

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
July 25, 2012

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

City Council met in stated session at the above date and time in Council Chambers, 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: Fleck, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, Panto (6)
Absent: Brown (1)

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 50 other persons present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

ACTION ON MINUTES

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

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

SWEARING IN OF NEW POLICE OFFICERS AND PROMOTED SERGEANT

At this time Mayor Panto swore in Jamie Hauze, Frank Rezes, Margaret Stahlnecher, and Matthew Thorton as new Police Officers and Joseph Alonzo as a newly promoted Sergeant.

Police Chief Carl Scalzo spoke regarding Sergeant Alonzo and his earlier work in the CID Division, regarding Hauze and Stahlnecher who would be beginning the Police Academy, and

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regarding Thorton who is on Patrol Duty by himself, and Rezes who is on Patrol Duty but under the supervision of a Field Training Officer.

Mayor Panto and Councilman Warren welcomed the new officers, thanked them for their commitment to the City and its Citizens, and thanked their families for backing the new officers' choice to join the Police Force.

CITIZENS RIGHT TO BE HEARD

There were no comments from the audience.

REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL

The following Report was received by Council:

(a) Monthly Fire Department Report for June 2012.

Mayor Panto accepted the above report on behalf of Council.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Brown, Chairman of the Finance Committee was absent

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 for later in the meeting, regarding approving Certificates of Appropriateness for 433 Ferry Street, 7 Lehns Court, 342 Northampton Street, 500 Northampton Street and 130 Spring Garden Street. He reported that a Planning Committee meeting had been held on July 24, 2012 and that proposed amendments to the Historic District Commission Guidelines had been discussed.

Mr. Warren, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, spoke regarding legislation that he would have for later in the meeting regarding changing the location of Stop Signs and creation of a "NO PARKING" on the 1000 block of Grant Street.

Dr. Warner, Chairman of the Public Works Committee reported that a Public Works Committee meeting was held on July 24, 2012 and a proposed Solar Ordinance was discussed, and spoke regarding legislation that she would have for later in the meeting regarding approving an amendment to a Professional Services Agreement with Urban Research & Development Corporation, approving a Right-of-Way Encroachment Agreement with Pomeroy Development, LP, and approving an Exclusive Leasing Agreement with NAI Summit.

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Mr. Fleck, Chairman of the Administration Committee reported that he would have items for Council's review by August 8, 2012 regarding Council's Rules & Regulations.

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

Mayor Panto spoke regarding the compliments that he has received on Heil Pool, spoke regarding the Pool Swim team, the swimming program, and congratulated the Police Department on their most recent drug raids.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

CORRESPONDENCE

The following Resolutions were received by Council:

(a) e-mails, opposing the proposed Commuter Tax, from Cheryl Simons and Shirley O'Brien.

NEW BUSINESS

July 10 and 12, 2012 e-mails regarding Ordinance requests were received from Police Officer Robert Jones.

Bill No. 28, Amending Article III, Traffic Control Map, of Chapter 560, Vehicles and Traffic, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., was introduced by Mr. Warren and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would remove the Stop signs for North and South bound traffic on St. John Street at Grant Street, place the Stop signs on Grant Street at St. John Street for East and West bound traffic, and create a No Parking zone on both the North and South sides of Grant Street between Packer and Salk Street.

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

The next five items on the Agenda were proposed Resolutions which would approve Certificates of Appropriateness for 433 Ferry Street, 7 Lehns Court, 342 Northampton Street, 500 Northampton Street and 130 Spring Garden Street.

The following Resolutions were introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

100-2012

101-2012

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102-2012
103-2012
104-2012

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

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

A July 17, 2012 memorandum regarding City Council Agenda items was received from Director Hopkins.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve an Amendment #1, to an Agreement for Professional Services with Urban Research & Development Corporation for design and engineering services for Heil park improvements.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Warner:

105-2012

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

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

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve a Right-of-Way Encroachment Agreement with Pomeroy Development LP for the building known as 322-336 Northampton Street.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Warner:

106-2012

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

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

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The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve an Exclusive Leasing Agreement, with NAI Summit as the sole and exclusive agent to lease the property located at One South Third Street.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Fleck:

107-2012

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

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

Nays: None (0)

Mayor Panto informed those in attendance that trees had been removed on N. 2nd Street in front of the Governor Woolf Building, and said that they would be replaced once a new sidewalk was installed.

Mr. Fleck spoke regarding trees that had been removed on route 22.

Mayor Panto spoke regarding an altercation that happened on Northampton Street and said that the Easton Patch had mistakenly reported that it had begun at Drinky Drinkersons and said that he had a correction placed in the Patch that the altercation had begun at Mother's.

CITIZENS RIGHT TO BE HEARD

Carol Faulkner, 620 Ferry Street, spoke regarding the results of a storm in which a tree fell and damage electrical and telephone wires, and the unacceptable response that she had received from Verizon.

Council members responded to Mrs. Faulkner's comments, and Mayor Panto said that he would follow up with Verizon on Mrs. Faulkner's complaint.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:39 p.m. on the motion of Dr. Warner and Mr. Fleck by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk