

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

September 14, 2016

Easton, Pa
Wednesday
September 14, 2016
6:00 p.m.

City Council met in stated session at the above date and time, in Council Chambers, located on the 3rd floor of City Hall, 123 South Third Street, Easton Pa. to consider any business that may lawfully be brought before the body and to conduct a Public Hearing regarding the 2017 Community Development Block Grant Program. .

The invocation was given by Mayor Panto followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: Brown, Edinger, Melan, O'Connell, Ruggles, Vulcano, Panto (7)

Absent: None (0)

Also in attendance were Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk, William Murphy, City Solicitor, Joel Scheer, Assistant City Solicitor, Tony Bassil, City Controller and Luis Campos, City Administrator. There were thirty (30) other persons present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Yeas: Brown, Edinger, Melan, O'Connell, Ruggles, Vulcano, Panto (7)

Nays: None (0)

ACTION ON MINUTES

On motion of Mr. Melan and Mrs. Vulcano the August 24, 2016 Council Meeting minutes, as submitted, were approved by the following vote:

Yeas: Edinger, Melan, O'Connell, Ruggles, Vulcano, Panto, Brown (7)

Nays: None (0)

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

The next item on the Agenda was the presentation of a Certificate of Appreciation to Charles McMonagle, upon his retirement, for his years of service as a member of the Easton Police Department.

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The City Clerk read the Certificate, and all Council members spoke regarding Mr. Faulkner's service to the City and its Citizens and wished him well in future endeavors.

Mr. McMonagle was presented with a framed Certificate.

RESOLUTION

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which recognized the death of Marianne Saul, a former City employee of the Finance Department.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Brown:

143-2016

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

Yeas: O'Connell, Ruggles, Vulcano, Panto, Brown, Edinger, Melan (7)

Nays: None (0)

Councilmembers spoke regarding Mrs. Saul's dedication and service to the City and its citizens.

The City Clerk was directed to forward the Resolution to Mrs. Saul's family.

PRESENTATION
Nevin Park Fountain Committee

Mr. Hubert Etchison, of the College Hill Neighborhood Association made a presentation regarding the Nevin Park/Fountain and the Karl Stirner Arts Trail, and requested further assistance from the City for the park and the trail. He said that there was a lot of learning that they did regarding grants, construction, etc. that they would be willing to share with other neighborhoods throughout the City with any projects that they may undertake, and partnership with the City.

Council members commented on the work, of the Association, on the fountain, said that the park and fountain were beautiful, said that the project engaged the neighborhood, showed other neighborhoods what could be accomplished with cooperation and teamwork, was a wonderful development for the City, and stated that the City was willing to support the next step for the park project.

REQUEST
Employees of Praxis

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The Mayor said that he met with the employees of Praxis on September 13, 2016. He said that the employees were allowed to park their vehicles on the lower Northampton County lot nearest to Praxis but at this time that was not allowed because of the construction on the County's parking garage. He said that he would like to propose, with Council's approval, that the City issue up to twenty-three (23) parking permits which would allow Praxis employees to park at meters on Washington Street from S. 5th to Union Street, for free, until the completion of the construction.

There was a short discussion, between Council members, on this request.

Mr. Campos, City Administrator informed Council that the construction should be completed by mid October.

Becky Diehl, 827 W. Milton Street and Darnell Bridges, 649 Church Street, employees of Praxis thanked Council for their consideration.

PUBLIC HEARING
2017 Community Development Block Grant Program.

At 6:46 p.m. Mayor Panto opened the Public Hearing and turned it over to Mr. O'Connell, Planning and Code committee Chairman, who read the following statement.

"The purpose of this evening's hearing is to obtain views and comments from individuals and organizations concerning the City's goals and objectives for the future 2017 Action plan for the City of Easton."

"We will also obtain any comments or requests from individuals and organizations concerning the City's Housing and Community Development needs. The information gathered will be used in the preparation of the Action Plan for Fiscal Year 2017 Community Development Block Grant and related programs."

"Finally, we will provide an opportunity for citizens, organizations, non-profits to publicly make any formal presentations about their CDBG funding requests that would meet Easton's community needs."

Mr. O'Connell called forth the applying organizations to speak to Council regarding their request.

The following Organizations came forward and spoke regarding their requests:

1. Lehigh Valley Center for Independent Living, Gregory Bott – request of \$10,000 to be used towards a program for people with disabilities.

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2. ProJeCt of Easton, Janice Komisar – request of \$21,029 to be used towards the Student Success program.
3. Family Connections of Easton, Stephanie Fisher – request of \$5,017 to be used towards a Parent Child program.
4. Easton Area Neighborhood Center, Judy Mathison – request of \$24,317 to be used towards Case management Services.
5. Safe Harbor of Easton, Anita Mitchell – request of \$15,000 to be used for a Winter warming center for the homeless and \$7,704 to be used for a bathroom extension.
6. Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley, Alan Jennings – request of \$50,000 for the West Ward Neighborhood Partnership Office Staff and \$5,000 for Home counseling services.
7. Easton Area Neighborhood Center, Brooke Mitman – request for \$6,000 for English as a Second Language classes.
8. Greater Easton Development Partnership, Jarred Mast - request for \$50,000 for the Easton Ambassadors program.
9. Habit for Humanity, Lehigh Valley, Michael Brett – request for \$56,000 for Housing Rehabilitation of 600-602 Valley Street.
10. Easton Emergency Squad, Samuel Lobb – request of \$30,000 for the remount of an ambulance.

No one appeared from The Easton Boys & Girls Club to speak regarding their request for \$15,254 for an Educational Program.

No one appeared from the Third Street Alliance to speak regarding their request for \$68,460 for Building Repairs.

Council members made comments and asked questions, of the individual organizations, regarding their requests and their programs, which were answered by the individual representatives.

There were no comments or questions from the audience.

Mr. O’Connell read the following:

“This evening’s hearing was intended to hear from Easton’s social service and public service agencies, city departments and or the general public, as required by HUD. A second required Public Hearing will be conducted to review and solicit comment on the draft 2017 action plan once it is completed.”

At 7:42 p.m. Mr. O’Connell closed the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT
Agenda Items Only

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There were no comments or questions from the audience.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Resolution 144-2016 which supported a proposed project of the Easton Emergency Squad to purchase a new ambulance and supported the application for a grant to assist in the purchase.

Resolution 145-2016 which approved the appointment of Jenny Sutton to the Recreation Board.

Resolution 146-2016 which authorized the placement of a third reserved Handicapped Parking space on the 1000 block of Ferry Street.

Yeas: Vulcano, Panto, Brown, Edinger, Melan, O'Connell, Ruggles (7)

Nays: None (0)

REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL

There were no reports received by Council:

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Brown, Chairman of the Finance Committee, had no report.

Mrs. Vulcano, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee, spoke regarding legislation which she would have for later in the meeting regarding voicing Council's support for a grant application by the Easton Emergency Squad for the purchase of a new ambulance, for approving an Agreement with the Lehigh Valley Association of Independent Colleges and for approving an Agreement with Active Data Inc.

Dr. Ruggles had questions regarding the RFP's, which were requested regarding the creation of WEB sites and branding which were answered by Mrs. Hart, Director of Economic Development. She said that the two agreements were only for the calendar creation and the festival survey aspects of the overall plan. Mayor Panto also addressed Dr. Ruggles' concerns.

Mr. Melan asked how much the City was paying annually.

Mrs. Hart said \$495.00.

Mr. Melan said that the proposal read \$2,490 for the first year and \$495 for years two and three.

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Mrs. Hart said that part of it was for telephone support contract and the other portion is the actual software.

Mr. Melan said that in the proposal it says \$2,490 for the initial fee and then \$3,000 for onboarding and asked what the City's payout was.

Mrs. Hart said that there was going to be a year telephone contract and the City would not pay for any optional services.

Mr. Melan asked who would be setting this up for the City.

Mrs. Hart said that in the RFP there was another section for WEB development and we are not paying for any optional services.

Mr. Melan said that it would be \$2,490 and after that it would be \$495 and that the City was not paying for any additional services.

Mrs. Hart said that he was correct.

Mr. O'Connell, Chairman of the Planning Committee, had no report.

Mr. Melan, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, had no report.

Dr. Ruggles, Chairman of the Public Works Committee, spoke regarding legislation which he would have for later in the meeting, regarding approving a Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Contract and for approving a Site Preparation Agreement.

Dr. Ruggles also informed Council that he would be unable to attend the September 28, 2016 Council meeting because of work commitments.

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

Mr. Murphy, City Solicitor reported that before the meeting, Council had entered into an Executive Session and had discussed Real Estate and Personnel matters.

Mayor Panto spoke regarding a West Ward neighborhood tour taken by him and the Directors of Planning and Economic Development of the West Ward spoke regarding upcoming downtown festivals. And Movies at the Mill.

CORRESPONDENCE

The following Correspondence was received by Council:

(a) Trish Chelsea, Thank-You card for supporting the Sports for Health Program.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

Bill 35, Amending Sections in Chapter 507, Stormwater Management, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., was introduced by Dr. Ruggles and ordered processed for adoption.

Bill 36, An Ordinance to amend the Code of the City of Easton, pa., by adding a new Chapter 295, to be entitled Fire Safety Inspection, was introduced by Mr. O'Connell and ordered processed for adoption.

Dr. Ruggles said that in the Chapter is said that an applicant must pay for an inspection but it says that the City may not do the inspection, and read the section where it stated that.

Mr. Stephen Nowroski, Director of Codes, said that he did not disagree with Dr. Ruggles. He said that it was the goal and the intention of the City to do the inspections every two years.

Mayor Panto also spoke regarding Dr. Ruggles' concerns.

Dr. Ruggles asked how the City would implement this program and being able to see who is and who is not complying.

Mr. Nowroski explained how it would be done, and it was the goal to hire an Inspector in 2017.

Bill 37, Amending Sections contained in Chapter 222, Buyer Notification, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa. was introduced by Mr. O'Connell and ordered processed for adoption.

Dr. Ruggles said that in two sections of the Chapter it still stated Certificate of Occupancy and asked if they would be changed.

Mr. Nowroski said that they would be changed to read Certificate of Compliance.

Bill 38, Amending Chapter 285, Fees, of the Code of the City of Easton Pa., was introduced by Mr. O'Connell and ordered processed for adoption.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve an Agreement for Professional Services with the Lehigh Valley Association of Independent Colleges to perform festival surveys during Garlic Fest and Bacon Fest.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Vulcano:

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147-2016

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

Yeas: Edinger, Melan, O'Connell, Ruggles, Vulcano, Panto, Brown (7)
Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve an Agreement for Professional Services with Active Data Inc., to create interactive calendars.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Vulcano:

148-2016

The above Resolution was adopted on motion of Mrs. Vulcano and Mr. O'Connell by the following vote:

Yeas: Ruggles, Vulcano, Panto, Brown, Edinger, Melan, O'Connell (7)
Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve a Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Contract with Insituform Technologies, Inc.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

149-2016

The above Resolution was adopted on motion of Dr. Ruggles and Mr. O'Connell by the following vote:

Yeas: Vulcano, Panto, Brown, Edinger, Melan, O'Connell, Ruggles (7)
Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve an Agreement for Site preparation with A.J. Trunzo Inc. for concrete sidewalk and patio work.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

150-2016

The above Resolution was adopted on motion of Dr. Ruggles and Mr. O'Connell by the following vote:

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Yeas: Panto, Brown, Edinger, Melan, O'Connell, Ruggles, Vulcano (7)
Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would authorize the Administration to issue up to 23 parking permits to employees of Praxis which would permit them to park at meters located on Washington Street between S. 5th and Union Street until the completion of the construction to the Northampton County Parking Garage.

Then following Resolution was introduced by Mayor Panto:

151-2016

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

Yeas: Panto, Brown, .Edinger, Melan, O'Connell, Ruggles, Vulcano (7)
Nays: None (0)

PUBLIC COMMENT
(On any item)

Donna Pugliese, 2225 Hackett Avenue, spoke to Council regarding a tree located in front of her property at located at 1122 Ferry Street. She said that some years ago the City planted a tree in front of that address and they were assured that there would be no problems with the tree and that it would be a small tree. She said that the tree is now approximately forty (40') tall, and has cause a lot of sewer, branch and sidewalk problems over the years. She said that now the Codes Department is requiring them to do something with the tree and the sidewalk. She said that the City planted the trees and she did not feel that the property owners should be required to pay, maintain or to remove and replace the tree.

Mayor Panto spoke to Mrs. Pugliese's concerns.

Mr. Murphy said that there was a hearing, pending, before Judge Yetter on this very matter with the Pugliese's, and advised Council not to speak any further on this matter.

Mr. & Mrs. Pugliese then spoke with the Mayor regarding an ongoing problem that they have with Easton Auto Body, and said that an Easton Auto Body Truck hit their vehicle and left the scene. They said that they called the Police Department and when the officer responded he did absolutely nothing even though they had it on camera.

Mr. Melan asked Mr. Pugliese to contact him in the morning and he would see what he could do about this incident for the Mayor.

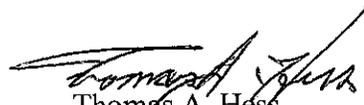
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ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p. m. on motion of Mr. Melan and Mr. Edinger by the following vote:

Yeas: Edinger, O'Connell, Vulcano, Panto, Ruggles, Brown, Melan (7)

Nays: None (0)


Thomas A. Hess
City Clerk



CITY OF EASTON

PENNSYLVANIA

September 9, 2016

MEETING NOTICE

A regular meeting of Easton City Council has been scheduled for Wednesday, September 14, 2016, for the transaction of regular business and to conduct a Public Hearing regarding the 2017 Community Development Block Grant Program.

The meeting will be held in council Chambers, located on the third floor of City Hall, 123 S. 3rd Street and will begin at 6:00 p.m.

All meetings of City Council are open to the Public and are accessible to persons with disabilities.



Thomas A. Hess
City Clerk

CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA

Stated Session
Wednesday
September 14, 2016
6:00 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. INVOCATION
3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
4. ROLL CALL
5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
6. ACTION ON MINUTES – August 24, 2016 Council Meeting minutes
7. CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION – Charles McMonagle
8. RESOLUTION – Death of Marianne Saul
9. PRESENTATION – Nevin Park Fountain Committee.
10. PUBLIC HEARING – 2017 CDBG Program
11. PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda Items Only)
12. CONSENT AGENDA
 - (a) Resolution supporting application for a grant.
 - (b) Resolution approving appointment to the Recreation Board.
 - (c) Resolution approving the placement of a Third Handicapped Sign on the 1000 block of Ferry Street.
13. REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL
14. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES
 - (a) Finance (Kenneth Brown)
 - (b) Economic Development (Sandra Vulcano)
 - (c) Planning and Code (David O’Connell)
 - (d) Public Safety (Peter Melan)
 - (e) Public Works (Roger Ruggles)
 - (f) Administration (James Edinger)
 - (g) Report of City Solicitor (Attorney William Murphy)
 - (h) Report of Mayor (Salvatore J. Panto Jr.)
15. CORRESPONDENCE
 - (a) Trish Chelsea, Thank-you card for supporting the Sports for Health Program.

-Over-

16. UNFINISHED BUSINESS,
17. NEW BUSINESS
 - (a) Introduction of legislative Bills
 1. Bill No. 35, Amending sections in Chapter 507, Stormwater Management, of the code of the City of Easton, Pa.
 2. Bill No. 36, Amending the Code of the City of Easton, Pa. by adding a new Chapter 295 Fire Inspection.
 3. Bill No. 37, Amending Sections contained in Chapter 222, Buyer Notification.
 4. Bill No. 38, Amending Chapter 285, Fees, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa.
 - (b) Resolution Approving a Professional Services Agreement with the Lehigh Valley Association of Independent Colleges.
 - (c) Resolution Approving a Professional Services Agreement with Active Data Inc.
 - (d) Resolution Approving a Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Contract.
 - (e) Resolution Approving an Agreement for Site Preparation with Trunzo Inc.
18. PUBLIC COMMENT – (Any Matter)
19. ADJOURNMENT