

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

**September 13, 2023**

Easton, Pa  
Wednesday  
September 13, 2023  
6:00 p.m.

City Council met in stated session at the above date and time, in Council Chambers, located on the Third Floor of City Hall, 123 S. Third 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, Melan, O'Connell, Ruggles, Sultana, Panto (6)

Absent: Edinger (1)

**NOTE:** Mr. Brown participated by telephone

Also, participating in the meeting were Rita M. Messa, City Clerk, Luis Campos, City Administrator, Mark Lysynecky, Director of Finance and Joel Scheer, City Solicitor. At the beginning of the meeting there were nine (9) other participants present.

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The Agenda was approved on motion of Dr. Ruggles seconded by Mr. O'Connell by the following vote:

Yea: Melan, O'Connell, Ruggles, Sultana, Panto, Brown (6)

Nays: None (0)

## **ACTION ON THE MINUTES**

A motion was made by Mr. O'Connell seconded by Dr. Ruggles to approve the August 23, 2023 minutes. The minutes were approved by the following vote.

Yea: Melan, O'Connell, Ruggles, Sultana, Panto, Brown (6)

Nays: None (0)

## **PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY**

There was no public comment at this time.

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## **CONSENT AGENDA**

The following items were approved on motion of Mr. O'Connell seconded by Dr. Ruggles by the following vote:

Bill No. 26 (Ord. No. 5831) – An Ordinance amending Sections in Chapter 285 - Fees of the Code of the City of Easton

Bill No. 27 (Ord. No. 5832) – An Ordinance approving appointment of Solicitor, Interest Assessment and Attorney Fees and Collection Fees added to the amount collected as part of unpaid Real Estate Taxes and Municipal Liens for Delinquent Accounts.

Bill No. 28 (Ord. No. 5833) – An Ordinance amending the 2023 General Fund Budget

Bill No. 29 (Ord. No. 5834) – An Ordinance amending the 2023 Workers Compensation Budget Resolution 125-2023 – Authorization to apply for US Dept. of Transportation's Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Grant (\$728,475)

Yea: Brown, Melan, O'Connell, Ruggles, Sultana, Panto (6)

Nay: None (0)

## **REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL**

Fire Department Report for August, 2023 was received from Council.

## **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

Mr. Brown, Chairperson of the Finance Committee had no report.

Mr. O'Connell, Chairperson of the Economic Development Committee had no report.

Mrs. Sultana, Chairperson of the Planning & Code Committee had no report.

Dr. Ruggles, Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee had no report.

Mr. Edinger, Chairperson of the Public Works Committee was not present for the meeting.

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

Mr. Scheer, City Solicitor had no report.

Mayor Panto stated that he met with County Representatives and Representatives with New England Hydro regarding a lease for a power plant at Hugh Moore Park and a full report will be given to Council in two (2) weeks.

Mr. Scheer then stated that there is a lease format already in place and asked that when Council receives this lease that they review it and if there are any questions he would like to have them before the Council meeting itself so they can be prepared to address any questions.

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Mayor Panto stated that while the City is in support of this project, the City does not believe that there should be any additional cost to the citizens of Easton and as of now there is major exposure to the citizens. Negotiations will continue.

Mayor Panto stated that the contract for trash removal is in Council's packet for tonight's meeting. He stated that trash removal costs are very high not only for the City of Easton but around the entire Country.

Dr. Ruggles stated that our trash removal costs were high in the past but not as high as other municipalities. Dr. Ruggles stated that costs have already increased and the City has absorbed those costs.

There was some discussion on this matter.

Mayor Panto stated that Restoration Awards will be presented at the next Council meeting.

Mayor Panto also stated that the 2024 Budget will be presented on Monday, October 2, 2024 at 12:00 noon. and Budget Hearing dates have been sent for Tuesday, October 24, 2024, Tuesday, November 7, 2023 and, if needed, Tuesday, November 21, 2023 before the budget is then introduced with an adoption date of Wednesday, December 13, 2023.

Mr. Campos, City Administrator at this time stated that the Administration submitted the 2024 suggested budget to the Mayor per the Charter.

Mr. Campos also stated that he has been appointed to the Government Advisory Commission for Latino Affairs and will be attending meetings in Harrisburg.

Mayor Panto also stated that a Parking Summit was held this past Monday. Dr. Ruggles and Mr. O'Connell both were in attendance. The City is trying to come up with several different ideas regarding parking. Another issue that was discussed was Street Sweeping.

Mayor Panto stated that the summit was made up of internal personnel and people in the City.

Recommendations will be submitted to a committee of five (5) consisting of two (2) retailers, two (2) business owners and one (1) restaurant owner. This committee will then present their recommendations to Council. Mayor Panto would like to have this completed prior to the budget.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence received by Council.

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### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Bill No. 30 – An Ordinance amending Chapter 560 – Vehicles and Traffic by approving a Load/Unload Zoning on the West Side of S. 11<sup>th</sup> Street (closest to 145 S. 11<sup>th</sup> Street) was introduced by Dr. Ruggles and ordered processed for adoption.

Mayor Panto asked how many parking spaces this Load/Unload area would take up. Dr. Ruggles stated that this will only affect one (1) parking space.

The next item on the agenda was a Resolution approving an agreement with Pennoni Associates, Inc. for alternate plan review, engineering and sewer enforcement services from September 13, 2023 through July 31, 2025.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Sultana

126-2023

The above Resolution was approved on motion of Mrs. Sultana seconded by Mr. O'Connell by the following vote:

Yea: Panto, Brown, Melan, O'Connell, Ruggles, Sultana (6)

Nay: None (0)

The next item on the agenda was a Resolution approving a two (2) year agreement with SD Lawn Services, LLC for Building and Property Maintenance Services.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Sultana

127-2023

Before the vote was taken, Mayor Panto stated that this is part of the Clean and Lien Program that the City started many years ago so if a person does not maintain their property – this program will allow for the City to contract with a company to complete the necessary work and the City will then lien the property.

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The above Resolution was approved on motion of Mrs. Sultana seconded by Dr. Ruggles by the following vote:

Yea: Brown, Melan, O'Connell, Ruggles, Sultana, Panto (6)

Nay: None (0)

The next item on the agenda was a Resolution approving a three (3) year agreement with Waste Management for the processing and marketing of the City's recyclable materials at a cost of \$145.00 per ton beginning on January 1, 2024.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Ruggles

128-2023

The above Resolution was approved on motion of Dr. Ruggles seconded by Mr. O'Connell by the following vote:

Yea: Melan, O'Connell, Ruggles, Sultana, Panto, Brown (6)

Nay: None (0)

The next item on the agenda was a Resolution approving a three (3) year agreement with Waste Connections, Inc. (Bethlehem Landfill) for the acceptance and disposal of solid waste at a cost of \$59.50 per ton beginning on January 1, 2024.

The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Ruggles

129-2023

The above Resolution was approved on motion of Dr. Ruggles seconded by Mr. O'Connell by the following vote:

Yea: Melan, O'Connell, Ruggles, Sultana, Panto, Brown (6)

Nay: None (0)

Before public comments were made, Mr. O'Connell wanted to advise Council that the 195 Committee was scheduled to meet next week, however, that meeting has been postponed.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

**On any matter**

Art Ravitz, 144 Church Street asked about the Pedestrian Bridge Project. Mayor Panto addressed Mr. Ravitz's question.

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There was also a brief discussion about the licensing process for the proposed power plant at Hugh Moore Park.

Ms. Andrea Soares, 1232 Butler Street address Council about the parking on Butler Street stating that she keeps getting parking tickets even though there is not a "No Parking" sign. The area is by the Lutzi's Restaurant Parking Lot where there is no curbing.

There was a brief discussion on this matter. Mayor Panto stated that he would address this matter with the Police Department's Traffic Division.

Mr. Brown advised everyone that his surgery went well and he hopes to be back, in person, at the next Council meeting.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:28 p.m. on motion of Dr. Ruggles and Mr. O'Connell by the following vote:

Yea: O'Connell, Ruggles, Sultana, Panto, Brown, Melan (6)

Nay: None (0)



Rita M. Messa  
City Clerk



# CITY OF EASTON

## PENNSYLVANIA

City Clerk's Office

September 8, 2023

### COUNCIL MEETING NOTICE

A meeting of City Council has been scheduled for Wednesday, September 13, 2023 beginning at 6:00 p.m. for the transaction of Regular Business.

The meeting will be held in Council Chambers located on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of City Hall, 123 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Easton, Pa.

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

The City of Easton Council Meeting will also be live streamed starting at 6:00 p.m.

Live Stream video: <http://bit.ly/EastonLiveStream>

### MASKS ARE OPTIONAL

Rita M. Messa  
City Clerk

**CITY COUNCIL  
AGENDA**

Stated Session  
Wednesday  
September 13, 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 August 23, 2023 meeting
7. PUBLIC COMMENT – Agenda Items Only
8. CONSENT AGENDA
  - (a) Bill No. 26 – Amending Sections in Chapter 285 – Fees of the Code of the City of Easton
  - (b) Bill No. 27 – An Ordinance approving appointment of Solicitor for collection of Unpaid Real Estate Taxes and Municipal Claims for Delinquent Accounts
  - (c) Bill No. 28 – Amending the 2023 General Fund Budget
  - (d) Bill No. 29 – Amending the 2023 Workers' Compensation Fund Budget
  - (e) Resolution authorizing the application for the US Dept. of Transportation's Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) Grant in the amount of \$728,475
9. REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL
  - (a) Fire Department Report for August 2023
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
13. NEW BUSINESS
  - (a) Bill No. 30 – Amending Chapter 560 Vehicles & Traffic by approving a Load/Unload Zone
  - (b) Resolution approving a contract with Pennoni Associates, Inc.
  - (c) Resolution approving a contract with SD Lawn Service, LLC
  - (d) Resolution approving a contract with Waste Management
  - (e) Resolution approving a contract with Waste Connections, Inc.
14. PUBLIC COMMENT – On Any Matter
15. ADJOURNMENT