

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
October 13, 2010

Easton, Pa.
Wednesday
October 13, 2010
6:00 P.M.

City Council met in stated session, at St. John's Lutheran Church, 330 Ferry Street, Easton, Pa. to conduct a 2nd Public Hearing regarding the 2011 CDBG Program.

Mayor Panto called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

Present: Brown, Panto, Ruggles, Warner, Warren, S. Panto (6)
Absent: Vulcano (1)

Also in attendance were Rita M. Messa, Assistant City Clerk, William K. Murphy City Solicitor, Beth Knickerbocker, Assistant City Solicitor and W. Glenn Steckman, City Administrator. There were sixteen other present.

PUBLIC HEARING
Proposed 2011 CDBG Program

At 6:03 p.m., a 2nd Public Hearing was held regarding the 2011 CDBG Program. Mayor Panto turned the meeting over to Mr. Ruggles, Co-chairman of the City Council's Economic Development Committee, who presided over the hearing. Mr. Ruggles called the hearing to order, and read the following statement:

“The purpose of this evening's hearing is to obtain public comment on the draft Consolidated Plan and Action Plan for the City of Easton and to provide Council the opportunity to discuss the current recommended allocation of Community Development Block Grant Funding available for 2011.”

“Applications for 2011 CDBG funding were due on August 26, 2010.

“The first public hearing was held on September 7th which allowed applicants to address City Council with regard to their application.”

“Prior to tonight's hearing, each Council Member submitted a recommended 2011 CDBG funding allocation to City Staff. The Council Members' suggested allocations were reviewed, combined, and taken into consideration as the current recommended

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allocation was formed. Council may alter the recommended allocation tonight provided that they adhere to the 15% public service cap and 20% administration cap.”

“Additionally, activities proposed by some applicants are under review for eligibility. Michael Brett of the Redevelopment Authority will brief Council on the status of these applications.”

“The Consolidated Plan and Action Plan, which include the draft recommended allocation of CDBG funding, have been available for public inspection at the County Government Center, Easton Neighborhood Center, Easton Public Library, City Clerk’s Office and the Redevelopment Authority Office since September 23, 2010. Comments will be received until final action is taken by Council on a finalized allocation on October 27, 2010.”

Mr. Ruggles asked Mr. Michael Brett to address Council on the CDBG applications.

Mr. Brett addressed Council with a brief statement (copy attached hereto) as well as listing five applicants who may not be eligible for funding for various reasons (also attached hereto).

Mr. Ruggles stated that the information that was given to Council for tonight’s meeting should have been given to them at the 1st public hearing. Several council members commented on this issue. There were many questions asked by all of the Council members with Mr. Brett attempting to address each one.

Mr. Steckman stated that, for next year, we should invite any agency to a work shop to explain what they need to do to file for funding.

It was decided, after a lengthy discussion, that Council would hold off on making any recommendations at this time and that the applicants should be notified of the questions surrounding their applications. All new information would need to be submitted no later than the end of business on Monday, October 18, 2010. It would then be forwarded to Council for their review in order to make their recommendations for funding.

Mr. Ruggles asked if there were any further comments from Council or from the audience – there were none.

Mr. Ruggles read the following:

“A vote to approve the Consolidated Plan and Action Plan will take place on October 27, 2010.

Mr. Ruggles closed the Public Hearing at 6:37 p.m.

Rita M. Messa
Assistant City Clerk