

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
December 9, 2009

Easton, Pa.
Wednesday
December 9, 2009
6:00 P.M.

City Council met in a scheduled session, in Council Chambers, Room 514, 5th floor of City Hall, One South Third Street, to consider any business that may lawfully be brought before the body, and for the Mayor to present the proposed 2011 budget.

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

ROLL CALL

Present: Kenneth Brown
Pamela Panto
Roger Ruggles
Sandra Vulcano
Elinor Warner
Jeffrey Warren
Salvatore J. Panto Jr. (7)

Absent: None (0)

Also in attendance were Thomas Hess, City Clerk, Rita Messa, Assistant City Clerk, William Murphy, City Solicitor, and Joel Scheer, Assistant City Solicitor. There were approximately seventy other persons in attendance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Yeas: Brown, P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, S. Panto (7)

Nays: None (0)

ACTION ON MINUTES

The November 24, 2009 Council meeting and Public Hearing minutes were approved, as submitted, on motion of Dr. Warner and Mr. Warren by the following vote:

Yeas: P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, S. Panto, Brown (7)

Nays: None (0)

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CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION

Representative from the following Organizations were presented with framed Certificate of Appreciation.

- Easton Emergency Squad
- Northampton County Emergency Management Services
- New Creations United Church of Christ
- Palmer Township Fire department
- Salvation Army Easton Corp
- Suburban EMS
- Wilson Borough Fire Department

No representative from the Greater Lehigh Valley Red Cross and the Forks Township Fire Department were in attendance, the City Clerk was directed to forward their certificates to them.

Mayor Panto thanked all the organizations for their assistance.

PRESENTATION OF THE 2011 CITY BUDGET

At this time, through a power point presentation, Mayor Panto presented and went over a summary of the preliminary 2011 Budget, as required by the City's Home Rule Charter.

Dr. Ruggles asked a question regarding pension payments and pension information which were answered by Mr. Heagele, Finance Director and Mayor Panto.

CITIZENS RIGHT TO BE HEARD (Agenda Items Only)

Judith Steinberg, 1250 Pine Grove Drive, Principal of F. A. March School presented a power point presentation regarding parking around March School.

The following persons made comments both pro and con, and asked questions regarding parking around March School and the proposed Bill to amend the College Hill Residential Parking Permit Program:

- Matthew Donovan, 856 Mixsell
- Drew Anderson, 611 Brodhead
- Michael Fleck, 1121 Lehigh Street

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- Hubert Etchinson, 202 Shawnee Drive
- Tara Gilligan, 610 W. Burke Street
- Curt Ehly, 304 W. Monroe Street
- Barbara Willett, 130 Parsons Street
- David Kmetz, 341 Reeder Street
- Jamie Cabreza, 702 Coleman Street

Questions were answered by Dr. Warner.

REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL

The following report was received by Council:

- (a) Easton Fire Department November report.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Brown, Chairperson of the Administrative Committee spoke regarding legislation that would be before Council later in the meeting for a vote.

Mrs. Vulcano, Chairperson of the Economic Development Committee spoke regarding legislation that would be before Council later in the meeting for a vote. She had Gary Bertsch give Council a handout entitled “Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant” that contained a summary of the grant that CACLV was applying for.

Mrs. Panto, Chairperson of the Planning Committee, spoke regarding legislation that would be before Council later in the meeting for a vote.

Mr. Gene Pambianchi, Executive Director of the Easton Housing Authority, thanked Council for all the support and assistance regarding the Hope VI project.

Mayor Panto reported that a state panel had approved the 108 loan, and now was in front of the Senate for a vote.

Mr. Warren, Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee, reported that the Public Safety Committee would meet on December 17, 2009.

Dr. Warner, Chairperson of the Public Works Committee spoke regarding legislation that would be before Council later in the meeting for a vote.

Dr. Ruggles, Chairperson of the Strategic Planning Committee had no report.

Mr. Murphy, City Solicitor reported that before the meeting, Council met in an Executive Session and had discussed 447’s proposed contract and negotiations.

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Mr. Scheer, Assistant City Solicitor had no report.

Mayor Panto handed out a Pennsylvania League of Cities and Municipalities Legislative Report, he handed out the ten applications that were received for the Special Events grants, and said that Council would discuss this matter at the December 22, 2009 Council Conference meeting with the requesting organizations. He reported that first meeting of the Intermodal Steering Committee was held earlier in the day, and that he would be forwarding a report to City Council within two weeks regarding the meeting. He gave an update on the work that has been done and still needed to be done on Valley Station.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No. 84, (Ordinance 5229), Providing Revenues and Appropriating specific sums to be required for the purposes of City Government, hereinafter set forth during the Fiscal Year 2010, General Fund was adopted on motion of Mr. Brown and Dr. Warner by the following vote:

Yeas: Brown, P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, S. Panto (7)

Nays: None (0)

Ordinance 5229 provides the Revenues and Expenditures for the 2010 General Fund Budget.

Bill No. 85, (Ordinance 5230), Providing Revenues and Appropriating specific sums to be required for the State Highway Aid Fund during the Fiscal Year 2010 was adopted on motion of Mr. Brown and Mrs. Panto by the following vote:

Yeas: P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, S. Panto, Brown (7)

Nays: None (0)

Ordinance 5230 provides Revenues and Expenditures for the 2010 State Highway Aid Budget.

Bill No. 86, (Ordinance 5231), Providing Revenues and Appropriating specific sums to be required for the Debt Service Fund during the Fiscal Year 2010 was adopted on motion of Mr. Brown and Mrs. Vulcano by the following vote:

Yeas: Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, S. Panto, Brown, P. Panto (7)

Nays: None (0)

Ordinance 5231 provides the Revenues and Expenditures for the 2010 Debt Service Fund Budget.

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Bill No. 87, (Ordinance 5232), Providing Revenues and Appropriating specific sums to be required for the Short Term Capital Fund Budget during the Fiscal Year 2010 was adopted on motion of Mr. Brown and Dr. Warner by the following vote:

Yeas: Vulcano, Warner, Warren, S. Panto, Brown, P. Panto, Ruggles (7)

Nays: None (0)

Ordinance 5232 provides the Revenues and Expenditures for the 2010 Short Term Capital Fund Budget.

Bill No. 88, (Ordinance 5233), Providing Revenues and Appropriating specific sums to be required for the Alpha Building Operating Fund Budget during the Fiscal Year 2010, was adopted on motion of Mr. Brown and Mrs. Panto by the following vote:

Yeas: Warner, Warren, S. Panto, Brown, P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano (7)

Nays: None (0)

Ordinance 5233 provides the Revenues and Expenditures for the 2010 Alpha Building Operating Fund Budget.

Bill No. 89, (Ordinance 5234), Providing Revenues and Appropriating specific sums to be required for the Recreation Budget for the Fiscal Year 2010 was adopted on motion of Mr. Brown and Mrs. Vulcano by the following vote:

Yeas: Warren, S. Panto, Brown, P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner (7)

Nays: None (0)

Ordinance 5234 provides the Revenues and Expenditures for the 2010 Recreation Budget.

Bill No. 90, (Ordinance 5235), Providing Revenues and Appropriating specific sums to be required for the Health Benefits Fund during the Fiscal Year 2010 was adopted on motion of Mr. Brown and Mr. Warren by the following vote:

Yeas: S. Panto, Brown, P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren (7)

Nays: None (0)

Ordinance 5235 provides the Revenues and Expenditures for the 2010 Health Benefits Fund.

Bill No. 91, (Ordinance 5236), Providing Revenues and Appropriating specific sums to be required for the General Insurance Fund Budget during the Fiscal Year 2010 was adopted on motion of Mr. Brown and Mr. Warren by the following vote:

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Yeas: Brown, P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, S. Panto (7)
Nays: None (0)

Ordinance 5236 provides the Revenues and Expenditures for the 2010 General Insurance Fund Budget.

Bill No. 92, (Ordinance 5237) Providing Revenues and Appropriating specific sums to be required for the Unemployment Insurance Fund during the Fiscal Year 2010 was adopted on motion of Mr. Brown and Mrs. Vulcano by the following vote:

Yeas: P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, S. Panto, Brown (7)
Nays: None (0)

Ordinance 5237 provides the Revenues and Expenditures for the 2010 Unemployment Insurance Fund.

Bill No. 93, (Ordinance 5238), Providing Revenues and Appropriating specific sums to be required for the Workers Compensation Fund Budget during the Fiscal Year 2010 was adopted on motion of Mr. Brown and Dr. Warner by the following vote:

Yeas: Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, S. Panto, Brown, P. Panto (7)
Nays: None (0)

Ordinance 5238 provides the Revenues and Expenditures for the 2010 Workers Compensation Fund Budget.

Bill No. 94, (Ordinance 5239), Providing Revenues and Appropriating specific sums to be required for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Budget during the Fiscal Year 2010 was adopted on motion of Mr. Brown and Mrs. Panto by the following vote:

Yeas: Vulcano, Warner, Warren, S. Panto, Brown, P. Panto, Ruggles (7)
Nays: None (0)

Ordinance 5239 provides the Revenues and Expenditures for the 2010 Wastewater Treatment Plant Budget.

Bill No. 95, Ordinance 5240, Setting the Tax Rate for 2010 was adopted on motion of Mr. Brown and Dr. Warner by the following vote:

Ordinance 5240 set the Tax Rate for 2010 at 24.95 mills.

Bill No. 96, Amending Sections 399-17, Purpose, and 399-18, Jurisdiction, of Article III, College Hill Parking Permits of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., was amended by

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changing Section B, in Section 2 of the proposed Bill to read as follows, on motion of Dr. Warner and Mr. Brown by the following vote:

“B. Within the College Hill Residential Parking Permit Zone an F. S. March School Impact Zone will be created. This zone will be an area comprised of the north side of Monroe Street from Porter Street to Brodhead Street; the south side of Monroe Street between Porter and Reeder Streets and between Brodhead Street and Paxinosa Avenue; the east side of Reeder Street between Pierce and Monroe Streets; the west side of Reeder Street between Monroe and Parson Streets; and the west side of Brodhead Street between Pierce and Monroe Streets.”

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

Nays: None (0)

Bill 96, Ordinance 5241, Amending Sections 399-17, Purpose, and 399-18, Jurisdiction, of Article III, College Hill Parking Permits of the Code of the City of Easton, with amendment was adopted on motion of Mr. Brown and Mr. Warren by the following vote:

Each Councilmember spoke regarding the proposed Bill explained what their vote would be and thanked all involved in authoring the amendment.

Yeas: Warner, Warren, S. Panto, Brown, P. Panto, Vulcano (6)

Nays: Ruggles (1)

Ordinance 5241 adds a section of College Hill to the Residential Parking Permit program.

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was received by Council.

- (a) F. A. March elementary P.T.A. & families, letter and petition regarding parking around March School.
- (b) Amy Fowler, letter regarding parking restrictions around March School
- (c) Clay Mitman, e-mail regarding parking around March School.
- (d) Dr. Jonathan Warren, letter requesting response to recommended staffing of Health Bureau for 2010.

NEW BUSINESS

A November 16, 2009 memorandum, regarding Re-appointments was received from Mayor Panto.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution that would approve appointments and re-appointments to different Authorities, Boards, and Commissions.

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The following Resolution was introduced by Mayor Panto:

218-2009

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

Yeas: Warren, S. Panto, Brown, P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner (7)

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve a Developers Agreement with the Easton Housing Authority.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Panto:

219-2009

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

Yeas: S. Panto, Brown, P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren (7)

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution that would approve a Storm Water Runoff Control Facilities and maintenance Agreement with the Easton Housing Authority.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Panto:

220-2009

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

Yeas: Brown, P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, S. Panto (7)

Nays: None (0)

A December 2, 2009, e-mail, regarding a Resolution for an EECBG grant application was received from Gretchen Lippincott.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution that would authorize the submission of an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program grant.

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The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Vulcano:

221-2009

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

Yeas: P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, S. Panto, Brown (7)

Nays: None (0)

CITIZEN'S RIGHT TO BE HEARD

Jim Peters a representatives from Infra Source Underground Construction Services, LLC, and Jeff Sergeant, a representative of a local engineering firm, informed Council of a project and construction that would take place in the City regarding an underground fiber optic system.

Mayor Panto suggested that they and their companies contact Dave Hopkins to apprise him of what would be happening in the City limits.

Michael Fleck, 1121 Lehigh Street made a comment and asked a question regarding Council's reorganization meeting, which was answered by Mayor Panto.

Curt Ehly, 305 W. Monroe Street spoke regarding the ability to walk safely on Cattell Street and problems incurred by pedestrians in the area.

Mayor Panto responded to Mr. Ehly's comments.

Drew Anderson, 611 Brodhead Street, relayed compliments to the Police Department regarding the enforcement of laws on Cattell street, and spoke regarding three tax issues.

Mayor Panto spoke further on the tax issue.

Richard Hieshetter, 304 W. Monroe Street, spoke regarding a needed transportation center in the City.

Lisa Hand, 623 Chestnut Terrace, thanked Dr. Ruggles for trying to propose a compromise for the March School parking issue.

The Mayor spoke regarding a retreat , for Council members, to be held at Lafayette College sometime in January 2009.

There was a discussion on the date and time for Council's reorganization meeting. It was decided that the meeting would take place on January 4, 2010 at 4:00 p.m.

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ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m. on motion of Dr. Warner and Mr. Warren by the following vote:

Yeas: Brown, Warren, P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, S. Panto (7)

Nays: None (0)

Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk