

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
November 11, 2009

Easton, Pa.
Wednesday
November 11, 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.

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

ROLL CALL

Present: Kenneth Brown
Pamela Panto (left meeting at 6:49 p.m.)
Roger Ruggles
Sandra Vulcano
Elinor Warner
Jeffrey Warren
Salvatore J. Panto Jr. (By phone) (7)

Absent: None (0)

Also in attendance were Thomas Hess, City Clerk, William Murphy, City Solicitor, and Joel Scheer, Assistant City Solicitor. There were nineteen other persons in attendance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion of Mrs. Panto and Mrs. Vulcano, the Agenda was amended by adding a proposed Resolution, under New Business, that would authorize the City to apply for a grant, by the following vote:

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

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

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

ACTION ON MINUTES

The October 28, 2009 Council meeting minutes were approved, as submitted, on motion of Dr. Warner and Mrs. Panto by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

CITIZENS RIGHT TO BE HEARD (Agenda Items Only)

Elizabeth Wyant, 230 Northampton Street, read letters from the Main Street Initiative and spoke in support of the proposed Newsrack Ordinance and the proposed Resolution for free parking during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

Curt Ehly, 305 Monroe Street spoke, as a representative for the Easton Business Association, in support of the proposed Newsrack Ordinance and the proposed Resolution for free parking in downtown during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, and also spoke regarding Bill No. 83, which addressed parking in the March School area of College Hill.

Drew Anderson, 611 Brodhead Street spoke regarding proposed Bill 83 which addressed parking around March School, and urged Council to table the proposed Bill until a later date.

Councilpersons Warner and Warren responded to Mr. Anderson's comments.

Richard Hieshetter, 304 W. Monroe Street, spoke regarding no lighting around Newsracks and the removal of a Newsrack, in some locations of the City and asked how the City was going to pay the \$5,000,000 million dollar lawsuit settlement.

Mayor Panto said that Council could not respond to any questions regarding the lawsuit at this time.

REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL

The following reports were received by Council:

- (a) EAJSA June 15, July 20, and August 17, 2009 meeting minutes.
- (b) Easton Fire Department Monthly Report for October 2009.
- (c) ESWA October 19, 2009 meeting minutes.

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 spoke regarding legislation that would be before Council later in the meeting.

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Mrs. Panto, Chairperson of the Planning Committee spoke regarding legislation that would be before Council later in the meeting.

Dr. Ruggles made comments and asked questions regarding the proposed Resolution that would authorize application for a grant, which was answered by Mrs. Panto and Becky Bradley, Director of Planning and Codes.

Mr. Warren, Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee spoke regarding legislation that would be before Council later in the meeting, and reported that the next Public Safety Committee meeting would be held on November 19, 2009 at 4:30 p.m. in Council Chambers.

Dr. Warner, Chairperson of the Public Works Committee spoke regarding legislation that would be before Council later in the meeting, and reported that the Public Works Committee would meet on November 18, 2009 at 4:30 p.m., in Council Chambers.

Dr. Ruggles, Chairperson of the Strategic Planning Committee met on November 10th and said that he would have more comprehensive documents for Council in December.

Mr. Murphy, City Solicitor, reported that on Monday, November 9, 2009 Council had met in Executive Session and had discussed the Sollman litigation.

Mr. Scheer, Assistant City Solicitor had no report.

Mayor Panto thanked Council for supporting the Intermodal Facility and said that he would be creating and appointing members to an Ad Hoc Steering Committee to help with this matter and spoke about the matter. He said that on November 17, 2009, there would be a Public Informational meeting, on this matter in the Gold Room at the Grand Eastonian Hotel and Suites, located at 140 Northampton Street at 7:00 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No. 73, (Ordinance 5227) 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 Mr. Warren and Mrs. Panto by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

Ordinance 5227 creates a "15 Minute Parking Zone" in front of 222 Cattell Street.

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Bill No. 82, An Ordinance to amend the Code of the City of Easton by adding a new Chapter 372, to be entitled “Newsrack” to the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., was tabled on motion of Mrs. Panto and Mr. Warren by the following vote:

Mrs. Panto explained why she was making a motion to table the proposed Bill.

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

Nays: None (0)

This Bill would amend the Code by adding a Chapter for the control and regulations of Newsracks in the City.

Bill No. 83, Amending Article III, Traffic Control Map, of Chapter 560, Vehicles and Traffic of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa. was amended by adding the words “during school days only”, and by adding the word “West” in front of the words Monroe Street throughout the Ordinance, on motion of Mr. Warren and Dr. Warner, by the following vote

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

Nays: None (0)

Bill No. 83, (Ordinance 5228), Amending Article III, Traffic Control Map, of Chapter 560, Vehicles and Traffic of the Code of the City of Easton, with amendment, 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)

Ordinance 5228 amends the Map by creating a “No Parking Zone” on the east side of the 400 block of Reeder Street, and a No Parking Zone” in the 200 block of W. Monroe Street at the driveway to the F.A. March School.

CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence was received by Council.

NEW BUSINESS

A November 4, 2009 E-Mail, regarding an NSP subrecipient agreement was received from Gretchen Lippincott, Director of Economic Development.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve a Subrecipient Agreement with the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Easton.

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The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Vulcano:

208-2009

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

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

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution that would order and direct Met-Ed to furnish additional street lighting at Sassafras and North 7th Street.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Warner:

209-2009

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

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

Nays: None (0)

A November 6, 2009 e-mail, regarding a request to waive parking meter fees on Fridays and Saturdays between Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve the waiving of parking meter fees.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Brown:

210-2009

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

Council members made comments on the use of parking meters by Business owners and employees during the stated time for free parking.

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

Nays: None (0)

A November 11, 2009 e-mail, regarding a Grant Resolution was received from Becky Bradley, Director of Planning and Codes.

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The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve the application fro a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration grant.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Panto:

211-2009

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

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

Nays: None (0)

CITIZEN'S RIGHT TO BE HEARD

Elizabeth Wyant, 230 Northampton Street spoke regarding free parking during the holidays and made suggestions for next year.

Mrs. Panto responded to Ms. Wyant's comments.

Curt Ehly, 305 W. Monroe Street, as a representative of the Easton Business Association spoke regarding appointments to Authorities, Boards and Commissions and regarding the Historic District Commission.

Mayor Panto, Mrs. Panto, and Mrs. Bradley responded to Mr. Ehly.

Richard Hieshetter, 304 W. Monroe Street, spoke regarding a portion of the ceiling of the Parking Garage that had come loose and fell, and requested copy of any plans for the proposed Intermodal facility.

Dr. Warner said that she would contact David Hopkins to address this matter, and Mayor Panto said that he could view what he had for the facility in his office.

Drew Anderson, 611 Brodhead Street, spoke regarding appointments to Authorities, Boards and Commissions, and regarding Handicap access and parking at March School.

Michael Fleck, 1121 Lehigh Street spoke regarding privatization of City work.

George Hemstreet, 1275 Bushkill Drive, spoke regarding the loss of his driver's license and urged Council to look into the dealings of the Police Department.

Mr. Warren responded to Mr. Hemstreet's questions and comments.

ADJOURNMENT

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With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m. on motion of Dr. Warner and Mr. Warren:

Yeas: P. Panto, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, S. Panto (6)

Nays: None (0)

Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk