

**Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.**  
**November 23, 2010**

Easton, Pa  
Wednesday  
November 23, 2010  
6:00 p.m.

City Council met in stated session at the above date and time in the 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room of City Hall, One S. Third 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: Brown, Fleck, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, Panto (7)  
Absent: None (0)

NOTE: Mr. Fleck participated in the meeting via a conference call.

Also in attendance were Rita M. Messa, Asst. City Clerk, William Murphy, City Solicitor, Joel Scheer, Assistant City Solicitor and Glenn Steckman, City Administrator. There were fifteen (15) persons present.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

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

**ACTION ON MINUTES**

On motion of Dr. Ruggles and Mrs. Vulcano the November 9, 2010 Budget Review Session Minutes and the November 10, 2010 Council Meeting Minutes were approved as submitted by the following vote:

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

A Certificate of Commendation was presented to Ms. Shirley Schroeder for her accomplishment of being inducted into the Pennsylvania Voter Hall of Fame.

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The next item on the agenda was a proposed Resolution thanking St. John's Lutheran Church, 330 Ferry Street, Easton, Pa. for allowing the City to hold several of their Council meetings in their Fellowship Hall at the Church.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mayor Panto:

200-2010

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

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

Nays: None (0)

Mayor Panto asked Council if any one had any questions regarding the 2011 Budget (based on the hearings). Mr. Fleck thanked the Administration for the process regarding the budget presentation and hearings.

There was a brief discussion on this issue.

Mayor Panto stated that the preliminary 2012 Budget was ready however he wanted to check it before he makes his presentation. Mayor Panto stated that he will be ready to make the presentation at Council's December 8, 2010 meeting.

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

Officer Carl Faulkner, F.O.P. President spoke briefly about Proposed Bill No. 54 regarding an Early Retirement Incentive for the Chief of Police. Officer Faulker stated that the F.O.P. is not in favor of the City's proposal because it is not extended to all of the officers and it feels like it overlooks the hard work and dedication of the entire department.

Mayor Panto stated that unfortunately he was at the City when the Police Department had a bad reputation. Mayor Panto stated that the Department has improved in a lot of ways; cameras, computers, more police officers on the street and that he believes his Safe and Clean campaign is working and that keeping the present Chief of Police at this time is beneficial to the entire City.

Mayor Panto also stated that he could bring the present police chief on as a consultant or keep him as a Director, however, that would be more costly to the City. Mayor Panto expressed his confidence in the present Captains but feels that extending the retirement option was the best decision for the City.

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Mayor Panto stated that the initial incentive extension was changed and it would not impact the Police Pension Fund.

Mr. Steckman explained the new option which is a DROP program.

There was a lengthy discussion on this issue.

Mr. Steckman also stated that Officer Faulkner has been very active as a member of the Pension Board and as the President of the F.O.P. and he wanted to thank him for his cooperation.

Missy Corrado, 2405 Forest Street, Easton, Pa., President of AFSCME spoke about the possible elimination of three union positions. Ms. Corrado stated that the AFSCME membership is dwindling due to positions being eliminated and that it is very difficult keeping up with the present workload.

Ms. Corrado also stated that the union feels that the City is taking care of non-city employees by helping to fund the other programs instead of taking care of the present city employees while furloughs are still a possibility. Mayor Panto addressed Ms. Corrado's concern regarding this issue.

Mayor Panto stated that it is not the City's plan to continually deplete the union membership; however, the City cannot continue to fund positions that are not needed.

There was some discussion on this matter.

### **REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL**

The Fire Department Monthly Report for October 2010 was presented to Council and accepted by Mayor Panto.

### **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

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

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

Dr. Ruggles, Chairman of the Planning Committee spoke regarding the legislation that would be before Council later in the meeting. Dr. Ruggles also reported that he and Dr. Warner met

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with some City Directors regarding the Tourism position. Part of that discussion was how the position would be integrated into the City.

Mayor Panto stated that he and Mrs. Hartranft met with Mr. Murphy regarding placing Special Events under one umbrella.

Mr. Warren, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee had no legislation for tonight's meeting; however, he wanted to thank the City staff for their participation in the "Cell Phones for Soldiers" dress down day which raised \$116.00.

Mr. Warren also wanted to thank and congratulate the many volunteers for a successful Farmer's Market season.

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

Dr. Warner also wanted to remind everyone of the Candle Lighting on Friday, November 26, 2010.

Mr. Fleck, Chairperson of the Administration Committee had no legislation for tonight's meeting but wanted to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mr. Murphy, City Solicitor stated that the Administration met in an Executive Session prior to tonight's meeting. The topics that were discussed were Personnel, Real Estate Purchase, Labor Issues and an appeal for Officers Renninger's Pension.

Mr. Scheer, Assistant City Solicitor explained briefly the appeal process.

Mayor Panto stated that the Waterfront Project is moving along. He spoke briefly regarding some minor setbacks.

Mayor Panto also stated that the cover for the amphitheater cover was being shipped back and a new one will be installed sometime in March or April of 2011.

Mayor Panto stated that an amendment to the Officers and Employees Retirement Plan would be coming before Council sometime in the future.

Mr. Steckman gave a brief explanation on this issue.

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**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Bill No. 51, (Ordinance No. 5278) Amending the 2010 State Highway Fund Budget was adopted on motion of Mr. Brown and Dr. Warner by the following vote:

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

Ordinance No. 5278 will amend the 2010 State Highway Fund Budget

Bill No. 52, (Ordinance No. 5279) Amending the Miscellaneous Grant Fund was adopted on motion of Mr. Brown and Mrs. Vulcano by the following vote:

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

Ordinance No. 5279 will amend the Miscellaneous Grant Fund

Bill No. 53, (Ordinance No. 5280) Amending the 2010 General Insurance Fund Budget was adopted on motion of Mr. Brown and Mr. Fleck by the following vote:

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

Ordinance No. 5280 will amend the 2010 General Insurance Fund Budget

**CORRESPONDENCE**

A thank you card was received by Raisa Furman for allowing the Police to participate in the Sports of Health Program.

Aggregated Pension Trust Fund and PMRS Pension Plan Compliance Audits were received.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Bill No. 54, Approving a DROP Benefit Incentive for the Chief of Police Lawrence Palmer was introduced by Mayor Panto and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill will approve a DROP Benefit Incentive for the Chief of Police Lawrence Palmer.

Bill No. 55, Amending the 2010 Alpha Building Fund Budget was introduced by Mr. Brown and ordered processed for adoption.

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This Bill will amend the 2010 Alpha Building Fund Budget by \$51,758.60.

The next item on the agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve a contract with Deiter Bros Fuel Co.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Warner:

201-2010

Dr. Ruggles stated that he was concerned that only two (2) bids were received. Mr. Steckman stated that the request for bids was advertised in two local newspapers.

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

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

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the agenda was a proposed Resolution authorizing the submission of a grant application for the Elm Street Program.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Vulcano:

202-2010

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

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

Nays: None (0)

The next items on the agenda were three proposed Resolutions approving Certificates of Appropriateness for 65 N. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, 225 Ferry Street and 322-336 Northampton Street.

NOTE: On the previous opinion of Mr. Murphy, City Solicitor it was decided that the following Resolutions could be introduced as individual Resolutions but could be voted on with one vote as long as all of Council was in agreement.

The following Resolutions were introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

203-2010, 204-2010, 205-2010

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

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

The next item on the agenda was a proposed Resolution approving a cleaning contract for the Alpha Building with Urocorp Maintenance & Contractor Inc.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Warner:

206-2010

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

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

The next item on the agenda was a proposed Resolution approving a cleaning contract for the Police Department with Executive Building Services.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Warner:

207-2010

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

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

The next item on the agenda was a proposed resolution approving a Tower Site Option and Ground Lease Agreement with Pegasus Tower Company.

After a lengthy discussion and on motion of Mr. Brown and Dr. Ruggles it was decided that this resolution would be tabled until further notice.

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

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The next item on the agenda was a proposed resolution approving a Cell Antenna Agreement with Open Range Communications.

After some discussion and on motion of Mr. Brown and Dr. Warner it was decided that this resolution would be tabled until further notice.

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

Nays: None (0)

Mr. Brown asked if the company that was presenting the above two agreements could meet with Council in order to answer any questions Council may have regarding these agreements. Mr. Steckman stated that he would ask them if that was possible.

**CITIZENS RIGHT TO BE HEARD**

Mr. Howie White, AFSCME Treasurer, 308 Watson Street, Easton, Pa. just wanted to clarify something from the previous discussion with Ms. Corrado.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m. on the motion of Dr. Ruggles and Mr. Warren by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

Rita M. Messa, Asst. City Clerk