

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
March 12, 2014

Easton, Pa
Wednesday
March 12, 2014
6:00 p.m.

City Council met in stated session at the above date and time, in Council Chambers, located on the Sixth floor of City Hall, to consider any business that may lawfully be brought before the body and to receive the Mayor's State of the City address.

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

ROLL CALL

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

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-five other persons present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

ACTION ON MINUTES

On motion of Dr. Ruggles and Dr. Warner, the February 26, 2014 Council Meeting minutes were approved, as submitted, by the following vote:

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

RESOLUTION

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution recognizing the death of Catherine Biggs, a former City employee.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Brown:

33-2014

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
March 12, 2014

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

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

Nays: None (0)

Mayor Panto spoke regarding Mrs. Biggs' service to the city and its citizens, and regarding his personal relationship with her.

Mrs. Biggs' son thanked Council for its Resolution and said that his mother loved working for the City.

STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

At this time the Mayor presented his State of the City address. (See attachment)

PUBLIC COMMENT
(Agenda Items Only)

Terrence Miller, 645 Ferry Street and Jeremy Clark, 321 W. Pierce Street, members of the City's Board of Ethics said that they would like to come before Council every few months, to keep Council updated on the Board's activities, and spoke regarding the resignation of one of their members and the needed action for a replacement from other parts of the City other than College Hill, where three of the four existing members live. They spoke regarding training for City employees and the public, spoke regarding problems with the complaint process to their Board, regarding placing a complaint form on the City Web-Site, problems with the opening of City Hall doors for their meetings, and the requirement to hold their meetings in City Hall.

Their concerns were addressed by Mayor Panto, Council members and Mr. Steckman.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mrs. Vulcano requested that the proposed Resolution regarding amending the Non-Union and Management Full Time Employees Benefits for 2013 & 2014 be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed under New Business; that action was taken.

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

Bill 10, (Ordinance 5457), Requiring all Individuals or entities utilizing Credit Cards or Debit Cards for payment of delinquent Real Estate Taxes and Municipal Fees to pay the charges, which would require to the user to pay those charges for use of the cards.

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
March 12, 2014

Resolution 34-2014, which stated the City's intent to follow the Pa. Municipal Records Manual for destruction of Municipal Records.

Resolution 35-2014, which adopted the 2013 Annual Report from the Planning Department.

Resolution 37-2014, which approved the filing for a Northampton County Grant to be used for Nevin Park.

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

Nays: None (0)

REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL

The following reports were received by Council:

(a) Monthly Fire Report for February 2014.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Brown, Chairman of the Finance Committee, spoke regarding legislation that he would have for later in the meeting, which would require all individuals or entities utilizing Credit Cards or Debit Cards for payment of delinquent Real Estate Taxes and Municipal Fees to pay the charges or fees associated with the transaction, which would amend the 2013 & 2014, Non-Union and Management Full Time employees benefits, and which would amend different fees in the Fee Schedule.

Mrs. Vulcano, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee reported that sixty-six businesses were now taking part in the Easton Gift Card program, spoke regarding a new promotion, entitled "Spring into Easton", reported that one of the Little Free libraries has received that distinction, by the National Little Free Library Organization, and will be located at Scotts Park, and said that the Pennsylvania Department of Economic Development has officially designated Easton's Downtown District as a Keystone Main Street.

Dr. Warner, 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 amending Sub-Section 399-17, D, of Section 399-17, Parking Permits of Article III College Hill Parking Permits, of the Code of the City of Easton Pa. which would take away additional parking permits in the College Hill Residential Parking Permit program.

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
March 12, 2014

Dr. Ruggles, Chairman of the Public Works Committee reported that a Green Park Award was awarded to Sullivan Park which was a community effort along with Lafayette College and the Public Works Department, to get the designation, and reported that a group brought in a demonstration model of a fish transport to allow the fish to get around and over dams. He described the transport and said that he had information on it if any Council member wanted to review it.

Mr. Edinger, Chairman of the Administration Committee was absent.

Mr. Murphy, City Solicitor, and Ms. Knickerbocker, Assistant Solicitor had no report.

Mayor Panto had no report.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence received by Council:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would amend Resolution 30-2013.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Brown:

36-2014

Mrs. Vulcano said that she was going to be voting no on this Resolution and should have voted no when the original Resolution and that part of the budget was voted upon.

Mayor Panto explained that the longevity, sick leave bonus and safety bonus for non-union employees were incorporated in their salaries for 2014.

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

Yeas: Ruggles, Warner, Warren, Panto, Brown (5)

Nays: Vulcano (1)

NEW BUSINESS

A March 3, 2014, memorandum, regarding Amendments to the City's Fee Schedule was received from Matthew Lohenitz, Police Lieutenant of Records and Traffic.

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
March 12, 2014

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Bill that would amend numerous sub-sections contained in Chapter 285, Fees, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa.

Bill 11, An Ordinance amending Sections in Chapter 285, Fees, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., was introduced by Mr. Brown and ordered processed for adoption.

Dr. Ruggles, said that he did not agree with the fee of \$150 for block parties and explained why. Mr. Brown and Mrs. Vulcano agreed with Dr. Ruggles, and explained their reasons.

Dr. Warner said that she felt that fee should be what it costs the City to do this for the requestor or applicant.

There was a discussion on this matter between Council members, and Mr. Steckman voicing pros and cons for this part and other parts of the proposed Bill.

From the discussion it was the decision of Council to remove the proposed fee for Block Parties until further discussion were held and a recommendation was made on this matter. It was also decided that the word "copy" be replaced by the word "page" for conversion of paper to electronic format.

Bill 12, Amending Sections contained in Chapter 135, Records, Public, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., was introduced by Mr. Brown and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would amend wording in different sections contained in Chapter 135, Records, Public, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa.

Bill 13, Amending Sub-Section 399-17, D, of Section 399-17, Parking Permits, of Article III College Hill parking Permits, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., was introduced by Mr. Warren and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would remove "Additional permits may be purchased upon the presentation of proof of vehicle ownership, the fee for additional permits is included in Chapter 285, Fees" from the Sub-Section.

CITIZENS RIGHT TO BE HEARD

Hubert Etchison, spoke to Council regarding the Nevin Project, and thanked them for their assistance. He said that the project required two Resolutions; one that was approved tonight which approved the application for a Northampton County grant, and another stating the City's intention of supporting this project by granting \$44,000 to this project.

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
March 12, 2014

Mayor Panto said that at the last Council meeting, on February 26, 2014, Council passed a Budget Amendment which contained that allocating \$44,000 for the Nevin Park Fountain in the 2014 Parks & Open Space Fund Budget.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p. m. on motion of Dr. Warner and Mr. Warren by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)



Rita Messa, Assistant City Clerk

CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA

Stated Session
Wednesday
March 12, 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 – February 26, 2014 Council Meeting
7. RESOLUTION – Death of Catherine Biggs
8. STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS
9. PUBLIC COMMENT – (Agenda Items Only)
 - (a) Board of Ethics
10. CONSENT AGENDA
 1. Bill 10, Requiring all Individuals or entities utilizing Credit Cards or Debit Cards for payment of delinquent Real Estate Taxes and Municipal Fees to pay the charges
 2. Resolution declaring intention to follow the Pa. Municipal Records Manual.
 3. Resolution adopting the Annual Report for 2013.
 4. Resolution approving amendments to the 2013 & 2014 Non-Union Management Full time Employees Benefits.
 5. Resolution approving and supporting the filing of a Grant Application.
11. REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL
 - a. Monthly Fire Report for February 2014.
12. 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.)

13. CORRESPONDENCE

14. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

15. NEW BUSINESS

(a) Introduction of Legislative Bills.

1. Bill 11, Amending Sections in Chapter 285, Fees, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa.
2. Bill 12, Amending Sections contained in Chapter 135, Records, Public, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa.
3. Bill 13, Amending Sub-Section 399-17, D, of Section 399-17, Parking Permits, of Article III, College Hill Parking Permits, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa.

16. PUBLIC COMMENT – (Any Matter)

17. ADJOURNMENT