

**Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.**  
**January 13, 2010**

Easton, Pa.  
Wednesday  
January 13, 2010  
6:00 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 Mr. Brown, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Kenneth Brown  
Michael Fleck  
Roger Ruggles  
Sandra Vulcano  
Elinor Warner  
Jeffrey Warren  
Salvatore J. Panto Jr. (7)

Absent: None (0)

Also in attendance were Thomas Hess, City Clerk, William Murphy, City Solicitor, Beth Knickerbocker, Assistant City Solicitor, and Glenn Steckman, City Administrator. There were ten other persons in attendance.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

On motion of Mayor Panto and Mr. Fleck, the Agenda was amended by adding a proposed Bill regarding a Tax Anticipation Note to New Business by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

**ACTION ON MINUTES**

The January 4, 2010 Special Council and Reorganization meeting minutes were approved, as submitted, on motion of Mrs. Vulcano and Mr. Fleck by the following vote:

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

**RESOLUTIONS**

The next items on the Agenda were proposed Resolutions recognizing the death of Louise Moore-Pine and the retirement of Gary Bertsch.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Warner:

4-2010

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

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

Council members made comments regarding Mrs. Moore-Pine, her service and dedication to the community.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mayor Panto:

5-2010

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

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

Council members made comments regarding Mr. Bertsch, his dedication, enthusiasm, and service to the City and the West Ward residents.

A member of the Moore-Pine family and Mr. Bertsch were presented with framed Resolutions.

**CITIZENS RIGHT TO BE HEARD (Agenda Items Only)**

Rich Hieshetter, 304 W. Monroe Street distributed to Council members, and went over, plans, that he made up for a proposed transportation facility.

Mayor Panto responded to Mr. Hieshetter's comments.

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**REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL**

The following report was received by Council:

- (a) Easton Suburban Water Authority December 14, 2009 Meeting Minutes
- (b) Easton Suburban Water Authority's Engineer's Report dated January 4, 2010.

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

Mr. Brown, Chairperson of the Administrative Committee spoke regarding legislation for introduction or adoption later in the meeting, and reported that he would be withdrawing Bill No. 2 and explained why.

Mr. Brown asked questions regarding the lifting of the cap on Electric Services and how the City was planning for this event, which were answered by Mr. Steckman.

Mrs. Vulcano, Chairperson of the Economic Development Committee spoke regarding legislation for introduction or adoption later in the meeting, and spoke regarding a window snow flake program in downtown.

Mr. Fleck, Chairperson of the Planning Committee, spoke regarding legislation for introduction or adoption later in the meeting. He spoke on needed language amendments to the Home Rule Charter.

Mr. Warren, Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee spoke regarding legislation for introduction or adoption later in the meeting.

Dr. Warner, Chairperson of the Public Works Committee distributed and went over Ambassador Program statistics for what the Ambassadors have done over 2008 & 2009. She and the Mayor spoke regarding the proposed street sweeping program and the possibility of giving a public presentation on this program at the January 26, 2010 Council Conference meeting.

There was a discussion on the street sweeping program.

Dr. Ruggles, Chairperson of the Strategic Planning Committee reported that at last night's meeting he distributed the latest Strategic Plan and had requested that Council members review it and get back to him with any suggestions, and reported that he had received one back already.

Mr. Murphy, and Ms. Knickerbocker, City Solicitors, had no report.

Mayor Panto reported that earlier in the day he had attended the three Mayor's Jobs forum and related what had been discussed.

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Mayor Panto introduced the three Pomeroy's Building developers in attendance and explained why they were here, and reported on the results of a tour of the building with the developers and their banker, and thanked the developers for their interest and their willingness to invest in the City.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence received by Council.

**NEW BUSINESS**

A December 28, 2009 e-mail regarding needed amendments to the City's fee schedule was received from Glenn Steckman, City Administrator.

Bill No. 1. An Ordinance to amend the Code of the City of Easton, Chapter 285, entitled Fees, by deleting Section §285-21 A (4) was introduced by Mr. Brown, and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would remove the discounted fee for refuse collection for a vacant dwelling unit.

A December 16, 2009 letter regarding amendments to the Business Privilege Ordinance was received from Attorney Knickerbocker.

Bill No. 2, Amending Sections in Article V, Business Privilege Tax, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., was withdrawn by Mr. Brown.

This Bill would amend different sections in Article V, Business Privilege Tax of the Code of the City.

A January 7, 2010 letter regarding 2010 Budget Amendments was received from Director Heagele.

Bill No. 3, Amending Ordinance 5229, 2010 General Fund Budget was introduced by Mr. Brown and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would increase Revenues and Expenditures by \$3,017,696.52.

Bill No. 4, Amending Ordinance 5239, 2010 Wastewater Treatment Plant Budget was introduced by Mr. Brown and ordered processed for adoption.

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This Bill increase Revenues and Expenditures by \$188,902.05.

Bill No. 5, Approving a Tax Anticipation Note for the City of Easton, was introduced by Mayor Panto and ordered processed for adoption.

Mr. Fleck made comments and asked questions regarding the note and the process which were answered by Mayor.

There was a discussion on this matter between Council members, Mr. Heagele, Mr. Murphy, and Mr. Steckman.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would designate January 2010 as National Volunteer Blood Donor Month.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Warren:

6-2010

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

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

Nays: None (0)

E-mails regarding appointments and reappointments to Authorities, Boards, and Commissions were received from Mayor Panto.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve a reappointment and appointments to different Authorities, Boards, and Commissions.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mayor Panto:

7-2010

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

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

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would authorize a Grant Application and to enter into a Cooperative Agreement.

The following Resolution was introduced by Sandra Vulcano:

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8-2010

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

Mayor Panto thanked the three investors, Director Lippincott, Cathy McCormick, Sara Hailstone, and members of the DCED for reinvigorating and reauthorizing the RCAP grant.

Director Lippincott thanked the three developers for their interest in the City.

Mr. Mark Mulligan, 322 Northampton Street, thanked the Mayor, Director Lippincott, Code Officials, the Administration, and the Planning Department for assisting them in this endeavor, and spoke regarding the project.

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

Nays: None (0)

A January 6, 2010 memorandum, regarding Council Agenda items was received from David Hopkins.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would authorize Met-Ed to upgrade Street Lights during 2010.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Warner:

9-2009

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

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

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve an Easement Agreement with Lafayette College.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Warner:

10-2009

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

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

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve a Developers Agreement with Lafayette College.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Warner:

11-2009

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

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

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution that would approve a time extension to an Inspection Agreement with McTish, Kunkel & Associates.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Warner:

12-2009

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

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

Nays: None (0)

An undated memorandum, regarding a Plan for Delinquent 2009 Property Taxes was received from Chris Heagele.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would direct the Northampton County Tax Claim Bureau not to collect delinquent 2009 City Real Estate Taxes.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Brown:

13-2009

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

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

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Nays: None (0)

A January 4, 2010 memorandum, regarding the Intermodal Project was received from Mayor Panto.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would support the Intermodal Facility concept, and authorizes the Administration to contract for a feasibility study.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mayor Panto:

14-2010

On motion of Mayor Panto and Mr. Brown, and the following vote, the above Resolution was amended by adding the following words:

“BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Easton hereby authorizes the Administration to contract for a feasibility study not to exceed \$25,000 to be refunded by the Easton Parking Authority when financing is attained.”

Council members asked questions regarding the Resolution which were answered by Mayor Panto

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

Nays: None (0)

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

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

Nays: None (0)

A January 7, 2010 memorandum regarding a Contract for Engineering, Design, Survey and Permitting Services, was received from Beck Bradley.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve a contract with McTish, Kunkel & Associates.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Fleck:

15-2010

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

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

A January 7, 2009 memorandum, regarding an amendment to the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program Grant Amendment for the Intermodal project was received from Becky Bradley.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve an amendment to the Intermodal Facility RACP grant.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Fleck:

16-2009

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

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

**CITIZEN'S RIGHT TO BE HEARD**

Rich Hieshetter, 304 W. Monroe Street, spoke again regarding the proposed Transportation Facility project.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m. on motion of Dr. Warner and Dr. Ruggles by the following vote:

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

Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk