

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
September 30, 2015

Easton, Pa
Wednesday
September 30, 2015
6:10 p.m.

City Council met in stated session at the above date and time, in Council Chambers, located on the 6th floor of City Hall, One South Third Street, Easton Pa., to consider any business that may lawfully be brought before the body, and for the presentation of the proposed 2016 Budget.

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

ROLL CALL

Present: Brown, Edinger, Mauro, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Panto (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 other persons present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Yeas: Brown, Vulcano, Warner, Mauro, Ruggles, Edinger, Panto (7)
Nays: None (0)

ACTION ON MINUTES

On motion of Mrs. Vulcano and Dr. Warner the September 9, 2015 Council Meeting minutes, as submitted, were approved by the following vote:

Yeas: Panto, Edinger, Ruggles, Mauro, Warner, Vulcano, Brown (7)
Nays: None (0)

PRESENTATION OF THE BUDGET

At this time Mayor Panto read his 2016 Budget Address. (See attachment).

PUBLIC COMMENT
Agenda Items Only

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Professor Lawrence Malinconico, Lafayette College, and Sofia Feller, presented a Power Point Presentation entitled Vegetables in the Community; a Cooperative Community Effort regarding the Easton Urban Farm.

Council members thank all persons involved in the operation of the Urban Farm for their dedication, good work at the farm and for helping City residents.

Dr. Ruggles asked if the Urban Farm, on the South Side of the City, could be enlarged.

Mrs. Sophia Feller said that it could not.

There were no further comments or questions regarding the farm or the presentation.

Mrs. Feller recognized those in attendance who assisted with the farm program, and thanked the City for their assistance.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Bill 42, (Ordinance 5519), Amending Subsection 515-39, Obstruction to Walks and Streets Prohibited, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., which adds a section to Chapter 515 to address the placement of Roadside Memorials, and to set the number of days that the memorial(s) would be allowed to remain in place.

Resolutions 150 and 151-2015, which approved Certificates of Appropriateness for the installation of a sign at 110 S. 3rd Street and for the installation of new windows and removal of storm windows at 210 S. 5th Street.

Resolution 152 which approved a stipulation of Council for properties located in the City of Easton and owned by Groff Real Estate Investments.

Resolutions 153 and 154-2015 which approved the Minimum Municipal Obligations for City managed and PMRS managed Pension Funds.

Resolution 155-2015 which authorized free parking for on street metered parking spaces at specific locations throughout the downtown section of the City during the holiday seasons.

Resolution 156-2015 which approved the appointment of Tina Roseberry to the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission.

Yeas: Vulcano, Warner, Mauro, Ruggles, Edinger, Panto, Brown (7)

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Nays: None (0)

REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL

The following report was received by Council.

(a) Monthly Fire Report for August 2015.

Mayor Panto accepted the above report on behalf of Council.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Brown, Chairman of the Finance Committee, reported that a Finance Committee meeting had been held on September 22, 2015 and related what had been discussed. He also spoke regarding legislation, which he would have for later in the meeting, regarding authorizing and directing the incurrence of debt through the issuance of General Obligation Bonds.

Mrs. Vulcano, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee, thanked Council members for approving the waiving of parking meter fees for on street metered parking spaces during certain days during the Holiday seasons. She reported that an Economic Development Committee meeting will be held on October 13th to receive a presentation on the Indoor Market, and spoke regarding legislation which she would have for later in the meeting regarding approving an Agreement with Campbell, DeLong Resources, Inc. for landlord training program assistance and training.

Dr. Warner, Chairman of the Planning Committee, reported that the second Rental Inspection Task Force meeting was held on Tuesday, September 29, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. and another meeting has been scheduled for October 20, 2015 in Council Chambers. She reported that because of work commitments she would be unable to attend the October 14, 2015 Council meeting.

Mr. Brown reported that he also would not be able to attend the October 14, 2015 Council meeting because of work commitments.

Ms. Mauro, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, reported that a Public Safety Committee meeting had been held on September 22, 2015 and that the booting process for parking tickets and parking permits for store owners was discussed.

Dr. Ruggles, Chairman of the Public Works Committee, had no report.

Mr. Edinger, Chairman of the Administration Committee spoke regarding legislation which he would have for later in the meeting regarding amending City Hall's address in a section of the City Codes, and the establishment of a Clerk I position in the Finance Department. He said that the West Ward Community Day was a success and thanked everyone involved.

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Mr. Murphy, City Solicitor reported that at the end of the meeting Council would enter into an Executive session to discuss Real Estate and the litigation of the Northampton County Sheriff's Deputy's Association vs. the City of Easton filed in the Northampton County Court.

Mayor Panto reported that he, along with Mr. Brown and Mr. Edinger, attended the Lanta Depot dedication which should be up and running on October 5, 2015. He said that for the October 13, 2015 Council Committee meeting he would like to invite members of the Indoor Farmers Market and of the Greater Easton Development Partnership to present them with a proclamation regarding their being named the Number 1 Farmers Market in the nation. He said that the conversion of Fourth Street from one-way to two-way went smoothly, presented an update on the new City Hall, and reported that the Garlic Fest celebration was still on for October 10th and 11th.

Mayor Panto said that he would not be voting for the proposed Resolution which would approve the establishment of a Clerk I position and the salary of \$33,657 for that position, and explained why he felt that the proposed salary was too high.

There was a discussion on this matter between the Mayor, Council members, Mr. Steckman and Mr. Redding, the Human Resources Director.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no Correspondence received by Council:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

Bill 43, Amending Subsection 39-3, Time and place for holding meetings, of Chapter 39, Council Rules and Regulations, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., was introduced by Mr. Edinger and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would amend the current City Hall address to the New City Hall address in Subsection 39-3

Bill 44, Amending Article III, Traffic Control Map of Chapter 560, Vehicles and Traffic of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa.

This Bill would approve the creation of two (2) "30 minute" parking zones in front of 715 Walnut Avenue.

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Bill 45, An Ordinance to authorize and direct the incurring of non-electoral debt through the issuance of General Obligation Bonds in the Aggregate Principal amount of \$13,600,000.

This Bill would authorize and direct the incurring of non-electoral debt.

Ms. Mauro asked how this Bond Issue was different from the most recent one that Council approved.

Mr. Gary Pulcini said that the amount was a reflection of the current market value, and was an estimate, but would be change on October 14, 2015, before Council's approval, and spoke regarding different aspects of the Bond.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would support the changing of the non-profit partner of the Easton Urban Farm.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mayor Panto:

157-2015

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

Yeas: Warner, Mauro, Ruggles, Edinger, Panto, Brown, Vulcano (7)

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve an Agreement with Campbell, DeLong Resources, Inc. for Landlord Training Program Assistance and Training.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Vulcano:

158-2015

Dr. Ruggles questioned the dates, set aside, for the training, because of the City hall move at the same time.

Dawn Ferrante, Economic Development Director said that the date of training has been moved to November 30, 2015.

Mrs. Vulcano asked when the training participants would be notified of the training date.

Ms. Ferrante said that the invitations were being worked on at this time, and the participants would be notified within a few weeks.

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

Yeas: Brown, Vulcano, Warner, Mauro, Ruggles, Edinger, Panto (7)

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would create the position of a Clerk I in the Finance Department and set the salary for that position.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Edinger:

159-2015

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

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

Nays: Panto (1)

PUBLIC COMMENT
(On any item)

Mr. Steckman thanked Kyra Berkove and Rebecca Dilts, of the Finance Department, who worked late today, for their assistance in getting the Budget Packages Books ready for presentation.

Lynn Holden, 325 N. 10th Street, thanked the City and all of its employees for their assistance during the West Ward Community Day, and asked if there were any funds in the proposed budget for the West Ward Neighborhood Partnership.

Mayor Panto informed her that there were funds earmarked for the West Ward Neighborhood Partnership.

At 7:37 p.m., Council entered into an Executive Session.

At 7:49 p.m., Mayor Panto called the meeting back to order.

At this time Council approved the dates for Budget Review Sessions; October 27, 2015, November 9, 2015 and November 23, 2015

There were no comments from the audience.

ADJOURNMENT

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With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m. on motion of Dr. Warner and Mrs. Vulcano by the following vote:

Yeas: Panto, Edinger, Ruggles, Mauro, Warner, Vulcano, Brown (7)

Nays: None (0)

Thomas A. Hess
City Clerk