

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
March 23, 2011

Easton, Pa
Wednesday
March 23, 2011
6:00 p.m.

City Council met in stated session at the above date and time in the 6th Floor Conference Room of City Hall, One S. 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, and Joel Scheer, Assistant City Solicitor. There were thirty-two other persons present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion of Dr. Warner and Mr. Warren the 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 Mr. Brown and Mrs. Vulcano the March 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)

CERTIFICATES OF COMMENDATION

At this time Mayor Panto presented Certificates of Commendation to the persons involved in organizing the "Rail Jam" that was held in the Southeast Quadrant of Centre Square on February 12, 2011.

CITIZENS RIGHT TO BE HEARD (Agenda Items Only)

There were no remarks from the audience.

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REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL

The following reports were received by Council.

- (a) Monthly Fire Report for February 2011.
- (b) ESWA February 14, 2011 meeting minutes.

Mayor Panto accepted the above report on behalf of Council.

Dr. Ruggles asked if the Fire Pumper Truck had been out of service for the month of February because he saw that there were no responses by this truck in February.

Mayor Panto said that the truck had been out of service for repairs to the air brakes.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Brown, Chairman of the Finance Committee spoke regarding legislation which would be before Council later in the meeting.

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

Dr. Ruggles, Chairman of the Planning Committee spoke regarding legislation that would be before Council later in the meeting.

Mr. Warren, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee reported that a Farmers Market Committee meeting had been held last week and related what had been discussed and spoke regarding legislation that would be before Council later in the meeting.

Mr. Warren asked State Representative Robert Freeman and Lisa Walters, a representative from State Senator Mensch's office to speak regarding the proposed State Funding Cuts for the Weed and Seed program, which they did.

Council members made comments and asked questions regarding the above matter which were answered by Representative Freeman and Ms. Walters.

Dr. Warner, Chairman of the Public Works Committee spoke regarding the replacement of street light bulbs throughout the City, reported that the street cleaning program would begin on April 1, 2011 and that warning tickets would be issued for parking violators for the first two weeks of the program and after that time tickets would be issued to violators, and reported that the Public Works Committee would possibly meet on April 12, 2011.

Mr. Fleck, Chairman of the Administration Committee reported that the Administration Committee would meet on April 12, 2011, and that Same Sex Benefits would be discussed. .

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Mr. Scheer, Assistant Solicitor, had no report.

Mayor Panto spoke regarding the Special Events Grant Requests, and where extra money could possibly be found for the grants. He spoke regarding proposed funding cuts for the Meals on Wheels program, spoke regarding the Intermodal Transportation Facility timeline, spoke regarding a City celebration for Jordan Oliver, an Easton resident who is a National Wrestling Champion and gave an update on the 6th floor renovations.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No. 3, (Ordinance 5302), Amending Section 285-45, Recreation registration, and Section 285-56, Pool Fees, B, Season Pass, (1) and (2) and eliminating Section 285-47, Sports Fees, of Chapter 285, Fees of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., was adopted on motion of Dr. Warner and Mr. Warren by the following vote:

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

Nays None (0)

Ordinance 5302, amends Section 285-45, 285-56 B (1) and (2), and eliminates Section 285-47 of the City's Codes.

Bill No. 4, (Ordinance 5303), Amending Section 110-24, Section 119-26 A and Section 110-28 of Article III Employees Retirement and Pension System of Chapter 110, Pension, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa.

Ordinance 5303 amends wording in the above sections.

CORRESPONDENCE

Council received no correspondence.

NEW BUSINESS

A March 17, 2011 memorandum regarding a new Meter Zone was received from Police Chief Lawrence Palmer.

Bill No. 5, Amending Section 56058, Meter Zones, of Article XI, On-Street Metered parking, 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.

This Bill would establish a new Meter Zone on the south side of Larry Holmes Drive from S. 3rd Street to Northampton Street.

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Bill No. 6, Amending Section 285-29, B, Stopping, standing and parking, Part 3, Parking meter zone rates, of Chapter 285, Fees, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa. was introduced by Mr. Warren and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would establish a charge of \$.50 per hour for the meters on the Southside of Larry Holmes Drive from S. 3rd Street to Northampton Street.

A December 30, 2010 memorandum regarding Police records destruction was received from Police Lieutenant Samuel J. Lobb.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would authorize the disposition of Police records.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Warren:

34-2011

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

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

Nays: None (0)

A March 15, 2011 letter regarding Certificates of Appropriateness' was received from Christine Ussler, Historic Consultant.

The next three items on the Agenda were proposed Resolutions for approving Certificates of Appropriateness' for 101 South Third Street, 22-24 Centre Square and 307 Northampton Street.

The following Resolutions were introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

35-2011

36-2011

37-2011

Being there were no objections to any of the proposed Resolutions, Council voted on all three with one vote, on motion of Dr. Ruggles and Mrs. Vulcano by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

A March 14, 2011 memorandum regarding delinquent Per Capita Tax Collection by Berkheimer was received from Chris Heagele, Director of Finance.

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The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve a Three (3) year agreement with Berkheimer Associates for the collection of delinquent Per Capita Taxes.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Brown:

38-2011

Council members made comments and asked questions regarding the above agreement which were answered by Mr. Heagele and Mayor Panto.

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

Yeas: Panto, Brown, Ruggles, Warner, Warren (5)

Nays: Fleck, Vulcano (2)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would urge members of the Lehigh Valley delegation of the Pa. House of Representatives and the Pa. Senate to oppose the adverse Weed and Seed funding cuts laid out under the Governor's proposed Commonwealth budget.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Warren:

39-2011

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

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

Nays: None (0)

CITIZENS RIGHT TO BE HEARD

Mr. Fleck thanked the Mayor and Jamie Hartranft, the Mayor's Administrative Assistant, for their work with the Chansonnette Theatre Group on their Fringe festival.

Andrew Chun, a representative of the Lafayette College Technology Clinic West Ward Neighborhood Partnership, Easton Area Community Center spoke to Council regarding a plan for a flower display at the 8th Street grass extension just off of Northampton Street. Mr. Chun was accompanied by Sandra Chen and Professor Larry Malinconico.

Drew Anderson, 611 Brodhead Street, spoke regarding the City's Rental Ordinances.

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Richard Hieshetter, 304 W. Monroe Street, spoke regarding the use of “Rainy Day Funds,” the proposed Intermodal Transportation Facility, and regarding elected officials that are arrested.

Council members responded to Mr. Hieshetter’s concerns.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Nays: None (0)

Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk