

**Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.**  
**October 9, 2013**

Easton, Pa  
Wednesday  
October 9, 2013  
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, and to conduct the 2<sup>nd</sup> Public Hearing for the 2014 Community Development Block Grant program.

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

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Brown, Edinger, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Panto (6)  
Absent: Warren (1)

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 eleven other persons present.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The Agenda was amended, by adding a Resolution, under New Business, for approving a three year Software Agreement with Kelly & Ryan, Associates Inc., on motion of Mayor Panto and Mr. Brown by the following vote:

Yeas: Panto, Warner, Vulcano, Ruggles, Edinger, Brown (6)  
Nays: None (0)

The amended Agenda was approved on motion of Dr. Warren and Mr. Brown by the following vote:

Yeas: Brown, Edinger, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Panto (6)  
Nays: None (0)

**ACTION ON MINUTES**

On motion of Dr. Ruggles and Mrs. Vulcano, the September 25, 2013 Council Meeting minutes and the October 1, 2013 Special Council Meeting minutes were approved, as submitted, by the following vote:

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

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Nays: None (0)

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

There were no questions or comments from the audience.

**PUBLIC HEARING**  
**2014 Community Development Block Grant Program**

At 6:05 p.m. Mayor Panto opened the Public Hearing and turned it over to Mrs. Vulcano, Chairperson of the Economic Development Committee, who read the following:

“The purpose of this evening’s hearing is to obtain public comment on the 2013 Action Plan for the City of Easton”.

“The annual plan identifies the activities that will be undertaken to address priority needs and local objectives. Such activities include support for non-profit public service agencies, economic development activities, the acquisition rehab and resale of homes, street improvements, playground improvements, and building improvements for EEAC”.

“The City expects to receive an entitlement grant of \$668,000 and generate approximately \$100,000 in program income for the CDBG program year which will run January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014”.

“The City will be undertaking an evaluation of the activities to be funded in an effort to identify historic and archaeological resources that may be affected by the activities”.

“The City of Easton is requesting public input on its evaluation of a proposal to spend CDBG funds for projects that may impact on the flood plain. This notice is issued prior to final action granting project approval so as to provide an opportunity for early public review”.

“Final approval of the plan will be made by City Council on October 23, 2013.

“The City of Easton intends to submit the Action Plan for 2014 to (HUD) on or about November 15, 2013”.

Mrs. Vulcano asked for any comments or questions from Council members, of which there were none.

Mrs. Vulcano asked for any comments or questions from the audience of which there were none.

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Ms. Karen Parrish, a representative from Mullin and Lonergan thanked Council and the Administration for their assistance on the program, and said that the Action Plan had been on displayed as required by law.

There were no further comments or questions from the audience or Council.

At 6:10 p.m., Mrs. Vulcano closed the Public Hearing.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

On motion of Dr. Ruggles and Dr. Warner the following items on the Consent Agenda were adopted by the following vote:

Bill 53, (Ordinance 5435) Approving a Five-year Lease Agreement between the City of Easton Pa., and Safe Harbor Easton, Inc., This Ordinance approves a five-year Lease Agreement with Safe Harbor Easton, Inc., to lease property at 536 Bushkill Drive.

Resolution 180-2013 which approves a Cooperative Agreement with the Redevelopment Authority of Easton.

Resolution 181-2013 which authorizes an application for a Traffic Signal with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation.

Resolution 182-2013 which authorizes free parking at all meter and downtown parking lots for dates in November and December 2013.

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

Nays: None (0)

**REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL**

There were no reports received by Council.

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

Mr. Brown, Chairman of the Finance Committee, spoke regarding legislation that he would have, for later in the meeting, regarding authorizing the incurrence of nonelectoral debt of the City in the issuance of its \$16,920,000 General Obligation Bonds.

Mr. Brown asked Chris Heagele, the City's Finance Director, Gary Pulcini, Financial Consultant, from VALCO Capital Ltd., and Attorney John Lichtenstein, Bond Counsel from the law firm of Cozen O'Connor, to address Council on the proposed Bond Issue, the Bond sale, and the proposed Ordinance, which they did.

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Mayor Panto thanked Council, Mr. Steckman, Mr. Heagele, and the City's staff for doing the work to keep the City on budget for the last couple of years which increased the City's Bond rating and helped in saving the City money. Mayor Panto reported that EPS Financial, a tenant in the Alpha Building received an award for being the third largest growing business in the Lehigh Valley.

Mr. Brown echoed the Mayor's comments.

There was further discussion, between Council members and Mr. Heagele, on what would have to be discussed at the Council Committee meetings and the Budget Review session scheduled for Tuesday, October 22, 2013.

Mayor Panto spoke regarding the proposed raising of the Earned Income Tax and the deadline on when that would have to be approved if Council accepted the Administration's recommendation to get it to the State's DCED.

Dr. Ruggles asked if various percentage EIT increases could be introduced and then one would be picked and voted upon.

Mr. Murphy said that they could.

Mayor Panto said that only two Budget Review sessions have been scheduled and asked if Council thought that the two would be enough.

It was the consensus of Council that the scheduled Budget Review sessions would be enough.

Mrs. Vulcano, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee spoke regarding legislation that she would have for later in the meeting regarding approving a cooperative agreement with the Redevelopment Authority, and for approving contracts for construction work at the proposed City Hall and Transportation Center.

Dr. Warner asked if the City Hall project had gone before, and had been approved by the Historic District Commission, the Planning Commission and received any zoning variances from the Zoning Hearing Board.

Mayor Panto said that the City had received everything except for final approval from the Historic District Commission. He said that the HDC has given preliminary approval on the structure until they see the façade.

Dr. Ruggles said that the City had received the Certificate of Appropriateness for the project.

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Mayor Panto said that it has been approved, but that the City said that they would go back to the HDC with a final version of the façade's smoother surface. He said that the contracts that Council would be voting on, later in the meeting, would be for the parking structure only.

Dr. Ruggles, Chairman of the Planning Committee, reported that the Planning Committee had met on October 8, 2013, and had discussed amending the Ordinance regarding chickens in the City and said that it was Council's consensus that the Ordinance was fine the way it was with banning chickens from the City.

Mr. Warren, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, was absent.

Dr. Warner, Chairman of the Public Works Committee, reported that the Public Works Committee had met on October 8, 2013, and had discussed a Recycling awards program and the process by which resident's could receive one month free trash collection by accruing a certain number of points. She also reported that she would not be attending the October 22, and October 23, 2013 meetings because of work priorities in Virginia.

Mrs. Vulcano reported that she also would not be at the meetings.

Mr. Edinger, Chairman of the Administration Committee reported that the Administration Committee met on October 8, 2013 and discussed updating the Codified Ordinances.

Mr. Murphy, City Solicitor, and Beth Knickerbocker, Assistant City Solicitor had no report.

Mayor Panto spoke regarding the inauguration of the new Lafayette College President, regarding the meeting of the Lafayette College Board of Trustees of the Easton Committee, which toured the Silk Mill, spoke regarding the tour, regarding a piece of art that the College donated to the Karl Sterner Arts Trail, reported that the Board would also take a tour of the City, in January, to see some of the ongoing project, spoke regarding the success of the most recent Garlic Festival, and spoke regarding the latest dedication of a sculpture done by Karl Sterner.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Bill 54, (Ordinance 5436) Authorizing the incurrence of non-electoral debt of the City of Easton by the issuance of its General Obligation Bonds, was adopted on motion of Mr. Brown and Dr. Warner by the following vote:

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

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Nays: None (0)

Ordinance 5436 authorizes the issuance of General Obligations Bonds in the amount of \$16,920,000.00.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Before the following Resolutions were introduced, Mayor Panto asked Mr. Randy Galiotto, a representative from Spillman Farmer Architects, and Mark Waddell, a representative from Iron Hill Construction Management, to give Council an update on the Intermodal project, which they did.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution approving an Agreement between the City, the Easton Parking Authority and Wilmer R. Schultz, Inc., for general contractor services at 123 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, the Easton City Hall and Transportation Center.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Vulcano:

183-2013

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

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

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution approving an Agreement between the City, the Easton Parking Authority and Thomas I. Hoffman, Inc., for electrical work at 123 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, the Easton City Hall and Transportation Center.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Vulcano:

184-2013

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

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

Nays: None (0)

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The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution approving an Agreement between the City, the Easton Parking Authority and KC Mechanical Services for HVAC work at 123 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, the Easton City Hall and Transportation Center.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Vulcano:

185-2013

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

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

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution approving an Agreement between the City, the Easton Parking Authority and KC Mechanical Services for plumbing work at 123 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, the Easton City Hall and Transportation Center.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Vulcano:

186-2013

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

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

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution for approving a Three-Year Software and Services Agreement between the City and Kelly & Ryan, Associates, Inc., for software and business solutions for the City's Police Management system.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Edinger:

187-2013

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

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

Nays: None (0)

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**CITIZENS RIGHT TO BE HEARD**

There were no remarks from the audience.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:03 p. m. on the motion of Mrs. Vulcano and Mr. Brown by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

  
Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk