

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
September 14, 2011

Easton, Pa
Wednesday
September 14, 2011
6:00 p.m.

City Council met in stated session at the above date and time in the 6th floor Conference Room of City Hall, located at One South Third Street, Easton, Pa. to consider any business that may lawfully be brought before the body, and to conduct the first Public Hearing for the 2012 Community Development Block Grant Program.

The invocation was given by Dr. Ruggles followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

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

Also in attendance were Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk, William Murphy, City Solicitor, Beth Knickerbocker, Assistant City Solicitor and W. Glenn Steckman, City Administrator. There were twenty other persons present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion of Mr. Brown and Dr. Ruggles the agenda was amended by withdrawing Bill; 27 from Unfinished Business and by adding Bill 32, Approving a Lease Agreement with EPS Financial under New Business, by the following vote:

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

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

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

ACTION ON MINUTES

On motion of Dr. Ruggles and Mrs. Vulcano the August 24, 2011 Council Meeting minutes were approved, as submitted, by the following vote:

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

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PUBLIC HEARING
2012 Community Development Block Grant Program

At 6:03 p.m., Mayor Panto called the Public Hearing for the 2012 Community Development Block Grant Program to order, and turned the Hearing over to Mrs. Vulcano, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee.

Mrs. Vulcano read the following:

“The purpose of this evening’s hearing is to evaluate the performance of the 2011 Community Development Block Grant program and to assess the community’s needs for 2012. Citizen input on the CDBG program is encouraged and any questions which may be raised by the public or City Council will be addressed. First, Gretchen Longenbach, Executive Director of the Redevelopment Authority will give a brief overview of the 2011 CDBG expenditures to date. Next, community groups, which have submitted applications for funding, will be invited to make a presentation to Council. On August 17, 2011 an informational session was held for all interested applicants. This session was to help clarify any questions on criteria for eligible activities. Groups were presented with a presentation on the CDBG program, by Karen Parrish of Mullin & Lonergan, followed by an open discussion during which group representatives had the opportunity to ask specific questions.

Now Ms. Longenbach will p[rovide an overview of the City’s 2011 CDBG expenditures.”

Ms. Longenbach provided an overview of the 2011 City Expenditure as of September 14, 2011.

Mrs. Vulcano asked representative from organizations requesting funds to come forward to address Council regarding their requests.

1. Center For Independent Living – No one came forward to speak regarding their request for \$10,000 for services for the disabled.
2. Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley – Elisa L. Zaehring, a Planner for CACLV came forward and spoke regarding her Organization’s request for \$4,000 for their Housing Counseling program.

Mayor Panto asked how successful their program was for 2011. Ms. Zaehring said that she did not know the answer to that question, but would get him that information on September 15, 2011

3. Boys & Girls Club – Dean Young, Executive Director of the Organization spoke regarding their request for \$15,000 for the Organization’s After-school & Summer Transportation Outreach program.

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Council members made comments and asked questions regarding their transportation program, their programs, and their new facility which were answered by Mr. Young

4. Easton Area Neighborhood Center- No one came forward to speak regarding the Organization's request for \$40,897 for Community programs.

Ms. Longenbach said that a request by the City of Easton, Community & Economic Development, for \$85,000 for Technical Assistance should have been for \$50,000.

Karen Parrish, Mullin & Lonergan Associates, spoke regarding the possible reduction from 20% to 10% for Program Administration and regarding the program.

Council members asked questions regarding how the sum of \$850,000 for the program was arrived at, and if there was a reduction in Administration costs would those funds be placed back in the program for organizations use, which were answered by Ms. Parrish.

Mayor Panto reported that he had received information from Congressman Dent, who serves on the House Appropriations Committee, that the CDBG level in the Budget would be coming out of the House at level funding for 2012.

There were no further questions or comments.

Mrs. Vulcano read the following:

“After tonight’s hearing, each City Council member will be asked to provide staff with his or her funding recommendation. The recommendations will be reviewed and a final recommendation will be included in the 2012 Consolidated Plan and put the public display prior to a vote to adopt the plan.

On October 12, 2011, a second required Public Hearing will be conducted to review the 2012 Consolidated Plan including the proposed CDBG allocations.

On October 26, 2011 at the regular Council meeting, the Resolution to adopt the Consolidated Plan for fiscal year 2012 will be introduced.

On or before November 15, 2011, the CDBG application will be made to HUD.”

The Public Hearing was closed 6:31 p.m.

CITIZENS RIGHT TO BE HEARD (Agenda Items Only)

There were no remarks from the audience.

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REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL

The following report was received by Council.

- (a) ESWA – August 2011 meeting minutes.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Brown, Chairman of the Finance Committee reported that the Finance Committee met on September 13, 2011 and related what had been discussed, and spoke regarding legislation that he would have for later in the meeting, which would be for amending the 2011 General Fund Budget, establishment of a budget for the 2011 GO Bond Capital Fund, authorizing issuance of General Obligation Bonds, and for approval of an Agreement of Sale for properties near Heil Park.

Mrs. Vulcano, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee spoke regarding legislation that she would have for later in the meeting, which would be for approval of a loan to the Redevelopment Authority..

Dr. Ruggles, Chairman of the Planning Committee reported that a committee meeting had been held on September 13, 2011 and said that the draft Nuisance and Vacant Properties ordinance was discussed, and said that a working committee would be formed to work on then proposed Ordinance.

Mr. Warren, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee reported that the Public Safety Committee meeting was held on September 13, 2011 and that the Keeping of Animals Ordinance was discussed , said that a proposed Ordinance which would ban unruly animals from Special Events would be worked on for presentation to Council.

Dr. Warner, Chairman of the Public Works Committee spoke regarding legislation that would be before Council later in the meeting which would amend the Easton Area Joint Sewer Authority Pretreatment Program Rules and Regulations.

Mr. Fleck, Chairman of the Administration Committee was not present.

Mr. Murphy, City Solicitor, had no report.

Ms. Knickerbocker, Assistant Solicitor had no report.

Mayor Panto provided an update on the September 11th tribute, on the repaving of streets throughout the City resulting from the replacement of water mains and services, reported that the Police Department would be acquiring a better speed timing device, reported that the

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Bushkill Drive Bridge would officially be reopened, and handed out and went over the Lafayette Community Partnership Review for 2010 and 2011.

Robert Massa, Vice President of Communications spoke regarding the relationship between the College and the City.

Mr. Steckman reported that the City Auction would be rescheduled from September 24, 2011 to October 22, 2011.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No. 26, (Ordinance 5325) Approving an Amendment to the Easton Area Joint Sewer Authority Pretreatment Program Policy, Rules and Regulations, was adopted on motion of Dr. Warner and Dr. Ruggles by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

Ordinance 5325 approves the amendments to the Industrial Pretreatment Program local limits.

Bill No. 27, Amending Ordinance 5291 – 2011 General Fund Budget was withdrawn by Dr. Ruggles.

Bill No. 28, (Ordinance 5326) Amending Ordinance 5290-2011 Recreation Fund Budget, was adopted on motion of Mr. Brown and Dr. Warner by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

Ordinance 5326 increases Revenues and Expenditures by \$10,000 in the 2011 Recreation Fund Budget.

Bill 29, (Ordinance 5327) Providing Revenues and Appropriating Specific Sums to be required, for the 2011 GO Bond Capital Fund Budget, was adopted on motion of Mr. Brown and Dr. Warner by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (6)

Ordinance 5327 provides Revenues and Expenditures in the total amount of \$1,050,000 for the 2011 GO Bond Capital Fund Budget.

CORRESPONDENCE

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There was no correspondence received.

NEW BUSINESS

Bill No. 30, An Ordinance authorizing and directing the Issuance of General Obligation Bonds, Series of 2011 in an Aggregate principal amount of not to exceed \$9,000,000 was introduced by Mr. Brown and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would authorize the issuance of GO Bonds in an amount not to exceed \$9,000,000.

Michael Gaul, King Spry, Bond Counsel and Gary Pulcini, from Valco, spoke regarding the proposed General Obligation Bonds and the auction for those Bonds scheduled for October 12, 2011.

Bill No. 31, Approving a Loan to the Redevelopment Authority of Easton, Pennsylvania to finance the purchase of real property located at 129 Northampton Street, Easton, Pa. was introduced by Mr. Brown and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would authorize a loan of \$62,000 to the Redevelopment Authority of Easton for the purchase of real property known as 129 Northampton Street.

Bill No. 32, Approving a Lease Agreement between the City of Easton and EPS Financial was introduced by Mr. Brown and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would approve a lease agreement between the City and EPS Financial for a unit designated as Suites 800 and 801 One South Third Street.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approves and authorizes the exchange of Dive Team equipment of the Fire Department of the City in exchange for the enrollment and attendance of five City recruits to its Fire Department free of charge and tuition at anytime during the existence of the Fire Academy of the City of Allentown.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Warren:

120-2011

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

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

Nays: None (0)

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The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve an Agreement of Sale between the City and Sarah Ann Messinger and Florence Rebecca Hixon for the purchase of three properties near Heil Park.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Brown:

121-2011

On motion of Mrs. Vulcano and Mr. Warren, the above proposed Resolution was amended by changing the not to exceed cost of \$30,000 to \$32,000 by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

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

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

Nays: None

Mayor Panto spoke regarding the properties and the need for them.

Gretchen Longenbach, Director of Economic Development spoke regarding the property that would be purchase by the Redevelopment Authority, Bill 31, and what would be done with that property.

Dr. Warner asked where the City would get the \$65,000 to loan to the Authority for the purchase of the property, which Mayor Panto explained.

CITIZENS RIGHT TO BE HEARD

Salvatore Pugliese, 2225 Hackett Avenue requested the City's help in alleviating a problem he was having with Easton Auto Body, with vehicles riding across and damaging his property at 13th and Elm Streets, and with the City regarding the right-of-way to his property.

Mayor Panto said that he would once again come to the site, that Mr. Puglisi might have to remove cement barriers that he has placed at 13th and Elm Streets, and said that the problem with Easton Auto Body was a private matter and could not be handled by the City.

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Mr. Sam Rosas, 128 High Point Lane, and Mr. Tim Burt, 126 High Point Lane spoke to Council regarding a Sink Hole that has developed on their properties that was caused by water runoff from new homes built in their development, and asked the City's assistance in alleviating the problem.

Mayor Panto said that he and the City Engineer would come to their location and survey the problem.

Kurt Ehly, 305 W. Monroe, spoke regarding a problem with feral cats, and the feeding of those cats in the downtown and College Hill areas of the City, spoke regarding items needed on the City's Web Site, and regarding "Movies at the Mill".

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m. on the motion of Dr. Warner and Mr. Brown by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

Note: After the meeting Council met in an Executive Session and discussed threatened litigation.

Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk