

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
June 27, 2012

Easton, Pa
Wednesday
June 27, 2012
6:00 p.m.

City Council met in stated session at the above date and time in Council Chambers, 6th Floor of City Hall, One South Third Street to consider any business that may lawfully be brought before the body.

The invocation was given by Deacon Anthony Koury followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

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

Also in attendance were Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk, Joel Scheer, Assistant City Solicitor, and Glenn Steckman, City Administrator. There were approximately twenty-eight other persons present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion of Dr. Warner and Mr. Brown, the Agenda was approved by the following vote

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

ACTION ON MINUTES

On motion of Dr. Ruggles and Dr. Warner the June 13, 2012 Council Meeting minutes were amended by changing the vote for the proposed Resolution, which would have approved the intermunicipal transfer of a Distributor Liquor License, to six Nays and zero Yeas, by the following vote:

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

On motion of Dr. Warner and Mr. Warren, the June 13, 2012 amended minutes were approved by the following vote:

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

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CITIZENS RIGHT TO BE HEARD

At this time Mayor Panto presented Deacon Anthony Koury with a proclamation recognizing his retirement from Notre Dame High School and declaring June 2, 2012 as Deacon Anthony Koury in the City of Easton.

Mayor Panto and Council Members Brown, Fleck and Vulcano offered words of thanks for Deacon Koury's service to the youth of Notre Dame High School and to his Community.

Deacon Koury thanked Mr. Joseph Kramer, Principal of Notre Dame High School for his friendship and assistance over the years, and the Mayor for his Proclamation.

REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL

The following report was received by Council:

- (a) Monthly Fire Report for May 2012

Mayor Panto accepted the above report on behalf of Council.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Brown, Chairman of the Finance Committee, spoke regarding legislation that he would have for later in the meeting regarding amending the 2012 General Fund Budget, and for amending Article VIII, Earned Income and Net Profits ordinance.

Mrs. Vulcano, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee spoke regarding legislation she would have for later in the meeting regarding approving an Agreement of Sale for 208 Palmer Street, approving the reallocation of CDBG funds, and regarding a Resolution voicing support for the Main Street Initiative and authorizing the transfer of \$61,684.67 representing the City's distribution resulting from the dissolution of the Two Rivers Landing Partnership to GEDP.

Dr. Ruggles, Chairman of the Planning Committee, spoke regarding legislation that he would have for later in the meeting, regarding approving Certificates of Appropriateness for four properties, and for approving two maintenance contracts with MJC Odd Jobs Unlimited, and with C.E.B. LLC.

Mr. Warren, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, reported that his Committee had met on June 26, 2012 and from discussions at that meeting he would be introducing, at a future meeting, an Ordinance which would establish meters on the North side of the 600 block Ferry.

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Dr. Warner, Chairman of the Public Works Committee spoke regarding legislation that she would have for later in the meeting regarding amending the 2011 GO Capital Bond Fund Budget, and reported that she hoped to have a proposed Solar Ordinance for the July 24th Council Committee meeting for Council's review.

Mr. Fleck, Chairman of the Administration Committee reported that an Administration meeting would be held on August 22, and Council Rules and Regulations would be discussed. He also spoke regarding an upcoming West Ward Neighborhood Partnership meeting.

Mr. Scheer, Assistant Solicitor, reported that after the meeting Council would go into an Executive Session where they would discuss labor negotiations.

Mayor Panto spoke regarding the coming heat wave for the weekend of June 22, 23, 24, 2012; spoke regarding a reception for the King of Ghana who would be visiting the City and e-mails that he had received regarding the proposed Commuter Tax.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No. 23, (Ordinance 5361) Approving the Transfer of Funds within the 2011 GO Bond Capital Fund Budget, was adopted on motion by Dr. Warner and Mr. Fleck by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

Ordinance 5361 approves the transfer of \$49,579 within the 2011 GO Bond Capital Fund Budget.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence received by Council:

NEW BUSINESS

A June 14, 2012 letter, regarding an Agreement of Sale for 208 Palmer Street was received from Attorney William Murphy.

Bill No. 25, Approving an Agreement of Sale between the City of Easton and the Redevelopment Authority of Easton of Easton, Pa., was introduced by Sandra Vulcano and ordered processed for adoption.

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This Ordinance would approve an Agreement of Sale between the City and the Redevelopment Authority for 208 Palmer Street.

A June 21, 2012, memorandum regarding a proposed Budget Amendment for Council consideration was received from Chris Heagele, Director of Finance.

Bill No. 26, Amending Ordinance N. 5336, 2012 General Fund Budget, was introduced by Mr. Brown and ordered processed for adoption.

Dr. Ruggles asked if the Account Name could be amended to reflect where the funds came from rather than just Misc. Revenue.

After a discussion between Council, Mr. Heagele and Mr. Steckman it was decided that the following would be placed at the beginning of proposed Bill 25:

“WHEREAS, the City of Easton, Pa., has received \$61,684.67, which is the City’s portion of the Partnership Dissolution of Two Rivers Landing”

This Bill would amend the 2012 General Fund Budget by increasing Revenues and Expenditures by \$61,684.67.

A June 22, 2012 memorandum regarding an Ordinance to increase non-resident EIT Rate was received from Chris Heagele, Director of Finance.

Bill No. 27, Amending Article VIII, Earned Income and Net Profits, of Chapter 535, Taxation, of the Code of the City of Easton to provide for an increase in Earned Income and Net Profits, of Chapter 535 Taxation, of the Code of the City of Easton, effective January 1, 2012, was introduced by Mr. Brown and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would increase the Non-resident Earned Income Tax Rate.

Dr. Ruggles asked questions regarding the use of the increase funds which were answered by Mr. Heagele and Mayor Panto.

A June 19, 2012 letter regarding Certificates of Appropriateness was received from Christine Ussler, AIA.

The next four items on the Agenda were proposed Resolutions which would approver Certificates of Appropriateness for installation of vinyl window signs at 121 N. 3rd Street, for the repair and painting of woodwork and installation of a sign at 5-7 Lehn’s Court, for the repair and repointing of the facades at 140 Northampton Street, and replacement of the roof at 472 Northampton Street.

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The following Resolutions were introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

87-2012
88-2012
89-2012
90-2012

There being no objections on voting on all four above proposed Resolution by one vote, all four of the above Resolutions were adopted on motion of Dr. Ruggles and Mrs. Vulcano by the following vote:

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

A June 20, 2012 e-mail regarding Two Rivers Landing and Transfer of funds and a letter of support for the Main Street initiative was received from Director Longenbach.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would voice Council's support for the Easton Main Street Initiative and authorized the transfer of \$61,684.67 to the GEDP to support programs including the Main Street Initiative.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Vulcano:

91-2012

There was a discussion between Council members and Mr. Heagele and Mr. Steckman on the transfer of the funds.

From that discussion and on motion of Mrs. Vulcano and Dr. Warner the above Resolution was amended by adding the following at the end of #2; "Authorization is contingent upon adoption of Bill 26-2012 on July 11, 2012, by the following vote:

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

On motion of Mrs. Vulcano and Mr. Warren the above amended Resolution was adopted by the following vote

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

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

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The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Vulcano:

92-2012

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

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

Nays: None (0)

A June 7, 2012, memorandum regarding Property Maintenance/Clean and Lien Contracts was received from Director Bradley.

The next two items on the Agenda were proposed Resolutions which would approve property maintenance contracts with C.E.B. LLC and MJC Odd Jobs Unlimited.

Dr. Ruggles asked questions regarding the difference in labor and equipment costs being charged by the companies.

On motion of Dr. Ruggles and Mr. Warren the proposed Resolutions were tabled until Dr. Ruggles received more information on the labor costs for these two companies, by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

CITIZENS RIGHT TO BE HEARD

Mario Figueroa, 1832 Elm Street spoke regarding his vision of working with the youth of the community, primarily between the ages of 14-21, regarding drugs, guns, and gangs which would make for a safer and cleaner community. He invited everyone to come to an event on July 14, 2012 at Centennial Park from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. where there would be tournaments and games for the youth of the City.

Ester Guzman, 723 Ferry Street explained why the date for the West Ward Neighborhood Partnership meeting had been changed.

Dennis Lieb, 1208 Chidsey Street spoke regarding the revised proposed Community Bill of Rights and read a statement. (See attached).

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All Council members responded to Mr. Lieb's comments.

Council said that the proposed Community Bill of Rights would be discussed during the July 10, 2012 Council Committees meetings.

Larry Porter, 155 Parker Avenue spoke regarding the proposed Community Bill of Rights and read a statement. (See attached).

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:39 p.m. on the motion of Dr. Warner and Mr. Brown by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk