

**Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
March 27, 2013**

Easton, Pa
Wednesday
March 27, 2013
6:00 p.m.

City Council met in stated session at the above date and time, in Council Chambers, 6th floor, One S. Third Street to consider any business that may lawfully be brought before the body and to receive the Mayor's State of the City address.

The invocation was given by Mayor Panto followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

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

Also in attendance were Rita Messa, Assistant City Clerk, William Murphy, City Solicitor, Joel Scheer, Assistant City Solicitor and Glenn Steckman, City Administrator. There were twenty-five other persons present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion of Mr. Brown and Mr. Warren the Agenda was approved by the following vote:

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

ACTION ON MINUTES

On motion of Dr. Ruggles and Mrs. Vulcano, the March 13, 2013 Council Meeting minutes were approved as submitted by the following vote:

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

STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

At this time Mayor Panto presented his State of the City Address. (See attachment).

CITIZENS RIGHT TO BE HEARD – (Agenda Items Only)

There were no remarks from the audience.

REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL

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There were no reports received by 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 2013 General Fund Budget, for approving a Stipulation of Counsel, and for approving allocations for the 2013 City Special Events. He reported that the Finance Committee would meet on April 9, 2013 to discuss the quarterly report.

Mrs. Vulcano, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee said that she was excited with the signing of a lease for a new business, "Cheeburger-Cheeburger", in downtown, reported that she had attended the Crayola Hard Hat Press Conference and spoke regarding the work being done on the Crayola Factory and the new technology that will be used.

Dr. Ruggles, Chairman of the Planning Committee, spoke regarding legislation that he would have for later in the meeting regarding Certificates of Appropriateness for six properties in the Historic District, and to adopt the Annual City Report.

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

Dr. Warner, Chairman of the Public Works Committee spoke regarding legislation that she would have for later in the meeting regarding approving an Agreement with the Easton Aquatic Club, for authorizing the City to apply for a Department of Conservation and Natural Resources grant and to approve an Agreement with Mark Bonstein.

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

Mr. Murphy, City Solicitor reported that, before the Council meeting, Council had met in Executive Session and had discussed a personnel matter.

Mr. Scheer, Assistant City Solicitor had no report.

Mayor Panto had no report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill 18, (Ordinance 5403), Amending the 2013 General Fund Budget was adopted on motion of Mr. Brown and Mr. Fleck by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

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Ordinance 5403 amends the 2013 General Fund Budget by increasing Revenues and Expenditures by \$75,000.

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was received by Council.

(a) Matt Boyer, e-mail regarding the Easton Transportation Center.

NEW BUSINESS

A March 19, 2013, letter regarding Certificates of Appropriateness for six properties in the Historic District was received from Christine Ussler, AIA.

The next six items on the Agenda were proposed Resolutions for the replacement of the roof and dormer sides at 34 N. 2nd Street, for the demolition of the existing buildings at 219 N. 3rd Street, for the building of a new office building at 123 S. 3rd Street, for façade repair at 126-130 Bushkill Drive (229 N. Green Street), for façade repair and window replacement at 149 Northampton Street and for installation of signs and lighting at 154 Northampton Street.

The following Resolutions were introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

53-2013
54-2013
55-2013
56-2013
57-2013
58-2013

With no objection from Council members the six above Resolution were all adopted by one vote on motion of Dr. Ruggles and Mr. Warren by the following vote:

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

Nays: Nays (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve a Stipulation of Council.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Brown:

59-2013

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

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

A March 20, 2013 memorandum regarding Approval for the 2012 Annual Report was received from Becky Bradley, Director of Planning and Codes.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would adopt the 2012 City of Easton Annual Report.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

60-2013

Dr. Ruggles said that he found the report to be extremely informative, provided a good background of what has happened over the past year in the Planning and Codes Departments and commended all of the work that the Director and employees of the Planning and Codes Department have accomplished.

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

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

A March 22, 2013 memorandum regarding City Council Agenda Items was received from David Hopkins, Director of Public Works.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve an Agreement with the Easton Aquatics Club for the use of Heil Pool during their 2013 season.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Warner:

61-2013

The above Resolution was adopted on motion of Dr. Warner and Dr. Ruggles 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 authorize the City Administration to apply for a Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Grant for improvements along the Bushkill Creek.

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The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Warner:

62-2013

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

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

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would allocate funds to different organizations for their 2013 Special Events.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Brown:

63-2013

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

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

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve an Agreement with Mark Bonstein to conduct an Auction of City property.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Warner:

64-2013

On request from City Administrator, Glenn Steckman, the above Resolution was amended by changing the persons authorized to sign said Agreement from the Mayor and City Controller to the Mayor and City Administrator on motion of Dr. Warner and Mr. Warren by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

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

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

Nays: None (0)

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CITIZENS RIGHT TO BE HEARD

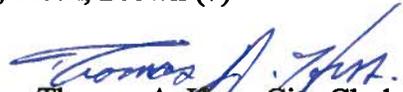
There were no remarks from the audience.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p. m. on the motion of Mr. Fleck and Dr. Warner by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)


Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk

Mayor Salvatore J. Panto, Jr.

City of Easton PA

State of the City

March 27, 2013

SLIDE 1

I cherish this occasion each year as the only unedited format that allows a detailed explanation of our vision for the future of our City, and to share the challenges we must face together as we continue to move forward. It is a time to celebrate accomplishments, to celebrate our collective achievements, side by side with our dedicated management team, our City Council members, and our public employees, because without their dedication, creativity and can-do spirit, during a time of unprecedented recession, we simply would not have much to celebrate.

We are a historic city, a vibrant city, a beautiful city, an artistic city, an environmentally-aware city, an academic city, and we all feel a special connection—a bond—to our city and to each other.

I am here to report to you that the state of our city is strong and getting stronger. We are vibrant, open and smart. And the rest of the region has taken notice that Easton is back as one of the shining stars in the Lehigh Valley region.

In spite of the worst economy since the Great Depression and as our Congress took us to the brink of a fiscal cliff, our city stood as a model for solving our financial problems and creating economic opportunities for investors.

Alvin Toffler reminded us “to think about big things while you're doing small things” so today we will recount the big things but highlight the little things as well.

Some of my proudest moments as Mayor have been seeing the response of our City employees in the face of great natural challenges. In each and every situation, they have demonstrated what good government is all about.

So tonight let us give special recognition to all the first responders. No government function is more important than assuring the public safety of our citizens, and I commend the courage and commitment of our dedicated police officers, fire fighters, emergency medical technicians and public works employees. This past year we experienced super storm Sandy. Fortunately we didn't get all of the rain that others received but that brutally cold night I watched our firefighters fight a fire in 70 mph winds, climbing onto the roof with no thought of themselves but to minimize property damage. I watched our police assist in traffic control and rescue residents from flooded cars and houses as projectiles became airborne and I watched our public works employees avoid metal roofing material flying onto the streets.

SLIDE 2

I would also like to thank this beautiful facility. Our Renaissance started when this theatre re-opened. I had the pleasure of serving on this Board and as President. During my first term I provided for a one million dollar loan toward the completion of the renovation. It was bold, it was innovative and it was successful. The State Theatre is where it all started.

19. retail openings

20. restaurant openings

Canal Museum back to its roots

CRAYOLA EXPERIENCE

118 – 120 Northampton St

Alpha Building

Easton City Hall and Transportation center

SILK: a creative community

Big projects are great and get the attention but the important projects are in the neighborhoods. The city directed green rehab program.

Pine Street

Pine Street

NEW CONSTRUCTION

interiors and solar panels

north 7th street

Berwick street

ferry street

ferry street

neston heights

Lafayette College remarks about Dan Weiss

Everything we do relies on a strong financial foundation

Tonight I would like to take this opportunity to remember where we started, what we have accomplished, and what we must do continue to move the City forward. When we came into office in 2008 our City finances were in a state of severe decline. The fund balance was depleted, we inherited a deficit of \$2 million and our taxes had increased 107% over the previous four years. We were in the state's early intervention program on our way to filing under Act 47.

We realized that in order to have a smaller government we needed a smarter government with greater capacity and the 21st century tools and technology to do more with less. And so we continue to meet these challenges with a recognition that change is an often difficult process.

The retirement of Chief Larry Palmer paved the way for the appointment of Chief Carl Scalzo, as well as the appointment of Captain Scott Casterline.

Training continues on all levels and two officers attended and graduated from Northwestern's School of Police Staff and Command. We also added two new highly trained K-9 officers.

We continue to update police vehicles and crime investigation software and hardware such as Total Station which allows for accurate plotting and diagramming of crime and accident scenes as well as RUVIS – Reflected Ultra Violet Imaging System allowing officers to search, view and photograph latent fingerprints and other evidence not visible to the unaided eye.

All of this was achieved and we still decreased overtime by more than 26% over 2012 and more than 52% since 2007

Fire

We are very fortunate to have a fully paid professional fire department that is committed to training and professionalism. The proof in this is the fact that we have had no loss of life in more than 12 years and the amount of property protected is astounding.

The prevention programs and inspection and building permit program to reduce the threat of fire or minimize the damage before they happen continue to provide positive results.

Last year, the department achieved 100% participation in the PA Fire service Certification Program – one of only 30 of the 2500 fire departments in the state.

I would also like to congratulate Chief Bast for achieving the professional designation of Chief Fire Officer, first chief in the Lehigh Valley to achieve such designation.

We took delivery of our new pumper vehicle adding to the Ladder Truck and Command Vehicle purchased in the last five years

The increased economic vitality and interest in the city has also increased activity in the Planning and Codes Department and the Economic and Community Development department.

Planning and Codes

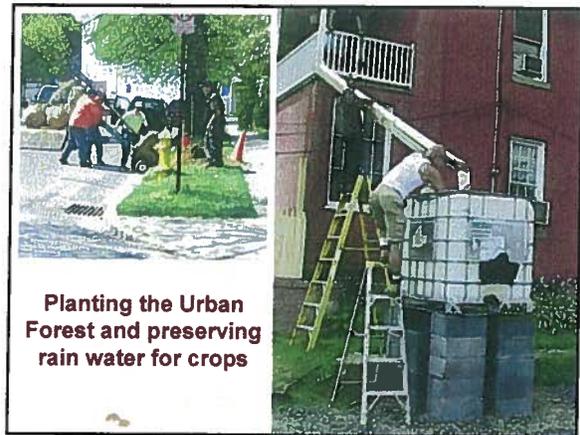
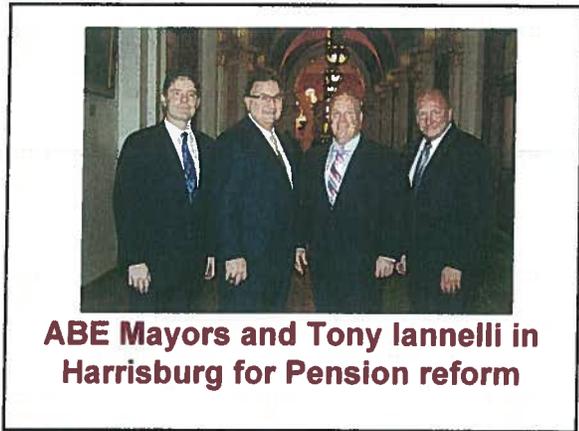
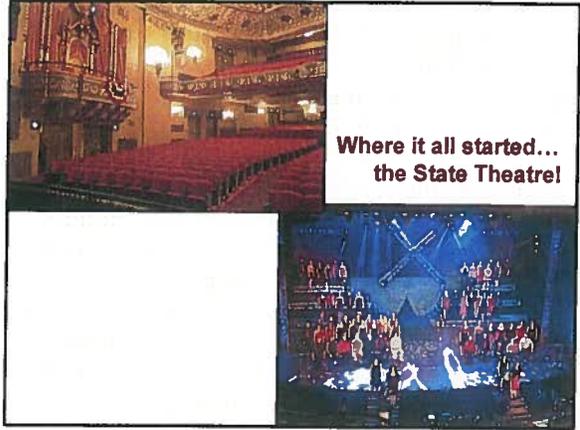
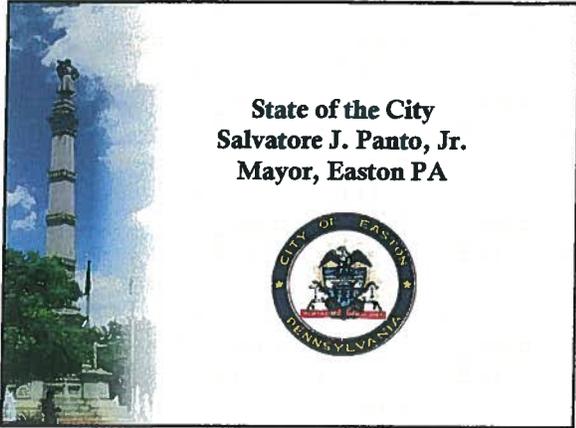
Code enforcement officers are our feet on the street to meet the goals of our Clean and Safe campaign. One of the many new programs was our Blight Certification Program which is being used as a tool to flip ownership on vacant properties.

Code officers responded to 2,058 complaints and issued 1,477

The Karl Stirner Arts Trail was completed and being used heavily. This is our newest park and provides for 24 acres of open space and 2.5 miles of trail. Other major projects included: Pomeroy's Phase 2, Silk, the South Third Street project and the projects you saw on the slides earlier.

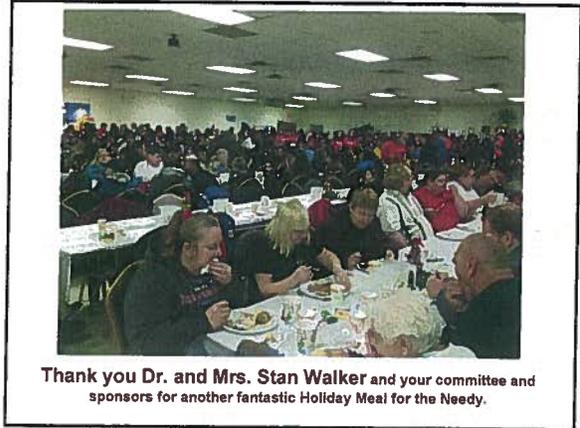
Through the efforts of the department I was awarded the Pa Chapter American Planning Association Leadership Award for an Elected Official Advocate and the 2012 Sustainability Award by the Delaware Valley Green Building Council for Individual Leadership. We also received several speaking requests to talk about our smart growth code and sustainability efforts.

Economic and Community Development plus GEDP and ERA Even in this economy the city continues to draw public and private investment dollars with more than \$100 million in active projects last year and more than \$20 million in grants being managed this year alone.





**Easton Farmers Market.....
better than ever!**



Thank you Dr. and Mrs. Stan Walker and your committee and sponsors for another fantastic Holiday Meal for the Needy.



MEMORIAL DAY PARADE



HERITAGE DAY



SCARECROW FEST AND NATIONAL NIGHT OUT



First Annual Comedy Night



Hispanic Festival



Polar Plunge

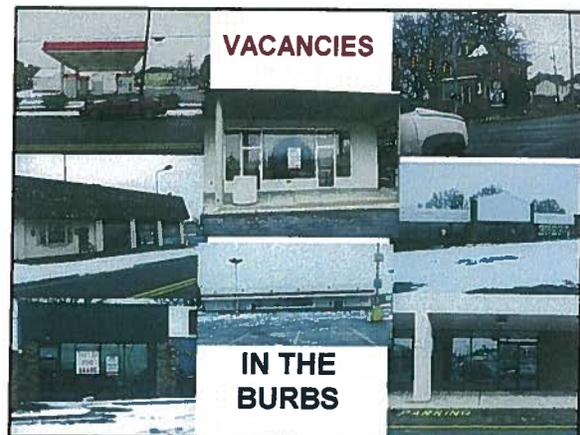
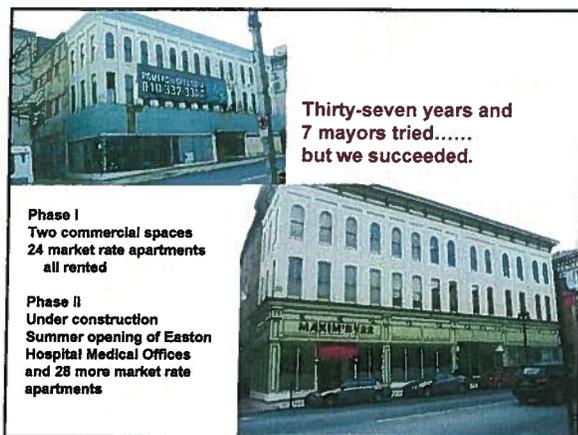
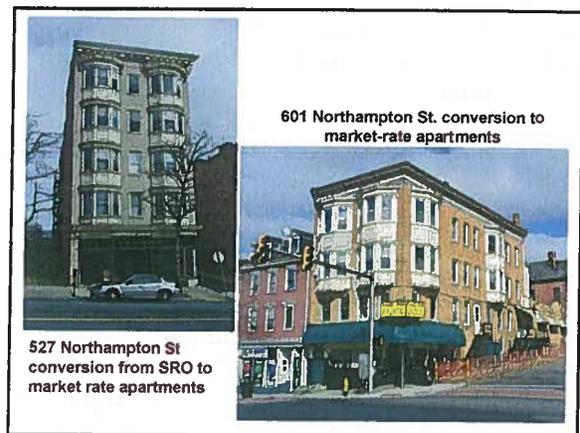
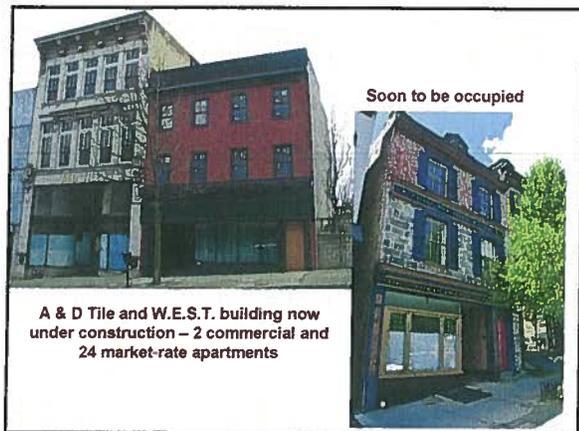
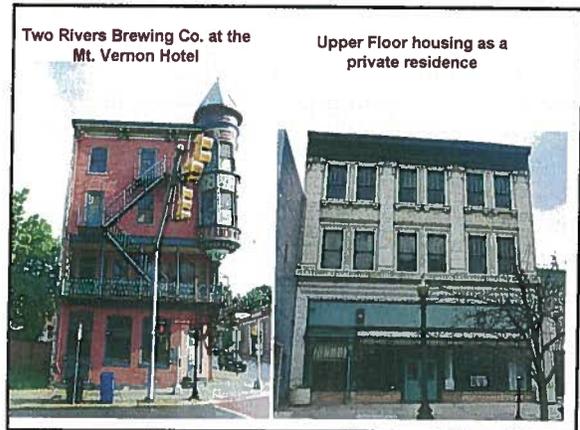
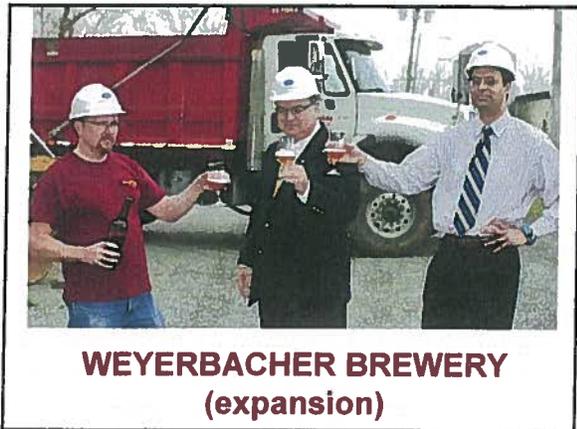


We entertained royalty from Ghana and had our own snowboard event in the middle of downtown.



BUSINESS GROWTH MEANS LESS RELIANCE ON RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE FOR NEEDED REVENUES

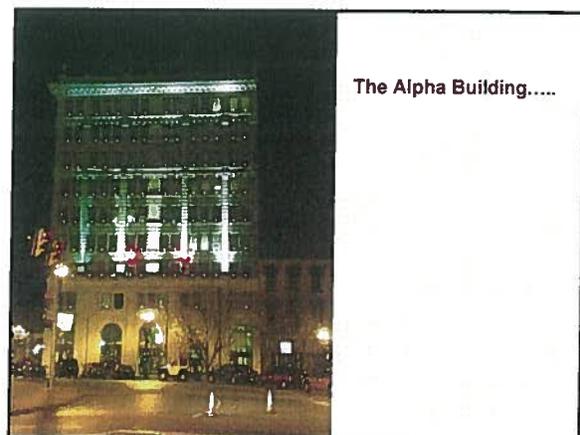
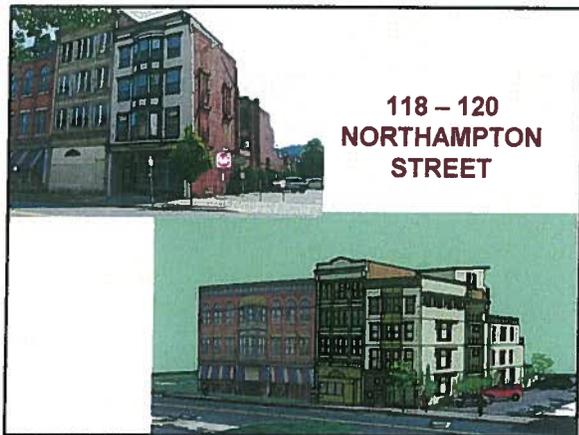
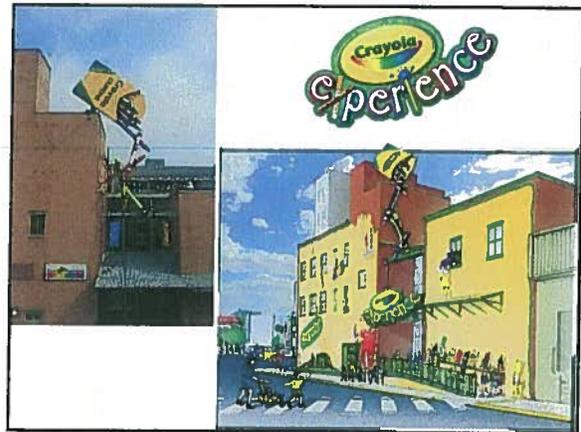
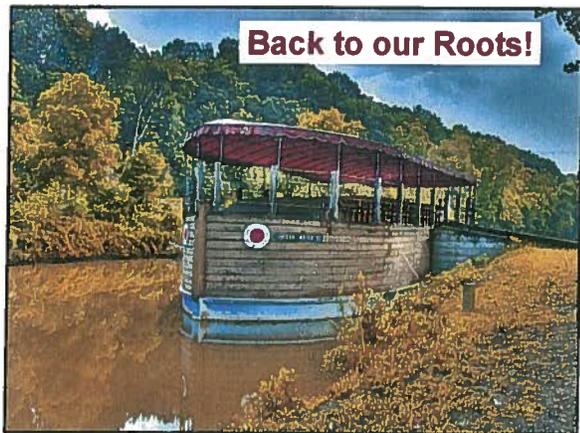




Retail shops are opening

- Denim Project
- Skin Clinic
- Sweet Girlz
- Easton Outdoor Project
- Carrie's (expansion)

Restaurants continue to open and succeed





"This project will be a great catalyst to ensure South Third Street will become lively and vibrant again."

State Representative Robert Freeman



FANTON CITY HALL - TRANSPORTATION CENTER SPILLMAN EDGEWELL ARCHITECTS Pennoni



SILK: A CREATIVE COMMUNITY
 Selective demolition has started and the city boulevard is scheduled to start this summer with Phase I beginning shortly after.




North Eighth Street




600 Block of Pine Street




600 Block of Pine Street

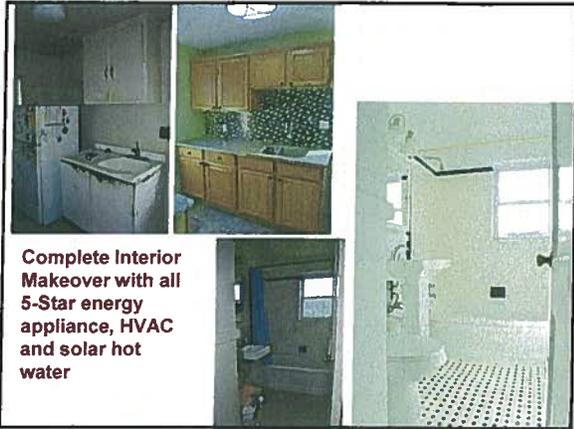



We set a goal in 2011 to be building in-fill construction within 2 years and this will be our first project. Located on the 600 block of Pine St.



PHASE I PHASE II PHASE III

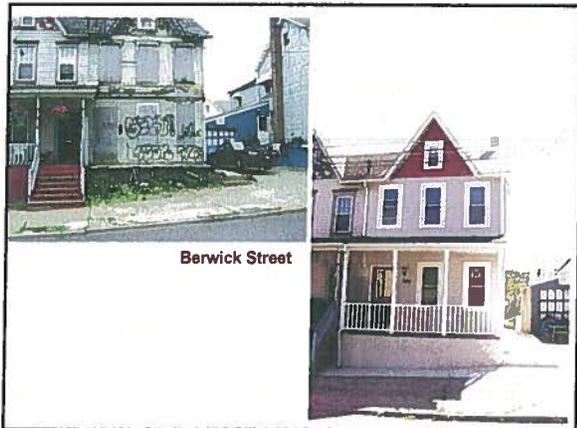
ENCLOSURE 1



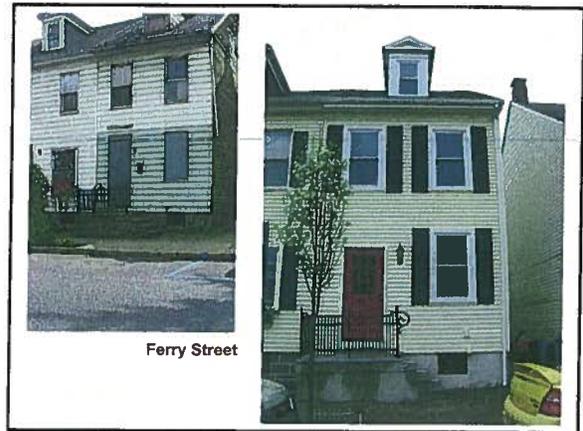
Complete Interior Makeover with all 5-Star energy appliance, HVAC and solar hot water



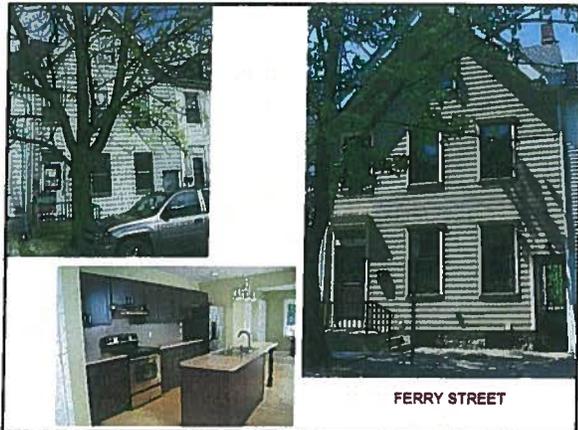
NORTH SEVENTH STREET



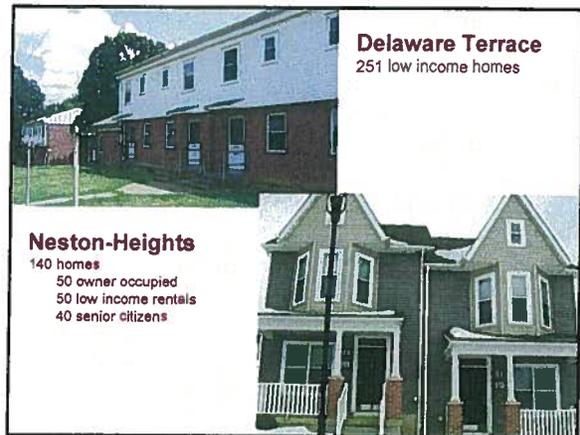
Berwick Street



Ferry Street

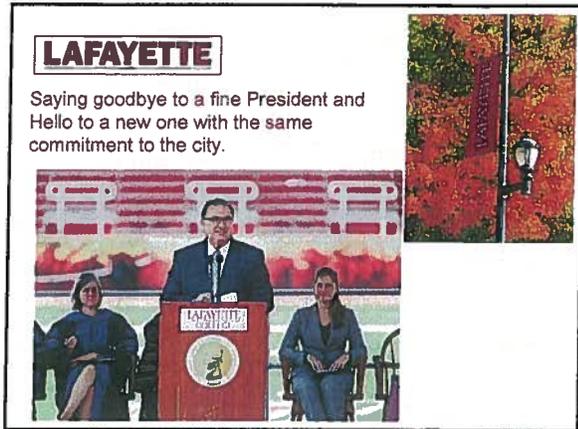


FERRY STREET

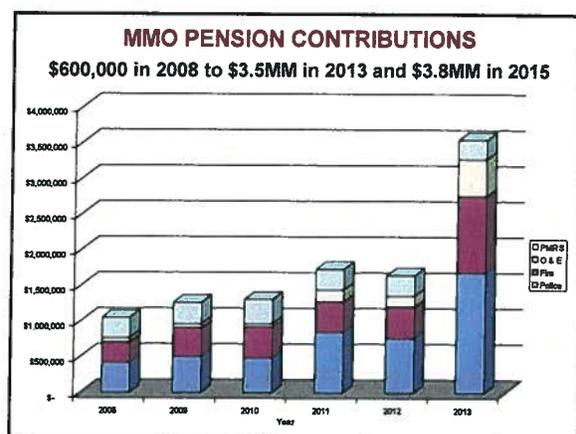
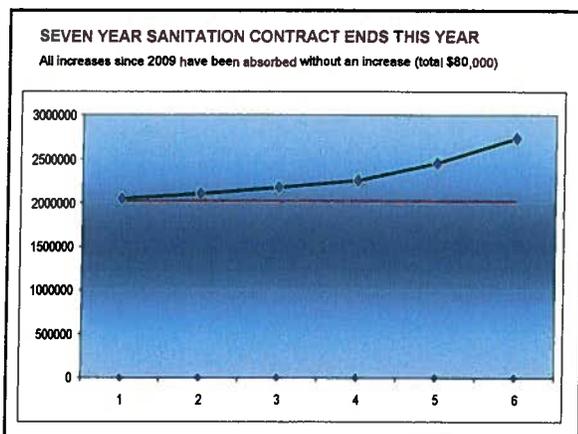
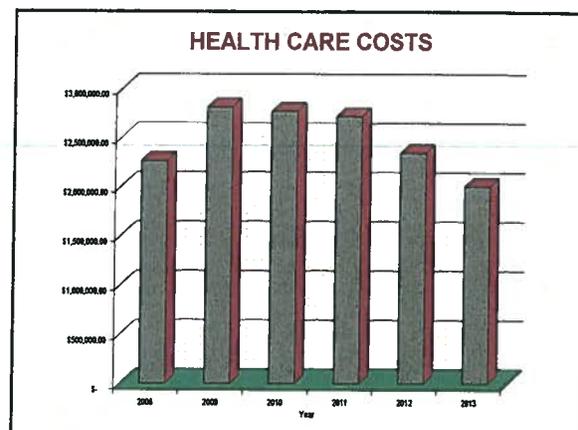
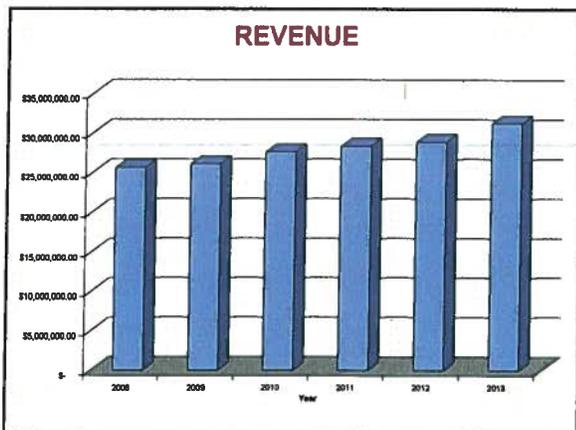


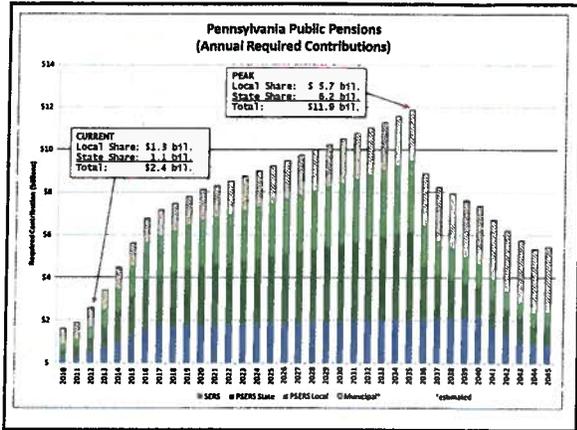
Delaware Terrace
251 low income homes

Neston-Heights
140 homes
50 owner occupied
50 low income rentals
40 senior citizens



***Everything* we do relies on a strong financial foundation**

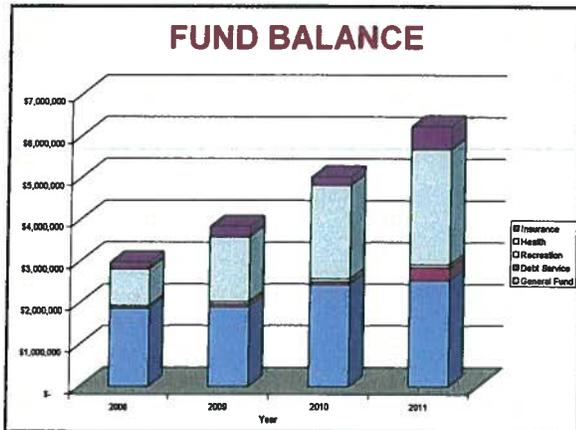




Major Increases in Expenses

➤ Pensions	\$1,600,000
➤ 11 add'l police officers	770,000
➤ 2 add'l firefighters	140,000
➤ Prior Lawsuit	600,000
➤ Sanitation Contract	230,000
➤ Main Street/Ambassadors	430,000
➤ Weed and Seed	60,000

**TOTAL ANNUAL INCREASES ABSORBED
WITHOUT TAX INCREASE
\$3,830,000.00**



**REDUCING
WASTEFUL
SPENDING AND
BEING MORE
EFFICIENT**

CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA

Stated Session
Wednesday
March 27, 2013
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 – March 13, 2013 Council meeting minutes
7. STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS
8. CITIZENS RIGHT TO BE HEARD – (Agenda Items Only)
9. REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL
10. ACCEPTING REPORTS ON BEHALF OF COUNCIL.
11. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES
 - (a) Finance (Kenneth Brown)
 - (b) Economic Development (Sandra Vulcano)
 - (c) Planning (Roger Ruggles)
 - (d) Public Safety (Jeffrey Warren)
 - (e) Public Works (Elinor Warner)
 - (f) Administration (Michael Fleck)
 - (g) Report of City Solicitor (Attorney William Murphy)
 - (h) Report of Mayor (Salvatore J. Panto Jr.)
12. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
 - (a) Action on Legislative Bills
 1. Bill 18, Amending 2013 General Fund Budget
13. CORRESPONDENCE
 - (a) Matt Boyer, e-mail regarding the Easton Transportation Center
14. NEW BUSINESS
 - (a) Approving a Certificate of Appropriateness for 34 N. 2nd Street.(R)
 - (b) Approving a Certificate of Appropriateness for 219 N. 3rd Street.(R)
 - (c) Approving a Certificate of Appropriateness for 123 S. 3rd Street.(R)

-Over-

- (d) Approving a Certificate of Appropriateness for 126-130 Bushkill Drive.(R)
- (e) Approving a Certificate of Appropriateness for 149 Northampton Street.(R)
- (f) Approving a Certificate of Appropriateness for 154 Northampton Street.(R)
- (g) Approving a Stipulation of Counsel for Charles Casella Revocable Living Trust.(R)
(124 Morrison Avenue).
- (h) Adopting the Annual Report for 2012 (R)
- (i) Approving an Agreement with Easton Aquatic Club.(R)
- (j) Authorizing application for a Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Grant.(R)
- (k) Allocation funds for City Special Events.(R)
- (l) Approving an Agreement with Mark Bonstein.(R)

15. CITIZENS RIGHT TO BE HEARD - On any matter.

16. ADJOURNMENT