

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

January 13, 2016

Easton, Pa
Wednesday
January 13, 2016
6:51 p.m.

City Council met in stated session at the above date and time, in Council Chambers, located on the third floor of City Hall, 123 S. 3rd Street, Easton Pa., 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, Melan, O'Connell, Ruggles, Vulcano, Panto (7)

Absent: None (0)

Also in attendance were Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk, William Murphy, City Solicitor, Joel Scheer, Assistant City Solicitor and Tony Bassil, City Controller. There were thirty-one other persons present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion of Mr. Brown and Dr. Ruggles, the Agenda was amended by adding two new Resolutions, one for accepting the resignation of W. Glenn Steckman and the other for appointing the Mayor as acting City Administrator under New Business by the following vote:

Yeas: Brown, Edinger, Melan, O'Connell, Ruggles, Vulcano, Panto (7)

Nays: None (0)

On motion of Mr. Brown and Dr. Ruggles, the amended Agenda was approved by the following vote:

Yeas: Panto, Vulcano, Ruggles, O'Connell, Melan, Edinger, Brown (7)

Nays: None (0)

ACTION ON MINUTES

On motion of Mr. Edinger and Mr. Melan the January 4, 2016 Council Meeting and Reorganization Council meeting minutes, as submitted, were approved by the following vote:

Yeas: Edinger, Melan, O'Connell, Vulcano, Panto, Brown (6)

Nays: None (0)

Abstain: Ruggles (1)

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

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At this time a Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Deputy Fire Chief John H. Price upon his retirement, in appreciation for his many years of service as a member of the Fire Department.

All Councilpersons offered words of praise for Mr. Price's service to the Fire Department, the City and to its Citizens and wished him well in his future endeavors.

GRETCHEN WRENSHALL AWARD PRESENTATION

Mayor Panto gave a background on Mrs. Wrenshall, the award, and explained why the awards were given out at this time rather than at the Candle Lighting Ceremony in November.

Mayor Panto presented the Gretchen Wrenshall awards to Tommy Urglavitch and Stephen Flowers and spoke regarding their service to the City and its residents.

PUBLIC COMMENT
Agenda Items Only

There were no remarks from the audience.

CONSENT AGENDA

On motion of Dr. Ruggles and Mr. Edinger the following items were adopted by the following vote:

Bill 1, (Ordinance 5535), Amending Sections in Chapter 350, Market, Public, of the Code of the City of Easton, which amended sections contained in Chapter 350, Market, Public, of the Code of the City of Easton.

Resolutions 1-2016 through 4-2016, which approved Certificates of Appropriateness for 123 S. 3rd Street, 330 Larry Holmes Drive, 1 Lehn's Court and 323 Northampton Street.

Resolutions 5-2016 through 7-2016 which supported the Redevelopment Authority filing of applications with the Northampton County Department of Community and Economic Development for grants to purchase equipment, for landlord training and for the continuation of the Facade Program.

Resolution 8-2016 which approved reappointments and an appointment to different Authorities, Boards, and Commissions.

Yeas: Vulcano, Panto, Brown Edinger, Melan, O'Connell, Ruggles (7)

Nays: None (0)

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REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL

There were no reports received by Council.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Brown, Chairperson of the Finance Committee spoke regarding legislation which he would have for later in the meeting for approving amendments to Section 535-40, Property tax levied; amounts of the City Codes. He reported that he will not be able to attend the January 26, 2016 Council Committee meeting.

Mrs. Vulcano, Chairperson of the Economic Development Committee reported that Kim Kmetz, from Main Street would attend one of the February Council Committee meetings to discuss the Peace Candle Lighting Ceremony and the changing of the time and day of the ceremony.

Mr. O'Connell, Chairperson of the Planning and Code Committee reported that the draft of the Comprehensive Plan had been presented and discussed at the January 12th Council Committee meeting and that Council would be further reviewing the plan.

Mr. Melan, Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee spoke regarding legislation which he would have for later in the meeting regarding amending the Traffic Control Map by the creation of a "Load Unload Parking – Monday – Friday, 6 am – 6 pm" zone on the West side of S. 12th Street, at the intersection with Butler Street, and reported that there would be a Public Safety Committee meeting on Tuesday, January 26, 2016.

Mr. Melan spoke regarding the most recent robbery of the Dollar General Store, in downtown, thanked all the Easton Police Officers, by name, for there work in the apprehension of the actors, and thanked the Forks Township Police, Lafayette Security forces, and the New Jersey State Police for aiding in the apprehension.

Dr. Ruggles, Chairperson of the Public Works Committee spoke regarding legislation which he would have for later in the meeting regarding an Intermunicipal Agreement with the City of Bethlehem for a regional expansion of shared lane markings network.

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

Mr. Murphy, City Solicitor, reported that before the meeting Council had held an Executive Session and had discussed a personnel matter.

Mayor Panto had no report.

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CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence received by Council:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no Unfinished Business.

NEW BUSINESS

Bill 2, Amending Section 535-40, Property tax levied; amounts, of Chapter 535, Taxation, of the Codes of the City of Easton, Pa., was introduced by Mr. Brown and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would update Section 535-40 with the current 2016 Tax Rate that was levied by the City.

Bill 3, Amending Article III, Traffic Control Map, of Chapter 560, Vehicles and Traffic of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., was introduced by Mr. Melan, and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would create a Load Unload Parking – Monday – Friday, 6 am – 6 pm zone on the West side of S. 12th Street, at the intersection with Butler Street.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would amend the 2016 Salary and Wage Resolution by increasing the pay for the Executive Secretary, in the Police Department, from \$44,972 to \$46,972.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Melan:

9-2016

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

Yeas: Panto, Brown, Edinger, Melan, O'Connell, Ruggles, Vulcano (7)

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve a Memorandum of Agreement between the City and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees AFL-CIO, Local 447.

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The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Edinger:

10-2016

Mr. Melan said that he felt that the City was not being flexible with Code Inspections. He said that the inspections are done during the day and the majority of the public work during the day. He said that he was not questioning the forty hour work week but was concerned with the rigidity of the times for inspections.

Mayor Panto spoke to Mr. Melan's concerns. He said that this proposed Resolution did not address Mr. Melan's concerns but did address the going to a forty hour work week.

Stephen Nowroski, Director of Codes said that he has had discussions with his staff and they are willing to come in at night to do inspections, but said that this possibly might have to be negotiated with the union. He said that there have been accommodations made in the past for after hours inspections and said that there were management rights to change work hours for up to two weeks. He also spoke about other things dealing with inspections and the Code department.

Mr. Melan asked questions regarding the number of current employees in the Code Department, made statements regarding the technology of the department and the CRW program.

Dr. Ruggles asked if Mr. Nowroski could come back at a later date and bring Council up to date on the night inspections and an update on the Codes Department.

Mayor Panto asked Mr. Nowroski to make a presentation to Council on the CRW Program and what direction codes would be working towards sometime in February at a Committee meeting.

Mr. Nowroski said that he could.

The above Resolution was adopted on motion of Mr. Edinger and Mr. O'Connell by the following vote:

Yeas: Brown, Edinger, O'Connell, Ruggles, Vulcano, Panto (6)

Nays: Melan (1)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve an Intermunicipal Agreement with the City of Bethlehem for regional expansion of shared lane markings network.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

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11-2016

Mayor Panto asked Mr. Hopkins, Director of Public Works, to speak to Council regarding this matter; which he did.

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

Yeas: Edinger, Melan, O'Connell, Ruggles, Vulcano, Panto, Brown (7)

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would authorize the City to purchase a 2016 Caterpillar Model CB54B Asphalt Vibratory Roller.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

12-2016

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

Yeas: Melan, O'Connell, Ruggles, Vulcano, Panto, Brown, Edinger (7)

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve a Certificate of Appropriateness for repair or installation of new front doors at 525 Northampton Street.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. O'Connell:

13-2016

Mayor Panto made a motion to table the proposed Resolution, seconded by Dr. Ruggles.

Mayor Panto explained why he was making that motion.

Dr. Ruggles said that he did not know exactly what Council was being asked to approve regarding the replacement of doors.

There was a discussion on this matter.

The City Clerk said that he had spoken with the applicant, late in the afternoon, and said that the applicant had been coming to the meeting, but said that she would not attend and would be working with Christine Ussler on this matter.

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Mr. Nowroski said that he was familiar with this matter and that it was only a small reduction in the size of the door which was acceptable.

Mayor Panto and Dr. Ruggles withdrew their motions to table the above Resolution.

The above Resolution was approved on motion of Mr. O'Connell and Mrs. Vulcano by the following vote:

Yeas: Edinger, Melan, O'Connell, Ruggles, Vulcano, Panto, Brown (7)

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would accept the resignation of W. Glenn Steckman, City Administrator, from that position.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mayor Panto:

14-2006

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

Yeas: Brown, Edinger, Melan, O'Connell, Ruggles, Vulcano, Panto (7)

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would appoint the Mayor as the Acting City Administrator until such time as Council approves the appointment of a full time successor to the Office of the City Administrator.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mayor Panto:

15-2016

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

Yeas: Edinger, Melan, O'Connell, Ruggles, Vulcano, Panto, Brown (7)

Nays: None (0)

PUBLIC COMMENT
(On any item)

There were no remarks from the audience.

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ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m., on motion of Dr. Ruggles and Mrs. Vulcano by the following vote:

Yeas: Melan, O'Connell, Ruggles, Vulcano, Panto, Brown, Edinger (7)

Nays: None (0)


Thomas A. Hess
City Clerk



CITY OF EASTON

PENNSYLVANIA

January 8, 2016

MEETING NOTICE

The meeting of Easton City Council has been scheduled for Wednesday, January 13, 2016 for general business.

The meeting will be held in Council Chambers, located on the 3rd Floor of City Hall, 123 S. 3rd Street, Easton, Pa. and will begin at 6:00 p.m.

All meetings of City Council are open to the Public and are accessible to persons with disabilities.



Thomas A. Hess
City Clerk

CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA

Stated Session
Wednesday
January 13, 2016
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 – January 4, 2016 Council Meeting and Organization Meeting.
7. CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION – John Price
8. GRETCHEN WRENSHALL AWARD PRESENTATION – Tommy Urglavitch & Stephen Flowers
9. PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda Items Only)
10. CONSENT AGENDA
 - (a) Bill 1, Amending Sections contained in Chapter 350, Markets, Public, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa.
 - (b) Resolution approving a Certificate of Appropriateness for 123 S. 3rd Street.
 - (c) Resolution approving a Certificate of Appropriateness for 330 Larry Holmes Drive.
 - (d) Resolution approving a Certificate of Appropriateness for 1 Lehn’s Court.
 - (e) Resolution approving a Certificate of Appropriateness for 323 Northampton Street.
 - (f) Resolution supporting an Application for a Northampton County Department of Community and Economic Development Grant for the purchase of equipment.
 - (g) Resolution supporting an Application for a Northampton County Department of Community and Economic Development Grant towards the Landlord Training Program.
 - (h) Resolution supporting an Application for a Northampton County Department of Community and Economic Development Grant towards the continuation of the Façade Program
 - (i) Resolution approving reappointments and appointment to Authorities, Boards and Commissions.
11. REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL
12. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES
 - (a) Finance (Kenneth Brown)
 - (b) Economic Development (Sandra Vulcano)
 - (c) Planning and Code (David O’Connell)
 - (d) Public Safety (Peter Melan)
 - (e) Public Works (Roger Ruggles)
 - (f) Administration (James Edinger)

-OVER-

(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 2, Amending Section 535-40, Property tax levied; amounts, of Chapter 535, Taxation, of the Codes of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa.

2. Bill 3, Amending Article III, Traffic Control Map, of Chapter 560, Vehicles and Traffic of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa.

(b) Resolution amending the 2016 Salary and Wage Resolution.

(c) Resolution approving a Memorandum of Agreement with AFSCME, Local 447.

(d) Resolution approving an Intermunicipal Agreement.

(e) Resolution authorizing the purchase of an Asphalt Vibratory Roller.

(f) Resolution approving a Certificate of Appropriateness for 525 Northampton Street

16. PUBLIC COMMENT – (Any Matter)

17. ADJOURNMENT