

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

May 27, 2009

Easton, Pa.
Wednesday
May 27, 2009
6:00 P.M.

City Council met in stated session, in Council Chambers, Room 519, Fifth Floor, One South Third Street, to consider any business that may lawfully be brought before the body.

The invocation was given by Mr. Brown followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL

Present: Kenneth Brown
Pamela Panto
Roger Ruggles
Sandra Vulcano
Elinor Warner
Jeffrey Warren
Salvatore J. Panto Jr. (7)

Absent: None (0)

Also in attendance were Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk, William Murphy, City Solicitor, and Glenn Steckman, City Administrator. There were twenty-four other persons present in the audience.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion of Dr. Ruggles and Dr. Warner the Agenda was approved by the following vote:

Yeas: Brown, P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, S. Panto (7)

Nays: None (0)

ACTION ON MINUTES

The May 13, 2009 Council meeting and Public Hearing minutes were approved as submitted on motion of Dr. Warner and Mrs. Panto by the following vote:

Yeas: P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, S. Panto, Brown (7)

Nays: None (0)

RESOLUTION

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

May 27, 2009

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution congratulating Officer Anthony Arredondo for being named Police Officer of the Year, but he was not in attendance at this time so the reading and presenting of the Resolution was put off until later in the meeting.

CERTIFICATES OF RECOGNITION

The next items on the Agenda were two Certificates of Recognition for Thomas Lutes and Robert Price, but they were not in attendance at this time so the reading and presenting of the Certificates were put off until later in the meeting.

PUBLIC'S RIGHT TO BE HEARD (Agenda Items Only)

Megan McBride, 728 Brodhead Street, Manager of the Farmers Market spoke regarding the issuance of free parking passes to vendors of the market.

A discussion on this matter was held between Council members, Mr. Steckman, and Ms. McBride. After this discussion it seemed to be the consensus of Council, that even though they did not feel that the issuance of passes should have been done, a promise had been made and they felt that promise had to be honored and would vote for the proposed Resolution that would approve the issuance of the passes for this year between May and October.

Kurt Ehly, 305 W. Monroe Street, spoke regarding the parking issue for Farmers Market Vendors, and on the need for a comprehensive parking plan and the establishment of a parking committee.

Michael Krill, 132 Vista Drive spoke on the parking pass issue, and said that the City needed to look further into this matter and to make sure that nothing was issued without the City knowing about it.

Richard Hieshetter, 304 W. Monroe Street, attempted to speak on a non-agenda item, and was told that he could speak at the end of the meeting.

CERTIFICATES OF RECOGNITION

At this time a Certificate of Recognition was presented to Mr. Thomas Lutes recognizing his volunteering numerous hours in assisting the City in eradicating unsightly graffiti from the City.

Mr. Robert Pierce was not in attendance to receive his Certificate for defending his own life and without regard for his personal safety assisting in the apprehension of two robbery suspects, so the City Clerk was directed to forward his Certificate to him.

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

May 27, 2009

Mayor Panto and Councilman Warren thanked Mr. Lutes for his dedication to the City and thanked him for all of his hard work.

REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL

The following reports were received by Council.

- (a) Fire Department monthly report for April 2009.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Brown, Chairperson of the Administrative Committee spoke regarding legislation that would be before Council later in the meeting, and reported that the Finance Committee had met earlier in the day, and related what had been discussed.

Mrs. Vulcano, Chairperson of the Economic Development Committee spoke regarding legislation that would be before Council later in the meeting, reported that the City had been awarded a \$100,000 grant from the Department of Community and Economic Development and reported that the City had been notified that they had met all of HUD Standards for the 2008 CDBG Program.

Mrs. Panto, Chairperson of the Planning Committee spoke regarding legislation that would be before Council later in the meeting. .

Mr. Warren, Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee, spoke regarding legislation that would be before Council later in the meeting.

Dr. Warner, Chairperson of the Public Works Committee had no report.

Dr. Ruggles, Chairperson for Strategic Planning had no report.

Mr. Murphy, City Solicitor reported that the legal case against the Hub Cap Store would begin in Northampton County Court on May 28, 2009.

Mayor Panto spoke on the Hub Cap Store matter and case.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No. 55, (Ordinance 5201) Amending Section 560-47, Parking inoperable or illegally registered vehicles, of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Easton, was adopted on motion of Mr. Warren and Mrs. Panto by the following vote:

Yeas: P. Panto, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, S. Panto, Brown, (6)

Nays: Ruggles (1)

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

May 27, 2009

Ordinance 5201 amends Section 560-47 A making it a violation to park an inoperable vehicle, a vehicle without current registration plates, current inspection sticker, or emission stickers, unless exempt, on any streets, highways or public property of the City.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence received by Council.

NEW BUSINESS

Introduction of Legislative Bills:

A May 19, 2009, memorandum, regarding City Council Agenda Items was received from David Hopkins, Director of Public Services.

Bill No. 56, Approving a Subdivision Improvements Extension between the City of Easton, Pa., and Hei-Low, Inc., was introduced by Dr. Warner and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would approve a subdivision improvements extension with Hei-Low Inc., for the 418 E. Kleinhans Street Development.

Bill No. 57, Approving a Subdivision Improvements Extension between the City of Easton, Pa., and Genesis Builders, Inc., was introduced by Dr. Warner and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would approve a sub-division improvements extension with Genesis Builders, Inc., for the 272 through 416 E. Nesquehoning Street Development.

A May 21, 2009 memorandum, regarding items for the May 27th City Council meeting was received from Chris Heagele, Director of Finance.

Bill No. 58, Approving a transfer of funds in the 2008 Capital Reserve Fund, was introduced by Mr. Brown and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would approve the transfer of \$1,248,555 within the 2008 Capital Reserve Fund.

Bill No. 59, Approving a transfer of funds in the 2008 1998 Bond Fund, was introduced by Mr. Brown and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would approve the transfer of \$282,163.92 within the 2008 1998 Bond Fund.

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
May 27, 2009

Bill No. 60, Approving a transfer of funds in the 2008 2004 Water Bond Issue, was introduced by Mr. Brown and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would approve the transfer of \$2,400,061 within the 2008 2004 Water Bond Issue.

Bill No. 61, Approving a transfer of funds in the 2008 1992 Bond Proceed Fund, was introduced by Mr. Brown and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would approve the transfer of \$29,001 within the 2008 1992 Bond Proceed Fund.

Bill No. 62, Approving a transfer of funds in the 2008 Restlawn Maintenance Fund, was introduced by Mr. Brown and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would approve the transfer of \$31,333.19 within the 2008 Restlawn Maintenance Fund.

A May 21, 2009 memorandum, regarding an Agreement of Sale for Wildlands Conservancy Property was received from Becky Bradley, Director of Codes and Planning.

Bill No. 62, Approving the acquisition of lands for recreational use for the Bushkill Creek Corridor Trail was introduced by Mrs. Panto and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would approve the acquisition of lands along the Bushkill Creek.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution that would approve allocation of City Funds to different Organizations for Special Events.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Brown:

83-2009

Dr. Ruggles made a motion, seconded by Mayor Panto, to amend the above Resolution by eliminating the \$1,000 allocated for the Shad Fishing Tournament and allocating \$900 more to the Easton Area Heritage Day and allocating \$100 more to the Scarecrow Fest.

Dr. Ruggles explained why he was making the proposed amendment.

Mayor Panto explained why he seconded the motion.

There was a discussion between Council members regarding the proposed amendment.

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
May 27, 2009

The proposed amendment was defeated by the following vote:

Yeas: S. Panto, Warren, Ruggles (3)
Nays: P. Panto, Brown, Warner, Vulcano (4)

Dr. Warner made a motion seconded by Mr. Warren, to amend the above resolution by removing \$1,000 from the \$2,000 allotment for the Peace Candle Lighting Ceremony, and allocating \$900 more to the Easton Area Heritage Day, and \$100 more to the Scarecrow Fest.

There was discussion on this proposed amendment between Council members, Elizabeth Wyant and Megan McBride.

The amendment was adopted by the following vote:

Yeas: Brown, S. Panto, Warren, Warner, Vulcano, Ruggles, P. Panto (7)
Nays: None (0)

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

Yeas: Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, S. Panto, Brown, P. Panto (7)
Nays: None

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve an Agreement for Site Preparation with De Korte Excavating, Inc. for the Sullivan Park Stormwater Management Wetlands Project.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Warner:

84-2009

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

Yeas: Vulcano, Warner, Warren, S. Panto, Brown, P. Panto, Ruggles, (7)
Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution that would approve canceling the Council Conference meetings for the months of June, July and August 2009.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mayor Panto:

85-2009

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
May 27, 2009

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

Yeas: Warner, Warren, S.Panto, Brown, P. Panto, Ruggles Vulcano, (7)
Nays: None (0)

A May 19, 2009 letter regarding requests for approval of Certificates of Appropriateness was received from Christine Ussler, R. A.

The next eight items on the Agenda were proposed Resolutions for approving Certificates of Appropriateness for 134 N. 3rd, 46 S. 4th, 74-76 N. 4th, 76 N. 4th, 116 S. 6th, 200 Ferry, 345 Ferry, and 234 Spring Garden Streets.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Panto:

86-2009

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

Yeas: Warren, S. Panto, Brown, P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, (7)
Nays: None (0)

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Panto:

87-2009

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

Yeas: S. Panto, Brown, P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, (7)
Nays: None (0)

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Panto:

88-2009

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

Yeas: Brown, P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, S. Panto (7)
Nays: None (0)

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
May 27, 2009

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Panto:

89-2009

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

Yeas: P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, S. Panto, Brown (7)

Nays: None (0)

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Panto:

90-2009

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

Yeas: Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, S. Panto, Brown, P. Panto (7)

Nays: None (0)

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Panto:

91-2009

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

Yeas: Vulcano, Warner, Warren, S. Panto, Brown, P. Panto, Ruggles (7)

Nays: None (0)

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Panto:

92-2009

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

Yeas: Warner, Warren, S. Panto, Brown, P. Panto, Ruggles, Warner (7)

Nays: None (0)

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Panto:

93-2009

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
May 27, 2009

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

Yeas: Warner, Warren, S. Panto, Brown, P. Panto, Ruggles, Warner (7)
Nays: None (0)

A May 18, 2009 e-mail, regarding a request to amend Resolution 34-2009 was received from David Hopkins.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would amend the amount of \$2,000,000 to \$2,100,000 in Resolution 34-2009

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Warner:

94-2009

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

Yeas: S. Panto, Brown, P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren (7)
Nays: None (0)

A May 20, 2009 e-mail regarding items for the May 27, 2009 Council meeting was received from Gretchen Lippincott, Director of Economic Development.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution that would amend the annual plan for the Community Planning and development Programs with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for Fiscal Year 2008.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Vulcano:

95-2009

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

Yeas: Brown, P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, S. Panto (7)
Nays: None (0)

A May 6, 2006 memorandum, requesting approval for an expenditure from the Capital Budget was received from David Hopkins.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Warner:

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
May 27, 2009

96-2009

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

Yeas: P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, S. Panto, Brown (7)

Nays: None (0)

A May 21, 2009, e-mail, regarding a request to approve a contract with Mullin & Lonergan was received from Gretchen Lippincott, Director of Economic Development.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve an agreement for professional services with Mullin and Lonergan Associates.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Vulcano:

97-2009

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

Yeas: Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, S. Panto, Brown, P. Panto (7)

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution that would urge opposition for Senate Bill 850.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Warren, and co-sponsored by the rest of City Council:

98-2009

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

Yeas: Vulcano, Warner, Warren, S. Panto, Brown, P. Panto, Ruggles (7)

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution that would approve an addendum to a Management Agreement with the Easton Parking Authority.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Warner and ordered processed for adoption.

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
May 27, 2009

99-2009

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

Yeas: Warner, Warren, S. Panto, Brown, P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano (7)

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution that would approve a parking permit for vendors of the Farmer's Market to park one vehicle free from May through October on Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Church Street and Boyd Parking Lot.

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

Yeas: Warren, S. Panto, Brown, P. Panto, Vulcano, Dr. Warner (6)

Nays: Ruggles (1)

CITIZEN'S RIGHT TO BE HEARD

Jo Morganville, 20 N. 3rd Street, thanked Council for their allocation of funds to the Garlic Fest.

Elizabeth Wyant, 161 Parker Avenue, thanked Council for their allocation of funds to the Heritage Day Fest.

Emily Laduca, 632 W. Berwick Street, thanked Council for their allocation of funds to the Riverside Arts Festival.

Megan McBride, 728 Brodhead Street, thanked Council for their allocation of funds to the Tomato Fest and the Scarecrow Fest.

Michael Krill 132 Vista Drive spoke regarding the use of private parking lots throughout the City as alternatives to expending monies for parking. He spoke regarding the need for a full time Parking Authority with diverse representation, and spoke regarding a past contract with an Energy Consultant and the work that they did and did not do.

Mayor Panto responded to Mr. Krill and asked David Hopkins, Director of Public Works to speak on further on the Energy Savings issue which he did. Mr. Steckman, City Administrator, also responded as to what further things that the City was doing to address energy savings. Mr. Hopkins also gave an update on the Circle lighting.

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
May 27, 2009

Richard Hieshetter, 304 W. Monroe Street spoke regarding the reducing of the traffic lanes on Larry Holmes Drive, and made a request to leave the lanes as they were at this time. He spoke regarding the design of the Water Front Project, and the proposed Skate Park.

Council members responded to Mr. Hieshetter's numerous statements.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m. on motion of Dr. Warner and Mr. Warren by the following vote:

Yeas: S. Panto, Warren, Warner, Vulcano, Ruggles, P. Panto, Brown (7)

Nays: None (0)

Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk