

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
May 23, 2012

Easton, Pa
Wednesday
May 23, 2012
6:00 p.m.

City Council met in stated session at the above date and time at the Easton Area Community Center, 901 Washington 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: 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, Assistant City Solicitor, and Glenn Steckman, City Administrator. There were seventeen other persons present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion of Dr. Ruggles 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 Mr. Warren the May 9, 2012 Council Meeting minutes were approved, as submitted, by the following vote:

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

RESOLUTION

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution congratulating Lt. John D. Remaley on being named Police Officer of the Year.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Warren:

71-2012

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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)

All Council members spoke regarding the honored bestowed on Lt. Remaley and regarding his service to the Police Department, the City and its citizens.

CITIZENS RIGHT TO BE HEARD

There were no comments from the audience.

REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL

There were not reports received.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Brown, Chairman of the Finance Committee, spoke regarding legislation that he would have for later in the meeting regarding approving a Two (2) Year Office Space Lease Agreement with the Easton Area Industrial Land Development Company, and for approving a Ten (10) Year Cable Franchise Agreement with RCN Telecom Services (Lehigh) LLC. and reported that a Finance Committee meeting would be held on June 12, 2012.

Mrs. Vulcano, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee reported that she had attended a Vacant Property Review Committee meeting earlier in the evening, related information on four new blighted properties, and explained what the process was to move forward with the blighted properties. She also discussed a rehabilitated property on the 500 block of Lehigh Street.

Dr. Ruggles, Chairman of the Planning Committee, spoke regarding legislation that he would have for later in the meeting, regarding approving Certificates of Appropriateness for seven properties in the Historic District, reported that a Planning Committee meeting would be held on June 12, 2012 and that his proposed Vacant and Nuisance property ordinance would be discussed.

Mr. Warren, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, reported that the Public Safety Committee would meet on June 12, 2012 where the Valley Against Sex Trafficking organization would give a presentation, reported that he had attended the Police Awards Ceremony, spoke regarding the ceremony, and furnished a summary on the most recent Bear incident on N. 6th Street.

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Mayor Panto and Police Chief Carl Scalzo corrected misinformation regarding the Bear incident and related what the Police Officers did.

Dr. Warner, Chairman of the Public Works Committee had no report but asked Director Hopkins to speak with Council regarding a request to amend the allocation of funds, in the 2011 Bond Issue to maintain City properties, which he did.

Council members made comments and asked questions regarding the remaining funds, and the work that needed to be accomplished at the Easton Neighborhood Center, the South Side Fire Station and at the City's 500 Bushkill Drive Complex which were answered by Director Hopkins

Mr. Hopkins also spoke regarding a proposal to revert some downtown streets from one-way to two-ways and why that proposal was being considered.

Mr. Fleck, Chairman of the Administration Committee said that he had received other City Council's rules and regulations, that he and Mr. Steckman would be reviewing these Rules and Regulations and would have something for Council sometime in July.

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

Mayor Panto had no report, but spoke regarding the upcoming Freddy awards, and reported that on June 24, 2012 Council members would be receiving a memorandum concerning his appointments to different Authorities, Boards and Commissions and that the appointments would be in front of Council, for their vote, on June 13, 2012.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No. 21, (Ordinance 5359). Approving a Two Year Office Space Lease Agreement with the Easton Area Land Development Company was adopted on motion of Mr. Brown and Dr. Warner by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

Ordinance 5359 approves a two year Office Space Agreement with the Easton Area Land Development Company for office space on the 8th floor of City Hall.

Bill No. 22, (Ordinance 5360) Approving a Ten-Year Cable Franchise Agreement with RCN Telecom Service (Lehigh) LLC was adopted on motion of Mr. Brown and Mr. Warren by the following vote:

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

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Nays: None (0)

Ordinance 5360 approves a Ten-Year Cable Franchise Agreement with RCN Telecom Service (Lehigh) LLC.

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was received by Council:

(a) Traci Schiffert – e-mail regarding the proposed Easton Commuter Tax.

NEW BUSINESS

A May 15, 2012 letter regarding Certificates of Appropriateness was received from Christine Ussler, AIA, Historic District.

The next seven items on the Agenda were proposed Resolutions which would approve Certificates of Appropriateness for 116-118 N. 3rd, 42 S. 3rd, 44-46 Center Square, 417-425 Ferry, 140A Northampton Street, 322-336 Northampton and 325 Pine Streets.

The following Resolutions were introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

72-2012

73-2012

73-2012

74-2012

75-2012

76-2012

77-2012

The above Resolutions were adopted on motion of Dr. Ruggles and Mr. Fleck by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

CITIZENS RIGHT TO BE HEARD

Carinne Buzzoto, 19 S. 7th Street, furnished Council with an update on progress made since the recent Northampton County-City of Easton Summit meeting of April 9, 2012, and related some concerns of the West Ward's Neighborhood Physical Quality Committee, which were addressed by Mayor Panto, Police Chief Scalzo and Mr. Steckman

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Ester Guzman 723 Ferry Street, said that she had been working with the City on different program as the Chairman of the West Ward Neighborhood Partnership and offered her Spanish translating ability to the City.

Rhodes Yepsen, 633 Ferry Street spoke regarding the need for an anonymous tip line for the City.

Mayor Panto informed the audience that a tip line already existed, gave the phone number and explained how it was to be used and the response.

Dennis Lieb, 1208 Chidsey Street, spoke regarding the Dutchtown park, and the issue of “Quality of Place”.

Director Hopkins spoke briefly on the termination of cable service by Service Electric and RCN and the hanging cable wires throughout the City from being cut with termination..

Tricia Mezzacappa, 817 Ridge Street requested that the City do something to prevent Mr. Bernard O’Hare from receiving any copies of police reports involving her.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m. on the motion of Mr. Fleck and Dr. Warner by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk