

**Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.**  
**January 28, 2009**

Easton, Pa.  
Monday  
January 28, 2009  
6:00 P.M.

City Council met in stated rescheduled 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 Mayor Panto, 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, Beth Knickerbocker, Assistant City Solicitor, and Glenn Steckman, City Administrator. There were eight 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 January 14, 2009 Council meeting minutes were approved as submitted 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)

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**CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION – Robert Thomas**

The next item on the Agenda was a Certificate of Appreciation recognizing the years of service Mr. Robert Thomas gave as a member of the Public Works Department in the Electric Bureau.

The City Clerk read the Certificate. Mr. Thomas was not in attendance and the Clerk was directed to forward the Certificate to him.

**CITIZEN’S RIGHT TO BE HEARD – (Agenda Items Only)**

Michael Krill, 132 Vista Drive, spoke regarding the transfer of funds from the Riverwalk Project to the proposed Riverfront Project, said that he was in support of the proposed project, explained why, and offered some suggestions.

Rich Hieshutter, 304 W. Monroe Street, spoke regarding landscape engineering, asked that the City consider other Landscape Architects, and asked questions regarding the Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commissions feeling on the proposed Riverfront Project, which were answered by Mayor Panto.

**REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL**

(a) EAJSA, September 15, October 20, and November 17, 2008 meeting minutes.

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

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

Mr. Steckman, City Administrator said that the City along with Council and the City Solicitor would be working on a proposed Ordinance regarding post employment health and death benefits.

Mrs. Vulcano, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee, spoke regarding legislation that would be before Council later in the meeting, reported that the combined Planning and Economic Development committee meeting had been held on January 27<sup>th</sup>, and related who had attended and what had been discussed.

Mrs. Panto, Chairman of the Planning Committee, spoke regarding legislation that would be before Council later in the meeting, also spoke regarding the Planning and Economic Development Committee meeting and regarding items that were discussed.

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

Dr. Warner, Chairman of the Public Works Committee, thanked Public Works employees for the clean up, during and after the most recent snow storm, reported that the Pool Committee meeting had been canceled, reported that the Public Works committee meeting would be held on February 11, 2009, and said what would be discussed, and spoke regarding legislation that would be before Council later in the meeting.

Mayor Panto reported on the amount of Rock Salt used so far this winter season.

Dr. Ruggles, Chairman of the Strategic Planning Committee reported that a link had been placed on the City's website for the Strategic Planning survey, and reported on the response to the survey as of this date.

Mayor Panto appointed Councilpersons Ruggles, Warren and Warner to an Ad Hoc Committee to work on the Council's portion of the City's Web-Site and to work with the Web-Site master.

William Murphy, City Solicitor and Beth Knickerbocker, Assistant City Solicitor, had no reports.

Ms. Knickerbocker gave a brief update on the Hub Cap Store litigation.

Mayor Panto spoke regarding legislation that would be before Council later in the meeting, spoke regarding proposed appointments to different Authorities, Boards, and Commissions, and regarding training that was being offered by the Pennsylvania League of Cities & Municipalities.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Action on Legislative Bills

Bill No. 1, Reducing the compensation for Part-Time City Elected Officials was moved on motion of Mr. Warren and Mr. Ruggles.

A motion to add the City Controller and the City Treasurer to Bill No. 1, was made by Mr. Warren and Mr. Ruggles, and was defeated by the following vote:

There was a discussion on the proposed Amendment between Council members.

Yeas: Ruggles, Warren (2)

Nays: Vulcano, Warner, S. Panto, Brown, P. Panto (5)

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Bill No. 1, was defeated by the following vote:

There was a discussion on the need for the Ordinance, the wording of the Ordinance, and why members would support or not support the Ordinance.

Yeas: Ruggles, Warren (2)

Nays: Vulcano, Warner, S. Panto, Brown, P. Panto (5)

**CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence received by Council:

**NEW BUSINESS**

Introduction of Legislative Bills

Bill No. 2, An Ordinance to Approve, Adopt and Enact an Ordinance Codification of a complete body of Legislation for the City of Easton, County of Northampton, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; to provide for the repeal of certain legislation not included therein; and to save from repeal certain other legislation not included therein, was introduced by Mayor Panto and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would approve, adopt and enact an Ordinance Codification of a complete body of Legislation for the City.

All of the following proposed Ordinances were introduced by Mayor Panto and ordered processed for adoption, and would amend a section or sections in that stated Chapter.

Bill No. 3, Amending Chapter 1, General Provisions, of the Code of the City of Easton.

Bill No. 4, Amending Chapter 17, Bonds, of the Code of the City of Easton.

Bill No. 5, Amending Chapter 39, Council Rules and Regulations, of the Code of the City of Easton.

Bill No. 6, Amending Chapter 56, Finances, of the Code of the City of Easton.

Bill No. 7, Amending Chapter 61, Fire Department, of the Code of the City of Easton.

Bill No. 8, Amending Chapter 98, Officers and Employees, of the Code of the City of Easton.

Bill No. 9, Amending Chapter 110, Pensions, of the Code of the City of Easton.

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Bill No. 10, Amending Chapter 114, Personnel, of the Code of the City of Easton.

Bill No. 11, Amending Chapter 119, Planning Commission, of the City of Easton.

Bill No. 12, Amending Chapter 135, Records, Public, of the Code of the City of Easton.

Bill No. 13, Amending Chapter 157, Water Authority, of the Code of the City of Easton.

Bill No. 14, Amending Chapter 180, Alarms and Alarm Systems, of the Code of the City of Easton.

Bill No. 15, Amending Chapter 222, Buyer Notification, of the Code of the City of Easton.

Bill No. 16, Amending Chapter 245, Construction, of the Code of the City of Easton.

Bill No. 17, Amending Chapter 285, Fees, of the Code of the City of Easton.

Bill No. 18, Amending Chapter 294, Fire Insurance Escrow Fund, of the Code of the City of Easton.

Bill No. 19, Amending Chapter 311, Hazardous Materials, of the Code of the City of Easton.

Bill No. 20, Amending Chapter 318 Historic Preservation, of the Code of the City of Easton.

Bill No. 21, Amending Chapter 324, Horse Stables, Rental and Carriage Horses, of the Code of the City of Easton.

Bill No. 22, Amending Chapter 337 Lead Exposure, of the Code of the City of Easton.

Bill No. 23, Amending Chapter 350, Markets Public , of the Code of the City of Easton.

Bill No. 24, Amending Chapter 354, Massage, Reflexology and Spa Establishments, of the Code of the City of Easton.

Bill No. 25, Amending Chapter 369, Municipal Claims and Liens, of the Code of the City of Easton.

Bill No. 26, Amending Chapter 376, Noise, of the Code of the City of Easton.

Bill No. 27, Amending Chapter 399, Parking Permits, of the Code of the City of Easton.

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Bill No. 28, Amending Chapter 404, Parks, of the Code of the City of Easton.

Bill No. 29, Amending Chapter 415, Peddling and Soliciting, of the Code of the City of Easton.

Bill No. 30, Amending Chapter 422, Plumbers, of the Code of the City of Easton.

Bill No. 31, Amending Chapter 435, Property Maintenance and Housing Standards, of the Code of the City of Easton.

Bill No. 32, Amending Chapter 444, Public Health Standards, of the Code of the City of Easton.

Bill No. 33, Amending Chapter 456, Rental Property, of the Code of the City of Easton.

Bill No. 34, Amending Chapter 475, Sewers, of the Code of the City of Easton.

Bill No. 35, Amending Chapter 491, Smoking, of the Code of the City of Easton.

Bill No. 36, Amending Chapter 500, Solid Waste; Recycling, of the Code of the City of Easton.

Bill No. 37, Amending Chapter 507, Stormwater Management, of the Code of the City of Easton.

Bill No. 38, Amending Chapter 515, Streets and Sidewalks, of the Code of the City of Easton.

Bill No. 39, Amending Chapter 520, Subdivision and Land Development, of the Code of the City of Easton.

Bill No. 40, Amending Chapter 526, Tattooing, Body Piercing and Body Art, of the Code of the City of Easton.

Bill No. 41, Amending Chapter 531 Tax Abatements, of the Code of the City of Easton.

Bill No. 42, Amending Chapter 535, Taxation, of the Code of the City of Easton.

Bill No. 43, Amending Chapter 560, Vehicle and Traffic, of the Code of the City of Easton.

Bill No. 44, Amending Chapter 572, Water, of the Code of the City of Easton.

Bill No. 45, Amending Ordinance 5133, Providing Revenues and Appropriating Specific Sums to be required for the State Highway Aid Fund during the Fiscal Year 2009, was introduced by Mr. Brown and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would amend the 2009 State Highway Aid Budget by increasing revenues and expenditures by \$62,000.

A letter, dated January 17, 2009, regarding reports for Certificates of Appropriateness, was received from Christine Ussler, R.A.

The next two items on the Agenda were proposed Resolutions approving Certificates of Appropriateness for 21 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> and 133 Spring Garden Streets.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Panto:

12-2009

The above Resolution was adopted on motion of Mrs. Panto and Dr. Ruggles 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:

13-2009

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, Vulcano (7)

Nays: None (0)

A January 20, 2009, memorandum, regarding Agenda Items for the January 28, 2009 Council meeting was received from David Hopkins.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution to approve a proposal submitted by Click Safety.com.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Warner:

14-2009

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

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

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution to approve a Three Year Contract with Benchmark Analytics, Inc. for management of an on-site lab for the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Warner:

15-2009

Dr. Ruggles made suggestions on how to reduce costs by possibly going in with other municipalities in this contract.

There was a short discussion on this matter between Council members.

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

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

Nays: None (0)

A January 16, 2009 memorandum, regarding ESWA appointments was received from Mayor Panto:

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution to approve appointments to the ESWA.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mayor Panto:

16-2009

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

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

Nays: None (0)

A January 16, 2009 letter regarding a request to approve a Right-of-Way Encroachment Agreement was received from Dr. Warner.

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The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution that would approve a Right-of-Way Encroachment Agreement with L & L Easton Realty LLC.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Warner:

17-2009

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

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

An e-mail, dated January 21, 2009, regarding a request for a Resolution for a Neighborhood Stabilization Program grant application was received from Gretchen Lippincott, Director of Economic Development.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution that would authorize the application for a Neighborhood Stabilization Program grant application.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Vulcano:

18-2009

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

Council members made comments and asked questions regarding the proposed grant which were answered by Mrs. Lippincott.

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

An undated memorandum, regarding a plan for delinquent 2008 Property Taxes, was received from Chris Heagele, Director of Finance.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution directing Northampton County not to collect delinquent Real Estate Taxes.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Brown:

19-2009

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

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

Nays: None (0)

**CITIZEN'S RIGHT TO BE HEARD**

Mayor Panto spoke regarding the Delaware Toll Bridge Commission grant and how the funds that were designated for the Riverwalk Project could be moved from that project to the proposed Riverfront and Larry Holmes Drive project.

After a brief discussion on this matter, it was the consensus of Council that the City should continue with the conception of the Riverfront project.

Michael Krill, 132 Vista Drive, spoke regarding his support for the grant for the West Ward section of the City, a proposed Skate Park for the City, the use of City youth to help with the planning and the work for the park, asked if he could submit something to the Strategic Planning Committee on something other than on the survey form, felt that the revitalization of Valley Station would be good, and said that the City should encourage LANTA to use the station for a Bus Stop.

Richard Hieshutter, 304 W. Monroe Street, thanked Council for listening to his questions and comments over the past year, spoke regarding volleyball courts and skate parks, and asked questions regarding the Riverwalk project that were answered by Mayor Panto.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m. on motion of Dr. Ruggles and Mr. Warren by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk