

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

**May 28, 2014**

Easton, Pa  
Wednesday  
May 28, 2014  
6:00 p.m.

City Council met in stated session at the above date and time, in Council Chambers, located on the 6<sup>th</sup> 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 the Mayor Panto followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Edinger, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warren, Panto (5)  
Absent: Brown, Warner (2)

Also in attendance were Thomas Hess, City Clerk, William Murphy, City Solicitor, Joel Scheer, Assistant City Solicitor, and Glenn Steckman, City Administrator. There were approximately forty other persons present.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

On motion of Mr. Warren and Mrs. Vulcano the Agenda was approved, as submitted, by the following vote:

Yeas: Panto, Warren, Vulcano, Ruggles, Edinger (5)  
Nays: None (0)

**ACTION ON MINUTES**

On motion of Mrs. Vulcano and Dr. Ruggles, the May 14, 2014 Council Meeting minutes were approved, as submitted, by the following vote:

Yeas: Edinger, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warren, Panto (5)  
Nays: None (0)

**RESOLUTIONS**

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution recognizing Matthew Rush as Police Officer of the Year.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Warren:

**Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.**  
**May 28, 2014**

56-2014

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

Yeas: Warren, Panto, Edinger, Ruggles, Vulcano (5)

Nays: None (0)

Detective Rush was called forward and presented with a framed Resolution.

All Council members spoke regarding Detective Rush's service to the City and its citizens and thanked him for his dedication.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution acknowledging and appreciating work by the Wells Fargo Regional Foundation.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Vulcano:

57-2014

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

Yeas: Panto, Edinger, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warren (5)

Nays: None (0)

Later in the meeting Ms. Laura Haffner, a representative, from Wells Fargo was presented with a framed Resolution and thanked Council for the honor and spoke regarding the park project.

Council members thanked Ms. Haffner for the work that Wells Fargo volunteers have done at the park and in other places in the City, in the past, and for their dedication.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**  
**(Agenda Items Only)**

The following persons spoke in opposition to the proposed Resolution which would urge the passage of House Bill 1648, and explained why they were in opposition to it.

- Mr. Tony Bassil, City Controller, One South Third Street
- Thomas A. Hess, 269 W. Wilkes Barre Street

**Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.**  
**May 28, 2014**

The following persons spoke in favor of the proposed Resolution which urged the passage of House Bill 1648 and explained why they were in favor of it.

- Marcos Urbina, 5200 Freemansburg Avenue, Easton
- Dezi Burnette, 411 Cypress Street, Yeadon Pennsylvania
- Mardha Monroy, 2382 Blue Jay Drive
- Pablo Escobar, 1119 Ferry Street, Easton
- Sheila Quintana, 420 N. Eberhardt Street, West Chester Pa.

Council members made comments on why they would support this Resolution, and asked questions regarding if insurance companies would insure vehicles for undocumented immigrants, and if there was anything stopping the undocumented immigrants from becoming citizens.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Mayor Panto requested that the proposed Resolution regarding urging the passage of House Bill 1648 be taken from the Consent Agenda and placed under New Business. This action was taken.

On motion of Dr. Ruggles and Mr. Warren the following items were adopted by the following vote:

Bill 16 (Ordinance 5463), Amending Sub-Section 285-19 B (1), Residential rental property registration, of Section 285-19, Rental Property, of Chapter 285, Fees, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., which increased the Annual fee for residential rental units by \$10.

Bill 17, (Ordinance 5464), Amending section 560-34, Snow emergency routes designated of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., which added N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, between Bushkill and Spring Garden Streets, N. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, between Bushkill and Spring Garden Streets, S. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, between Ferry Street and Larry Holmes Drive, and Spring Garden Street, between Larry Holmes Drive and N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Streets to the Snow emergency routes.

Bill 18, Amending Article III, Traffic Control Map, of Chapter 560, Vehicles and Traffic, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., which created No Parking zones on certain streets throughout the City to assist in refuse pick-up.

Resolution 58-2014, which approved a Stipulation of Counsel for property located at 500 Paxinosa Avenue.

Resolutions 59-66-2014, which approved Certificates of Appropriateness for 11 N. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 24 N. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 42 S. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 77-83 N. 4<sup>th</sup>, 55 S. 4<sup>th</sup>, 115 Northampton, 453-455 Northampton and 134 Spring Garden Streets.

**Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.**  
**May 28, 2014**

Resolution 68-2014, which approved an appointment and reappointments to various Authorities, Boards and Commissions.

Yeas: Panto, Edinger, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warren (5)  
Nays: None (0)

**REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL**

There were no reports were received by Council:

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

Mr. Brown, Chairman of the Finance Committee, was absent due to work obligations.

Mrs. Vulcano, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee, reported that the downtown Cruise night had been a huge success.

Dr. Warner, Chairman of the Planning Committee, was absent due to sickness.

Mr. Warren, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, reported that he would have a Public Safety meeting on June 10, 2014, where the Fire and Police Chiefs would furnish Council with an update on their departments.

Dr. Ruggles, Chairman of the Public Works Committee, spoke regarding legislation that he would have for later in the meeting for approving an Agreement with RGC Development for improvements to Heil Park, for approving a Recycling Development and Implementation Grant Agreement with the PA Department of Environmental Protections, and for approving an Automated Red Light Enforcement Program Project funding agreement with the PA Department of Transportation. He also commended the Police Department for services rendered at the most recent Lafayette College Graduation.

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

Mr. Murphy, City Solicitor, and Mr. Scheer, Assistant City Solicitor had no reports.

Mayor Panto spoke regarding the success of Cruise Night, and the Memorial Day Ceremonies, regarding solicitation for funds on street corners by different organizations, and reported that the Wednesday night Farmers Market would begin on June 4, 2014 from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

There was a discussion between Council members and Mr. Steckman regarding Block Parties and if there should be a fee for a person requesting the Block Party.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.**  
**May 28, 2014**

The following correspondence was received by Council.

- (a) Kim Kmetz, Easton Main Street, Thank-you letter regarding financial support for a Special Events Grant.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

**NEW BUSINESS**

A May 20, 2014 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 between the City and RGC Development to construct a new soccer field at Heil park.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

69-2014

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

Yeas: Warren, Panto, Edinger, Ruggles, Vulcano (5)

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve a Recycling Development and Implementation Grant Agreement between the City and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection in the amount of \$116,000.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

70-2014

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

Yeas: Panto, Edinger, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warren (5)

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve an Automated Red Light Enforcement Program Funding Agreement in the amount of \$14,000 to upgrade older red/yellow/green pedestrian signal heads to new hand/man countdown signals.

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

**May 28, 2014**

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

71-2014

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

Yeas: Edinger, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warren, Panto (5)

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would urge the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to pass House Bill 1648.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mayor Panto:

67-2014

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

Yeas: Ruggles, Vulcano, Warren, Panto, Edinger (5)

Nays: None (0)

### **PUBLIC COMMENT** **(On Any Item)**

Tony Bassil, One South Third Street, spoke regarding the traffic situation at the intersection of N. 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Bushkill Drive and Lafayette Street, and asked that something be done to alleviate the problems.

Mayor Panto, Dr. Ruggles and Mr. Hopkins addressed Mr. Bassil's concerns as to what they felt was causing the congestion, and spoke on how it might be eliminated.

Mr. Richard Schaller, 104 N. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, asked if the 400 block of Northampton Street would be closed because of the Hump Day Parade.

Mayor Panto said that it would not be. He also reported that the Movies at the Mill would be held at the State Theatre this year.

Mayor Panto said that the construction of the Parking Garage was on schedule and that the City would take possession on September 26, 2014.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.**  
**May 28, 2014**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p. m. on motion of Mr. Warren and Dr. Ruggles by the following vote:

Yeas: Panto, Warren, Vulcano, Ruggles, Edinger (5)

Nays: None (0)

Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk