

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
October 28, 2015

Easton, Pa
Wednesday
October 28, 2015
6:05 p.m.

City Council met in stated session at the above date and time, in Council Chambers, located on the third floor of City Hall, 123 S. 3rd Street, Easton Pa., to consider any business that may lawfully be brought before the body, and to conduct the first Public Hearing for the 2016 Community Development Block Grant Program.

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

ROLL CALL

Present: Brown, Edinger, Mauro, Ruggles, Vulcano, Panto (6)
Absent: Warner (1) (work commitment)

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Yeas: Brown, Edinger, Mauro, Ruggles, Vulcano, Panto (6)
Nays: None (0)

ACTION ON MINUTES

On motion of Mrs. Vulcano and Dr. Ruggles the October 14, 2015 Council Meeting minutes, as submitted, were approved by the following vote:

Yeas: Edinger, Mauro, Ruggles, Vulcano, Panto, Brown (6)
Nays: None (0)

RESOLUTION

The next item on the Agenda was a Resolution recognizing the death of Lloyd P. Johnson a former Police Officer.

The following Resolution was introduced by Ms. Mauro:

167-2015

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

Yeas: Brown, Edinger, Mauro, Ruggles, Vulcano, Panto (6)
Nays: None (0)

All Council members offered condolences to the Johnson family, and thanked them for their father's service to the City.

Mr. Johnson's daughters were presented with a framed Resolution.

PUBLIC HEARING

At 6: 14 p.m., Mayor Panto called the Public Hearing to order and turned the Hearing over to Mrs. Vulcano, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee, who read the following:

“The purpose of this evening's hearing is to obtain views and comments from individuals and organizations concerning the City's goals and objectives for the 2016 Action Plan for the City of Easton.

We will also obtain any views and comments from individuals and organizations concerning the City's Housing and Community Development needs. The information gathered will be used in the preparation of the Consolidated Plan for Fiscal Year 2016 Community Development Block Grant and related Programs.

Finally we will provide an opportunity for citizens, organizations, non-profits to make requests for funding for projects or suggest activities that could be funded with CDBG funds that would meet community needs.”

Mrs. Vulcano asked the following Organizations to present their requests to Council:

1. Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley - \$5,000 for home ownership counseling, foreclosure mitigation, counseling & mortgage foreclosure diversion services, and \$35,000 for residential and streetscape improvements in the West Ward. No one was in attendance.
2. Easton Area Neighborhood - \$20,460 for social services to low and moderate income individuals. No one was in attendance.
3. ProJeCt - \$17,402 for an Easton Middle School Success program. No one was in attendance.
4. The Boys and Girls Club – \$15,000 for Project Learn with Imagination Station, a year round educational enrichment program. No one was in attendance.
5. Family Connections of Easton - \$5,000 for high quality pre-school for low and moderate income families. No one was in attendance.

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6. Easton Area Community Center - \$4,088 for installation of surveillance equipment. No one was in attendance.
7. Habitat for Humanity - \$100,000 for construction of a twin home. No one was in attendance.
8. Greater Easton Development Partnership - \$150,000 to continue the Easton Ambassador Program in the downtown and expand the program to the West Ward.

Ms. Sandra Zajacek, 325 Northampton Street, addressed Council regarding the request made by the Greater Easton Development Partnership.

Dr. Ruggles pointed out that this individual request was for too much funds.

Ms. Zajacek agreed with Dr. Ruggles.

Ms. Mauro asked what the requested funds would be used for.

Mayor Panto explained what the funds would go towards, spoke regarding the Greater Easton Development Partnership, and explained that it was the hope to expand the Ambassador Program from 6th to 10th Street and how they would be used.

Dr. Ruggles spoke regard the Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley's two requests.

Dr. Ruggles and Mayor Panto spoke regarding the educational programs needed by all of the elementary schools in the City and not just for the Paxinosa School, previously the Easton Area Middle School, as being done by ProJeCt.

There was a discussion between Council members and Tina Roseberry, Director of Economic Development regarding the schedule that was advertised regarding the hearings for the 2016 Community Development Block Grant Program.

There were no other remarks or questions from Council or the audience.

Mrs. Vulcano closed the hearing at 6:41 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT **Agenda Items Only**

There were no comments from the audience.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Resolution 168-2015 which authorized Cassandra Williams, the new Finance Director, to sign certain Bank Accounts at Lafayette Ambassador Bank.

Resolutions 169-172-2015 which approved Certificates of Appropriateness for patching, sealing and washing of the front façade at 44 N. 2nd Street, for installation of signs at 219 N. 3rd Street, for installation of new signs at 185 S. 3rd Street and repairing of stucco at 222 Northampton Street.

Yeas: Panto, Brown, Edinger, Mauro, Ruggles, Vulcano (6)

Nays: None (0)

REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL

There were no reports received by Council.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Brown, Chairman of the Finance Committee, spoke regarding legislation, which he would have for later in the meeting, regarding approving transfers of funds in the 2011 Bond Fund Budget, in the 2015 Capital Projects Fund Budget, the 2015 Parks & Open Space Fund Budget, and establishing budgets for the 2015 Software Lease Fund Budget, the 2015 Taxable Bond Fund Budget, and the 2015 Tax-exempt Bond Fund Budget.

Mrs. Vulcano, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee, reported that a Vacant Property Review Board meeting had been held at 5:00 p.m. and they discussed the duties of the Committee and the possibility of refocusing their attention.

Mrs. Vulcano also reported that West Ward Neighborhood Partnership Business Roundtable meeting would be held on November 3, 2015, 6:00 p.m. at the Easton Home, located at 10th and Northampton Street.

Dr. Warner, Chairman of the Planning Committee, was absent.

Ms. Mauro, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, said that she felt she had a conflict of interest in voting on the proposed Operating Budget. She explained that her father was the City Engineer and that contained in the proposed budget was a 3% salary increase for non-union personnel and wished to be allowed to recuse herself from voting on the Operating Budget.

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Mr. Murphy City Solicitor and Mr. Scheer, Assistant City Solicitor both explained that they did not feel that this was a conflict of interest. They said that it was a De Minimis amount part of the entire budget, and that her father was part of a group, (non-union personnel), and that she would not be voting only for a salary increase for her father. They both stated that it was up to Council members to vote on allowing her to or not allowing her to abstain from the vote on the budget.

Council members made comments and asked questions, regarding Ms. Mauro's request which were answered by Mr. Murphy and Mr. Scheer.

Ms. Mauro reported that a Public Safety Committee meeting had been held on October 27, 2015 and that Fire Department personnel and training had been discussed.

Dr. Ruggles, Chairman of the Public Works Committee, spoke regarding legislation which he would have for later in the meeting, regarding approving an amendment to the Articles of Incorporation for the Easton Area Joint Sewer Authority.

Dr. Ruggles asked Mr. Hopkins, Director of Public Works to speak with Council regarding Stop Signs at 11th and Lehigh Street and future signs at Iron and Berwick Streets, which he did.

Ms. Mauro asked questions regarding crosswalks on Smith Avenue, sidewalks on Smith Avenue, traffic calming, and a driver feed back item at Saint John Street which were addressed by Mayor Panto and Mr. Hopkins.

Mr. Edinger, Chairman of the Administration Committee, spoke regarding legislation, which he would have for later in the meeting, regarding the approval of the City's Harassing Conduct in the Workplace policy.

Dr. Ruggles made comments and asked questions regarding procedures contained in the policy, which were answered by Mr. Redding, Director of Human Resources and Mr. Murphy and Mr. Scheer.

Mr. Murphy, City Solicitor reported that before the meeting Council had held an Executive session and had discussed a Real Estate issue.

Mayor Panto thanked and commended the City staff and employees for their work with the movement to the New City Hall. He said that the dedication, open to the public, of the New City Hall was set for October 31, 2015 from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m., and spoke regarding what would take place during the dedication ceremonies.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no Correspondence received by Council:

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

An October 19, 2015 memorandum, regarding Council Agenda Items, was received from David Hopkins, Director of Public Works.

Bill 46, Approving the transfer of funds in the 2011 Bond Fund Budget was introduced by Mr. Brown and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would approve the transfer of \$29,750 from Account No. 153-5052-437228, N. 3rd Parking Lot Improvements to Account 153-5000-4740, Machinery.

Bill 47, Amending Article III, Traffic Control Map, of Chapter 560, Vehicles and Traffic, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., was introduced by Ms. Mauro and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would approve the erection of a Stop Sign for Eastbound traffic on Lehigh Street at S. 11th Street.

Bill 48, Amending the 2015 Capital Projects Fund Budget was introduced by Mr. Brown and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would amend the 2015 Capital Projects Fund Budget by increasing Revenues and Expenditures by \$40,000.

Bill 49, Amending the 2015 Parks & Open Space Fund Budget was introduced by Mr. Brown and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would amend the 2015 Parks & Open Space Fund Budget by increasing Revenues and Expenditures by \$40,000.

Bill 50, Providing Revenues and Appropriating Specific Sums to be required for the 2015 Software Lease Fund Budget was introduced by Mr. Brown and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would establish a 2015 Software Lease Fund Budget with \$347,900 for Revenues and Expenditures.

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Bill 51, Providing Revenues and Appropriating Specific Sums to be required for the 2015 Taxable Bond Fund Budget.

This Bill would establish a 2015 Taxable Bond Fund Budget with \$765,000 for Revenues and Expenditures.

Bill 52, Providing Revenues and Appropriating Specific Sums to be required for the 2015 Tax-Exempt Bond Fund Budget.

This Bill would establish a 2015 Tax-Exempt Bond Fund Budget with \$3,925,000 for Revenues and Expenditures.

A September 30, 2015, letter regarding an amendment of the Easton Area Joint Sewer Authority Articles of Incorporation was received from Alan McFall

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve and authorize Articles of Amendment to amend the Articles of Incorporation of the Easton Area Joint Sewer Authority.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

173-2015

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

Yeas: Vulcano, Panto, Brown, Edinger, Mauro, Ruggles (6)

Nays: None (0)

An October 15, 2016 memorandum, regarding Harassing Conduct in the Workplace, was received from Marc Redding, Human Resources Manager.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve the City's Harassing Conduct in the Workplace policy.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Edinger:

174-2015

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

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Council members made comments and asked questions concerning some of the contents of the policy, which were answered by Mr. Redding, and Attorneys Murphy and Scheer.

PUBLIC COMMENT
(On any item)

There were no remarks from the audience.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m. on motion of Dr. Ruggles and Mr. Brown by the following vote:

Yeas: Mauro, Ruggles, Vulcano, Panto, Brown, Edinger (6)

Nays: None (0)

Thomas A. Hess
City Clerk