

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

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

City Council met in stated 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.

A moment of silence was observed for the death of William Welsh, the Mayor of State College and Howard G. Hill Sr., a former fire fighter, followed by the invocation which was given by Mayor Panto, and was 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, William Murphy, City Solicitor, and Glenn Steckman, City Administrator. There were twenty-four other persons present in the audience.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion of Dr. Warner and Mr. Warren, 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 August 26, 2009 Council meeting and Public Hearing minutes were approved, as submitted, on motion of Mr. Brown and Dr. Warner by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

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CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION – Brian Burd

At this time a Certificate of Recognition was read, recognizing Police Officer Burd's military service to the United States as a member of the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force Arabian Peninsula from June 20, 2008 through July 13, 2009, and a framed Certificate was presented to him.

Mayor Panto spoke about and thanked Officer Burd for his service to the United States and the City of Easton.

CITIZENS RIGHT TO BE HEARD (Agenda Items Only)

There were no remarks from the audience.

REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL

There were no reports received by Council.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

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

Mrs. Vulcano, Chairperson of the Economic Development Committee reported that the next Public Hearing regarding the 2010 CDBG Program would be held on October 14, 2009 during the regular Council meeting.

Mrs. Panto, Chairperson of the Planning Committee spoke regarding legislation that would be before Council later in the meeting, and reported that an Appeal Hearing, regarding a Certificate of Appropriateness for 11 N. 3rd Street, would be held at the beginning of the regular Council meeting on September 23, 2009.

Mr. Warren, Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee spoke regarding legislation that would be before Council later in the meeting, and reported that the Public Safety Committee would meet on September 17, 2009, at 5:15 p.m. and related what would be discussed.

Dr. Warner, Chairperson of the Public Works Committee spoke regarding legislation that would be before Council later in the meeting, and reported that each Council member had received a copy of the Walkability Study that was completed by the Environmental Advisory Council.

Dr. Ruggles, Chairperson for Strategic Planning had no report.

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Mr. Murphy, City Solicitor, had no report for Council.

Mayor Panto reported that the Special Events Grant applications had been sent out and were due back by December 1, 2009, reported that at the September 23rd Council meeting the Administration would be forwarding a request to amend the Capital Budget, and explained this request, and he and Mr. Warren spoke regarding possession of illegal weapons.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No. 72, An Ordinance to amend the Code of the City of Easton, Chapter 404 thereof, entitled Parks, to prohibit Golf or the driving of Golf Balls in City Parks, was tabled on motion of Dr. Warner and Dr. Ruggles, by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

This Bill would prohibit the game of Golf or the driving of Golf Balls in City Parks, playgrounds, or fields of play.

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was received by Council:

- (a) Joan Chelsen, thank-you letter regarding the City's support of the Sports for Health program.
- (b) Palmer & Company Aggregated Pension Fund Report of Audit as of December 31, 2008.
- (c) Planning Commission, Resolution urging appointment to the Environmental Advisory Council.

NEW BUSINESS

An August 24, 2009 memorandum, regarding updated Easton Fire Civil Service Rules was received from Fire Chief John Bast.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution that would approve the amended Fire Civil Service Rules and Regulations.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Warren:

168-2009

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Dr. Ruggles pointed out some minor mistakes in the Rules and Regulations which the City Clerk said that he would have the Human Relations Department correct.

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

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

A September 1, 2009 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 that would approve a Right-of-Way Encroachment Agreement at Folk Street and Philadelphia Road.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Warner:

169-2009

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

Dr. Ruggles and Mrs. Vulcano asked questions regarding the site which were answered by Mayor Panto.

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

A September 2, 2008 memorandum, regarding a Professional Services – Act 45 Plan and Inspection Services contract was received from Becky Bradley, Director of Planning and Codes.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve a Contract for building inspection and plan review services with CodeMaster.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Panto:

170-2009

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

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

Nays: None (0)

An August 24, 2009 memorandum, regarding a Historic Preservation Consultant - Grant Contract was received from Becky Bradley, Director of Planning and Codes.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution that would approve a Contract for Professional Services – Historic Preservation Consultant.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Panto:

171-2009

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

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

Nays: None (0)

A September 2, 2009 letter regarding an Appeal of Fourth Street Associates – Case No. 2006-9407 Tax ID No. L9SE2A 28 5 0310 – City of Easton, was received from William K. Murphy, City Solicitor.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve a Stipulation of Counsel.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Brown:

172-2009

Mayor Panto asked a question regarding the Assessment value which was answered by Mr. Murphy.

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

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

Nays: None (0)

A September 2, 2009 memorandum, regarding Waterfront Improvements was received from Joseph Mauro, City Engineer.

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The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve an Agreement for Site Preparation with Lehigh Valley Site Contractors.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Warner:

173-2009

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

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

Nays: None (0)

A September 8, 2009 memorandum, regarding Waterfront Improvements was received from Joseph Mauro, City Engineer.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve an Agreement for Site Preparation with S&K Construction Co.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Warner:

174-2009

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

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

Nays: None (0)

A September 2, 2009 Resolution regarding a request to make appointments to the Environmental Advisory Council was received from the Easton Planning Commission.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve a reappointment and an appointment to the Environmental Advisory Council.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Warner:

175-2009

Dr. Warner questioned the terms of office for the appointees.

The City Clerk said that he would research that matter and make the needed changes if required.

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

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

Nays: None (0)

CITIZEN'S RIGHT TO BE HEARD

William Marley, 64 North Second Street, reported that the graffiti had been removed from the wall at the Poet's Garden but said that nothing else had been done, and hoped that it would be by the time of the Riverside Festival of the Arts. He also asked questions regarding a parcel of land that was purchased by the City near the former location of the Riverwalk Project which were answered by Mayor Panto.

Drew Anderson, 611 Brodhead Street, spoke regarding collaboration between the Easton Area School District and the City and also spoke regarding items at Cottingham and at March School.

Council members responded to Mr. Anderson's comments and suggestions.

Noel Jones, 800 Ferry Street spoke regarding a recent Public Safety meeting in the West Ward, the need to develop programs to address Public Safety in the West Ward, urged Council to support those programs and thanked the Police Department for their work.

Council members responded to Ms. Jones' comments and suggestions.

Sandra Walters-Weiss, 1150 Ferry Street, spoke regarding an ant infestation in her apartment, her landlord, thanked the City for the increase of Police Patrols in the West Ward, said that the City had to address the slumlord issue in the City, and volunteer her services to the City.

Terrance Miller, 645 Ferry Street, spoke regarding the most recent West Ward Public Safety meeting, asked the City to create a program for dissemination of information to the residents, and asked that a Comprehensive Plan addressing Public Safety be established.

Council members responded to Mr. Miller's comments and suggestions.

Michael Vangelo, Police Captain of Field Services, spoke regarding the Police Departments efforts in the City, which he said were working, and spoke regarding programs that the Police Department did throughout the Community.

Mrs. Vulcano said that it was good to see police presence at the High School Football games.

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ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m. on motion of Dr. Warner and Mr. Warren by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk