

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

January 27, 2016

Easton, Pa
Wednesday
January 27, 2016
6:00 p.m.

City Council met in stated session at the above date and time, in Council Chambers, located on the third floor of City Hall, 123 S. 3rd Street, Easton Pa., to consider any business that may lawfully be brought before the body.

The invocation was given by Dr. Ruggles followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: Brown, Edinger, Melan, O'Connell, Ruggles, Vulcano, Panto (7)
Absent: None (0)

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Yeas: Brown, Edinger, Melan, O'Connell, Ruggles, Vulcano, Panto (7)
Nays: None (0)

ACTION ON MINUTES

On motion of Dr. Ruggles and Mr. Melan the January 13, 2016 Council Meeting minutes, as submitted, were approved by the following vote:

Yeas: Edinger, Melan, O'Connell, Ruggles, Vulcano, Panto, Brown (7)
Nays: None (0)

RESOLUTIONS

The next items on the Agenda were two Resolutions recognizing the deaths of Nellie Mae Benward and Jack Celia, former City employees.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. O'Connell:

16-2016

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

Yeas: Panto, Brown, Edinger, Melan, O'Connell, Ruggles, Vulcano (7)
Nays: None (0)

Mayor Panto spoke regarding Ms. Benward's service to the City and its citizens.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Melan

17-2016

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

Yeas: Brown, Edinger, Melan, O'Connell, Ruggles, Vulcano, Panto (7)
Nays: None (0)

Mayor Panto spoke regarding Me. Celia's service and dedication to the City, its citizens and the Fire Department.

Mrs. Celia was presented with a framed Resolution.

PRESENTATION OF A RESTORATION AWARD

At this time Mayor Panto presentation a Restoration Award, for the restoration of 101 Northampton Street, to Peter K. Georgoutsos, and spoke regarding the restoration of the property.

Mr. Georgoutsos thanked the City for the honor bestowed on him and spoke regarding the cooperation that he had received from the City's Code Department.

PUBLIC COMMENT
Agenda Items Only

Dale Smith, 503 Pequest Road, Stewartsville New Jersey, a member of the Homeless Veterans Task Force, spoke regarding the proposed Resolution which would accept the Mayors challenge to end Veteran homelessness, acknowledging the work of the Lehigh Valley Homeless Veterans task force, and encouraged the public and private sectors to join in this effort.

Mayor Panto spoke regarding the matter of Homeless Veterans and what is being done and discussed regarding this problem.

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CONSENT AGENDA

On motion of Dr. Ruggles and Mr. Brown the following items were adopted by the following vote:

Bill 2, (Ordinance 5536) Amending Section 535-40, Property tax levied; amounts, of Chapter 535, Taxation, of the Codes of the City of Easton, Pa., which updated Section 535-40 with the current 2016 Tax Rate that was levied by the City.

Bill 3, (Ordinance 5537) Amending Article III, Traffic Control Map, of Chapter 560, Vehicles and Traffic of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., which created a Load Unload Parking – Monday – Friday, 6 am – 6 pm zone on the West side of S. 12th Street, at the intersection with Butler Street.

Resolution 18-2016 which accepted the Mayors challenge to end veteran homelessness and acknowledged the work of the Lehigh Valley Homeless Veterans Task Force, and encouraged the public and private sectors to join in the effort.

Resolution 19-2016 which approved a Certificate of Appropriateness for installing vinyl window signs at 123 S. 3rd Street.

Resolution 21-2016 which approved a Certificate of Appropriateness for installation of sign lighting at 466 Northampton Street.

Resolution 22-2016 which approved the appointment of Crystal Rose Stoneback to the Police Civil Service Board.

Resolution 23-2016 which authorized the disposition of Police Records.

Resolution 24-2016 which authorized the submission of an Application for Traffic Signal Approval to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation for a speed indicator on Knox Avenue.

Yeas: Vulcano, Panto, Brown Edinger, Melan, O'Connell, Ruggles (7)

Nays: None (0)

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. O'Connell:

20-2016

There was a discussion between Council members, Mr. Hopkins, Director of Public Works, and Attorney Scheer regarding the above proposed Resolution which would approve a Certificate of Appropriateness for 325 Northampton Street, for the installation of a dumpster enclosure.

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The discussion was mainly regarding the location of the dumpster and the requirement for no roof.

On motion of Dr. Ruggles and Mr. Edinger the above Resolution was amended by adding the following to the Now Therefore Be it Resolved section of the Resolution by the following vote:

“deleting item 4 from the report”

Yeas: Ruggles, O’Connell, Melan, Edinger, Brown, Panto, Vulcano (7)

Nays: None (0)

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

Yeas: Vulcano, Panto, Brown, Edinger, Melan, O’Connell, Ruggles (7)

Nays: None (0)

There was also a discussion between Council members regarding requiring LANTA to have a phone number on their front door sign.

REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL

The following reports were received by Council:

- (a) Easton Area Joint Sewer Authority’s September, October and November 2015 meeting minutes.

Mayor Panto accepted the above reports on behalf of Council.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Brown, Chairperson of the Finance Committee spoke regarding legislation which he would have for later in the meeting regarding establishing a Budget for the City Hall Additional expenses during the fiscal year 2016.

Mrs. Vulcano, Chairperson of the Economic Development Committee reported that she would be having a Committee meeting on Tuesday, February 23, 2016 with Kim Kmetz, from Main Street attending, to discuss the Peace Candle Lighting Ceremony Event.

Mayor Panto said that he would ask Attorney Murphy to investigate what the City’s powers were to regulate the time and day the event would be held and explained why he made that statement.

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Council members asked that Main Street bring metrics to the meeting to explain how they pooled the public and businesses to rate the success of the event.

Mrs. Vulcano reported that a West Ward Neighborhood Partnership Round Table meeting would be held on February 16, 2016, at 5:30 p.m., at the Easton Home, located at 10th and Northampton Streets.

There was a discussion on a presentation to be given by Stephen Nowroski at a later meeting for an update on the night Code Inspections and the new software in the department.

Mr. O'Connell, Chairperson of the Planning and Code Committee spoke regarding the upcoming Comprehensive Plan, Zoning and Development proposals and the Codes Department.

Mr. Melan, Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee spoke regarding legislation which he would have for later in the meeting regarding authorizing the disposition of old Police Records and reported that a Public Safety Committee meeting had been held on January 22, 2016 and reported what had been discussed.

Dr. Ruggles, Chairperson of the Public Works Committee spoke regarding legislation which he would have for later in the meeting regarding approving an Agreement of Sale for property located at 478 North Delaware Drive and for authorizing funds for a grant match to be taken from Liquid Fuels Fund.

Mr. Edinger, Chairperson of the Administration Committee reported that a search for a new City Administrator has begun and will keep Council updated on the process as it proceeds.

Mr. Murphy, City Solicitor, had no report.

Mayor Panto thanked the Public Works, Police and Fire Department's employees for all of their hard work during the most recent Snow Storm, spoke regarding the condition of the City Streets concerning snow coverage and removal and thanked the Public for their understanding during the storm and cleanup.

Mayor Panto asked David Hopkins to furnish Council with an update on the current snow removal, which he did and he commended the Public Works Department employees for their work during and after the storm.

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CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was received by Council:

- a. Palmer Township Police Chief Lawrence Palmer, Letter of Thanks for the involvement of Easton Police Officers in a multi-jurisdictional operation.
- b. Auditor General – City of Easton Officers and Employees’ PMRS Pension Plan and Aggregated Pension Trust Fund Compliance Audits.

Mayor Panto said that he would furnish a report to Council, at a later date, regarding some minor findings of noncompliance from the audits, and spoke regarding the findings.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no Unfished Business.

NEW BUSINESS

A January 21, 2016 memorandum, regarding a 2016 Budget for City Hall Construction was received from Cassandra Williams, Director of Finance.

Bill 4, An Ordinance providing revenues and appropriating specific sums to be required for the City Hall additional expenses during the fiscal year 2016 was introduced by Mr. Brown and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would provide Revenues and Expenditures in the amount of \$2,150,000 for the City Hall Additional Expenses fund.

A memorandum, dated January 21, 2016, regarding an Agreement of Sale for 478 N. Delaware Drive was received from Attorney William Murphy

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve an Agreement of Sale for 478 N. Delaware Drive.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

25-2016

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

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Mayor Panto spoke regarding the location of the property and explained why it should be purchased.

Yeas: Panto, Brown, Edinger, Melan, O'Connell, Ruggles, Vulcano (7)
Nays: None (0)

A January 21, 2016 memorandum, regarding an Additional Agenda item was received from David Hopkins, Director of Public Works.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which authorizes a \$120,000 grant match to come from Liquid Fuels Funds.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

26-2016

Mr. O'Connell questioned the amount of the grant, was it for \$600,000 or \$400,000.

Mr. Hopkins explained what the grant funds would be used for and explained the difference in the total grant funds.

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

Yeas: Melan, O'Connell, Ruggles, Vulcano, Panto, Brown, Edinger (7)
Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve a Contract for the purchase of a Transformer Rescue Pumper from Spartan Motors.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Melan:

27-2016

Dr. Ruggles asked how the City intended to pay for the purchase.

Mayor Panto said that the City would pay for the purchase and then be reimbursed by Lafayette College for the total purchase price.

There was a discussion on what type of option the City would choose to pay for the truck.

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

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Yeas: Edinger, Melan, O'Connell, Ruggles, Vulcano, Panto, Brown (7)
Nays: None (0)

Mayor Panto thanked Lafayette College for the purchase of the truck

A January 26, 2016 e-mail, regarding a Salary Resolution was received from Stefanie Weber, Comp & Benefits Manager.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would amend the 2016 Salary and Wage Resolution.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. O'Connell:

28-2016

Council members made comments and asked questions regarding the Assistant Engineer's salary and the position of the Fire Inspector.

The above Resolution was amended by removing the amendment for the salary increase for the Fire Inspector on motion of Mr. Melan and Mrs. Vulcano by the following vote:

Yeas: Edinger, Brown, Panto, Vulcano, Ruggles, O'Connell, Melan (7)
Nays: None (0)

The above amended Resolution was approved on motion of Mr. O'Connell and Mrs. Vulcano by the following vote:

Yeas: Melan, O'Connell, Ruggles, Vulcano, Panto, Brown, Edinger (7)
Nays: None (0)

PUBLIC COMMENT

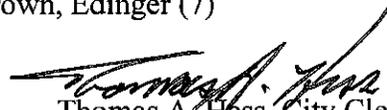
(On any item)

There were no remarks from the audience.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m., on motion of Dr. Ruggles and Mr. Melan by the following vote:

Yeas: Melan, O'Connell, Ruggles, Vulcano, Panto, Brown, Edinger (7)
Nays: None (0)


Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk



CITY OF EASTON

PENNSYLVANIA

January 22, 2016

MEETING NOTICE

The meeting of Easton City Council has been scheduled for Wednesday, January 27, 2016, for general business.

The meeting will be held in Council Chambers, located on the 3rd Floor of City Hall, 123 S. 3rd Street, Easton, Pa. and will begin at 6:00 p.m.

All meetings of City Council are open to the Public and are accessible to persons with disabilities.


Thomas A. Hess
City Clerk

CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA

Stated Session
Wednesday
January 27, 2016
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 – January 13, 2016 Council Meeting Minutes
7. RESOLUTIONS – Deaths of Nellie Mae Benward
Jack Celia
8. RECOGNIZING ED MCMURTRIE’S LIFETIME SUPPORT TO THE CITY’S YOUTH.
9. PRESENTATION – Restoration Award
10. PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda Items Only)
11. CONSENT AGENDA
 - a. Bill 2, Amending Section 535-40, Property tax levied; amounts, of Chapter 535, Taxation, of the Codes of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa.
 - b. Bill 3, Amending Article III, Traffic Control Map, of Chapter 560, Vehicles and Traffic of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa.
 - c. Resolution Joining the Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness.
 - d. Resolution approving a Certificate of Appropriateness for 123 S. 3rd Street.
 - e. Resolution approving a Certificate of Appropriateness for 325 Northampton Street.
 - f. Resolution approving a Certificate of Appropriateness for 466 Northampton Street.
 - g. Resolution approving an appointment to the Police Civil Service Board.
 - h. Resolution authorizing the disposition of City records.
 - i. Resolution authorizing application for a Traffic Signal Approval.
12. REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL
 - (a) EAJSA – September, October and November 2015 meeting minutes.
13. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES
 - (a) Finance (Kenneth Brown)
 - (b) Economic Development (Sandra Vulcano)
 - (c) Planning and Code (David O’Connell)
 - (d) Public Safety (Peter Melan)
 - (e) Public Works (Roger Ruggles)

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- (f) Administration (James Edinger)
- (g) Report of City Solicitor (Attorney William Murphy)
- (h) Report of Mayor (Salvatore J. Panto Jr.)

14. CORRESPONDENCE

- (a) Palmer Township Police Chief Lawrence Palmer, Letter of Thanks for involvement of the Easton Police Officers in a multi-jurisdictional operation.
- (b) Auditor General – City of Easton Officers and Employees’ PMRS Pension Plan and Aggregated Pension Trust Fund Compliance Audits.

15. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

16. NEW BUSINESS

- (a) Introduction of Legislative Bills
 - 1. Bill 4, Providing Revenues and Appropriating Specific Sums to be required for the City Hall Additional Expenses Budget for the Fiscal Year 2016.
- (a) Resolution Approving an Agreement for the Sale of Real Estate.
- (b) Resolution authorizing matching grant funds from Liquid Fuel Funds.
- (c) Resolution approving a Contract with Spartan Motors USA.
- (d) Resolution amending the 2016 Salary & Wage Resolution

17. PUBLIC COMMENT – (Any Matter)

18. ADJOURNMENT