

**Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.**  
**November 22, 2011**

Easton, Pa  
Tuesday  
November 2, 2011  
6:25 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.

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

**Roll Call**

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

Also in attendance were Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk, William Murphy, City Solicitor, Joel Scheer and Beth Knickerbockers, Assistant City Solicitors and W. Glenn Steckman, City Administrator. There were ten other persons present.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

On motion of Mayor Panto and Mr. Fleck the Agenda was amended by adding two new proposed Resolutions under New Business, one for accepting the terms of the FOP Labor Agreement and one for confirming the Police Chief's disciplinary action regarding Office Beiser, by the following vote:

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

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

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

**ACTION ON MINUTES**

On motion of Mrs. Vulcano and Mr. Fleck the November 9, 2011 Council Meeting minutes were approved, as submitted, by the following vote:

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

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## **RESOLUTIONS**

The next items on the Agenda were two proposed Resolutions recognizing the deaths of Robert Reese, a retired Fire Fighter and Pat Vulcano a retired Supervisor of Buildings.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Warren:

159-2011

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

Mayor Panto offered words regarding Mr. Reese's service to the City and its citizens.

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

Nays: None (0)

Mr. Reese's ex-wife was presented with a framed Resolution.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Warner:

160-2011

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

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

Nays: None (0)

All Council members offered words regarding Mr. Vulcano's service to the City and its citizens.

Mr. James Vulcano was presented with a framed Resolution.

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

There were no remarks from the audience.

## **REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL**

There were no reports received.

## **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

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Mr. Brown, Chairman of the Finance Committee spoke regarding legislation that he would have for later in the meeting regarding the re-enactment of the Earned Income Tax and Net Profits Ordinance, a Three Year Agreement with Aramark for uniform services, Providing Revenues and Appropriating sums for the 2012 Budgets, a Lease with the National High School Coaches Association, approving the tentative three year agreement with the Fraternal Order of Police, and setting the Tax Rate for all City purposes for 2012..

Mrs. Vulcano, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee had no report.

Dr. Ruggles, Chairman of the Planning Committee spoke regarding legislation that he would have for later in the meeting regarding approving Certificates of Appropriateness, and authorizing an application for a Certified Local Government grant program.

Mr. Warren, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee spoke regarding Legislation that he would have for later in the meeting regarding amending the Traffic Control Map by creating a “No Parking Load/Unload” zone in front of 1156 Butler Street, and a Software Agreement with Metro Technology.

There was a discussion between Council members and Mr. Steckman regarding the need for the Load/Unload Zone at 1156 Butler Street, and requests by other business for the same zones in front of their businesses. Mr. Warren said that he would be re-tabling Bill No. 35 and would not bring it back before Council until it was discussed at the next Public Safety Committee meeting.

Mr. Warren also spoke regarding the yearly Easton Police vs. Phillipsburg Police Football game and the ending of the Farmers Market season.

Dr. Warner, Chairman of the Public Works Committee commended the City’s Public Works Department employees for the tremendous job that they did during and after the most recent snow storm, and invited everyone to the Christmas Candle Lighting on Friday November 25<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.

Mr. Fleck, 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 a Personnel matter, the Police Labor Contract and a Lease Agreement.

Assistant Solicitors Scheer and Knickerbocker had no report.

Mayor Panto spoke regarding, recent grants that the City had been awarded and what those funds would be used for, the reimbursement of funds for the Intermodal Transportation Facility, Public Meetings regarding the Heil Park Sports Fields, the thirty applications received

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from persons interested in taking the Fire Fighter examinations, the formation of a Nuisance Properties Task Force in January, the Occupying Easton movement staying on a portion of a property on N. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, and regarding a presentation by two Northampton County Prison Guards regarding Gand problems.

Laura Accetta, Weed and Seed Coordinator also spoke regarding the Gang presentation.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Bill No. 34, Amending Article III, Traffic Control Map of Chapter 560, Vehicles and Traffic, of Code of the City of Easton, Pa. was brought back before Council on motion of Mr. Warren and Mr. Fleck by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

Bill No. 34, was re-tabled on motion of Mr. Warren and Mrs. Vulcano by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

This Bill would amend the Traffic Code by creating a Load/Unload Zone, Monday – Friday 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. in front of 1156 Butler Street.

Bill No. 35, Re-Enacting, Restating and Amending Article VIII, Earned Income and Net Profits, of Chapter 535, Taxation, of the Code of the City of Easton, to establish conformity with the Local Tax Enabling Act as amended by Act 32 of July 2, 2008 was brought back before Council on motion of Mr. Brown and Mr. Fleck by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

Bill No. 35, was amended in the following manner on motion of Mr. Brown and Dr. Warner by the following vote:

1. By adding the following at the end of Section 535-65 (a): one and one-quarter percent (1.25%). The Easton Area School District may impose an additional tax amount as allowed by law.
2. By adding the following at the end of Section 535-65 (b): of one percent (1.00%)
3. By adding the following at the end of Section 535-65 (c): of one and one-quarter percent (1.25%). The Easton Area School District may impose an additional tax amount as allowed by law.
4. By adding the following at the end of Section 535-65 (d): of one percent (1.00%).

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Yeas: Brown, Fleck, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, Panto (7)  
Nays: (0)

Bill No. 35, (Ordinance 5334), Re-enacting, Re-stating and amending Article VIII, Earned Income and Net Profits, of Chapter 535, Taxation, of the Code of the City of Easton, to establish conformity with the Local Tax enabling act as amended by Act 32 of July 2, 2008, and as amended above, was adopted on motion of Mr. Brown and Mr. Fleck by the following vote:

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

Ordinance 5334 Re-enacts, Re-states and Amends the Earned Income and net Profits Ordinances of the City.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence received.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Bill No. 38, Fixing the Tax Rate for all City Purposes for the Year 2012, was introduced by Mr. Brown and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would fix the Tax Rate for all City Purposes for 2012 at 24.95 Mills.

Bill No. 39, Providing Revenues and Appropriating Specific Sums to be required for the City Budget during the Fiscal Year 2012 was introduced by Mr. Brown and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would provide Revenues and Appropriate Specific Sums for the 2012 Budget Funds:

Bill No. 40, Approving a Lease Agreement between the City of Easton and The National High School Coaches Association Inc, was introduced by Mr. Brown and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would approve a Lease Agreement with the National High School Coaches Association Inc., for office space on the 8<sup>th</sup> floor of the Alpha Building.

A November 7, 2011 memorandum regarding a Uniform Bid was received from Scott Klabunde, Purchasing Agent.

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The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve a Three (3) year Agreement for Uniform Rental with Aramark Uniform Services.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Brown:

161-2011

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

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

Nays: None (0)

A November 15, 2011 memorandum regarding Metro Technology Services Inc., was received from Police Chief Lawrence Palmer.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve an Alert/Care Software Service Agreement with Metro Technology Services, Inc.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Warren:

162-2011

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)

A November 15, 2011 Letter regarding Certificates of Appropriateness was received from Christine Ussler, AIA.

The next three items on the Agenda were proposed Resolutions for approving Certificates of Appropriateness for installation of vinyl window signs at 54 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, installation of signs at 101 Northampton Street and installation of a sign at 350 Northampton Street.

The following Resolutions were introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

163-2011

164-2011

165-2011

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

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

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve a Settlement Agreement and Release of all Claims with Thomas W. Olick and the Olick Family Trust.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Fleck:

166-2011

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

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

Nays: None (0)

A November 17, 2011 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 filing of an application for a Certified Local Government Program Grant.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

167-2011

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

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

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve a tentative three (3) year labor agreement with the Fraternal Order of Police, Washington Lodge #17.

The following Resolution was introduced by Kenneth Brown:

168-2011

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

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

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve the recommendation of the Police for Disciplinary action against Officer Thomas Beiser.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Warren:

169-2011

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

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

**CITIZENS RIGHT TO BE HEARD**

There were no remarks from the audience.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:14 p.m. on the motion of Dr. Warner and Mr. Fleck by the following vote:

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

Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk