

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

Easton, Pa.
Wednesday
September 23, 2009
6:44 P.M.

City Council met in a stated session, at the above hour in Council Chambers, Room 514, Fifth Floor of City Hall, One South Third Street, Easton, Pa. to conduct a Public Hearing on an Appeal to conditions for a Certificate of Appropriateness for 11 North Third Street, requested by Kyaysha Weatherington.

ROLL CALL

Present: Kenneth Brown
Pamela Panto
Roger Ruggles
Elinor Warner
Jeffrey Warren
Sandra Vulcano
Salvatore Panto Jr. (Mayor) (7)
Absent: None (0)

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

PUBLIC HEARING

Appeal to conditions placed on a Certificate of Appropriateness for 11 N. 3rd Street.

At 6:47 p.m., a Public Hearing was held, on request by Kyaysha Weatherington, to appeal the Historic District's conditions; that her phone number be removed from her business sign, placed on a Certificate of Appropriateness for 11 N. 3rd Street.

Mr. Murphy, City Solicitor, opened the hearing and furnished Council with a background on the appeal request, went over paperwork that Council had received regarding this hearing, and went over how the hearing would proceed.

Before the hearing proceeded any further the following persons were sworn in by Jean Genova, Court Reporter:

- Kyaysha Weatherington
- Becky Bradley, Director of Planning and Codes
- Cindy Cawley, Chief Codes Administrator

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- Christine Ussler, Historic District Consultant

Kyaysha Weatherington came forward and presented her side of the case, to be allowed to keep her telephone number on her business sign.

Council members made comments and asked questions regarding how the phone number on the sign would help the business, if her business had increased because the phone number was on the sign, if she knew that she had to appear before the Historic District Commission before she had her sign made up, which were answered by Ms. Weatherington.

There were no other comments or questions by Council.

Christine Ussler, the Historic District Commission's Consultant came forward and explained the recommendation of the Commission's members regarding no phone numbers on signs and that phone numbers should be on the business' windows, and spoke regarding the interpretation of the Historic District Guidelines.

Council members made comments and asked questions regarding the recommendations of the Commission, why some signs were allowed to have Web Site addresses on the sign, and regarding signs being erected without even coming before the Historic Commission, which were answered by Ms. Ussler.

Mayor Panto said that the City and the Commission needed to work harder in the dissemination of information on the guidelines when doing something in the Historic District, in erecting possible signage to indicate that the building or business was in a Historic District.

There was no other testimony from anyone, and no other documents were submitted to Council.

There were no other comments or questions from Council or the audience.

The City Solicitor asked that the City Clerk read into the record the advertisement and notice of the hearing which he did.

Mr. Murphy informed Council that they could deliberate on this matter at this time, in an Executive Session, or may do so out in the public, or may just take a vote as to whether Council would uphold Ms. Weatherington's appeal or to agree with the Commission's recommendation.

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There was a discussion between Council members on what they wished to do at this time.

At this time the meeting Agenda was amended to allow for the voting on the proposed Resolution for approving a Certificate of Appropriateness for 11 North Third Street on at this time rather than later in the meeting on motion of Mr. Brown and Dr. Ruggles by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

On motion of Dr. Warner and Dr. Ruggles the proposed Resolution to approve a Certificate of Appropriateness for 11 North Third Street was amended by removing Condition #3 from the Historic District Commission's recommendation report, by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

The Resolution, to approve the Certificate of Appropriateness with condition three, 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)

At approximately 6:30 p.m. the hearing was closed.

Thomas A. Hess
City Clerk