

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
January 11, 2012

Easton, Pa
Wednesday
January 11, 2012
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 One South Third Street, Easton, Pa. to consider any business that may lawfully be brought before the body.

The invocation was given by Reverend Susan Ruggles, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Present: Brown, Fleck, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warren, Panto (6)
Absent: Warner (1)

Also in attendance were Rita Messa, Assistant City Clerk, William Murphy, City Solicitor, Joel Scheer, Assistant City Solicitor, and Glenn Steckman, City Administrator. There were twenty other persons present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

ACTION ON MINUTES

On motion of Mrs. Vulcano and Mr. Brown the December 28, 2011 Council Meeting and the January 3, 2012 Council Reorganization meeting minutes were approved, as submitted, by the following vote:

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

SWEARING IN OF POLICE OFFICERS PROMOTED TO SERGEANTS

At this time Mayor Panto swore in the following Police Officers promoted to Sergeant:

1. Kevin Krische
2. Dominic Marraccini
3. Robert Weber

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Police Chief Lawrence Palmer spoke regarding the promotions, the service that the Officers have given the department and the City, and congratulated them on their promotions.

All Council members and Mr. Steckman congratulated the Officers, thanked their families for allowing the men to serve the City, said that the Officers were a good testament to the caliber of officers that are on the force, and said they appreciated their work.

CITIZENS RIGHT TO BE HEARD (Agenda Items Only)

There were no remarks from the audience.

REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL

There were no reports received.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Brown, Chairman of the Finance Committee, reported that a Finance Committee meeting would be held on January 24, 2012, and that there will be a Public Hearing held at that meeting regarding making the 200 block of Grant Street one-way east.

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

Dr. Ruggles, Chairman of the Planning Committee, had no report.

Mr. Warren, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, spoke regarding legislation that he would have for later in the meeting regarding Stop Signs and No Parking Zones on College Hill, reported that the Public Safety Committee had met on January 10, 2012 and had a presentation on and had discussed Red Light Cameras, said that the next meeting would be held on January 24, 2012, and that proposed changes for Grant Street and Weed and Seed would be discussed. He said that at the next Council meeting he would be introducing two Resolutions regarding Blood Donor and Human Trafficking Awareness month.

Mr. Fleck spoke regarding the Red Light Camera program.

Dr. Warner, Chairman of the Public Works Committee was absent.

Mr. Fleck, Chairman of the Administration Committee spoke regarding garbage collection receptacle issue. He said that the Home Rule Charter review session would take place on March 24, 2012 from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Lafayette College. He said that the due date for Agenda items for this session would be between February 15, 2012 and February 22, 2012.

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Mr. Murphy, City Solicitor, had no report.

Joel Scheer, Assistant Solicitor, had no report, suggested that persons be able to use their recycling points toward trash receptacles.

Mayor Panto reported that the Council Chamber monitors were being installed, that the Intermodal Transportation Facility presentation was being moved to the February 8, 2012 Council meeting and would be a joint presentation with the Parking Authority. He reported that the Greater Easton Development Partnership was awarded a \$57,000 grant from the Northampton County GPA to assist in Economic Development projects undertaken by the GEDP. He said that those funds would be used to assist in alleviating the problem with the Ambassador's and Main Street programs.

Mr. Fleck asked if someone was working on a long term viable alternative regarding the Ambassador program.

Mayor Panto said that was being worked on and that Council would see a reduced working area that they would be addressing in 2012, and explained that area. He said that the block by block contract would be reduced by approximately \$50,000, and said that the recent grant funds brought the City very close to being flush for the year.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill 41, (Ordinance 5338) Amending Article III, Traffic Control Map of Chapter 560, Vehicles and Traffic of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., was adopted on motion of Mr. Warren and Dr. Ruggles by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

Ordinance 5338 amends the Traffic Code by adding a Stop Sign at Catherine and Pierce Streets, a Stop sign at the East exit of Pierce Street Parking Lot, a Stop sign at the West exit of the Pierce Street Parking Lot, and create two No Parking zones on the North side of Pierce Street

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was received by Council:

(a) Thank You letter for Police Coverage at the Thanksgiving Football Game from Gregory A. Troxell, Principal of Phillipsburg High School.

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NEW BUSINESS

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution that would grant Met-Ed the right to construct by placing a guide wire at Eddyside Park.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mayor Panto:

1-2012

The above Resolution was amended on motion of Dr. Ruggles and Mr. Warren by adding the following; by the following vote:

“BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT Metropolitan Edison agrees to remove the encroachment at their expense when ordered to do so by the City of Easton for the purpose of repairing, replacing or maintaining of any underground utility or facility, whether owned by the City of Easton or by others, or for road and/or sidewalk replacement or maintenance, for any other reason and that the City of Easton will not be responsible for its replacement.”

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

Nays: None (0)

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

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

Nays: None (0)

CITIZENS RIGHT TO BE HEARD

Alan Raisman, 1055 Centronia Road, Breinersville, Pa., said that he was an Easton Area Outreach and Engagement Associate to the Jewish Federation of the Lehigh Valley, and would be working out of 8 Centre Square on Fridays and Sundays.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 6:36 p.m. Council went into Executive Session to discuss a Real Estate matter.

At 6:48 p.m. Mayor Panto called the meeting back to order.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:48 p.m. on the motion of Mr. Fleck and Mrs. Vulcano by the following vote:

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

Rita Messa, Assistant City Clerk