

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

February 11, 2015

Easton, Pa
Wednesday
February 11, 2015
6:36 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 (Phone), Panto (7)
Absent: None (0)

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

ACTION ON MINUTES

On motion of Dr. Ruggles and Dr. Warner the January 28, 2015 Council Meeting minutes, as submitted, were approved by the following vote:

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

**SWEARING IN
LIEUTENANT PROMOTIONS**

At this time Police Sergeants Stephen Homoki and Thomas Smith were sworn in, by Mayor Panto, as Lieutenants.

Mayor Panto congratulated both officers on their promotions, and thanked the officers' families for allowing them to serve the City and its citizens.

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EASTON MATTERS PRESENTATION

Rachael Hogan-Carr and Kathryn Semmens, from the Nurture Nature Center, spoke to Council regarding a survey, entitled "Easton Matters", which is being conducted, to learn what environmental issues are most important to Easton residents and leaders.

Mayor Panto thanked the Center for undertaking this survey and congratulated the Center for their symposiums and for the different things that are done at and by the Center.

PUBLIC COMMENT
(Agenda Items Only)

There were no comments from the audience.

CONSENT AGENDA

On motion of Mr. Brown and Mr. Edinger, the following item was adopted by the following vote:

Bill 3, (Ordinance 5484) Amending the 2014 Unemployment Insurance Fund. This Bill amends the 2014 Unemployment Insurance Fund by increasing revenues and expenditures by \$3,609.08.

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

Nays: None (0)

REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL

There were no reports received by Council.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Brown, Chairman of the Finance Committee, spoke regarding legislation that he would have for later in the meeting, regarding making amendments to Chapter 535, Taxation of the Code in particular; earned income tax.

Mrs. Vulcano, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee, gave an update on the Greater Easton Development Partnership, and spoke regarding the opening of two new businesses in the City.

Dr. Warner, Chairman of the Planning Committee, spoke regarding the meetings that have been held by Urban Matrix and her concerns that the meetings have only been held during the day

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and said that there should be meetings on a Saturday or at night to allow the working public to attend.

Mr. Steckman said that Urban Matrix would be forwarding some dates and another meeting would be scheduled for an evening, or a Saturday, which will be advertised.

Ms. Mauro, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, reported that a Public Safety Committee meeting had been held on Tuesday, February 10, 2015, and they discuss the Parking ticket issue.

Dr. Ruggles, Chairman of the Public Works Committee, reported that the meeting with Non-Profits, Northampton County and Career Link Officials regarding job training for persons to assist them in gaining employment had been held, was very well attended, was very informative and they would be moving forth with other meetings and training sessions.

Mr. Edinger, Chairman of the Administration Committee reported that an Administration Committee meeting was held on Tuesday, February 10, 2015, and they discussed the establishment of a committee to review the Charter and to recommend any amendments to sections of the Charter that they felt should be addressed. He said that co-pays for non union personnel were discussed.

Mr. Steckman said that a Resolution would be forthcoming, at the February 25, 2015 Council meeting, which would approve the partial lowering of Co-Pay Health coverage for Non-Union employees from \$100 to \$85, per pay. He also said that a proposed Resolution regarding an Ad Hoc Committee, to review the City Charter, would also be forthcoming to be discussed at a future Council Committee Session.

Mr. Murphy, City Solicitor, reported that before the meeting, Council had met in Executive Session and had discussed the litigation of Dieter Bros. vs. the City of Easton.

Mayor Panto reported that the Council Dais microphones would be fixed within the next 30 days, and thanked Attorney Scomillio for working with the City regarding the Earned Income Tax amendments.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no Correspondence.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

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A memorandum, dated February 4, 2015, regarding a draft #2 for an Ordinance Amendment was received from Attorney Murphy.

Bill No. 4, Clarifying the implementation of Ordinance 5478, Amending Article VIII, Earned Income and Net Profits of Chapter 535, Taxation, of the Code of the City of Easton to provide for an increase in Earned Income Tax for the purposes of funding the City of Easton pension plans in accordance with Act 205, was introduced by Mr. Brown and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would add the words “as may be amended” and “if applicable” throughout sections contained in Chapter 535.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve a three-year Memorandum of Agreement with the Easton Area Community Center.

The following Resolution was introduced by Ms. Mauro:

22-2015

Dr. Ruggles had questions and concerns over the agreement not containing a termination clause for either the City or the Community Center.

Mr. Steckman said that both parties did not feel it was necessary.

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

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

Nays: None (0)

A memorandum, dated February 4, 2015, regarding a Cost Recovery Resolution was received from Fire Chief John Bast.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve a Billing Services Agreement with PA Fire Recovery Service, LLC, to provide billing services for money due the City as a result of Fire Department responses.

The following Resolution was introduced by Ms. Mauro:

23-2015

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Dr. Ruggles had questions and concerns with and how the billing for the services would be done.

Mr. Steckman addressed his questions and concerns.

The above Resolution was adopted on motion of Ms. Mauro and Mr. Edinger by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

PUBLIC COMMENT
(On any item)

Robert Trotner, of 1910 Bayard Street, Bethlehem, Pa., requested a meeting with the Mayor and or any other Council member, to discuss a non-binding Resolution, regarding removing the influence of money on our national, state, and local political system.

Mayor Panto said that he would contact Mr. Trotner to set up a meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 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
February 11, 2015
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 – January 28, 2015 Council Meeting.
7. PROMOTIONS – Lt. Stephen Homoki
Lt. Thomas Smith
8. EASTON MATTERS PRESENTATION – Nurture Nature Center
9. PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda Items Only)
10. CONSENT AGENDA
 1. Bill 3, Amending the 2014 Unemployment Insurance Fund.
11. REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL
12. 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.)
13. CORRESPONDENCE
14. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
15. NEW BUSINESS
 - (a) Introduction of Legislative Bills

-Over-



1. Bill 4, Amending Article VIII, Earned Income and Net Profits of Chapter 535 Taxation of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa.

(b) Resolution approving a three-year Memorandum of Agreement with the Easton Area Community Center.

(c) Resolution approving a Billing Services Agreement with PA Fire Recovery Services LLC.

16. PUBLIC COMMENT – (Any Matter)

17. ADJOURNMENT





CITY OF EASTON

PENNSYLVANIA

February 6, 2015

MEETING NOTICE

The Regular meeting of the Easton City Council has been scheduled for Wednesday, February 11, 2015 for general business.

The meeting will be held in Council Chambers, located on the 6th floor of City Hall, One South Third Street, and will begin at 6:00 p.m.

All meetings of City Council are open to the Public and are accessible to persons with disabilities.

Thomas A. Hess
City Clerk