

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

**July 27, 2016**

Easton, Pa  
Wednesday  
July 27, 2015  
6:00 p.m.

City Council met in stated session at the above date and time, in Council Chambers, located on the 3rd floor of City Hall, 123 South Third Street, Easton 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, Edinger, Melan, O'Connell, Ruggles, Vulcano, Panto (7)  
Absent: None (0)

Also in attendance were Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk, William Murphy, City Solicitor, Joel Scheer, Assistant City Solicitor, Tony Bassil, City Controller, and Luis Campos, City Administrator. There were approximately fifty (50) other persons present.

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

On motion of Mayor Panto and Mr. Brown the Agenda was amended by adding number 9 a, on the Agenda, for a presentation by the Mayor's Summer Camp attendees, by the following vote:

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

On motion of Mr. Brown and Mr. Melan the amended 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 Mrs. Vulcano the July 13, 2016 Council Meeting minutes, as submitted, were approved by the following vote:

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

## **PRESENTATION**

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At this time, Mr. Joseph Cuvo, James Mineo, John Mitzak, and Joseph Pokojni, members of the Marine Corps League and of the Memorial Day Committee, thanked the City for their assistance with the annual Veterans Day ceremony and the annual Memorial Day Parade, and presented the City with a new wooden podium to be used for all outdoor City functions.

Mayor Panto, on behalf of the City, thanked them for their gift and their time and effort with the Veteran's Day and Memorial Day events.

### **PRESENTATION** **Portnoff Associates**

Michelle Portnoff, of Portnoff Associates gave an overview of the Portnoff Process in the collection of past due Real Estate Taxes, went over what they have collected on behalf of the City and spoke about property owners who still owed past taxes on their property.

Council members, Ms. Portnoff, Attorneys Robert Daday, Joel Scheer, William Murphy and Tony Bassil, City Controller, had a discussion regarding taxpayers who continually are delinquent in their payments, bankruptcy problems, homes that are not in any condition to be sold or rehabilitated and the legal process that must be followed in these cases.

Mayor Panto said that he would like to establish a committee to look into the properties that taxes have not been paid on to see if it was feasible to take ownership of the properties and do something with them.

Ms. Portnoff said that her company would assist the committee in any way that they could.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT** **Agenda Items Only**

There were no comments or questions from the audience.

### **MAYOR'S SUMMER YOUTH CAMP PARTICIPANTS PRESENTATION**

Mayor Panto spoke regarding the past week's Summer Youth Camp, and the participants.

The following Camp attendees spoke regarding what they would like to see happen in the City.

Eduard Eekhof, 200 Brendan Road, and Ryan Gregg, 865 Kessler'sville Road spoke regarding global warming and recommended that the City pass a law that would require the use of at least one solar panel in residences and more for commercial buildings, and the use of only LED light bulbs in the City to limit the use of fossil fuel.

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Taylor Johnson, 91 Penns Grant Drive and Gabriela Alves, 323 W. Berwick Street, recommended that a Food Truck Festival be established in the City to include musical entertainment, a talent show, carnival rides and games to bring families closer together.

Bibyana and Alesandro Jimenez, 115 N. 14<sup>th</sup> Street, requested that the City look into Rail Service to the City and spoke regarding the benefits of rail service.

Elijah Barnes, 5 Mill Race Road spoke regarding trash in communities and recommended that the City place recycling containers next to all the city owned trash cans throughout the City and also recommended the installation of compactors in the trash cans.

Carly Ortiz, 1910 Fox Hollow Lane, spoke regarding the lack of an Art Community in the City and recommended the establishment of an Art Center in the city and spoke on what could take place at the Center.

Dana Hinkson, 29 South Sitgreaves Street, spoke regarding the building of smaller education establishments in the City to allow children to pick the type of classes and education that they would receive.

Owen Coursen, 1864 Ferry Street, said that it was an honor to be chosen to participate in the camp, and recommended that the City ban the sale and carrying of all assault weapons.

Tajiana Oladapo, 2724 Victoria Lane and Tatyana Charles, 1458 Northampton Street, spoke regarding the camp, and how the general public was unaware of the history of the City. They recommended the establishment of City scavenger hunts which would educate the public and the citizens of Easton to the City's history.

Emma Strano, 1417 Sullivan Trail, spoke regarding the major threat of global warming to the world, and recommended the establishment of classes to inform adults and children of this impending problem.

Jasming Reed, 2733 Meadow Lane Drive, spoke of her recommendation to establish a Group to bridge the gap between the Police and the public, and what the Police could do to assist in the perception the public had on them.

All Council members commended the Camp members for participating in the program, for their recommendations and thanked and commended the Mayor and his staff for the program.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

On motion of Dr. Ruggles and Mr. Melan the following items was adopted by the following vote:

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Bill 29, (Ordinance 5560), Amending Chapter 435, Property Maintenance and Housing Standards. This Ordinance repeals the old Chapter 435 and replaces it with an entirely new Chapter 435.

Bill 30, (Ordinance 5561), Amending Chapter 285, Fees, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa. This Ordinance increases fees for sections contained in the Property Maintenance and Housing Standards code.

Bill 31, (Ordinance 5562), Amending the 2016 Highway Aid Fund Budget. This Ordinance amends the 2016 Highway Aid Fund Budget by increasing revenues and expenditures by \$20,000.

Resolution 116-2016 approved a Certificate of Appropriateness for the installation of a new sign at 126 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street.

Resolution 117-2016 approved a Certificate of Appropriateness for the installation of a new fence and gate at 39 S. 6<sup>th</sup> Street.

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

**REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL**

There were no reports received by Council.

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

Mr. Brown, Chairman of the Finance Committee, spoke regarding legislation which he would have, for later in the meeting, regarding amending the 2016 General Fund Budget and for establishing a budget for the Police Station Construction Fund Budget.

Mrs. Vulcano, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee, had no report.

Mr. O'Connell, Chairman of the Planning Committee, had no report.

Mr. Melan, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, had no report.

Dr. Ruggles, Chairman of the Public Works Committee, had no report.

Mr. Edinger, Chairman of the Administration Committee, had no report.

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Mr. Murphy, City Solicitor reported that after the meeting Council would meet in Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue.

Mayor Panto had no report.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no Correspondence received by Council:

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

**NEW BUSINESS**

A July 22, 2016 memorandum, regarding a proposed 2016 Police Station Construction Budget, was received from Cassandra Williams, Finance Director.

Bill 32, Amending the 2016 General Fund Budget, was introduced by Mr. Brown and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would amend the 2016 General Fund Budget by increasing Revenues and Expenditures by \$100,000.

Bill 33, Providing revenues and appropriating specific sums to be required for the Police Station Construction Fund Budget, for the fiscal year 2016, was introduced by Mr. Brown and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill establishes a budget for Police Station Construction Fund in the amount of \$100,000.

Dr. Ruggles asked where the \$100,000 proposed change in Bill 32 and Bill 33 was coming from for it to be able to be transferred to the Police Station Construction Fund Budget.

Cassandra Williams, Finance Director said that she was instructed to take the funds from the prior year undesignated reserve line item. She said that the current year budget has the prior year reserve in there and she had to increase that amount.

Mayor Panto said that the \$100,000 does not just appear. He said that it was coming from the cash balance of the undesignated fund. He said that Council had to be shown that it is \$500,000, which will now go down to \$400,000 with the \$100,000 going to the Police Station Construction Fund. He said that Bill 32 required another line item to show that transfer.

Mr. Melan said that was indicated in a report that he gave to Dr. Ruggles earlier.

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A July 19, 2016 memorandum, regarding Council Agenda Items, was received from David Hopkins, Public Works Director.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would authorize the department of Public Works to apply for a Northampton County Uncommitted Gamin Revenue grant in the amount of \$25,000 for pedestrian crosswalk improvements at Bank and Northampton Streets.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

118-2016

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

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

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would authorize the Department of Public Works to apply for a Northampton County CRBC grant in the amount of \$50,000 for structural improvements to the Glendon (Hugh Moor Park) Bridget.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

119-2016

Mayor Panto requested that the name "Glendon" be removed from the Resolution. This was done with no opposition from the rest of Council.

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

Yeas: Edinger, Melan, O'Connell, Ruggles, Vulcano, Panto, Brown (6)

Nays: None (0)

A July 16, 2015 memorandum, regarding Council Agenda items, was received from David Hopkins, Director of Public Works.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would authorize the Department of Public Works to apply for a Northampton County Hotel Tax grant in the amount of \$50,000 for structural improvement to the Glendon Hugh Moore Park Bridget.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

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120-2016

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

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

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve a Governmental Lease-Purchase between the City and TCF Equipment for the lease-purchase of a heavy roller.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

121-2016

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

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

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve a Professional Services Agreement with Traffic Planning and Design.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

122-2016

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

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

Nays: None (0)

**PUBLIC COMMENT**  
**(On any item)**

Lois Arciszewski, Adams Outdoor, furnish Council with an update on the proposed Billboard Construction site at the Wastewater Treatment Plant and the regulatory side of the project. She asked Council to introduce and adopt a Resolution providing them with an extension to obtain all needed permits.

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The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would grant a sixty (60) day extension for the completion of a settlement as previously negotiated in the pending Federal Court action filed on behalf of Pennsylvania Media LLC et all vs, City of Easton et all.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mayor Panto:

123-2016

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

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

Nays: None (0)

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p. m. on motion of Dr. Ruggles and Mrs. Vulcano 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

July 22, 2016

### MEETING NOTICE

A regular meeting of Easton City Council has been scheduled for Wednesday, July 27, 2016, for the transaction of regular business.

The meeting will be held in council Chambers, located on the third floor of City Hall, 123 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street 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  
July 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 – July 13, 2016 Council Meeting minutes
7. PRESENTATION – Memorial Day Committee.
8. PRESENTATION – Portnoff Associates
9. PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda Items Only)  
(a) Mayor’s Summer Camp presentations.
10. CONSENT AGENDA
  - a. Bill 29, Amending Chapter 435, Property maintenance and Housing Standards.
  - b. Bill 30, Amending the Fee Schedule.
  - c. Bill 31, Amending the 2016 Highway Aid Fund Budget
  - d. Resolution approving a Certificate of Appropriateness for 126 S. Third Street.
  - e. Resolution approving a Certificate of Appropriateness for 39 S. 6<sup>th</sup> Street.
11. REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL
12. 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)
  - (f) Administration (James Edinger)
  - (g) Report of City Solicitor (Attorney William Murphy)
  - (h) Report of Mayor (Salvatore J. Panto Jr.)
13. CORRESPONDENCE
14. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

-Over-

15. NEW BUSINESS

(a) Introduction of Legislative Bills

1. Bill 32, Amending the 2016 General Fund Budget

2. Bill 33, Providing Revenues and Appropriating Specific Sums to be required for the Police Station Construction Fund Budget for the fiscal year 2016.

(b) Resolution authorizing application for a Northampton County Uncommitted Gaming Revenue Grant.

(c) Resolution authorizing application for a Northampton County Hotel Tax Grant.

(d) Resolution authorizing application for Northampton County CRBC Grant

(e) Resolution approving a Lease Agreement with TCF Equipment Finance.

(f) Resolution approving a Professional Services Agreement with Traffic Planning and Design, Inc.

16. PUBLIC COMMENT – (Any Matter)

17. ADJOURNMENT