

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

June 11, 2014

Easton, Pa
Wednesday
June 11, 2014
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 City Hall, One South Third Street, to consider any business that may lawfully be brought before the body, and to conduct a Public Hearing regarding amendments to the Zoning Ordinances regarding revisions to the Flood Plain sections.

The invocation was given by the Mayor Panto followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

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

Also in attendance were Thomas Hess, City Clerk, William Murphy, City Solicitor, Beth Knickerbocker, Assistant City Solicitor, and Glenn Steckman, City Administrator. There were seven other persons present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion of Mr. Brown and Dr. Warner the Agenda was approved, as submitted, by the following vote:

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

ACTION ON MINUTES

On motion of Dr. Ruggles and Mrs. Vulcano, the May 28, 2014 Council Meeting minutes were approved, as submitted, by the following vote:

Yeas: Brown, Edinger, Ruggles, Vulcano, Panto (5)
Nays: None (0)
Abstain: Warner (1)

PUBLIC HEARING

Proposed Revisions the Flood Plain Ordinances

At 6:03 p.m., Mayor Panto opened the Public Hearing and turned it over to Dr. Warner, Council Liaison to the Planning and Codes Department.

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
June 11, 2014

Dr. Warner called the Public Hearing to order and asked Mr. George Kinney, Director of Planning and Codes to address Council on this matter.

Mr. Kinney said that FEMA has come into Northampton County and has updated their Flood Insurance rate maps and flood insurance study for the entire county, effective July 16, 2014. He said that this action requires an Ordinance to compliment the new maps and the new changes. He said that in looking at what Ordinance changes would be necessary, they pulled some model ordinance information from the Department of Community and Economic Development and also the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission and married them with the existing regulations that were currently in the City Codes. He said that the most significant change was the removal of the 500 year flood plain for regulatory purposes. He said that the underlying Zoning, that is an overlay zone that is on the City's Zoning Maps, and remains the key decider on all permitted land uses. He said that throughout the proposed changes there are additional permitted and prohibited uses. He said that special exceptions uses carry over from the new Ordinance, which are primarily related to Public uses where you have larger populations or elderly populations that are not able to move quickly in a flood hazard. He said that his staff has presented these amendments to both the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission and the Easton Planning Commission. He said that both organizations unanimously recommended approval, and said that it meets or exceeds both the FEMA and the Pennsylvania Floodplain Act requirements.

Mr. Kinney said that he would answer any questions that Council members or the audience would have.

Dr. Warner asked for questions from Council and the audience.

There were none.

Dr. Warner closed the hearing at 6:06 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENT
(Agenda Items Only)

There were no comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

On motion of Mrs. Vulcano and Dr. Warner the following items were adopted by the following vote:

Resolution 72-2014, which approved a Stipulation of Counsel for property located at 134 S. 4th Street.

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
June 11, 2014

Resolution 73-2014, which approved an Intermunicipal Agreement between the City of Bethlehem, the City of Easton and the County of Northampton for the 2014 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant in the amount of \$11,240.00.

Resolution 74-2014, which authorized the opening of an interest bearing checking account, in the name of City of Easton – Utility Billing Lock Box at Lafayette Ambassador Bank.

Council members asked why the Banks had been changed from Merchants Bank of Bangor to Lafayette Ambassador Bank.

Mr. Heagele, Finance Director, explained why.

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

Nays: None (0)

REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL

The following report was received by Council:

(a) Monthly Fire Report for May 2014.

Mayor Panto accepted the above report on behalf of Council.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Brown, Chairman of the Finance Committee, had no report.

Mrs. Vulcano, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee, reported that the Hump Day Celebration would be held on June 25, 2014, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on the 600 block of Northampton Street and explained what would take place.

There was a discussion on this between Council members, and it was the consensus of Council to hold the June 25, 2014 Council meeting at the Pocket Park, located on the South Side of the 600 block of Northampton Street.

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

Mr. Warren, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, was absent due to work obligations.

Dr. Ruggles, Chairman of the Public Works Committee, spoke regarding legislation that he would have for later in the meeting for repealing Chapter 103, Park Commission, Hugh Moore, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., and abolishing the Hugh Moore Park commission.

Mr. Edinger, Chairman of the Administration Committee had no report.

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
June 11, 2014

Mr. Murphy, City Solicitor, reported that the solicitors had attended a Code Board of Appeals hearing regarding an appeal by Dieter Brothers Oil Company, who had requested to be allowed to install a 30,000 gallon propane tank on their property, which had been denied. He said that the appeal was also denied.

Mayor Panto reported that he had been in Harrisburg attending a meeting of the Local Government Committee and pension reform was discussed. He reported that on Thursday, June 12, 2014, there would be a public hearing, held in Lancaster, regarding Act 111. He also spoke regarding a request for parking permits for downtown business to be given to their customers for the parking garage, and said that he would have something for Council to consider on this matter at a later date. He reported that he had been awarded the Pennsylvania Diversity Network LCBT award and one of the reasons why he was given the award was for the same sex benefits ordinance that Council had enacted. He spoke regarding the West Ward Neighborhood Partnership and the financial problems that they were now facing and what was being done to assist them in keeping their programs operating.

Mayor Panto said that the City received a Northampton County grant in the amount of \$42,000 for the purchase of a Trolley to be used to transport people to and from City Special Events and City functions. He spoke regarding the search for the Trolley and what needed to be done to make the purchase a reality.

There was a discussion on this matter between Council and Mr. Steckman.

Council gave the Administration permission to seek bids for the purchase of a Trolley.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

Bill 19, Repealing Chapter 103, Park Commission, Hugh Moore, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., and abolishing the Hugh Moore Park Commission was introduced by Dr. Ruggles and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would repeal Chapter 103 of the Code in its entirety and abolish the Hugh Moore Park Commission.

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
June 11, 2014

Bill 20, An Ordinance repealing flood related definitions located in Article IV, Section 595-10 of the City of Easton Zoning Ordinance; repealing Section 595-137 through Section 595-146 of Article XXV, Flood Hazard (FH) overlay district of the City of Easton Zoning Ordinance and amending said Flood Hazard (FH) overlay district to reference a single-purpose Ordinance requiring all persons, partnerships, businesses, and corporations to obtain a permit for any construction or development; providing for the issuance of such permits; setting forth certain minimum requirements for new construction and development within areas of the City of Easton which are subject to flooding; and establishing penalties for any persons who fail, or refuse to comply with the requirements or provisions of this Ordinance, was introduced Dr. Warner and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill repeals and amends certain sections in the Flood Plain codes.

PUBLIC COMMENT
(On Any Item)

Herbert Stroever, 24 S. 5th Street related parking problems on S. 5th Street, and asked Council for their assistance in alleviating the problem.

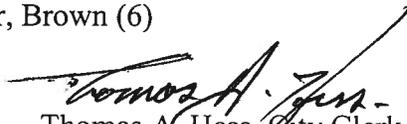
Council members and Mr. Steckman addressed Mr. Stroever's concerns and Mayor Panto said that he would have the Public Safety Committee review the entire Residential Parking Permit Program.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:47 p. m. on motion of Dr. Ruggles and Dr. Warner by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)


Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk

CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA

Stated Session
Wednesday
June 11, 2014
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 – May 28, 2014 Council Meeting
7. PUBLIC HEARING – Proposed Revisions to the Flood Ordinance.
8. PUBLIC COMMENT – (Agenda Items Only)
9. CONSENT AGENDA
 - 72(a) Resolution approving a Stipulation of Counsel.
 - 73(b) Resolution approving an Intermunicipal Agreement with the City of Bethlehem.
 - 74(c) Resolution authorizing opening of an Interest Bearing Checking Account.
10. REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL
 - (a) Monthly Fire Department for May 2014.
11. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES
 - (a) Finance (Kenneth Brown)
 - (b) Economic Development (Sandra Vulcano)
 - (c) Planning (Elinor Warner)
 - (d) Public Safety (Jeffrey Warren)
 - (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.)
12. CORRESPONDENCE
13. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
14. NEW BUSINESS
 - (a) Introduction of Legislative Bills