

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
December 22, 2009

Easton, Pa.
Tuesday
December 22, 2009
6:30 P.M.

City Council met in a rescheduled 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.

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

ROLL CALL

Present: Kenneth Brown (left at 8:40 p. m.)

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, Beth Knickerbocker, Assistant City Solicitor, and Glenn Steckman, City Administrator. There were eighteen other persons in attendance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion of Dr. Warner and Mr. Brown, the Agenda was amended by moving Item (n) to Item (a) by the following vote:

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

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

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

ACTION ON MINUTES

The December 9, 2009 Council meeting minutes were approved, as submitted, on motion of Drs. Ruggles and Warner by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

CITIZENS RIGHT TO BE HEARD (Agenda Items Only)

At this time Mayor Panto called for representatives from different Organizations, who had applied for City Grant funds for their individual special events, to address Council on their requests.

The following persons addressed Council regarding their requests:

1. Marianne Riker – Arts Community of Easton – requesting \$2,400.00
2. Mark Mulrine – Shad Festival – requesting \$5,000
3. Joseph Cuvo – Veterans Memorial Day Council – requesting \$1,250
4. Ken Finkbeiner – Lehigh Valley Soap Box Derby Assoc. – requesting \$2,000
5. Elizabeth Wyant – Easton Heritage Day Committee – requesting \$5,000
Easton Garlic Fest – requesting \$5,000
6. Megan McBride – Easton Main Street Initiative – requesting \$1,000 Pet Parade
requesting \$1,000 Scarecrow
Festival
requesting \$1,000 Tomato
Festival
7. Julie Mohr Emin - Family YMCA – requesting \$1,000
8. Sandy O’Brien Werner – Easton Holiday Decorating Committee – requesting
\$5,000

Council members made comments and asked questions regarding the individual requests, special events, and budgets, which were answered by the above individuals.

Council decided to individually review the applications and to take a vote on the distribution of funds at the January 4, 2009 Special Council meeting.

Winifred Preckel, 322 Spring Garden Street, spoke to Council regarding a requirement by the Historic District Commission regarding new windows that they wanted to install at their property, and asked Council to override the Historic District’s requirement and to allow the Preckel’s to install the windows that they wanted.

Becky Bradley, Director of Planning and Codes spoke regarding the Commissions requirement and said that she would meet with the Preckel’s to discuss this matter.

Mrs. Panto said that later in the meeting she would withdraw the Resolution approving the Certificate of Appropriateness for the installation of windows at 322 Spring Garden Street.

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REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL

The following report was received by Council:

- (a) Easton Suburban Water Authority November 9, 2009 Meeting Minutes
- (b) Easton Suburban Water Authority's Engineer's Report dated December 7, 2009.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Brown, Chairperson of the Administrative Committee spoke regarding legislation that would be voted upon later in the meeting.

Mrs. Vulcano, Chairperson of the Economic Development Committee spoke regarding legislation that would be voted upon later in the meeting.

Mrs. Panto, Chairperson of the Planning Committee, spoke regarding legislation that would be voted upon later in the meeting.

Mr. Warren, Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee reported that the Public Safety Committee meeting was held on December 17th and related what had been presented and discussed, and reported that Fire Fighters continue to get their certifications, and that in 2010 the City would be discussing the purchase of a new Fire Pumper Truck.

Dr. Warner, Chairperson of the Public Works Committee spoke regarding legislation that would be voted upon later in the meeting, and commended the City employees responsible for the clearing of the streets after the most recent snow fall.

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

Mr. Murphy, City Solicitor reported that before the meeting Council met in Executive Session and had discussed the Local 447 labor contract.

Ms. Knickerbocker, Assistant City Solicitor had no report.

Mayor Panto reported that the Fire Arbitration hearings were completed and now the Arbitrator's deliberations begin. He reported that a settlement was reached with AFSCME Local 447 and that Council would be presented with a full contract to vote on at the January 13, 2009 Council meeting. He said that later in the meeting Council would vote on a tentative agreement with Local 447.

At 7:50 p.m. Council met in Executive Session to discuss the tentative agreement with Local 447.

At 8:21 p.m. the meeting was called back to order.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No. 82, An Ordinance to amend the Code of the City of Easton by adding a new Chapter 372 to be entitled "Newsrack" which was introduced on October 28th and tabled on November 11th was brought back before Council on motion of Mrs. Panto and Dr. Warner by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

On motion of Mrs. Panto and Mrs. Vulcano Bill 82, was moved.

There was a discussion between Council members, Becky Bradley and Mr. Murphy regarding amendments to this proposed Ordinance since it was first introduced on October 28, 2009. After the discussion it was the consensus of Council to table this proposed Bill until the January 4, 2009 Special Council meeting to allow Council more time to review the amendments, and to decide if the amendments were substantive enough to require another introduction of the Bill.

On motion of Mrs. Panto and Dr. Warner, Bill No. 82 was tabled by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence received by Council.

NEW BUSINESS

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve a Tentative Agreement with AFSCME Local 447.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Brown:

234-2009

The above Resolution 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)

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A December 15, 2009 e-mail regarding a Resolution for a grant application was received from Gretchen Lippincott.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would authorize the Administration to apply for an Elm Street Residential Reinvestment Program Grant.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Vulcano:

223-2009

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

Yeas: Vulcano, Warner, Warren, S. Panto, P. Panto, Ruggles (6)

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve Salaries and Wages to be paid to Officers and Employees during the year 2010.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Brown:

222-2009

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

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

Nays: None (0)

A December 11, 2009 memorandum regarding City Council Agenda Items was received from David Hopkins, Director of Public Works.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve the installation of additional street lighting at the Highlands Development.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Warner:

224-2009

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

Yeas: P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, S. Panto (6)

Nays: None (0)

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The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve a Grant Agreement with the Delaware and Lehigh National Corridor.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Warner:

225-2009

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

Yeas: Warren, S. Panto, P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner (6)

Nays: None (0)

A December 18, 2009 letter regarding Certificates of Appropriateness was received from Christine Ussler, AIA.

The next six items on the Agenda were proposed Resolutions for approving Certificates of Appropriateness for 130 N. 3rd, 225-229 N. 4th, 249 Northampton, 321 Northampton, 436-440 Northampton, and 312A Spring Garden Streets.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Panto:

226-2009

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

Yeas: S. Panto, P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren (6)

Nays: None (0)

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Panto:

227-2009

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

Yeas: P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, S. Panto (6)

Nays: None (0)

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Panto:

228-2009

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

Yeas: Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, S. Panto, P. Panto (6)

Nays: None (0)

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Panto:

229-2009

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

Yeas: Vulcano, Warner, Warren, S. Panto, P. Panto, Ruggles (6)

Nays: None (0)

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Panto:

230-2009

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

Yeas: Warner, Warren, S. Panto, P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano (6)

Nays: None (0)

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Panto:

231-2009

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

Yeas: Warren, S. Panto, P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner (6)

Nays: None (0)

A proposed Resolution to approve a Certificate of Appropriateness for 322 Spring Garden Street was withdrawn by Mrs. Panto.

A December 16, 2009 memorandum, regarding an amendment to RACP ME#300-422 was received from Becky Bradley.

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The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve amending RACP ME#300-422 Grant.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Panto:

232-2009

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

Yeas: P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, S. Panto (6)

Nays: None (0)

A December 16, 2009 memorandum regarding a Certified Local Government Grant was received from Becky Bradley, Director of Planning and Codes.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve the Application for a Certified Local Government Program Grant.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Panto

233-2009

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

Councilman Ruggles asked for a list and amount of Capital Funds that were being used for or would be used for matching funds for grants.

Yeas: P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, S. Panto (6)

Nays: None (0)

CITIZEN'S RIGHT TO BE HEARD

Melissa Corrado, 2405 Forrest Street, President of AFSCME Local 447 commended the City for their negotiation efforts with Local 447 regarding the most recent contract agreement.

Richard Hieshetter, 304 W. Monroe Street spoke regarding placing items in the "Bugler" and regarding the most recent contract agreement with Local 447.

Mr. Murphy reported that Council had discussed the proposed agreement with Local 447 at the Executive session that had taken place during the meeting.

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ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:01 p.m. on motion of Dr. Warner and Mr. Warren by the following vote:

Yeas: Ruggles, Warner, Vulcano, S. Panto, Warren, P. Panto (6)

Nays: None (0)

Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk