

**Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.**  
**September 22, 2010**

Easton, Pa  
Wednesday  
September 22, 2010  
6:00 p.m.

City Council met in stated session at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 610 W. Berwick Street, Easton, Pa. to consider any business that may lawfully be brought before the body.

The invocation was given by Dr. Ruggles followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call**

Present:        Kenneth Brown  
                  Michael Fleck  
                  Roger Ruggles  
                  Sandra Vulcano  
                  Elinor Warner  
                  Jeffrey Warren  
                  Mayor Panto (7)  
Absent:         None (0)

Also in attendance were Rita M. Messa, Asst. City Clerk, William Murphy, City Solicitor, and Glenn Steckman, City Administrator. There were twelve (12) other persons present.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

On motion of Mr. Fleck and Mr. Warren the 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 Mrs. Vulcano and Dr. Warner the September 7, 2010 City Council meeting and the first CDBG Public Hearing Meeting minutes of September 7, 2010 were approved, as submitted by the following vote:

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

## **CITIZENS RIGHT TO BE HEARD (Agenda Items Only)**

Mr. Fleck asked Council members to allow a representative from the Salvation Army to speak at this time since they were unable to send a representative to the first hearing for CDBG.

Lieutenant Santiago first apologized for not being able to be present at the first CDBG hearing but then spoke about their request for CDBG funds. He stated that the funds would be used to assist people who are in “transition” by helping create resumes, training, providing them with a safe place to live, etc.

## **REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL**

The following report was received by Council:

- (a) Fire Department Monthly Report for August, 2010
- (b) Easton Suburban Water Authority Minutes of August 9, 2010
- (c) Easton Suburban Water Authority Engineer’s Report dated September 7, 2010

## **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 a Finance Committee met on Tuesday, September 21, 2010 and gave a brief overview of what took place. Mr. Brown also stated that the next Finance Meeting will be held on October 12, 2010.

Mr. Brown also spoke about a safety issue at the intersections of Grant Street and Davis Street at Philadelphia Road. He would like community input regarding this matter.

Mrs. Vulcano, Chairperson of Economic Development Committee spoke regarding legislation that would be before Council later in the meeting.

Mrs. Vulcano reminded council members to return their suggestions for CDBG fund distributions to Gretchen Lippincott by Thursday, September 23, 2010.

Mrs. Vulcano also stated that the second hearing for CDBG would be held on Wednesday, October 13, 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.

Mr. Warren stated that the Safety Committee met on Tuesday, September 21, 2010 and that a possible Cell Phone Ordinance would be sent to the Solicitor for his review.

Mr. Warren also spoke briefly about the meeting that was held regarding the parking meters as well as parking in general.

Mr. Warren also stated that Laura Accetta of Weed and Seed and Chief Palmer were present at that meeting and that both gave brief reports about what was happening in the City.

Dr. Warner, Chairperson of the Public Works Committee spoke regarding legislation that would be before Council later in the meeting.

Dr. Warner stated that a Public Works Committee also met on Tuesday, September 21, 2010. She stated that Mr. Hopkins, Director of Public Works gave an update on the Third Street Streetscape Project as well as the Suburban Water Project.

Mr. Warren asked about the Suburban Water Project that is to be done on College Hill. There was a brief discussion on this matter.

Mr. Fleck, Chairperson of the Administration Committee stated that the Administration Committee also met on Tuesday, September 21, 2010.

Mr. Fleck stated that the Compensation Benefits for elected officials was discussed at the meeting.

Mayor Panto asked about the salary for the Mayor's position.

There was a brief discussion on this matter.

Mr. Fleck also stated that the next Administration Committee meeting would be held on Tuesday, October 12, 2010 and that a review of the Home Rule Charter would be discussed.

Mr. Murphy, City Solicitor stated that after tonight's meeting, Council would meet in executive session to discuss a lawsuit and some personnel issues.

Mayor Panto stated that he wanted to commend the Public Works Department for the work that they did on the Train Station.

Mayor Panto also stated that the Arts Festival was very successful.

Mayor Panto also reminded everyone of the Movies at the Mill this coming weekend and that tickets were still available.

Mayor Panto advised City Council that one of the City's police recruits was injured during training but that he is expected to be okay and continue in the academy.

Mr. Fleck reminded everyone that the Garlic Festival is scheduled for Saturday October 2, 2010.

Mayor Panto stated that the three mayors will be having a cook off at the Garlic Festival.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Bill No. 26, (Ordinance No. 5265) A Subdivision Improvements Extension Agreement with Hei-Low, Inc. was adopted on motion of Dr. Warner and Dr. Ruggles by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

Ordinance No. 5265 approves the Subdivision Improvements Extension Agreement between the City of Easton and Hei-Low, Inc.

Bill No. 27, (Ordinance No. 5266) Amending the Miscellaneous Grant Fund was adopted on motion of Mr. Brown and Mr. Fleck by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

Ordinance No. 5266 amends the Miscellaneous Grant Fund

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

On September 16, 2010 a memorandum was received from Larry Palmer, Chief of Police requesting several ordinance changes as listed below:

Bill No. 28, Amending Section 399-21, Violations and Penalties of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa. was introduced by Mr. Warren and ordered processed for adoption.

Bill No. 29, Amending Section 560-10, Authority to Remove and Impound of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa. was introduced by Mr. Warren and ordered processed for adoption.

Bill No. 30, Amending Section 560-54, Parking Restrictions for Street Cleaning of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., was introduced by Mr. Warren and ordered processed for adoption.

Bill No. 31, Amending Section 286-44, Meter Parking Tickets of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., was introduced by Mr. Warren and ordered processed for adoption.

Bill No. 32, Amending Section 560, Traffic Control Map of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa., was introduced by Mr. Warren and ordered processed for adoption.

On September 17, 2010, an e-mail was received from Mr. Michael Gaul, the City's Bond Council regarding the following:

Bill No. 33, This bill which will authorize the Issuance of a General Obligation Note was introduced by Mr. Brown and ordered processed for adoption.

On September 14, 2010 a memorandum was received by Dave Hopkins, Director of Public Works regarding the Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission Grant for the Third Street Streetscape Improvements.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would authorize the Mayor and City Controller to sign agreements, upon approval by the City Solicitor, with contractors that will be doing the work on the Third Street Streetscape Improvement Project.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Warner:

182-2010

On motion of Mrs. Vulcano and Dr. Warner the above resolution was amended by adding the following to the last paragraph of the resolution:

“At the completion of the project a report shall be issued to City Council which details all work performed.”

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

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

Nays: None (0)

The above amended resolution was adopted on Motion Dr. Warner and Mrs. Vulcano by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

On September 16, 2010 a memorandum was received by Christine Ussler regarding Certificates of Appropriateness for 60 N. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, 140 D Northampton Street, 30-32 S. Sitgreaves Street and 229 Spring Garden Street.

NOTE: As done previously, the following resolutions were introduced as individual resolutions but would be voted on with one vote as long as all of Council was in agreement.

The following Resolutions were introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

183-2010, 184-2010, 185-2010, 186-2010

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

Yeas: Vulcano, Warner, Warren, Panto, Brown, Fleck, Ruggles

Nays: None (0)

An e-mail was received from Sandy O'Brien, Grant Program Coordinator regarding a Cooperation Agreement with the Housing Authority.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Vulcano:

187-2010

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

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

Nays: None (0)

Mr. Brown commented on the progress of the HOPE VI project.

Mr. Pambianchi, Executive Director of the Easton Housing Authority stated that the first resident could possibly move in around the first of the year and the closing on the Senior Phase should be next summer.

### **CITIZENS RIGHT TO BE HEARD**

Mr. Walt Howell, 218 W. Berwick Street expressed his concern about the traffic congestion in Center Square during the Farmer's Market when the inner lane is coned off.

Mr. Warren stated that there was a safety concern for the vendors of the Farmer's Market and that is why the decision was made to cone off the inner lane.

There was some brief discussion on this matter.

Mr. Ruggles spoke briefly about possibly changing the lighting at 4<sup>th</sup> & Northampton Street to allow more than three (3) cars to proceed.

Mr. Gomez, 926 Ferry Street spoke regarding updating the city's energy technology.

The Mayor explained to Mr. Gomez that the City's Redevelopment Authority has gone green with some properties that were recently rehabilitated.

Dr. Warner suggested to Mr. Gomez that he should attend the Environmental Advisory Committee meetings.

Mr. Gomez also spoke about the issue of housing for low income and that he was told that there was a two year waiting list for HUD Housing.

There were some brief discussions regarding these issues.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 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)

Rita M. Messa, Asst. City Clerk