

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

**March 24, 2010**

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

City Council met in 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 Mayor Panto, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **ROLL CALL**

Present: Kenneth Brown  
Michael Fleck  
Roger Ruggles  
Sandra Vulcano  
Elinor Warner  
Jeffrey Warren  
Salvatore J. Panto Jr. (7)

Absent: None (0)

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

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

Yeas: Brown, Fleck, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, Panto (7)

Nays: None (0)

## **ACTION ON MINUTES**

The March 9, 2010 Public Hearing and the March 10, 2010 City Council meeting minutes were approved, as submitted, on motion of Dr. Warner and Dr. Ruggles, by the following vote:

Yeas: Fleck, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, Panto, Brown (7)

Nays: None (0)

**Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.**  
**March 24, 2010**

**SWEARING IN OF PROBATIONARY POLICE OFFICERS**

At this time Mayor Panto swore in Probationary Police Officers, Jamie Luise and Jose Colon.

All Council members spoke regarding the Police Department and thanked the new officers for their dedication to Law Enforcement and for coming to Easton.

**CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION**

At this time Certificates of Appreciation were read for Mr. Thomas Montoro and Mr. Thomas Pinkerton two retired City Workers.

Mr. Pinkerton was called forward and presented with a framed Certificate.

All Council members spoke regarding Mr. Pinkerton's and Mr. Montoro's service to the City and its citizens.

Mr. Montoro was unable to attend the meeting; the City Clerk was directed to forward his Resolution to him.

Diane Reynolds, 100 N. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, an employee of the Codes Department, and a US Army retiree, on behalf of the Employers Support of the Guard and Reserve, read and presented Becky Bradley, Director of Codes and Planning, with the National Committee for Employers Support of the Guard and Reserve Award which recognized Becky as a patriotic employer for contributing to National Security and protecting liberty and freedom by supporting employee participation and American's National Guard and Reserve Force.

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

There were no comments

**REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL**

There were no reports received by Council:

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

Mr. Brown, Chairperson of the Administrative Committee spoke regarding legislation that would be before Council later in the meeting, regarding the Finance Committee meeting that was held before the meeting and related what was discussed. He reported that the next Committee meeting would be held on Tuesday, April 13, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.

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

### **March 24, 2010**

Mr. Brown said that Dr. Warner had attended a youth committee meeting last week at the Youth Center at 1101 Northampton Street and spoke regarding a skate park. He said that during the fourth period at the Easton Area High School the students were putting together a petition to bring forward to Council.

Mr. Brown read the following:

“First let me start out by saying I apologize for not being able to attend this skate park summit because, I will be out of town and not be able to get back on time.”

“As a community the time has come to find a way to meet the needs of the youths. My thought is that we should include other municipalities like West Easton, Wilson, Palmer and Forks townships. To come together to see if there are other resources and to also exchange ideas from each of our municipalities. Together, I think that we will be able to come to a common solution that will meet the needs of the youth and our communities. Today, I put out a call to our neighboring communities to answer the call for our youth.”

“Each of our municipalities are facing the same thing; What to do with the growing interest with skate parks?”

“The Easton City Council Public Works Committee has met and discussed this issue and look forward to one day having a community wide skate park.”

“When my older children were younger there were more children playing in the playgrounds, but as we all know, the youth of today are looking at other interests, skate park being one”

“In closing I look forward to our next skate park summit.”

Mayor Panto announced that a meeting would be held tomorrow; March 25, 2010 at 3:30 p.m. in the 6<sup>th</sup> floor Conference Room to discuss the most recent death of the young man killed by a bus, and thanked Dr. Warner for her work towards a skate park.

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

Dr. Ruggles, 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, said that before the Council meeting he was at the Teen Center, 1101 Northampton Street, and had attended a Public Safety forum which was well attended. He said that the Police and Fire Department did a great job informing the youth regarding safety measures. He also thanked Dr. Warner for her work on a skate park.

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

### **March 24, 2010**

Mr. Warren explained that he had withdrawn proposed Bill 12 from the Agenda and said that it would be discussed at the next committee meeting on April 13, 2010, spoke regarding this Bill and most recent news articles that appeared in the morning newspaper on this Bill, and reported that the Public Safety Committee would meet at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 13, 2010 in Council Chambers.

Council members made statements regarding Compensation/Benefits for Part Time Elected Officials.

Dr. Warner, Chairperson of the Public Works Committee, spoke regarding Legislation that would be before Council later in the meeting.

Mr. Fleck asked for an explanation on the proposed Resolution regarding the Waiver and Subordination Agreement with Lafayette Bank for Hugh Moore Park.

Mayor Panto and Attorneys Murphy and Scheer explained the Resolution and the need for the Resolution.

Mr. Fleck, Chairperson of the Administration Committee, reported that the next Administrative Committee meeting would meet on April 13, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers and related what would be discussed. Mr. Fleck also spoke regarding updating of City Codes.

Mr. Murphy, City Solicitor had no report.

Mr. Scheer, Assistant City Solicitor had no report.

Mayor Panto spoke regarding a signage and sign pole issue for the new Street Sweeping Program and the program itself, reported that the City received approval for the Penn Vest grant for the Easton Suburban Water Authority who will be doing the entire water main project throughout the City.

Dr. Ruggles said that during his walks throughout the City he had observed a lot of surveying being done by the Water Authority which the City should have access to for their benefit in the future.

Mayor Panto said that a Public Presentation of the New Jersey Transit Study would be held on April 19, 2010 at the Hotel Bethlehem at 5:30 p.m., and also reported that the Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission would meet on Monday, March 29, 2010 and related what should be discussed, related that a Non-Profit and Community Services Fair was held earlier in the day at Lafayette College, was well attended and related what also was being offered by the College to students interested in working with Community Groups, spoke regarding the Snyder and Bushkill Streets updates, and regarding the Centre Square Fountain improvements.

**Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.**  
**March 24, 2010**

Mayor Panto handed out the Council Committee assignments.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Bill No. 10, (Ordinance 5250), Amending Section 554-11, Approval street tree species list for the City of Easton, of Chapter 554, Trees, Shade, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., was adopted on motion of Dr. Ruggles and Mr. Fleck by the following vote:

Yeas: Brown, Fleck, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, Panto (7)

Nays: None (0)

Ordinance 5250 replaces the existing Street Tree Species List in its entirety.

Bill 11, (Ordinance 5251), Amending Section 520, Attachment 1, Appendix B, Plant Materials List, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., was adopted on motion of Mr. Ruggles and Mr. Warren by the following vote:

Yeas: Fleck, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, Panto, Brown (7)

Nays: None (0)

Ordinance 5251 amends the Attachment in its entirety.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

The following correspondence was received by Council.

- (a) James M. Roth, thank you letter regarding the submission of Condolence Books to the Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum.

**NEW BUSINESS**

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would nullify Resolution 232-2009

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

51-2010

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

Yeas: Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, Panto, Brown, Fleck (7)

Nays: None (0)

**Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.**  
**March 24, 2010**

A March 9, 2010 memorandum, regarding an amendment to RACP ME #300-422 was received from Becky Bradley, Director of Planning and Codes.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution that would amend RACP ME #300-422.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

52-2010

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

Yeas: Vulcano, Warner, Warren, Panto, Brown, Fleck, Ruggles, (7)

Nays: None (0)

A March 16, 2010 letter, regarding Certificates of Appropriateness was received from Christine Ussler, AIA.

The next eight items on the Agenda were Resolutions which would approve Certificates of Appropriateness for 32, 124, and 248 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, 37 N. Bank, 600 Ferry, 342 Northampton, 12 S. Sitgreaves and 415 Spring Garden Streets.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

53-2010

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

Yeas: Warner, Warren, Panto, Brown, Fleck, Ruggles, Vulcano (7)

Nays: None (0)

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

54-2010

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

Yeas: Warren, Panto, Brown, Fleck, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner (7)

Nays: None (0)

**Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.**  
**March 24, 2010**

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

55-2010

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

Yeas: Panto, Brown, Fleck, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren (7)

Nays: None (0)

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

56-2010

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

Yeas: Brown, Fleck, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, Panto (7)

Nays: None (0)

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

57-2010

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

Yeas: Fleck, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, Panto, Brown (7)

Nays: None (0)

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

58-2010

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

Yeas: Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, Panto, Brown, Fleck (7)

Nays: None (0)

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

59-2010

**Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.**  
**March 24, 2010**

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

Yeas: Vulcano, Warner, Warren, Panto, Brown, Fleck, Ruggles (7)  
Nays: None (0)

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

60-2010

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

Yeas: Warner, Warren, Panto, Brown, Fleck, Ruggles (7)  
Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve a smoothing method to determine the actuarial value of assets for the City's Pension Plans.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Brown:

61-2010

On motion of Mr. Brown and Mr. Fleck the above Resolution was amended by adding the City of Easton Consolidated Firefighters' Pension Plan, by adding 130% to the words asset smoothing method, and by eliminating the words and 2012 in the last paragraph, by the following vote:

Yeas: Warner, Vulcano, Ruggles, Fleck, Brown, Panto, Warren (7)  
Nays: None (0)

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

Yeas: Warren, Panto, Brown, Fleck, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner (7)  
Nays: None (0)

A March 16, 2010 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 which would approve a Penn DOT Reimbursement Agreement.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Warner

**Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.**  
**March 24, 2010**

62-2010

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

Yeas: Panto, Brown, Fleck, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren (7)

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve a Penn DOT PCTI Reimbursement Agreement.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Warner:

63-2010

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

Yeas: Brown, Fleck, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, Panto (7)

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve an Access and Easement Agreement between the City, the Easton Housing Authority and the Township of Palmer.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

64-2010

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

Yeas: Fleck, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, Panto, Brown (7)

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve a Five-Year Office Building Lease Agreement between the City and SHCS, LLC.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Brown:

65-2010

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

**Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.**  
**March 24, 2010**

Yeas: Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, Panto, Brown, Fleck (7)  
Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution that would approve a Waiver and Subordination Agreement with Lafayette Ambassador Bank.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mayor Panto:

66-2010

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

Yeas: Vulcano, Warner, Warren, Panto, Brown, Fleck, Ruggles (7)  
Nays: None (0)

**CITIZEN'S RIGHT TO BE HEARD**

Stuart Wolbach, 673 Northampton Street, spoke regarding bicycle safety and operation.

Mayor Panto responded to Mr. Wolbach's comments and invited him to take part in City bicycle functions.

Richard Hieshetter, 304 W. Monroe Street, spoke regarding pension and health benefits for Part-time elected officials, the proposed bus depot location, funding for Skate Parks, and Tiger Grants.

Mayor Panto and Ms. Bradley responded to Mr. Hieshetter's comments.

Mr. Brown and Mayor Panto spoke regarding the Census forms that have been sent out to the citizens and the benefits for the community if they are filled out and sent in.

Becky Bradley spoke regarding the Comprehensive Plan update and persons that are working throughout the City updating information for this plan, and the location of the proposed Bus Depot.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. on motion of Mr. Warren and Dr. Warner by the following vote:

Yeas: Brown, Fleck, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, Panto (7)  
Nays: None (0)

Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk