

**Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.**  
**June 8, 2011**

Easton, Pa  
Wednesday  
June 8, 2011  
6:06 p.m.

City Council met in stated session at the above date and time in the auditorium of the Crayola Factory's 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Auditorium located in the South West quadrant of Centre Square, Easton, Pa. to consider any business that may lawfully be brought before the body, and to conduct a Public Hearing regarding the Neighborhood Improvement District.

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

**Roll Call**

Present: Brown, Fleck, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, Panto (7)  
Absent: None (0)

Also in attendance were Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk, William Murphy, City Solicitor, Beth Knickerbocker, Assistant City Solicitor and W. Glenn Steckman, City Administrator. There were approximately One Hundred-Fifty other persons present.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

On motion of Mayor Panto and Dr. Ruggles the agenda was amended by removing Item No. 14 (b), a proposed Resolution which would approve an Agreement with RecycleRewards, Inc. from New Business, by the following vote:

Yeas: Panto, Warren, Warner, Vulcano, Ruggles, Fleck, Brown (7)  
Nays: None (0)

On motion of Dr. Warner and Mr. Warren the amended Agenda was approved by the following vote:

Yeas: Brown, Fleck, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, Panto (7)  
Nays: None (0)

**ACTION ON MINUTES**

On motion of Dr. Warner and Mr. Warren the May 25, 2011 Council Meeting minutes were approved as submitted by the following vote:

Yeas: Brown, Fleck, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, Panto, (7)  
Nays: None (0)

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**RESOLUTIONS**

The next three items on the Agenda were proposed Resolutions recognizing the deaths of Karl K. Labarr, a former City Solicitor, Kenneth Stocker a former Police Officer and Northampton County Sheriff and Lloyd E. Hank a former City Employee.

The following Resolution was introduced by Michael Fleck:

68-2011

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

Yeas: Brown, Fleck, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, Panto (7)

Nays: None (0)

A representative of the Labarr family was presented with a framed Resolution.

Mayor Panto offered words of condolences to the Labarr family and spoke regarding Mr. Labarr's service to the City.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Warren:

69-2011

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

Yeas: Fleck, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, Panto, Brown (7)

Nays: None (0)

A representative of the Stocker family was presented with a framed Resolution.

Mayor Panto and Councilman Brown offered words of condolence to the Stocker family and spoke regarding Mr. Stocker's service to the City and the youth of the Community.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Warner:

70-2011

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

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Yeas: Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, Panto, Brown Fleck (7)  
Nays: None (0)

Mayor Panto offered words of condolence to the Hank family and spoke regarding Mr. Hank's service to the City.

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

There were no questions asked or comments made by the audience.

**REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL**

The following reports were received by Council.

- (a) Monthly Fire Report for May 2011

Mayor Panto accepted the above report on behalf of Council.

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

Mr. Brown, Chairman of the Finance Committee spoke regarding legislation that would be before Council later in the meeting and asked Mr. Heagele, Finance Director to speak briefly on the proposed Resolution that would authorize the City Administrator and/or the Director of Finance to sign a purchase agreement for electricity, which he did.

Mr. Fleck said that he would be abstaining from voting on this proposed Resolution because he did business with Constellation NewEnergy.

Dr. Ruggles expressed his concerns with some of the costs associated with the proposed purchase agreement.

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

Dr. Ruggles, Chairman of the Planning Committee reported that the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission was proposing to put medium barriers on I-78.

Mr. Warren, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee reported that the Public Safety Committee had met on June 7<sup>th</sup> and related what had been discussed.

Dr. Warner, Chairman of the Public Works Committee read a Swimming Pool Opening Weekend report. She said that because of this week's heat the pools would open at 4:00 p.m. on June 9<sup>th</sup>. She also spoke regarding legislation that would be before Council later in the meeting.

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Mr. Fleck, Chairman of the Administration Committee reported that the Administration Committee had met on June 7<sup>th</sup>, and related what had been discussed, and spoke regarding the signing of the Same Sex Benefits Ordinance.

Mr. Murphy, City Solicitor, reported that before the meeting Council had met in Executive Session and had discussed Police Union negotiations.

Ms. Knickerbocker, Assistant Solicitor, had no report.

Mayor Panto had no report.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Bill No. 19, (Ordinance 5318) Amending Article V of Chapter 110, Pension, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa. was adopted on motion of Mr. Brown and Dr. Warner by the following vote:

Yeas: Brown, Fleck, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, Panto (7)

Nays: None (0)

Ordinance 5318 amends Chapter 110, Pension of the City Codes, by amending sections to reflect vesting of pensions at 12 years.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Council received no correspondence.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Bill No. 20, Amending Section 285-29, Fees – Vehicle and Traffic, Chapter 560 of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., was introduced by Mr. Warren and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would remove the parking meter zone rates and City Parking Facilities rates from the Fee Schedule and place them in their individual sections of the code.

Bill No. 21, Amending Chapter 560, Vehicles and Traffic Code of the City of Easton, was introduced by Mr. Warren and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would amend numerous sections in Chapter 560 of the City Codes regarding Towing Companies, Handicapped Parking, Parking meters, and Parking meter rates and parking time limits.

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A June 3, 2011 memorandum, regarding a proposed budget amendment for Council's consideration was received from Chris Heagele, Director of Finance.

Bill No. 22, Amending Ordinance 5289, 2011 Debt Service Fund, was introduced by Mr. Brown and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would amend the 2011 Debt Service Fund by increasing Revenues and Expenditures by \$3,609.

A June 3, 2011 memorandum, regarding a proposal from Constellation Energy for Council Consideration was received from Chris Heagele.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would authorize the signing of a purchase agreement with a co-op formed by the PLCM through Constellation NewEnergy.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Brown:

71-2011

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

Yeas: Vulcano, Warner, Warren, Panto, Brown, Ruggles (6)

Nays: None

Abstain: Fleck (1)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve an amendment to Resolution 62-2010 by increasing the amount from \$800,000.00 to \$1,099,930.00.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Warner:

72-2011

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

Yeas: Warner, Warren, Panto, Brown, Fleck, Ruggles, Vulcano (7)

Nays: None (0)

**PUBLIC HEARING**  
**PROPOSED NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT**

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At 6:20 P.M. Mayor Panto opened the Public Hearing regarding the proposed Neighborhood Improvement District Program., and turned the hearing over to Mrs. Vulcano, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee.

Mrs. Vulcano read the following statement:

“Welcome and thank you for attending tonight’s meeting. The Greater Easton Development Partnership (GEDP) has been working to develop sustainable funding sources for various downtown improvement programs, most specifically the Main Street Initiative and the Easton Ambassadors. The main mechanisms they have been exploring is the Neighborhood Improvement District or NID. The law that allows for the creation of the NIDs requires that the governing body of the municipality engage impacted property owners and lessees in discussions on the proposed Plan, and tonight we are holding the first in a series of meetings of the possibility of creating a NID. It’s important to note that City Council will not be making any final decisions regarding the NID tonight and that tonight’s meeting is intended to allow property owners to learn more, ask questions, and provide comments on the draft Plan which has been mailed to property owners and lessees and available on GEDP’s website. After a presentation by GEDP, members of the public will be permitted to make comments or ask questions. At this point Mayor Panto will introduce the presentators.”

Mrs. Vulcano turned the hearing back to Mayor Panto.

Mayor Panto went over the ground rules, which would be followed while participating in the hearing.

Mayor Panto introduced Gretchen Longenbach, Director of the City’s Economic Development Department and the Executive Director of the Greater Easton Development Partnership, (GEDP)

Ms. Longenbach furnished Council and the audience with a history of the GEDP, and commended Kim Kmetz, Megan McBride and Sandra Levisay for all of the work they have done with the Main Street Initiative and with the Ambassadors Program. She then introduced Donna Taggart of New City America East/Taggart Associates.

Donna Taggart presented Council and the audience with a summary of the proposed Neighborhood Improvement District, (NID), Program for the downtown of the City, which included the following:

- Plan Overview
- Overview of the Presentation
- Overview of the Greater Easton Development Partnership Program, (GEDP), its goals, and the Board of Directors.

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- Blueprint for Revitalization
- Primary Programs; Main Street Initiative and the Ambassador Program,
- Costs for services provided by GEDP, 2011 Primary Funding Sources, and funding options considered.
- What is a NID, and how does it work.
- Easton's NID analysis, and its Steering Committee
- The methodology of the NID Analysis.
- The report and the draft NID Plan layout.

Mayor Panto spoke regarding the Main Street Initiative and Ambassadors Programs, and the funds that the City has granted to those programs.

Mayor Panto asked for comments and questions from the audience.

The following persons made comments, asked questions, and expressed their support or non-support for the Main Street Initiative, Ambassador Programs and the Neighborhood Improvement District Plan.

Jack Gross, 33 S. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Allentown Pa.  
Joseph Corpora, 100 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Easton, Pa.  
Michael McFadden, 109 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Easton, Pa.  
Lori Thomas, 140 Northampton Street, Easton, Pa.  
Randi Kaplan, 108 Northampton Street, Easton, Pa.  
Llani Abraham, 207 Church Street, Easton, Pa.  
Robert Heater, 141 Bushkill Drive, Easton, Pa.  
Mark Mulligan, 322 Northampton Street, Easton Pa.  
Ken Jones, 1002 Washington Street, Easton, Pa.  
Mike Krill, 132 Vista Drive, Easton, Pa.  
Alice Kwiatkowski, 134 Spring Garden Street, Easton, Pa.  
Jonathan Davis, 11 Centre Square, Easton, Pa.  
Ray Thierrin, 19 S. Bank Street, Easton, Pa.  
Stephanie Adams, 512 Northampton Street, Easton, Pa.  
Kris Unguarsky, 134 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Easton, Pa.  
Gershon Hinkson, 29 S. Sitgreaves Street, Easton, Pa.  
Mike Dowd, 27 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Easton, Pa.  
Steven White, 933 Ferry Street, Easton, Pa.  
Jeff Martinson, 204 Bushkill Street, Easton, Pa.  
Charles Elliott, 26 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Easton, Pa.  
Anthony Marraccini, 134 Spring Garden Street, Easton, Pa.  
Melissa Rabinsky, 244 Spring Garden Street, Easton, Pa.  
Brian McNally, 137 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Easton, Pa.  
Robert Gauthier, 36 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Easton, Pa.

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Calvin Wade, 79 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Easton, Pa.

David Colley, 100 Pennsylvania Avenue, Easton, Pa.

William Marley, 64 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Easton, Pa.

There were no further comments or questions from the audience.

All Council persons offered comments regarding the NID Plan, funding for the programs, citizens concerns and regarding more work needed on the NID Plan

Mayor Panto said that he would like to schedule a work-shop meetings with interested citizens to receive their input on different aspects of the NID Plan.

Mrs. Vulcano read the following statement:

“Thank you for attending tonight’s hearing and for your input. The conclusion of this hearing will not trigger a vote by property owners on the establishment of the NID. Tonight’s meeting is just the beginning of the public involvement process. Members of the NID steering committee will reconvene to discuss the input received tonight. A second hearing on the preliminary plan will be advertised and held in July. Members of the NID Steering Committee will review comments received at that meeting and make any revisions they deem necessary to the proposed plan. A revised plan will be circulated and another public meeting will be held on the final plan prior to a vote by property owners and ultimately City Council on the establishment of the district. Information on the process will be posted on GEDP’s website at [www.eastonpartnership.org](http://www.eastonpartnership.org) and the next public meeting will be advertised once scheduled. If you have any questions you were not able to raise at tonight’s meeting, please feel free to submit them in the box at the back of the room and someone will bet back to you with an answer. Thank you again for coming out this evening.

Mayor Panto closed the hearing at 9:42 p.m.

## **CITIZENS RIGHT TO BE HEARD**

There were no further questions or comments from the audience.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:44 p.m. on the motion of Dr. Warner and Mrs. Vulcano by the following vote:

Yeas: Panto, Warren, Warner, Vulcano, Ruggles, Fleck, Brown (7)

Nays: None (0)

Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk