

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

August 14, 2014

Easton, Pa
Wednesday
August 14, 2013
6:00 p.m.

City Council met in stated session at the above date and time, in Council Chambers, 6th 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 Mrs. Vulcano, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: Brown, Edinger, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner (Phone) Warren (6)
Absent: Panto (1)

Also in attendance were Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk, William Murphy, City Solicitor and Glen Steckman, City Administrator. There were eleven other persons present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Agenda was moved on motion of Mrs. Vulcano and Mr. Warren

On motion of Mr. Warren and Dr. Ruggles the Agenda was amended by removing a Resolution which would adopt the Lehigh Valley 2013 Hazard Mitigation Plan, fro the Consent Agenda, by the following vote:

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

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

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

ACTION ON MINUTES

On motion of Mr. Warren and Mrs. Vulcano, the July 24, 2013 Council Meeting minutes were approved as submitted by the following vote:

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

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SWEARING IN

James Edinger

A ceremonial swearing in was done, by the City Clerk, for Mr. James Edinger, to fill the vacancy, on Council created by the resignation of Michael Fleck.

(Mr. Edinger was officially sworn in on August 1, 2013, by the City Clerk, after being elected to fill the vacancy, on July 24, 2013, on Council, created by the resignation of Michael Fleck).

PUBLIC COMMENT – (Agenda Items Only)

There were no questions or comments from the audience.

CONSENT AGENDA

On motion of Dr. Ruggles and Mrs. Vulcano the following items on the Consent Agenda were adopted by the following vote:

1. Resolution 139-2013, which approved a Stipulation of Counsel for the property at 220 Ferry Street.
2. Resolution 140-201, which approved the waiving of Land Development Improvements Construction Agreement, Performance Guarantee and a Maintenance Guarantee for the Infrastructure Phase of the City of Easton's City Hall, a.k.a. Intermodal facility.
3. Resolution 141-2013, which declared the intention of the City to incur debt for the Silk Mill Project.
4. Resolution 142-2013, which declared the intention of the City to incur debt for 118 and 120 Northampton Street.

Yeas: Brown, Edinger, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren (6)

Nays: None (0)

REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL

The following reports were received by Council.

- (a) March, April and May 2013 Easton Area Joint Sewer Authority meeting minutes.
- (b) Monthly Fire Department report for July 2013.

Mr. Brown accepted the above reports on behalf of Council.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Brown, Chairman of the Finance Committee spoke regarding legislation that he would be introducing, later in the meeting, regarding authorizing the issuance of a General Obligation

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Note in the amount of \$6,000,000 for the completion of the Karl Sterner Arts Trail/Bushkill Creek Trail Project, the 13th Street Silk Mill Project, the 118-120 Northampton Street Project and the City Hall/Intermodal Transportation Center Project.

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

Dr. Ruggles, Chairman of the Planning Committee, reported that an open discussion on Chickens, within the City, was held at the Nurture Nature Center on August 8, 2013. He said that it was well attended with a lot of good discussion on the issue. He said that he planned on holding a Planning Committee meeting on August 27, 2013 and part of his agenda would be to discuss chickens in the City.

Mr. Warren, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, reminded everyone that August 16, 2013 would be the last night for the Summer Nights program and asked all to attend if at all possible.

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

Mr. Edinger, Chairman of the Administration Committee had no report.

Mr. Murphy, City Solicitor, had no report.

Mayor Panto was not in attendance.

Mr. Steckman explained what proposed Bills 44, 45, 46 and 47 were, and why they were being introduced, reported that the City was realized \$95,000 in daily parking garage revenue, in the month of July, and expected the same for the month of August because of visitors to the Crayola Experience, and reported that the City was receiving approximately \$18,000 on a weekly basis in meter parking revenue.

Council members made comments and asked questions regarding the revenue received for parking this year as compared to last year, regarding plans for parking while the construction of the new City Hall/Intermodal Facility was ongoing, no parking on a portion of N. 4th Street, the size of the parking spaces on S. Bank Street by St. John's Lutheran Church, the increase or decrease in parking violation fines, and the repaving of St. John Street by the State, which were answered by Mr. Steckman.

Mr. Steckman also reported on the City Auction that was held on August 10, 2013 and said that the sale of the items resulted in approximately \$36,000.

Mr. Brown commended City workers for the placement of directional signs, to help the tourists, in the Parking Garage.

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CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence received by Council.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

Bill 44, Amending Section 435-2 M, Weeds, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., was introduced by Dr. Ruggles and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would amend Section 435-2 M by changing 12 inches to 10 inches.

Bill 45, Amending Section 444-151, Nuisance declared, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., was introduced by Dr. Ruggles and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would amend Section 444-151 by changing One foot to 10 inches.

Bill 46, Amending Section 110-47 of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., was introduced by Mr. Edinger and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would amend Section 110-47 by adding the following to the section.

“K. The City Administrator, or their designee, shall serve as the Chief Administrative Office of the Aggregated pension Plan”.

Bill 47, An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Easton, Northampton County, Pennsylvania, authorizing the issuance of a General Obligation Note in the stated principal amount of \$6,000,000, was introduced by Mr. Brown and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would authorize the issuance of a General Obligation Note in the principal amount of \$6,000,000 for completion of the Karl Sterner Arts Trail/Bushkill Creek Trail Project, the 13th St. Silk Mill Project, the 118-120 Northampton Street Project and the City Hall/Intermodal Transportation Center Project.

CITIZENS RIGHT TO BE HEARD

Lynn Fraser 1044 Ferry Street, spoke to Council regarding the music noise from Ice Cream trucks around the City, especially in her neighborhood and asked why the truck operators are not cited for violations of the City’s noise ordinance.

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James Bloom, 1044 Ferry Street also spoke regarding the music and actions of children in his neighborhood when the Ice Cream trucks are in there.

Council members and Mr. Steckman spoke regarding Ms. Fraser and Mr. Bloom's concerns, said that Council had discussed this matter at a previous Council Committee meeting, said that all licensed Ice Cream Truck companies have been sent letters regarding this matter, and said that if this persisted the City would move forward enforcing the City's legislation.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:39 p. m. on the motion of Dr. Ruggles and Mr. Warren by the following vote:

Yeas: Warren, Warner, Vulcano, Ruggles, Edinger, Brown (6)

Nays: None (0)

Thomas A. Hess City Clerk