

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
February 25, 2015

Easton, Pa
Wednesday
February 25, 2015
6:10 p.m.

City Council met in stated session at the above date and time, in Council Chambers, located on the 6th 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: Brown, Edinger, Mauro, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner (Phone), Panto (7)
Absent: None (0)

Also in attendance were Rita Messa, Assistant City Clerk, William Murphy, City Solicitor, and Glenn Steckman, City Administrator. There were eighteen other persons present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Yeas: Brown, Edinger, Mauro, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Panto (7)
Nays: None (0)

ACTION ON MINUTES

On motion of Dr. Ruggles and Ms. Mauro the February 11, 2015 Council Meeting minutes, as submitted, were approved by the following vote:

Yeas: Edinger, Mauro, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Panto, Brown (7)
Nays: None (0)

RESOLUTIONS

The next items on the Agenda were two proposed Resolutions, recognizing the deaths of Vincent F. Ramunni, a former Police Lieutenant and Robert J. Sostorecz, a former Fire Captain.

The following Resolution was introduced by Ms. Mauro:

24-2015

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

Yeas: Edinger, Mauro, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Panto, Brown (7)

Nays: None (0)

Council members spoke of Mr. Ramunni's service to the City and extended their sympathies to his family.

Mr. Ramunni's daughter was presented with a framed Resolution.

Maria Ramunni thanked Council for honoring her father, and said that he was very proud to serve on the Police Department.

The following Resolution was introduced by Ms. Mauro:

25-2015

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

Yeas: Mauro, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Panto, Brown, Edinger (7)

Nays: None (0)

Council members spoke of Mr. Sostorecz's service to the City and extended their sympathies to his family.

Mr. Sostorecz's bother was presented with a framed Resolution, and thanked Council for the honor bestowed on his brother and thanked the current Fire Fighters for their outstanding service at the funeral.

PUBLIC COMMENT
(Agenda Items Only)

There were no comments from the audience.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

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Bill No. 4, (Ordinance 5485) Clarifying the implementation of Ordinance 5478, Amending Article VIII, Earned Income and Net Profits of Chapter 535, Taxation, of the Code of the City of Easton to provide for an increase in Earned Income Tax for the purposes of funding the City of Easton pension plans in accordance with Act 205, which added the words “as may be amended” and “if applicable” throughout sections contained in Chapter 535.

Resolution 26-2015, which approved a Certificate of Appropriateness for installation of windows, doors and light fixtures at 60 Centre Square.

Resolution 27-2015, which approved a Certificate of Appropriateness for vinyl signs on the storefront window at 349 Ferry Street.

Resolution 28-2015, which approved a Certificate of Appropriateness for installation of new storefront system and door, tile and ceiling at 1 Lehn’s Court.

Resolution 29-2015, which approved a Certificate of Appropriateness for replacement of windows, repair masonry, installation of new door, gate and light fixtures at 428 Northampton Street.

Resolution 30-2015, which approved a Certificate of Appropriateness for installation of signs and lighting at 436 Northampton Street.

Resolution 31-2015, which requested that the Pa. Historic Museum Commission adopt regulations permitting Counties and Municipalities to use digital media to retain permanent records.

Resolution 32-2015, which authorized the destruction of Miscellaneous Council files predated from 2000.

Resolution 33-2015, which authorized the destruction of Finance and Human Resources records.

Yeas: Panto, Brown, Edinger, Mauro, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner (7)

Nays: None (0)

REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL

The following reports were received by Council.

- (a) Easton Are Joint Sewer Authority, September, October and November 2014 meeting minutes.

Mayor Panto accepted the above reports on behalf of Council.

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REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Brown, Chairman of the Finance Committee, spoke regarding legislation, which he would have for later in the meeting, regarding making amendments to the 2015 Non-Union and Management Full Time Employees Benefits for the year 2015.

Mrs. Vulcano, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee, reported that another round table meeting for West Ward Business owners was held and forming sub-committees was discussed.

Dr. Warner, Chairman of the Planning Committee had no report

Ms. Mauro, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, spoke regarding legislation, which she would have for later in the meeting, regarding amending sections in Chapter 560, Vehicles and Traffic of the City Code, and for approving a Three Year Agreement between the City and the Washington Lodge #17, Fraternal Order of Police.

Dr. Ruggles, Chairman of the Public Works Committee, spoke regarding legislation, which he would have for later in the meeting, regarding approving a Management Agreement with the Family YMCA of Easton, Phillipsburg and Vicinity, for approving a Proposal for LEED®-CS Fundamental and Enhanced Commissioning submitted by The Stone House Group.

Mr. Edinger, Chairman of the Administration Committee spoke regarding legislation, which he would have for later in the meeting, regarding giving Council's approval for the hiring a temporary employee for the Finance Department, and reported that a meeting would be forthcoming, after the meeting, with Mr. Murphy regarding the Charter review committee.

Mr. Murphy, City Solicitor, reported that before the meeting, Council had met in Executive Session and had discussed a personnel matter.

Mayor Panto reported that, at the March 11, 2015 Council meeting, he would present the State of the City address as well as the introduction of the preliminary 2016 City budget.

Mayor Panto said that both positions for the Director of Planning and Chief Codes Administration were opened and unfilled. He said that a review was made of both positions and he could not understand why the Planning and Codes Department were placed together under one Director. He explained the difference between the departments, and said that the Administration would like to propose that the City would enhance the Code Department into its own department with its own Director, who would be the Director of Permitting, Inspection and Enforcement. He said that he believed that the Department Director would attend the Cabinet meetings, and would have a lot more focus on where the City needed to be for Code enforcement, and building review. He said that the person being considered to fill this position

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had all of the certifications that they would need, the need for third party plan reviews would be limited and greatly reduced, and would also bring a number of other qualifications, to the City.

He said that the City also had a candidate for the position of Human Resource Manager, and said that this individual would be offered somewhat more, in salary, than what the Salary and Wage Resolution allowed for that position. He said that this person is certified in Human Resources, has worked in the private sector, for a number of years, and has his Masters' Degree in Public Administration with a concentration in Human Resources. He said that there are two really good candidates and although they would not be starting at the salary of today's Director, but would be asking for some leniency in the salary level that would be presented to these candidates.

Mayor Panto said that the above positions had been vacant for a long time, the work has been become backed up, more money is being spent on third party plan reviews and inspections, among other things.

Mayor Panto said that the City had to take another direction in the Codes Department. He said that Codes has been very busy with inspections and permits because of the aging housing stock and resurgence. He said he felt that the candidate could bring real leadership to the Department, and then the Director of Planning could concentrate on planning and on updating the City's Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Steckman said that the salary that was being proposed for the Human Resource Manager is \$81,000, and for the Codes Director it would be \$87,000.

Mayor Panto said that they felt the money for both of the positions would save the City at least \$70,000 to \$80,000 just on third party plan reviews, and hoped that Council would give the Administration the leniency with the salary issue.

Council members made comments and asked questions regarding, the differential in salaries, where the candidates lived, how many employees were in the Code Department, how the number of third party inspections would be decreased, asked for the existing salary structure and the proposed salary structure, an organizational chart for both the Codes and the Planning Departments, and updated job descriptions.

Mayor Panto and Mr. Steckman addressed Council's questions and concerns, and said that they were looking to get a consensus from Council, tonight, so that they could offer the letters for employment at the proposed salaries.

He said that the Salary and Wage Structure is set by Resolution and that an amendment could be voted upon at the March 11, 2015 Council meeting, and to change the Structure of the Codes and Planning Department it would have to be done by an Ordinance.

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After having their questions and comments addressed, it was the consensus of Council to go ahead and offer the positions at the recommended salaries.

Mr. Steckman reported that the City Administration and different City Departments have met with a total of approximately 170 City landlords in January and February, and will meet with more on April 11, 2015, about issues in the City that have occurred, provided them with a list of the top ten violations for rental properties, provided information on when rental property fees are due, will provide additional information for them on the City's web site, spoke about police issues, etc. He said that this has been with an open dialogue with the landlords.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no Correspondence.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

Bill 5, Amending Sections in Chapter 560, Vehicles and Traffic of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa. was introduced by Ms. Mauro and ordered processed for adoption.

Dr. Ruggles asked that in Section 1 the word "business" be placed before the word days, in line 9.

This Bill would amend different sections contained in Chapter 560.

Bill 6, Amending and adding sub-sections to Section 595, Zoning of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., was introduced by Dr. Warner and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would amend wording in Section 594-234 A that would address the membership of the Zoning Hearing Board, add two alternate members to the Board, and add Section 595-234 C to the Chapter which addresses when an alternate member may vote on an item in front of the Hearing Board.

Mayor Panto informed Council that he intended to seek Council's approval for the appointment of Rabbi Stein to the Zoning Hearing Board at the March 11, 2015 Council meeting.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would amend the 2015 Non-Union and Management Full Time Employees Benefits by reducing the amount of Healthcare Co-Share from \$45.00 per pay period to \$40 per pay period for single coverage and from \$100

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per pay period to \$85.00 per pay period for non-single coverage and to keep the existing scale for the City Administrator of \$45.00 per pay period for single coverage and \$100 per pay period for non-single coverage.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Brown:

34-2015

Ms. Mauro said that she would be abstaining from voting on this proposed Resolution because it affected a family member.

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

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

Nays: None (0)

Abstain: Mauro (1)

(Note: Dr. Warner had muted her phone so was not able to vote on the above Resolution)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would amend a Federal Aid Reimbursement Agreement.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Warner:

35-2015

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

Yeas: Mauro, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Panto, Brown, Edinger (7)

Nays: None (0)

A memorandum dated February 18, 2013, 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 Management Agreement with the YMCA of Easton, Phillipsburg and Vicinity for the management of the City's Swimming Pools for the 2015 summer season.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

36-2015

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

Yeas: Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Panto, Brown, Edinger, Mauro (7)

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve a proposal for LEEDS®-CS Fundamental and Enhanced `Commissioning submitted by The Stone House Group.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

37-2015

Ms. Mauro asked for an explanation on the proposal which Mayor Panto gave.

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

Yeas: Vulcano, Warner, Panto, Brown, Edinger, Mauro, Ruggles (7)

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would give Council's approval for the hiring of a temporary employee to assist in the Finance Department in the Accounts Payable Office.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Edinger:

38-2015

Dr. Ruggles said that there was no salary contained in the Resolution which was also was very vague.

Mr. Steckman said that the individual who normally did this work has been absent for a lengthy time because of health issues. He said that he did not see the need for a temporary employee for a lengthy amount of time. He said that the salary would be \$25 to \$30 an hour, that the person would probably work two days a week.

Dr. Ruggles said that he felt that there would be a need for the training of this person in the way the City handles this type of work.

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Mayor Panto said that the City budget did not contain funds for the hiring of temporary employees, but there were funds available from vacant positions that were budgeted for but have gone unfilled.

There was a short discussion on the wording contained in the proposed Resolution.

The above proposed Resolution was amended by adding "not to exceed \$6,000" at the end of the Resolution without a motion and/or a vote.

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

Yeas: Warner, Panto, Brown, Edinger, Mauro, Ruggles, Vulcano (7)
Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve a Three Year Labor Agreement with the Washington Lodge #17, Fraternal Order of Police.

The following Resolution was introduced by Ms. Mauro:

39-2015

Mayor Panto thanked the members of the Police Department for their cooperation on bringing this to fruition.

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

Yeas: Panto, Brown, Edinger, Mauro, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner (7)
Nays: None (0)

PUBLIC COMMENT
(On any item)

Robert Trotner, of 1910 Bayard Street, Bethlehem, Pa., addressed Council regarding campaign fund corruption and requested a meeting with City officials to discuss this matter.

Michael Phoenix, 117 N. Erving Street, Allentown, Pa., gave City officials his compliments for voting for what the people want and for proving what the public wants does matter.

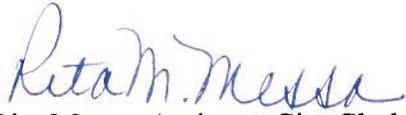
ADJOURNMENT

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

Yeas: Mauro, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Panto, Brown, Edinger (7)

Nays: None (0)


Rita Messa, Assistant City Clerk



CITY OF EASTON

PENNSYLVANIA

February 20, 2015

MEETING NOTICE

The Regular meeting of the Easton City Council has been scheduled for Wednesday, February 25, 2015 for general business.

The meeting will be held in Council Chambers, located on the 6th floor of City Hall, One South Third Street, 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 25, 2015
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 11, 2015 Council Meeting.
7. RESOLUTIONS – Recognizing deaths of Vincent F. Ramunni
Robert J. Sostorecz
Lynne M. Starke
8. PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda Items Only)
9. CONSENT AGENDA
 - (a) Bill 4, Clarifying the implementation of Ordinance 5478, Amending Article VII, Earned Income and Net Profits of Chapter 535, Taxation, of the Code of the City of Easton to provide for an increase in Earned Income Tax for the purposes of funding the City of Easton pension plans in accordance with Act 205.
 - (b) Resolution approving a COA for 60 Centre Square.
 - (c) Resolution approving a COA for 349 Ferry Street.
 - (d) Resolution approving a COA for 1 Lehn’s Court.
 - (d) Resolution approving a COA for 428 Northampton Street.
 - (e) Resolution approving a COA for 436 Northampton Street.
 - (f) Resolution urging the Pa. Historical Museum Commission to adopt regulations to allow Municipalities to use digital means to retain permanent records.
 - (g) Resolution authorizing destruction of Council files.
 - (h) Resolution authorizing destruction of Finance, Human Resources files.
10. REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL
 - (a) Easton Area Joint Sewer Authority, September, October and November 2014 Meeting Minutes
11. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES
 - (a) Finance (Kenneth Brown)
 - (b) Economic Development (Sandra Vulcano)
 - (c) Planning (Elinor Warner)
 - (d) Public Safety (Melanie Mauro)

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| (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.) |

12. CORRESPONDENCE

13. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

14. NEW BUSINESS

(a) Introduction of Legislative Bills

1. Bill 5, Amending Sections in Chapter 560, Vehicles and Traffic of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa.
2. Bill 6, Amending and adding sub-sections to Section 595, Zoning, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa.

(b) Resolution amending the 2015 Non-Union and Management Full Time Employees Benefits.

(c) Resolution approving an amendment to a Federal Aid Reimbursement Agreement.

(d) Resolution approving a Management Agreement with the Family YMCA.

(e) Resolution approving a proposal submitted by The Stone House Group.

(f) Resolution authorizing the hiring of a temporary employee.

(g) Resolution approving a three Year Agreement with the Fraternal Order of Police.

15. PUBLIC COMMENT – (Any Matter)

16. ADJOURNMENT