

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

April 12, 2023

Easton, Pa
Wednesday
April 12, 2023
6:00 p.m.

Easton City Council met in stated session at the above date and time, at the Easton Area Community Center, located at 9th & Washington 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, Edinger, Melan, O'Connell, Ruggles, Panto (6)

Absent: Sultana (1)

Also, participating in the meeting were Rita M. Messa, City Clerk, Luis Campos, City Administrator, Mark Lysynecky, Director of Finance, David Hopkins, Director of Public Works and Joel Scheer, City Solicitor. At the beginning of the meeting there were eight (8) other participants present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Dr. Ruggles seconded by Mr. O'Connell to approve the agenda.

However, before the vote was taken, Mayor Panto asked that the Resolution commemorating Muslim Holidays under New Business be removed from the agenda and sent back to Committee for review.

The agenda was then approved by the following vote:

Yeas: Edinger, Melan, O'Connell, Ruggles, Panto, Brown (6)

Nays: None (0)

ACTION ON THE MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. O'Connell seconded by Mr. Edinger to approve the March 22, 2023 meeting minutes. The minutes were approved by the following vote.

Yeas: Melan, O'Connell, Ruggles, Panto, Brown, Edinger (6)

Nays: None (0)

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Mr. Melan, Chairperson of the Administration Committee, had no report.

Mr. Scheer, City Solicitor, had no report.

Mayor Panto thanked Kevin McCarthy and Eric Holden for a job well done on the City of Easton's Easter Egg Hunts which were well attended.

Mayor Panto stated that he created a Neighborhood Advisory Task Force.

Mayor Panto also stated that he is planning for some Spring and Fall "Pop-Up" Festivals which one is scheduled for April 22, 2023 in Nevin Park, April 29 at Centennial Park, and May 3 at the Easton Area Neighborhood Center. There will be food, music and entertainment as well. Mayor Panto stated that he is planning three more "Pop-Up" Festivals in the fall.

Mayor Panto stated that "plantings" have been done on Smith Avenue.

Mayor Panto also stated that the City was able to convince PennDOT that the city needed a dedicated pedestrian walk cycle in the downtown area and they are just waiting for the electronics that are needed for the walk cycle.

Mr. Campos, City Administrator stated that Dr. Ruggles has asked the Recreation Department for an update on the Summer Program. Mr. Campos stated that the update will be given at the next meeting.

Mr. Campos stated that the Public Works Department have been busy with getting a lot of projects completed including a sign at 13th Street and work in the city Parks.

Mr. Campos spoke about a basketball clinic that the City will have, for the next four (4) weeks, every Monday at Paxinosa School. Ms. Val Davis will be the first guest speaker at the clinic. Mr. Campos spoke about Ms. Davis's background.

Mr. Campos also stated that the 2021 Audit will be completed shortly. The switch in the Auditors have created a delay. He also stated that the "team" is already working on the 2022 Audit as well as 2023 and we expect to have a more timely audit in the future.

Mr. Campos also stated he received information from the County that Keystone Collections, who collects Earned Income Tax Monies states that 2023 vs. 2022 figures are up seven (7) percent as a whole.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence received by Council.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No. 13 – An Ordinance Creating a New Chapter – 189, Animals was previously introduced by Mrs. Sultana regarding Declawing of Cats and Puppy Mills.

There were some changes that Mrs. Sultana added a few days ago and in Mr. Scheer's opinion the Ordinance would have to be amended and it would not be voted on until the next meeting.

Mr. Scheer stated that his opinion is that even though the changes look to be minor they are very technical in nature and he believes that it would be more appropriate to hold off on the vote for another two weeks which will allow anyone, particularly anyone in the veterinary community that may have any comments about the wording in this Resolution.

After a brief discussion on this matter, Mr. Melan stated that Council should just withdraw this Bill and have it reintroduced with the amendments at a later meeting.

NOTE: Bill No. 13 was then withdrawn. This will be introduced with a new Bill No. at the next Council meeting.

Mrs. Sultana arrived at the meeting at 6:13 p.m.

Bill No. 14 (Ord. 5819) An Ordinance approving an Agreement between the City of Easton and Sweetie Mommie LLC was adopted on motion of James Edinger and Mr. Brown by the following vote:

Yeas: Edinger, Melan, O'Connell, Ruggles, Sultana, Panto, Brown (7)

Nays: None (0)

At this time, Larry Holmes arrived at the meeting and Mayor Panto stated that two weeks ago he was going to present Mr. Holmes with an award from the City which was the 50th anniversary of Mr. Holmes turning Pro – however, Mr. Holmes was not available at that time. Mayor Panto also named today, April 12, 2023 Larry Holmes Day in Easton. This is not Mr. Holmes first time receiving this award but it is also in recognition of his 50th year of being a professional fighter.

Mayor Panto stated that this meeting which is being held in the Easton Area Community Center is where Mr. Holmes actually starting his career.

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Mayor Panto stated that he and Mr. Holmes go back a very long way, growing up in the projects of Delaware Terrace. Mr. Holmes is the most recognized person in Easton and is still very gracious when asked to have pictures taken. Mr. Holmes held the title of “Heavy-weight Champion” for seven and a half (7 1/2) years.

Mayor Panto stated that Easton is so very proud of Mr. Holmes and the notoriety that he brought to the City of Easton. Mayor Panto stated the Mr. Holmes has given so much back to the City.

Mayor Panto also stated that he values Mr. Holmes’s friendship.

Mayor Panto continued to speak about Mr. Holmes’s career and all of the good he has done over the years, including starting the “Heart of a Legend” Foundation, with his wife Diane, which gives back to the community.

Mr. Holmes spoke briefly about his friendship with Mayor Panto, which started as young children, and how giving back to the youth is what it is all about.

Mr. Brown also spoke fondly of Mr. Holmes.

Mr. Lance Wheeler also spoke fondly about Mr. Holmes.

Bill No. 15 (Ord. 5820) An Ordinance approving a Second Amendment to Purchase/Sale Agreement between the City of Easton and 27 South Third Street Associates, LP was adopted on motion of Mr. O’Connell and Mr. Brown by the following vote:

Yeas: O’Connell, Ruggles, Panto, Brown, Edinger (5)

Nays: Melan, Sultana (2)

Bill No. 16 (Ord. 5821) An Ordinance approving a Right of Way/Encroachment Agreement between the City of Easton and 27 South Third Street Associates, LP was adopted on motion of Mr. O’Connell and Dr. Ruggles by the following vote:

Yeas: O’Connell, Ruggles, Sultana, Panto, Brown, Edinger (6)

Nays: Melan (1)

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Bill No. 17 (Ord. 5822) An Ordinance approving a Parking License Agreement between the City of Easton and 27 South Third Street Associates, LP was adopted on motion of Mr. O’Connell and Mr. Edinger by the following vote:

Yeas: Ruggles, Sultana, Panto, Brown, Edinger, O’Connell (6)

Nays: Melan (1)

NEW BUSINESS

Bill No. 18 – Amending Section 54-1 - Conflicts of Interest of Chapter 54 – Ethics, of the Code of the City of Easton was introduced by Mr. Melan and ordered processed for adoption.

PUBLIC COMMENT

On any item

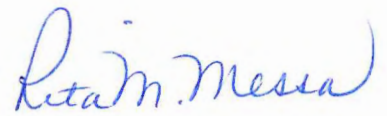
There were no public comments at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:26 p.m. on motion of Dr. Ruggles and Mr. O’Connell the following vote:

Yeas: O’Connell, Ruggles, Sultana, Panto, Brown, Edinger, Melan (7)

Nays: None (0)



Rita M. Messa
City Clerk



CITY OF EASTON

PENNSYLVANIA

City Clerk's Office

April 7, 2023

COUNCIL MEETING NOTICE

A meeting of City Council has been scheduled for Wednesday, April 12, 2023 beginning at 6:00 p.m. for the transaction of Regular Business.

The meeting will be held at the Easton Area Community Center located at 9th & Washington Street, Easton, Pa.

All meetings of City Council are open to the Public and are accessible to persons with disabilities.

MASKS ARE OPTIONAL

Rita M. Messa
City Clerk

CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA

Stated Session
Wednesday
April 12, 2023
6:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. INVOCATION
3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
4. ROLL CALL
5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
6. ACTION ON MINUTES – Approving minutes of March 22, 2023 Meeting
7. PUBLIC COMMENT – Agenda Items Only
8. CONSENT AGENDA
 - (a) Resolution to apply for a Pa. DCED Greenways Trails Grant (\$85,000)
 - (b) Resolution to apply for a Redevelopment Assist. Capital Program Grant (Watermark Project) (\$1,500,000)
 - (c) Resolution approving an Agreement with No Nonsense Neutering
 - (d) Resolution approving Cooperation Agreement with Greater Easton Development Partnership (GEDP)
 - (e) Resolution approving Agreement with Constellation Energy
9. REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL
10. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES
 - (a) Finance (Kenneth Brown)
 - (b) Economic Development (David O’Connell)
 - (c) Planning and Code (Taiba Sultana)
 - (d) Public Safety (Roger Ruggles)
 - (e) Public Works (James Edinger)
 - (f) Administration (Peter Melan)
 - (g) Report of City Solicitor (Attorney Joel Scheer)
 - (h) Report of Mayor (Salvatore J. Panto Jr.)
 - (i) Report of City Administrator (Luis Campos)
11. CORRESPONDENCE
12. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
 - (a) Bill No. 13 – Creating a New Chapter 189, Animals
 - (b) Bill No. 14 – Approving an Agreement w/Sweetie Mommie LLC
 - (c) Bill No. 15 – Approving a Second Amendment to Purchase/Sale Agreement with 27 South Third Street Associates, LP

- (d) Bill No. 16 – Approving a Right-of-Way/Encroachment Agreement with 27 South Third Street Associates, LP
- (e) Bill No. 17 – Approving a Parking License Agreement with 27 South Third Street Associates, LP

13. NEW BUSINESS

- (a) Bill No. 18 – Amending Chapter 54 – Ethics of the Code of the City of Easton
- (b) Resolution commemorating Muslim Holidays

14. PUBLIC COMMENT – On Any Matter

15. ADJOURNMENT