

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
October 13, 2010

Easton, Pa
Wednesday
October 13, 2010
6:00 p.m.

City Council met in stated session at St. John's Lutheran Church, 330 Ferry Street, Easton, Pa. to consider any business that may lawfully be brought before the body.

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

Roll Call

Present: Kenneth Brown
 Michael Fleck
 Roger Ruggles
 Elinor Warner
 Jeffrey Warren
 Mayor Panto (7)
Absent: Sandra Vulcano (1)

Also in attendance were Rita M. Messa, Asst. City Clerk, William Murphy, City Solicitor, Beth Knickerbocker, Assistant City Solicitor and Glenn Steckman, City Administrator. There were sixteen other persons present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On Motion of Mr. Brown and Dr. Warner the agenda was amended by adding a Presentation regarding the City's General Obligation Note by the following vote:

Yeas: Panto, Warren, Warner, Ruggles, Fleck, Brown (6)
Nays: None (0)

The amended agenda was approved on motion of Mr. Fleck and Mr. Warren by the following vote:

Yeas: Brown, Fleck, Ruggles, Warner, Warren, Panto (6)
Nays: None (0)

ACTION ON MINUTES

On motion of Dr. Warner and Mr. Warren the September 22, 2010 and September 30, 2010 City Council meeting minutes were approved, as submitted by the following vote:

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
October 13, 2010

Yeas: Brown, Fleck, Ruggles, Warner, Warren, Panto, (6)
Nays: None (0)

PUBLIC HEARING – 2011 CDBG PROGRAM

At this time the 2nd Public Hearing, regarding the 2011 CDBG Program, was conducted.
(See separate minutes)

PRESENTATION

Representatives, Mr. Tim Schell and Mr. Eric DeLong, from USA Architects gave a presentation to Council regarding the 6th floor Council Chamber renovations.

Council members asked various questions regarding seating, storage, lighting, color palette, etc. and some changes to the plan were recommended. After all questions were answered by Mr. Schell and Mr. DeLong, a motion was made by Mr. Fleck and seconded by Mr. Brown to accept the plan with the recommended changes. The vote was as follows:

Yeas: Brown, Fleck, Ruggles, Warner, Warren, Panto (6)
Nays: None (0)

PRESENTATION

Ms. Lucienne DiBiase Dooley gave a presentation regarding the National Endowment for the Arts Grant. This grant is for a multi-site sculpture exhibit. The sculptures are being planned for various sites throughout the city, including public parts.

Mayor Panto stated that this years Riverside Festival of the Arts was the largest it has ever been and that he is looking forward to the Arts project that Ms. DiBiase Dooley spoke about which will show the Arts Community the City's commitment to the Arts.

There was a brief discussion on this issue.

PRESENTATION

Mr. Gary Pulcini of VALCO Capital, Ltd gave Council a brief overview of the City's General Obligation Note which including how many banks received the RFP, which banks submitted quotes, what the rates were, etc.

Mr. Fleck thanked Mr. Pulcini for his work on this issue.

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
October 13, 2010

Mr. Michael Gaul, distributed final papers for the Bond Ordinance and explained all of the details of what is in the Ordinance. He stated that closing on the Note is scheduled for November 11, 2010.

CITIZENS RIGHT TO BE HEARD (Agenda Items Only)

There were no comments at this time.

REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL

- a) Minutes from the Easton Suburban Water Authority September 13, 2010 meeting
- b) Easton Suburban Water Authority Engineer's Report of October 4, 2010
- c) Easton Suburban Water Authority Budget Comparison Information as of August, 2010
- d) Fire Department Report for September, 2010

All reports were accepted by Mayor Panto.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

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

Mr. Brown stated that the Finance Committee met on Tuesday, October 12, 2010 and that the 3rd quarter finance report was discussed as well as the Cell Tower information.

Mr. Steckman stated that the agreement for the Cell Tower is being held and that another site is being requested and if approved, \$12,000 would be brought into the Alpha Building Fund Budget.

Mr. Steckman also stated that talks with Service Electric regarding their tower which is on City owned land is not going as well as he hoped but he is still working on it.

Mr. Brown stated that the next finance meetings have been scheduled for November 9, 2010 and December 7, 2010.

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

Mr. Warren, Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee spoke regarding legislation that would be before Council later in the meeting.

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
October 13, 2010

Dr. Warner, Chairperson of the Public Works Committee had no legislation for tonight's meeting and she had nothing to report.

Mr. Fleck, Chairperson of the Administration Committee spoke regarding legislation that would be before Council later in the meeting. There was some discussion on this legislation which is Bill No. 38 which addresses the Compensation for Elected Officials.

Some Council members asked questions about this Bill and all questions were answered.

Mr. Murphy, City Solicitor, stated that a Resolution on the agenda for tonight's meeting would extend and amend a previous agreement between the City of Easton and the Easton Cemetery Company by adding an easement and usage section to the agreement.

Ms. Knickerbocker had no report.

Mayor Panto stated that the Shawnee Middle School has increased their PSSA scores the last two years and that they are now out of probation and he and the principal went swimming in the fountain to celebrate that accomplishment.

Mayor Panto also thanked everyone who attended the Governor's Dinner. He stated that the Governor was very appreciative.

Mayor Panto stated that the ACE (Arts Community of Easton) is awarding the Mayor's staff and Council with their Arts Award and that a dinner is planned for December 15, 2010 at the Bank Street Annex.

Mayor Panto also spoke briefly about the Waterfront Park Grant and the PCTI Grant for the South Third Street Project.

Mayor Panto said that the City was still in the process of acquiring some property that is needed to complete the Karl Stirner Arts Trail. He gave a brief overview of the status of this project.

Mr. Brown stated that, at the Finance Committee Meeting, there was a discussion about going back to having the Tuesday Conference Meetings starting in January. This issue is under advisement.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No. 28, (Ordinance No. 5267) Amending Article III, Section 399.21 – Violations and Penalties was adopted on motion of Mr. Warren and Mr. Ruggles by the following vote:

Yeas: Ruggles, Warner, Warren, Panto, Brown, Fleck (6)

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
October 13, 2010

Nays: None (0)

Ordinance No. 5267 amends Article III, Section 399.21 of the Code of the City of Easton, PA.

Bill No. 29 (Ordinance No. 5268) Amending Article V, Section 560-10 – Authority to Remove and Impound was adopted on motion of Mr. Warren and Dr. Warner by the following vote:

Yeas: Warner, Warren, Panto, Brown, Fleck, Ruggles (6)

Nays: None (0)

Ordinance No. 5268 amends Article III, Section 399.21 of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa.

Bill No. 30 (Ordinance No. 5269) Amending Article X, Section 560-54 – Parking Restrictions was adopted on Motion of Mr. Warren and Dr. Warner by the following vote:

Yeas: Warner, Warren, Panto, Brown, Fleck, Ruggles, (6)

Nays: None (0)

Ordinance No. 5269 amends Article X, Section 560-54 – Parking Restrictions of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa.

Bill No. 31 (Ordinance No. 5270) Amending Section 285-44 – Meter Parking Tickets was adopted on motion of Mr. Warren and Dr. Warner by the following vote:

Yeas: Warren, Panto, Brown, Fleck, Ruggles, Warner (6)

Nays: None (0)

Ordinance No. 5270 amends Section 285- 44 – Meter Parking Tickets of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa.

Bill No. 32 (Ordinance No. 5271) Amending Article III, Traffic Control Map of Chapter 560 Vehicles and Traffic was adopted on motion of Mr. Warren and Mr. Brown by the following vote:

Yeas: Panto, Brown, Fleck, Ruggles, Warner, Warren (6)

Nays: None (0)

Ordinance No. 5271 amends Article III, Traffic Control Map of Chapter 560 - Vehicles and Traffic of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa.

Bill No. 33 (Ordinance No. 5272) Authorizing the Issuance of a \$9,050,000 General Obligation Note was adopted on motion of Mr. Brown and Dr. Warner by the following vote:

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

October 13, 2010

Yeas: Brown, Fleck, Ruggles, Warner, Warren, Panto (6)

Nays: None (0)

Ordinance No. 5272 authorizes the Issuance of a General Obligation Note in the amount of \$9,050,000.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

NEW BUSINESS

On September 23, 2010 a letter was received from Mr. Murphy, City Solicitor regarding an Agreement with the Borough of West Easton.

Bill No. 34, Approving an Extension Agreement with the Borough of West Easton for Police Services was introduced by Mr. Warren and ordered processed for adoption.

On September 29, 2010 a letter was received from Mr. Murphy, City Solicitor regarding a Modification of Cooperation Agreement between the City of Easton and the Housing Authority of the City of Easton.

Bill No. 35, Approving a Modification of Cooperation Agreement with the Housing Authority of the City of Easton was introduced by Mr. Ruggles and ordered processed for adoption.

On October 7, 2010 a memorandum was received from Gretchen Lippincott, Director of Economic Development regarding an Agreement of Sale for 208 Palmer Street

Bill No. 36, Approving an Agreement of Sale for 208 Palmer Street with Xavier David Henderson was introduced by Mr. Ruggles and ordered processed for adoption.

On October 7, 2010 a memorandum was received from the Chris Heagele, Director of Finance regarding a Leaseback Agreement of the City's Central Fire Station to the Easton Municipal Authority.

Bill No. 37, Approving a Leaseback Agreement, for the Central Fire Station, to the Easton Municipal Authority was introduced by Mr. Brown and ordered processed for adoption.

Bill No. 38, Approving Benefits and Compensation for Elected Officials was introduced by Mr. Fleck and ordered processed for adoption

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
October 13, 2010

On September 29, 2010 an e-mail was received from Gretchen Lippincott, Director of Economic Development regarding a HOME Grant Application

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Ruggles:

191-2010

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

Yeas: Fleck, Ruggles, Warner, Warren, Panto, Brown (6)

Nays: None (0)

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Ruggles:

192-2010

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

Yeas: Ruggles, Warner, Warren, Panto, Brown, Fleck (6)

Nays: None (0)

CITIZENS RIGHT TO BE HEARD

Mrs. Sandi Mynchin of 509 W. Berwick Street addressed Council about a problem that she was having with one of her neighbors who is harassing her and who is a City employee. She also expressed her frustration about a zoning matter regarding a shed in her yard.

Mayor Panto explained to Mrs. Mynchin that he has no say in what city employees do after work hours and she was advised by Mr. Murphy that the harassment issue needs to be addressed privately and that Council could not help her on that matter.

This was some discussion on the zoning issue and Mayor Panto stated that he would look into her complaint.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m. on the motion of Dr. Warner and Mr. Warren by the following vote:

Yeas: Panto, Warren, Warner, Ruggles, Fleck, Brown (6)

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
October 13, 2010

Nays: None (0)

Rita M. Messa, Asst. City Clerk