

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
May 12, 2010

Easton, Pa
Wednesday
May 12, 2010
6:38 p.m.

City Council met in stated session in Council Chambers, Room 514, 5th 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: Kenneth Brown
Michael Fleck
Roger Ruggles
Sandra Vulcano
Elinor Warner
Jeff Warren
Salvatore J. Panto, Jr. (7)
Absent: None (0)

Also in attendance were Rita M. Messa, Assistant City Clerk, William Murphy, City Solicitor, Joel Scheer, Assistant City Solicitor and Glenn Steckman, City Administrator. There were 22 other persons present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion of Mrs. Vulcano and Dr. Warner the agenda was approved by the following vote:

Yeas: Panto, Warren, Vulcano, Ruggles, Warner, Fleck, Brown (7)
Nays: None (0)

ACTION ON MINUTES

The April 28, 2010 City Council meeting minutes were approved, as submitted, on motion of Dr. Warner and Mr. Fleck by the following vote:

Yeas: Brown, Fleck, Warner, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warren, Panto (7)
Nays: None (0)

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CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

A Certificate of Recognition was presented to Mr. Alan Raisman for his many years of dedication and volunteer work on behalf of the Citizens of Easton.

All of council thanked Mr. Raisman for his commitment and dedication to the City of Easton and wished him well.

CITIZENS RIGHT TO BE HEARD (Agenda Items Only)

Mrs. Catherine Walters, 518 Porter thanked Mr. Raisman for his hard work and dedication.

Mr. Terrance Hand, 623 Chestnut Terrace thanked Mr. Raisman for his volunteerism.

REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL

The following report was received by Council:

- (a) Easton Suburban Water Authority April 12, 2010 meeting minutes

Mayor Panto accepted the report on behalf of Council.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Brown, Chairperson of the Finance Committee spoke regarding legislation that would be brought forward later in the meeting, reported that the Finance Committee had met on May 11, 2009, and related what had been discussed.

Mr. Brown also said that he met with Mr. Pambianci, Director of the Housing Authority, at the site of the new Neston Heights and they spoke about naming "Road B" one of the new streets, "Jones & Houston's Way" in honor of Mr. Alfredean Jones and Mr. William Houston.

Dr. Warner stated that she thought the idea of the naming the street after them was a good one except that the name was too long. She suggested "Houston Jones Way".

After some discussion on the matter it was decided that "Houston Jones Way" was more appropriate.

Mrs. Vulcano, Chairperson of Economic Development spoke regarding legislation that would be before Council later in the meeting.

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Council members made comments and asked questions regarding the proposed lease of a portion of the southwest quadrant of Centre Square to the Greater Easton Development Partnership the cost of the lease, impact on carriage riders, etc, which were answered by Mayor Panto and Mr. Steckman.

All concerns were address after further discussion on this matter.

Dr. Ruggles, Chairperson of the Planning Committee had no report.

Mr. Warren, Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee spoke regarding legislation that would be before Council later in the meeting, stated that he attended the Police Officer of the Year Award Ceremony and congratulated Officer Brian Herncane who was this year's recipient, stated that the Public Safety Committee would meet in two weeks and that Chief Palmer would be there to give an update on the Bike Patrols.

Dr. Warner, Chairperson of the Public Works Committee, spoke regarding legislation that would be before Council later in the meeting.

Mayor Panto spoke regarding the improvements to Sullivan Park and about the park itself.

Mr. Fleck, Chairperson of the Administration Committee, spoke regarding legislation that would be before Council later in the meeting.

Mr. Fleck reported that the Administration Committee Meeting was held on May 11, 2010, and said that the Personnel Code Review would be ready for next meeting.

Mr. Fleck also stated that several people were recommended to serve on the Citizens Elected Compensation Review Board. A resolution was drafted and five (5) people were chosen to serve. Mr. Fleck thanked everyone who expressed an interest in serving on this Board.

Dr. Warner asked if Mr. Woglom volunteered to be chairperson. Mayor Panto stated that no he did not but he didn't think that it would be an issue since Mr. Woglom has worked with the City on other issues in the past. Mayor Panto spoke briefly about Mr. Woglom.

Mr. Warren asked about the individuals whose names he submitted to be considered to serve on this board. Mr. Fleck addressed Mr. Warren's concern.

There was some brief discussion on this matter.

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Mr. Fleck also stated that the Easton Project Labor Agreement was worked on and that it would make sure that work done locally would involve minority individuals from Easton.

Mr. Fleck stated that he attended the Wachovia Foundation Meeting.

Mr. Fleck asked when the laptops would be distributed. Mayor Panto stated that everyone should get in touch with Leanna Sloyer to make arrangements for pick ups.

Dr. Warner asked about getting the council packets earlier. After some discussion on this matter, Mayor Panto stated that the new deadline for submission for packets would be 11:00 a.m. on the Friday before the next council meeting. After further discussion it was decided that the deadline would be the close of business on the Thursday before the next scheduled Council meeting.

William K. Murphy, City Solicitor stated the Council met in Executive Session prior to the start of tonight's meeting. He stated that the following topics were discussed:

- 1) Kowitz vs. the City of Easton
- 2) The Fire Arbitration
- 3) Scottsdale Insurance Co., vs. the City of Easton
- 4) Executive Session after the last Council Meeting – Fire Arbitration

Joel Scheer, Assistant Solicitor had no report.

Mayor Panto stated that Council members would be using the laptops for the next Council meeting, told everyone to make sure that they got a password from the IT Department and to also make sure that the laptops were charged and ready to go, commended Mr. Hopkins and his staff for the clean up of the Train Station, stated that Wilson Borough had passed an Ordinance regarding the reporting of lost or stolen handguns, stated that the City would be meeting with the legal team regarding the 3rd Circuit courts ruling in the Sollman case, said that he, Mr. Steckman and Mr. Heagele had already been discussing ways to trim the budget and that tough financial decisions will have to be made because of the Courts ruling,

There was a discussion on the Court's ruling and the appeal process.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No. 13. (Ordinance No. 5253) Amending Chapter 404 of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa. entitled Parks was adopted on motion of Dr. Warner and Mr. Warren by the following vote:

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Yea: Brown, Fleck, Warner, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warren, Panto (7)
Nay: None (0)

Ordinance 5253 prohibits the feeding of wild and feral animals in City parks, conservation areas or on any City owned property.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

NEW BUSINESS

On May 5, 2010 an e-mail regarding City Council agenda was received from Tina Woolverton, Secretary of the Easton Redevelopment Authority regarding an Agreement of Sale for a property on Williams Street.

Bill No. 14, An Ordinance approving an Agreement of Sale between the City of Easton and Ruby Real Estate Development, LLC for a property on Williams Street was introduced by Mrs. Vulcano and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would approve an Agreement of Sale with Ruby Real Estate Development, LLC. For a City owned property on Williams Street, parcel # M9NE1D 6 1 B.

A May 4, 2010 e-mail, regarding a Resolution for Early Intervention Program Funds was received from Mr. Steckman, City Administrator.

The next item on the agenda was a proposed resolution which would authorize the application for Early Intervention Program Funds

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Brown:

100-2010

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

Yea: Fleck, Warner, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warren, Panto, Brown (7)
Nay: None (0)

The next item on the agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve an Arbitration Agreement between the City of Easton and the Fire Department.

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The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Warren

101-2010

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

Yea: Warner, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warren, Panto, Brown, Fleck (7)

Nay: None (0)

The next item on the agenda was a proposed Resolution which would urge support for the "Local Jobs for American Act"

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Warren:

102-2010

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

Yea: Ruggles, Vulcano, Warren, Panto, Brown, Fleck, Warner (7)

Nay: None (0)

A May 4, 2010 e-mail regarding an AFSCME Labor Agreement was received from Mr. Steckman, City Administrator.

The next item on the agenda was a proposed resolution which would approve a Three Year Labor Agreement between the City of Easton and Local 447 Union.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Fleck:

103-2010

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

Yea: Vulcano, Warren, Panto, Brown, Fleck, Warner, Ruggles (7)

Nay: None (0)

The next item on the agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve a lease of a portion of the southwest quadrant of Center Square.

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The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Vulcano:

104-2010

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

Yea: Warren, Panto, Brown, Fleck, Warner, Ruggles, Vulcano (7)

Nay: None (0)

A May 4, 2010 memorandum regarding City Council Agenda Items was received from Mr. Hopkins, Director of Public Works

The next item on the agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve a Construction Agreement for Scott and Riverside Parks.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Warner:

105-2010

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

Yea: Panto, Brown, Fleck, Warner, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warren (7)

Nay: None (0)

The next item on the agenda was a proposed resolution which would approve a Design Agreement for Sullivan Park.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Warner:

106-2010

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

Yea: Brown, Fleck, Warner, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warren, Panto (7)

Nay: None (0)

The next item on the agenda was a proposed resolution which would create a Citizens Elected Officials Compensation Review Board.

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The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Fleck:

107-2010

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

Yea: Warner, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warren, Panto, Brown, Fleck (7)

Nay: None (0)

CITIZENS RIGHT TO BE HEARD

Mr. Richard Hieshetter, 304 W. Monroe Street spoke regarding the proposed Rail Transportation facility and distributed items regarding this matter to Council members.

Mr. Walters, 518 Porter Street asked about the work being done at 5th & Northampton Street and the time it is taking to be completed.

Mayor Panto addressed his concerns.

Mr. Terrance Hand, 623 Chestnut Terrace spoke regarding the changing of the street names at Neston Heights, and gave his suggestions that they should be the same Street names as were previously used in Delaware Terrace. .

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:02 on motion of Mr. Fleck and Mr. Warren by the following vote:

Yea: Panto, Warren, Vulcano, Ruggles, Warner, Fleck, Brown

Nay: None (0)

Rita M. Messa, Asst. City Clerk