

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
October 23, 2013

Easton, Pa
Wednesday
October 23, 2013
6:00 p.m.

City Council met in stated session at the above date and time, in Council Chambers, located on the Sixth floor of City Hall, 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, Edinger, Ruggles, Warner, Panto (5)
Absent: Warner (Work), Vulcano (2)

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 sixteen other persons present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Yeas: Panto, Warren, Edinger, Ruggles, Panto (5)
Nays: None (0)

ACTION ON MINUTES

On motion of Dr. Ruggles and Mr. Warren, the October 9, 2013 Council Meeting minutes were approved, as submitted, by the following vote:

Yeas: Brown, Edinger, Ruggles, Warren, Panto (5)
Nays: None (0)

RESOLUTION

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution recognizing the death of Barry L. Kehler, a retired firefighter.

The Resolution was introduced by Mr. Warren, and read by the Assistant City Clerk.

Mayor Panto spoke regarding his personal relationship with Mr. Kehler, and regarding his service and dedication as a fire fighter.

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
October 23, 2013

Mrs. Kehler was presented with a framed Resolution.

The Resolution was not voted upon.

PUBLIC COMMENT – (Agenda Items Only)

There were no questions or comments from the audience.

CONSENT AGENDA

On motion of Mr. Warren and Dr. Ruggles the following items on the Consent Agenda were adopted by the following vote:

Resolutions 189 through 194-2013 which approve Certificates of Appropriateness for 72 N. 2nd, 56 S. 3rd, 120 S. 6th, 330 Ferry, 336 and 456 Northampton Street.

Resolution 195-2013 which authorizes an application for a Traffic Signal Permit with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation.

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

Nays: None (0)

REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL

The following report was received by Council:

(a) The monthly Fire Report for September 2013.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Brown, Chairman of the Finance Committee, reported that a Budget Review session had been held on October 22, 2013, and projected revenues were discussed, said that the next Budget Revenue session would be held on October 28, 2013, at 6:00 p.m., and spoke regarding legislation that he would have for later in the meeting, regarding amending the Earned Income Tax rate, urging immigration reform, and for approving a Lease with USA Architects, for leasing of the 7th floor of the Alpha building.

Mrs. Vulcano, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee was absent.

Dr. Ruggles, Chairman of the Planning Committee, had no report

Mr. Warren, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, spoke regarding legislation that he would have for later in the meeting, regarding amending Chapter 285 Fees which would list the fines and costs associated with parking violations as they appear on Traffic Tickets, amending

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
October 23, 2013

sections in Chapter 399, Parking Permits and in Chapter 560 Vehicles and Traffic of the City's Codes to remove all of the individual violations sections with the fines printed which will now be listed in the Fees chapter.

Dr. Warner, Chairman of the Public Works Committee, was absent.

Mr. Edinger, Chairman of the Administration Committee spoke regarding the updating of the Codified Ordinances.

Mr. Murphy, City Solicitor, and Joel Scheer, Assistant City Solicitor had no report.

Mayor Panto spoke regarding Mr. James Krizoski, Assistant to the President of Lafayette College, spoke regarding the President's inauguration, reported that the Scarecrow Festival would take place in Centre Square this weekend, reported that the Halloween Parade would be held on Sunday, October 27, 2013, and said that on Thursday, October 24, 2013, he would be taking part in a panel discussion, with the Lehigh Valley Partnership Chamber of Commerce, to discuss Act 111 and Pensions.

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was received by Council:

- (a) Robert A. Lammi, letter requesting donation to the Miracle League of Northampton County.

Mayor Panto said that he would respond to Mr. Lammi to inform him that the City has made a three-year (3) commitment to the Miracle League and a donation would be forthcoming.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business

NEW BUSINESS

Bill 56, Amending Chapter 285, Fees, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., was introduced by Mr. Warren and ordered processed for adoption.

Dr. Ruggles asked questions concerning the level of fines for certain violations and not for others.

Mr. Steckman said that he would speak with the Police Department regarding this matter.

Mayor Panto asked why tract changes were not available.

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
October 23, 2013

Mr. Warren said that he would like a comprehensive review of this Ordinance.

Mr. Steckman explained that violation fees were being removed from individual sections and all placed in the Fee Schedule.

There was a further brief discussion on this matter.

This bill would list all of the parking violation costs in the Fee Schedule.

Bill 57, Amending Sections in Chapter 399, Parking Permit, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., was introduced by Mr. Warren and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill amends Sections in Chapter 399 by removing violation costs contained in individual sections for parking violations.

Bill 58, Amending Sections in 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 amends Sections in Chapter 560, by removing violation costs contained in individual sections for parking violations.

Bill 59, Amending Section 337.02 (a), Imposition of Tax, of Article 337, Earned Income and Net Profits Tax, of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Easton, Pa., was introduced by Mr. Brown and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would increase the Earned Income Tax to 1.85%, 1.35% for the City and .5% for the Easton Area School District.

Bill 60, Amending Section 337.02 (a), Imposition of Tax, of Article 337, Earned Income and Net Profits Tax, of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Easton, Pa., was introduced by Mr. Brown and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would increase the Earned Income Tax to 1.95%, 1.45% for the City and .5% for the Easton Area School District.

Bill 61, Amending Section 337.02 (a), Imposition of Tax, of Article 337, Earned Income and Net Profits Tax, of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Easton, Pa., was introduced by Mr. Brown and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would increase the Earned Income Tax to 2.05%, 1.55% for the City and .5% for the Easton Area School District.

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
October 23, 2013

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve funding for projects and programs which constitute the City's Consolidated Action Plan for Fiscal Year 2014.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mayor Panto:

196-2013

Dr. Ruggles asked questions concerning the reallocation of funds that are received or left over going to City projects and not to the service organizations.

Gretchen Longenbach, Director of Economic Development explained the process and said that reprogramming the money to the different organizations would be a long process for such a small amount of money.

Dr. Ruggles said that he recognized funding components for non-profit organizations are being lessened, and said that he felt that the extra funds should go to the non-profit organizations and not to City projects.

Ms. Longenbach said that could be done with one organization and then it would not be a long drawn out affair.

There was further brief discussion on this matter.

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

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

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution for amending the 2013 Salary and Wage Ordinance by removing a Driver II/Laborer position from the Labor Pool and establishing another equipment operator position in the Highway Bureau.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

197-2013

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

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

Nays: None (0)

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
October 23, 2013

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve a four-year Rewards Program Services Agreement with Recyclebank to provide a recycling rewards program for the City's residential trash and recycling contract.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

198-2013

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

Yeas: Edinger, Ruggles, Warren, Panto, Brown (5)
Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve a Recyclebank Campaign Insertion Order Agreement, with Recyclebank.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

199-2013

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

Yeas: Ruggles, Warren, Panto, Brown, Edinger (5)
Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve a Five-Year (5), Labor Agreement with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO, Local 447.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Edinger:

200-2013

Mr. Steckman stated that there were several small typographical errors within the contract.

On motion of Mr. Brown and Mr. Warren the above Resolution was amended by directing the City Administrator to correct the typographical errors in the contract by the following vote:

Yeas: Warren, Panto, Brown, Edinger, Ruggles (5)
Nays: None (0)

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
October 23, 2013

On motion of Mr. Edinger and Mr. Warren the above amended Resolution was adopted by the following vote:

Yeas: Ruggles, Edinger, Brown, Panto, Warren (5)
Nays: None (0)

Mr. Steckman reported that the negotiations with Local 447 had been very productive and positive, and recognized Chris Heagele and Pat Glory for all of their assistance.

Mayor Panto and other Council members commended the Administration and Local 447 for their work on the Contract, and for their great working relationship.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution for approving a Lease Agreement with USA Architects for leasing of the 7th floor of One South Third Street.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Brown:

201-2013

Dr. Ruggles asked how the Lease Agreement worked with the selling of the Alpha Building in November to the new owners.

Mayor Panto said that the new owners were involved in this matter and agreed with the agreement.

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

Yeas: Warren, Panto, Brown, Edinger, Ruggles (5)
Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would call upon the United States Congress to pass comprehensive federal immigration reform that keep families together, upholds our democratic values, and promotes economic growth based on fundamental fairness and respect of human rights of people.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Brown

202-2013

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

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
October 23, 2013

Mayor Panto, Mr. Brown, and Mr. Warren spoke regarding this immigration problem.

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

Nays: None (0)

CITIZENS RIGHT TO BE HEARD

Susan Eagle, 124 S. 15th Street, spoke to Council regarding an ongoing problem with a neighbor who is allegedly throwing garbage in her yard, other problems in the neighborhood, and said that she gets no help from the City to address this problem.

Mayor Panto, said that he had personally drove around the neighborhood, explained that if the Police do not actually see the dumping they can not do anything and that it would be a private matter.

Mr. Murphy reiterated that the Magistrate is the way to go on this issue. He said that Codes could be involved, but that the City was very limited on private property matters.

Council members also spoke on this matter.

Mayor Panto said that he would look into the matter and go to Mrs. Eagle's home at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 24, 2013.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p. m. on the motion of Dr. Ruggles and Mr. Warren by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)


Rita Messa, Assistant City Clerk

CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA

Stated Session
Wednesday
October 23, 2013
6:00 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. INVOCATION
3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
4. ROLL CALL
5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
6. ACTION ON MINUTES – October 9, 2013 Special
7. RESOLUTION – Death of Mr. Barry L. Kehler
8. PUBLIC COMMENT – (Agenda Items Only)
9. CONSENT AGENDA
 1. Resolution approving a Certificate of Appropriateness for 72 N. 2nd Street.
 2. Resolution approving a Certificate of Appropriateness for 56 S. 3rd Street.
 3. Resolution approving a Certificate of Appropriateness for 120 S. 6th Street.
 4. Resolution approving a Certificate of Appropriateness for 330 Ferry Street.
 5. Resolution approving a Certificate of Appropriateness for 336 Northampton Street.
 6. Resolution approving a Certificate of Appropriateness for 456 Northampton Street.
 7. Resolution authorizing application for a Traffic Signal Permit.
10. REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL
 - (a) Monthly Fire Report for September 2013.
11. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES
 - (a) Finance (Kenneth Brown)
 - (b) Economic Development (Sandra Vulcano)
 - (c) Planning (Roger Ruggles)
 - (d) Public Safety (Jeffrey Warren)
 - (e) Public Works (Elinor Warner)
 - (f) Administration (James Edinger)
 - (g) Report of City Solicitor (Attorney William Murphy)
 - (h) Report of Mayor (Salvatore J. Panto Jr.)
12. CORRESPONDENCE
 - (a) Robert A. Lammi, requesting donation to the Miracle League of Northampton County.

13. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

14. NEW BUSINESS

(a) Introduction of Legislative Bills.

1. Bill 55, Amending Sub-Section 560-10 B (5) in Chapter 560, Vehicles and Traffic, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa.
2. Bill 56, Amending Chapter 285, Fees, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa.
3. Bill 57, Amending Sections in Chapter 399, Parking permits, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa.
4. Bill 58, Amending Sections in Chapter 560, Vehicles and Traffic of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa.
5. Bill 59, Amending Section 337.02 (a) of Article 337, Earned Income Tax and Net Profit Tax, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa.
6. Bill 60, Amending Section 337-02 (a) of Article 337, Earned Income Tax and Net Profit Tax, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa
7. Bill 61, Amending Section 337-02 (a) of Article 337, Earned Income Tax and Net Profit Tax, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa

(b) Approving the 2014 CDBG Action Plan.(R)

(c) Amending the 2013 Salary and Wage Ordinance.(R)

(d) Approving an Agreement w/RecycleRewards Inc. for recycling rewards program (R)

(e) Approving a Recyclebank Campaign Insertion Order Agreement w/RecycleRewards Inc. (R)

(f) Approving a Five-Year Labor Agreement between the City of Easton, Pa., and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO, Local 447.(R)

(g) Approving a Lease Agreement with USA Architects.(R)

(h) Urging Congress to enact Comprehensive Immigration Reform (R)

15. PUBLIC COMMENT – (Any Matter)

16. ADJOURNMENT