

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

**July 22 2009**

Easton, Pa.  
Wednesday  
July 22, 2009  
6:00 P.M.

City Council met in stated session, in the Community Room of St. Paul's Lutheran Church at 640 W. Berwick Street, to consider any business that may lawfully be brought before the body, and to conduct a Public Hearing regarding a proposed reallocation of Multi-year CDBG Funds.

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

## **ROLL CALL**

Present: Kenneth Brown  
Pamela Panto  
Sandra Vulcano  
Elinor Warner  
Jeffrey Warren (left meeting at 6:21 p.m.)  
Salvatore J. Panto Jr. (6)

Absent: Roger Ruggles (1)

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

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

On motion of Dr. Warner and Mrs. Panto the Agenda was approved by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

## **ACTION ON MINUTES**

The July 8, 2009 Council meeting and Public Hearing minutes were approved as submitted on motion of Mrs. Vulcano and Mr. Warren by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

## **RESOLUTION**

### **Death of John T. Zemgulis**

**Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.**  
**July 22, 2009**

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution recognizing the death of former Police Officer John T. Zemgulis.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Warren:

128-2009

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

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

Nays: None (0)

Mayor Panto spoke regarding former Officer Zemgulis' and Mrs. Zemgulis' service to the City and its citizens.

Mrs. Zemgulis was called forward and was presented with a framed Resolution.

**PRESENTATION**  
**Lafayette Community Fellowship Program Update**

Alyssa Smith, and Pooja Shah, members of the Lafayette Community Fellowship Program furnished Council with an update on their program, and related what they had done and were planning to do in the future.

Mr. Warren spoke regarding the program and thanked all involved.

**CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION**

At this time Mr. Warren presented framed Certificates of Recognition to Alyssa Smith which recognized all of the members of the Lafayette Community Fellowship Program for their dedication to the Program and to the citizens of the City.

At this time a Certificates of Recognition were presented to Kim Kmetz and Megan McBride for their untiring efforts in making the Easton Main Street Initiative the Top Performing Program/Community in Pennsylvania.

Council members spoke regarding the Main Street Program and thanked Ms. Kmetz and Ms. McBride for their work and thanked all the volunteers for their service to the community.

Ms. Kmetz thanked Council for the honor bestowed on her and Ms. McBride and spoke regarding their program.

**Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.**  
**July 22, 2009**

**PUBLIC HEARING**  
**Proposed Reallocation of Multi-year CDBG Funds.**

At this time a Public Hearing was held regarding a proposed reallocation of multi-year CDBG Funds. (See separate minutes.)

**CITIZENS RIGHT TO BE HEARD (Agenda Items Only)**

Curt Ehly, 305 W. Monroe St., spoke regarding the improvements to Larry Holmes Drive and regarding two articles that appeared in the newspaper regarding this matter.

Richard Hieshetter, 304 W. Monroe St., spoke regarding some suggestions he had for the proposed Waterfront Project.

**REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL**

The following report was received by Council.

- (a) Fire Department monthly report for June 2009.

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

Mr. Brown, Chairperson of the Administrative Committee spoke regarding legislation that would be before Council later in the meeting, and asked Mr. Heagele to address some concerns that he and citizens had regarding the Earned Income Tax and the increase to that tax, which Mr. Heagele did.

Mrs. Vulcano, Chairperson of the Economic Development Committee spoke regarding the recent ground breaking ceremony that took place on July 17<sup>th</sup> at the proposed CVS store location at Philadelphia Road and St. John Street. She also spoke regarding a completed mural at the Easton Community Center located at Ninth and Washington Streets.

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

Mr. Warren, Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee had left the meeting, but Mayor Panto read a short report regarding the Public Safety Department, spoke regarding a Task Force meeting that took place on July 14<sup>th</sup>, spoke regarding recent drug arrests and the summer night's program.

Dr. Warner, Chairperson of the Public Works Committee asked Catherine Walters, a member of the Easton Environmental Advisory Council, to give a brief update on the Council's happening, which she did and gave each City Council member a copy of a

**Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.**  
**July 22, 2009**

report dated July 22, 2009. Dr. Warner reported that she had attended a Council of Governments meeting and related what had been discussed. She also reported that Household and Electronic Recycling events would be held at Easton High School and Nazareth Middle Schools, and spoke regarding propose Pa. House Bill 419.

Dr. Ruggles, Chairperson for Strategic Planning was not in attendance.

Mr. Murphy, City Solicitor, had no report for Council.

Ms. Knickerbocker, Assistant City Solicitor furnished Council with an update regarding the Hub Cap Store litigation.

Mayor Panto thanked Elizabeth Wyant and her volunteers for a wonderful Heritage Day, reported that the City had purchased a "Smart Car" and explained why it was purchased, spoke regarding the proposed work to be done at Valley Station, spoke regarding the Main Street office space and the Farmers Market and the National League of City's Prescription Card program.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Action on Legislative Bills

Bill No. 47, An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Easton, Northampton County, Pennsylvania, authorizing and directing issuance of General Obligation Bonds which was introduced on February 11, 2009, and tabled on February 25, 2009, was brought back before Council on motion of Mr. Brown and Dr. Warner by the following vote:

Yeas: Vulcano, Warner, S. Panto, Brown, P. Panto (5)

Nays: None (0)

Bill No. 47, An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Easton, Northampton County, Pennsylvania authorizing and directing issuance of General Obligation Bonds was moved by Mr. Brown and died for a lack of a second.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence received by Council:

**NEW BUSINESS**

Introduction of Legislative Bills:

**Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.**  
**July 22, 2009**

Bill No. 67, (Ordinance 5213), Amending Ordinance 5133, Providing Revenues and Appropriating Specific Sums to be required for the State Highway Aid Fund hereinafter set forth during the Fiscal Year 2009, was adopted on motion of Mr. Brown and Dr. Warner by the following vote:

Yeas: P. Panto, Vulcano, Warner, S. Panto, Brown (5)

Nays: None (0)

Ordinance 5213 amends the 2009 State Highway Aid Fund by increasing revenues and expenditures by \$133,498.80.

Bill No. 68, (Ordinance 5214), Approving a Transfer of Funds in the 2009 State Highway Aid Fund was adopted on motion of Mr. Brown and Dr. Warner by the following vote:

Yeas: Vulcano, Warner, S. Panto, Brown, P. Panto (5)

Nays: None (0)

Ordinance 5214 approves the transfer of \$65,265 within revenue line items contained in the 2009 State Highway Aid Fund.

A July 2, 2009 E-Mail, regarding a DCED Grant was received from Fire Chief John Bast.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution that would approve a Contract for Local Government Municipal Resource and Development Program Grant Funds to be used towards the purchase of laptops for the Fire Department.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Vulcano:

129-2009

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

Yeas: Vulcano, Warner, S. Panto, Brown, P. Panto (5)

Nays: None (0)

A June 30, 2009 E-Mail regarding the Main Street Initiative Program was received from Councilman Warren.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution congratulating the Main Street Initiative.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Vulcano:

**Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.**  
**July 22, 2009**

130-2009

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

Yeas: Warner, S. Panto, Brown, P. Panto, Vulcano (5)

Nays: None (0)

A July 15, 2009 letter regarding a report for a Certificate of Appropriateness for Riverside and Scott Parks was received from Christine Ussler.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution that would approve a Certificate of Appropriateness for Riverside and Scott Parks.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Panto:

131-2009

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

Yeas: S. Panto, Brown, P. Panto, Vulcano, Warner (5)

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution that would inform the National League of Cities of the City's intent to participate in the NLG Prescription Discount Card Program.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mayor Panto:

132-2009

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

Yeas: Brown, P. Panto, Vulcano, Warner, S. Panto (5)

Nays: None (0)

A July 15, 2009 memorandum, regarding City Council Agenda items was received from David Hopkins.

**Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.**  
**July 22, 2009**

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve a proposal submitted by Barry Isett & Associates Inc, for Decorative Crosswalk Improvement Design.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Warner:

133-2009

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

Yeas: Brown, P. Panto, Vulcano, Warner, S. Panto (5)

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution that would offer the Main Street Initiatives the unused commercial space in the City Parking Garage at no cost but for normal utilities, phone, etc.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mayor Panto:

134-2009

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

Yeas: S. Panto, Brown, P. Panto, Vulcano, Warner (5)

Nays: None (0)

**CITIZEN'S RIGHT TO BE HEARD**

Elizabeth Wyant, thanked Council and the City Administration for their support of the Main Street Program, spoke regarding public restrooms near the commercial space in the parking garage and regarding parking tickets being handed out in downtown.

Mayor Panto and Mr. Steckman spoke on the parking in downtown, public restrooms and ticketing of vehicles in downtown.

Frank DeFrancesco, 1307 Washington Street spoke regarding his concerns with safety and cleanliness in his neighborhood and in the West Ward area of the City.

Mayor Panto addressed his concerns.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.**  
**July 22, 2009**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m. on motion of Dr. Warner and Mrs. Vulcano by the following vote:

Yeas: Brown, P. Panto, Vulcano, Warner, S. Panto (5)

Nays: None (0)

Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk