

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

May 25, 2016

Easton, Pa
Wednesday
May 25, 2016
6:00 p.m.

City Council met in stated session at the above date and time, at the Easton Area Community Center, located at 9th and Washington Streets, Easton Pa., 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: Edinger, Melan, Ruggles, Vulcano, Panto, Brown (6)
Absent: O'Connell (1)

Also in attendance was Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk, and Joel Scheer, Assistant City Solicitor. There were thirty-two other persons present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Yeas: Edinger, Melan, Ruggles, Vulcano, Panto, Brown (6)
Nays: None (0)

ACTION ON MINUTES

On motion of Dr. Ruggles and Mr. Melan the May 11, 2016 Council Meeting minutes, as submitted, were approved by the following vote:

Yeas: Edinger, Melan, Ruggles, Vulcano, Panto, Brown (6)
Nays: None (0)

RESOLUTION

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which recognized the death of William M. Baskwell, a former City employee.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

79-2016

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

May 25, 2016

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

Yeas: Ruggles, Vulcano, Panto, Brown, Edinger, Melan (6)

Nays: None (0)

Council members spoke regarding Mr. Baskwell's dedicated service to the City and its citizens and expressed sympathy for the family's loss.

Mrs. Baskwell was presented with a framed Resolution.

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

At this time Peter Cochran, a retired Fire Fighter was presented a Certificate of Appreciation for his years of service to the City and its citizens.

Council members thanked Mr. Cochran for his dedicated years of service to the City, thanked his family for sharing him and allowing him to serve.

Mr. Cochran thanked the City for the Certificate and said that it was his honor to serve on the Fire Department.

RESOLUTION

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution to honor Police Officer Benjamin J. Mastrofilippo as being chosen Police of the Year for 2016.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Melan:

80-2016

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

Yeas: Ruggles, Vulcano, Panto, Brown, Edinger, Melan (6)

Nays: None (0)

All Council members thanked Officer Mastrofilippo for his service to the City and its citizens and thanked his family for sharing him and allowing him to serve.

.PRESENTATION

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

May 25, 2016

Kate Semmens, 518 Northampton Street, a representative of the Nurture Nature Center gave a short presentation on their Easton Matters Project. She said that her organization spoke with groups of citizens regarding their concerns with the City and who also took pictures of their concerns. She said that her organization had also completed walk arounds of different areas of the City and presented an overview of their findings, and spoke on what they felt that the City could do to help and keep the citizens informed of events around the City.

Mayor Panto said that the City would work with the organization for the betterment of the citizens, and spoke regarding the great work that their organization does.

PUBLIC COMMENT **AGENDA ITEMS ONLY**

There were no questions or comments from the audience.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Bill 20, (Ordinance 5554) Amending Section 560-10 B (4), of Article V, Impounding, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa. This Bill amends and deletes words in Section 560-10 B (4) of Article V, Impounding.

Resolutions 81 through 86-2016, which approved Certificates of Appropriateness for 37, S. 6th, 40-42 S. 6th, 230 Ferry, and 226, 323 and 425-427 Northampton Streets.

Yeas: Vulcano, Panto, Brown, Edinger, Melan, Ruggles (6)

Nays: None (0)

REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL

There were no reports received by Council.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Brown, Chairperson of the Finance Committee spoke regarding legislation which he would have for later in the meeting, regarding approving an amendment to the 2015 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Fund Budget, and for approving a Stipulation of Counsel for the property at 250 Line Street.

Mrs. Vulcano, Chairperson of the Economic Development Committee, reported that the Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley Board had met on May 18, 2016, at City

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

May 25, 2016

Hall, and after the meeting all went to visit the new Easton Indoor Farmers Market. She reported that the West Ward Neighborhood Partnership Roundtable meeting had been held. She said that Director Roseberry had attended the meeting. She said that it was not very well attended by business owners, and that the organization was going to change the night of the meeting to see if more business owners could attend. She reported that the West Ward Community Fun Day had been canceled because of inclement weather and will be rescheduled for sometime in July. She also reminded everyone of the Southside Memorial Day Ceremonies which would be held on Sunday, May 29, 2016 at 12:00 p.m., and of the Memorial Day Parade to be held on Monday, May 30, 2016, and that the parade would begin at 10:30 a.m.

Mr. O'Connell, Chairperson of the Planning and Code Committee was absent.

Mr. Melan, Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee, spoke regarding legislation which he would have for later in the meeting regarding amending Article III, Traffic Control Map of the City Code.

Dr. Ruggles, Chairperson of the Public Works Committee reported that a Public Works Committee meeting was held on May 24, 2016 and that Public Works summer projects were discussed.

Mr. Edinger, Chairperson of the Administration Committee reported that interviews, of City Administrator candidates, continue, and said that the City would again advertise for persons interested in applying for the position.

Mr. Scheer, Assistant City Solicitor, spoke regarding the Dieter Bros. law case, and reported that after the meeting Council would enter into an Executive Session and that acquisition of Real Estate would be discussed.

Mayor Panto spoke regarding gun violence and regarding his proposed legislation for the Project Labor Stabilization Agreement and why he was asking for it to be amended.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence received.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

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

May 25, 2016

A May 12, 2016 e-mail regarding a request for a 15 minute parking space zone was received from Lt. Matthew Lohenitz.

Bill 21, 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. Melan and ordered processed for adoption.

This bill would create a 15 Minute Parking 8 AM -10 PM zone on the North side of Lehigh Street to be placed at S. 11th and Lehigh Streets.

Bill 22, Amending the 2015 Parks and Open Space Fund Budget was introduced by Mr. Brown and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would amend the 2015 Parks and Open Space Fund Budget by increasing revenue and expenditures by \$116,716.53.

Bill 23, Approving an Agreement of Sale between the City of Easton, Pa., and 30 North Fourth Street LP was withdrawn by Mr. Edinger.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve a Stipulation of Counsel for the property located at 250 Line Street.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Brown:

87-2016

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

Yeas: Brown, Edinger, Melan, Ruggles, Vulcano, Panto (6)

Nays: None (0)

A May 16, 2016 memorandum, regarding 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 an Agreement for trail signage designating the City and Suburban trail system known as Two Rivers Trail System Signage.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Ruggles

88-2016

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

May 25, 2016

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

Yeas: Edinger, Melan, Ruggles, Vulcano, Panto, Brown (6)

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve a lease agreement with the Alpha Development Group for the leasing of roof space of the Alpha Building for the City's Communications Equipment and other IT hardware.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Edinger:

89-2016

Mr. Melan asked a question on if the City caused damage to the Alpha Building roof who would be responsible and asked what towers or antennas the City had currently on the roof.

Mayor Panto addressed Mr. Melan's concerns.

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

Yeas: Melan, Ruggles, Vulcano, Panto, Brown, Edinger (6)

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would amend the Project Labor Stabilization Agreement by increasing the construction amount from \$250,000 to \$1,000,000.

The following proposed Resolution was introduced by Mayor Panto:

90-2016

There was a discussion between Council members regarding the increasing of the construction amount or not increasing it. Some members spoke on why they could not support this amendment and why they felt that the amount should be increased, and what this would do to future projects in then City.

After the discussion the above proposed Resolution was amended, in the following manner on motion of Mayor Panto and Mr. Edinger by the following vote:

Amendment added to the end of the Resolution:

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

May 25, 2016

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Project Labor Stabilization Agreement requirements increased in this Resolution, be applied solely to tenant build out of the City Hall spaces and the outdoor park Project for Hugh Moore Park.

Yeas: Melan, Edinger, Brown, Panto, Vulcano, Ruggles (6)

Nays: None (0)

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

Yeas: Ruggles, Vulcano, Panto, Brown, Edinger, Melan (6)

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which authorize the Mayor and City Controller to sign contracts related to the tenant improvements of the Farmers Insurance Company unit on the first floor of Easton City Hall not exceeding certain amounts.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mayor Panto:

91-2016

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

Yeas: Vulcano, Panto, Brown, Edinger, Melan, Ruggles (6)

Nays: None (0)

PUBLIC COMMENT

(On any item)

Larry Nussbaum, 438 Williams Street, spoke regarding abandoned cars on a property next to his home, and overgrown grass and code violations on those properties and asked the City for help.

Mayor Panto said that he would have City Departments check into this situation.

Mr. Melan said that he would also assist Mr. Nussbaum.

Lance Wheeler, 143 S. 9th Street spoke regarding a program, West Ward Wise, for the elderly during the day time hours at west ward city parks.

Steven White, 933 Ferry Street thanked the City for quickly addressing the recent water main break on the 900 block of Ferry Street and for the repaving of the street.

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

May 25, 2016

John Zamanik, 202 W. Wayne Avenue asked what City department handled litter and asked what the City was doing to attack the litter problem in the City.

Mayor Panto addressed Mr. Zamanik's concerns.

Eli Barnes, 5 Mill Race spoke and asked questions regarding walk signs for pedestrians throughout the City.

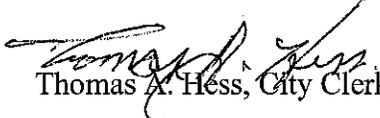
Mayor Panto addressed Mr. Barnes' concerns.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:31 p.m., on motion of Mr. Brown and Dr. Ruggles by the following vote:

Yeas: Melan, Ruggles, Vulcano, Panto, Brown, Edinger (6)

Nays: None (0)


Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk



CITY OF EASTON

PENNSYLVANIA

May 20, 2016

MEETING NOTICE

The meeting of Easton City Council has been scheduled for Wednesday, May 25, 2016, for general business.

The meeting will be held AT THE EASTON AREA COMMUNITY CENTER, LOCATED AT 9TH AND WASHINGTON STREET, EASTON PA.

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
May 25, 2016
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 – May 11, 2016 Council Meeting Minutes
7. RESOLUTION – Recognizing the death of William Baskwell
8. CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION – Peter Cochran
9. RESOLUTION – Honoring Police Officer of the Year.
10. PRESENTATION – Nurture Nature Center
11. PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda Items Only)
12. CONSENT AGENDA
 1. Bill 20, Amending Section 560-10 B (4), of Article V, Impounding, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa.
 2. Resolution approving COA for 37 S. 6th Street
 3. Resolution approving COA for 40-42 S. 6th Street
 4. Resolution approving COA for 220 Ferry Street
 5. Resolution approving COA for 226 Northampton Street
 6. Resolution approving COA for 323 Northampton Street
 7. Resolution approving COA for 425-427 Northampton Street
13. REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL
14. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES
 - (a) Finance (Kenneth Brown)
 - (b) Economic Development (Sandra Vulcano)
 - (c) Planning and Code (David O’Connell)
 - (d) Public Safety (Peter Melan)
 - (e) Public Works (Roger Ruggles)
 - (f) Administration (James Edinger)
 - (g) Report of City Solicitor (Attorney William Murphy)

-Over-

(h) Report of Mayor (Salvatore J. Panto Jr.)

15. CORRESPONDENCE

16. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

17. NEW BUSINESS

(a) Introduction of Legislative Bills

1. Bill 21, Amending Article III, Traffic Control Map of Chapter 560, Vehicles and Traffic of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa.

2. Bill 22, Amending 2015 Parks, Rec. & Open Space Fund

3. Bill 23, Approving an Agreement to purchase property

(b) Resolution approving Stipulation of Counsel for 250 Line Street

(c) Resolution approving Agreement w/Delaware & Lehigh Nat'l Heritage Corridor

(d) Resolution approving a Lease Agreement w/Alpha Development Group

(e) Resolution amending amount for Project Labor Stabilization Agreement

(f) Resolution giving approval to sign contracts for construction of first floor of City Hall

18. PUBLIC COMMENT – (Any Matter)

19. ADJOURNMENT