

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

**April 24, 2013**

Easton, Pa  
Wednesday  
April 24, 2013  
6:00 p.m.

City Council met in stated session at the above date and time, at the College Hill Presbyterian Church, 501 Brodhead Street 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: Brown, Fleck, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, Panto (7)  
Absent: None (0)

Also in attendance were Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk, Joel Scheer, Assistant City Solicitor and Glenn Steckman, City Administrator. There were eighteen other persons present.

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

On motion of Mrs. Vulcano and Mr. Warren the Agenda was approved by the following vote:

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

## **ACTION ON MINUTES**

On motion of Dr. Warner and Mr. Fleck, the April 10, 2013 Council Meeting minutes were approved as submitted by the following vote:

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

## **RESOLUTION** **Death of Wilbur Adams**

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution recognizing the death of Wilbur Adams.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Warner:

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

Council members offered comments regarding Mr. Adams, his work with the youth of the Community, and thanked his family for sharing him with the City.

Mrs. Adams was presented with a framed Resolution, and she thanked Council for the honor bestowed on her husband.

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT – (Agenda Items Only)**

There were no comments or questions from the audience.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

On motion of Dr. Warner & Mr. Warren the following items on the Consent Agenda were adopted by the following vote:

1. Bill No. 19, (Ordinance 5404), Amending Article III, Traffic Control Map of Chapter 560, Vehicles and Traffic of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa.
2. Resolutions 68 through 78-2013, which approved Certificates of Appropriateness for 117 N. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1 S. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 100-114 S. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 116 S. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 39 N. 4<sup>th</sup>, 104-106 N. 4<sup>th</sup>, 15 S. Bank, 401 Northampton, and 118 Spring Garden Streets.
3. Resolution 79-2013, which authorized the filing of an Environmental Covenant for 500 Bushkill Drive.

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

**REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL**

The following report was received by Council:

- (a) The March 2013 Fire Report.

Mayor Panto accepted the report on behalf of Council.

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

Mr. Brown, Chairman of the Finance Committee reported that a Finance Committee meeting had been held on April 23, 2013 and the first quarter Budget report was discussed

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Mrs. Vulcano, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee reported that she had attended a Vacant Property Review Committee earlier in the evening and reported what properties had been certified as blighted, said that last week she had attended an Economic Restructuring meeting with Main Street Development and reported on new businesses that have opened and will be opening in downtown, and on other items that are being used to assist businesses in downtown .

Dr. Ruggles, Chairman of the Planning Committee, reported that a Planning Committee meeting had been held on April 23, 2013, and that dumpster regulations, a vacant and blighted property and changes to FEMA's Flood Insurance premiums.

Dr. Ruggles asked Mayor Panto to have the City Forester check out the pine trees on the Carl Sterner Arts Trail because they all seemed to be turning brown.

Mayor Panto spoke regarding the first sculpture that had been dedicated and erected on the Arts Trail at the point where the Easton Cemetery and the Trail intersect, spoke regarding the second sculpture that will be erected at the end of the summer, spoke regarding the 45 volunteers that cleaned up trash along the trail, said that he had met with the College Hill Neighborhood Association's Nevin Park Fountain Committee, said that the City had been working with Lafayette College regarding connecting the Arts Trail to the College, said that the College would be paying for a large part of the connection and he described how the connection would be made. Mayor Panto reported that Lafayette College had appropriated \$150,000 for the traffic light to be placed at the intersection of Cattell and High streets, and said that the Wawa store was also going to reconfigure their street entrance and exits which would assist in the project.

Mr. Warren, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee spoke regarding legislation that he would have for later in the meeting for amending Section 399-5, Permit exemption, of Chapter 399, Parking Permits of the City's code by allowing downtown certified Handicapped residents to park at Handicapped meters with their residential parking permit passes. He reported that every Friday he receives an e-mail from the Chief of Police keeping him up to date on Police activities throughout the City, and said that the Police and Fire Departments are doing a great job in keeping our City safe.

Dr. Warner, Chairman of the Public Works Committee reported that the City auction was rescheduled from April 6, 2013 to April 27, 2013 and would begin at 9:00 a.m. She reported that the Farmers Market and the House Tours would be held on May 4, 2013.

Mr. Steckman said that the auctioneer was ill and the auction would once again be postponed until sometime in May.

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Mr. Fleck, Chairman of the Administration Committee reported that an Administration Committee meeting had been held on April 23, 2013 and that the existing Administration ordinance and Farmers Market ordinance was discussed.

Mr. Scheer, Assistant City Solicitor had no report.

Mayor Panto reported that on April 27, 2013 the City wide cleanup would be held, and volunteers were needed, that it was also the date for Jazz night at the amphitheater, and that this year the City was bringing in a group named Spatial Addition, from New York City for that event. He reported that the Mayor's Office On Special Events would begin again very soon with Movies in the Park, Concerts in the Square, and the Annual House tours.

Mayor Panto gave an update on the Crayola construction, an update regarding a legal case that the City had against a business owner at 13<sup>th</sup> and Bushkill Drive, an update on the Silk Mill project, and reported that the Multi space meter box for the S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street parking lot would be removed and individual meters placed back into that lot, reported that the City Hall construction would be delayed until September and explained it was because there would be a loss of parking spaces that would be needed during the construction period.

Mr. Steckman reported that the Finance Department would be open on Saturday, April 27, 2013, from 8:30 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. to accept payments on City bills and taxes. He said that a representative from Portnoff would also be there to assist anyone who needed their assistance.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence received by Council.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Bill No. 20, Amending Section 399-5, Permit exemption, of Chapter 399, Parking Permits, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa. was introduced by Mr. Warren and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would amend Section 399-5 of the Code by removing the words "handicapped zones".

**CITIZENS RIGHT TO BE HEARD**

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Curt Ehly, 305 W. Monroe Street, 305 W. Monroe Street, thanked the City Administration and Council for doing a great job, spoke regarding his concern with the parking in downtown and offered some suggestions for additional parking, asked questions regarding the Movies at the Mill program, spoke regarding the bus stops in Centre square for the Crayola Experience, and regarding the repairs on the N. 611 Bridge by Bushkill Drive.

Mayor Panto and Mr. Steckman responded to Mr. Ehly's comments and questions.

Philip Hart, 222 E. Pierce Street, and Josh Rea, 633 W. Pierce Street gave an update on what the College Hill Neighborhood Association has been doing and will be doing over the next year.

Drew Anderson, 611 Brodhead Street, spoke regarding the Rental Licensing Program.

Mayor Panto, Mr. Steckman, and Mr. Heagele, the City's Finance Director spoke regarding the Program.

Robert Levers, 221 W. Lafayette Street spoke regarding Tractor Trailer traffic on Lafayette Street.

Mayor Panto said that he would check into Mr. Levers' concerns.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:04 p. m. on the motion of Dr. Warner and Mr. Warren by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

  
Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk