

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

April 22, 2015

Easton, Pa
Wednesday
April 22, 2015
6:10 p.m.

City Council met in stated session at the above date and time, at the College Hill Presbyterian Church, located at 501 Brodhead Street, Easton, PA. to consider any business that may lawfully be brought before the body.

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

ROLL CALL

Present: Brown, Edinger, Mauro, Ruggles, Vulcano, Panto (Phone) (6)

Absent: Warner (work commitment) (1)

Also in attendance were Thomas Hess, City Clerk, William Murphy, City Solicitor, Joel Scheer, Assistant City Solicitor and Glenn Steckman, City Administrator. There were twenty-four other persons present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion of Dr. Ruggles and Ms. Mauro the Agenda was approved by the following vote:

Yeas: Brown, Edinger, Mauro, Ruggles, Vulcano, Panto (6)

Nays: None (0)

ACTION ON MINUTES

On motion of Mr. Brown and Ms. Mauro the April 8, 2015 Council Meeting minutes, as submitted, were approved by the following vote:

Yeas: Edinger, Mauro, Ruggles, Vulcano, Panto, Brown (6)

Nays: None (0)

PRESENTATION

Tree City USA

Mayor Panto introduced Tess Mondello, the City's Forester, whom he reported has done a great job with continuing the City's efforts of planting trees in the City's parks and on the streets. .

Ms. Mondello introduced Mr. Tim Latz, the DCNR Service Forester for Lehigh and Northampton Counties, who spoke about the background and history of Arbor Day and presented a Tree City Award to the City for the 16th year.

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Ms. Mondello spoke regarding the benefits of trees, reported that 1300 trees have been planted, in the City, since 2007 and said that the plantings continue. She thanked Council for their support of the program and the homeowners for taking care of their trees.

Mr. David Hopkins, Director of Public Works recognized and thanked Ms. Mondello for her work and dedication.

Mayor Panto introduced Mr. Stephen Nowroski, the City's Director of Codes.

Mr. Nowroski said that Easton was a beautiful City with challenges, but felt that they would persevere.

Mayor Panto introduced Giovanni Zapata, the newest recipient of the Gates Millennium Scholar's Program award and spoke regarding teachers and students in the Easton Area School District.

PUBLIC COMMENT
Agenda Items Only

Kim Kmetz, 341 Reeder Street, Manager of Easton Main Street Initiative, spoke regarding the Initiative's recommendation to change the Peace Candle Lighting ceremony from a Friday night to a Saturday event along with a Small Business event and the reasoning for the changing of the day for the lighting.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Bill 9, (Ordinance 5490), Amending Chapter 45, Departments, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., which amended Chapter 45 in its entirety.

Bill 10, (Ordinance 5491), An Ordinance to amend the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., Chapter 560, Vehicles and Traffic, to add an Article providing for a Parking Ticket Appeals Process, which amended the Codes by adding an Article to provide for a Parking Ticket Appeals Process.

Resolution 69-2015, which approved the reallocation of 2014 CDBG fund allocations.

Resolution 70-2015, which approved reallocation of 2015 CDBG fund allocations.

Resolutions 71 through 76-2015 which approved Certificates of Appropriations for painting a lettered sign on the bridge overpass at the N. 3rd Street Bridge Overpass, for a rooftop deck

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addition at 134 N. 3rd Street, for installation of a sign at 101 N. 4th Street, for replacement of garage doors at 22 N. 6th Street, for installing new window hoods on the east façade at 101-103 Northampton Street, and for changing a prior COA to close up an existing doorway and cut a new door opening at 428 Northampton Street.

Yeas: Panto, Brown, Edinger, Mauro, Ruggles, Vulcano (6)

Nays: None (0)

REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL

The following report was received by Council:

(a) Easton Fire Department Monthly Report for March 2015.

Dr. Ruggles asked questions regarding the Monthly Emergency Response Times, which could not be answered at that time.

Ms. Mauro said that she would ask the Fire Chief to attend the next Public Safety Committee meeting to answer any questions that Council may have regarding his report.

Mayor Panto said that he would also like to ask the Chief why the ladder truck was being called to most fire scenes when it was not needed.

Dr. Ruggles asked if the Chief could also furnish Council with an update regarding the billing for Fire Services.

Mr. Steckman reported that the first month over \$500 came in and \$4,000 the second month and spoke further on this matter.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Brown, Chairman of the Finance Committee, reported that a Finance Committee will be held on Tuesday, May 12, 2015 and the first quarter financial report will be given and discussed. He also spoke regarding legislation for later in the meeting, regarding amending Parking Garage Fees, and for approving a five-year Agreement with MobilNOW!, LLC, to provide digital billing, transaction, and management systems used by cell phone and other digital means for the payment and management of various parking services.

Mrs. Vulcano, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee, spoke regarding legislation which she would have for later in the meeting regarding changing the day for the Peace Candle Lighting Ceremony/Small Business day, designating the City's Building Code Official, and for disapproving a COA for the installation of a sign at 600 Northampton Street. She reported that a West Ward Round Table meeting will be held on April

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28, 2015 at the Easton Home, 10th and Northampton Street beginning at 8:00 a.m. which will be attended by City Departments to answer any questions regarding public safety, code or recreation concerns.

Dr. Warner, Chairman of the Planning Committee was absent due to work commitments.

Ms. Mauro, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, reported that a Public Safety Committee meeting would be held on Tuesday, May 12, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

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

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

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

Mayor Panto reported that he was in Harrisburg on April 21, 2015 and April 22, 2015 and spoke regarding Pension reform and needed updating to the 13th Street interchange with Route 22; spoke regarding the upcoming proposed Resolution regarding approving an Agreement with MobilNOW! and the need for this system, gave an update on the new City Hall, the Parking Garage and regarding Billy's Downtown Diner coming into the ground floor of the new City Hall.

Mr. Steckman reported that the new copiers had been delivered and installed in City Hall and explained that the new system would save the City an estimated \$15,000 to \$22,000 a year by going with a per print cost and the elimination of desk top printers.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no Correspondence received by Council.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no Unfinished Business.

NEW BUSINESS

Bill 11, Amending Section 285-42, Parking garage fee, of Chapter 285, Fees, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., was introduced by Mr. Brown and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would set fees for the S. Third Street and Pine Street parking garages.

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The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve a three-year Agreement between the City and Inservco Insurance Services Inc. for Administration of Self-Insurance Program.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Edinger:

77-2015

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

Yeas: Edinger, Mauro, Ruggles, Vulcano, Panto, Brown (6)

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would designate Stephen Nowroski as the City's Building Code Official.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Vulcano:

78-2015

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

Yeas: Mauro, Ruggles, Vulcano, Panto, Brown, Edinger (6)

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would disapprove a Certificate of Appropriateness for the installation of a sign, at 600 Northampton Street.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Brown:

79-2015

Dr. Ruggles voiced his concern over wording contained in the Resolution which he felt made the wording ambiguous.

On motion of Mrs. Vulcano and Ms. Mauro the proposed Resolution was amended by changing the wording of the Now Therefore Be It Resolved section of the Resolution to read as follows, by the following vote:

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“NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Easton, Pa., accepts the recommendation of the Historic District Commission and disapproves the Certificate of Appropriateness for 600 Northampton Street.”

Yeas: Mauro, Edinger, Brown, Panto, Vulcano, Ruggles (6)
Nays: None (0)

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

Yeas: Ruggles, Vulcano, Panto, Brown, Edinger, Mauro (6)
Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution supporting the Easton Main Street Initiative’s Small Business Saturday/Candle Lighting Event to be held on Saturday, November 28, 2015.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Vulcano:

80-2015

Council members asked questions of Mrs. Kmetz regarding how the Initiative was going to gauge if the moving of the day of this event was successful or not, and if it was not successful would the event be changed back to Friday, how the initiative was going to market this change and event, the closing of Centre Square, made comments on thinking it was a good idea to combine the Candle Lighting and the Small Business day programs, and asked if the Resolution passed and the day for the event was changed, if the initiative would report back to Council on the success of the event.

Anthony Marraccini, 525 Ferry Street, and a downtown business owner said that he held a successful event after last year’s candle lighting and would be willing to give the day change a chance.

Michael Kemp, 625 Mixsell Street, said that he travels out of town to Indiana during the Thanksgiving Holiday and they have the same festivities on Friday night, and they come back to the City on Saturday.

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

Yeas: Vulcano, Panto, Brown, Edinger, Mauro Ruggles (6)
Nays: None (0)

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The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution for approving a five-year Master Service Agreement with MobilNOW! to provide digital billing, transaction, and management systems used by cell phone and other digital means for the payment and management of various parking services.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Brown:

81-2015

Dr. Ruggles said that contained in the Agreement was wording that the City would allow signage to be installed in those areas where MobileNOW!'s Services were offered, and asked what the signage would be.

Police Lt. Lohenitz explained that small sticker signs would be placed on the meter housings and hard signs would be given to the City to place where they saw fit.

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

Yeas: Panto, Brown, Edinger, Mauro, Ruggles, Vulcano (6)

Nays: None (0)

Dr. Ruggles asked Lt. Lohenitz how the problem with traffic flow at Third and Bushkill was working out.

Lt. Lohenitz said that meter covers had been placed on three meters, at Third and Bushkill Streets so that vehicles could not park near the intersection and by doing that it was allowing vehicles to pass on the right and helped the traffic flow and eliminated traffic back ups.

Mayor Panto informed all that the Police Department had run the Speed Timing Device on W. Lafayette Street during the last two days.

PUBLIC COMMENT

(On any item)

Mr. Michael Kemp, 625 Mixsell Street, spoke to Council regarding the proper spelling of Mixsell and asked when the street signs would be changed from Meixsell to Mixsell.

The Mayor informed him that an Ordinance to change the name would be introduced at the May 13, 2015 Council meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Yeas: Mauro, Ruggles, Vulcano, Panto, Brown, Edinger (6)
Nays: None (0)


Thomas A. Hess
City Clerk