

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
July 24, 2013

Easton, Pa
Wednesday
July 24, 2013
6:00 p.m.

City Council met in stated session at the above date and time, in Council Chambers, 6th floor of City Hall, One South Third Street, to consider any business that may lawfully be brought before the body, and to conduct the first Public Hearing regarding the 2013 Community Development Block Grant program.

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

ROLL CALL

Present: Brown, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warren, Panto (5)
Absent: Warner (1)

Also in attendance were Rita Messa, Assistant, City Clerk, William Murphy, City Solicitor, Joel Scheer, Assistant City Solicitor and Glen Steckman, City Administrator. There were twenty-five other persons present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion of Mr. Warren and Mr. Brown the Agenda was amended by adding the election of a new Council member, under New Business, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Mr. Fleck, by the following vote:

Yeas: Brown, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warren, Panto (5)
Nays: None (0)

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

Yeas: Panto, Warren, Vulcano, Ruggles, Brown (5)
Nays: None (0)

ACTION ON MINUTES

On motion of Dr. Ruggles and Mrs. Vulcano, the July 10, 2013 Council Meeting minutes were approved as submitted by the following vote:

Yeas: Brown, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warren, Panto (5)
Nays: None (0)

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PUBLIC COMMENT – (Agenda Items Only)

There were no questions or comments from the audience.

PRESENTATION

Members of the Mayor's Summer Youth Camp

The following persons', members of the Mayor's Summer Youth Camp, spoke to Council regarding their time at the camp, different places and City facilities, that they had toured including the Wastewater Treatment Plan and the Police Station, and spoke regarding their concerns with the under utilization of Hugh Moore Park, the need for a grocery store in the City, a curfew for the youth in the City, and allowing for the raising of chickens in the City

Asia Morton, 12th Grade, Easton Area High School
Sam Borick, 9th Grade, Nazareth High School
Michael Weiss, 9th Grade, Nazareth High School
Daniel Ramut, 9th Grade, Easton Area High School

All Council members spoke regarding the children's opinions, views, and recommendations, thanked them for taking part in the camp and for becoming more involved in government, and thanked their family for allowing them to participate in the camp.

Mayor Panto spoke regarding Heil Pool, which is managed by the Family YMCA of Phillipsburg and Easton Area, and informed Council that last week, a father and son were rescued from almost drowning by the on duty staff and said that he would be presenting the following staff members, at the pool, with framed commendations for their actions:

Quay Matyus, Rebecca Folks, Dan Pignatelli, George Boyer, Rachel Evanowski, Madison Cade, Quinn Laberteaux, and Brianna Cosgrove.

Kirk Raup, 818 W. Union Blvd. Bethlehem, Pa., spoke to Council regarding a draft Resolution for the creation of a Rail Service Authority to pursue passenger railway service to the Lehigh Valley. He said that Allentown and Bethlehem cities have shown their support for this initiative and asked the City of Easton for their support, by adopting the proposed Resolution in the near future.

Mayor Panto said that he intended to introduce the proposed Resolution at the August 28, 2013 Council meeting, supporting the establishment of an authority.

Mr. Warren said that he would support the Resolution when it came before Council.

PUBLIC HEARING

2013 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

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At 6:30 p.m. Mayor Panto opened the first Public Hearing for the 2013 Community Development Block Grant Program and turned the Hearing over to Mrs. Vulcano, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee.

Mrs. Vulcano read the following:

“The purpose of this evening’s hearing is to evaluate the performance of the 2012 CDBG program, assess the community’s needs for 2013 and to review the HUD criteria used to determine project fundability and eligibility under national standards”.

“Citizen input on the CDBG program is encouraged and any questions which may be raised by the Public or City Council will be addressed”.

Mrs. Vulcano said that Mayor Panto would report on the 2012 CDBG expenditures, which he did.

Mrs. Vulcano said that Council would now hear from the different organizations that were requesting funding for their organizations.

Mayor Panto went over the following City requests:

1. \$44,000 Police Services
2. \$16,450 Weed & Seed Summer Nights program
3. \$141,000 Program Administration
4. \$92,200 108 Loan Repayment – Neston Heights
5. \$40,000 Technical Assistance
6. \$50,000 Disposition – property maintenance and sale
7. \$50,000 Rehabilitation
8. \$20,000 Loan Capital
9. \$100,000 Public Facilities – Road Reconstruction
10. \$50,000 Public Facilities – Playground
11. \$15,000 Public Facilities – Jacob Nicholas House
12. \$175,000 Rehab & Preservation – Code Enforcement
13. \$33,000 Public Facility – exhaust ventilation systems – Fire

There were no questions or comments regarding the City’s requests.

Mrs. Vulcano asked for the different organizations that were requesting funds, to make their presentations.

1. Lehigh Valley Center for Independent Living - no one was in attendance, they are requesting \$25,000 for services for the disabled including housing location and skills training.

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2. ProJeCt of Easton - no one was in attendance, they are requesting \$15,730 for their Student Success program: School based prevention and intervention program.
3. Family Connections – Caroline Zerva, Executive Director of the organization went over their request for \$3,500 for in home educational assistance for pre-school students and parents.

Dr. Ruggles asked if her organization has tracked the progress of the children that have taken part in the program once they are in the public school system.

Ms. Zerva said that she would get that information for Council.

Dr. Ruggles asked for the geographical area of their program.

Ms. Zerva said that they will take children from anywhere in the City but predominantly from the West Ward, and also from other designated areas that qualify for CDBG funds.

Mr. Brown spoke regarding the student's parents taking part in the program, and the past success of the program.

4. Easton Area Community Center – no one was in attendance, they are requesting \$4,500 for building repairs.

There were no other organization presentations.

Mayor Panto spoke regarding Federal and State funding cuts for programs such as this.

Karen Parrish, the City's representative from Mullin and Lonergan, and Mayor Panto, spoke regarding the expected funding for this program which was expected to be much lower than last year.

There was a discussion between Council members, Ms. Parrish and Mr. Steckman regarding Federal and State cuts for different community programs and regarding the amount the City should expect to receive for this program.

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

Mrs. Vulcano read the following:

“This evening's hearing was intended to review the 2012 CDBG performance and assess community needs for 2014 as required by HUD”.

“On October 9, 2013, a second required Public Hearing will be conducted to review the Plan”.

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“On October 23, 2013, at the regular Council meeting, a Resolution to adopt the Consolidated Plan for fiscal year 2014 will be introduced”.

“On or before November 15, 2013, the CDBG application will be made to HUD”.

Mrs. Vulcano closed the hearing at 6:58 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

On motion of Mrs. Vulcano and Mr. Warren the following items on the Consent Agenda were adopted by the following vote:

1. Bill 39, (Ordinance 5422), Amending the 2013 General Fund Budget which would increase Revenues and Expenditures by \$63,000.
2. Bill 41, (Ordinance 5424) Deleting Sub-Section 399-21 B, of Section 399-21, Violations and penalties, of Chapter 399, Parking Permits, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa. which deletes Sub-section 399-21 in its entirety.
3. Bill 42, (Ordinance 5425) Amending Chapter 285, Fees, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., which amends the fee schedule to change the sections for the cost of immobilizing a vehicle.
4. Resolutions 129 through 134-2013, which approved Certificates of Appropriateness for 41 N. 3rd, 37-43 N. 4th, 100-102 N. 4th, 22 N. 6th, 129 Northampton and 135 Northampton Streets.
5. Resolution 135- 2013, which approved a Grant Award.
6. Resolution 136-2013, which approved a Consulting Agreement with Carter Van Dyke Associates.
7. Resolution 137-2013, which approved an Agreement with Code Master Inspection Services Inc.
6. Resolution 138-2013, which approved a Stipulation of Counsel for the Grand Eastonian.

Yeas: Brown, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warren, Panto (5)

Nays: None (0)

REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL

The following report was received by Council.

(a) Monthly Weed and Seed Report for June 2013.

Mayor Panto accepted the above report on behalf of Council.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

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Mr. Brown, Chairman of the Finance Committee reported that a Finance Committee meeting had been held on July 23, 2013, said that Chris Heagele, Finance Director, presented Council with a 2nd quarter budget report, and said that the IT Supervisor would give an update report at the August 27, 2013 meeting.

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

Dr. Ruggles, Chairman of the Planning Committee, said that an open discussion on Chickens, within the City, would be discussed at the Nurture Nature Center on August 8, 2013, and then after that discussion he would like the matter to be taken to Council committee for further discussion at the August 27, 2013 Council committee meetings.

Mrs. Vulcano asked for an update on the hiring of a person to replace the former Planning Director Becky Bradley.

Mr. Steckman said that for the time being he was taking on those duties, said that the job description had been reviewed and updated, and the opening would be advertised in the newspapers, professional journals, and through other medias. He also spoke regarding the enforcement of the Rental Licensing program.

Mr. Warren, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, reported that a Public Safety Committee had been held on July 23, 2013 and said that Ice Cream Truck music was discussed and said that Bill 40 had been removed from the Consent Agenda because of an amendment that had to be made to the Bill.

Mr. Warren said that today there were five (5) marriage licenses issued to same sex couples, in Montgomery County, and it was his hope that Northampton County would follow in the future.

Dr. Warner, Chairman of the Public Works Committee was not in attendance, because of work obligations.

There was no Administration Committee report because of the lack of a Chairman.

Mr. Murphy, City Solicitor, and Mr. Scheer, Assistant City Solicitor, had no report.

Mayor Panto gave an update on the new City Hall project.

Mr. Steckman reported that the City was expecting over \$90,000 in daily garage passes because of the Crayola Experience

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Mayor Panto spoke on the Agreement with Carter Van Dyke for the design of new park improvements at Hugh Moore Park for the 2014 season, said that the City had received a Grant award for the Heil park expansion next year, spoke regarding the Hispanic Cultural Festival on Saturday, July 27, 2013, said that the City had sold 208 Palmer Street, will close on 940 Ferry Street, which will be the City's next rehabilitation project, said that construction would begin, next week, on 118 & 120 Northampton Street, and spoke regarding a grant that was needed to allow the construction phase to begin on the Silk Mill Project.

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was received by Council:

(a) Mark Malkames, letter regarding a proposed lease between Pa. Median, LLC and the City.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill 40, Amending Sections in Chapter 560, Vehicles and Traffic, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., was amended in the following manner on motion of Mr. Warren and Dr. Ruggles by the following vote:

“By further deleting the word “and” in the third line of Section 1, the words “or whose owner is delinquent in payment of fines and penalties” in line five of Section 1, by inserting the words “Vehicles not released within the seven (7) business days will be towed to a storage facility of the City’s choice and will accrue towing and storage charges in addition to any other fines, costs and penalties”, at the end of Section 2.

Yeas: Panto, Brown, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warren (5)

Nays: None (0)

Amended Bill 40, (Ordinance 5423), Amending Sections in Chapter 560, Vehicles and Traffic, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., was adopted on motion of Mr. Warren and Mr. Ruggles by the following vote:

Yeas: Ruggles, Vulcano, Warren, Panto, Brown (5)

Nays: None (0)

Ordinance 5423 amended Sections in Chapter 560, Vehicles and Traffic, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa. pertaining to immobilized vehicles.

NEW BUSINESS

ELECTION OF PERSON TO FILL VACANCY ON CITY COUNCIL

The following persons submitted letters of request to be appointed to fill the District Three position on City Council:

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1. Mr. James Edinger – 1112 Lehigh Street.
2. Mr. Stephen K. White – 933 Ferry Street.

Mr. Warren nominated Mr. James Edinger to fill the vacant District Three seat on City Council.

Mayor Panto asked if there was any further nominations,

There were no further nominations.

Mr. Warren said that Council had two qualified candidates who gave very good input on why they were interested in filling the vacancy on Council and felt that Mr. Edinger's long service that he has provided the City, would really be an asset for the next few months and said that was why he nominated Mr. Edinger.

Mr. Brown said that both persons were very passionate regarding the City, but said that he felt that Mr. Edinger had more knowledge regarding the City.

Mrs. Vulcano said that this would be a very difficult decision for her, because she knew both persons, had sat on different boards with them and said that she would support Mr. Edinger.

Dr. Ruggles said that he felt, during the interviews of the candidates, both were very eloquent and displayed a lot of passion for the City, and felt that it was great when you had two quality persons, but then the problem was that only one could be chosen. He said that he would support the nomination of Mr. Edinger.

Mayor Panto said that he did not know how Council felt regarding the two candidates until this time; except that Mr. Warren confided in him, at last night's Council Committee meeting, that he would be nominating Mr. Edinger. He said that he also served on boards with the two candidates, that Mr. White was a dedicated West Ward resident and felt that he would be an asset to the City in some other form in the West Ward. He said that he felt that Mr. Edinger brought forth a wealth of experience and knowledge as serving as the Chairman of the Administration Committee, if elected to the Council vacancy.

The nominations were closed on motion of Mrs. Vulcano and Mr. Brown by the following vote:

Yeas: Brown, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warren, Panto (5)
Nays: None (0)

Mr. Jams Edinger, 1112 Lehigh Street was elected to fill the vacant District III Seat, created by the resignation of Mr. Michael Fleck, by the following vote:

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Yeas: Panto, Warren, Vulcano, Ruggles, Brown (5)
Nays: None (0)

James Edinger, 1112 Lehigh Street, thanked Council for their support and looked forward to serving on Council.

Mr. Ruggles related his experience when he also was appointed to Council to fill a vacancy.

Mayor Panto recognized Pamela Panto, a former member of City Council, who was in attendance.

CITIZENS RIGHT TO BE HEARD

Dr. Bonnie Winfield, 5 N. 9th Street, spoke to Council regarding programs that Lafayette College has been operating on N. 2nd Street.

Mayor Panto said that the City appreciated the class rooms on N. 2nd Street, and said that at the August 14, 2013 Council meeting he would provide a letter of support from Council for her programs.

Council members spoke regarding the service to the Community that Lafayette College and its students provide.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p. m. on the motion of Dr. Ruggles and Mr. Warren by the following vote:

Yeas: Panto, Warren, Vulcano, Ruggles, Brown (5)
Nays: None (0)


Rita Messa, Assistant City Clerk

CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA

Stated Session
Wednesday
July 24, 2013
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 – July 10, 2013 Council meeting minutes
7. PUBLIC COMMENT – (Agenda Items Only)
8. PRESENTATION – Mayor’s Summer Youths Camp
9. PUBLIC HEARING – 2014 Community Development Block Grant Program
10. CONSENT AGENDA
 1. Bill 39, Amending the 2013 General Fund Budget.
 2. Bill 41, Deleting Sub-Section 399-21 B., of Section 399.21, violations and penalties, of Chapter 399, Parking Permits, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa.
 3. Bill 42, Amending Chapter 285, Fees, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa.
 4. Resolution Approving a Certificate of Appropriateness for 41 N. 3rd Street.
 5. Resolution Approving a Certificate of Appropriateness for 37-43 N. 4th Street.
 6. Resolution Approving a Certificate of Appropriateness for 100-102 N. 4th Street.
 7. Resolution Approving a Certificate of Appropriateness for 22 N. 6th Street.
 8. Resolution Approving a Certificate of Appropriateness for 129 Northampton Street.
 9. Resolution Approving a Certificate of Appropriateness for 135 Northampton Street.
 10. Resolution Accepting a Grant Award.
 11. Resolution Approving a Consulting Agreement with Carter Van Dyke Associates.
 12. Resolution Approving an Agreement with Code Master Inspection Services Inc.
 13. Resolution approving a Stipulation of Counsel.
11. REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL
 - (a) Monthly Weed and Seed Report for June 2013.
12. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

-Over-

- (a) Finance (Kenneth Brown)
- (b) Economic Development (Sandra Vulcano)
- (c) Planning (Roger Ruggles)
- (d) Public Safety (Jeffrey Warren)
- (e) Public Works (Elinor Warner)
- (f) Administration
- (g) Report of City Solicitor (Attorney William Murphy)
- (h) Report of Mayor (Salvatore J. Panto Jr.)

13. CORRESPONDENCE

- (a) Mark Malkames, letter regarding a proposed lease between Pa. Media, LLC and the City.
- (b) Matt Capkovic, e-mail regarding support for the Lehigh Dam Removal.

14. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- (a) Action on Legislative Bills.
 - 1. Bill No. 40 Amending Sections in Chapter 560, Vehicles and Traffic, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa.

15. NEW BUSINESS

16. PUBLIC COMMENT – (Any Matter)

16. ADJOURNMENT