

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
September 24, 2012

Easton, Pa
Monday
September 24, 2012
6:00 p.m.

City Council met in stated session at the above date and time, at St. Pauls Lutheran Church 604 W., Berwick 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: Brown, Fleck, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warren, Panto (6)
Absent: Warner (1)

Also in attendance were Thomas Hess, City Clerk, William Murphy, City Solicitor, Joel Scheer, Assistant City Solicitor and Glenn Steckman, City Administrator. There were fifteen other people present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

ACTION ON MINUTES

On motion of Dr. Ruggles and Mrs. Vulcano the September 12, 2012 Council Meeting minutes were approved as submitted, by the following vote:

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

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

At this time the City Clerk read a Certificate of Appreciation to be given to James R. Reilly for his years of service to the City as an employee of the Sewer Department and as a Police Officer.

Lt. Reilly could not attend the meeting and asked that the Certificate be sent to him.

Mayor Panto spoke regarding Mr. Reilly's service to the City and its citizens.

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RESOLUTION

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which recognized the death of James A. Dolan Sr. a former City Employee.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mayor Panto:

133-2012

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

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

Nays: None (0)

All Council persons spoke regarding Mr. Dolan and his service to the city the community, his military service and his family.

Mr. Dolan's son was presented with a framed Resolution.

CITIZENS RIGHT TO BE HEARD

There were no comments or questions from the audience.

REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL

There were no reports received by Council:

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Brown, Chairman of the Finance Committee spoke regarding legislation that he would have for later in the meeting regarding Minimum Municipal Obligations for the Police, Fire, and Officers and Employees City managed Pensions and for the PMRS managed Pension Plan, and regarding adopting a reduced amortization for the Police, Fire and Officers and Employees City managed pension plans. He said that he had a great weekend attending the Special Events throughout the City.

Mrs. Vulcano, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee spoke regarding the attendance at the Riverside Festival of the Arts, spoke regarding legislation she would have for later in the meeting regarding approving an Agreement of Sale for 202 Palmer Street, and regarding the approving of a Cooperative Agreement between the City and the Redevelopment Authority to assist in financing of the 2nd phase of rehabilitation of the Pomeroy building.

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Mrs. Vulcano said that she had attended a Vacant Property Review Committee meeting and said that seven more properties had been certified as blighted, and four other properties have been sent to Code to begin the process.

Dr. Ruggles, Chairman of the Planning Committee, reported that a Planning Committee meeting would be held on October 23, 2012 and that a proposed Vacant and Nuisance property Ordinance would be discussed, and spoke regarding legislation that he would have for later in the meeting regarding approving four Certificates of Appropriateness.

Mr. Warren, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, spoke regarding legislation that he would have for later in the meeting regarding approving an Intermunicipal Agreement between Northampton County, the City of Bethlehem and the City of Easton regarding a 2012 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant, and for approving a Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Fraternal Order of Police, Washington Lodge #17. He reported that the Public Safety Committee would meet on October 9, 2012, and that the possibility of implementing multiple motorcycle and scooter parking, in one space, and the possible implementing of a Lazy Double Parking Ordinance would be discussed.

Dr. Warner, Chairman of the Public Works Committee was absent.

Mr. Fleck, Chairman of the Administration Committee, said that Becky Bradley was in attendance and could answer any questions that Council members had regarding the counting of prisoners and college students for the census. Ms. Bradley handed out a memorandum entitled Redistricting Special Cases – Northampton County Prison and Lafayette College and briefly went over the information in the memorandum.

Mr. Fleck said that he felt that Council would not have to amend the Council Districts, and said that he would be withdrawing proposed Bill 39 later in the meeting.

There was a discussion on this matter and the issue of redistricting Council districts.

Mr. Fleck asked Mr. Steckman to give Council a short presentation on the reform of the PMRS Pension Plan, which he and Mr. Heagele did.

Jason Frenchko, 600 Pardee Street, and a representative of AFSCME Local 447, spoke regarding the excess pension interest in 2005 and 2006 which was kept by the City.

Mr. Steckman, and Mr. Heagele responded to Mr. Frenchko's comments, and said that it was Council's decision on how to split excess interest between the City and the Pension Plan members or not to split it and give it all to the members or to the City.

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There was a short discussion on this matter between Council members, Mr. Steckman and Mr. Heagele.

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

Mayor Panto spoke regarding blighted properties and what movement had been made on those properties, spoke regarding the recent Police raids and the help that they have received from Citizens and City employees with information on different properties and activities at those properties, spoke regarding the 3rd Street reconstruction project, spoke regarding the three special events held over the weekend, spoke regarding the holding of Town meetings in October throughout the City, and asked that at the October 9th Public Safety meeting the need for scaffolding and dumpster legislation be discussed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill 38, (Ordinance 5375), Approving an Agreement of Sale between the City of Easton and the Redevelopment Authority of Easton, was adopted on motion of Mrs. Vulcano and Mr. Fleck by the following vote:

Mayor Panto spoke regarding the history of the Restlawn properties on Palmer Street.

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

Nays: None (0)

Ordinance 5375 approves an Agreement of Sale for 202 Palmer Street.

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was received by Council:

(a) Jay Kronfeld, Thank-You Letter regarding the Police and Fire Department's assistance in the annual Sports for Health Camp.

NEW BUSINESS

Bill No. 39, Amending Section C-6-02, Council Districts and Adjustment of Districts of the Home Rule Charter was withdrawn by Mr. Fleck.

A September 20, 2012 memorandum, regarding the update to the PMRS Pension Compliance was received from Glenn Steckman, City Administrator.

Bill No. 40, an Ordinance of Easton City, Northampton County Commonwealth of

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Pennsylvania, electing to amend its Municipal Pension Plan administered by the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System pursuant to Article IV of the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement Law; agreeing to be bound by all provisions of the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement law as amended and as applicable to member municipalities, was introduced by Mr. Brown and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would amend the City's Municipal Pension Plan administered by PMRS.

A September 10, 2012, letter regarding Certificates of Appropriateness was received from Christine Ussler, AIA.

The next four items on the Agenda were proposed Resolutions which would approve Certificates of Appropriateness for 60 N. 2nd, 30 Centre Square, 60 Centre Square and 217 Spring Garden Street.

The following four Resolutions were introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

134-2012
135-2012
136-2012
137-2012

Being no objections all of the above Resolutions were adopted on motion of Dr. Ruggles and Mr. Fleck by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

A May 14, 2012 memorandum regarding a 2012 Justice Administrative Grant was received from Police Chief Carl J. Scalzo.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve an Intermunicipal Agreement between the County of Northampton, the City of Bethlehem and the City of Easton for a 2012 JAG grant in the amount of \$13,562.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Warren

138-2012

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

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

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Nays: None (0)

A September 14, 2012 e-mail, regarding a Pomeroy Phase II grant –to-loan cooperation agreement was received from Gretchen Longenbach, Director of Economic Development.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve a Cooperation Agreement between the City and the Redevelopment Authority for financing the 2nd phase of rehabilitation of the Pomeroy Building located at 323 Pine Street.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Vulcano:

139-2012

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

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

Nays: None (0)

Two September 20, 2012, memorandums regarding 2013 PMRS and 2013 Aggregated Pension Funds MMOs, were received Chris Heagele, Director of Finance.

The next two items on the Agenda were proposed Resolutions which would recognize the Minimum Municipal Obligations for the PMRS and Aggregated Pension Plans.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Brown:

140-2012

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

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

Nays: None (0)

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Brown:

141-2012

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

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

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Nays: None (0)

The next three items on the Agenda were three proposed Resolutions which would approve reduced amortizations for the 2013 MMO's for the Fire, Police, and the O&E Pension Plans.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Brown:

142-2012

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

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

Nays: None (0)

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Brown:

143-2012

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

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

Nays: None (0)

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Brown:

144-2012

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

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

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve a three (3) year Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Fraternal Order of Police, Washington Lodge #17.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Warren:

145-2012

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There was a discussion on this matter between Council, Mr. Steckman and Mr. Heagele regarding wording in one of the Exhibits.

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

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

Nays: None (0)

CITIZENS RIGHT TO BE HEARD

Mayor Panto asked a Boy Scout, who was in attendance to introduce himself.

Jacob Schaar, 373 W. Berwick Street said that he was in attendance because he was working on a merit badge, and asked what MMOs were and what amortization was.

Mayor Panto explained what they were.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m. on the motion of Mr. Fleck and Mrs. Vulcano by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)


Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk

CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA

Stated Session
Monday
September 24, 2012
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 – September 12, 2012 Council meeting minutes.
7. CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION – Lt. James R. Reilly
8. RESOLUTION – Recognizing the death of James A. Dolan Sr.
9. CITIZENS RIGHT TO BE HEARD – (Agenda Items Only)
10. REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL
11. ACCEPTING REPORTS ON BEHALF OF COUNCIL.
12. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES
 - (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 (Michael Fleck)
 - (g) Report of City Solicitor (Attorney William Murphy)
 - (h) Report of Mayor (Salvatore J. Panto Jr.)
13. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
 - (a) Action on Legislative Bills.
 1. Bill No. 38. Approving an Agreement of Sale for 202 Palmer Street.
14. CORRESPONDENCE
 - (a) Jay Kronfeld, Thank-you Letter regarding Fire Fighters and Police volunteers at the Sports for Health Camp.

15.

NEW BUSINESS

(a) Introduction of Legislative Bills

1. Bill No. 39, Amending Section C-6.02, Council Districts and Adjustment of Districts of the Home Rule Charter.
2. Bill No. 40, Electing to amend its Municipal Pension Plan administered by the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System.

- (b) Approving a Certificate of Appropriateness for 60 N. 2nd Street.(R)
- (c) Approving a Certificate of Appropriateness for 30 Centre Square.(R)
- (d) Approving a Certificate of Appropriateness for 60 Centre Square.(R)
- (e) Approving a Certificate of Appropriateness for 217 Spring Garden St.(R)
- (f) Approving an Inter-municipal Agreement with Bethlehem & Northampton County (R)
- (g) Approving a Cooperative Agreement with the Redevelopment Authority.(R)
- (h) Approving MMO's for 2013 for PMRS Pension Plan (R)
- (i) Approving MMO's for 2013 for Fire, O & E, and Police Pension Plans (R)
- (j) Approving a reduced amortization for the 2013 MMO – Fire Pension (R)
- (k) Approving a reduced amortization for the 2013 MMO - Police Pension (R)
- (l) Approving a reduced amortization for the 2013 MMO – O & E Pension (R)
- (m) Approving a Collective Bargaining Agreement with Washington Lodge #17, Fraternal Order of Police.

16. **CITIZENS RIGHT TO BE HEARD - On any matter.**

17. **ADJOURNMENT**