

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
June 12, 2013

Easton, Pa
Wednesday
June 12, 2013
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: Fleck, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, Panto (5)
Absent: Brown, Ruggles (2)

Also in attendance were Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk, William Murphy, City Solicitor, Beth Knickerbocker, Assistant City Solicitor and Glen Steckman, City Administrator. There were twenty-five other persons present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion of Dr. Warner and Mr. Fleck the Agenda was approved by the following vote:

Yeas: Fleck, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, Panto (5)
Nays: None (0)

ACTION ON MINUTES

On motion of Dr. Warner and Mr. Warren, the May 22, 2013 Council Meeting minutes were approved as submitted by the following vote:

Yeas: Fleck, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, Panto (5)
Nays: None (0)

RESOLUTIONS

The next items on the Agenda were proposed Resolutions recognizing the death of former Mayor Fred Ashton and Firefighter Evan Pleiss.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mayor Panto:

98-2013

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

Yeas: Fleck, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, Panto (5)
Nays: None (0)

Council members spoke regarding former Mayor Ashton's service to the City and its Citizens and thanked the Ashton family for allowing him to serve the community.

Mrs. Ashton was presented with a framed Resolution, and thanked Council for the honor bestowed on her husband.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Warren:

99-2013

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

Yeas: Fleck, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, Panto (5)
Nays: None (0)

Council members spoke regarding Mr. Pleiss' service to the City and its Citizens.

Mrs. Pleiss was presented with a framed Resolution and thanked Council for the honor bestowed on her husband.

PUBLIC COMMENT – (Agenda Items Only)

Justin Porembo, 1670 Best Place, Bethlehem, Pa., as a representative of the Lehigh Valley Association of Realtors, spoke regarding Bill 30, Creating an Ordinance to be entitled Abandoned Real Property and Blighted Real Property, commended Council for their action on this Bill and questioned the word "Agent", and its meaning throughout the proposed Bill.

Mayor Panto, Mr. Warren and Mr. Steckman addressed his concerns.

Terrence Miller, 645 Ferry Street and Jeremy Clark, 321 W. Pierce Street, members of the City's Board of Ethics, spoke in support of the proposed Resolution which would authorize the establishment of a budget for their Board and explained what the funds would be used for, and asked Mayor Panto to fill a vacancy, on the Board, as soon as possible.

Council members spoke regarding the proper title of the Board and the use of the proposed funds.

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CONSENT AGENDA

On motion of Mr. Fleck and Dr. Warner the following items on the Consent Agenda were adopted by the following vote:

1. Bill No. 28, (Ordinance 5410), Amending Chapter 285, Fees, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa. This Ordinance creates legal fees for Abandoned Real Property and Blighted Real Property.
2. Bill No. 29, (Ordinance 5411), Amending Chapter 369- Municipal Claims and Liens of the Code of the City of Easton Pa. This Ordinance amends Section 369.2 (A) by adding the words, "and removal of nuisances".
3. Bill No. 30, (Ordinance 5412) Creating an Ordinance to be entitled Abandoned Real Property and Blighted Real Property. This Bill creates an Ordinance to deal with Abandoned Real Property and Blighted Real Property.
4. Resolution 100-2013 which extends the Police in Neighborhood Program for an additional 36 months until June 12, 2016.
5. Resolution 101-2013, which approves the appoint of Mia McPeck-Hatzis to the Planning Commission.
6. Resolution 102-2013, which approves the compromise, settlement and ending of the litigation between the case of John Mazzeo vs. the City of Easton, CV-2011-8760 in the Court of Common Pleas in the County of Northampton
7. Resolution 103-2013, which approves the placement of a third Handicapped Parking Space on the 700 block of Wolf Avenue and the 500 block of Center Street.
8. Resolution 104-2013, which approved the establishment of a budget for the Board of Ethics.
9. Resolution 105-2013, which approved a Construction Management Agreement with the City of Easton, Pa., the Easton Parking Authority and J.G. Petrucci Company and Iron Hill Construction Management Co.

Yeas: Fleck, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, Panto (5)

Nays: None (0)

REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL

The following report was received by Council:

- (a) May 2013 Monthly Fire report.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Brown, Chairman of the Finance Committee was not in attendance.

Mrs. Vulcano, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee reported that 31 new businesses have opened in the City so far this year,

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Dr. Ruggles, Chairman of the Planning Committee, was not in attendance.

Mr. Warren, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, reported that a Public Safety Committee meeting would be held on July 9, 2012 and said that a Police activity update report would be given at that meeting.

Dr. Warner, Chairman of the Public Works Committee had no report.

Mr. Fleck, Chairman of the Administration Committee spoke regarding legislation that he would have for later in the meeting regarding the adoption of a Competitive Policies Code for the City.

Mr. Murphy, City Solicitor reported that before the meeting, Council had met in an Executive Session and had discussed litigation and the purchase of Real Estate.

Ms. Knickerbocker, Assistant City Solicitor had no report.

Mayor Panto informed everyone that he had received Mr. Flecks resignation email and spoke regarding the procedure for appointing someone to fill his vacant position, spoke regarding the Wednesday Farmers Market and said that it has been a great success, spoke regarding the increase in attendance at the Crayola Experience, reported that Northampton County Council had approved the grant match for Heil Park improvements, and gave an update on the Petrucci Construction Management Agreement.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was received by Council:

- (a) e-mail, Harriette Jensen, regarding chickens in the City.
- (b) e-mail, Maryanne Schluckebier, regarding chickens in the City.

NEW BUSINESS

Bill No. 31, Amending Sections in Chapter 294, Fire Insurance Escrow Fund, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., was introduced by Dr. Warner and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would amend Sections in Chapter 294, by removing words, "City Treasurer", "Municipal Treasurer", and "Municipality", and replacing them with the "Director of Finance", and "City".

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Bill No. 32, Amending Sections in Chapter 194, Auctions and Auctioneers, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., was introduced by Mr. Fleck and ordered process for adoption.

This Bill would amend sections in Chapter 194 by removing the words, "City Treasurer", the figure "\$300" and replacing them with the words "Director of Finance", and the figure "\$1,000".

Bill No. 33, Amending Sections in Chapter 365, Moving of Goods, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., was introduced by Mr. Fleck and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would amend sections in Chapter 365 by removing the words "City Treasurer", and the figure "\$300", and replacing them with "Director of Finance" and the figure "\$1,000".

Bill No. 34, Amending Sections in Chapter 404, Parks of the Code of the City of Easton was introduced by Mr. Fleck and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would amend sections in Chapter 404, by deleting Section 404 E (1), adding a new section 404-4 D, adding wording to sections 404-D (4), and (5), by deleting the words "or the Hugh Moore Park Commission" in section 404-4F (5), by amending fine amounts in sections 404-4 H (3) and (4), by deleting the words "Supervisor of Hugh Moore Park" in section 404-5 and by changing the fine from \$300 to \$1,000 in Section 404-6.

Bill No. 35, Amending Chapter 285 – Fees, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., was introduced by Dr. Warner and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would establish fees for Credit Card Convenience.

Bill No. 36, Amending the 2012 Wastewater Operating Fund Budget, was introduced by Dr. Warner and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would amend the 2012 Wastewater Operating Fund Budget by increasing Revenues and Expenditures by \$89,025.63.

Bill No. 37, An Ordinance for adoption of a Competitive Policies Code was introduced by Mr. Fleck and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would adopt a Competitive Policies Code for the City.

CITIZENS RIGHT TO BE HEARD

There were no remarks or comments from the audience.

ADJOURNMENT

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With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:52 p. m. on the motion of Mr. Fleck and Mr. Warren by the following vote:

Yeas: Panto, Warren, Warner, Vulcano, Fleck (5)

Nays: None (0)


Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk