

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
October 14, 2009

Easton, Pa.
Wednesday
October 14, 2009
6:00 P.M.

City Council met in stated session, in Council Chambers, Room 514, 5th floor of City Hall, One South Third Street, to consider any business that may lawfully be brought before the body, and to conduct the 2nd Public Hearing regarding the 2010 CDBG Program.

The invocation was given by the Reverend Susan Ruggles, 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 Hess, City Clerk, William Murphy, City Solicitor, and Glenn Steckman, City Administrator. There were twenty-seven other persons in attendance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion of Dr. Warner and Mrs. Panto, the 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 September 23, 2009 Council meeting, Public Hearing, and the October 1, 2009 Special meeting minutes were approved, as submitted, on motion of Dr. Ruggles 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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RESOLUTION – Death of Charles D. Detweiler

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution recognizing the death of Charles D. Detweiler, a retired Fire Fighter.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Warren:

189-2009

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

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

Nays: None (0)

Mr. Detweiler's son came forward and was presented with a framed Resolution.

Mayor Panto spoke regarding Mr. Detweiler's service to the City and its citizens.

CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION – Timothy Reilly & Joseph Brown

At this time Certificates of Appreciation were read, recognizing Joseph D. Brown's and Timothy D. Reilly's service to the United States and its citizens as members of the Armed Forces serving in Iraq.

Both men came forward and were presented with framed Certificates.

Mayor Panto spoke regarding their service to the United States and the City.

PUBLIC HEARING

At this time a second Public Hearing was held regarding the 2010 CDBG Program. (See separate minutes).

After the hearing Council held a discussion on proposed allocations for organizations and the City's request for funds. From that discussion it was Council's consensus that the recommendation for the City's request for the Police would be increased from \$55,000 to \$73,500 and the request from the Greater Easton Development Partnership would be decreased from \$43,500 to \$25,000. The City Clerk was directed to make the changes on the proposed Resolution for CDBG allocations that would be introduced at the October 28, 2009 Council meeting.

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CITIZENS RIGHT TO BE HEARD (Agenda Items Only)

There were no remarks from the audience.

REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL

There were no reports received by Council.

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 had no report.

Mrs. Panto, Chairperson of the Planning Committee spoke regarding a piece of legislation that she would withdraw later in the meeting and thanked everyone involved in the "Movies at the Mill" function, which was a huge success.

Mr. Warren, Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee reported that the Public Safety Committee meeting, scheduled for October 15, 2009 would be canceled, and reported that he had spoken with the Police Department and explained why the Stop Sign would be placed at Pennsylvania Avenue and Paxinosa Avenue.

Dr. Warner, Chairperson of the Public Works Committee had not report.

Dr. Ruggles, Chairperson of the Strategic Planning Committee had no report.

Mr. Murphy, City Solicitor, reported that later in the meeting there would be introduction of an Ordinance to amend the Code to eliminate the requirement that Council had to conduct Budget Review sessions on the first Tuesday and Wednesday of December.

Mayor Panto reported that the City had tremendous cooperation from Wilson Borough regarding the milling and repaving of 15th Street.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No. 74, (Ordinance 5219) Amending Ordinance 5132, Providing Revenues and Appropriating Specific Sums to be required for the purposes of City Government hereinafter set forth during the Fiscal Year 2009, was adopted on motion of Mr. Brown and Dr. Warner by the following vote:

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

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Nays: None (0)

Ordinance 5219 amends the 2009 General Fund Budget by increasing Revenues and Expenditures by \$2,000.

Bill No. 75, (Ordinance 5220), Approving the transfer of funds from the Capital Reserve Fund Budget, the 2004 Water Bond Issue and the 1992 Bond Proceed Account to the 2008 Combined Capital Fund Budget was adopted on motion of Mr. Brown and Dr Warner by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

Ordinance 5220 provides for the transfer of funds from the Capital Reserve Fund Budget to the 2004 Water Bond Issue and the 1992 Bond Proceed Account to the 2008 Combined Capital Fund Budget.

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was received by Council:

- (a) Palmer & Company, City Basic Financial Statements and Auditor's Report as of December 31, 2008.
- (b) Stephen J. Barron Jr., CFE, Audit Report for Magisterial District Court 03-2-05.

NEW BUSINESS

A September 25, 2009 e-mail, regarding a request for the erection of a Stop Sign on Marquis Street was received from Police Officer Dominick Marraccini and Mr. Warren.

Bill No. 76, Amending Ordinance No. 3976, Amending Article III, Traffic Control of the City of Easton, Pa., was introduced by Mr. Warren and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would amend Ordinance 3976 by authorizing the erection of Stop Signs at Marquis Street and Clinton Terrace and at Pennsylvania Avenue and Paxinosa Avenue.

A copy of a letter, from Attorney Thomas Walters to Attorney William Murphy, regarding the Davis Street Pump Station property, was received from Mr. Murphy.

Bill No. 77, Approving the transfer of property from the City of Easton to the Easton Suburban Water Authority was introduced by Dr. Warner and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would approve the transfer of the Davis Street Pumping Station property from the City of Easton to the Easton Suburban Water Authority.

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A September 24, 2009, e-mail, regarding a request to repeal a Limited Time No Parking Zone, was received from Police Officer Dominick Marraccini and Mr. Warren.

Bill No. 78, Amending Article III, Traffic Control Map of Chapter 560, Vehicles and Traffic of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., was introduced by Mr. Warren and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would amend the Traffic Control map by repealing a Limited Time Parking Zone on N. 12th Street.

An October 6, 2009 memorandum, regarding City Council Agenda Items was received from David Hopkins, Director of Public Works.

Bill No. 79, Amending Section 560-54, Parking Restrictions for Street Cleaning, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., was introduced by Dr. Warner and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would amend Section 560-54 by adding the location of Larry Holmes Drive-East side, Parking Facility to the Tuesday's Street Sweeping Program.

Bill No. 80, Amending Article III, Traffic Control Map of Chapter 560, Vehicles and Traffic, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., was introduced by Dr. Warner and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would create a 3-Hour Parking Limit Monday-Friday in the Larry Holmes Drive-East Side Parking Facility.

Bill No. 81, Amending Sub-Section 56-13 D, of Section 56-13, Budget Adoption Procedure of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., was introduced by Mr. Brown and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would repeal Sub-Section 5613-D in its entirety.

An October 7, 2009 memorandum, regarding an Amendment to RACP ME #399-422 Grant, was received from Becky Bradley, Director of Planning and Codes.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution that would amend RACP ME #399-422 Grant.

The proposed Resolution for the amendment was withdrawn by Mrs. Panto.

A September 17, 2009 memorandum, regarding the downtown crosswalks and streetlights project inspection services agreement was received from Joseph Mauro, City Engineer.

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The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution that would approve a time extension to the City's Inspection Agreement with McTish, Kunkel & Associates.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Warner:

190-2009

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

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

Nays: None (0)

A September 21, 2009 memorandum, regarding Waterfront Improvements; Street Light Replacements was received from Joseph Mauro.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would direct Met-Ed to remove 12 Street Lights on Larry Holmes Drive, between Sitgreaves and Northampton Streets, and replace them with double ornamental street lights.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Warner:

191-2009

The above Resolution was adopted on motion of Dr. Warner and Mrs. Vulcano 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 which would direct Met-Ed to remove 8 Street Lights on Larry Holmes Drive, between Sitgreaves and South Third Street, and replace them with double ornamental street lights.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Warner:

192-2009

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

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

Nays: None (0)

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A September 25, 2009 memorandum, regarding a Right-of-Way Agreement was received from Stefanie Orange, Engineer Technician.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution that would approve a Right-of-Way Agreement with Albert Roe Jr.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Warner:

193-2009

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

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

Nays: None (0)

Two October 7, 2009 letter, regarding Stipulations of Counsel were received from Attorney Murphy.

The next items on the Agenda were proposed Resolution that would approve Stipulations of Counsel for properties in the City.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Brown:

194-2009

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)

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Brown:

195-2009

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

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

Nays: None (0)

A September 21, 2009 memorandum, regarding Bid Opening Results was received from Scott Klabunde, Purchasing Agent.

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The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve a contract with Dieter Bros. Fuel Co. for #2 fuel oil and maintenance agreements.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Warner:

196-2009

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)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution in which Council would support Weed and Seed's application for a Department of Justice Grant and committed in kind services and cash for the program that this grant would be used for.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mayor Panto:

197-2009

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

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

Nays: None

CITIZEN'S RIGHT TO BE HEARD

Laura Accetta, Weed and Seed Site Coordinator, One South Third Street, thanked Council for their support for the application for the Department of Justice Grant.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:16 p.m. on motion of Mr. Brown and Mrs. Vulcano by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk

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Easton, Pa.
Wednesday
October 14, 2008
6:00 P.M.

City Council met in stated session, at the above hour in Council Chambers, Room 514, 5th Floor, One South Third Street, Easton, Pa., to conduct a 2nd Public Hearing, regarding the 2010 CDBG Program.

Mayor Panto called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

Present: Brown, Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, S. Panto (7)
Absent: None (0)

Also in attendance were Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk, William K. Murphy City Solicitor, and W. Glenn Steckman, City Administrator. There were twenty-seven other present.

PUBLIC HEARING
Proposed 2010 CDBG Program

At 6:08 p.m., a 2nd Public Hearing was held regarding the 2010 CDBG Program. Mayor Panto turned the meeting over to Mrs. Vulcano, Chairman of the City Council's Economic Development Committee, who presided over the hearing. Mrs. Vulcano 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 with the administration’s recommended allocation of Community Development Block Grant funding available for 2010.”

“Applications for 2010 CDBG funding were due on August 12, 2009.

“The first public hearing was held on August 26th which allowed applicants to address City Council with regard to their application.”

“Prior to tonight’s hearing, each Council Member submitted a recommended 2010 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 provided that they adhere to the 15% public service cap and 20% administration cap.”

“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 21, 2009. Comments will be received until final action is taken by Council on a finalized allocation on October 28, 2009.”

Mrs. Vulcano then called out each organization’s name, which were requesting allocation of funds, and gave them an opportunity to address Council.

Terry Roman, Executive Director of the Easton Area Neighborhood came forward and thanked Council for allowing her organization to be part of this process, and for their consideration for allocation of proposed 2010 CDBG funds.

Jimmy Torres, Minsi Trail Council Scoutage Director, explained what programs they had in the City of Easton.

Mayor Panto made comments and asked questions regarding the City programs which were answered by Mr. Torres.

Mayor Panto said that the Third Street Alliance was celebrating their 100th Anniversary and could not be at the meeting, but said that they would be appreciative for any assistance.

Mayor Panto and Mr. Brown made comments and asked questions regarding the Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley’s request which were answered by Mr. Alan Jennings, and Director Lippincott.

Mayor Panto spoke regarding the City’s request in the manner that if anything in the City’s request was changed that it would affect the budget which would also have to be amended.

Mrs. Vulcano asked if there were any comments from Council or the audience.

Noel Jones, 800 Ferry Street, spoke regarding proposed cuts in CDBG allocations.

Mayor Panto and Dr. Warner spoke regarding Ms. Jones’ comments.

There were no further comments or questions.

Mrs. Vulcano read the following:

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“A vote to approve the Consolidated Plan and Action Plan will take place on October 8, 2009.

Mrs. Vulcano closed the Public Hearing at 6:32 p.m.

Thomas A. Hess
City Clerk