

**Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.**  
**January 14, 2009**

Easton, Pa.  
Monday  
January 14, 2009  
6:00 P.M.

City Council met in stated rescheduled session, in Council Chambers, Room 519, Fifth Floor, One South Third Street, to consider any business that may lawfully be brought before the body.

The invocation was given by Councilman Brown, 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, and William Murphy, City Solicitor. There were twenty-four other persons present in the audience.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

On motion of Dr. Warner and Dr. Ruggles the Agenda was amended by adding a new Resolution to approve the appointment of a City Administrator under New Business, 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 Agenda, with amendment, was approved by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

**ACTION ON MINUTES**

The December 22, 2008 rescheduled Council meeting minutes were approved as submitted on motion of Dr. Warner and Mrs. Panto by the following vote:

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

**RESOLUTION – Death of Joseph Dorsey**

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution recognizing the death of Joseph Dorsey.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Warren:

1-2009

Mayor Panto offered words of kindness regarding Mr. Dorsey and his service to the City.

On motion of Mr. Warren and Mrs. Panto the above Resolution was adopted by the following vote:

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

Mr. Dorsey's son came forward and accepted a framed Resolution. He thanked Council for the honor bestowed on his father.

**CITIZEN'S RIGHT TO BE HEARD – (Agenda Items Only)**

Tony Bassil, City Controller, One South Third Street, spoke regarding support for Bill No. 1, which would reduce the compensation for Part-Time Elected Officials.

**REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL**

- (a) ESWA December 8, 2008 meeting minutes.
- (b) Fire Department Monthly Report for December 2008.

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

Mr. Brown, Chairman of the Finance Committee, spoke regarding legislation that would be before Council later in the meeting, and said that the Finance Committee meeting was scheduled for January 28, 2009 at 4:30 p.m. in Council Chambers.

Mrs. Vulcano, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee, gave a brief update on what was happening in the Economic Development Department.

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Mrs. Panto, Chairman of the Planning Committee, spoke regarding legislation that would be before Council later in the meeting, and said that the combined Planning and Economic Development Committee meeting was scheduled for January 27, 2009 at 5:15 p.m.

Mr. Warren, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, spoke regarding legislation that would be before Council later in the meeting.

Dr. Warner, Chairman of the Public Works Committee, spoke regarding legislation that would be before Council later in the meeting, reported that yesterday's scheduled Public Works Committee meeting had been canceled and the next meeting would be held on February 11, 2009 and that the Easton Advisory Council meeting would be held on Tuesday, February 3, 2009 in the Gold room at the Eastonian.

Dr. Ruggles, Chairman of the Strategic Planning Committee reported that a link had been placed on the City's website for the Strategic Planning survey, and reported on the response to the survey as of this date.

William Murphy, City Solicitor clarified information that he had given at last night's Conference meeting regarding when a person could withdraw his/her name from the election ballot.

Mayor Panto reported on scheduled Downtown, Parking Task Force and Neighborhood summits to be held in the City. He reported that he had met with Arcadia regarding funding that had been set aside for the Intermodal transportation facility, reported further on the Retirees Health Care package, reported that the Peace Candle would be dismantled on January 20<sup>th</sup>, passed out and spoke regarding a handout entitled "City-Sponsored Special Events Grant Application, and handed out and read a memorandum regarding the appointment of the City Administrator.

There was a discussion on this matter between Council members and the Mayor.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Action on Legislative Bills

Bill No. 80, Amending Article 141, Job Classification, Pay Plan, of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Easton, Pa., was moved Mr. Brown.

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Mr. Heagele, Finance Director spoke regarding the need for this Ordinance.

A discussion was held between Council members regarding the wording of the Ordinance.

Bill No. 80 was amended on motion of Dr. Ruggles and Dr. Warner, by the following vote, in the following manner.

“By deleting the word the in Section 141.19 and amending it to read, “any of the City’s Post retirement medical benefits plans, if they are offered.”

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

Nays: None (0)

Bill No. 80, (Ordinance 5147), Amending Article 141, Job Classifications; pay Plan, of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Easton, Pa., with amendment, was adopted on motion of Mr. Brown and Mrs. Panto by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

Ordinance 5147 amends Article 141 of the Codified Ordinances of the City by adding a new Section, 141.19, PMRS Employee Post Retirement Medical Benefits.

Bill No. 81, Amending Section 109.01, Fee Schedule, of Title One, General Provisions, of the City of Easton, Pa., was moved by Mrs. Panto.

Bill No. 81 was amended by amending and eliminating the following on motion of Mrs. Panto and Mrs. Vulcano by the following vote:

Amending:

Refuse Collection – Family Unit from \$28.00 per month to \$33.00 per month,  
Incident Reports from \$15.00 per report to \$.25 per page.

Eliminating

Refuse Collection – Hotel, Restaurants and Other Businesses and Institutions \$25.00

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

Nays: None (0)

Bill No. 81, (Ordinance 5148), Amending Section 109.01, Fee Schedule, of Title One, General Provisions, of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Easton, Pa., with amendment was adopted on motion of Mrs. Panto and Mr. Warren by the following vote:

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

Ordinance 5148 amends numerous fees charged by the Planning and Codes, Public Works, and the Police departments.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

The following correspondence was received by Council:

- (a) Bob Gerheart & Susan Huxley, letter regarding concerns and suggestions for the proposed Third Street Parking Deck.

Mayor Panto reported that he contacted Mr. Gerheart and Ms. Huxley and informed them that the Third Street Parking Deck was only an idea and not a proposed project.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Introduction of Legislative Bills

Bill No. 1, Reducing the compensation for Part-Time City Elected Officials was introduced by Mr. Warren and ordered processed for adoption.

Mr. Warren stated that he wanted the above Bill to be voted upon at the January 28, 2009 Council meeting and explained why he was sponsoring this Bill.

Council members made comments and asked questions regarding the title of the Bill, the need for the Bill, why they felt that this Bill should be further reviewed by the Finance Committee, and how they would be voting on the Bill. Questions were answered by Mr. Warren.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution in which Council would designate January as National Volunteer Blood Donor Month.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Warren:

2-2009

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

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

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A December 23, 2008 memorandum, regarding a contract with Industrial Communications Company was received from Lawrence R. Palmer, Police Chief

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution to approve a Radio Maintenance Contract with Industrial Communications Company.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Warren:

3-2009

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

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

Nays: None (0)

A December 23, 2008 memorandum, regarding a Contract with Castle's K9 Inc. was received from Lawrence Palmer, Police Chief.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution that would approve a Canine Training Contract with Castle's K-9 Inc.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Warren:

4-2009

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

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

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution that would approve a Ten Year Lease Agreement with Strausser Enterprises Inc., for the leasing of the old Shull School Field.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mayor Panto:

5-2009

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

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Mayor Panto explained that he had worked for Strausser Enterprises, and explained why he felt that he could vote on this Resolution.

Mr. Murphy said that he could vote.

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

Nays: None (0).

A December 23, 2008 letter regarding blanket coverage for repairs to street lights throughout the City for 2009 was received from Met-Ed.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would direct Met Ed to upgrade lighting in the City during 2009.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Warner.

6-2009

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

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

Nays: None (0)

A December 18, 2009 e-mail and two December 28, 2009 memorandums regarding an appointment and reappointments to Authorities, Boards and Commissions were received from Mayor Panto.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution to approve an appointment and reappointments to Authorities, Boards and Commissions.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mayor Panto:

7-2009

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

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

Nays: None (0)

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A January 5,, 2009 e-mail requesting approval for an application for a Grant was received from Becky Bradley.

The next item on the Agenda were proposed Resolutions which would authorize application for a State Grant.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Panto:

8-2009

Mr. Ruggles asked a question on where the City match was coming from for the Grant, Mrs. Bradley explained.

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

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

Nays: None (0)

A January 7, 2009, e-mail, regarding a Training Agreement for the next Council meeting Agenda, was received from John Bast, Fire Chief

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution that would approve an Indemnification Agreement Training Exercises with the Easton Housing Authority.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Warren:

9-2009

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

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

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve a Certificate of Appropriateness for 447-453 Northampton Street.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Panto:

10-2009

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

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

A January 14, 2009 memorandum, regarding the appointment of the City Administrator, was received from and read by Mayor Panto.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mayor Panto

11-2009

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

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

Mr. Steckman thanked Council for the honor of being appointed as the first City Administrator spoke briefly regarding his background, and said that he looked forward to starting the job.

**CITIZEN'S RIGHT TO BE HEARD**

William Balata 1230 Washington Street, requested that the City take over a private alley behind his house so that it could be kept in better condition, and stated that he thought that \$90,000 was too high of a salary for a person just beginning a job as the City Administrator.

Mayor Panto explained the process that Mr. Balata would have to begin to request that the City take control of the private alley.

Roy White, Easton Suburban Water, spoke regarding an upcoming suit that would be filed against his company and the City.

Mayor Panto made comments regarding this issue.

Richard Hieshutter, 304 W. Monroe Street, suggested the City hire a full time Attorney to deal with lawsuits, asked questions regarding discount parking for persons using the Bus Terminal, and made statements regarding a transportation center that would include rail service.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m. on motion of Dr. Ruggles and Mr. Warren by the following vote:

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

Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk