

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

**March 11, 2009**

Easton, Pa.  
Wednesday  
March 11, 2009  
6:00 P.M.

City Council met in stated session, in Council Chambers, Room 519, Fifth Floor, One South Third Street, to consider any business that may lawfully be brought before the body.

The invocation was given by Mr. Brown, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

## **ROLL CALL**

Present: Kenneth Brown  
Pamela Panto  
Roger Ruggles  
Sandra Vulcano  
Elinor Warner  
Jeffrey Warren  
Salvatore J. Panto Jr. (7)

Absent: None (0)

Also in attendance were Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk, Joel Scheer, Assistant City Solicitor, and Glenn Steckman, City Administrator. There were twenty-one other persons present in the audience.

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

On motion of Mr. Brown and Dr. Ruggles the Agenda was amended by removing item 14 (c), by the following vote:

Yeas: Brown, P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, S. Panto (7)

Nays: None (0)

On motion of Dr. Ruggles and Mrs. Panto the Agenda, with amendment, was approved by the following vote:

Yeas: P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, S. Panto, Brown (7)

Nays: None (0)

## **ACTION ON MINUTES**

The February 25, 2009 Council meeting minutes were approved as submitted on motion of Dr. Warner and Mr. Warren by the following vote:

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Yeas: Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, S. Panto, Brown. P. Panto (7)  
Nays: None (0)

**RESOLUTION – Commending the Bixler and Mitman Families**

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution that would commend the Bixler and Mitman families for their years of service to the City and its citizens.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Warner:

35-2009

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

Yeas: P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, S. Panto, Brown (7)  
Nays: None (0)

All Council members offered words of kindness, thanks, and congratulations to the Bixler and Mitman families for their years of service with Bixler’s Jewelers.

Mrs. Katherine Mitman accompanied by her son and daughter came forward and was presented with a framed Resolution.

Mrs. Mitman thanked Council for recognizing her family and for the honor bestowed on them.

**PUBLIC’S 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, had no report.

Mrs. Vulcano, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee reported that on March 24, 2009, Mr. Gene Pambianchi Executive Director, of the Easton Housing Authority, would give Council an update on the HOPE VI Project.

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Mrs. Vulcano reported that the Annual Main Street meeting would be held on Thursday, March 12, 2009 in the Acopian Room at the State Theatre, and said that Gretchen Lippincott would be attending the next Easton Area School Board meeting to speak regarding the need for the City's KOZ program.

Mayor Panto made comments on the need for the KOZ and the program, and how it would benefit both the City and the School District.

Mrs. Panto, Chairman of the Planning Committee, reported that she and Dr. Warner had attended the Water Front Stakeholders meeting, reported that it was a very successful meeting, with exchange of information. She said that if anyone had any comments, suggestions or ideas, they should e-mail them to Becky Bradley, David Hopkins, or Gretchen Lippincott.

Mr. Warren, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, spoke regarding legislation that would be before Council later in the meeting, and reported that the Public Safety Committee would meet on March 19th, at 5:00 p.m. in Council Chambers and said what would be discussed.

Dr. Warner, Chairman of the Public Works Committee, reported that the Public Works Committee meeting had been held earlier at 4:30 p.m., that it was well attended by skateboarders and citizens, and related what had been discussed and accomplished.

Dr. Ruggles, Chairman of the Strategic Planning Committee reported that the Strategic Planning Committee would be putting together Planning Documents and Council members would be receiving them for review.

Joel Scheer, Assistant City Solicitor reported that Council had met in Executive Sessions before and after last night's Council Conference meeting and before this meeting, and had discussed a Worker's Compensation Claim Case, an Employee matter, and the Sollman litigation, and also gave a brief update on the Renninger Pension Appeal litigation, and Outdoor Advertising litigation.

Mayor Panto spoke regarding the billboard issue, and the current contract with the Adams Outdoor Advertising Company.

Mayor Panto informed Council that the Courts had ruled against the City's Insurance Company who wanted to be removed from any liability in the Sollman litigation.

Mayor Panto spoke regarding a visit by City officials to Scranton, joining together with the Easton Suburban Authority with a legal suit against the City of Bethlehem, proposed optional 1% sales tax, the establishment of a Payroll Data Analysis position, the Stimulus program, rescheduling the April 8<sup>th</sup> meeting to April 7<sup>th</sup>, and having the meeting at the Grand Eastonian so that a Public Hearing could be held regarding the Water Front

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project, and regarding two programs that he would like the Public Safety Committee to review and to report back to Council on regarding age restrictions on City Playgrounds, and the Cops As Neighbors program.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Action on Legislative Bills

Bill No. 48, (Ordinance 5194) Amending Section 560-47, Parking Inoperable or Illegally Registered Vehicles, of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Easton, Pa., was adopted on motion of Dr. Warner and Mrs. Panto by the following vote:

Yeas: Warren, S. Panto, Brown, P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner (7)

Nays: None (0)

Ordinance 5194 adds the words “owner or”, “in control of any vehicle”, “and/or emissions”, and “unless the vehicle is exempt from State emissions inspection” to Section 560-47 A, of the Codified Ordinances.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Introduction of Legislative Bills:

Bill No. 49, Amending Chapter 135, Records Public, of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Easton, Pa. was introduced by Mayor Panto and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would repeal the old Chapter 135 in its entirety and replace it with a new Chapter with procedures required by the new State Open Records Law.

A March 2, 2009 memorandum regarding the Weller Center Liquor License was received from Gretchen Lippincott, Director of Economic Development.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve the transfer of a Liquor License from 322 Northampton Street to 325-329 Northampton Street.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Vulcano:

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36-2007

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

Yeas: Vulcano, Warner, Warren, S. Panto, Brown, P. Panto, Ruggles (7)

Nays: None (0)

A March 3, 2009, memorandum, regarding items for the March 11, 2009 Agenda was received from David Hopkins, Director of Public Services.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution that would approve an Agreement between the City and the Easton Women's Softball League.

The proposed Resolution was introduced by Dr. Warner:

Dr. Ruggles questioned some wording in the proposed contract.

As a result of a discussion between Council members, item #4 in the contract was amended to read "The EWSL will utilize said premises only for athletic events and other events approved by City Council."

On motion of Dr. Warner and Dr. Ruggles, the above proposed Resolution was tabled until March 25, 2009 by the following vote:

Yeas: Warren, S. Panto, Brown, P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner (7)

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution requesting the turn back of a portion of Larry Holmes Drive to the City.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Warner:

37-2009

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

Yeas: S. Panto, Brown, P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, (7)

Nays: None (0)

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**CITIZEN'S RIGHT TO BE HEARD**

William Marley, 64 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, spoke about his concerns regarding a proposed platform contained in the Water Front Project plans, and regarding the April 7<sup>th</sup> Public meeting on this proposed project.

Michael Krill, 132 Vista Drive, spoke regarding his observations of the way problems are taken care of by the City, and that he would like to see the implementation of long term goals.

Dorothy Thorpe, 103 Parsons Street, spoke about the Clean & Safe portion of the Mayor's Plan for the City and suggested using Refuse Collectors as another eye to report violations to City Offices.

Mrs. Thorpe asked what the School Board's opinion was on the KOZ Zone.

Mayor Panto said that the City could not speak for the School Board.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m. on motion of Dr. Warner and Mr. Warren by the following vote:

Yeas: Brown, P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, S. Panto (7)

Nays: None (0)

Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk