

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

Easton, Pa
Wednesday
July 11, 2012
6:00 p.m.

City Council met in stated session at the above date and time in Council Chambers, 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, Fleck, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warren, Panto (6)
Absent: Warner (0)

Also in attendance were Rita Messa, Assistant City Clerk, William Murphy, City Solicitor, Beth Knickerbocker, Assistant City Solicitor, and Glenn Steckman, City Administrator. There were approximately twenty-eight other persons present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

ACTION ON MINUTES

On motion of Mr. Brown and Mr. Fleck the June 27, 2012 Council Meeting minutes were approved as submitted, by the following vote:

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

CITIZENS RIGHT TO BE HEARD

Dr. Bonnie Winfield, Director of the Landis Center, of Lafayette College, introduced Lafayette College Students who were assisting different Community Organizations over the summer and the students introduced themselves and explained what they had been doing throughout the Community.

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Mayor Panto and Mr. Brown thanked Dr. Winfield and the students for all they have been doing for the different organizations in the past and now.

REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL

There were no reports received by Council.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Brown, Chairman of the Finance Committee, apologized for his absence from the Public meeting regarding the proposed Community Bill of Rights spoke regarding the proposed legislation, spoke regarding legislation that he would have for later in the meeting regarding amending the 2012 General Fund Budget, and regarding the intent to incur debt for repairs to the bridge leading from Lehigh Drive to the Hugh Moore Park.

Mrs. Vulcano, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee spoke regarding legislation that she would have for later in the meeting regarding approving an Agreement of Sale for 208 Palmer Street, and regarding the amendment to an earlier adopted Resolution for a grant from the Department of Community and Economic Development.

Dr. Ruggles, Chairman of the Planning Committee, spoke regarding legislation that he would have for later in the meeting, regarding disapproving a Certificate of Appropriateness for 60 Centre Square, regarding the amendment of the Salary and Wage Resolution to create a Project Manager's position in the Waste Water Treatment Plant, regarding approving an Agreement for guiderail installation, and regarding approving two maintenance contracts with MJC Odd Jobs Unlimited, and with C.E.B. LLC.

Mr. Warren, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, reported that his Committee would probably be meeting on July 24, 2012, and at that meeting they would be discussing traffic patterns on the South Side of the City.

Dr. Warner, Chairman of the Public Works Committee was not in attendance.

Mr. Fleck, Chairman of the Administration Committee reported that he has asked the Administration and the Solicitor's Office to forward the proposed Council Rules and Regulations to members for review for a meeting in late August.

Mr. Murphy, City Solicitor and Ms. Knickerbocker, Assistant City Solicitor had no reports for Council.

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Mayor Panto said that on July 10, 2012, a Public meeting had been held regarding the proposed Community Bill of Rights and said that from that meeting there seem to be a desire on the Ad Hoc Committee who were proposing the Bill of Rights and Council's part to move forward on an Anti Fracking Ordinance. He said that Dr. Warner recommended that a committee be formed and he appointed Dr. Warner and Mr. Fleck to be on that committee, if the Ad Hoc Committee desired to meet on this matter.

Mr. Warren commended the work that Attorney Scheer had done on reviewing and giving his opinion on the proposed Community Bill of Rights.

Mayor Panto informed Council that vacancies still existed on several Authorities, Boards, and Commissions, and spoke regarding the condition of the Hugh Moore Park Bridge.

Mayor Panto spoke regarding the adoption of a Resolution by Northampton County Council regarding their disapproval of the City's proposed amendment to the Commuter Tax, spoke regarding receiving e-mails from Northampton County employees regarding the tax, regarding misinformation in the newspapers and e-mails, said that a Public meeting on this tax would be held on July 16, 2012 and invited County Council members to that meeting which is open to the Public, and spoke further on the tax and regarding financial situations in other municipalities.

Council members offered comments on this matter.

PRESENTATION OF A GIFT TO THE CITY

Mayor Panto spoke regarding Nii Guate Asuasa II., his time spent in the City during the past and the present, explained why he was visiting the area, where and what he has been doing while being here, and introduced Nii Guate Asuasa II.

Nii Guate Asuasa II expressed his gratitude to the Panto Family, Mayor Panto, his former teachers at Easton Area High School, former friends of the community and the City itself. He said that he hoped that there could be a sister city relationship between his City and Easton.

Mayor Panto introduced the members of Nii's entourage, and presented a certificate and gifts from the City to Nii and his entourage.

Nii Guate Assuasa II presented gifts to the City.

All Council members and the Mayor offered words of thanks to Nii for his gifts, for coming back to the City, and for his mission of peace and solidarity that he was promoting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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Bill No. 25, (Ordinance 5362) Approving an Agreement of Sale between the City of Easton and the Redevelopment Authority of Easton of Easton, Pa., was adopted on motion of Mrs. Vulcano and Mr. Brown by the following vote:

Dr. Ruggles asked a question regarding the recording of the sale which was answered by Mr. Murphy.

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

Nays: None (0)

Ordinance 5362 approves an Agreement of Sale between the City and the Redevelopment Authority for 208 Palmer Street.

Bill No. 26, (Ordinance 5363) Amending Ordinance N. 5336, 2012 General Fund Budget, was adopted on motion of Mr. Brown and Mr. Warren by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

Ordinance 5363 amends the 2012 General Fund Budget by increasing Revenues and Expenditures by \$61,684.67.

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence were received by Council:

- (a) e-mails, opposing the proposed Commuter Tax, from Brenda Cahill, Frank Houser, Kerry Issac, Kathleen Weiss, and Marta Husovsky.

NEW BUSINESS

A July 3, 2012 memorandum, regarding City Council Agenda Items was received from Director David Hopkins.

The item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve the addition of a Project Manager position at a salary of \$56,000 at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

93-2012

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

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

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve an Agreement with Barry Isett & Associates to provide design services for new guiderail installations.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

94-2012

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

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

A July 6, 2012, e-mail regarding an amendment to Resolution 13-2012 was received from Director Longenbach.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Vulcano:

95-2012

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

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

A July 11, 2012 memorandum regarding a Reimbursement Resolution for Emergency Glendon Bridge Repairs was received from Director Chris Heagele.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Brown:

96-2012

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

Dr. Ruggles made comments on just receiving the late submission of this proposed Resolution and said that he did not have to much time to review it.

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Mayor Panto and Mr. Steckman responded to Dr. Ruggles.

Mr. Brown commended Director Hopkins and his staff for addressing the signage for the closing of the bridge in such a short time to assist the public on how to get into Hugh Moore Park.

Mr. Hopkins furnished Council and the audience with a status update on the repairs to the bridge.

Mayor Panto asked Mr. Hopkins to also furnish an update on the S. 3rd Street reconstruction, which he did.

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

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve a property maintenance contract with C.E.B LLC.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

97-2012

Dr. Ruggles said that he spoke with Director Bradley regarding the two different scales of costs for services, and she assured him that the two scales were basically the same.

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

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve a property maintenance contract with MJC Odd Jobs.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

98-2012

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

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

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would disapprove a Certificate of Appropriateness for installation of signs at 60 Centre Square.

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The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

99-2012

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

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

Nays: None (0)

CITIZENS RIGHT TO BE HEARD

Kirk Raup, 818 Union Blvd., Allentown Pa. spoke to Council regarding rail service to the Lehigh Valley, and asked for Council's support for this idea.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:19 p.m. on the motion of Mr. Fleck and Mr. Warren by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

Rita Messa, Assistant City Clerk