

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

March 9, 2010

Easton, Pa.
Tuesday
March 9, 2010
6:17 P.M.

City Council met in session, at the above hour in Council Chambers, Room 514, 5th Floor, One South Third Street, Easton, Pa. to discuss business for tomorrow night's Council meeting and to conduct a Public Hearing regarding proposed amendments to the Zoning and Land Development Ordinances.

The following members of Council were present Kenneth Brown, Michael Fleck, Roger Ruggles, Sandra Vulcano, Elinor Warner, Jeffrey Warren, and Salvatore J. Panto Jr. Also in attendance were Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk, Joel Scheer, Assistant City Solicitor, and Glenn Steckman, City Administrator. There were thirty-four other persons present in the audience.

PUBLIC HEARING – Proposed Amendments to the Zoning and Land Development Ordinances

At 6:17 p.m., Mayor Panto called the Public Hearing to order and turned it over to Dr. Ruggles, Chairperson of the Planning Committee, who read the following statement.

“The proposed changes to the street tree ordinance “greens” the city, both literally and figuratively. First and foremost, the amendments promote the use of native tree species within the City of Easton, as well as discourage the use of invasive species. Native trees are resistant to local diseases, attuned to City’s climate and soils, and live in balance with the other floras of the area. By encouraging the use of these species, instead of non-native, invasive trees, the City is investing in the long-term health of its streetscape and the environment at large.”

“The amended street tree list contains 18 new species. Beyond the benefits of being native, each of these species was identified for its ability to thrive in an urban environment. Three non-native species were removed, for a variety of reasons, ranging from invasive qualities, to poor performance s street tees in the Easton environment. This net increase of 15 tree species promotes vibrancy and flexibility within the City’s treestock.

“Given the numerous environmental, cultural, and aesthetic benefits of street trees, the City affirms the importance of proper management of this valuable resource. The amendments further these goals by promoting trees that are native and ideally suited for the street environment.”

Dr. Ruggles asked if there were any questions from Council or the audience.

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There were no comments or questions from the audience.

Becky Bradley, Director of Codes and Planning said that the Public Hearing had been advertised on February 24, 2010, in the Express-Times and it was specifically for amendments to Chapter 520 which was the Sub-Division and Land Development Ordinances. She said that the Easton Planning Commission had supported adoption of the proposed amendments by adoption of a Resolution on February 3, 2010, and encouraged Council to approve the adoption of the amendments by an Ordinance on March 24, 2010.

Dr. Ruggles closed the hearing at 6:21 p.m.

Thomas A. Hess
City Clerk