

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

July 13, 2016

Easton, Pa
Wednesday
July 13, 2016
6:18 p.m.

City Council met in stated session at the above date and time, in Council Chambers, located on the 3rd 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 Salvatore Panto, Jr. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: Edinger, Melan, O'Connell, Ruggles, Vulcano, Panto (6)

Absent: Brown (1)

Also in attendance was Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk, William Murphy, City Solicitor, Joel Scheer, Assistant City Solicitor and Luis Campos, City Administrator. There were eighteen (18) other persons present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion of Mr. Melan and Dr. Ruggles the Agenda was amended by withdrawing Bills No. 26 & 27 from the Agenda and withdrawing them from further consideration by the following vote:

Mr. Melan explained that the Bills required further consideration and would be reintroduced at a later date.

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

Nays: None (0)

On motion of Mrs. Vulcano and Dr. Ruggles the amended Agenda was approved by the following vote:

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

Nays: None

ACTION ON MINUTES

On motion of Mrs. Vulcano and Mr. O'Connell the June 22, 2016 Council Meeting minutes, and the July 5, 2016 Special Council meeting minutes, as submitted, were approved by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

PRESENTATION

At this time Joan Chelsen, 37 Leo Street, Staten Island N. Y., a board member of NEPA Regional Ski for Light Sports for Health Camp, personally, presented the Mayor, City Council and the Fraternal Order of Police, Washington Lodge #17 with plaques for their support over the last 25 years of their program.

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

At this time a Certificate of Appreciation was read which thanked former City Employee, Carol Tone for her thirty-three (33) years of service to the City and its citizens as an employee of the Easton Redevelopment Authority.

Mrs. Tone was not in attendance. The City Clerk was directed to send her the Certificate.

PUBLIC COMMENT **AGENDA ITEMS ONLY**

There were no questions or comments from the audience.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Panto requested that Bill 28 be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed under Unfinished Business.

On motion of Dr. Ruggles and Mrs. Vulcano the following item on the Consent Agenda was approved by the following vote:

Resolutions 108-2016 authorized the Police Department to apply for a Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Grant for their DUI Program.

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

Nays: None (0)

REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL

There were no reports received by Council:

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

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Mr. Brown, Chairperson of the Finance Committee was absent.

Mrs. Vulcano, Chairperson of the Economic Development Committee had no report.

Mr. O'Connell, Chairperson of the Planning and Code Committee reported that the Planning Committee met on Tuesday, July 13, 2016 and discussed proposed changes in the Fee Schedule and the Property Maintenance Code.

Mr. Melan, Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee, reported that the Public Safety Committee met on Tuesday July 13, 2016 and discussed lowering the overtime parking fine, discussed the Merchant Loading/Unloading program and the fees for that program. He said that he previously withdrew the proposed Bills for that program for further discussion. He reported that April 21, 2016 would be the last day that payment plans for parking tickets would be discussed.

Dr. Ruggles, Chairman of the Public Works Committee, had no report.

Mr. Edinger, Chairperson of the Administration Committee reported that at the July 5, 2016 Special Council meeting, Council appointed a new City Administrator and wished him luck in his new position.

Mr. Murphy, City Solicitor reported that on behalf of Mr. Scheer and himself, he had no report.

Mayor Panto reported that forty (40) cars had been towed on Heritage Day by CARS, two (2) being from the Children's Home and the vehicles were clearly marked as such. He said that they were towed from the lot behind the Wawa Store on Larry Holmes Drive. He said that the other vehicles were towed from there as well. He said that one of the owners of the towed vehicles contacted the owner of Wawa and he said that CARS did not have his permission to tow vehicles from his property.

There was a discussion between Council members, Mr. Murphy and Police Chief Carl Scalzo on what rights the City had and did not have regarding the towing of vehicles from private property and things that the City could do to assist the owners of vehicles parked on private property before they are towed..

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence received.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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Bill 28, (Ordinance 5559) Approving a Declaration of Condominiums, a Post Closing Escrow Agreement, an Escrow Agreement and an Agreement of Sale between the City of Easton and 30 North Fourth L.P. for property located at 48 N. 4th Street.

Mayor Panto asked Attorney Murphy to go over the packet of material, which the Mayor had, earlier, e-mailed to all Council members, regarding the property on N. 4th Street. Mr. Murphy said that all of the documents were introduced at the June 22, 2016 Council meeting. He said that the agreement of sale had been fine tuned since that meeting, but that the changes were minor in detail and they did not require the Ordinance to be reintroduced and said that it could be voted upon at this meeting.

Mayor Panto said that this process is a design build and the City has retained Randy Galiotto to review the documents. He said that for the same amount of money there will be a better façade, much better design on the interior and exterior including some things that Mr. Galiotto caught. Mayor Panto asked Mr. Galiotto to explain why he was so adamant on changing of the width of the interior aisles, which he did.

Mayor Panto said that the original façade was designed by someone else, and the Historic District Committee turned the design down and Mr. Galiotto designed a new façade that the District approved.

The Mayor said that the overhang was still outstanding. He said that the price was included but Mr. Galiotto had to approve the design.

Dr. Ruggles asked what the status of the parking area was.

Mayor Panto said that would be purchased in the agreement of sale for \$50,000. Mayor Panto said that the City did not have any responsibility or liability until settlement in July of 2017.

Mr. Melan asked Mr. Galiotto if he had been to the building and had walked around it lately.

Mr. Galiotto said that he had not.

Mr. Melan said that there was an issue with the needed re-pointing of bricks and wanted to know who would take care of that issue.

Mr. Galiotto said that he believed that would be the responsibility of the developer.

Mr. Melan asked what would happen if the City did not accept the building in its condition.

Mr. Murphy said that there was a provision in there that it has to be done in a good and workman like fashion.

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Mr. Melan said it was defective at this time.

Mr. Murphy said that the developer must repair it before the sale.

Mr. Melan asked who was responsible for the improvements to the parking lot that the City purchased.

Mr. Murphy said that the lot had to first go through subdivision approval.

Mr. Melan asked after the approval who would be responsible for the improvements.

Mr. Murphy said that the City would be.

Mr. Melan asked if that was included in any figures that we already have.

Mayor Panto said that the land was purchased for \$50,000.

Mr. Melan asked if there was going to be a cost to improve the lot.

Mayor Panto said that was not known as of this time. He said that the city would do its own ingress and egress. He said that the budget would indicate \$7.1 million for the purchase, \$144,000 for the financing, and then the cost of the furniture, security and data wiring. He said the overhang was already in the budget. He said that the \$240,000 and the \$50,000 were already delineated in the Agreement of Sale.

Mr. Melan said that the cost as of this time is \$7.6 million.

Ordinance 5559 was adopted on motion of Mayor Panto and Dr. Ruggles by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

NEW BUSINESS

Bill 29, Amending Chapter 435, Property Maintenance and Housing Standards was introduced by Mr. O'Connell and ordered processed for adoption.

Dr. Ruggles said that he requested that Mr. Nowroski incorporate information regarding Satellite Dishes and asked Mr. Nowroski to address this.

Mr. Nowroski said that before the meeting he had spoke with Dr. Ruggles regarding Satellite Dishes and antennas. He said that a section had been added to address abandoned communication equipment which would make it law that these items would have to be removed

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within thirty (30) days if no longer in service for thirty (30) days, but there could be exceptions and he spoke regarding those exceptions.

Mrs. Vulcano asked if there would be a fee if they did not comply.

Mr. Nowroski said that it would be the same for any other violation of the City's Code.

This Bill would repeal the old Chapter 435 and replace it with an entirely new Chapter 435.

Bill 30, Amending Chapter 285, Fees, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa. was introduced by Mr. O'Connell and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would amend fees contained Section 285, for the Codes and the Police Departments.

A July 7, 2016 memorandum, regarding a proposed 2016 Highway Aid Budget Amendment was received from Cassandra Williams, Director of Finance.

Bill 31, Amending the 2016 Highway Aid Fund Budget was introduced by Mrs. Vulcano and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would amend the 2016 Highway Aid Fund Budget by increasing revenues and expenditures by \$20,000.

A June 28, 2016 memorandum, regarding the awarding of a bid, was received from Scott Klabunde, Purchasing manager.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution approving a contract with Giles & Ransome for the purchase of a backhoe.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

109-2016

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

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

Nays: None (0)

A June 5, 2016 memorandum, regarding engagement of Kelly & Ryan Services for ACH payment processing was received from Frank Caruso, IT Manager.

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The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution authorizing Kelly & Ryan Services to process Automated Clearing house payments for e-check services at a fee of \$.25 per transaction to be charged to the City.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mayor Panto:

110-2016

Mr. Melan wanted to know if there was a way that the fee could be completely removed.

Mayor Panto said that these were for ACH transactions and that the City would pay the fee.

There was a discussion on whether you could pay with a check at the Kiosk located in the lobby of City Hall, and the need to eliminate fees that citizens must pay.

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

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

Nays: None (0)

A July 5, 2016, memorandum regarding Council Agenda Items was received from David Hopkins, Director of Public Works.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution authorizing the Application for a DCED Grant.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

111-2016

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 (6)

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve a Contract with Northampton County to provide partial funding for an electronics recycling event.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

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112-2016

Dr. Ruggles said that he felt that this was a great opportunity for the citizens to get rid of old electronic devices and other items. He said that there would be a fee for these items.

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

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

Nays: None (0)

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

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

113-2016

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

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

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve the appointment of Bonnie Winfield to the Easton Housing Authority.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mayor Panto:

114-2016

Mrs. Vulcano said that she felt that this was a good appointment and hoped that Ms. Winfield would be a good watchdog for that Authority.

Mayor Panto spoke regarding vacancies on other Authorities, Boards and Commissions.

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

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

Nays: None (0)

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The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would authorize the application for a DCED Grant for improvements to Centre Square roadway and park improvements.

115-2016

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

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

Nays: None (0)

PUBLIC COMMENT
(On any item)

Ms. Lois Arciszewski, a representative from Adams Outdoor, furnished Council with an update on the potential Billboard development site adjacent to Interstate 78 at the Easton Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Mayor Panto said that Adams Outdoor will be appearing at the July 27, 2016 Council meeting to request an extension for their due diligence period.

Thomas Weber, 915 Porter Street, a representative of Democracy Spring spoke regarding big money in politics and need to remove this from our government.

Council members thanked Mr. Weber for his presentation and for his and his group's involvement.

Joel Scheer, 179 Pennsylvania Avenue, spoke regarding need campaign reform and jerry mandering.

Mr. Weber again spoke regarding debris along the Delaware Drive and regarding boaters not wearing life vest and drinking alcohol. He asked that the existing laws against these types of violations be addressed.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m., on motion of Dr. Ruggles Mrs. Vulcano by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)


Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk



CITY OF EASTON

PENNSYLVANIA

July 8, 2016

MEETING NOTICE

A regular meeting of Easton City Council has been scheduled for Wednesday, July 13, 2016, for the transaction of regular business.

The meeting will be held in council Chambers, located on the third floor of City Hall, 123 S. 3rd Street 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
July 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 – June 22, 2016 Council Meeting and the July 5, 2016 Special Council Meeting minutes
7. PRESENTATION – Land of the Vikings Sports for Health Program.
8. CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION – Carol Tone
9. PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda Items Only)
10. CONSENT AGENDA
 - a. Bill 26, Amending Chapter 399, Parking Permits, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa
 - b. Bill 27, Amending Chapter 285, Fees, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa.
 - c. Bill 28, Approving documents for the purchase of property on N. 4th Street.
 - d. Resolution authorizing application for a Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Grant.
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)
 - (g) Report of City Solicitor (Attorney William Murphy)
 - (h) Report of Mayor (Salvatore J. Panto Jr.)
13. CORRESPONDENCE
14. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

-Over-

.15 NEW BUSINESS

(a) Introduction of Legislative Bills

1. Bill 29, Amending Chapter 435, Property maintenance and Housing Standards.
2. Bill 30, Amending the Fee Schedule.
3. Bill 31, Amending the 2016 Highway Aid Fund Budget.

(b) Resolution approving contract with Giles & Ransome Inc.

(c) Resolution authorizing Kelly & Ryan services.

(d) Resolution authorizing an application for a DCED Grant.

(e) Resolution approving a Contract with the Northampton County Department of Community & Economic Development.

(f) Resolution approving a Temporary Access Agreement.

(g) Resolution approving an appointment to the Easton Housing Authority.

(h) Resolution authorizing an application for a DCED Grant.

16. PUBLIC COMMENT – (Any Matter)

17. ADJOURNMENT