

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

August 26, 2015

Easton, Pa
Wednesday
August 26, 2015
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, Easton Pa., to consider any business that may lawfully be brought before the body.

The invocation was given by Mr. Brown followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: Brown, Edinger, Mauro, Ruggles (6:24 p.m.), Vulcano, Panto (6)
Absent: Warner (Work commitment) (1)

Also in attendance were Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk, William Murphy, City Solicitor, and Glenn Steckman, City Administrator. There were eighteen other persons present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion of Mayor Panto and Mr. Edinger, the Agenda was amended, by adding a Resolution that would authorize the opening of an Interest Bearing Checking Account under New Business, by the following vote:

Yeas: Panto, Vulcano, Mauro, Edinger, Brown (5)
Nays: None (0)

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

Yeas: Brown, Edinger, Mauro, Vulcano, Panto (5)
Nays: None (0)

ACTION ON MINUTES

On motion of Mrs. Vulcano and Ms. Mauro the August 12, 2015 Council Meeting minutes, as submitted, were approved by the following vote:

Yeas: Edinger, Mauro, Vulcano, Panto, Brown (5)
Nays: None (0)

RESOLUTION

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The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution recognizing the death and service to the City of Joseph W. Grollman, a former Council member.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Edinger:

138-2015

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

Yeas: Brown, Edinger, Mauro, Vulcano, Panto (5)

Nays: None (0)

All Council persons expressed their condolences to the Grollman family, and thanked them for Mr. Grollman's years of service to the City and its citizens.

Mrs. Grollman was presented with a framed Resolution, and she thanked Council for the honor bestowed on her husband.

PUBLIC COMMENT
Agenda Items Only

There were no remarks from the audience.

Mayor Panto introduced Tina Roseberry, the new Director of Planning.

Ms. Roseberry gave a background on her professional career, and said that she looked forward to work for the City and with the Administration.

CONSENT AGENDA

On motion of Mrs. Vulcano and Mr. Brown the following items was adopted by the following vote:

Bill 32, (Ordinance 5512), Amending Article III, Traffic Control Map, of Chapter 560, Vehicles and Traffic, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., which amends the Traffic Control Map by removing 15 Minute Parking Zones from in front of 1223 and 1229 Butler Streets.

Bill 33, (Ordinance 5513), An Ordinance of the City of Easton, Pa., adopting the 2009 edition of the International Property Maintenance Code and Amending Sections contained in Chapter 435, Property Maintenance and Housing Standards, which adopts the 2009 edition of the International Property Maintenance Code and amend sections in Chapter 435, Property Maintenance and Housing Standards, of the Code of the City of Easton.

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Bill 34, (Ordinance 5514) An Ordinance to authorize and direct the incurring of non-electoral debt through the issuance of a General Obligation Bond, which authorizes and directs the incurring of non-electoral debt through the issuance of a General Obligation Bond series of 2015 in the maximum principal amount of \$6,292,000.

Bill 36, (Ordinance 5515) Amending the 2015 Capital Projects Fund which amends the 2015 Capital Projects Fund Budget by increasing Revenues and Expenditures by \$173,293.15

Bill 37, (Ordinance 5516) Amending the 2015 Debt Service Fund which amends the 2015 Debt Service Fund by increasing Revenues and Expenditures by \$44,980.69.

Resolutions 139 through 143-2015, which approves Certificates of Appropriateness for 9 N. 3rd, 1 S. 3rd, 123 S. 5th, 125 S. 5th and 466 Northampton Street.

Resolution 144-2015, which authorizes the disposition of City Records.

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

Nays: None (0)

REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL

The following report was received by Council.

(a) Monthly Fire Report for July 2015.

Mayor Panto accepted the above report on behalf of Council.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Brown, Chairman of the Finance Committee, reported that a Finance Committee meeting had been held on Tuesday, August 25, 2015 and the City Budget, up to July, had been discussed. He spoke regarding legislation, which he would have for later in the meeting, regarding authorizing the opening of an interest bearing checking account at Merchants Bank of Bangor. He said that another Committee meeting would be held in September.

Mrs. Vulcano, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee, reported a West Ward Neighborhood Association Roundtable meeting was held on August 18, 2015, at the Easton Home, located at 10th and Northampton Street. She said that Dawn Ferrante, Director of Economic Development, had attended and made a presentation. She said that another meeting is scheduled for November.

Dr. Warner, Chairman of the Planning Committee, was absent due to work commitments.

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Ms. Mauro, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, reported that a Public Safety Committee meeting had been held on September 25, 2015 and that recreational fires and smoke had been discussed.

Dr. Ruggles, Chairman of the Public Works Committee, spoke regarding a training session on the operation of the LIDAR system that he held at the Police Station, said that there would be more sessions scheduled, and spoke regarding legislation, that he would have for later in the meeting, regarding approving an Agreement with Frick Transfer to move items from the current City Hall to the new City Hall. He also reported that he had attended the College Hill Neighborhood Association meeting and reported that a Friday Night Picnic in Nevin Park would be held on Friday, August 28, 2015, which would include the showing of a feature film, and said that the admission fee for Eddyside Pool would also be lowered for that day.

Mayor Panto spoke regarding scheduled Movies At The Park throughout the City.

Dr. Ruggles reported that there is a new Director of Lafayette College's Williams Art Center, reported that she would be coming to the September 9, 2015 council meeting to make a presentation on the Center and what is scheduled.

Mr. Edinger, Chairman of the Administration Committee, reported that an Administrative Committee meeting had been held on August 25, 2015 and the full-time Assistant City Solicitor or a Paralegal position had been discussed. He also spoke regarding legislation, which he would have for later in the meeting, regarding amending sections in Chapters 456, 535 and 572, of the City Codes.

Mr. Murphy, City Solicitor reported that before the meeting Council had held an Executive Session and had discussed the litigation of the Northampton County Deputy Sheriff's Association vs. the City of Easton, filed in the Northampton County Court of Common Pleas.

Mayor Panto reported that a Lafayette Orientation Group was in downtown Easton, reported that he would like to address roadside memorials at the next Council meeting, and said that he would recommend 30-60 days for those memorials. He reported he and some of his staff would be going to Williamsport to learn how that City dealt with the elimination of drug houses, reported that there would be a City Hall tour on September 9, 2015, and that there would be a dedication and open house when the work and move is completed. He also spoke regarding r-cap grants for different things throughout the City, reported that the dedication of the Larry Holmes Statue would be on November 3, 2015, and also spoke regarding the art by Paul Deary that will be on the Karl Sterner Arts Trail.

CORRESPONDENCE

The following Correspondence was received by Council:

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- (a) Raisa Furman, thank-you letter for Police participation in the Sports for Health Camp.
- (b) Trish Chelsen, thank-you letter for police participation in the Sports for Health Camp.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

Bill 38, Amending sections in Chapter 456, Rental Property, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., was introduced by Mr. Edinger and ordered processed for adoption.

After a discussion between Council members and Mr. Steckman the following words were added to the end of Section 1. “The Landlord shall notify the City Department of Code of any changes in tenancy”.

This Bill would amend sections by changing the words “City Treasurer” to “Director of Codes or their designee”, “Code Department” and by adding the words “The Landlord shall notify the City Department of Code of any changes in tenancy”.

Bill 39, Amending sections contained in Chapter 535, Taxation, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., was introduced by Mr. Edinger and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would amend the sections by changing the words “City Treasurer” to “Director of Finance or their designee” “and Department of Finance” changing “Mayor” to “City Council” and changing the days for the selling of flowers, plants, Christmas trees and evergreens for holiday decorations from 10 to 45 days prior to Christmas Day and 10 days for Easter Sunday, Mothers Day and Memorial Day.

Bill 40, Amending Sections in Chapter 573, Water of the Code of the City of Easton, was introduced by Mr. Edinger and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would delete parts of Section 572-2 A, B (3), (4) (a) (2), (5) (b), (5) (c), repeals 572-2 B (5) (c) in its entirety, repeals 572-2 B (5) (e) in its entirety, and repeals 572-2 B (5) (f) in its entirety.

Bill 41, Amending Section 399-13, Jurisdiction, of Chapter 399, Parking Permits of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa.

This Bill will amend Section 399-13 by adding the following at the end of Section 399-13, “Exception; The north side of the 600 block of Ferry Street, from S. 6th Street to Walnut Avenue where the hours are between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.”.

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The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve a contract with Frick Transfer, for moving City of Easton property from the current City Hall to the New City Hall.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

145-2015

After a discussion between Council members, Mr. Steckman and Mr. Murphy, the above Resolution was amended, by adding the following at the end of the Resolution, on motion of Mayor Panto and Dr. Ruggles by the following vote:

“Any additional change orders must be in writing and must be approved by the owner and shall not exceed \$3,000”.

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

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

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

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

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would authorize the opening of an Interest Bearing Checking account at Merchant’s Bank of Bangor.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Brown:

146-2015

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENT
(On any item)

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Kirk Raup, 818 W. Union Boulevard, Bethlehem Pa., spoke to Council regarding Rail Service to the Lehigh Valley and the formation of a Rail Transportation Authority.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Nays: None (0)

Thomas A. Hess
City Clerk