

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
August 13, 2014

Easton, Pa
Wednesday
August 13, 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.

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

ROLL CALL

Present: Brown, Edinger, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, Panto (7)
Absent: None (0)

Also in attendance were Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk, William Murphy, City Solicitor, and Glenn Steckman, City Administrator. There were twenty other persons present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion of Mayor Panto and Mrs. Vulcano, item 7 on the Agenda, Certificates of Appreciation, was removed from the Agenda by the following vote:

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

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

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

ACTION ON MINUTES

On motion of Dr. Ruggles and Mrs. Vulcano, the July 23, 2014 Council Meeting minutes were approved, as submitted, by the following vote:

Yeas: Brown, Edinger, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warren, Panto (6)
Nays: None (0)
Abstain: Warner (1)

PUBLIC COMMENT
(Agenda Items Only)

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There were no comments or questions from the audience.

CONSENT AGENDA

On motion of Mr. Brown and Mr. Warren the following items were adopted by the following vote:

Bill 22, (Ordinance 5469) Amending Chapter 560- Traffic Control Map of the Code of the City of Easton Pa., which deleted streets, on College Hill from No Parking on Monday 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Bill 23, (Ordinance 5470) Amending the 2013 Health Benefits Fund Budget which amended the budget by increasing the Revenues and Expenditures by \$456,883.68.

Resolution 106-2014, which approved an Agreement with Long Fence Company for the replacement of roughly 1,400 linear feet of guiderail along Glendon Avenue from Berwick Street to the City Line at a cost not to exceed \$83,023.50.

Resolution 107-2014, which authorized the Director of Public Works to sign Pennsylvania TE 160 forms.

Resolution 108-2014, which approved a Developers Agreement, Storm Water Runoff Control Facilities and Maintenance Agreement and a Public Access Easement Agreement with Lafayette College for property known as 219 N. 3rd Street.

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

REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL

There were no reports received by Council:

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Brown, Chairman of the Finance Committee, had no report, but thanked the Police and Fire Department for taking part in National Night Out.

Mrs. Vulcano, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee, spoke regarding legislation, which she would have for later in the meeting, regarding approving an Agreement of Sale between the City and the Redevelopment Authority for the purchase of property located on N. 13th Street.

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Dr. Warner, Chairman of the Planning Committee, spoke regarding legislation, which she would have for later in the meeting, regarding amending sections in Chapter 222, Buyer Notification, of the City's Code, and regarding amending fees in Section 285-4, Buyer Notification and in Section 295-13, Parking Permits of the City's Code.

Dr. Warner said that the proposed changes to the Buyer Notification sections were reviewed by the City Solicitor and no further changes were required.

Mr. Warren, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, spoke regarding legislation which he would have for later in the meeting, regarding amending Article 1 of Chapter 399, Parking permits, of the City's Code by making the downtown parking districts from 3 districts to 2 and adding a Gold Parking Permit, describing what parking meters could not be used in the parking permit program.

Dr. Ruggles, Chairman of the Public Works Committee spoke regarding legislation, which he would have for later in the meeting, regarding amending section 404-4, Acts Prohibited of Chapter 404, Parks of the City's Code.

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

Mr. Murphy, City Solicitor, reported had no report.

Mayor Panto reported that before the next meeting, Council would receive three recommended persons for appointment to the Ethics Board, for their approval, at the August 27, 2014 Council meeting. He also provided an update on the latest shooting incident on Washington Street.

There was a lengthy discussion between Mayor Panto, Council members and Mr. Steckman on the shooting incidents in the City.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

A July 15, 2014 memorandum, regarding Amendments to Chapter 222, Buyer Notification, and associated fees, was received from George Kinney, Director of Planning and Codes.

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Bill 24, Amending Sections in Chapter 222, Buyer Notification, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa. was introduced by Dr. Warner and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would amend numerous sections in Chapter 222, Buyer Notification of the City's Codes by updating timetables for all activities associated with the BNI process, simplifying the fee schedule, giving greater flexibility for the buyer and seller to mutually determine the party responsible for mitigating violations, and giving a greater specificity focusing inspections on life and safety issues.

Bill 25, Amending Sections 285-4, Buyer Notification and 295-13, Parking Permits in 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 amend Section 285-4 by setting new fees for inspections of a Single-Family residential, Multi Family residential and Non Residential, Mixed-Use properties, re-inspections and doubling the fees for selling of a property without first obtaining an inspection for certificate of occupancy, and for setting fees for the Gold Pass Residential Parking Permits.

Bill 26, Approving an Agreement of Sale between the City of Easton, Pa. and the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Easton Pa., was introduced by Mrs. Vulcano and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would approve an Agreement of Sale between the City and the Redevelopment Authority for the purchase of property located on North 13th Street.

Bill 27, Amending Article 1 of Chapter 399, Parking Permits was introduced by Mr. Warren and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would decrease the Parking Permit Districts from three (3) to Two (2), described what meters would not be allowed to be used for the Residential Parking permit program.

Bill 28, Amending Section 404-4, Acts Prohibited, of Chapter 404, Parks, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., was introduced by Dr. Ruggles and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would prohibit the use of tobacco at any owned or City leased park or swimming facility, and also prohibits the practice of Metal Detection in any City Park

PUBLIC COMMENT
(On Any Item)

Gretchen Longenbach, Director of Economic Development reported that all applications for Community Development Funds had been received and that Council would receive their copies, for review, before the Public Hearing scheduled for August 27, 2014. She handed out a

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map of the proposed property that the Redevelopment Authority would be purchasing from the City and went over what the property would be used for.

The following persons spoke regarding their concerns with the recent shooting, problems in the West Ward of the City and offered suggestions that could be used to combat the problems.

- Stephen White, 933 Ferry Street
- Patty Berger, 730 Jackson Street
- Ronald Morris, 1002 Washington Street
- Linda Dobrowski, 320 S. 13th Street
- Anthony Marraccini, 525 Ferry Street
- Kerry Jones, 1218 Washington Street
- Lynn Holden, 325 N. 10th Street
- David Rex, 949 Butler Street
- Bonnie Winfield, 5 N. Bank Street
- Sophie Feller, 933 Ferry Street

Mayor Panto, Council members and Mr. Steckman addressed their concerns and offered ways that the citizens could assist in helping to alleviate the problems throughout the City.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p. m. on motion of Mr. Warren and Mrs. Vulcano by the following vote:

Yeas: Panto, Warren, Warner, Vulcano, Ruggles, Edinger, Brown (7)

Nays: None (0)

Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk