

**Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.**  
**October 26, 2011**

Easton, Pa  
Wednesday  
October 26, 2011  
6:00 p.m.

City Council met in stated session at the above date and time in the Two Rivers Auditorium, located at 30 Centre Square, Easton, Pa. to consider any business that may lawfully be brought before the body, and to conduct a Public Hearing regarding the proposed Neighborhood Improvement District Program.

The invocation was given by Reverend Susan Ruggles.

**Roll Call**

Present: Brown, Fleck, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, Panto (7)  
Absent: None (0)

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

On motion of Dr. Ruggles and Mr. Fleck the agenda was approved by the following vote:

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

**ACTION ON MINUTES**

On motion of Dr. Warner and Mr. Fleck the October 12, 2011 Council Meeting minutes were approved, as submitted, by the following vote:

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

**SWEARING IN**  
**FIREFIGHTER-Mark A. Jessamine**

At this time in the meeting, Mayor Panto swore in Mark A. Jessamine, a new Firefighter.

**CITIZENS RIGHT TO BE HEARD (Agenda Items Only)**

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Fire Chief John Bast thanked Council for their support of the Fire Department and informed Council that next week another recruit would be graduating from the Fire Academy, and counting that person, the Fire Department would be at full manpower.

**PUBLIC HEARING**  
**Neighborhood Improvement District Program**

At 6:08 p.m., Mayor Panto called the Public Hearing regarding the proposed Neighborhood Improvement District Program, and turned the hearing over to Mrs. Vulcano, Chairperson of the Economic Development Committee

Mrs. Vulcano thanked all persons for attending the hearing and turned the hearing back over to Mayor Panto.

Mayor Panto introduced Ms. Donna Taggert, of New City America East.

Ms. Taggert said that her company has been working with the Greater Easton Development Partnership Board and a steering committee to assess the feasibility and possible formation of a Neighborhood Improvements District (NID) in the downtown section of the City.

Ms. Taggert said that the purpose of the hearing was to review and to receive comments on the changes that have been incorporated, to the revised plan that was recently distributed to the property owners within the boundaries of the proposed NID and which was posted on the GEDP Computer Web Site.

Ms. Taggert gave a brief overview of the summary of the revisions to the plan, went over the voting process, and went over how the votes would be verified and furnished a timeline for the establishment of the program.

Mayor Panto asked for any comments or questions from Council members.

Council members made comments and asked questions regarding assessment costs for the property owners, the time line schedule, inclusion of the 300 block of Larry Holmes Drive in the NID boundaries, and the voting process, which were answered by Ms. Taggert, Mayor Panto and Gretchen Longenbach, Director of Economic Development.

Mayor Panto said that Pastor Michael Dowd, from the First United Church of Christ, could not attend the meeting, but had sent a letter of support for the program and said that even though his church would not be required to pay anything towards this program they would voluntarily pay towards it. He said that Lafayette College was also in support of the program.

Mayor Panto asked for any comments or questions from the audience

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The following persons came forward and spoke regarding the program;

1. Alice Kwiatkowski – 134 Spring Garden Street
2. Anthony Marraccini – 134 Spring Garden Street
3. Ron Morris – 1002 Washington Street
4. Diane Bower – 5A North Bank Street
5. Mark Mulligan – 322 & 400 Northampton Street
6. Michael McFadden – 109 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street
7. Malcolm Gross – 101 Larry Holmes Drive
8. Bob Gearhardt – 67 N. 4<sup>th</sup> Street
9. Susan Huxley – 67 N. 4<sup>th</sup> Street
10. Noel Jones – 800 Ferry Street
11. Holly Edinger – 1035 N. 21<sup>st</sup> Street, Allentown Pa.
12. Steven White – 52 S. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street
13. William Barrell – 207 Church Street
14. Gershon Hinkson – 29 S. Sitgreaves Street
15. Mark Troutman – 421 Paxinosa Avenue
16. Salvatore Pugliese – 2225 Hackett Avenue
17. Susan Ruggles – 111 Parsons Street
18. Gil Nielsen – 120 Parker Avenue
19. Dawn Kenyon – 24 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street

Questions that were asked by the above persons were answered by Director Longenbach and/or Ms. Taggart.

There being no further comments or questions the Public Hearing was closed at 8:35 p.m.

**REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL**

The following reports were received by Council:

- (a) Monthly Fire Report for September 2011.
- (b) ESWA September 12, 2011 meeting minute.
- (c) EAJSA June 20, July 18, August 15, 2011 meeting minutes.

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

Mr. Brown, Chairman of the Finance Committee reported that the first hearing on the 2012 proposed City Budget had been held on October 25, 2011, and spoke regarding legislation that he would have for later in the meeting, regarding re-enacting, restating and amending the Earned Income Tax Ordinance, an Amendment to the 2011 Recreation Fund Budget, establishing a budget for the 2011 Opens Space Fund, and appointing and designating a liaison between the City and the Northampton Tax Collection Committee and its Tax Officer.

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Mrs. Vulcano, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee spoke regarding Legislation that she would have for later in the meeting regarding the allocation of 2012 CDBG Funds, and reported that the Vacant Property Review Committee had met earlier in the day and said that five (5) more properties would be sent to Planning as blighted properties.

Mr. Warren, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee spoke regarding Legislation that he would have for later in the meeting regarding amending the Traffic Control Map by creating a “No Parking Load/Unload” zone in front of 1156 Butler Street. Mr. Warren also informed Council that he had a discussion regarding Human Trafficking with County Executive Stoffa and that he was very receptive to the idea of forming a Trafficking Commission or Task Force.

Dr. Warner, Chairman of the Public Works Committee reported that she had attended the latest Council of Government meeting and had discussed the Feral Cat problem that all of the communities were experiencing and that there was no interest shown from the other community members.

There was a discussion on this matter, and the City’s contract with the Center for Animal Health and Welfare, between Council members and Mr. Steckman.

Mr. Fleck, Chairman of the Administration Committee spoke regarding legislation that he would have for later in the meeting regarding amending Sections in Chapter 110, Pensions, of the City’s Codes, and spoke regarding an Editorial Opinion printed by the Express-Times from the Patriot News regarding the prevailing-wage law, and asked that his answer to that opinion be placed on the record. (see attachment).

Mr. Murphy, City Solicitor, had no report.

Mayor Panto informed Council that he would be in Washington DC on Thursday, October 27, 2011 to take part in a White House briefing with senior members of the senior staff of President Obama.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Bill No. 33, (Ordinance 5331) Amending Sections in Chapter 110, Pensions, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., was adopted on motion of Mr. Fleck and Mr. Brown by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

Ordinance 5331 amends the Pension Ordinances by providing sections for Pension Coverage for Military Service.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

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There was no correspondence received.

**NEW BUSINESS**

An October 3, 2011 e-mail regarding a City Ordinance Request was received from Police Officer Robert Jones.

Bill No. 34, Amending Article III, Traffic Control Map of Chapter 560, Vehicles and Traffic, of Code of the City of Easton, Pa. was introduced by Mr. Warren and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would amend the Traffic Code by creating a Load/Unload Zone, Monday – Friday 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. in front of 1156 Butler Street.

Bill No. 35, Re-Enacting, Restating and Amending Article VIII, Earned Income and Net Profits, of Chapter 535, Taxation, of the Code of the City of Easton, to establish conformity with the Local Tax Enabling Act as amended by Act 32 of July 2, 2008 was introduced by Mr. Brown and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would re-enact, re-state and Amend the Earned Income and net Profits Ordinances of the City.

An October 21, 2011 memorandum, regarding proposed budget amendments was received from Chris Heagele, Director of Finance.

Bill No. 36, Amending Ordinance 5290 – 2011 Recreation Fund Budget was introduced by Mr. Brown and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would amend the 2011 Recreation Fund Budget by increasing Revenues and Expenditures by \$40,000.

An October 21, 2011 memorandum, regarding proposed budget amendments was received from Chris Heagele, Director of Finance.

Bill No. 37, Providing Revenues and Appropriating Specific Sums to be required for the 2011 Open Space Fund Budget was introduced by Mr. Brown and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would establish a budget for the Open Space Fund with Revenues and Expenditures totaling \$159,000.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would request a PennWorks grant in the amount of \$2,000,000 from DCED for infrastructure improvements at the Simon Silk Mill.

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The following Resolutions were introduced by Mrs. Vulcano:

141-2011

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

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

Nays: None (0)

An October 18, 2011 letter regarding Certificates of Appropriateness was received from Christine Ussler, AIA.

The next thirteen (13) items on the Agenda were proposed Resolutions for approving Certificates of Appropriateness for installation of a sign at 12 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, change of approved windows at 20 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, installation of a vinyl sign at 62 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, installation of a vinyl window sign at 121 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, installation of a new wrought iron railing at 10 N. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, installation of a sign at 5 Centre Square, repair of the west façade at 127 Northampton Street, installation of new window signage at 170 Northampton Street, removal of existing signs and installation of a new hanging sign at 228 Northampton Street, façade repairs at 501- 503 Northampton Street, installation of a hanging and window sign at 520 Northampton Street, installation of vinyl window signage at 522 Northampton Street, and repair of select windows and doors at 542 Northampton Street.

The following Resolutions were introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

141-2011  
142-2011  
143-2011  
144-2011  
145-2011  
146-2011  
147-2011  
148-2011  
149-2011  
150-2011  
151-2011  
152-2011  
153-2011

There being no objections from Council members, all above Resolution were approved by one vote on motion of Dr. Ruggles and Mr. Warren by the following vote:

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

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve the allocation of proposed 2012 CDBG funds.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Vulcano:

154-2011

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

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

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would appoint and designate a liaison between the City and Northampton Tax Collection Committee and its Tax Officer for the express purpose of sharing confidential tax information with the City for official purposes.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Brown:

155-2011

The above Resolution was amended by removing the title of Revenue Manager from the Resolution, on motion of Mr. Brown and Mr. Fleck by the following vote:

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

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

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

**CITIZENS RIGHT TO BE HEARD**

Salvatore Pugliese, 2225 Hackett Avenue, spoke to Council regarding a recent Traffic Citation that he had received from the Police Department, problems with parking near his property, and the perceived inactions and concerns of the Police Department.

Noel Jones, 800 Ferry Street, spoke regarding prioritizing of code enforcement in the West Ward and throughout the City for Code Violations.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m. on the motion of Dr. Warner and Mr. Fleck by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk