

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

April 8, 2015

Easton, Pa
Wednesday
April 8, 2015
6:00 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, to consider any business that may lawfully be brought before the body.

The invocation was given by Dr. Ruggles followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: Brown, Edinger, Mauro, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Panto (Phone) (7)
Absent: None (0)

Also in attendance were Thomas 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. Warner and Mr. Brown the Agenda was approved by the following vote:

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

ACTION ON MINUTES

On motion of Dr. Warner and Mr. Edinger the March 25, 2015 Council Meeting minutes, as submitted, were approved by the following vote:

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

PRESENTATION
HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

Kim Kmetz, 341 Reeder Street, the manager of the Main Street Program, said that she was accompanied by Amy Boccadoro Main Street Marketing Director, and members of their Events Committee. She explained what events that the committee planned and ran.

Mrs. Kmetz asked Ms. JoAnn Durante, to speak to Council regarding the Peace Candle Lighting Ceremony scheduled for November.

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Mrs. Durante, 6 Charles Court, Coordinator of the Peace Candle Lighting Event, spoke to Council regarding the 2015 Peace Candle Lighting and Holiday Open House Event. She said that the Event would be held on Saturday, November 28, 2015 in conjunction with the Small Business Day in downtown Easton and explained their plans. She said that this would be a cost reduction to the City because of less street closure throughout the day, and then only a small number during the actual lighting of the candle at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Panto asked if there was any public input regarding the changing of the day and time for the event.

Mrs. Kmetz said that there was not. She said that City merchants whom were members of the Committee were in agreement with the action which could assist in more holiday shopping.

Mayor Panto said that was not the intent of the Candle lighting and that he did not agree with the time of 6:00 p.m. and thought that it was too early.

Mrs. Kmetz said that they felt that 6:00 p.m. was a good time, and then people could stay longer downtown if they chose to.

Mayor Panto asked if there was any entertainment schedule for after the lighting of the candle or if the event would culminate with the lighting.

Mrs. Kmetz said that not all of their plans were developed at this time, but that they were not planning for anything after the lighting.

Dr. Warner stated that she had spoken with Mrs. Kmetz on this matter, said that she felt that it was a great idea and felt it would be more family and senior friendly to have the lighting earlier.

Mr. Brown said that he liked the earlier time and thanked all of volunteers for their assistance with all of the special events.

Mrs. Vulcano said that she supported the idea but felt that something else was needed for after the lighting such as a concert or some other entertainment at a downtown location.

Mrs. Kmetz said that she felt that families would stay downtown for dinner and go to establishments that have live music, but said that the event was still in its development stage.

Mayor Panto said that he felt that Council needed to endorse this idea of changing the day and time for the lighting through the adoption of a Resolution.

PUBLIC COMMENT
Agenda Items Only

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There were no remarks from the audience.

CONSENT AGENDA

On motion of Dr. Warner and Mrs. Vulcano, the following items were adopted by the following vote:

Resolution 58-2015, which authorized the disposition of City of City Records

Resolution 59-2015, which approved reappointments and appointments to various Authorities, Boards, and Commissions.

Mrs. Vulcano said that she was very happy to see that Mrs. Wendy Summers was recommended for membership on the Vacant Property Review Committee.

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

Nays: None (0)

REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL

There were no reports received by Council:

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Brown, Chairman of the Finance Committee, reported that the Finance Committee had met on April 7, 2015 and had discussed a software package, and spoke regarding legislation, for later in the meeting, regarding approving an Agreement with Berkheimer, for naming Berkheimer as the City's exclusive tax officer for the collection of Resident and Per Capita taxes, for appointing Berkheimer as the City's Tax Hearing Officer, and for appointing officers of the City as the liaison between the City and Berkheimer for sharing confidential tax information.

Mrs. Vulcano, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee, had no report.

Dr. Warner, Chairman of the Planning Committee spoke regarding legislation, for later in the meeting regarding approving the verbiage for the way finding signs to be erected on the Route 22 Bridge at N. 3rd and Bushkill Streets and at Snyder and N. 3rd Street. She also reported that she would not be attending the April 22, 2015 Council meeting because of work commitments.

Ms. Mauro, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, said that a Public Safety meeting had been held on April 7, 2015, and that proposed Bill 10, Amending the Code for a Parking Ticket Appeals process had been discussed.

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Dr. Ruggles, Chairman of the Public Works Committee, spoke regarding legislation, which he would have for later in the meeting, regarding approving a Job Description for a Part-Time Parking Garage Custodian and for authorizing an application for a Department of Conservation and Natural Resources grant.

Mr. Edinger, Chairman of the Administration Committee reported that the Administration Committee had met on April 7, 2015 and had discussed the proposed Resolution for the City Charter Ad Hoc Committee, and spoke regarding legislation, that he would have for later in the meeting, regarding the appointment of Charter Study Ad Hoc Committee and for Amending Chapter 45 of the City's codes.

Mr. Murphy, City Solicitor, had no report.

Mayor Panto reported that there had been a lot of business and traffic downtown over the last couple of days, and reported that the new Parking Garage should be opened no later than May 31, 2015.

Mr. Steckman reported that Crayola was doing a very good business over the holidays, and that the old parking garage roof was opened for parking.

Council members voiced their concern over people double and triple parking at the Southwest Quadrant of Centre Square to pick up people.

Mr. Steckman said that he would have the Police check into this situation.

Mr. Steckman said that all City records, which were stored in the basement of the Alpha Building, have been removed. He said that some of the records were shredded, and other records were stored at the 500 complex.

There was a discussion between Council members and Mr. Steckman on what should be done with some of the stored records.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no Correspondence was received by Council.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no Unfinished Business.

NEW BUSINESS

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Bill 9, Amending Chapter 45, Departments, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., was introduced by Mr. Edinger and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would amend Chapter 45 in its entirety.

Bill 10, An Ordinance to amend the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., Chapter 560, Vehicles and Traffic, to add an Article providing for a Parking Ticket Appeals Process was introduced by Ms. Mauro and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would amend the Codes by adding an Article to provide for a Parking Ticket Appeals Process.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve a one-year Agreement between the City and the Borough of Glendon regarding the City providing Fire Protection for Glendon.

The following Resolution was introduced by Ms. Mauro:

60-2015

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

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

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve a Job Description for a Part-Time Parking Garage Custodian.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

61-2015

Mrs. Vulcano asked questions regarding the number of Custodians the City was intending to hire, the number of hours they would be working, and how many Custodians would be at the garage at one time.

Mr. Steckman answered her questions.

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

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

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Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve an Agreement between the City and H. A. Berkheimer, Inc. to perform as the City's Tax Collector for resident and per capita taxes.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Brown:

62-2015

Mr. Brown asked Mr. Heagele to speak with Council on this matter.

Mr. Heagele presented to Council and went over a Per Capita Cost Benefit Review.

Council members made comments and asked questions regarding the benefits for having Berkheimer collect the taxes rather than the City, and regarding the manner of paying these taxes by the citizens.

All questions were answered by Mr. Heagele and Mr. Steckman.

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

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

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution for appointing H. A. Berkheimer as the City's exclusive Collector of Resident and Per Capita taxes.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Brown:

63-2015

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

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

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution for appointing Berkheimer as the City's Tax Hearing Officer.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Brown:

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64-2015

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

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

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution to appoint a liaison between the City and Berkheimer for the purpose of sharing confidential tax information.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Brown:

65-2015

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

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

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would authorize the formation of an Ad Hoc Committee to study the Home Rule Charter and present applicable amendments to Council.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Edinger:

66-2015

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

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

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would indicate what verbiage would be painted on the wayfinding signs at N. 3rd and Bushkill Streets and N. 3rd and Snyder Streets on the Route 22 Overpass Bridge.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Warner:

67-2015

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

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

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would authorize the application for a Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Grant.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

68-2015

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENT
(On any item)

There were no remarks from the audience.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:48 p. m. on motion of Dr. Warner and Mr. Brown by the following vote:

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


Thomas A. Hess
City Clerk



CITY OF EASTON

PENNSYLVANIA

April 2, 2015

MEETING NOTICE

The Regular meeting of the Easton City Council has been scheduled for Wednesday, April 8, 2015 for general business.

The meeting will be held in Council Chambers, located on the 6th floor of City Hall, One South Third Street, 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
Wednesday
April 8, 2015
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 – March 25, 2015 Council Meeting.
7. PRESENTATION – by the Holiday Committee on the Holiday Candle Lighting.
8. PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda Items Only)
9. CONSENT AGENDA
 1. Resolution authorizing the disposition of City Records.
 2. Resolution approving reappointments and appointments to ABC's.
10. REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL
11. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES
 - (a) Finance (Kenneth Brown)
 - (b) Economic Development (Sandra Vulcano)
 - (c) Planning (Elinor Warner)
 - (d) Public Safety (Melanie Mauro)
 - (e) Public Works (Roger Ruggles)
 - (f) Administration (James Edinger)
 - (g) Report of City Solicitor (Attorney William Murphy)
 - (h) Report of Mayor (Salvatore J. Panto Jr.)
12. CORRESPONDENCE
13. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
14. NEW BUSINESS
 - (a) Introduction of Legislative Bills
 1. Bill 9, Amending Chapter 45, Departments, of the Code of the City of Easton Pa.
 2. Bill 10, Amending Code for Parking Ticket Appeals.
 - (b) Resolution approving a one (1) year Agreement with the Borough of Glendon.

-Over-

- (c) Resolution approving a Part-Time Parking Garage Custodian job description.
- (d) Resolution approving an Agreement with H. A. Berkheimer Inc.
- (e) Resolution naming H. A. Berkheimer as the Collector of Resident and Per Capita Taxes.
- (f) Resolution appointing H. A. Berkheimer as the City's Tax Hearing Officer
- (g) Resolution appointing the City Administrator or the Director of Finance as the City's representative to request information from H. A. Berkheimer Inc.
- (h) Resolution authorizing the establishment of a Home Rule Charter Study Ad Hoc Committee.
- (i) Resolution approving verbiage of wayfinding signs.
- (j) Resolution authorizing application for a PennDOT Grant.

15. PUBLIC COMMENT – (Any Matter)

16. ADJOURNMENT