

**Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.**  
**January 25, 2012**

Easton, Pa  
Wednesday  
January 25, 2012  
6:00 p.m.

City Council met in stated session at the above date and time in Council Chambers, located on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor of One South Third Street, Easton, Pa. to consider any business that may lawfully be brought before the body, and to receive a presentation of the Downtown/Courthouse Area Parking Study.

The invocation was given by Dr. Ruggles, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call**

Present: Brown, Fleck, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, Panto (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 approximately one hundred other persons present.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

On motion of Mayor Panto and Dr. Warner the Agenda was amended to add a presentation of two Certificates of Commendation to Northampton County and Nicholas Alfero, by the following vote:

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

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

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

**ACTION ON MINUTES**

On motion of Dr. Warner and Mr. Fleck the January 11, 2012 Council Meeting minutes were approved, as submitted, by the following vote:

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

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**PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES OF COMMENDATION**

At this time, Mayor Panto presented, John Stoffa, Northampton County Executive and Nicholas Alfero, owner of Alfero Construction, Certificates of Commendation for the rehabilitation of the Northampton County Courthouse.

Mayor Panto thanked both men for the wonderful job that was done on the Courthouse and Mr. Fleck thanked Mr. Alfero for the assistance that he has provided to the Weed & Seed Program in the West Ward section of the City.

Both Mr. Stoffa and Mr. Alfero thanked Council for the Certificates.

**SWEARING IN OF A FIREFIGHTER**

At this time Mayor Panto swore in Firefighter Nicholas Campagna

Mayor Panto and Mr. Warren both thanked Firefighter Campagna for wanting to serve the Easton community and wished him the best of luck in his career.

**RESOLUTION**

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which recognized the death of Mrs. Sandra R. Woodring, a former member and Chairman of the Planning Commission.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

2-2012

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

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

Nays: None (0)

All Council members offered words of condolences to the Woodring family, and spoke regarding her service and her dedication to the City, City Officials and the Community.

Mr. Carlton Woodring was presented with a framed Resolution. He said that his wife enjoyed her work on the Planning Commission, and thanked Council for remembering his wife.

**PRESENTATION – DOWNTOWN//COURTHOUSE AREA PARKING STUDY**  
**CITIZENS RIGHT TO BE HEARD (Agenda Items Only)**

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Mr. Greg Shumate and Mr. Tim Tracey, representatives from Desmond Associates, provided Council and the audience with a presentation on Part 3 of Parking Study, which included the analysis of site feasibility for future development at different locations on the North Side area of downtown, a Pine Street Garage Replacement Analysis, public parking supply, and said that the next step in the process would be the development of a strategic plan for parking system management system financial pro forma and implementation strategy.

There were numerous comments made and questions asked by Council members and the following members of the audience, regarding costs of acquisition of private properties, perceived public parking deficit, information received regarding night parking as opposed to daytime parking, traffic problems created by ingress and egress from a parking garage, if a rail depot had been studied, the Walnut Street corridor for parking deficit, regarding what parts of the study were on the City's Website, cost comparisons without showing what the acquisition of private properties would cost, the need for new parking garage(s), and ways that information could be accessed, which were answered by Mr. Shumate, Mr. Tracey and Mayor Panto.

- Robert Werner – 705 Paxinosa Avenue
- John Stoffa – 3519 Kreidersville Road, Northampton, Pa.
- Rich Hieshetter – 304 W. Monroe Street
- Terrance Miller – 645 Ferry Street
- Dennis Lieb – 1208 Chidsey Street
- Carinne Buzzuto – 19 S. 7<sup>th</sup> Street
- Noel Jones – 800 Ferry Street
- Peter Cochran – 875 Cattell Street
- Lani Abraham – 207 Church Street

### **CITIZENS RIGHT TO BE HEARD**

Terrance Miller, 645 Ferry Street, spoke regarding a violation of the Noise Ordinance by the Church of God by Faith at the intersection of Locust and Walnut Street which is affecting the quality of life in the area. He asked that this matter be addressed between the City, Church and the Neighbors and said that he would be willing to act as the neighborhood representative.

### **REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL**

The following report was received by Council.

- (a) Monthly Fire Department for December 2011.

### **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

Mr. Brown, Chairman of the Finance Committee, spoke regarding legislation that he would have, later in the meeting, regarding amending the 2011 General Obligation Bond Capital Fund Budget.

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

Dr. Ruggles, Chairman of the Planning Committee, spoke regarding legislation that he would have, later in the meeting, regarding approving Certificates of Appropriateness.

Mr. Warren, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, spoke regarding legislation that he would have for later in the meeting regarding designating January as Blood Donor month recognizing January as Human Trafficking Prevention month, and the Noise Ordinance and the Peace and Good Order ordinance. He reported that a Public Safety Committee meeting had been held on January 24, 2012 in conjunction with the Public Works Committee and they had discussed making Grant Street, between St. John and Davis Street one way east. He said that at the February 7, 2012 Council Committee meetings, Council would receive recommendations on this matter from the City Administration. He also spoke regarding Pennsylvania House Bill 1523 regarding guns and actions taken by Laura Accetta regarding this Bill. He said that Cease Fire PA and the City were still working together.

Dr. Warner, Chairman of the Public Works Committee spoke regarding legislation that she would have for later in the meeting, regarding a Sidewalk Snow Removal Agreement with the Crayola Experience. She said that the Public Works Committee would meet on February 7, 2012 at 6 p.m. and in addition to the progress made on Grant Street other items would be discussed.

Mr. Fleck, Chairman of the Administration Committee said that the Home Rule Charter Workshop would be held on March 24, 2012 at Lafayette College. He gave kudos to the US Conference of Mayors for the work that they were doing supporting the Marriage Equality Act. He said that sometime in the future he would introduce a Resolution supporting this Act. He also spoke regarding the redistricting matter.

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

Mayor Panto reported that he would be testifying at the end of the month, in Philadelphia, in front of the Senate Department regarding legislation on Slumlords.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

The following correspondence was received by Council:

(a) PA Auditor General, Liquid Fuels Tax Fund Examination Report for the two years ending December 31, 2010.

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**NEW BUSINESS**

A January 5, 2012, memorandum regarding Codified Ordinance Enforcement by Certified Lafayette College Police Officers was received from Police Chief Lawrence Palmer.

Bill 1, Amending Sections in Chapter 376, Noise, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., was introduced by Mr. Warren and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would allow Lafayette College Police Officers to have the power to investigate suspected violations and enforce the Noise Ordinance.

Bill 2, Amending Sections in Chapter 410, Peace and Good Order, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., was introduced by Mr. Warren and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would repeal Sections 410-2, (5), (a), (b), (d), and (f) from Chapter 410, Peace and Good Order of the Code of the City.

A January 25, memorandum, regarding update to a proposed Budget Amendment for Council consideration, was received from Chris Heagele, Director of Finance.

Bill 3, Amending Ordinance 5336, the 2011 General Obligation Bond Capital Fund Budget was introduced by Mr. Brown and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would increase Revenues and Expenditures by \$11,017.66 and provide for transfers of funds in the Budget.

A January 17, 2012 letter regarding Certificates of Appropriateness was received from Christine Ussler, AIA.

The next three items on the Agenda were proposed Resolutions for approving Certificates of Appropriateness for the demolition of the one story attached buildings at 185 S. 3<sup>rd</sup>, for the installation of a projecting sign at 140C Northampton and for the replacement of windows and window glazing and the extension of a fire escape at 241 Northampton Street.

All three proposed Resolutions were voted upon by one vote, there being no opposition to this action by Council members.

The following Resolutions were introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

3-2012  
4-2012  
5-2012

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The above Resolutions were 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 next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would designate the month of January 2012 as National Volunteer Blood Donor Month.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Warren:

6-2012

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

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

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would recognize January 2012 as Human Trafficking Awareness & Prevention Month.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Warren:

7-2012

The above Resolution was adopted on motion of Mr. Warren and Mr. Brown 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 Sidewalk Snow Removal Agreement with the Crayola Experience for the winter of 2011-2012.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Warner:

7-2012

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

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

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Nays: None (0)

**CITIZENS RIGHT TO BE HEARD**

Susan Eagle, 124 S. 15<sup>th</sup> Street spoke regarding a Handicapped parking space which had been approved in November 2010, the way that it was approved, the lack of notification to the neighbors regarding the meeting on this sign, the health condition of the person granted the reserved space, showed pictures of this person doing different physical things, and asked Council to revoke the sign. She also questioned why Easton was the only nearby Community that reserved Residential Parking Spaces exclusively for the resident's use and not for the general public.

Attorneys Murphy and Scheer spoke on the responsibilities of the Council and the Board of Health, said that there was no appeal process that neighbors could take, how applicants were evaluated, and also spoke regarding a reevaluation hearing, and the results of that hearing, which was held on, this particular applicant, on January 12, 2012.

Mayor Panto said that he would recommend that the Planning and Public Safety Committee meet and review the Handicapped Parking Ordinance.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. on the motion of Mr. Brown and Dr. Warner vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk