

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

**January 4, 2016**

Easton, Pa  
Monday  
January 4, 2016  
6:00 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. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Easton Pa., to consider any business that may lawfully be brought before the body.

The invocation was given by Deacon Anthony Koury followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Brown, Edinger, Mauro (6:40 p.m.), Vulcano, Warner, Panto (6)  
Absent: Ruggles (Work commitment) (1)

Also in attendance were Tony Bassil, City Controller, Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk, William Murphy, City Solicitor, Joel Scheer, Assistant City Solicitor and Glenn Steckman, City Administrator. There were over one-hundred 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, Vulcano, Warner, Panto (5)  
Nays: None (0)

**ACTION ON MINUTES**

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

Yeas: Edinger, Vulcano, Warner, Panto, Brown (5)  
Nays: None (0)

**PRESENTATION OF GIFTS TO OUTGOING ELECTED OFFICIALS**

Mayor Panto said that Dr. Warner served for eight years on City Council, bringing her expertise and help to establish the Environmental Advisory Council and the Ethics Board and a number of programs which have benefited the City. He said that she would now be leaving Council, and wished her good luck in her future endeavors. He presented Dr. Warner with a pewter platter engraved with her name, her years of service, and thanks on behalf of the Council and the Citizens of Easton.

**Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.**  
**January 4, 2016**

Mrs. Vulcano said it had been a pleasure serving with Dr. Warner. She said that the citizens of the City would miss her, her intellect, and her caring decisions she made while being a member of Council. She said that Dr. Warner always provided her with good information on many issues. She said that she would miss Dr. Warner but knew that she would continue to serve with many community issues. She wished Dr. Warner good luck in future endeavors.

Mr. Brown said that he would echo Mrs. Vulcano's words. He said that it had been eight years on pushing the City forward. He said that he knew that Dr. Warner had a heart for the City and knew that he would see her in the future. He wished her good luck in future endeavors.

Mr. Edinger said that it had been a pleasure working with Dr. Warner over the last two years, and wished her the best.

Mayor Panto said that he felt that the Environmental Advisory Council was probably one of Dr. Warner's greatest accomplishments which will sustain the City for many years to come, and was proud that she brought it to the City, and hoped the benefit of a long life for her.

Dr. Warner thanked all for their kind words, said that it had been a privilege and an honor to serve the residents of the City, and with present and past Council members. She said that she knew that the City was in a much better place today than it was eight years ago when she became a member of City Council, which was a testament to the work of the Administration and the past and present City Council. She said that she looked forward to hearing of the continued success of the City and Council.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**  
**Agenda Items Only**

There were no remarks from the audience.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

Bill 57, (Ordinance 5533), Amending the 2015 General Fund Budget, which amended the 2015 General Fund Budget by increasing Revenues and Expenditures by \$362,000.

Bill 58, (Ordinance 5534), Amending the 2015 Health Benefits Fund Budget, which amended the 2015 Health Benefits Fund Budget by increasing Revenues and Expenditures by \$362,000.

Yeas: Vulcano, Warner, Panto, Brown Edinger (5)

Nays: None (0)

**REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL**

There were no reports received by Council.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence received by Council:

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Bill 56, Amending Sections in Chapter 350, Market, Public, of the Code of the City of Easton Pa. was withdrawn by Mayor Panto.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Bill 1, Amending Sections in Chapter 350, Market, Public, of the Code of the City of Easton, was introduced by Mayor Panto and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would amend sections contained in Chapter 350, Market, Public, of the Code of the City of Easton.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**  
**(On any item)**

There were no remarks from the audience.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:08 p.m., on motion of Dr. Warner and Mr. Edinger by the following vote:

Yeas: Brown, Edinger, Vulcano, Warner, Panto (5)

Nays: None (0)

Thomas A. Hess  
City Clerk

**Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.**  
**January 4, 2016**

Easton, Pa.  
Monday  
January 4, 2014  
6:27 P.M.

The Organization meeting of City Council was held on the above date in Council Chambers, One South Third Street, Easton, Pa.

Certificates of Election were received prior to the meeting certifying that the below-named officials were duly elected to their respective offices:

<u>Elected Official</u>	<u>Office</u>
Salvatore J. Panto Jr.	Mayor
Tony Bassil	City Controller
Kenneth Brown	City Council
Peter Melan	City Council
David O'Connell	City Council

NOTE: The oath of office was administered immediately prior to the organization meeting to the following elected officials:

(a) Salvatore J. Panto Jr.	By Judge Jack Panella
(b) Tony Bassil	By Judge Samuel Murray
(c) Kenneth Brown	By Judge Samuel Murray
(d) Peter Melan	By Judge Michael Koury Jr.
(e) David O'Connell	By Judge Edward Smith

After the swearing in, the Mayor gave his Inaugural Address. (See attachment)

Mayor Panto presented a Certificate of Commendation to the Glovas family for their donation, to the City, of a roll top desk used by the first Mayor Chidsey, the first Mayor of Easton.

The organization meeting was called to order by Mayor Panto.

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

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Kenneth Brown  
James Edinger  
Peter Melan

**Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.**  
**January 4, 2016**

David O'Connell  
Sandra Vulcano  
Salvatore J. Panto Jr. (6)  
Absent: Roger Ruggles (1)

Also in attendance were Tony Bassil, City Controller, Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk, William Murphy, City Solicitor, Joel Scheer, Assistant City Solicitor and W. Glenn Steckman, City Administrator. There were over one hundred others present.

**CITIZENS RIGHT TO BE HEARD - (Agenda Items Only)**

There were no remarks from the Audience.

**REMARKS BY ELECTED OFFICIALS**

Mr. Brown thanked his wife and family for allowing him to serve the City and its citizens and the citizens of the surrounding municipalities. He also thanked his friends and volunteers for helping in his reelection campaign. He thanked the outgoing and incoming members of Council for their dedication and said that he looked forward to working with them. He also thanked the City Clerk and Assistant Clerk for their assistance to him throughout the years. He said that he was humbled with going into his fourth term on City Council. He said that past Councils had been hard working as well as the new Council would be.

Mr. Melan thanked his wife and children who have supported his campaign and also thanked his extended family, friends, committee members and persons who helped with his campaign for Council. He thanked Judge Michael Koury for swearing him in and Deacon Anthony Koury for presenting the invocation at tonight's meeting, said that he was looking forward to working on Council and the City's success, and thanked Mayor Panto for encouraging him to become active in City politics.

Mr. O'Connell thanked his family and friends for supporting his candidacy. He thanked everyone for voting for him in the primary and general elections. He thanked all of the citizens of Easton for making the City a great place to live which was the reason that he ran for Council. He said that Easton had a number of issues that they must face and felt that he had some big shoes to fill with the outgoing members of Council and would do his very best to fill those shoes.

Mr. Bassil thanked his wife and family members for their support in all of his endeavors. He thanked Judge Murray for attending the meeting and swearing him into office. He welcomed Mayor Panto back for another four years and for working with him for the past

**Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.**  
**January 4, 2016**

two terms, and welcomed the remaining and new Council members and said that he looked forward to working with them for another four years. He thanked the City Clerk and Assistant City Clerk for all of their hard work and assistance to him. He also thanked all of the City's citizens for giving their confidence to the newly elected officials, and said that he was honored to be the City Controller and would continue to be the watchdog of the City's finances.

Mrs. Vulcano said that she has served with three different Mayors and the most progressive has been Mayor Panto and thanked him for his leadership and looked forward to serving with him for another two years to move the City forward. She welcomed the two new Council members and the returning Council member and looked forward to working with them.

Mr. Edinger congratulated everyone on being reelected and being recognized for their dedication and hard work. He congratulated the newly elected councilmembers and looked forward to working with them.

Mayor Panto thanked Council the City's staff and all other persons for attending tonight's meeting who have made an investment of time and money into the City. He thanked his Campaign Manager for chairing his campaign again this year, thanked his family for their support and said that he looked forward to another four years.

**ELECTION OF VICE MAYOR**

Mayor Panto called for nominations for the position of Vice Mayor.

Mr. Brown nominated Mrs. Vulcano for the position of Vice Mayor.

Mrs. Vulcano accepted the nomination.

There were no other nominations.

Mayor Panto closed the nominations for the position of Vice Mayor.

On motion of Mr. Brown and Mayor Panto, Mrs. Vulcano was elected as Vice Mayor by the following vote:

Yeas: Brown, Edinger, Melan, O'Connell, Vulcano, Panto (6)

Nays: None (0)

**APPOINTMENTS TO STANDING COMMITTEES BY MAYOR**

**Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.**  
**January 4, 2016**

Mayor Panto said that he has asked and appointed Mr. Melan to chair the Public Safety Committee and Mr. O'Connell to chair the Planning Committee, and said that all remaining Council members would continue to chair their current committees.

Mayor Panto spoke regarding outgoing Council person Melanie Mauro's service on Council and her dedication to the City.

Ms. Mauro was presented with a Pewter platter for her year of service on Council on behalf of the Council and the citizens of Easton.

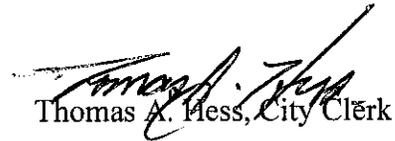
Ms. Mauro thanked Council for the honor of allowing her to serve along side them.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m. on motion of Mr. Melan and Mr. Edinger by the following vote:

Yeas: Brown, Edinger, Melan, O'Connell, Vulcano, Panto (6)

Nays: None (0)

  
Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk

**MAYOR SALVATORE J. PANTO, JR.  
CITY OF EASTON PENNSYLVANIA  
INAUGURAL ADDRESS JANUARY 4, 2016**

In this new City Hall and Council Chambers, among this distinguished crowd of dignitaries, community leaders, family, friends and fellow citizens, I am both honored and humbled to place myself at your service again as the mayor of our great city. I am grateful for the trust you have again bestowed in our team and the support you have given me. I am excited about today's Inauguration and the next four years.

Tonight as I stand before you, it is difficult for me to express the feelings of humility, pride, and most importantly, the excitement that I am experiencing to begin another term. My enthusiasm has not waned. I can promise you that no one will work harder for you on a daily basis than I will.

I stand here today, a wiser man, learning as much from the mistakes of the past as from the successes. I bring an awareness of our fragile economy - both here and nationally; a deeper understanding of the needs and challenges we must meet, a personal commitment to the highest standards of excellence and ethics and an even greater respect for the voice of the people.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my father and family who have been so supportive --- and specifically my wife Pam who has stood beside me and has been a big help, and now for another four years.

I also believe it is important to take this opportunity to thank our two council members who are leaving the council this evening. For her efforts on environmental issues and the well-being of the city I wish Dr. Elinor Warner best wishes in future endeavors. For her youthful wisdom and insight thank you Melanie Mauro for her contributions to our city. At the same time I welcome back Council member Ken Brown and our newest members Peter Melan and David O'Connell.

I wish to thank the voters who have elected me as your Mayor for another term. My pledge this evening is that I will continue to do my best to provide you with good governance and leadership.

Over the past eight years we worked together to create a foundation of enthusiasm, inclusion, and progress from which future dreams can now take shape. For the first time in 50 years, the city's population is growing and poised for more growth; we worked with the FOP and the police administrative staff to reduce and have pretty much eliminated potentially debilitating lawsuits; we maintained structurally balanced budgets eight years in a row without an increase in real estate taxes or major increases in sewer or trash and no increases to our senior citizens on fixed income; we managed finances so well that we ended every year with a surplus and improved the city's finance rating from a triple B to an A+, one of the few cities in the state with such a designation; we aggressively searched for and secured a wide range of federal and state grants which has resulted in more than \$75 million in grants which have leveraged more than \$470 million in economic development and public improvements; we continue to increase funding for an aggressive road paving program; we reduced crime in each of the last eight years and we now look forward to implementing programs designed to further improve the quality of life such as the landlord training program, stricter code enforcement on derelict owners and vacant properties; we look to expand our housing rehabilitation program and additional façade grants for residential units and at the same time work regionally to create more sustainable jobs for our residents and increasing their earning capacity. We have developed a working relationship with the school district because nothing is more important than the education of our youth. Our town/gown relationship with Lafayette College has never been better and the college under the leadership of Alyson Byerly; I am please dot announce tis evening that in addition to the grants and financial support the college gives to other local organizations Lafayette College will be providing the \$550,000 funding for the city's new fire pumper. In the next few weeks we will also be announcing several major projects that will coming to fruition in the coming months, including the much-awaited Easton Public Market.

Creating a healthy, vibrant and livable city takes hard work and dedication, and today Easton is blessed with a strong foundation to build upon. Our city is moving forward, making investments that have paid -- and will continue to pay -- dividends for our sustainability, livability and quality of life. When I look at our city, I see our great potential. I can't tell you how many times I've heard from

people who haven't been to Easton for a while say how impressed they are at how far we've come. But there is still so much work to be done.

The credit for our success goes to a professional, dedicated administrative staff. I cannot thank enough my Directors, both past and present for their tremendous accomplishments that have benefited our residents. I would also like to thank our staff and employees, as well as the hundreds of volunteers who are helping to make our city a better place for all. As a result of this involvement and success, the elected officials here today have the opportunity to govern a city that is in great shape, one that has recovered economically faster and better than most cities in Pennsylvania.

But today I cannot.....and will not... be satisfied with where we are. I will not be satisfied with the status quo. We remain clear in our resolve to move forward and achieve even bigger goals.

Our team manages the city well but we must continue to keep a firm hand on the finances. The same principles that carried us through the challenges of the last eight years must be the principles that guide us through further recovery.

But to truly succeed we must have the involvement of the state and federal governments. Today local governments are taking on more and more services and programs that were provided by other governmental entities. We need a state legislature that truly wants to reform municipal pensions and takes action and doesn't just talk about it as they have for the last 25 years. When we took office eight years ago our pension legacy costs were \$600,000 and today they are \$6 million. This is not sustainable and its not just cities – it's all local governments.

The things we do in the next few years -- the efforts we undertake together, as a city -- will determine the fortunes of generations to come. Easton has given the nation and the world the governmental framework on which an entire nation was built through the efforts and courage of individuals like George Taylor and Robert Levers having the courage to sign the Declaration of Independence and read it publicly in our Square; industrial giants like Edwin Binney and Harold Smith, whose company today manufactures 3 billion Crayola crayons a year and attracts more than 400,000 visitors annually to the Crayola Experience; the great canal builders like Josiah White and Erskine Hazard who engineered and built 47 miles

of canals in two years, without modern machinery; visionaries such as Herman Simon for his vision of making world renown silk in Easton or Hugh Moore who not only invented the Dixie Cup but gave to the city the natural resource of the canal park; or Governor George Wolf for public education; champions like Larry Holmes who continues to bring international attention to our city and Bobby Weaver our Gold Olympian – both had their start at St. Anthony's Youth Center; healers such as Florence Seibert who perfected the intravenous process and our new pioneers and leaders making their imprint not just on Easton but the world – Frances Hesselbein, Phil Richards, Tom Curley, Billy Snyder and our own Gretchen Wrenshall Award winners this year Tom Urglavitz and Stephen Flowers. Or people like our retiring Deputy Fire Chief John Price who dedicated his life to serving the public. Or Charles Chidsey, Easton's first Mayor when we became a city in 1887. Tonight representing their parents Michael and Denise Glovas are their children Sondrine and Shay. I would like to present them with this certificate for their parents contribution of the roll-top desk Mayor Chidsey used when he was mayor *(present certificate)*.

Like those that preceded us, we have a moral obligation to return with interest to generations yet unborn. We must live in the present with our eyes fixed on tomorrow. We must remember our impressive history, but never at the risk of forgetting our future.

This city has made visible progress in many areas over the past eight years. Taken together, these accomplishments have helped renew both civic pride and trust in city government. Visitors coming back remark how much the city has improved.

The challenges that lie ahead are many; our collective abilities to address these challenges are strong; the opportunities that will be realized from our efforts are great.

To paraphrase Robert Kennedy "I see what Easton can and will be, and say 'why not?'"

Thank you



# CITY OF EASTON

## PENNSYLVANIA

December 31, 2015

### MEETING NOTICE

The Last meeting of the current Easton City Council has been scheduled for Monday, January 4, 2016, for general business. Immediately following the meeting, Oaths of Office will be administered to Mayor Salvatore J. Panto Jr., City Controller Tony Bassil, and Councilpersons Kenneth Brown, Peter Melan, and David O'Connell. Immediately following the swearing it, the Reorganizational City Council meeting will be held.

The meetings will be held in Council Chambers, located on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of City Hall, 123 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Easton, Pa. and will begin at 6:00 p.m.

All meetings of City Council are open to the Public and are accessible to persons with disabilities.

Thomas A. Hess  
City Clerk

CITY COUNCIL  
AGENDA

Stated Session  
Monday  
January 4, 2016  
6:00 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. INVOCATION
3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
4. ROLL CALL
5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
6. ACTION ON MINUTES – December 9, 2013 Council Meeting.
7. PRESENTATION OF GIFTS TO OUTGOING ELECTED OFFICIALS  
REMARKS BY OUTGOING ELECTED OFFICIALS: Dr. Warner  
Ms. Mauro
8. PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda Items Only)
9. CONSENT AGENDA
  - (a) Bill 57, Amending the 2015 General Fund Budget.
  - (b) Bill 58, Amending the 2015 Health Benefits Fund Budget.
10. REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL
11. CORRESPONDENCE
12. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
  - (a) Action on Legislative Bills
    1. Bill 56, Amending Sections in Chapter 350, Market, Public, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa.
13. NEW BUSINESS
  - (a) Introduction of Legislative Bills
    1. Bill 1, Amending Sections in Chapter 350, Market, Public, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa.
14. PUBLIC COMMENT – (Any Matter)
15. ADJOURNMENT

**-OVER**

## SWEARING IN OF NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS

1. Mayor Salvatore J. Panto Jr. – Judge Panella
2. City Controller Tony Bassil – Judge Murray
3. Councilperson – Kenneth Brown – Judge Murray
4. Councilperson – David O’Connell – Judge Smith
5. Councilperson – Peter Melan – Judge Koury

INAUGURAL ADDRESS – Mayor Panto

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### CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

Organization Meeting  
Monday  
January 4, 2016  
6:00 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. INVOCATION
3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
4. ROLL CALL
5. CITIZENS RIGHT TO BE HEARD – Agenda Items Only
6. REMARKS BY ELECTED OFFICIALS.
7. ELECTION OF VICE MAYOR
8. APPOINTMENT TO STANDING COMMITTEES BY MAYOR
9. CITIZENS RIGHT TO BE HEARD – Regarding Any Other Matters.
10. ADJOURNMENT.