

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

May 13, 2009

Easton, Pa.
Wednesday
May 13, 2009
6:00 P.M.

City Council met in stated session, in Council Chambers, Room 519, Fifth Floor, One South Third Street, to consider any business that may lawfully be brought before the body, and to conduct a Public Hearing regarding an amendment to the 108 Loan application.

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

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: None (0)

Also in attendance were Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk, William Murphy, City Solicitor, and Glenn Steckman, City Administrator. There were thirty-seven other persons present in the audience.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion of Dr. Warner and Mrs. Vulcano the Agenda was amended by moving Item #8 Certificate of Recognition to Item #7, by the following vote:

Yeas: S. Panto, Warren, Warner, Vulcano, Ruggles, P. Panto, Brown (7)

Nays: None (0)

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

Yeas: Brown, P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, S. Panto (7)

Nays: None (0)

ACTION ON MINUTES

The April 22, 2009 Council meeting minutes were approved as submitted on motion of Dr. Ruggles and Dr. Warner by the following vote:

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Yeas: P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, S. Panto, Brown (7)
Nays: None (0)

CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

Mr. Warren read and presented a Certificate of Recognition to Detective Daniel J. Reagan for being named the recipient of the 2009 Nathan Ogden Award.

Detective Reagan thanked Council for the honor bestowed on him and said that he could not have solved the Virginia Morrell homicide without the assistance of other officers and law enforcement agencies.

All Council members, and Police Chief Lawrence Palmer offered words of thanks, and congratulations to Detective Reagan.

PUBLIC'S RIGHT TO BE HEARD (Agenda Items Only)

There were no remarks from the audience.

PUBLIC HEARING – Amended 108 Loan Application.

At this time a Public Hearing was conducted regarding an amendment to the 108 Loan Application. (See separate minutes.)

SPECIAL EVENTS ORGANIZATIONS REQUEST FOR FUNDING

At this time the following representatives from different organizations came forward and explained their requests for City funds for Special Event.

Elizabeth Wyant	Heritage Day 5K \$2,000
	Easton Area Heritage Day \$5,000
Maryann Riker	Riverside Festival of the Arts \$3,000
Megan McBride	Scarecrow Fest \$1,000
	Tomato Fest \$1,000
Ken Finkbiner	Easton Soapbox Derby \$1,450
Sandra Loquasto	Peace Candle Lighting \$6,000
Donna Cravasse	Riverside Pet Parade \$1,000
Evelyn Gulick	Curtains – Chansonnette \$5,000
Jo Moranville	Easton Garlic Fest \$5,000

No one was in attendance from the following organizations who requested funds:

Shad Fishing Tournament \$4,000
Back Yard Campout \$3,000

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Lebanese Heritage Day \$5,000

All Council members made comments and asked questions of the representatives in attendance. Almost all of the representatives were asked to submit full event budgets that were not submitted with their applications.

After the review it was the consensus that Council would vote on the allocations at the May 27, 2009 Council meeting.

REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL

The following reports were received by Council.

- (a) EAJSA December 15, 2008, January 19, and February 16, 2009 meeting minutes.
- (b) ESWA April 13, 2009 meeting minutes.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

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

Mrs. Vulcano, Chairperson of the Economic Development Committee spoke regarding legislation that would be before Council later in the meeting., reported that the demolition of the Lincoln Textile Build had commenced, reported that trees in the Delaware Terrace have been cut down and fencing has gone up, and that the new trees on St. John Street were blooming.

Mrs. Panto, Chairperson of the Planning Committee reported that two reserved Handicapped Parking Spaces in the City had been removed, and also commented on the letter received by Council regarding the forthcoming retirement of Edward Ferraro.

Mr. Warren, Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee, spoke regarding legislation that would be before Council later in the meeting, and reported that the Public Safety Committee meeting would meet on May 21, 2009 at 5:15 p.m. and related what would be discussed.

Dr. Warner, Chairperson of the Public Works Committee had no report.

Dr. Ruggles, Chairperson for Strategic Planning reported that the Strategic Planning Committee had met and related what had been discussed and what has been and will be accomplished in the future..

Mr. Murphy, City Solicitor reported that before the May 12, 2009 Council Conference meeting, and tonight's Council meeting, Council had met in Executive Session and had discussed the Renninger litigation.

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Mayor Panto reported that Arcadia had pulled out of the Riverwalk Project, and will be selling the property back to Northampton County. He said that he and his staff have been working with LANTA to identify other locations before September otherwise the \$4.1 million federal funds would be placed in jeopardy, and possibly the \$2.7 million r-cap funds.

Mayor Panto said that he was in Harrisburg last night, and met with PLUS (Pennsylvania Leaders of Urban Schools) and related what had been discussed.

Mayor Panto reported that Mr. Steckman and Mr. Heagele have been meeting with the five cities that authored the Pennsylvania Economy League Study. He said that when the Study is completed he will forward it to Council for their review.

Mayor Panto said that the City had received \$257,000 in stimulus funds and said that there was a tight timeline for the expenditure of the funds. Mayor Panto requested that Gretchen Lippincott, Becky Bradley and David Hopkins furnish Council with an update on the Water Front Project, and give the City's recommendation on the expenditure of the stimulus funds, which was to expend the entire amount for the water front project, which Ms. Lippincott, Mr. Hopkins and Mayor Panto did.

After comments and questions which were answered by Ms. Lippincott, Mr. Hopkins and Mayor Panto, it was the consensus of Council that the City apply the \$257,000 r-cap funds to the Water Front Project.

Dr. Warner asked if the Council Conference meetings would be canceled for June July and August.

It was the consensus of Council that the meetings would be canceled and that a vote on this matter would be taken at the May 27, 2009 meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was received by Council.

- (a) Catherine Walters, e-mail regarding concerns with the proposed renaming of Reese St.
- (b) Edward Ferraro, letter of intention to retire.

NEW BUSINESS

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Introduction of Legislative Bills:

A May 1, 2009 e-mail regarding a request to amend Section 560-47 of the Code of the City of Easton was received from Councilman Warren.

Bill No. 55, Amending Section 560-47, Parking inoperable or illegally registered vehicles, of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Easton, was introduced by Mr. Warren and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would amend Section 560-47 A making it a violation to park an inoperable vehicle, a vehicle without current registration plates, current inspection sticker, or emission stickers on any streets, highways or public property of the City.

Dr. Ruggles made comments on the proposed Bill.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve the filing of a second amended application for a U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Section 108 loan in the amount of \$1,000,000.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Vulcano:

77-2009

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

Yeas: Brown, P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, S. Panto (7)

Nays: None (0)

An April 28, 2009 memorandum, regarding a JAG 2009 Grant was received from Chief Lawrence Palmer.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution that would approve an Intermunicipal Agreement with the City of Bethlehem, for JAG Grant funds..

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Warren:

78-2009

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

Yeas: P. Panto, Ruggles Vulcano, Warner, Warren, S.Panto, Brown, (7)

Nays: None (0)

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A May 5, 2009 letter regarding a Settlement Agreement and Release was received from Attorney Murphy.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would authorize a settlement in the litigation of Loretta T. Shorter v. City of Easton.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Brown:

79-2009

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

Yeas: Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, S. Panto, Brown, P. Panto, (7)

Nays: None (0)

Mayor Panto informed Council that the money to pay the settlement would come from funds in the Restlawn account.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution that would approve a Right-of-Way encroachment Agreement with Kim Creazzo.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Warner:

80-2009

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

Yeas: Vulcano, Warner, Warren, S. Panto, Brown, P. Panto, Ruggles, (7)

Nays: None (0)

A May 7, 2009 memorandum regarding the Act 32 Tax Collection Committee Representative Appointment was received from Chris Heagele, Finance Director.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would name the City's Finance Director as the City's representative to the Act 32 Tax Collection Committee.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Brown:

81-2009

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

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Yeas: Warner, Warren, S. Panto, Brown, P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano, (7)
Nays: None (0)

CITIZEN'S RIGHT TO BE HEARD

James Mason, 527 Northampton Street voice his concerns with the fencing put up in front of the Valenca Restaurant, with the hanging of flower boxes on that fence, and said that he felt that they were in violation of City Codes that prohibit obstructing City sidewalks. He also reported speeding vehicles at the intersection of S. 2nd and Ferry Street, questioned why there was no flag on the flag pole atop the City Hall, and also asked what happened with the lights that were suppose to be placed in Centre Square.

Mayor Panto answered Mr. Mason's comments on the fence, said that the City would investigate the hanging of the flower boxes on the fence, said that the City would look at placing a smaller flag on the roof of City Hall, and said that Met Ed was having a problem in Centre Square and said that they were attempting to address that problem.

Mr. Warren said that he would look into Mr. Mason's concerns with the speeding vehicles at 2nd and Ferry Streets.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:13 p.m. on motion of Mrs. Vulcano and Mr. Warren by the following vote:

Yeas: S. Panto, Warren, Warner, Vulcano, Ruggles, P. Panto, Brown (7)
Nays: None (0)

Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk