

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
September 23, 2009

Easton, Pa.
Wednesday
September 23, 2009
6:00 P.M.

City Council met in stated session, in Council Chambers, Room 514, 5th floor of City Hall, One South Third Street, to consider any business that may lawfully be brought before the body, and to conduct a Public Hearing on an Appeal to conditions for a Certificate of Appropriateness for 11 North Third Street.

The invocation was given by the Reverend Susan Ruggles, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL

Present: Kenneth Brown
Pamela Panto
Roger Ruggles
Sandra Vulcano
Elinor Warner
Jeffrey Warren
Salvatore J. Panto Jr. (7)

Absent: None (0)

Also in attendance were Thomas Hess, City Clerk, William Murphy, City Solicitor, and Glenn Steckman, City Administrator. There were sixteen other persons present in the audience.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion of Mrs. Vulcano and Mr. Warren, the Agenda was approved by the following vote:

Yeas: Brown, P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, S. Panto (7)

Nays: None (0)

ACTION ON MINUTES

The September 9, 2009 Council meeting minutes were approved, as submitted, on motion of Dr. Warner and Mrs. Panto by the following vote:

Yeas: P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, S. Panto, Brown (7)

Nays: None (0)

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RESOLUTION – Death of Howard G. Hill

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution recognizing the Death of Howard G. Hill, a retired Fire Fighter.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Warren:

175-2009

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

Yeas: Brown, P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, S. Panto, (7)

Nays: None (0)

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION – Ronald Craig

At this time a Certificate of Appreciation was read, recognizing Ronald Craig's 22 years of service to the City at the Wastewater Treatment Plant and on the Highway Department.

Mr. Craig was not in attendance so the City Clerk was directed to forward the Resolution to him.

PUBLIC HEARING

At this time a Public Hearing was held regarding an Appeal on a Historic District Approval, with conditions, of a Certificate of Appropriateness for 11 North Third Street, requested by Kyaysha Weatherington. (See separate minutes).

On motion Mr. Brown and Mr. Warren, the Agenda was amended, by bringing up item (b) under Old Business for a vote at this time, was approved by the following vote:

Yeas: Vulcano, Warner, Warren, S. Panto, Brown, P. Panto, Ruggles (7)

Nays: None (0)

A Resolution to approve a Certificate of Appropriateness for 11 North Third Street, that was tabled on September 9th, was brought back before Council on motion of Mrs. Panto and Mr. Warren, by the following vote:

Yeas: Warner, Warren, S. Panto, Brown, P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano (7)

Nays: None (0)

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The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution that would approve a Certificate of Appropriateness for 11 North Third Street.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Panto:

188-2009

The above Resolution was amended by adding the following words, after the words “attached report” at the end of the first Whereas in the proposed Resolution, “but eliminating the requirement to omit the telephone number of the business from the sign”, on motion of Dr. Warner and Dr. Ruggles by the following vote:

Yeas: Vulcano, Ruggles, P. Panto, Brown, S. Panto, Warren, Warner (7)

Nays: None

The above Resolution, with amendment was adopted on motion of Mrs. Panto and Mr. Warren, by the following vote:

Yeas: Warner, Warren, S. Panto, Brown, P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano (7)

Nays: None (0)

CITIZENS RIGHT TO BE HEARD (Agenda Items Only)

There were no remarks from the audience.

REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL

The following reports were received by Council.

- (a) ESWA August 10, 2009 meeting minutes.
- (b) Easton Fire Department Monthly Report for August 2009.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Brown, Chairperson of the Administrative Committee reported that the Finance Committee had met at 4:30 p.m., related what had been discussed, and reported that the Committee would meet again on October 28th at 4:30 p.m. in Council Chambers.

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

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

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Mr. Warren, Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee spoke regarding legislation that would be before Council later in the meeting.

Council members had a discussion on proposed Bill No. 73, that would authorize the creation of a Five (5) minute parking zone in front of 222 Cattell Street.

Dr. Warner, Chairperson of the Public Works Committee spoke regarding legislation that would be before Council later in the meeting.

Dr. Ruggles, Chairperson for Strategic Planning had no report.

Mr. Murphy, City Solicitor, reported that before the Council meeting, Council had met in Executive Session and had reviewed matters of litigation, discussed the declaratory judgment action which was filed by the City's insurance carrier, which is now pending on appeal to the 3rd Circuit in the Federal Court, and discussed the Sollman Case, also in Federal Court.

Ms. Knickerbocker, Assistant City Solicitor had no report.

Mayor Panto had no report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No. 72, An Ordinance to amend the Code of the City of Easton, Chapter 404 thereof, entitled Parks, to prohibit Golf or the driving of Golf Balls in City Parks, which was tabled on September 9, 2009, was brought back before Council on motion of Dr. Warner and Mr. Warren, by the following vote:

Yeas: P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, S. Panto, Brown (7)

Nays: None (0)

Bill No. 72, (Ordinance 5218) An Ordinance to amend the Code of the City of Easton, Chapter 404 thereof, entitled Parks, to prohibit Golf or the Driving of Golf Balls in City Parks, playgrounds or fields of play was adopted on motion of Dr. Warner and Mr. Warren by the following vote:

Yeas: Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, S. Panto, Brown, P. Panto (7)

Nays: None (0)

Dr. Ruggles suggested the placement of signs prohibiting this activity, at Hacketts Park, because this activity was allowed at the Park for a long time, and people might not know that it was now a prohibited activity.

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Mr. Steckman said that the City would be removing other signs associated with the hitting of Golf Balls from Hacketts Park and that the City would erect the sign(s) prohibiting the action in the park.

Ordinance 5218 prohibits the playing of Golf or the driving of Golf Balls in City Parks, Playgrounds, or fields of play.

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was received by Council:

- (a) Mayor Panto, copy of a letter from the American Hunters & Shooters Associate voicing support for the Mayors against Illegal Guns.

NEW BUSINESS

An undated memorandum, regarding a request to approve a Five Minute Parking Zone was received from Officer Dominick Marraccini.

Bill No. 73, Amending Article III, Traffic Control Map, of Chapter 560, Vehicles and Traffic, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., was tabled on motion of Mr. Warren and Mrs. Panto by the following vote:

Yeas: S. Panto, Warren, Warner, Vulcano, Ruggles, P. Panto, Brown (6)
Nays: None (0)

A September 17, 2009 memorandum, regarding 2009 Budget amendments to Fund 101, was received from Chris Heagele, Director of Finance.

Bill No. 74, Amending Ordinance 5132, Providing Revenues and Appropriating Specific Sums to be required for the purposes of City Government hereinafter set forth during the Fiscal Year 2009, was introduced by Mr. Brown and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would amend the 2009 General Fund Budget by increasing Revenues and Expenditures by \$2,000.

A September 17, 2009 memorandum, regarding 2009 Budget Amendments to Fund 150 and Other Capital Funds, was received from Chris Heagele, Director of Finance.

Bill No. 75, Approving the transfer of funds from the Capital Reserve Fund Budget, the 2004 Water Bond Issue and the 1992 Bond Proceed Account to the 2008 Combined Capital Fund Budget was introduced by Mr. Brown and ordered processed for adoption.

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This Bill would provide for the transfer of funds from the Capital Reserve Fund Budget to the 2004 Water Bond Issue and the 1992 Bond Proceed Account to the 2008 Combined Capital Fund Budget.

A September 15, 2009 memorandum, regarding a request for a Handicapped Parking Sign waiver, was received from Thomas A. Hess, Secretary for the Board of Health.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution that would waive the requirements of Section 560-51 G of the City Code, and allow the placement of a fourth Handicapped Parking Sign on the 200 block of Palmer Street.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Panto:

176-2009

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

Yeas: Warren, S. Panto, Brown, P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner (7)

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution that would approve a Modification of a Cooperation Agreement between the City and the Easton Housing Authority.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Brown

177-2009

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

Yeas: S. Panto, Brown, P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren (7)

Nays: None (0)

A September 16, 2009 memorandum, regarding City Council Agenda Items, was received from David Hopkins, Director of Public Works.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve a Five (5) Year Winter Traffic Service Agreement between the City and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Warner:

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178-2009

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

Yeas: Brown, P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, S. Panto (7)

Nays: None (0)

A September 17, 2009 memorandum, regarding 2009 Minimum Municipal Obligation for the City Managed Pension Plans was received from Chris Heagele, Director of Finance.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution that would recognize the Minimum Municipal Obligations for the City managed pension funds.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Brown:

179-2009

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

Yeas: P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, S. Panto, Brown (7)

Nays: None (0)

A September 17, 2009 memorandum, regarding 2009 Minimum Municipal Obligations for the PMRS managed Easton City Nonuniformed Pension Plan was received from Chris Heagele, Director of Finance.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution that would recognize the Minimum Municipal Obligations for the PMRS managed pension plan.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Brown:

180-2009

The above Resolution was adopted on motion of Mr. Brown and Mrs. Panto:

Yeas: Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, S. Panto, Brown, P. Panto (7)

Nays: None (0)

A September 17, 2009 letter, regarding a request to approve Certificates of Appropriateness was received from Christine Ussler, AIA.

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The next four items on the Agendas were proposed Resolutions approving Certificates of Appropriateness for 134 N. Second, 219 N. Third, 330 Ferry, and 218-220 Northampton Streets.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Panto:

181-2009

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

Yeas: Vulcano, Warner, Warren, S Panto, Brown, P. Panto, Ruggles (7)

Nays: None (0)

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Panto:

182-2009

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

Yeas: Warner, Warren, S. Panto, Brown, P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano, (7)

Nays: None (0)

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Panto:

183-2009

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

Yeas: Warren, S. Panto, Brown, P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner (7)

Nays: None (0)

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Panto:

184-2009

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

Yeas: S. Panto, Brown, P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren (7)

Nays: None (0)

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The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would appoint first alternate and second alternate to the Act 32 Tax Collection Committee.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Brown:

185-2009

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

Yeas: Brown, P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, S. Panto (7)

Nays: None (0)

A September 17, 2009 memorandum, regarding a Pennoni Contract was received from Becky Bradley, Director of Planning and Codes

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve a Contract with Pennoni Associates for alternate engineering and sewer enforcement office services.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Panto:

186-2009

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

Yeas: P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, S. Panto, Brown (7)

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve an appointment to the Easton Parking Authority.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mayor Panto:

187-2009

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

Yeas: Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, S. Panto, Brown, P. Panto (7)

Nays: None (0)

CITIZEN'S RIGHT TO BE HEARD

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Reverend Susan Ruggles, 111 Parsons Street, spoke regarding the idling of Recreational Vehicles, and other large vehicles on Bank and Spruce Street, which makes it very unhealthy for persons working inside the Church office, and asked that no idling signs be erected in those two blocks.

Mayor Panto said that he would speak with Police Lieutenant Sam Lobb regarding this situation to address her concerns.

Rich Hieshetter, 304 W. Monroe Street, spoke, and asked questions, regarding funds needed for a Transportation Facility.

Mayor Panto said that his concerns would be address and that a statement on the Transportation Facility would be forthcoming in the early part of October 2009.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m. on motion of Dr. Warner and Mr. Warren by the following vote:

Yeas: Brown, P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, S. Panto (7)

Nays: None (0)

Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk