

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
April 27, 2011

Easton, Pa
Wednesday
April 27, 2011
6:00 p.m.

City Council met in stated session at the above date and time in the College Hill Presbyterian Church, 501 Brodhead Street, Pa. 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, Fleck, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Panto (6)
Absent: Warren (1)

Also in attendance were Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk, William K. Murphy, City Solicitor, Joel Scheer, Assistant City Solicitor, and W. Glenn Steckman, City Administrator. There were nineteen other persons present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion of Dr. Warner and Mr. Fleck the agenda was amended by removing a proposed Resolution, which would grant the right to Chrin's Brothers Inc., to operate a Recycling/Composting facility, from under New Business by the following vote:

Dr. Warner explained the concerns that she, other people and the Environmental Advisory Council had with the proposed Recycling/Composting facility.

There was a short discussion between Council members on this matter. Mayor Panto forwarded this matter to the Public Works Committee for their review.

Yeas: Panto, Warner, Vulcano, Ruggles, Fleck, Brown (6)
Nays: None (0)

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

Yeas: Brown, Fleck, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Panto (6)
Nays: None (0)

ACTION ON MINUTES

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
April 27, 2011

On motion of Mr. Fleck and Dr. Warner the April 13, 2011 Council Meeting minutes were approved as submitted by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

CITIZENS RIGHT TO BE HEARD (Agenda Items Only)

There were no remarks from the audience.

REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL

The following report was received by Council.

(a) ESWA March 14, 2011 meeting minutes.

Mayor Panto accepted the above report on behalf of Council.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Brown, Chairman of the Finance Committee spoke regarding legislation which would be before Council later in the meeting.

Mrs. Vulcano, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee spoke regarding legislation which would authorize the mailing of a proposed Neighborhood Improvement District plan to downtown property owners, which would be before Council later in the meeting, and explained why it was placed on the Agenda at the last minute.

There were comments made and questions asked by Council members regarding the proposed Plan, administration duties required by the plan, required public hearings, and Council responsibilities.

Donna Taggart, a consultant from New City America East, explained the proposed Resolution and the proposed Plan, which was before Council and then the following steps that have to be taken if the Resolution was approved.

Mrs. Vulcano also gave an update on the rehabilitation of the property on the 1200 block of Chidsey Street.

Dr. Ruggles, Chairman of the Planning Committee spoke regarding legislation which would be before Council later in the meeting.

Mr. Warren, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee was absent.

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
April 27, 2011

Dr. Warner, Chairman of the Public Works Committee spoke regarding legislation that would be before Council later in the meeting, and reported that the Environmental Advisory Council would meet on Tuesday, May 3, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. in the Gold Room at the Grand Eastonian and that the proposed Resolution granting Chrin's permission to operate a Recycling Center would be discussed at that meeting.

Mr. Brown asked, Joseph Mauro, City Engineer what had happened on the road between Canal and Maunch Chunk Streets. Mr. Mauro explained that there had been a problem with a sewer pipe and an old head wall which was repaired.

Mr. Fleck, Chairman of the Administration Committee reported that the proposed Same Sex Benefits Ordinance would be brought forward at the May 11, 2011 Council meeting, spoke briefly regarding the proposed Ordinance, spoke regarding the West Ward Neighborhood Partnership Budget process, and regarding the Chansonnette Fringe Festival which will start on May 7th.

Mayor Panto informed everyone that the Farmers Market would open on May 7, 2011, and that Arbor Day would also be celebrated that day.

Mr. Murphy, City Solicitor had no report.

Mr. Scheer, Assistant Solicitor, reported that the argument before the Supreme Court, regarding the Renninger Pension, would be on May 10, 2011 in Harrisburg.

Mayor Panto spoke regarding the water lateral replacements being done by the Easton Suburban Water Authority on College Hill, the paving of road surfaces needed because of these replacements, and the work being done on and around Bushkill Street and Bushkill Drive, spoke regarding the need for a vehicle for Mr. Hopkins, Director of Public Works, and explained where the funds, for the purchase of the vehicle, would come from, also provided an update on Riverside and Scotts parks, on renovations that have been done at Eddyside Pool, invited Council to a press conference, on Thursday, April 28, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. regarding Special Events scheduled for Riverside and Scotts Park, said that the Special Events grants would be discussed at the May 11, 2011 Council meeting, reported that Lafayette College has agreed to pay the cost for a traffic study at High and Cattell, and 50% of the cost for a pedestrian study.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No. 7, (Ordinance 5306), Approving a 1st Amendment to a Collocation Agreement between the City of Easton and Omnipoint communications Inc., now T-Mobile Northeast LLC. was adopted on motion of Mr. Brown and Dr. Warner by the following vote:

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

April 27, 2011

Yeas: Brown, Fleck, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Panto (6)

Nays: None (0)

Ordinance 5306 approves an Amendment to a Collocation Agreement with T-Mobile Northeast LLC.

Bill No. 8, (Ordinance 5307, Amending sections 285-23, Streets and Sidewalks, and 285-24, Subdivision and Land Development, Chapter 520, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., was adopted on motion of Dr. Warner and Mrs. Vulcano by the following vote:

Yeas: Fleck, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Panto, Brown (6)

Nays: None (0)

Ordinance 5306 amends fees, in the fee schedule, for items in Chapter 520, Streets & Sidewalks Ordinances.

Bill No. 9, (Ordinance 5308), Amending Sections in Chapter 515, Streets and Sidewalks, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., was adopted on motion of Dr. Warner and Dr. Ruggles by the following vote:

Yeas: Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Panto, Brown, Fleck (6)

Nays: None (0)

Ordinance 5308 amends different sections in Chapter 515 Streets and Sidewalks of the Code of the City.

CORRESPONDENCE

Council received no correspondence.

NEW BUSINESS

An April 19, 2011 e-mail, regarding a request for a stop sign at Church and Sitgreaves Street, , a No Parking Anytime zone on the 1000 block of Willow street, and two 30-minute parking zones on the 700 block of Wood Avenue was received from Police Officer Robert Jones.

Bill No. 10, Amending Article III, Traffic Control Map of Chapter 560, Vehicles and Traffic of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., was introduced by Dr. Warner and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would authorize the creation of a stop intersection at Church and Sitgreaves Street, creation of a No Parking Anytime zone on the 1000 block of Willow Street, and creation of 2

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
April 27, 2011

“30 minute Parking-Monday-Saturday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. zones on the 700 block of Wood Avenue.

An April 20, 2011 memorandum, regarding Perkins Parking Lot was received from Police Chief Lawrence Palmer.

Bill No. 11, Amending Section 295-29, Vehicles and Traffic Chapter 560, of Chapter 285, Fees of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., was introduced by Dr. Warner and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would authorize meters in the South Third Street Parking Lot at 123 S. 3rd Street at a cost of \$0.50 per hours with 3 hour limit for 8 meters on the North side of the building and 10 hour limit for all other meters.

Bill No. 12, Amending Section 560-59, of Article XI, On-metered Parking of Chapter 560, Vehicles & Traffic of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., was introduced by Dr. Warner and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would amend Section 569-59 to include the following:

“Except for meters on Larry Holmes Drive, from South Third Street to Northampton Street will only be in operation from Monday through Friday.”

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve the appointment of Andy Olsen to the Recreation Board.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mayor Panto:

48-2011

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

Yeas: Warner, Panto, Brown, Fleck, Ruggles, Vulcano (6)

Nays: None (0)

An April 19, 2011 memorandum regarding a Handicapped Parking Sign Waiver was received from Thomas A. Hess, Secretary to the Board of Health.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would authorize the placement of a third handicapped parking sign on the 1100 block of Ferry Street.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
April 27, 2011

49-2011

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

Yeas: Panto, Brown, Fleck, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner (6)

Nays: None (0)

An April 19, 2011 letter regarding Certificates of Appropriateness was received from Christine Ussler, Historic Consultant to the Historic District Commission.

The next five items on the Agenda were proposed Resolutions which would approve Certificates of Appropriateness for 14-16 S. 5th, 330 Ferry, 436 Northampton, 516 Northampton and 355 Spring Garden Streets.

The following Resolutions were introduced by Dr. Ruggles

50-2011

51-2011

52-2011

53-2011

54-2011

The above five Resolutions were adopted on motion of Dr. Ruggles and Mr. Fleck by the following vote:

Yeas: Brown, Fleck, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Panto (6)

Nays: None

An April 18, 2011 memorandum regarding a Memorandum of Understanding between the City and Lafayette College was received from Becky Bradley, Director of Planning and Codes.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve a Memorandum of Understanding between Lafayette College and the City regarding improvements to N. 3rd Street.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

55-2011

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

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
April 27, 2011

Yeas: Fleck, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Panto, Brown (6)
Nays: None (0)

An April 25, 2011 e-mail regarding an Easton Council Resolution for the Neighborhood Improvements District was received from Gretchen Longenbach, Director of Economic Development.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would authorize the mailing of the draft NID Plan and all required information and notifications regarding date, location, and times of any public hearings required by the NID Act to all property owners and lessees of property owners located in the proposed NID.

The following Resolution was introduced by Sandra Vulcano:

56-2011

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

Yeas: Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Panto, Brown, Fleck (6)
Nays: None (0)

CITIZENS RIGHT TO BE HEARD

Curt Ehly, 305 W. Monroe Street spoke regarding an Apartment House at Cattell and March Street that was originally going to have six apartments and now will have twelve which could create a parking problem in that area, and asked Mrs. Taggert if she would speak further regarding the NID process, which she did.

Council members made comments and asked questions, regarding the NID process which were answered by Ms. Taggert.

Joel Scheer, 179 Pennsylvania Avenue spoke regarding the entrance and exits from the Wa-Wa parking lot onto Cattell Street.

Mayor Panto announced that he would hold the Mayor's Youth Camp from July 11 thru 14, 2011, and explained how the youth of the community could apply to take part in the Camp.

Richard Hieshetter, 304 W. Monroe Street made comments and asked questions regarding the proposed Domestic Partnership Ordinance that is being worked on. His questions were answered by Council members and Mr. Murphy.

ADJOURNMENT

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
April 27, 2011

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

Yeas: Panto, Warner, Vulcano, Ruggles, Fleck, Brown (6)

Nays: None (0)

Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk