

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
February 24, 2010

Easton, Pa.
Wednesday
February 24, 2010
6:00 P.M.

City Council met in a 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.

The invocation was given by Mr. Brown, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: Kenneth Brown
Michael Fleck
Roger Ruggles
Elinor Warner
Salvatore J. Panto Jr. (6)
Absent: Sandra Vulcano (1)

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 thirty other persons in attendance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion of Mr. Fleck and Mr. Brown the Agenda was amended by adding a new proposed Bill, No. 9 that would amend swimming pool fees for 2010 under new business by the following vote:

Dr. Warner said that because the amendment lowered pool fees she would vote for the amendment but if it had to do with increasing fees she would not vote for the amendment at the last minute because the public would not have an opportunity to comment on the proposed bill.

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

On motion of Dr. Ruggles and Mr. Warren, the amended Agenda was approved by the following vote:

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

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
February 24, 2010

ACTION ON MINUTES

The February 9th Public Hearing and the 11th Regular Council meeting minutes were approved, as submitted, on motion of Dr. Warner and Mr. Fleck by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION

At this time Certificates of Appreciation were read for Jack Jones and Sean Molony for their services to the City and its citizens while members of the Public Works Department and the Police Department.

Retired Officer Molony was called forward and presented with a framed Resolution.

Council members thanked Molony for his services and dedication to the City and its citizens.

Mr. Warren read a short summary of Molony's duties while he served on the Police Department.

Officer Molony thanked Council for the Certificate and said that it had been an honor to serve the City and its citizens.

Mr. Jones was not in attendance. The Assistant City Clerk was directed to forward his Resolution to him.

STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

At this time Mayor Panto gave his state of the City address. (See attachment)

CITIZENS RIGHT TO BE HEARD (Agenda Items Only)

Troy Reynard, 1815 Ironwood Drive, and owner of the Cosmic Cup 520 March Street, spoke regarding proposed Bill No. 7 which would place parking restrictions on streets throughout the City for street cleaning, asked that Council amend the time for cleaning March Street later than what was proposed, and commented on the Mayor's State of the City address.

Dr. Warner spoke regarding amending Bill No. 7 to change the hours on the College Hill Route, not including Cattell Street, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
February 24, 2010

REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL

There were no reports received by Council.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Brown, Chairperson of the Administrative Committee reported that the Finance Committee had met at 4:30 p.m., and related what had been discussed including Pool fees, Business Privilege Taxes, and the Earned Income Tax that is collected by Berkheimer Associates. He asked Mr. Heagele, Finance Director to speak further regarding the Business Privilege Tax, which he did.

Mr. Steckman, City Administrator also spoke regarding a fee that was levied by Berkheimer for late filing of Earned Income Taxes. He reported that the Administration would be coming forward with a report from the Aggregated Pension Fund Board regarding actions taken by the Board.

Mrs. Vulcano, Chairperson of the Economic Development Committee was not in attendance.

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

Mr. Warren, Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee, spoke regarding legislation that would be before Council later in the meeting, and reported that the existing Towing Ordinance would be discussed at the next Public Safety Committee meeting.

Dr. Warner, Chairperson of the Public Works Committee, reported that the next Public Works committee meeting would be held on March 10, 2010 at 4:30 p.m., and related what would be discussed, and spoke regarding legislation that would be before Council later in the meeting.

Dr. Ruggles, Chairperson of the Strategic Planning Committee, had no report.

Mr. Murphy, City Solicitor, had no report.

Mr. Scheer, Assistant City Solicitor reported on the status of a case, involving Adams Outdoor and the request to be allowed to place a Billboard at 102 Bushkill Street before the Zoning Hearing Board for an appeal hearing on March 2, 2010.

Mayor Panto said that the Vice President of Adams Outdoor came to his office and attempted to get the Mayor to intervene on their behalf which he said that he could not do.

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
February 24, 2010

There was a discussion between Council members, Mr. Scheer, Mr. Hopkins, Mr. Scheer, Mr. Steckman and Ms. Bradley, on a Billboard that Adams has at 611 and Nesquehoning Street.

Mayor Panto reported that Council's retreat would be held on Saturday, February 27, 2010 in Scott Hall at Lafayette College. He reminded everyone about the upcoming snow storm and reported that a Snow Emergency would be in affect at 9:00 a.m. on February 25, 2010 and said that the Parking Garage would be opened for all displaced vehicle.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No. 7, Amending Section 560-54, Parking Restrictions for Street Cleaning of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa, was amended in the following manner on motion of Dr. Warner and Mr. Fleck by the following vote:

By changing the posting time for all College Hill Streets, except for Cattell Street, designated for Street Cleaning from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

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

Amended Bill No. 7, (Ordinance 5247), Amending Section 560-54, Parking Restrictions for Street Cleaning of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., was moved on motion of Dr. Warner and Mr. Fleck by the following vote:

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

Ordinance 5247 amends Section 560-54 in its entirety by establishing streets and times for restricted parking for Street Cleaning.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence received by Council.

NEW BUSINESS

Bill No. 8, An Ordinance to amend the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., Chapter 92, thereof, entitled Map, Official City to amend Section 92-1 in its entirety, was introduced by Dr. Warner and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would amend Section 92-1 in its entirety by updating the information and to make a new, the Official Street Map for the City.

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
February 24, 2010

Bill No. 9, Amending Section 285-46 Fees, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., was introduced by Kenneth Brown and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would amend the Swimming Pool Season Pass fees for 2010.

A February 8, 2010 memorandum regarding a Salvor/Tower was received from Chief Palmer.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution that would approve another Tower/Salvor for the City.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Warren:

36-2010

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

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

Nays: None (0)

A February 15, 2010 letter regarding Certificates of Appropriateness was received from Christine Ussler.

The next eight items on the Agenda were proposed Resolutions for approving Certificates of Appropriateness for 16 N. 3rd, 134 N. 3rd, 219-223 N. 3rd, 49 S. 5th, 353 Northampton, 453 Northampton, 501 Northampton, 418 Spring Garden Streets.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Fleck:

37-2010

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

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

Nays: None (0)

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Fleck:

38-2010

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

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
February 24, 2010

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

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Fleck:

39-2010

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

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

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Fleck:

40-2010

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

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

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Fleck:

41-2010

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

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

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Fleck:

42-2010

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

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

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
February 24, 2010

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Fleck:

43-2010

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

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

Nays: None (0)

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Fleck:

44-2010

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

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

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was proposed Resolution which would approve a reappointment to the Planning Commission and an appointment to the Redevelopment Authority.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mayor Panto:

45-2010

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

Yeas: Warner, Warren, Panto, Brown, Fleck, Ruggles

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would amend the 2010 Salary and Wage Resolution.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Warner:

46-2010

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

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
February 24, 2010

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

CITIZEN'S RIGHT TO BE HEARD

Rich Hieshetter, 304 W. Monroe Street spoke regarding a proposed Transportation Facility, condos, and the current Parking Garage.

Mayor Panto asked Mr. Hopkins speak regarding the current Parking Garage, which he did.

Mayor Panto responded to some of Mr. Hieshetter's comments on proposed condos.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m. on motion of Mr. Fleck and Mr. Brown by the following vote:

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

Rita Messa, Assistant City Clerk