

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.

February 24, 2016

Easton, Pa
Wednesday
February 24, 2016
6:20 p.m.

City Council met in stated session at the above date and time, in Council Chambers, located on the third floor of City Hall, 123 S. 3rd Street, Easton Pa., to consider any business that may lawfully be brought before the body and to conduct Public Hearings for 2015 CDBG Program and for the City's Comprehensive Plan, and to receive a presentation on the West Ward Summer Nights Out Program.

The invocation was given by Mayor Panto followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: Edinger, Melan, O'Connell, Ruggles, Vulcano, Panto (6)

Absent: Brown (1)

Also in attendance were Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk, Tony Bassil, City Controller and Joel Scheer, Assistant City Solicitor. There were thirty-eight other persons present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Yeas: Edinger, Melan, O'Connell, Ruggles, Vulcano, Panto (6)

Nays: None (0)

ACTION ON MINUTES

On motion of Mrs. Vulcano and Mr. O'Connell the February 10, 2016 Council Meeting minutes, as submitted, were approved by the following vote:

Yeas: Edinger, Melan, O'Connell, Ruggles, Vulcano, Panto (6)

Nays: None (0)

SWEARING IN OF NEW POLICE OFFICERS

At this time Mayor Panto ceremonially swore in Taylor Magditch and Justin Winters, as the two newest Easton Police Officers. The two men were officially sworn in on January 29, 2016

All Council members welcomed the men to the City and the Police Department, thanked them for their determination and for wanting to be a member of an excellent Department. They also

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
February 24, 2016

thanked the City for their dedication to the Department and wished the men good luck in their careers.

PRESENTATION – EACC, 2015 SUMMER NIGHTS PROGRAM

Right before the meeting an Easton Community Center representative requested that they be rescheduled for the March 9, 2016 Council meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING – 2016 CDBG PROGRAM

At 6:31 p.m., Mayor Panto opened the Public Hearing and turned it over to Mr. O’Connell who read the following statement:

“The purpose of this evening’s hearing is to obtain views and comments from individuals and organizations concerning the City’s goals and objectives for the 2016 Action Plan for the City of Easton.”

“The annual plan identifies the activities that will be undertaken to address priority needs and local objectives. Such activities include support for non-profit public service agencies, economic development activities, the acquisition rehab and resale of homes, street improvements, and security improvements for Easton Area Community Center.”

“On Wednesday, February 17, 2016, the City received notification they will be awarded an entitlement grant of \$796,942 for the CDBG program year which will run January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016.”

“Final approval of the 2016 Annual Action Plan will be made by City Council as early as March 9, 2016.”

Tina Roseberry, Director of Planning, spoke regarding excess CDBG funds from 2014 and 2015 and an increase in the anticipated 2016 funds. She said that a Resolution, for the March 9, 2016 Council meeting, must be created which will state what the excess funds will be used for. She spoke regarding the City’s recommendation regarding what the excess funds would be used for.

Mr. Melan asked if the organizations that had applied for funds were notified that the City was awarded the funds.

Ms. Roseberry said that once the plan was approved by Council, a letter would be sent to all of the applicants informing them of their granted allotment.

Mr. Melan asked if there was a list of the organizations that had applied for funds.

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.

February 24, 2016

Mayor Panto said that there was a list which was presented with their applications, at the first Public Hearing held on October 28, 2015. He said that Mr. Melan and Mr. O'Connell were not on Council at that time and directed Ms. Roseberry to forward a list and a copy of the organizations application to Mr. Melan and Mr. O'Connell.

There were no questions from Council or the audience.

At 6:35 p.m., Mr. O'Connell closed the hearing.

PUBLIC HEARING – CITY OF EASTON COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

At 6:36 p.m., Mayor Panto opened the Public Hearing and turned it over to Mr. O'Connell, who read the following statement.

“The purpose of this evening’s hearing is to obtain views and comments from individuals and organizations concerning the City’s Draft Comprehensive Plan.”

“A presentation was given in January that unveiled the findings and recommendations of the draft plan.”

“The 2035 Comprehensive Plan is a document that governs land use and community programming for the next 20 years. The plan presents many capital projects and programs related to downtown redevelopment, neighborhood revitalization and programming, ordinance review and recommended changes, and strategic planning for neighborhoods, street corridors and parks and recreation.”

“The City has reached out to our neighboring municipalities, Lehigh Valley Planning Commission as well as the Easton Area School District for comments and concerns.”

“After the public comment period requirements are completed, tonight the City will incorporate final recommendations of the Council and public over the next 30 days.”

Tina Roseberry, Director of Planning, presented a Power Point presentation which included the Plan Overview, Vision and Framework of the Plan, Priority Projects and the next steps to be taken. She requested that Council members further review the proposed plan and that she would attend one of the Council Committee meetings in March to discuss their possible recommendations.

Scott Slingerland, 1517 Spring Garden Street, Director of the Coalition for Appropriate Transportation and a League of America Bicyclists Cycling Instructor spoke to Council regarding his organization’s work to support smart bicycling, pedestrian access, trails and transit overlaps significantly with the proposed plan.

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.

February 24, 2016

Kurt Ehly, 305 W. Monroe Street, spoke regarding the lack of emphasizing on economic development within the plan.

Mayor Panto said that most of what Mr. Ehly was concerned with was contained in the Zoning Code, which would be worked on after the passage or acceptance of the Comprehensive Plan, and asked Mr. Ehly to put his concerns and recommendations in writing to be presented to the Planning Department and Council.

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

At 6:57 p.m., Mr. O'Connell closed the hearing.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Agenda Items Only

Linda Coughlin, PO Box, 4616, Warren, New Jersey, spoke to Council regarding her request, to the Historic District Commission for installation of a door on property that she owns at 525 Northampton Street, the actions taken by the Commission and regarding their recommendations on what must be done.

Council members asked questions and made comments regarding Ms. Coughlin's concerns and said that the proposed Resolution for the installation of a door at 525 Northampton Street would be amended later in the meeting, which would allow her to locate the door on either the left or right side of the entrance.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Panto requested that the Resolution regarding approval of a Certificate of Appropriateness for 525 Northampton Street be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed as the last item under New Business.

On motion of Mrs. Vulcano and Mr. Edinger, the following items were adopted by the following vote:

Bill 5, (Ordinance 5539), Approving a Lease Agreement between the City of Easton Pa., and Joseph Herbert. This Bill approved a Lease Agreement for the leasing of the property at 393 Island Park Road.

Bill 6, (Ordinance 5540), Approving a Five (5) Year Lease Agreement between the City of Easton, Pa. and Fisher Golkin Group, LLC. This Bill approved a five year Lease Agreement for the leasing of Suite 4 at 123 S. Third Street.

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
February 24, 2016

Bill 7, (Ordinance 5541), Approving a Five (5) Year Lease Agreement between the City of Easton, Pa. and F & G Insurance Agency, LLC. This Bill approved a five year Lease Agreement for the leasing of Suite 5 at 123 S. Third Street.

Resolution 32-2016, which approved an Independent Contractor Agreement with Joseph Herbert for the maintaining of the property located at 393 Island Park Road.

Resolutions 33-16 and, 34-16 which approved Certificates of Appropriateness for 137-139 Northampton Street, and 456 Northampton Street for the installing of gooseneck lighting and the installation of a sign.

Yeas: Vulcano, Panto, Edinger, Melan, O'Connell, Ruggles (6)

Nays: None (0)

REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL

There were no reports received by Council:

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

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

Mrs. Vulcano, Chairperson of the Economic Development Committee reported that the West Ward Neighborhood Partnership Roundtable meeting was held on February 16, 2016 at the Easton Home, which was attended by several business representatives, Police Personnel and Code Personnel. She said that they would be moving forward with the pocket guide of West Ward Restaurant listings of which the printing is being donated by Nick Alfero. She reported that the 2016 Peace Candle lighting ceremony had been discussed at the February 23, 2016 Council Committee meeting which was well attended. She said that a decision would be made sometime in March as to the night the ceremony would be held. She thanked Easton Main Street and its volunteers for their presentation and for their efforts to the event on 2015.

Mr. O'Connell, Chairperson of the Planning and Code Committee had no report.

Mr. Melan, Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee had no report.

Dr. Ruggles, Chairperson of the Public Works Committee had no report.

Mr. Edinger, Chairperson of the Administration Committee had no report.

Mr. Scheer, Assistant City Solicitor, reported that before the meeting Council held an Executive Session and that Personnel matters, a Real Estate matter and a legal suit had been discussed.

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.

February 24, 2016

Mayor Panto said that he would be forming a committee to review the Historic District Commission Ordinance and asked Mr. O'Connell to chair the committee, and also said that Tina Roseberry, Director of Planning would be a member. He commended Director Hopkins for working on the Street Lighting Agreement with Met Ed for LED lighting. This will be a pilot program on Lehigh Street and will save the City a large amount of money on the Electric Bills for street lighting, and spoke regarding the application for a grant with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission for construction activities in the Canal at Hugh Moore Park.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence received by Council:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no Unfinished Business.

NEW BUSINESS

Bill 8, An Ordinance vacating Church Street from North Sixth Street to Hester Street and repealing Ordinances inconsistent herewith, was introduced by Dr. Ruggles and ordered processed for adoption.

A memorandum, dated February 17, 2016, regarding 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 Street Lighting Agreement with the Metropolitan Edison Company.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

35-2016

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

Yeas: O'Connell, Ruggles, Vulcano, Panto, Edinger, Melan (6)

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would authorize the application for a Pennsylvania Historical and Museums Commission grant in the amount of \$100,000 for construction activities in the Canal at Hugh Moore Park.

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
February 24, 2016

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

36-2016

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

Yeas: Ruggles, Vulcano, Panto, Edinger, Melan, O'Connell (6)

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve Job Descriptions for the Assistant City Engineer and the City Forester.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

37-2016

Mr. Melan said that he did not agree with the salary for the Assistant City Engineer's position as it was in the Salary and Wage Resolution.

There was a discussion between Council members and Mr. Hopkins regarding the needed qualifications of the person to fill the position and why the City felt that the salary was commensurate with the position.

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

Yeas: Vulcano, Panto, Edinger, Melan, O'Connell, Ruggles (6)

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve a Certificate of Appropriateness for the repair or installation of new front doors at 525 Northampton Street.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. O'Connell:

37-2016

On motion of Mrs. Vulcano and Mr. O'Connell the above Resolution was amended by adding the following at end of the paragraph that began with NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; "as amended in Paragraph 3 of the Historic District Report to allow for the respective doors to be located on either the right or left.", by the following vote:

Yeas: Edinger, Panto, Vulcano, Ruggles, O'Connell, Melan (6)

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.

February 24, 2016

Nays: None (0)

The above amended Resolution was adopted on motion of Mr. O'Connell and Mrs. Vulcano by the following vote:

Yeas: Melan, O'Connell, Ruggles, Vulcano, Panto, Edinger (6)

Nays: None (0)

PUBLIC COMMENT

(On any item)

Kurt Ehly, 305 W. Monroe Street, said that he was happy to hear that the Mayor was going to appoint a committee to evaluate the Ordinance and asked that some direction be provided so that the Codes Department and the Historic District Commission are forced to operate off of the same page, and explained what he meant.

Mayor Panto spoke to Mr. Ehly's concerns.

Mayor Panto asked a young man, that was in attendance to identify himself and give his reason for attending the meeting.

John Zamanik, 202 W. Wayne Avenue, said that he was in attendance for his Boy Scout program and found the meeting to be very interesting.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m., on motion of Mrs. Vulcano and Dr. Ruggles by the following vote:

Yeas: Melan, O'Connell, Ruggles, Vulcano, Panto, Edinger (6)

Nays: None (0)


Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk



CITY OF EASTON

PENNSYLVANIA

February 19, 2016

MEETING NOTICE

The meeting of Easton City Council has been scheduled for Wednesday, February 24, 2016, for general business and to conduct Public Hearings for 2016 CDBG Program and for the City's Comprehensive Plan, and to received a presentation on the West Ward Summer Nights Out Program.

The meeting will be held in Council Chambers, located on the 3rd Floor of City Hall, 123 S. 3rd Street, Easton, Pa. and will begin at 6:00 p.m.

All meetings of City Council are open to the Public and are accessible to persons with disabilities.


Thomas A. Hess
City Clerk

CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA

Stated Session
Wednesday
February 24, 2016
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 – February 10, 2016 Council Meeting Minutes
7. SWEARING IN OF NEW POLICE OFFICERS
8. PRESENTATION – EACC, 2015 Summer Nights Program
9. PUBLIC HEARING – 2016 CDBG Program
10. PUBLIC HEARING – City of Easton Comprehensive Plan
11. PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda Items Only)
12. CONSENT AGENDA
 - a. Bill 5, Approving a Lease Agreement with Joseph Herbert.
 - b. Bill 6, Approving a Five Year Lease Agreement with the Fisher Golkin Group, LLC.
 - c. Bill 7, Approving a Five Year Lease Agreement with F & G Insurance Agency, LLC.
 - d. Resolution approving an Independent Contractor Agreement with Joseph Herbert.
 - e. Resolution approving a Certificate of Appropriateness for 137-139 Northampton St.
 - f. Resolution approving a Certificate of Appropriateness for 456 Northampton St.
 - g. Resolution approving a Certificate of Appropriateness for 525 Northampton St.
13. REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL
14. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES
 - (a) Finance (Kenneth Brown)
 - (b) Economic Development (Sandra Vulcano)
 - (c) Planning and Code (David O’Connell)
 - (d) Public Safety (Peter Melan)
 - (e) Public Works (Roger Ruggles)
 - (f) Administration (James Edinger)
 - (g) Report of City Solicitor (Attorney William Murphy)
 - (h) Report of Mayor (Salvatore J. Panto Jr.)

-Over-

15. CORRESPONDENCE
16. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
17. NEW BUSINESS
 - (a) Introduction of Legislative Bills
 1. Bill 8, Vacating Church Street from North Sixth Street to Hester Street.
 - (b) Resolution approving a Street Lighting Agreement.
 - (c) Resolution authorizing an application for a Pa. Historical and Museums Commission Grant.
 - (d) Resolution approving Job Descriptions.
18. PUBLIC COMMENT – (Any Matter)
19. ADJOURNMENT