

**Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.**  
**June 24, 2009**

Easton, Pa.  
Wednesday  
June 24, 2009  
6:00 P.M.

City Council met in stated session, in Council Chambers, Room 519, Fifth Floor, 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  
Pamela Panto  
Roger Ruggles  
Sandra Vulcano  
Elinor Warner  
Jeffrey Warren (6)

Absent: Salvatore J. Panto Jr. (1)

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

On motion of Mrs. Vulcano and Dr. Ruggles the Agenda was approved by the following vote:

Yeas: Brown, P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren (6)

Nays: None (0)

**ACTION ON MINUTES**

The June 10, 2009 Council meeting and Public Hearing minutes were approved as submitted on motion of Dr. Warner and Mr. Warren by the following vote:

Yeas: Warren, Warner, Vulcano, Ruggles, Brown P. Panto (6)

Nays: None (0)

**CITIZENS RIGHT TO BE HEARD (Agenda Items Only)**

There were no remarks from the audience.

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**REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL**

The following report was received by Council.

- (a) Fire Department Monthly report for May 2009.

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

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

Mrs. Vulcano, Chairperson of the Economic Development Committee spoke regarding legislation that would be before Council later in the meeting,

Dr. Warner asked questions regarding the proposed Resolution regarding a substantial amendment to the City's Action Plan for its 2008 CDBG Program, which were answered by Gretchen Lippincott, David Hopkins and Glenn Steckman.

Mrs. Panto, Chairperson of the Planning Committee spoke regarding legislation that would be before Council later in the meeting, and reported that a stakeholders meeting would be held on July 2, 2009 regarding a proposed Newsrack ordinance.

Mr. Warren, Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee, spoke regarding legislation that would be before Council later in the meeting.

Dr. Warner, Chairperson of the Public Works Committee spoke regarding legislation that would be before Council later in the meeting. She reported that the Public Works Committee meeting would be held on July 8, 2009 at 4:30 p.m. in Council Chambers.

Dr. Ruggles, Chairperson for Strategic Planning had no report.

Ms. Knickerbocker, Assistant City Solicitor had no report.

Mayor Panto was not in attendance. Mr. Steckman reported that the Mayor was attending the Pennsylvania League of Cities and Municipalities annual convention, on Monday he would be in Harrisburg to assist in lobbying for Bill 1682, and Mr. Steckman summarized the Bill. He gave names of persons, forwarded by the Mayor for consideration for appointments and to reappointments to Authorities, Boards and Commissions, reported that there would be a Public Hearing regarding the Riverfront Project following the July 8, 2009 Council meeting, reported that there would be a courtesy presentation, of the project, on July 13, 2009 to the Historic District Commission, that the plans for the Project would be before the Planning Commission on July 15, 2009, and before the Zoning Hearing Board on July 20, 2009. He said that the Mayor was requesting an Executive Session before the July 8, 2009 Council meeting, at 5:30 p.m. for an update on litigation. He also reported that the Mayor would like, with the approval of Council, to

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rent the Store Front property at 3<sup>rd</sup> and Pine for \$1,200 per month, to the Main Street Initiative, and Mr. Steckman explained why. He also reported that the City would be purchasing a Smart Car and reported on other things that the City was doing or would be doing to conserve energy. He reported that the City would be obtaining cash back Credit Cards for senior management and explained why the City would be using the cards. He said that the Mayor would contact individual Council members to speak with them regarding the Library issue created by the Easton Area School District.

Council members made comments and asked questions regarding the Credit Card matter which were answered by Mr. Steckman and Mr. Heagele.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Bill No. 64, (Ordinance 5210, an Ordinance to amend the Code of the City of Easton, Chapter 595, thereof, entitled Zoning, was adopted on motion of Mrs. Vulcano and Mr. Warren by the following vote:

Yeas: Brown, P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren (6)

Nays: None (0)

Ordinance 5210 approves amendments to sections, 595-36 D, 595-51, 595-52, 595-117 A, 595-172, 595-205, 595-247 B, 595 Attachment 14, and 595 Attachment 1 of the Zoning Codes.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

The following correspondence was received by Council:

- (a) Terrance Hand, e-mail regarding the Administration's action in response to a bed bug incident at the South Side Fire House
- (b) Chief John B. Bast, copy of a letter to Terrance Hand, regarding the City's actions in response to a bed bug incident at the South Side Fire House.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Introduction of Legislative Bills:

A June 17, 2009 memorandum, regarding a request for a Budget Amendment, was received from Police Chief Lawrence R. Palmer.

Bill No. 65, Amending Ordinance 5132, Providing Revenues and Appropriating Specific Sums to be required for the purposes of City Government hereinafter set forth during the Fiscal Year 2009 was introduced by Mr. Brown and ordered processed for adoption.

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This Ordinance would approve amending the General Fund Budget by increasing Revenues and Expenditures by \$23,000.

Bill No. 66, Amending the Code of the City of Easton, Chapter 114, thereof, entitled Personnel, was introduced by Mr. Brown and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would create a new Article VI, entitled Funeral Benefits in the Codes of the City of Easton.

A June 11, 2009 memorandum, regarding City Council Agenda Items, was received from David Hopkins, Director of Public Works.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution that would amend the 2009 Salary and Wage Resolution to reflect the removal of funding for one (1) Driver I/Laborer in the Labor Pool at a salary of \$19.78/hr. and to add funding for one (1) additional maintenance mechanic in the Bureau of Property Maintenance at a salary of \$18.78/hr.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Warner:

108-2009

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

Yeas: P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, Brown (6)

Nays: None (0)

The next two items on the Agenda were proposed Resolutions which would approve Agreements with the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor Inc, for planning and implementation of the Urban Forestry Program Phase III, and for implementation of the Sullivan Park Wetland Enhancements.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Warner:

109-2009

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

Yeas: Ruggles, Vulcano Warner, Warren, Brown, P. Panto (6)

Nays: None (0)

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Warner:

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110-2009

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

Yeas: Vulcano Warner, Warren, Brown, P. Panto, Ruggles, (6)

Nays: None (0)

A June 12, 2009 memorandum, regarding a request for a Handicapped Parking Sign Waiver was received from Thomas A. Hess, Secretary to the Health Board.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution that would waive the requirements of Section 560-51 G and hereby approve the placement of a third handicapped sign on the 100 block of Rock Street.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Panto:

111-2009

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

Yeas: E Warner, Warren, Brown, P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano (6)

Nays: None (0)

A June 16, 2009 letter, regarding Certificates of Appropriateness, was received from Christine Ussler.

The next two items on Agenda were proposed Resolutions to approve Certificates of Appropriateness for 32 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> and 63 N. Sitgreaves Streets.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Panto:

112-2009

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

Yeas: Warren, Brown, P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner (6)

Nays: None (0)

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Panto

113-2009

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

Yeas: Brown, P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren (6)  
Nays: None (0)

A June 15, 2009 memorandum, regarding an engineering services proposal for the Bushkill Street Bridge Rehabilitation Project, was received from Joseph Mauro, City Engineer.

The next item on the Agenda was a Resolution that would approve an Agreement for Professional Services with McTish, Kunkel & Associates, for engineering services for the Bushkill Bridge Rehabilitation Project.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Warner:

114-2009

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

Yeas: P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, Brown (6)  
Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would authorize the selling of City Property by auction.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Brown:

115-2009

Dr. Warner asked why the City was going to sell property by an Auction and the Police Department was going to sell property on line with PropertyRoom.com, Inc.

Mr. Steckman and Mr. Heagele explained why.

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

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

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The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Brown:

116-2009

Dr. Ruggles made a comment on the wording in the contract.

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

Yeas: Vulcano, Warner, Warren, Brown, P. Panto, Ruggles (6)

Nays: None (0)

A June 8, 2009 memorandum, regarding a DUI Grant, was received from Police Chief Lawrence Palmer.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution that would authorize the Police Department to apply for a Penn DOT grant for a Sobriety Checkpoint and Expanded DUI Enforcement Program.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Warren:

117-2009

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

Yeas: Warner, Warren, Brown, P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano (6)

Nays: None (0)

A June 17, 2009 e-mail, regarding a CDBG-R Resolution to amend the Substantial Amendment to the 2008 Action Plan, was received from Gretchen Lippincott, Director of Economic Development.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution that would approve submission of an amended substantial amendment to the 2008 CDBG Action Plan.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Vulcano:

118-2009

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

Yeas: Warren, Brown, P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner (6)

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Nays: None (0)

A June 17, 2009 memorandum, regarding a Contract for PropertyRoom.com was received from Police Chief Lawrence Palmer.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve an agreement with PropertyRoom.com for the selling of Police property.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Warren:

119-2009

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

Yeas: Brown, P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren (6)

Nays: None (0)

A June 17, 2009 memorandum, regarding an amendment to a RACP ME #3990422 contract was received from Becky Bradley, Director of Planning and Codes.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would authorize the City to submit a letter to the Pa. Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program to amend RACP #ME 300

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Panto:

120-2009

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

Yeas: P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, Brown (6)

Nays: None (0)

**CITIZEN'S RIGHT TO BE HEARD**

Noel Jones, 805 Ferry Street, spoke regarding the Street Sweeping Program and her concerns regarding the purchase of another Street Sweeper.

Ms. Lippincott and Mr. Hopkins responded to her comments and questions.

William Marley, 64 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, spoke regarding the upcoming Riverside Arts Festival and the need to clean up the Poet's Garden on the riverbank.

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David Hopkins responded to Mr. Marley's comments and questions, and stated that the Poet's Garden would be cleaned.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:04 p.m. on motion of Dr. Warner and Mr. Warren by the following vote:

Yeas: Brown, P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren (6)

Nays: None (0)

Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk