

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
August 24, 2011

Easton, Pa
Wednesday
August 24, 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, located at One South 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: Fleck, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, Panto (6)
Absent: Brown (1)

Also in attendance were Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk, William Murphy, City Solicitor, Joel Scheer, Assistant City Solicitor and W. Glenn Steckman, City Administrator. There were nine other persons present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion of Dr. Ruggles and Dr. Warner the agenda was approved by the following vote:

Yeas: Panto, Warren, Warner, Vulcano, Ruggles, Fleck (6)
Nays: None (0)

ACTION ON MINUTES

On motion of Dr. Warner and Mr. Warren the August 10, 2011 Council Meeting minutes were approved, as submitted, by the following vote:

Yeas: Fleck, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, Panto, (6)
Nays: None (0)

CITIZENS RIGHT TO BE HEARD (Agenda Items Only)

There were no remarks from the audience.

REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL

The following report was received by Council.

(a) Fire Department Monthly Report for July 2011.

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REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Brown, Chairman of the Finance Committee was absent.

Mrs. Vulcano, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee reported that the Vacant Property Review Board had met, earlier in the evening, and discussed five vacant properties which would be referred to the Planning Commission in September.

Mayor Panto said that the Planning Commission was attempting to schedule two (2) meetings per month to accommodate the increased work load, and said that an amendment would have to be made to the Planning Commission Ordinance to allow the appointment of two alternate members who would be available when a quorum could not be reached for the meeting.

Dr. Ruggles, Chairman of the Planning Committee spoke regarding legislation that would be before Council later in the meeting. He said that he had drafted a proposed Ordinance regarding vacant properties which would be e-mailed to all Council members for their review for any recommendations for revisions. He said that this would be discussed at the next Planning Committee meeting on September 13, 2011. He briefly discussed the proposed Ordinance.

Mr. Warren, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee reported that the Public Safety Committee meeting was canceled on August 23, 2011, but would be held on September 13, 2011 and that the Ordinance that addressed Dogs at Special Events would be discussed at that meeting.

Dr. Warner, Chairman of the Public Works Committee spoke regarding legislation that would be before Council later in the meeting, and said that the Public Works Committee would meet on September 27, 2011.

Mr. Fleck, Chairman of the Administration Committee said that the Summer Nights program had ended, that it was a huge success and thanked everyone involved.

Mr. Murphy, City Solicitor, had no report.

Mr. Scheer, Assistant Solicitor had no report.

Mayor Panto provided an update on the results of the Earthquake tremors, said that the City Hall Building did shake and had enough of a shake to warrant the building being evacuated, said that all City Hall employees, except for department head who stayed, were sent home, and that a structural engineer did a more thorough exam of the building and the building was found to be safe.

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He reported that equipment had arrived, for the City's Movies in the Park Program, and that the program would be held in City neighborhoods for two weekends in September and also in the downtown park, spoke regarding special events in September, spoke regarding orientation of Lafayette College students with the City, gave a brief update on the older Council table and Chambers, and invited Council to a Movies at the Mill press conference on August 26, 2011 at 1:00 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

CORRESPONDENCE

Council received the following correspondence:

- (a) Joan Chelsen, Thank-You letter for Police participation in their annual summer camp.

NEW BUSINESS

An August 17, 2011 memorandum regarding City Council Agenda Items was received from David Hopkins, Director of Public Works.

Bill No. 26, Approving an Amendment to the Easton Area Joint Sewer Authority Pretreatment Program Policy, Rules and Regulations, was introduced by Dr. Warner and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would amend the Industrial Pretreatment Program local limits.

An August 18, 2011 memorandum regarding proposed Budget amendments for Council consideration was received from Chris Heagele, Director of Finance.

Bill No. 27, Amending Ordinance 5291 – 2011 General Fund Budget was introduced by Dr. Ruggles and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would increase Revenues and Expenditures in the 2011 General Fund Budget by \$14,218.20.

Bill No. 28, Amending Ordinance 5290-2011 Recreation Fund Budget, was introduced by Dr. Ruggles and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would increase Revenues and Expenditures by \$10,000 in the 2011 Recreation Fund Budget.

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Bill 29, Providing Revenues and Appropriating Specific Sums to be required, for the 2011 GO Bond Capital Fund Budget, was introduced by Dr. Ruggles and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would provide Revenues and Expenditures in the total amount of \$1,050,000 for the 2011 GO Bond Capital Fund Budget.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve an Agency Agreement between the City and the Easton Parking Authority for properties at 123 and 181 South Third Street.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

111-2011

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

Yeas: Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, Panto, Fleck (6)

Nays: None (0)

An August 15, 2011 memorandum regarding a request for authorization to apply for a Special Occasion Permit for Movies at the Mill was received from Becky Bradley and Gretchen Longenbach, Directors of Planning and Codes and Economic Development.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would authorize the Mayor and Administration to execute and file a Special Occasion Permit Application and any other required paperwork to the PA LCB for the inclusion of alcoholic beverages at the Movies at the Mill event on September 24, 2011.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

112-2011

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

Yeas: Vulcano, Warner, Warren, Panto, Fleck, Ruggles (6)

Nays: None

An August 5, 2011, e-mail regarding an appointment to the Easton Housing Authority Board was received from Mayor Panto.

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The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve the appointment of Clay Mitman to the Easton Housing Authority.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mayor Panto:

113-2011

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

Yeas: Warner, Warren, Panto, Fleck, Ruggles, Vulcano (6)

Nays: None (0)

An August 16, 2011 letter, regarding Certificates of Appropriateness was received from Christine Ussler.

The next four items on the Agenda were proposed Resolutions which would approve Certificates of Appropriateness for the following addresses: 129 N. 3rd, 46 S. 6th, 513 Ferry and 528-530 Ferry Streets.

The following Resolutions were introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

114-2011

115-2011

116-2011

117-2011

There being no objections, all four above Resolutions were adopted on motion Dr. Ruggles and Mrs. Vulcano by the following vote:

Yeas: Warren Panto, Fleck, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner (6)

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda which would authorize the selling of City owned items at an auction.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

118-2011

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

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Yeas: Panto, Fleck, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren (6)

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve an Agreement with Mark Bonstein to conduct an auction of City property.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Warner:

119-2011

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

Yeas: Fleck, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, Panto (6)

Nays: None (0)

CITIZENS RIGHT TO BE HEARD

Jeff Sergeant, a representative from Northeastern ITS, LLC spoke to Council regarding a Fiber Optics Project that was going through the whole state of Pennsylvania, said that his company was currently working with the City Engineer to get approval to install the fiber optics line underneath the state highway where the bridge was located on Bushkill Drive. He said that he wanted to make Council aware of this so that he could see if the process could be speeded up because the location would be where the new retaining wall was being erected and they would like to lay the line before the road is paved. He said that his company was offering to pay a portion of the paving project to be able to put the line in there. He said that they were obtaining a permit from Penn DOT because it would be in a City road but would stay away from the Bridge abutments underneath the by-pass. He explained exactly where they would be doing work and said that his company would give the City \$5,000 so that the road would not have to be opened twice.

Mayor Panto, Becky Bradley, and Mr. Steckman responded to Mr. Sergeant's comments and questions.

Mayor Panto said that the City could not approve the placement of the optics, but that he could expedite the process for Mr. Sergeant. He said that he was not sure that this would need Council approval once the City Engineer approved it.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m. on the motion of Dr. Warner and Mr. Warren by the following vote:

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Yeas: Vulcano, Ruggles, Warren, Panto, Warner, Fleck (6)
Nays: None (0)

Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk