

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
November 25, 2014

Easton, Pa
Tuesday
November 25, 2014
6:00 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, 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 fourteen other persons present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion of Mrs. Vulcano and Dr. Warner 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 Mr. Brown and Dr. Ruggles the November 12, 2014 Council Meeting minutes, as submitted, were approved by the following vote:

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

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION
Dr. Jonathan Warren

The next item on the Agenda was a Certificate of Appreciation for Dr. Jonathan Warren for his years of service to the City as a member and President of the Board of Health from 1998 to 2014.

Dr. Warren was called forward and presented with a framed Certificate.

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Council members thanked Dr. Warren for his service and thanked his wife for sharing him with the City.

Dr. Warren thanked Council for the honor.

RESOLUTION
Recognizing the Death of William G. Howey

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution recognizing the death of William G. Howey, a former City Police Officer.

The following Resolution was introduced by Ms. Mauro:

165-2014

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

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

Nays: None (0)

Councilmembers and the City Clerk offered words of condolence to the Howey family and made comments regarding Mr. Howey's service to the City, its citizens and the youth of the City.

Mrs. Howey was presented with a framed Resolution.

RESOLUTION
Recognizing the death of Michael S. Pugliese

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution recognizing the death of Michael S. Pugliese, a former City Public Works employee.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

166-2014

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

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

Nays: None (0)

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Mayor Panto spoke regarding Mr. Pugliese's service to the City and its residents.

Mr. Pugliese's son and wife were presented with a framed Resolution.

PUBLIC COMMENT
(Agenda Items Only)

There were no comments from the Audience.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Resolution 166-2014, which approved a Certificate of Appropriateness for addition of a basement door at 144 Church Street.

Resolution 167-2014, which approved a Certificate of Appropriateness for renovation of side and rear masonry facades at 63 N. Sitgreaves.

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

Nays: None (0)

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 amending the Earned Income Tax for Non-City residents, for repealing Article IV., Per Capita Tax, of Chapter 535, Taxation, of the City's Code, for approving the 2015 City Budget, for setting the Tax Rate for 2015, for authorizing the City's participation in the Municipalities continuing disclosure cooperation initiative, for declaring City's intention to incur debt, and for committing General Fund Balance Resources for Special purposes.

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

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

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Ms. Mauro, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, had no report, but asked the citizens to contact her, at her City phone number or e-mail, if they had any concerns regarding Public Safety. .

Dr. Ruggles, Chairman of the Public Works Committee had no report.

Mr. Edinger, Chairman of the Administration Committee had no report.

Mr. Murphy, City Solicitor, had no report.

Mr. Scheer, Assistant City Solicitor furnished Council with an update regarding the Dieter Bros. litigation.

Mayor Panto furnished Council with an update on the new City Hall, informed Council that the City had just taken possession of a new City Dump Truck that would also be used for the plowing of snow, informed everyone that City Hall would be closed on Thanksgiving and the Friday after, informed everyone that the Annual Thanksgiving Day Football game may be canceled until Saturday, November 29, 2014, and spoke regarding the sixty-one letters that were received from school district employees voicing opposition to the proposed increase to the Earned Income Tax and urged the repealing of the tax. He said that he had also met and discussed the Tax with Mr. Brown, Northampton County Executive.

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was received by Council:

- (a) Pa. Auditor General-Liquid Fuels Tax Fund Audit for the period of January 1, 2012 to December 2013.
- (b) 61 Form letters from School District employees voicing opposition to the proposed increase to the Earned Income Tax and urging the repealing of the tax.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill 31, Amending Section 285-42, Parking Garage Fees of Chapter 285, Fees, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., which was tabled on November 12, 2014, was brought back from the table on motion of Mayor Panto and Mr. Brown, by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

Bill 31, Amending Section 285-42, Parking Garage Fees of Chapter 285, Fees, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., was withdrawn on motion of Mayor Panto and Mr. Brown by the following vote:

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

Bill 32, Amending Article VIII, Earned Income and Net profits, of Chapter 535, Taxation, of the City of Easton to provide for an increase in Earned Income Tax for the purposed of funding the City of Easton Pension Plan in accordance with Act 205; 1.95% was moved by Mr. Brown

Dr. Ruggles spoke regarding his opposition to the increase of this tax and said that he would be voting no for this bill.

Other Council members and the Mayor spoke on this issue, and stated that they were for this Bill and explained why.

Bill 32, (Ordinance 5478) Amending Article VIII, Earned Income and Net profits, of Chapter 535, Taxation, of the City of Easton to provide for an increase in Earned Income Tax for the purpose of funding the City of Easton pension Plan in accordance with Act 205; 1.95%, was adopted on motion of Mr. Brown and Mrs. Vulcano, by the following vote:

Yeas: Edinger, Mauro, Vulcano, Warner, Panto, Brown (6)
Nays: Ruggles (1)

Bill 33, Amending Article VIII, Earned Income and Net profits, of Chapter 535, Taxation, of the City of Easton to provide for an increase in Earned Income Tax for the purpose of funding the City of Easton Pension Plan in accordance with Act 205; 1.85%, was withdrawn on motion of Mr. Brown and Ms. Mauro by the following vote:

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

NEW BUSINESS

Bill No. 34, Amending Section 285-42, Parking Garage Fees of Chapter 285, Fees, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., was introduced by Mayor Panto and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would amend Section 285-42 C by authorizing the Mayor and City Administrator to set fees for discounts and promotions, and amend Section 285-42 H to reflect a \$50 monthly parking garage, per pass, fee for customers contracting for between 40-59 parking spaces, and a \$40 monthly parking garage, per pass, fee for customers contracting for 60 or more passes.

Bill No. 35, Repealing Article IV Per Capita Tax, of Chapter 535, Taxation, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa. was introduced by Mr. Brown and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would repeal the Per Capita Tax.

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Bill No.; 36, Providing Revenues and appropriating specific sums to be required for the City Budget during the fiscal year 2015, was introduced by Mr. Brown and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would approve the 2015 City Budget.

Bill 37, Fixing the Tax Rate for all city purposes for the year 2015, was introduced by Mr. Brown and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would fix the Tax Rate at 24.95 Mills for all City purposes for 2015.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would authorize and direct the City's participation in the Municipalities continuing disclosure cooperation initiative; authorizing incidental actions; rescinding inconsistent Resolutions; and stating the effective date.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Brown:

168-2014

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

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

Nays: None (0)

A November 20, 2014, memorandum, regarding an Amendment to the Comprehensive Plan Contract with Urban Matrix.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve an amendment to a contract with Urban Matrix Architecture and Planning Pc, for the City's Comprehensive Plan.

A Resolution for approval of the amendment to the Urban Matrix Comprehensive Plan Contract was introduced by Dr. Warner.

Dr. Ruggles said that the one part of the proposed Resolution stated that the base Comprehensive Plan scope of work and deliverables would remain unchanged by this Contract Amendment, and asked what Urban Matrix was going to do for the additional \$30,000.

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Mr. George Kinney, Director of Planning and Codes said that Council was missing an important part of the memorandum which explained what additional work Urban Matrix was going to do.

There was a short discussion between Council members, Mayor Panto, Mr. Kinney, and Mr. Steckman and Ms. Shachi Pandey, from Urban Matrix on this matter.

The proposed Resolution was tabled on motion of Ms. Mauro and Dr. Ruggles, until the December 10, 2014 Council meeting.

A November 25, 2014 memorandum, regarding a Reimbursement Resolution for the Asphalt Paver was received from Chris Heagele, Finance Director.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would declare the intention of the City to incur debt in connection with the payment of the cost of a City project and to reimburse various City funds or accounts for expenditures made towards the cost of the project.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Brown:

169-2014

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

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

Nays: None (0)

A November 21, 2014 memorandum, regarding commitment of 2013 Fund Balance, was received from Chris Heagele, Finance Director.

The next two items on the Agenda were proposed Resolutions which would approve a Resolution committing General Fund Balance Resources for Special Purposes.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Brown:

170-2014

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

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

Nays: None (0)

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PUBLIC COMMENT
(On any item)

There were no comments from the audience.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p. m. on motion of Mr. Brown and Dr. Ruggles by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)


Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk