, Chairperson of the Strategic Planning Committee had no report, but thanked the two members of Council who had sent back suggestions on the City's Strategic Plan to him.

Mr. Murphy, City Solicitor reported that before last night's Council Conference meeting, Council had met in Executive Session and had discussed the litigation of Kowitz vs. City of Easton filed in Northampton County Court of Common Pleas No. cv-2007-11153.

Ms. Knickerbocker had not report.

Mayor Panto complemented all City personnel involved in the Snow Storm cleanups, said that he would ask the Public Safety Committee to review the existing Towing Ordinance, especially the fee section, and to report back to Council with the results, and explained why he was taking that action, reported that on February 26, 2010 he and his assistant would be traveling to Lancaster to view how they handled the logistics for their City's special events, reported that the Chili cook off was a success, spoke regarding the proposed Resolutions for Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission grants and what they would be used for, and reminded all Council members that the retreat was scheduled for Saturday, February 20, 2010

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

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There was no unfinished business.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence received by Council.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Bill No. 7, Amending Section 560-54, Parking Restrictions for Street Cleaning of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., was introduced by Dr. Warner and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would amend Section 560-54 in its entirety by establishing new streets and times for restricted parking for Street Cleaning.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve the transfer of a Liquor License from Lower Saucon Township to the City of Easton.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Vulcano:

26-2010

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

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

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would urge our State Representative and State Senator to support the passage of House Bill 296.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Fleck:

27-2010

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

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

Nays: None (0)

A January 26, 2010 memorandum regarding 2010 City of Easton Per Capita Exonerations was received from Chris Heagele, Director of Finance.

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The next item on the Agenda was a Resolution which would disapprove application for Tax Deferment for the year 2010 for the payment of the City Residence Tax and Per Capita Tax.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Brown:

28-2010

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

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

Nays: None (0)

A February 3, 2010 memorandum, regarding City Council Agenda Items was received from David Hopkins, Director of Public Works.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve an Easement Agreement with Lafayette College.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Warner:

29-2010

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

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

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve an agreement with PennDOT for electronic access to their ECMS System.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Warner:

30-2010

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

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

Nays: None (0)

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The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would authorize the Administration to apply for a Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission Compact Authorized Investment Local Grant.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Warner:

31-2010

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

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

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution that would approve Pennoni Associates as the design Consultant for the PCII Project.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Warner:

32-2010

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

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

Nays: None (0)

A January 29, 2010 e-mail regarding approval of Reappointments and Appointments to numerous Authorities, Boards and Commissions was received from Mayor Panto.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve re-appointments and appointments to numerous Authorities, Boards, and Commissions.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mayor Panto:

33-2010

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

Yeas: Fleck, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Panto, Brown

Nays: None (0)

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The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve an Office Building Lease Agreement with the National High School Coaches Association.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Brown:

34-2010

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

Yeas: Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Panto, Brown, Fleck (6)  
Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would authorize the Administration to apply for a DRJTBC Compact Authorized Investment Local Grant for improvement to the Hugh Moore Park Bridge that spans the Lehigh River.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Warner:

35-2010

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

Yeas: Vulcano, Warner, Panto, Brown, Fleck, Ruggles (6)  
Nays: None (0)

**CITIZEN'S RIGHT TO BE HEARD**

Lynn Ball, 153 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Tatamy, and the owner of a business located at 347 Ferry Street spoke regarding the perceived causes of a recent accident at 4<sup>th</sup> and Ferry Street and offered suggestions to alleviate a perceived dangerous situation at that intersection and presented a petition entitled "Petition to mandate 4 way Traffic Stops and Pedestrian Walk Signs".

There was a discussion on this matter between Council members, David Hopkins, Director of Public Works, and Ms. Ball.

Emma Lang, 129 S. 4<sup>th</sup> Street spoke regarding snow not being removed from the sidewalks in downtown to allow people to board public transportation.

Mayor Panto said that he would have the Public Works Department look into snow on City properties.

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Patrick Oladean, 137 S. 5<sup>th</sup> spoke regarding the proposed Street Cleaning Program, the 4<sup>th</sup> and Ferry Street intersection and the need for 4-way Stop Intersections on Ferry Street.

Lee Wisner-Greger, 137 S. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, spoke regarding the 4<sup>th</sup> and Ferry Street intersection.

Rich Hieshetter, 304 W., Monroe spoke regarding another site for the proposed Transportation Center and regarding swimming pools and the fees for those pools.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:23 p.m. on motion of Dr. Warner and Mr. Fleck by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk