

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

April 9, 2014

Easton, Pa
Wednesday
April 9, 2014
6:00 p.m.

City Council met in stated session at the above date and time, in Council Chambers, located on the Sixth floor of City Hall, to consider any business that may lawfully be brought before the body.

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

ROLL CALL

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

Also in attendance were Rita Messa, Assistant City Clerk, William Murphy, City Solicitor and Beth Knickerbocker, Assistant City Solicitor. There were eight other persons present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion of Mr. Brown and Mr. Warren the Agenda was approved, as submitted, by the following vote:

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

ACTION ON MINUTES

On motion of Dr. Warner and Dr. Ruggles, the March 26, 2014 Council Meeting minutes were approved, as submitted, by the following vote:

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

PUBLIC COMMENT
(Agenda Items Only)

There were no remarks from the audience.

CONSENT AGENDA

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Mayor Panto requested that the proposed Resolution regarding authorizing an application for a DCNR Grant be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed under New Business; that action was taken.

There was no other business on the Consent Agenda.

REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL

The following report was received by Council:

(a) Monthly Fire Report for March 2014.

Mayor Panto accepted the above report on behalf of Council.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Brown, Chairman of the Finance Committee, had no report, but informed Council that he would have a Finance Committee meeting on April 22, 2014.

Mrs. Vulcano, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee, read a prepared statement. (See attachment)

Dr. Warner, Chairman of the Planning Committee, reported that the 2014 Easton House Tour would take place on Saturday, May 3, 2014 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and said that it was also opening day for the Outdoor Downtown Farmers Market. Dr. Warner also reported that she would not be attending the April 23, 2014 Council meeting due to work requirements.

Mr. Warren, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, had no report.

Dr. Ruggles, Chairman of the Public Works Committee, spoke regarding legislation that he would have, for later in the meeting, regarding authorizing an application for a DCNR Grant, for upgrade to the Easton Area Neighborhood property, and that Mr. Hopkins was in attendance and would answer any questions that Council may have on the proposed Resolution.

Mrs. Vulcano asked when the last upgrade to that property was.

There was a short discussion on that question between Council members and Mr. Hopkins.

Mr. Hopkins said approximately five years ago, and explained what the grant funds would be used for.

Mr. Edinger, Chairman of the Administration Committee had no report.

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Mr. Murphy, City Solicitor, reported that after the March 26, 2014 Council meeting, Council had entered into an Executive Session and had a personnel issue.

Mayor Panto reported that he had been presented with a gift card from the Chamber of Commerce and that on the advice of Solicitor Murphy and in accordance with Section 54-1D, Conflict of Interest, he had returned the Card. He reported that Dr. Ruggles had volunteered to go to the Southeast District meeting, and that two (2) Resolutions would be presented along with the City of Philadelphia, for fair and full funding of Public Education and for Pre-Kindergarten education, and spoke further on this matter.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence received by Council:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business

NEW BUSINESS

An April 3, 2014 memorandum, regarding City Council Agenda Items, was received from David Hopkins, Director of Public Works.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would authorize an application for a DCNR Grant to improve the Easton Area Neighborhood property.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

45-2014

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

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

Nays: None (0)

CITIZENS RIGHT TO BE HEARD

There were no remarks from the audience.

ADJOURNMENT

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With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p. m. on motion of Dr. Ruggles and Dr. Warner by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rita M. Messa". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

Rita Messa, Assistant City Clerk

Reported @ April 9, 2014 Council Meeting

By: Council Person Sandi Vulcano

- A spring Easton Gift Card promotion is running from April 1 – 10. Buy \$50.00 or more worth of downtown Easton Gift Cards and receive a free pair of Iron Pig Field Level tickets for their April 28th game.
- Spring Retail Promotion “Spring into Easton” in partnership with the Easton Business Association is this Saturday, April 12 from 12 – 3. Twenty (20) downtown retailers will partner with restaurants for a shipping/tasting crawl. This is also being advertised on Rt. Billboard
- Pop-up/Incubator Business Program: Main Street is hoping, in cooperation with local artist Tom D’Angelo, to put a temporary art gallery on the first floor of the Alpha Building with an “opening event” happening sometime in late May. Proceeds from the sale of any artwork will benefit the Easton Main Street Mural Program.
- City-Wide Clean up Day is scheduled for Saturday, April 26th.
- On April 24th at 8:00 a.m. at the Easton Home on Northampton Street the West Ward will hold its 3rd Business Owners Roundtable. All are welcome.
- Lynn Holden has started the Porch Paint Project on 1000 block of Washington Street with volunteers from Kingdom Builders. They have targeted 18 homes doing power washing, sanding and prep work for painting. Upon completion planters with flowers and wreaths on the homes will be placed designating the finished homes.
- Lynn Holden, along with volunteer Diane Reynolds, a resident of the West Ward will begin working with residents for the Adaptive Modification Project, recommending specialized equipment, grab bards, special smoke alarms, etc. and information regarding services that are available for free or at a low cost through the Lehigh Valley partnering also with Area Agency on Aging.
- Hump Day is scheduled for Wednesday, June 25th from 4 – 8. Organizational meeting was held last Thursday evening. This is an event to encourage people to see and experience more of the 400, 500 and 600 blocks of Northampton Street (the Hump) and provide an opportunity to experience other areas of the West Ward and the Wed. Easton Farmers Market. Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 17th at 6:00 p.m. at Two Rivers Brewing.

CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA

Stated Session
Wednesday
April 9, 2014
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 26, 2014 Council Meeting
7. PUBLIC COMMENT – (Agenda Items Only)
8. CONSENT AGENDA
 1. Resolution authorizing application for a DCNR Grant.
9. REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL
 - (a) Monthly Fire Report for March 2014
10. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES
 - (a) Finance (Kenneth Brown)
 - (b) Economic Development (Sandra Vulcano)
 - (c) Planning (Elinor Warner)
 - (d) Public Safety (Jeffrey Warren)
 - (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.)
11. CORRESPONDENCE
12. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
13. NEW BUSINESS
 - (a) Introduction of Legislative Bills
14. PUBLIC COMMENT – (Any Matter)
15. ADJOURNMENT