

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

**July 9, 2014**

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

City Council met in stated session at the above date and time, in Council Chambers, located on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor of City Hall, One South Third Street, to consider any business that may lawfully be brought before the body, and to conduct a Public Hearing regarding Main Street Initiative's Façade Grant Program.

The invocation was given by the 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 Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk, William Murphy, City Solicitor, Beth Knickerbocker, Assistant City Solicitor, and Glenn Steckman, City Administrator. There were thirty-two other persons present.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

On motion of Dr. Ruggles and Mrs. Vulcano 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 Mr. Brown and Mr. Warren, the June 24, 2014 Council Meeting minutes were approved, as submitted, by the following vote:

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

**CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION**

At this time Certificates of Appreciation were read and presented to Ester Guzman, for her commitment, dedication and service as the West Ward Neighborhood Partnership Director.

Mrs. Guzman was presented with a framed Certificate and thanked for her work with the West Ward Neighborhood Partnership and for its many programs and told that she would be missed.

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Mrs. Guzman thanked Council for the honor and thanked and praised all of the volunteers and organizations for their dedication to the West Ward and its programs.

At this time Mr. Troy Reynard and Mr. Jeremy Bialker, co-chairmen of the Easton Hump Day Committee were presented with a framed Certificate for their commitment, dedication and service to the West Ward and the City of Easton.

Council thanked them for co-chairing the "Hump Day" celebration on the 400, 500 and 600 blocks of Northampton Street.

Mr. Reynard and Bialker thanked Council for the honor, spoke regarding the "Hump Day" festivities and thanked all persons, organizations and businesses who were involved.

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

#### **Main Street Initiative's Façade Grant Program**

At 6:28 p.m., Mayor Panto opened up the Public Hearing regarding Main Street Initiative's Façade Grant Program, and turned it over to Mrs. Vulcano, Chairperson of Council's Economic Development Committee.

Mrs. Vulcano said that Mr. Jared Mast and Mrs. Kim Kmetz would address Council on this matter.

Mr. Mast, a representative of the Greater Easton Development Partnership, (GEDP), said that the purpose of this hearing was to solicit public input regarding a grant application for the Main Street Initiative's Façade Grant program. He said that the grant would require a cooperation agreement between the City and GEDP. He said that the City applies for the grant on behalf of the GEDP and then the Main Street Initiative would administer the program. He said that the program has leveraged a lot of private capital over the years. He said that, if approved, this would be the seventh round of funding. He said that the plan was to apply, through the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development for \$50,000 in funding, which would require a one to one match, and that the Initiative would administer the program.

Mrs. Kmetz, manager of the Main Street Program, said that this program has been in existence since 2006, and has been a very successful program and has been a great benefit to the City and property owners. She said that the City had received \$170,000 so far since the beginning of the program. She said that certain blocks were focused on and then different locations were focused on. She said that of that amount \$162,407 was directly distributed to fifty-one properties, twenty-five signs and twenty-six façade improvements. She said that the \$162,407 was coupled with \$233,269 of private investment for a total of nearly \$395,677 over the last eight years. She said that applications for funds are brought to the Main Street's Design Committee. She said that there is currently a waiting list of fifteen properties interested in the program because funds were not available at this time, 3 for signs and 12 for façade

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improvements. She said that the grant requests were well over \$77,000, but they were only allowed \$50,000 at this time. She said that the cost for the 15 projects would be \$211,000. She said that the Main Street staff was very anxious to get the program going again. She said that they were revamping their guidelines for the program. She said they work very closely with John Burik and thanked him for his assistance and expertise with assisting them with their grant applications.

Dr. Warner asked if \$50,000 was the maximum that could be applied for.

Mrs. Kmetz said that it was.

There were no further questions from Council.

Mrs. Vulcano asked for any comments or questions from the audience.

There were no comments or questions from the audience.

Mrs. Vulcano closed the hearing at 6:33 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**  
**(Agenda Items Only)**

There were no comments.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

On motion of Dr. Warner and Dr. Ruggles the following item was adopted by the following vote:

Resolution 89-2014, which authorized the application to the Department of Community and Economic Development for a \$50,000 grant for Main Street Initiative's Façade Grant Program, and approved a Cooperation Agreement with the GEDP for the continued administration of the Façade Grant program.

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

Nays: None (0)

**REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL**

The following report was received by Council:

(a) Monthly Fire Department Report for June 2014.

Mayor Panto accepted the report on behalf of Council.

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**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

Mr. Brown, Chairman of the Finance Committee, spoke regarding legislation that he would have for later in the meeting regarding approving a Retirement Incentive for qualified non-uniformed City employees, and for amending the 2014 Salary and Wage Resolution.

Mrs. Vulcano, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee, spoke regarding legislation that she would have for later in the meeting regarding seeking authorization to apply for a Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program grant in the amount of \$250,000.

Dr. Warner, Chairman of the Planning Committee, reported that she could not attend the July 23, 2014 Council meeting due to work obligations.

Mr. Warren, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, spoke regarding legislation that he would have for later in the meeting regarding amending Section 560-43, Blocking garage entrance, of the City Code, and spoke regarding the double parking problem on the 200 block of Northampton Street.

Dr. Ruggles, Chairman of the Public Works Committee, had no report.

Mr. Edinger, Chairman of the Administration Committee spoke regarding legislation that he would have for later in the meeting regarding a one-time bonus for a Supervisor in the Bureau of Highways, and the establishment of positions in the Finance and Public Works departments.

Mr. Murphy, City Solicitor, reported that he and Ms. Knickerbocker, Assistant City Solicitor had no report.

Mayor Panto gave an update on the Parking Garage, Silk Mill and City Hall projects.

**MAYOR'S SUMMER CAMP PRESENTATION**

Mayor Panto introduced Angel Diaz, his summer intern, who worked very closely with Karen Roscioli, his secretary, on this project.

Ms. Diaz she said that it had been an amazing experience working with the students. She said that it was the largest summer camp since the beginning of the program. She said that the application process was very lengthy, which included an essay. She said that the students had visited different City locations and City facilities and learned about City officials, departments and city employees.

The following Camp attendees spoke regarding their reason for wanting to attend the camp, what they liked most during the camp and what they would like to see happen.

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Shivam Dhaliwal would like to see more intermunicipal cooperation.

Michael McFarland and Ian Collins would like to see the establishment of an Easton Days Celebration in the City.

Jessica Buttner, Carla Milagro Ramos and Giovanny Zapata, would like to see more youth participation in City matters and urged the establishment of a Youth Council program.

Ashley Reed would like to see more information disseminated to the youth of the entire valley so that they could be informed of what is happening in their and other communities.

Emily Alayon would like to see a Plastic Bag Ban in the City.

Victoria Seery and Nijah Springer would like to see walking tours be started in the downtown area to inform the public about the history of Easton.

Samantha Castellano would like to see more family activities throughout the City.

Mayor Panto thanked all the parents, of the students, for allowing them to participate in this program.

Council members thanked all of the students for participating, for their presentations, urged them to stay engaged in their communities and thanked them for their different perspectives and their recommendations.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Bill 21, Amending section 560-43, Blocking garage entrance, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., was introduced by Mr. Warren and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would amend the section by adding the words, "other than the property owner or his/her designee", and taking out the words "opposite to" from the section.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would suspend downtown parking meter enforcement on Sunday, July 13, 2014.

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The following Resolution was introduced by Mayor Panto:

90-2014

There was a discussion between Council members regarding this Resolution.

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

Yeas: None (0)

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

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve a one time bonus of \$3,500 for Richard Deemer, Supervisor in the Highway Bureau.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Edinger:

91-2014

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

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

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve a retirement incentive offer to qualified full-time non-uniformed employees.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Brown:

92-2014

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

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

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve the application for a Greenways, Trails and Recreation program grant of \$250,000 to be used to design and construct a pedestrian bridge over the Bushkill Creek between the Karl Stirner Arts Trail and the Silk development project.

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The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Vulcano:

93-2014

There was a discussion, between Dr. Warner, Mayor Panto and Mr. Steckman on the reason for building the bridge, and the funds for this project.

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

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

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution to approve the establishment of positions in the Public Works and in the Finance Departments.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Edinger:

94-2014

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

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

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution to amend the 2014 Salary and Wage Resolution by deleting and establishing positions in the Department of Public Works and the Department of Finance.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Brown

95-2014

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

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

Nays: None (0)

**PUBLIC COMMENT**  
**(On Any Item)**

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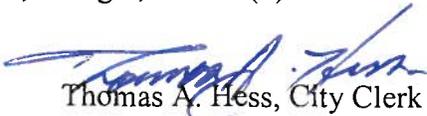
There were no comments from the audience.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p. m. on motion of Mr. Brown and Dr. Warner by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

  
Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk

CITY COUNCIL  
AGENDA

Stated Session  
Wednesday  
July 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 – June 24, 2014 Council Meeting
7. CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION – 1. Esther Guzman  
2. Easton Hump Day Committee
8. PUBLIC HEARING – Main Street Initiative’s Façade Grant Program
9. PUBLIC COMMENT – (Agenda Items Only)
10. CONSENT AGENDA
  - (a) Resolution authorizing submission for a DCED Grant, and approving a Cooperation Agreement with the Greater Easton Development Partnership.
11. REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL
  - (a) Monthly Fire Report for June 2014.
12. 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.)
13. MAYOR’S SUMMER CAMP PRESENTATION
14. CORRESPONDENCE
15. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

-Over-

16. NEW BUSINESS

(a) Introduction of Legislative Bills

1. Bill 21, Amending Section 560-43, Blocking garage entrance, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa.

(b) Resolution suspending downtown meter enforcement on July 13, 2014.

(c) Resolution approving a one time bonus.

(d) Resolution approving Retirement incentive.

(e) Resolution approving application for a Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program Grant.

(f) Resolution approving the establishment of positions in the Public Services and Finance Departments.

(g) Resolution amending the 2014 Salary & Wage Resolution

17. PUBLIC COMMENT – (Any Matter)

18. ADJOURNMENT