

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
September 25, 2013

Easton, Pa
Wednesday
September 25, 2013
6:00 p.m.

City Council met in stated session at the above date and time, at St. Pauls Lutheran Church, 610 W. Berwick 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, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, Panto (7)
Absent: None (0)

Also in attendance were Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk, William Murphy, City Solicitor, and Joel Scheer. There were eleven other persons present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Agenda was amended, by adding a Resolution, under New Business, for approving a three year Service Agreement with PenTeleData Limited Partnership I, on motion of Mayor Panto and Mr. Warren by the following vote:

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

The amended Agenda was approved on motion of Mr. Brown and Mr. Warren by the following vote:

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

ACTION ON MINUTES

On motion of Dr. Warner and Mrs. Vulcano, the September 11, 2013 Council Meeting minutes were approved, as submitted, by the following vote:

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

PUBLIC COMMENT – (Agenda Items Only)

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There were no questions or comments from the audience.

CONSENT AGENDA

On motion of Mrs. Vulcano and Mr. Brown the following items on the Consent Agenda were adopted by the following vote:

Bill 49, (Ordinance 5431), Repealing Section 475-6, Water not discharged into City's sewers, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa. which repeals Section 475-6 in its entirety.

Bill 50, (Ordinance 5432), Amending Section 285-17 A. Existing Structure Code, of Chapter 285 Fees, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa. which changes the fees for Appeal Hearings to the Property Maintenance Board of Appeals from \$200 to \$500.

Bill 51, (Ordinance 5433), Amending the 2013 Health Benefits Fund Budget which increases both revenues and expenditures by \$1,000,000.

Bill 52, (Ordinance 5434), Approving an Agreement of Sale of Real Property and an Office Building Lease Agreement between the City of Easton, Pa., and the Alpha Development Group, which approves an Agreement of Sale of Real Property and an Office Building Lease Agreement, for the sale of 1 South Third Street to the Alpha Development Group and the lease of office space, by the City, in 1 South Third Street.

Resolutions 164, 165, 167, 168, 169, 170 and 171-2013 which approved Certificates of Appropriateness for work to be done at 100 N. 3rd, 219 N. 3rd, 65 N. 4th Streets, 22 and 44-46 Centre Square, 164-170 Northampton, 217 Spring Garden and 70 N. West Streets.

Resolutions 172- and 173-2013, which approves the 2014 Minimum Municipal Obligations for the PMRS managed Pension Plan, and the Fire, Officers and Employees and the Police Pension Plans.

Resolutions 174, 175, and 176-2013 which adopts the reduced amortization for the consolidated Firefighters', Officers' and Employees' Pension Plans.

A motion by Dr. Ruggles to removed the proposed Resolution regarding approving the reprogramming of CDBG Funds from the Consent Agenda died for a lack of a second.

Yeas: Brown, Edinger, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, Panto (6)

Nays: Ruggles (1)

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Dr. Ruggles asked for the procedure to take an item off of the Consent Agenda.

Mayor Panto said that if someone wishes to remove an item from the Consent Agenda, that person would do so at the time that the entire Agenda is approved.

Attorney Murphy said that under Robert's Rules of Order, to extract an item, a member may need only rise and request that the item be removed from the Consent Agenda, which means that the member wants to discuss and vote on this matter separately. He said that the request did not need a second and is not discussed, and no vote is taken to remove the item from the Consent Agenda.

Mayor Panto said that after hearing Robert's Rules of Order and the Solicitor's opinion on this matter the proposed Resolution regarding the reprogramming of CDBG funds is now removed from the Consent Agenda as per Dr. Ruggles' request.

REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL

(a) Monthly Fire Department Report for August 2013.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Brown, Chairman of the Finance Committee, spoke regarding legislation that he would have, for later in the meeting, regarding approving a five-year Lease Agreement with Safe Harbor Easton Inc. and for authorizing the incurrence of nonelectoral debt of the City.

Mrs. Vulcano, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee spoke regarding legislation that would authorize the allocation of increased CDBG funds.

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

Mr. Warren, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, had no report

Dr. Warner, Chairman of the Public Works Committee, spoke regarding legislation that she would have for later in the meeting regarding approving a four-year contract with Raritan Valley Disposal for collection and transportation of the City's residential solid waste.

There was a short discussion between Council members, Mr. Hopkins and Mr. Heagele regarding using recycle bank points for a reduction in citizens' utility bills.

It was decided that at the Public Works Committee meeting on October 8, 2013 this matter would be further discussed.

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Mr. Edinger, Chairman of the Administration Committee reported that the Administration Committee would meet on October 8, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.

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

Mr. Scheer, Assistant City Solicitor, said that the word Lessor in item 8, within proposed Bill #53 should be changed to Lessee before it is approved at the October 9, 2013 Council meeting.

Mayor Panto reported that the proposed 2014 Budget would be presented at a Special Council meeting on October 1, 2013 at 6:00 p.m., spoke regarding the past weekend festivities that were held in the downtown and at Hugh Moore Park, reported that the city has been awarded a \$500,000 Home grant, to be used in West Ward neighborhoods for fixing up homes, explained the program, said that the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society awarded the City's Urban Farm and Community Gardens with the award of the year and will be awarded by the Governor's wife on December 10, 2013 at the Governor's mansion, reported that the City had been awarded \$1.5 million dollars for the Silk Mill Complex, and spoke regarding the project.

Mr. Brown said that Ms. Joan Moranville, coordinator of the Garlic Fest asked if Council would consider allowing free parking in downtown during the Garlic Fest on October 5th and 6th.

After a discussion between Council members it was the consensus not to grant this request.

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was received by Council.

(a) Charles Furst, information concerning fish passage and dam removals.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

Bill 53, Approving a Five-year Lease Agreement between the City of Easton Pa., and Safe Harbor Easton, Inc., was introduced by Mr. Brown and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would approve a five-year Lease Agreement for Safe Harbor Easton, Inc., to lease property at 536 Bushkill Drive.

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Bill 54, Authorizing the incurrence of non-electoral debt of the City of Easton by the issuance of its General Obligation Bonds, was introduced by Mr. Brown and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would authorize the issuance of General Obligations Bonds.

Mayor Panto spoke regarding the City Hall, and the Intermodal Facility and funding for such.

Mr. Brown asked Chris Heagele, Finance Director and Mr. Gary Pulcini, from Galco Capital Limited to address Council on the Bond issue, which they did.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve a four-year Contract with Raritan Valley Disposal, for the collection and transportation of the City's residential solid waste, at an annual cost of \$943,563.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Warner:

177-2013

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

Mayor Panto said that he had not received one complaint regarding collection of garbage since Raritan Valley has been doing the collection for the City during the last 5 1/2 years.

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

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve the increasing of CDBG funds to different projects.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Vulcano:

178-2013

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

Dr. Ruggles asked why the increased funds were being given to City programs and not to non-profit organizations.

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Mayor Panto explained where the increased funds came from. He said that he was not sure why the funds were not given to the non-profit organizations, said that he would check on this and get back to Dr. Ruggles.

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

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve a Three-year Service Agreement with PenTeleData Limited Partnership I for aggregation facilities to provide internet and wide area network service.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Edinger:

179-2013

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

Mayor Panto explained why this was placed back onto the Agenda at this time.

After a discussion on this matter, it was the consensus to amend the Resolution to add that the authorization to sign the said agreement would only be approved after further review and approval by the City Solicitor, Mayor Panto and Mr. Edinger.

Dr. Ruggles asked questions regarding internet service going to pumping stations that were not completely under the City's ownership, which were answered by Mr. Hopkins, Mayor Panto, and Mr. Heagele.

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

Mayor Panto said that a Public meeting has been scheduled for October 21, 2013, to be held at the Boys and Girls Club, to publicly discuss the housing development on E. St. Josephs and Charles Street.

Mayor Panto reported that Halloween would be celebrated on October 31, 2013.

CITIZENS RIGHT TO BE HEARD

Mr. Larry Keiper, 164-170 Northampton Street, spoke regarding Historic District Commission meetings, their decisions and such, and asked the Mayor to attend their meetings and observed what they were doing.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Nays: None (0)


Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk

CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA

Stated Session
Wednesday
September 25, 2013
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 – September 11, 2013 Council meeting minutes.
7. PUBLIC COMMENT – (Agenda Items Only)
8. CONSENT AGENDA
 1. Bill 49, Repealing Section 475-6, Water not discharged into City sewers, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa.
 2. Bill 50, Amending Section 285-17 A., Appeal Fees of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa.
 3. Bill 51, Amending the 2013 Health Benefits Fund Budget.
 4. Bill 52, Approving an Agreement for the Sale of Real Property and an Office Building Lease Agreement between the City of Easton, Pa., and the Alpha Development Group, L.P.
 5. Resolution approving Certificate of Appropriateness for 100 N. 3rd Street
 6. Resolution approving Certificate of Appropriateness for 219 N. 3rd Street
 7. Resolution approving Certificate of Appropriateness for 65 N. 4th Street
 8. Resolution approving Certificate of Appropriateness for 22 Center Square
 9. Resolution approving Certificate of Appropriateness for 44-46 Center Square
 10. Resolution approving Certificate of Appropriateness for 164-170 Northampton Street
 11. Resolution approving Certificate of Appropriateness for 217 Spring Garden Street
 12. Resolution approving Certificate of Appropriateness for 70 N. West Street
 13. Resolution approving reprogramming of CDBG Funds.
 14. Resolution approving 2014 Minimum Municipal Obligations for the PMRS Pension Plan.
 15. Resolution approving 2014 Minimum Municipal Obligations for the Fire, Officers and Employees and the Police Pension Plans.
 16. Resolution adopting the reduced amortization for the Consolidated Firefighters' Pension Plan.
 17. Resolution adopting the reduced amortization for the Officers' and Employees' Retirement and Pension System.
 18. Resolution adopting the reduced amortization for the Police Association Pension Plan.
9. REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL
 - (a) Easton Fire Department Monthly Report for August 2013

10. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| (a) Finance | (Kenneth Brown) |
| (b) Economic Development | (Sandra Vulcano) |
| (c) Planning | (Roger Ruggles) |
| (d) Public Safety | (Jeffrey Warren) |
| (e) Public Works | (Elinor Warner) |
| (f) Administration | (James Edinger) |
| (g) Report of City Solicitor | (Attorney William Murphy) |
| (h) Report of Mayor | (Salvatore J. Panto Jr.) |

11. CORRESPONDENCE

- (a) Charles Furst – Information concerning fish passage and dam removals.

12. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

13. NEW BUSINESS

(a) Introduction of Legislative Bills

1. Bill 53, Approving a Five-Year Lease Agreement with Safe Harbor of Easton.
2. Bill 54, Authorizing the incurrence of nonelectorial debt of the City of Easton by the issuance of General Obligation Bonds

- (b) Approving a 4-year Agreement with Raritan Valley Disposal.(R)

14. PUBLIC COMMENT – (Any Matter)

15. ADJOURNMENT