

City of Easton, Pa, Council Meeting Minutes

August 26, 2009

Easton, Pa.
Wednesday
August 26, 2009
6:00 P.M.

City Council met in stated session, at the above hour in Council Chambers, Room 514, 5th Floor, One South Third Street, Easton, Pa., to conduct a Public Hearing, regarding the 2009 CDBG Program.

ROLL CALL

Present: Kenneth Brown
Roger Ruggles
Pamela Panto
Sandra Vulcano
Elinor Warner
Salvatore J. Panto Jr. (6)
Absent: Jeffrey Warren (1)

Also in attendance were Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk, William K. Murphy City Solicitor, Beth Knickerbocker, Assistant City Solicitor, and Glenn Steckman, City Administrator. There were twenty-five other persons present in the audience.

PUBLIC HEARING **Proposed 2010 CDBG Program**

At 6:27 p.m., the first Public Hearing was held regarding the 2010 CDBG Program. Mayor Panto turned the meeting over to Mrs. Vulcano, Chairman of the City Council's Economic Development Committee, who presided over the hearing. Mrs. Vulcano called the hearing to order, and read the following statement:

“The purpose of this evening’s hearing is to evaluate the performance of the 2009 CDBG Program, assess the community needs for 2010, and to review the HUD criteria used to determine project fundability and eligibility under the national standards.”

“Citizen input on the CDBG program is encouraged and any questions which may be raised by the Public or City Council will be addressed.”

“Karen Parish of Mullin & Lonergan will give a brief overview of the HUD criteria for use of the funds and Gretchen Lippincott will report on the 2009 expenditures to date.”

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“Next community groups, which have submitted applications, for funding will be invited to make a presentation to Council, and the City’s administration will present its needs assessment.”

Mrs. Vulcano turned the meeting over to Ms. Lippincott, Director of Economic Development, who went over the 2009 expenditures to date.

Ms. Lippincott introduced Ms. Karen Parrish, from Mullin & Lonergan Associates, Community Development Consultants, who went over the objectives of the requirements for the funding in the program, and gave an overview of the activities that were eligible and that were allowable for funding under the Community Development Block Grant program.

Mrs. Vulcano invited the local agencies to review, with Council, their needs and funding requests. She said that Council members had the individual requests, and had reviewed them. She suggested that when the individual organizations addressed Council, they highlight their priorities in their requests.

1. Greater Easton Development Partnership (GEDP)

Gary Evans, a member of the GEDP came forward and went over their organization’s request for \$50,000, of CDBG funds, for their Ambassador Program.

Council members made comments and asked questions regarding their program and requests which were answered by Mr. Evans.

2. ProJeCt of Easton

No representative was present at the hearing.

3. Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley Inc.

Janet Ney, Associate Executive Director came forward and went over her organization’s request for \$5,000, of CDBG funds, for their Homeownership Counseling program program.

Council members made comments and asked questions regarding their program which were answered by Ms. Ney and Gretchen Lippincott.

4. Easton Area Neighborhood Centers, Inc.

Terry A. Roman, Executive Director, came forward and went over her organization’s request for \$69,950, of CDBG funds, for Life Skills Counseling.

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Council members made comments and asked questions regarding their program which were answered by Ms. Roman and Lucio Alercia, Finance Director for the Center.

5. Third Street Alliance

No representative was present at the hearing.

6. Adult Skills Quest

Judith Brunswick, Director, came forward and went over her organization's request for \$3,000, of CDBG funds, for transportation for the people taking part in their program.

Council members, Gretchen Lippincott, made comments and asked questions regarding the request which were answered by Ms. Brunswick

7. Minsi Trails Council, BSA

No representative was present at the hearing.

8. Center for Independent Living

No representative was present at the hearing.

9. The Salvation Army – Easton Corps

No representative was present at the hearing.

9. City of Easton

Gretchen Lippincott, Director of Economic Development came forward and went over the City's request for \$1,135,747 of CDBG funds..

Council members, made comments and asked questions regarding the request which were answered by Ms. Lippincott, Mayor Panto, Glenn Steckman, City Administrator and Chris Heagele, City Finance Director.

There were no further comments or questions by Council.

Mrs. Vulcano opened the floor for remarks or questions from the audience.

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Sandra Walters Weiss, 1150 Ferry Street, spoke regarding the Summer Nights program at Centennial Park, regarding the Mayor's statements regarding Police Saturation Patrols, and a problem that she was having in the residence that she had moved into.

Noel Jones, 800 Ferry Street, spoke regarding getting the separate entities, throughout the City and Easton area, to work together, the dedication of West Ward residents, requested that Ambassador Program be extended to the West Ward, and that CDBG funds be earmarked for the West Ward section of the City and then to other parts of the City.

Mrs. Vulcano read the following statement:

“On October 14, 2009, a second required Public Hearing will be conducted to review the Consolidated Plan including the proposed CDBG allocations.

“On October 28, 2009, at the regular Council meeting, the Resolution to adopt the Consolidated Plan for FY 2010 will be introduced.”

“On or before November 13, 2009, the CDBG application will be made to HUD.”

There were no further comments or questions made or asked by Council or the audience.

Mrs. Vulcano closed the Public Hearing at 7:49 P.M.

Thomas A. Hess
City Clerk

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Wednesday
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6:00 P.M.

City Council met in stated session, in Council Chambers, Room 514, 5th floor of City Hall, One South Third Street, to consider any business that may lawfully be brought before the body, and to conduct the 1st Public Hearing regarding the 2010 CDBG Program.

The invocation was given by Councilman Brown followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL

Present: Kenneth Brown
Pamela Panto
Roger Ruggles
Sandra Vulcano
Elinor Warner
Salvatore J. Panto Jr. (6)
Absent: Jeffrey Warren (1)

Also in attendance were Thomas Hess, City Clerk, William Murphy, City Solicitor, Beth Knickerbocker, Assistant City Solicitor and Glenn Steckman, City Administrator. There were twenty-nine other persons present in the audience.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Yeas: Brown, P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, S. Panto (6)
Nays: None (0)

ACTION ON MINUTES

The August 12, 2009 Council meeting minutes were approved, as submitted, on motion of Dr. Warner and Mrs. Vulcano by the following vote:

Yeas: P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, S. Panto, Brown (6)
Nays: None (0)

RESOLUTION –Death of William VanSyckle

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The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution recognizing the death of William VanSyckle.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Warner:

152-2009

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

Yeas: Brown, P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, S. Panto (6)

Nays: None (0)

Mr. VanSyckle's daughter came forward and was presented with a framed Resolution.

All Council members offered their condolences and words of kindness regarding Mr. VanSyckle.

PRESENTATION – Pennsylvania Scenic By-Way Program

Becky Bradley, Director of Planning and Codes said that the City was approached by Karen Williamson, of the Heritage Conservancy, and Elissa Marsden Thorne from the Lehigh National Heritage Corridor, who requested that the City become a partner in the Scenic By-Way program with City streets becoming part of the program. She introduced Karen Williamson who gave Council a brief presentation on the program, and urged Council to adopt the proposed Resolutions, that would be before Council later in the meeting, regarding the program.

Councilman Ruggles asked for a time line on this project.

Ms. Williamson said that the program was somewhere between 2/3 and ¾ of the way in getting stakeholders support, and hoped that all would be finished in the next calendar year.

PRESENTATION – Recognizing Waltar Bright

At this time Mayor Panto recognized Mr. Waltar Bright, Commissioner of the City Wide Intramural Basket League, which is a league between Shiloh Baptist Church and the Easton Police Department. Mayor Panto spoke about the success of the program, and asked Mr. Bright to speak regarding the program, and the league, which he did.

Mayor Panto said that a plaque had been ordered, for Mr. Bright, but was not finished, and read what the plaque would say.

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PUBLIC HEARING – 2010 CDBG Program

At this time the 1st Public Hearing, regarding the 2010 CDBG Program, was conducted.. (See separate minutes).

CITIZENS RIGHT TO BE HEARD (Agenda Items Only)

Curt Ehly, 305 W. Monroe Street spoke regarding his concerns with the lack of parking around the area of March School.

Alan Raisman, 524 Clinton Terrace spoke in support of the State's Scenic By-Ways program.

Kaysha Weatherington, 1385 Lorton Drive, a new business owner of a Beauty Salon located at 11 North Third Street spoke regarding her application, to the Historic District Commission, for the installation of a projecting sign, for her business at 11 N. 3rd Street, which had been recommended for approval by the Commission, but with conditions; mainly that she could not place the businesses phone number on the sign.

A discussion followed between Council members, Ms. Weatherington, Attorney Murphy and Becky Bradley on this matter. At the end of the discussion it was the consensus that the proposed Resolution regarding approving a Certificate of Appropriation for 11 N. 3rd Street would be tabled until more information was furnished to Council. Ms. Weatherington said that Cindy Cawley, Chief Codes Administrator, told her that for now she could place the sign against her window until the matter got resolved.

REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL

The following report was received by Council.

- (a) Fire Department July 2009 Monthly Report.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Brown, Chairperson of the Administrative Committee spoke regarding legislation that would be before Council later in the meeting, reported that the Finance Committee had met at 4:30 p.m., and reported what had been discussed.

Mrs. Vulcano, Chairperson of the Economic Development Committee spoke regarding legislation that would be before Council later in the meeting, and spoke regarding the new streetlights on the 600 block of Northampton Street.

Mrs. Panto, Chairperson of the Planning Committee spoke regarding legislation that would be before Council later in the meeting, and reported that a committee had met

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regarding the Proposals that were requested for Historic Preservations Consulting services

Mr. Warren, Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee was not in attendance.

Dr. Warner, Chairperson of the Public Works Committee reported that the Public Works Committee would meet on September 9, 2009 at 4:30 p.m., and spoke regarding a walk ability study that was put together by the Transportation sub-committee of the Environmental Advisory Council, that would be presented to the Public Works Committee at their next meeting, and spoke regarding legislation the would be before Council later in the meeting.

Dr. Ruggles, Chairperson for Strategic Planning had no report.

Mr. Murphy, City Solicitor, had no report for Council.

Ms. Knickerbocker, Assistant City Solicitor had no report.

Mayor Panto requested a Special Meeting of City Council be held on October 1, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. for the presentation of the proposed 2010 City Budgets.

Mayor Panto asked Mr. Heagele, Finance Director to furnish Council with a 2nd Quarter Budget update, which he did.

Mayor Panto said that in the near future the Administration would be requesting that Council approve a Short Term line of credit and explained why.

Mayor Panto said that later in the meeting he would be introducing a Resolution for the appointments of W. Glenn Steckman and Chris Heagele to the Property Maintenance Review Board of Appeals and the appointment of David Hopkins as an Alternate to that Board.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No. 69, (Ordinance 5215) An Ordinance to amend the Code of the City of Easton, Chapter 152 thereof, entitled Vacant Property Review Committee, was amended by changing the fourth word "his" in Section 2 of the proposed Bill to read "their" on motion of Dr. Ruggles and Dr. Warner by the following vote:

Yeas: Brown, S. Panto, Warner, Vulcano, Ruggles, P. Panto (6)

Nays: None (0)

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Amended Bill No. 69, was adopted on motion of Mrs. Vulcano and Dr. Warner by the following vote:

Yeas: P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, S. Panto, Brown (6)
Nays: None (0)

Ordinance 5215 amended Sections 152-3 by adding “and commercial or industrial reuse in the paragraph, amend Section 152-6 (B) by deleting the words “in the same manner as an appeal from the determination of public nuisance” and replacing it with “before the Property Maintenance Review Board of Appeals”, amend Sections 152-2(A) and 152-7

(B), by deleting the words “Economic Development” and replacing them with “Codes”, amend Sections 152-4(C), 152-4(H), and 152-6(C) by deleting the work “Rehabilitation” and replacing it with “Inspections”.

Bill No. 70, (Ordinance 5216), Amending Article III, Traffic Control Map of Chapter 560, Vehicles and Traffic, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., was adopted on motion of Dr. Warner and Mrs. Panto by the following vote:

Yeas: Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, S. Panto, Brown, P. Panto (6)
Nays: None (0)

Ordinance 5216 approved the creation of a “No Parking” zone on the East side of North Warren Street between Northampton and Spring Garden Streets.

Bill No. 71, (Ordinance 5217), Approving a Transfer of funds in the 2008 Debt Service Fund Budget, was adopted on motion of Mr. Brown and Dr. Warner by the following vote:

Yeas: Vulcano, Warner, S. Panto, Brown, P. Panto, Ruggles (6)
Nays: None (0)

Ordinance 5217, approved the transfer of \$17,577.24 from Account No. 131-253000 to 131-1000-46475 within the 2008 Debt Service Fund Budget.

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was received by Council:

(a) Independent Auditors Report for Magisterial District Court 02-2-06.

NEW BUSINESS

Introduction of Legislative Bills:

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An August 18, 2009 memorandum, regarding City Council Agenda Items, was received from David Hopkins, Director of Public Works.

Bill No. 72, An Ordinance to amend the Code of the City of Easton, Chapter 404 thereof, entitled Parks, to prohibit Golf or the driving of Golf Balls in City Parks, was introduced by Dr. Warner and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would prohibit the game of Golf or the driving of Golf Balls in City Parks, playgrounds, or fields of play.

An August 18, 2009 letter, regarding reports and Certificates of Appropriateness was received from Christine Ussler, AIA.

The next ten items on the Agenda were proposed Resolutions that would approve Certificates of Appropriateness for 11 N. Third, 100 North Third, 223 North Third, 248 North Third, 44 South Third, 132 South Third, 77 North Fourth, 229 North Green, 444 Northampton and 327 Spring Garden Streets.

The proposed Resolution for approving a Certificate of Appropriateness for the installation of a sign at 11 North Third Street was tabled on motion of Mrs. Panto and Mrs. Vulcano by the following vote:

Yeas: Warner, S. Panto, Brown, P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano (6)
Nays: None (6)

The following nine Resolutions were adopted on motion of Mrs. Panto and Mrs. Vulcano by the following lowing single vote:

Yeas: P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, S. Panto, Brown (6)
Nays: None (0)

1. 153-2009
2. 154-2009
3. 155-2009
4. 156-2009
5. 157-2009
6. 158-2009
7. 159-2009
8. 160-2009
9. 161-2009

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution that would approve a Subrecipient Agreement for the administration of the Enterprise Loan Program.

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The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Vulcano:

162-2009

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

Yeas: Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, S. Panto, Brown, P. Panto (6)

Nays: None (0)

An August 19, 2009 memorandum, regarding Scenic Byway Designations, was received from Becky Bradley, Director of Codes and Planning.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would support the nomination to designate existing roads in the City as Scenic Byways, to affirm that the City would uphold and maintain the roads as a Pennsylvania Byway and authorize the Mayor and/or Director of Planning and Codes to file the necessary paperwork to seek the Pa. Scenic Byways designation C.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Panto:

163-2009

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

Yeas: Vulcano, Warner, S. Panto, Brown, P. Panto, Ruggles (6)

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution that would authorize the Mayor and/or his designee to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor, Inc.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Panto:

164-2009

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

Yeas: Warner, S. Panto, Brown, P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano(6)

Nays: None (0)

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An August 24, 2009 memorandum, regarding Salary and a Wage Resolution amendment was received from Glenn Steckman, City Administrator.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would increase the salary for the Animal Agent from \$9,000, to \$9,100.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Warner:

165-2009

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

Yeas: Vulcano, Warner, S. Panto, Brown, P. Panto, Ruggles (6)

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve the appointments of W. Glenn Steckman and Chris Heagele to the Property Maintenance Review Board of Appeals and the appointment of David Hopkins as an alternate member.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mayor Panto:

166-2009

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

Yeas: Brown, P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, S. Panto (6)

Nays: None (0)

CITIZEN'S RIGHT TO BE HEARD

William Marley, 64 North Second Street, spoke regarding the current deplorable condition of the Poet's Garden and asked that it be addressed before the Riverside Arts Festival. Mayor Panto said that it would be taken care of.

Curt Ehly, 305 W. Monroe Street, spoke in support of Kyaysha Weatherington's request to be allowed to have her telephone number on her business sign, and spoke regarding actions by the Commission and Ms. Weatherington. He asked that a meeting be set up between the City, the Historic District Commission, and Main Street to go over some of the issues.

ADJOURNMENT

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With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m. on motion of Mrs. Vulcano and Dr. Warner by the following vote:

Yeas: S. Panto, Warner, Vulcano, Ruggles, P. Panto, Brown (6)

Nays: None (0)

Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk