

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
November 13, 2013

Easton, Pa
Wednesday
November 13, 2013
6:00 p.m.

City Council met in stated session at the above date and time, in Council Chambers, located on the Sixth floor of City Hall, 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: Brown, Edinger, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, Panto (Phone) (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 present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion of Dr. Warner and Mr. Warren the 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 Dr. Warner, the October 23, 2013 Council Meeting minutes were approved, as submitted, by the following vote:

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

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

The next item on the Agenda was the presentation of a Certificate of Appreciation to Morgan Schafer for his many years of service to the City and its citizens from January 19, 1981 through November 8, 2013, as an employee of the Public Works Department.

After reading the Certificate, Mr. Shafer was call forward and presented with a framed Certificate.

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
November 13, 2013

Council members commended Mr. Shafter for his dedication to the City, for his service over the years and wished him well in his retirement.

PUBLIC COMMENT – (Agenda Items Only)

There were no questions or comments from the audience.

CONSENT AGENDA

On motion of Dr. Warner and Mr. Warren the following items, on the Consent Agenda, were adopted by the following vote:

Resolution 188-2013 which recognized the death of former fire fighter Barry Kehler.

Resolution 203-2013 which designates November as Epilepsy Awareness Month in the City.

Resolution 204-2013 which voices Council's support for development of Northampton Place at Easton.

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

Nays: None (0)

REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL

The following report was received by Council:

(a) The monthly Fire Report for October 2013.

(b) The Easton Suburban Water Authority meeting minutes for June, July and August 2013.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Brown, Chairman of the Finance Committee, reported that a Budget Review session had been held on November 12, 2013, and that Mr. Steckman and Mr. Heagele would speak to Council with answers to some questions that were raised at the Budget session, and spoke regarding legislation that he would have for later in the meeting, regarding the raising of the Earned Income Tax for 2014, for approving a Use Agreement with Lafayette College, for amending Chapter 73, of the Board of Health, of the City Codes, and for establishing a Budget for the 2013 General Obligation Bond Fund.

Mr. Steckman and Mr. Heagele spoke to Council regarding the proposed increase in parking garage fees, and handed out a proposed Budget for the 2014 Rental License Program and spoke regarding the budget.

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
November 13, 2013

Council members made comments and asked questions regarding the proposed increase in parking fees in the parking garage, and the Rental License Program which were answered by Mayor Panto, Mr. Steckman and Mr. Heagele.

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

Dr. Warner asked why the Agreement with Multi Vista was needed if it was only for pictures of the construction progress of the new City Hall and Transportation Facility.

Mr. Steckman and Mayor Panto said that it was an accurate asbuilt so that if something would happen the photographs could be compared to the asbuilts of the building or if something had to be changed, years from now the pictures would be able to show where everything was during construction.

Dr. Ruggles, Chairman of the Planning Committee, had no report

Mr. Warren, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, spoke regarding legislation that he would have for later in the meeting, regarding amending Sub-section 560-10 B 5 in the Code and amending sections in Chapter 399 and 560 of the Code to remove all the fines from individual sections and placing them all in the Fee Schedule.

Mr. Warren said that there have been noise complaints regarding the Church of God by Faith and said that Mr. Steckman has sent a letter to the church informing them of the complaints and asking them to take steps in reducing the level of sound coming from the church.

Dr. Warner, Chairman of the Public Works Committee, spoke regarding legislation that she would have for later in the meeting regarding authorizing application for a Northampton County Open Space grant and an Agreement with Carter Van Dyke.

Mr. Edinger, Chairman of the Administration Committee spoke regarding legislation that he had under the Consent Agenda for designating November as Epilepsy month in the City.

Mr. Murphy, City Solicitor, and Beth Knickerbocker, Assistant City Solicitor had no report, and reported that after the meeting, Council would enter into an Executive Session to discuss a Personnel matter.

Mayor Panto said that Bacon Fest was a huge success. He reported that a meeting would be held in the future to formulate policies and procedures for the big special events that are held in the city, and then following that meeting another meeting would be held with event organizers to go over other items, and gave examples of what could possibly be discussed.

CORRESPONDENCE

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
November 13, 2013

There was no correspondence received by Council:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill 55, (Ordinance 5437, Amending Sub-Section 560-10 B 5, of Chapter 560, Vehicles and Traffic of the City of Easton, Pa., was adopted on motion of Mr. Warren and Dr. Warner by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

Ordinance 5437 amends Sub-Section 560-10 B 5 by removing the words “or arrangements are made with the appropriate authority to pay all fines, costs and fees by installments”, and replacing them with “with the City, of Easton or at the Magisterial District Court”.

Bill 56, (Ordinance 5438) Amending Chapter 285, Fees, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., was adopted on motion of Mr. Warren and Dr. Warner by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

Ordinance 5438 lists all of the parking violation costs in the Fee Schedule.

Bill 57, (Ordinance 5439) Amending Sections in Chapter 399, Parking Permit, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., was adopted on motion of Mr. Warren and Dr. Warner by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

Ordinance 5439 amends Sections in Chapter 399 by removing violation costs contained in individual sections for parking violations.

Bill 58, (Ordinance 5440) Amending Sections in Chapter 560, Vehicles and Traffic of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., was adopted on motion of Mr. Warren and Dr. Ruggles by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

Ordinance 5440 amends Sections in Chapter 560, by removing violation costs contained in individual sections for parking violations.

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
November 13, 2013

Bill 59, Amending Section 337.02 (a), Imposition of Tax, of Article 337, Earned Income and Net Profits Tax, of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Easton, Pa., was withdrawn by Mr. Brown.

This Bill would have increased the Earned Income Tax to 1.85%, 1.35% for the City and .5% for the Easton Area School District.

Bill 60, (Ordinance 5441) Amending Section 337.02 (a), Imposition of Tax, of Article 337, Earned Income and Net Profits Tax, of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Easton, Pa., was adopted on motion of Mr. Brown and Dr. Warner by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

Ordinance 5441 increases the Earned Income Tax to 1.95%, 1.45% for the City and .5% for the Easton Area School District.

Bill 61, Amending Section 337.02 (a), Imposition of Tax, of Article 337, Earned Income and Net Profits Tax, of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Easton, Pa., was withdrawn by Mr. Brown.

This Bill would have increased the Earned Income Tax to 2.05%, 1.55% for the City and .5% for the Easton Area School District.

NEW BUSINESS

Bill 62, Approving a Use Agreement between the City of Easton, Pa., and Lafayette College was introduced by Mr. Brown and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would approve a Use Agreement with Lafayette College for the use of Fox Quarry for research and educational purposes.

Mr. Steckman reported that there was ongoing discussions, between lawyers, regarding one sentence contained in the Agreement, and hoped that it would be worked out before the November 26, 2013 Council meeting so that it could be approved.

Bill 63, Amending Chapter 73, Board of Health, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa. was introduced by Mr. Brown and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would amend Chapter 73 in its entirety.

Bill 64, Amending Section 560-54 C, Parking Restrictions for Street Cleaning, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., was introduced by Dr. Warner and ordered processed for adoption.

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
November 13, 2013

This Bill would add the south side of College Avenue, between Bushkill Drive and Clinton Terrace onto the list of streets for street cleaning.

A memorandum, dated November 8, 2013, regarding the creation of Fund 154 to Account for the City Hall Bond was received from Chris Heagele, Director of Finance.

Bill 65, Providing Revenue and Appropriating Specific Sums to be required for the 2013 General Obligation Bond Fund Budget was introduced by Mr. Brown and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would provide \$13,903,056.67 in Revenues and Expenditures for Fund 154, the 2013 General Obligation Bond Fund Budget.

Dr. Ruggles asked questions regarding transfer of funds within this budget, and said that it did not say that Council would have to be informed of any transfers within this budget, and felt that it should.

Mr. Heagele and Mr. Murphy said that was required in the Bond Ordinance, but that if Council wanted to amend then proposed Bill to include such, they could.

Council did not want to amend the proposed Bill since it was already required in the City Charter and in the Bond Ordinance.

An October 28, 2013 e-mail regarding a Contract for the new City Hall Project was received from Gretchen Longenbach, Director of Economic Development.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution for approving a Contract with Multivista Construction Documentation for photographic documentation services for the construction of the Intermodal Transportation Center Project.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Vulcano:

205-2013

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

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

An October 30, 2013 memorandum, regarding a Transit Shelters Licensing Agreement was received from Carl Manges, Chief Planner.

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
November 13, 2013

The next item on the agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve a License Agreement with the Lehigh and Northampton Transportation Authority to allow LANTA to provide the transit shelters throughout the City.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

206-2013

Mayor Panto asked if the proposed shelters had been approved by the Historic District.

Mr. Owen O'Neil, the Director of Planning for LANTA, said that only three of the twenty-two shelters would be located in the Historic District, that the Historic District Commission would like to see other types of shelters, and that this Agreement was only to allow LANTA to provide the shelters throughout the City.

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

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

Nays: None (0)

A November 5, 2013 memorandum regarding City Council Agenda Items was received from David Hopkins, Director of Public Services.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would authorize the Administration to apply for a grant from the Northampton County Open Space Initiative.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Warner:

207-2013

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

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

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve a Professional Services Contract with Carter Van Dyke Associates Inc., to prepare Erosion & Sediment Plan and a Post Construction Stormwater Management Plan for Hugh Moor Park.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Warner:

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
November 13, 2013

208-2013

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

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

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would amend the 2013 Salary and Wage Resolution by removing the Night Laborer in the Highway Bureau and adding another Equipment Operator in the Highway Bureau.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Warner:

209-2013

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

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

Nays: None (0)

CITIZENS RIGHT TO BE HEARD

There were no comments or questions from the audience.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p. m. on the motion of Dr. Warner and Mr. Warren by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk

CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA

Stated Session
Wednesday
November 13, 2013
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 – October 23, 2013
7. CERTIFICATE OF APPREATION – Morgan Schafer
8. PUBLIC COMMENT – (Agenda Items Only)
9. CONSENT AGENDA
 1. Resolution designating November Epilepsy Awareness Month.
 2. Resolution Supporting the development of the Northampton Place at Easton.
 3. Resolution recognizing death of Barry Kehler.
10. REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL
 - (a) ESWA June, July and August 2013 meeting minutes
 - (b) Monthly Fire Department for October 2013.
11. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES
 - (a) Finance (Kenneth Brown)
 - (b) Economic Development (Sandra Vulcano)
 - (c) Planning (Roger Ruggles)
 - (d) Public Safety (Jeffrey Warren)
 - (e) Public Works (Elinor Warner)
 - (f) Administration (James Edinger)
 - (g) Report of City Solicitor (Attorney William Murphy)
 - (h) Report of Mayor (Salvatore J. Panto Jr.)
12. CORRESPONDENCE
13. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
 - (a) Action on Legislative Bills
 1. Bill 55, Amending Sub-Sections 560-10- B 5, in Chapter 560, Vehicles and Traffic, of the of the City of Easton, Pa.

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2. Bill 56, Amending Chapter 285 Fees, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa.
3. Bill 57, Amending Sections in Chapter 399, Parking Permits, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa.

4. Bill No. 58, Amending Sections in Chapter 560, Vehicles and Traffic of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa.
5. Bill No. 59, Amending Section 337.02 (a), Imposition of Tax, of Article 337, Earned Income and Net Profits Tax, of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Easton, Pa.
6. Bill No. 60, Amending Section 337.02 (a), Imposition of Tax, of Article 337, Earned Income and Net Profits Tax, of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Easton, Pa.
7. Bill No. 61, Amending Section 337.02 (a), Imposition of Tax, of Article 337, Earned Income and Net Profits Tax, of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Easton, Pa.

14 NEW BUSINESS

(a) Introduction of Legislative Bills.

1. Bill 62, Approving a Use Agreement with Lafayette College.
2. Bill 63, Amending Chapter 73, Board of Health, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa.
3. Bill 64, Amending Section 560-54 C, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa.
4. Bill 65, Providing Revenues and appropriating specific sums to be required for the 2013 General Obligation Bond Fund Budget.

(b) Approving a Project Quote and Agreement with Multivista Construction Documentation (R)

(c) Approving a License Agreement with the Lehigh and Northampton Transportation Authority (R)

(d) Approving a Professional Services Contract with Carter VanDyke Associates (R)

(e) Authorizing application for a Northampton County Open Spaces Initiative Grant (R)

(f) Amending the 2013 Salary and Wage Resolution (R)

15 PUBLIC COMMENT – (Any Matter)

16. ADJOURNMENT