

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
May 11, 2011

Easton, Pa
Wednesday
May 11, 2011
6:00 p.m.

City Council met in stated session at the above date and time in the 6th floor Conference Room of City Hall, One South Third Street, Easton, Pa. to consider any business that may lawfully be brought before the body.

The invocation was given by Mr. Brown followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Present: Brown, Fleck, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, Panto (7)
Absent: None (0)

Also in attendance were Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk, William K. Murphy, City Solicitor, Beth Knickerbocker, Assistant City Solicitor, and W. Glenn Steckman, City Administrator. There were nine other persons present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion of Mayor Panto and Dr. Ruggles the agenda was amended by removing item 13 d from the Agenda; a Resolution which would approve a Mutual Release and Settlement Agreement with Service Electric, by the following vote:

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

On motion of Dr. Warner and Mr. Warren the amended Agenda was approved by the following vote:

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

ACTION ON MINUTES

On motion of Dr. Ruggles and Dr. Warner the April 27, 2011 Council Meeting minutes were approved as submitted by the following vote:

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

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CITIZENS RIGHT TO BE HEARD (Agenda Items Only)

There were no remarks from the audience.

REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL

The following report was received by Council.

(a) EAJSA December 20, 2010, January 17, and February 21, 2011 meeting minutes.

Mayor Panto accepted the above report on behalf of Council.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Brown, Chairman of the Finance Committee reported that a Finance Committee meeting was held on Tuesday, May 10, 2011. Proposed budget amendments, parking meters, the Streetsmart Contract had been discussed and the Committee was given an update on the Tax Collection Committee. He said that the next Committee meeting would be held on June 7, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. He also spoke regarding the Special Events allocations Resolution that would be before Council later in the meeting.

Mrs. Vulcano, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee had no report.

Dr. Ruggles reported that he had attended the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission meeting where the attendees were provided a summary on the New Jersey Rail Service Study.

Mr. Warren reported that a Public Safety Committee meeting would be held on May 24, 2011 where the Fire Department would give a department update. He also spoke regarding legislation that would be before Council later in the meeting.

Dr. Warner, Chairman of the Public Works Committee spoke regarding the Easton House Tour on Saturday, May 14, 2011, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and reported that the Public Works Committee would also meet on May 24, 2011 where representatives from Recycle Banks would be present to answer any questions regarding the proposed new recycling awards initiative.

Mr. Brown said that a Skate Board fund raiser would be held on May 14, 2011, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Lower Hacketts Park.

Mr. Fleck, Chairman of the Administration Committee spoke regarding proposed Bill 14 which would provide benefits for Domestic Partnerships. He also spoke briefly regarding the Fringe Festival and thanked all involved with the festival.

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Mr. Murphy, City Solicitor, reported that Attorney Scheer had appeared in front of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court regarding the Renninger Pension appeal.

Ms. Knickerbocker, Assistant Solicitor, had no report.

Mayor Panto spoke regarding the design change on the Council Chamber's Dias and Floating Ceiling, the Karl Stirner Arts Trail, the opening of the Farmer's Market, the CDBG fund allotment and said that he was writing a letter to US Representative Dent, a member of the Appropriations Committee regarding the CDBG allocations, said that the City had been awarded \$250,000 in Elm Street Funds and had until 2013 to spend the money, said that a Press Conference would be held on May 12, 2011, at 1:30 p.m., at the Hugh Moore Park regarding the Shad Program, and thanked all City employees involved in the most recent gas leak on College Hill.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No. 10, (Ordinance 5309) Amending Article III, Traffic Control Map of Chapter 560, Vehicles and Traffic of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., was adopted on motion of Dr. Warner and Mrs. Vulcano by the following vote:

Mayor Panto made comments and asked questions regarding time limit parking zones, which were answered by Police Lieutenant Sam Lobb.

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

Nays: None (0)

Ordinance 5309 authorizes the creation of a stop intersection at Church and Sitgreaves Street, creation of a No Parking Anytime zone on the 1000 block of Willow Street, and creation of 2 "30 minute Parking-Monday-Saturday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. zones on the 700 block of Wood Avenue.

Bill No. 11, (Ordinance 5310, Amending Section 295-29, Vehicles and Traffic Chapter 560, of Chapter 285, Fees of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., was adopted on motion of Dr. Warner and Warren by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

Ordinance 5310 authorizes meters in the South Third Street Parking Lot at 123 S. 3rd Street at a cost of \$0.50 per hours with 3 hour limit for 8 meters on the North side of the building and 10 hour limit for all other meters.

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Bill No. 12, (Ordinance 5311), Amending Section 560-59, of Article XI, On-metered Parking of Chapter 560, Vehicles & Traffic of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., was adopted by Dr. Warner and Mr. Warren by the following vote:

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

Ordinance 5311 amended Section 569-59 to include the following:

“Except for meters on Larry Holmes Drive, from South Third Street to Northampton Street will only be in operation from Monday through Friday.”

CORRESPONDENCE

Council received no correspondence.

NEW BUSINESS

Bill No. 13, Amending the Personnel Code by providing the same health and other employment benefits to employees with the same sex domestic partners as it provides to employees and spouses, was introduced by Mr. Fleck and ordered processed for adoption..

The Mayor informed Council that he and some members of Council had received two e-mails from a constituent regarding this proposed Bill. Mr. Steckman and Mayor Panto said that there were mistakes in what the constituent was stating in the e-mails. It was decided that the e-mails would be forwarded to all members of Council for their review and it could be discussed at the May 25, 2010 Council meeting.

Dr. Ruggles pointed out in Section A-v of the proposed Bill a definition had been added but the wording had not been included in the Affidavit section of the Bill.

This Bill would amend the Personnel Code by adding a Section for Domestic Partnership.

Bill No. 14, Amending Ordinance 5281, State Highway Aid Fund Budget was introduced by Mr. Brown and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would increase Revenues and Expenditures by \$106,000 for the 2011 State Highway Aid Fund Budget.

Bill No. 15, Amending Ordinance 5284, Health Benefits Fund Budget was introduced by Mr. Brown and ordered processed for adoption.

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This Bill would increase Revenues and Expenditures by \$105,193.31 for the 2011 Health Benefits Fund Budget.

Bill No. 16, Amending Ordinance 5286, 2011 Unemployment Insurance Fund Budget was introduced by Mr. Brown and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would increase Revenues and Expenditures by \$779.63 for the 2011 Unemployment Insurance Fund Budget.

Bill No. 17, Amending Ordinance 5287, 2011 Workers Compensation Fund Budget was introduced by Mr. Brown and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would increase Revenues and Expenditures by \$12,025.34 for the 2011 Workers Compensation Fund Budget.

Bill No. 18, Amending Ordinance 5291, 2011 General Fund Budget was introduced by Mr. Brown and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would increase Revenues and Expenditures by \$329,907 for the 2011 General Fund Budget.

A May 2, 2011 memorandum, regarding a StreetSmart Contract was received from Police Chief Lawrence Palmer.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve a Lease Agreement with StreetSmart for Phase 1 Deployment of a 21st Century Parking Management System.

Dr. Ruggles made comments and asked questions regarding the lease costs of existing and new parking meters, which were answered by Mr. Steckman.

On motion of Mr. Warren and Dr. Warner, the Resolution was tabled, so that the proposed Agreement could be sent back to StreetSmart for clarification of wording in the Agreement, by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would allocate funds for 2011 Special Events.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Brown:

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There was a short discussion on the amounts allocated between Council members.

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

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

Nays: None (0)

CITIZENS RIGHT TO BE HEARD

Ben Steinberg, 1250 Pine Grove Drive, an Easton High School student, in attendance, said that he was attending because of a school project.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:42 p.m. on the motion of Mr. Fleck and Mrs. Vulcano by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk