

**Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.**  
**February 22, 2012**

Easton, Pa  
Wednesday  
February 22, 2012  
6:00 p.m.

City Council met in stated session at the above date and time in Council Chambers, located on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor of One South Third Street, Easton, Pa. to consider any business that may lawfully be brought before the body, and to conduct two Public Hearings regarding the GEDP Main Street Initiative Façade Grant Program and a DCED grant application by the Redevelopment Authority for Phase II of the Pomeroy's Project, and to receive the Mayor's State of the City Address.

The invocation was given by Mr. Brown, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call**

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

Also in attendance were Rita Messa, Assistant City Clerk, William Murphy, City Solicitor, Joel Scheer, Assistant City Solicitor, and Glenn Steckman, City Administrator. There were approximately twenty-two other persons present.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

On motion of Mr. Fleck and Mr. Warren the Agenda was approved by the following vote:

Yeas: Panto, Brown, Fleck, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren (7)  
Nays: None (0)

**ACTION ON MINUTES**

On motion of Dr. Ruggles and Mrs. Vulcano the February 8, 2012 Council Meeting minutes were approved, as submitted, by the following vote:

Yeas: Brown, Fleck, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, Panto (7)  
Nays: None (0)

**STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS**

At his time the Mayor presented Council with his State of the City Address. (See attachment).

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### **PUBLIC HEARING – GEDP MAIN STREET INITIATIVE FAÇADE GRANT PROGRAM**

At 6:27 p.m., Mayor Panto opened the Public Hearing, and turned it over to Mrs. Vulcano, Council Liaison to the Economic Development Department.

Mrs. Vulcano read the following:

“This Public meeting is being held to discuss the Greater Easton Development Partnership’s Main Street Initiative Façade Grant Program and an application by the City of Easton to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development for \$50,000 in grant funds for program continuation.”

“Gretchen Longenbach is here to discuss the program and application and will answer any comments or questions.”

Ms. Longenbach said that the DCED programs that the City was used to working with had changed. She said that all of the programs have been combined under one program which was now being called Keystone Communities. She said that the City was a main street community and did intend to become fully accredited as a Keystone Community which would make the City eligible to receive funding from the DCED for façade grant programs. She said that the Main Street Façade grant funds were available up to \$50,000. She said that the GEDP had administered these Main Street programs since 2006, and gave an overview of the 30 projects that have been completed between 2006 and 2011, and spoke regarding current applications for funding. She said that there was a definite need for these projects, and that the City and GEDP was ready to expend any funds received for future projects and said that the matching funds were available. She said that later in the meeting Council would be voting on a Resolution authorizing the application for the funding from DCED and to approve a Cooperation Agreement with the GEDP for them to administer the program.

Council members made comments regarding how much cut in funding there was when all the projects were placed under one program, and the sections of the City that funding would be available for, which were answered by Ms. Longenbach and Mayor Panto.

There were no further questions or comments from the audience.

Mrs. Vulcano closed the hearing at 6:33 p.m.

### **PUBLIC HEARING – DCED GRANT APPLICATION BY THE REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY FOR THE POMEROY’S PROJECT PHASE II**

At 6:33 p.m., Mrs. Vulcano opened the hearing and read the following:

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“This Public Meeting is being held to discuss the Redevelopment Authority of Easton’s application to the Pennsylvania’s department of Community and Economic Development for a Keystone Communities Program grant-to-loan in the amount of \$500,000 for rehabilitation the project known as Pomeroy Phase II.

“Gretchen Longenbach is here to discuss the program and application and will answer any comments or questions.”

Ms. Longenbach said that one of the requirements of the new Keystone Communities Grant application process was there be an opportunity, at a public meeting, to discuss the grant application. She said that the Redevelopment Authority meeting was held on February 15, 2012, and the deadline for the application, to be considered under the first round, is March 1, 2012. She said that this was another grant to loan application which was a new project that DCED has established under the Keystone Communities project which was similar to what has been done under the Monroe County Local Share Grant funding for different project funding in the City. She said that in those cases the Redevelopment was the grantee and then loaned the funds to the project and when the funds were repaid to the Authority they would then be transferred to GEDP to help support the Main Street Program. She said that under this new program the Authority has less flexibility with what they did with the funds when they are repaid, she said that most likely the Authority would have to use them in a revolving loan type fashion and reloan the funds out to similar projects. She said that it did not look like payments once repaid would be able to be used for administrative purposes. She said that this grant was for \$500,000 and would be loaned out and once repaid would be used for future projects. She said that it was the Redevelopment Authority’s goal to apply for as many grants as possible so that over the years they could begin receiving as much repayments to create revenue for future projects. She said that to be considered in the first round, the Pomeroy’s Project was considered because it was the best chance to receive the funds. She also gave an update on the Pomeroy’s Project.

Mayor Panto also spoke regarding the two grants and the projects.

Ms. Longenbach said that Council action was not necessary but the Public meeting was a requirement of the application.

Mr. Brown asked questions regarding the Pomeroy’s Project construction for entrances and gateways to both sides from Pine and Northampton Streets.

There were no comments or questions from the audience.

Mrs. Vulcano closed the hearing at 6:38 p.m.

**CITIZENS RIGHT TO BE HEARD**

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Terrance Miller, 645 Ferry Street, said that he appreciated the dedication and hard work of the Council, Department Heads and City workers, thanked Councilman Warren for meeting with him at his home on the noise matter, and made comments regarding the Mayor's State of the City address, the collaboration between the City and the citizens, and problems that exist in the City.

## **REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL**

The following report was received by Council.

(a) Monthly Fire Report for January 2012.

## **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

Mr. Brown, Chairman of the Finance Committee, spoke regarding legislation that he would have for later in the meeting, regarding amending section 285-11 B of the City's Fee Schedule, for bookkeeping fees, regarding establishing a budget for the next phase of the Intermodal Project, and regarding the intention of the City to issue tax-exempt bonds. He said that the Finance Committee would meet on March 13, 2012.

Mrs. Vulcano, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee spoke regarding legislation that she would have for later in the meeting regarding additional reallocation of 2012 CDBG funds, and authorizing the applications for two State grants. Mrs. Vulcano also made comments regarding the closing of Ferry Street at S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, which made it very hard to get to the Post Office.

Mayor Panto said that the project plan had to be alternated because of a major gas leak.

Dr. Ruggles, Chairman of the Planning Committee, spoke regarding legislation that he would have for later in the meeting regarding Certificates of Appropriateness, and for grant applications. He also reported that the Planning Committee meeting would be held on March 13, 2012.

Mr. Warren, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, spoke regarding legislation that he would have for later in the meeting regarding establishing two Police Parking Only zones on S. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, and for amending the Salary and Wage Resolution in the Police Department for the Animal Control Officers.

Mayor Panto related that he had received a Parking Ticket in Harrisburg while using a City vehicle after his meter time ran out, and said that the City would be studying ticketing Police Vehicles and government vehicles that were in violation around the City.

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There was a short discussion on this matter between Council members, Mr. Steckman and Police Captain Scalzo.

Dr. Warner, Chairman of the Public Works Committee spoke regarding legislation that she would have for later in the meeting regarding submission of an application for a National Endowment of the Arts grant for additional lights on N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street at the 22 overpass. She reported that the Public Works Committee would meet on March 13, 2012.

Mr. Fleck, Chairman of the Administration Committee reported that he had met with Mr. Steckman, earlier in the day, to begin planning the City Charter Study Information Retreat, related what they had accomplished thus far, and how the retreat would be handled.

Mr. Murphy, City Solicitor, and Mr. Scheer, Assistant City Solicitor had no reports.

Mayor Panto said that Council members would be receiving letters regarding pedestrian safety when crossing streets in the downtown area of the City. He said that some of the streets were State controlled, and said that Mr. Hopkins would be studying these problems and relating them to Penn DOT for their action.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Bill No. 4, (Ordinance 5342) Amending Section 285-11, Municipal Claims and Liens, of Chapter 369, of Chapter 285, Fees, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., was adopted on motion of Mr. Brown and Dr. Ruggles by the following vote:

Yeas: Brown, Fleck, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, Panto (7)  
Nays: None (0)

Ordinance 5342 amends Section 285-11 by adding a bookkeeping fee for payment plan for less than three payments.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence received by Council:

**NEW BUSINESS**

A February 7, 2012 e-mail regarding the creation of Police Only Parking zones on S. 4<sup>th</sup> Street was received from Police Officer Robert Jones.

Bill No. 5, 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.

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This Bill would create two Police Only Parking zones on the unit block of S. 4<sup>th</sup> Street.

Bill No. 6, Providing Revenues and appropriating Specific Sums to be required for the next phase of the Intermodal Project.

This Bill would provide Revenues and Expenditures in the amount of \$931,800 for the next phase of the Intermodal Project.

A February 16, 2012 e-mail regarding a Main Street Grant application and a cooperation agreement was received from Director Gretchen Longenbach.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would authorize the application for a \$50,000 Main Street grant and approve a Cooperation Agreement with the Greater Easton Development Partnership.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Vulcano:

13-2012

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

Yeas: Fleck, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, Panto, Brown (7)

Nays: None (0)

A February 14, 2012 memorandum, regarding Certificates of Appropriateness was received from Christine Ussler AIA.

The next seven items on the Agenda were proposed Resolutions for approving Certificates of Appropriateness for 41 N. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 56 S. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 185 S. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 201 S. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 65 N. 4<sup>th</sup>, 76 N. 4<sup>th</sup> and 130 S. Rosewood Streets.

The following Resolutions were introduced by Dr. Ruggles.

14-2012

15-2012

16-2012

17-2012

18-2012

19-2012

20-2012

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There being no objections, all seven proposed Resolutions were adopted on motion of Dr. Ruggles and Mrs. Vulcano by the following vote:

Yeas: Warner, Warren, Panto, Brown, Fleck, Ruggles, Vulcano (7)  
Nays: None (0)

A February 14, 2012 e-mail regarding Amended CDBG numbers and a Resolution was received from Director Longenbach.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would further amend the anticipated 2012 CDBG fund allocations.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Vulcano:

21-2012

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

Yeas: Warren, Panto, Brown, Fleck, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner (7)  
Nays: None (0)

A February 15, 2012 memorandum regarding City Council Agenda Items was received from Director David Hopkins.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would authorize an application for a National Endowment of the Arts grant.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Warner:

22-2012

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

Yeas: Panto, Brown, Fleck, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren (7)  
Nays: None (0)

The next item was a proposed Resolution which would amend the Salary and Wage Ordinance by adding another Animal Control Officer, setting a salary for that position and increasing the salary for the other two existing Animal Control Officers.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Warren:

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23-2012

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

Yeas: Brown, Fleck, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, Panto (7)

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would declare the intent of the City to issue Tax-Exempt Bonds in connection with a Capital Project located along South Third Street in the City and stating the reasonable expectation of the City to reimburse itself for certain Capital expenditures incurred with the respect to such project from the proceeds of the tax-exempt bonds.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Brown:

24-2012

The above Resolution was amended on motion of Mr. Brown and Mr. Fleck by changing the amount of the bonds from \$25,000,000 to \$26,000,000, by the following vote:

Yeas: Fleck, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, Panto, Brown (7)

Nays: None (0)

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

Yeas: Brown, Panto, Warren, Warner, Vulcano, Ruggles, Fleck (7)

Nays: None (0)

A February 17, 2012 memorandum regarding a Keystone Historic Preservation Project Grant and the Municipal Assistance Program was received from Director Bradley.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve the filing of an application for a Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission Keystone Historic Preservation Project Grant.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

25-2012

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

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Yeas: Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, Panto, Brown, Fleck (7)  
Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would authorize the submission of an application to the Municipal Assistance Program for a grant.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

26-2012

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

Yeas: Vulcano, Warner, Warren, Panto, Brown, Fleck, Ruggles (7)  
Nays: None (0)

**CITIZENS RIGHT TO BE HEARD**

Thomas Pintabone, 109 Palmer Street, spoke regarding the traffic at the intersections of Philadelphia Road, Grant Street and Davis Street and the proposal to make the 200 block of W. Grant Street one way east.

Mayor Panto related what the City had studied and what they intended to do.

Noel Jones, 800 Ferry Street spoke regarding the noise ordinance issue with the Church of God by Faith, a noise problem at March school very early in the morning, the garbage issue in the West Ward, actions by garbage collector employees, a litter problem on the Karl Sterner Arts Trail and at Hugh Moore Park.

Council members and Mr. Steckman responded to Ms. Jones' concerns.

Terrance Miller, 645 Ferry Street spoke regarding the noise issue with the Church of God by Faith, the garbage issue in the West Ward and throughout the City, the need for some type of an Ambassador Program and a dedicated Police Officer for the West Ward area of the City, the possibility of using County prisoners to help clean up litter and garbage, and related that he felt that the City Police Officers were doing a good job, the parking problem with other Municipality's Police Officers not putting money in parking meters, and regarding the Charter requiring the establishment of an Ethics Board which had never been established.

Council members, Captain Scalzo and Mr. Steckman responded to Mr. Miller's concerns and comments.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m. on the motion of Dr. Warner and Mrs. Vulcano vote:

Yeas: Panto, Warren, Warner, Vulcano, Ruggles, Fleck, Brown (7)

Nays: None (0)

Rita Messa, Assistant City Clerk