

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

September 27, 2023

Easton, Pa
Wednesday
September 27, 2023
6:20 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, Edinger, Melan, O'Connell, Ruggles, Sultana, Panto (7)

Absent: None (0)

NOTE: K. Brown participated by telephone

Also, participating in the meeting were Rita M. Messa, City Clerk, Luis Campos, City Administrator, Mark Lysynecky, Finance Director, Joel Scheer, City Solicitor, Jeremy Clark, Asst. City Solicitor. At the beginning of the meeting there were thirty-two (32) other participants present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

Nays: None (0)

ACTION ON THE MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. O'Connell seconded by Dr. Ruggles to approve the September 13, 2023 meeting minutes. The minutes were approved by the following vote.

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

Nays: None (0)

NOTE: Mr. Edinger abstained from the vote since he was not present at September 13th meeting.

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

September 27, 2023

REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL

No reports were received by Council.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Brown, Chairperson of the Finance Committee spoke about the legislation that he will have later in the meeting.

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

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

Dr. Ruggles, Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee stated that the City has received money (\$350,000) for the Lidar System that was spoken about previously.

Mr. Edinger, Chairperson of the Public Works Committee spoke about the legislation that he would have later in the meeting.

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

Mr. Scheer, City Solicitor stated that there was an Executive Session prior to the start of this meeting to discuss proposed Bill 34 which is a lease of property to New England Hydropower Company LLC.

Mayor Panto stated that the City has received a \$1,000,000 Urban Advisory Grant and that the City has planted over 5,000 new trees in the last fifteen (15) years.

Mayor Panto stated that this grant could also be used to maintain street trees which could allow for the City to trim trees instead of making the homeowner responsible.

Mayor Panto spoke about the Wood Avenue Project – he stated that project will slow down the traffic on Wood Avenue and also that parking matters have been addressed

Mayor Panto stated that there will be a “pop-up” event this weekend at Nevin Park. Pizza will be served and there will be entertainment.

Mayor Panto also stated that “Porch Fest” will also take place on College Hill Sunday, October 1, 2023.

Mayor Panto stated that traffic lights in the circle will be changed to allow for a better flow, however, at this time, it is only for a thirty (30) day trial to see if the matter of traffic backups can be resolved.

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

September 27, 2023

Mayor Panto stated that the Pennsylvania Municipal League Conference is in Bethlehem and will be held in October.

Mayor Panto also stated that the City will be hosting thirty-seven (37) people from Little Rock Arkansas next Thursday.

Mayor Panto stated that the Sigal Museum is hosting a Forge by Fire display.

Mayor Panto stated that he will present the 2024 Budget on Monday, October 2, 2023 at 12:00 noon.

Mayor Panto stated that the Pine Street Garage demolition is progressing. He also noted that any materials that can be recycled will be recycled.

Mr. Campos, City Administrator stated that the City's IT Department has updated the City's website.

Mr. Campos advised Mrs. Sultana that the celebration calendar that she previously requested has been added to the City's website.

Mr. Campos stated that he attended the Governor's Advisory Commission on Latino Affairs meeting in Harrisburg and that he also read a proclamation from the Governor's Office to kick off Hispanic Heritage Month.

Mayor Panto also then stated that the City will be meeting next week with Representatives from the Easton Boy's and Girl's Club and the Housing Authority. One of the things that will be discussed during this meeting is the Choice Neighborhood Grant.

Mayor Panto stated that he believes that the Housing Authority needs to do a better job of managing their properties.

Mayor Panto spoke briefly on this matter.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence received by Council.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

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

September 27, 2023

NEW BUSINESS

Bill No. 31 – An Ordinance amending Chapter 54 – Ethics of the Code of the City of Easton was introduced by Mr. O’Connell and ordered processed for adoption.

Bill No. 32 – An Ordinance amending the 2023 Revolving Capital Fund Budget was introduced by Mr. Brown and ordered processed for adoption.

Bill No. 33 – An Ordinance amending the 2023 Sewer Fund Budget was introduced by Mr. Brown and ordered processed for adoption.

Bill No. 34 – A Lease Agreement between the City of Easton and New England Hydropower Company LLC was introduced by Mayor Panto and ordered processed for adoption.

The next item on the Agenda was a Resolution expressing the City’s Commitment and approving the filing of an application for a Grant for the Mill at Easton – Phase III in the amount of \$500,000.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. O’Connell

136-2023

Before the vote was taken, Mayor Panto stated that the Lehigh Valley Health Network will occupy part of this property and this grant will help fund some of the expensive equipment that the Lehigh Valley Health Network will use at the facility.

The above Resolution was approved on motion of Mr. O’Connell and Mr. Edinger by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a Resolution approving an Agreement with All City Management Services for Crossing Guard Services from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Melan

137-2023

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

September 27, 2023

The above Resolution was approved on motion of Mr. Melan and Mrs. Sultana by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a Resolution approving the Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) for the City Managed Pension Funds.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Brown

138-2023

The above Resolution was approved on motion of Mr. Brown and Mr. O'Connell by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a Resolution approving the Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) for the PMRS Pension Fund.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Brown

139-2023

The above Resolution was approved on motion of Mr. Brown and Mr. O'Connell by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a Resolution approving an Agreement with OSD Design and Planning for Landscape and Architectural design for North Sitgreaves Street at a cost of \$29,250.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Edinger

140-2023

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

September 27, 2023

The above Resolution was approved on motion of Mr. Edinger and Mr. O'Connell by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a Resolution approving an Agreement with Whitetail Disposal Inc. for the collection and transportation of Solid Waste and Recyclable materials at a cost of \$2,422,393.81.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Edinger

141-2023

The above Resolution was approved on motion of Mr. Edinger and Mr. O'Connell by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a Resolution approving an Agreement with Flash Parking to install new parking equipment in the Intermodal Garage at a cost of \$189,756.50.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Edinger

142-2023

Before the vote was taken, Mayor Panto explained that the new parking system for the Intermodal Garage (S. 3rd Street) will be a "Ticket In – Ticket Out" system. He stated that this is being used in the new 4th Street Garage and it is working well.

The above Resolution was approved on motion of Mr. Edinger and Mr. Brown by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a Resolution authorizing the purchase of a John Deere 410 Backhoe Loader at a cost of \$160,300 for the City's utility crew.

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
September 27, 2023

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Edinger

143-2023

The above Resolution was approved on motion of Mr. Edinger and Mr. O'Connell by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a Resolution approving an Agreement with Blair Contracting for the replacement of the roof at Fire Central at a cost of \$355,750.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Edinger

144-2023

The above Resolution was approved on motion of Mr. Edinger and Brown by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a Resolution approving an Agreement with H.T. Lyons for the replacement of the rooftop heating/cooling units at Fire Central at a cost of \$28,150.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Edinger

145-2023

The above Resolution was approved on motion of Mr. Edinger and Mr. O'Connell by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a Resolution approving a proposal with Insituform Technologies, LLC for sewer rehabilitation which consists of lining areas of Canal Street, 6th Street and Pearl Street at a cost of \$207,890.

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

September 27, 2023

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Edinger

146-2023

Before the vote was taken, Mayor Panto asked Mr. Hopkins, Director of Public Works how many miles of sewer pipes were rehabbed? Mr. Hopkins stated that he didn't have the exact figure at this time. Mr. Hopkins stated that the City will continue to prioritize the lines for rehabbing. One of the lines that will be done, in the future, is the 300 block of Ferry Street.

Dr. Ruggles asked if the process that we are using now will be able to be used on the large lines that are not circular in shape.

There was a brief discussion on this matter.

The above Resolution was approved on motion of Mr. Edinger and Mr. O'Connell by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a Resolution approving a proposal with Alloy 5 Architecture to perform an architectural review of the South Side Fire Station at a cost of \$13,800.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Edinger

147-2023

The above Resolution was approved on motion of Mr. Edinger and Mrs. Sultana by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

PUBLIC COMMENT

On any item

Mr. Art Ravitz, 144 Church Street spoke briefly about the grant for the street trees.

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

September 27, 2023

Mr. Ravitz also asked about the results of the parking summit. Mayor Panto stated that there was a meeting, and they are now putting together the recommendations.

Ms. Barabra Hulsizer, 1025 Wood Avenue addressed Council about some concerns for parking on Wood Avenue once that project is completed.

Mayor Panto stated that the mediums that are being installed have been shortened so that should help with that issue.

Mr. Hopkins stated that the medium will be moved back, which will allow for keeping 2 to 3 parking spaces.

Mr. Hopkins stated that this project has been discussed years ago even prior to COVID. The idea is to slow down traffic on Wood Avenue and to improve pedestrian safety. He stated that the City is not trying to prevent parking on Wood Avenue but the mediums will definitely slow down the traffic. He stated that it will also open up the corners and everything will be ADA accessible.

Ms. Hulsizer also stated that she is concerned that she may have to block traffic while transporting her mother.

Mr. Hopkins stated that he will meet with the residents at the site and again reiterated that the City's intention is not to make parking more difficult.

Ms. Terry Knibbs, 1209 Spring Garden Street stated that she was here at this meeting out of concern for her parents' home located at 1029 Wood Avenue. She stated that if they were to sell their home and if there was no parking due to the improvements to Wood Avenue that could be a problem.

Ms. Knibbs stated that this parking situation could cause an inconvenience and a hardship for many people.

Ms. Kristie O'Brian and Mr. Mike Jones, 1027 Wood Avenue also spoke about the parking situation on Wood Avenue. She asked about the installation of speed bumps and it was explained to her that PennDot will not allow speed bumps in the City.

A brief discussion continued about the parking situation on Wood Avenue.

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

September 27, 2023

Ms. Sofia Sealy, 1450 Lehigh Street addressed Council regarding a plumbing situation that she has been experiencing with her property. She stated that when she purchased the property, she was not aware that she shared a sewer line with her neighbor. She stated that she looked through all of her paperwork as well as her deed and there is no indication of a shared line between the two properties.

Mr. Hopkins stated that when her, as well as other properties in the City, were built many years ago it was common to share sewer lines – it is called “yoking”. Mr. Hopkins explained exactly what yoking is and how it works.

Dr. Ruggles stated that maybe it could be an elevation problem or there could be a blockage in the line.

After some discussion on this matter, Mr. Hopkins stated that he would send out the City’s utility crew to check this.

Ms. Sealy also stated that she was approved for the façade grant, but she hasn’t heard anything more regarding this. Mayor Panto stated that he would check on this for her.

Mr. Tony Klapatch, 1974 Mercer Way stated that he wanted to thank the City for its concern for pedestrian safety on Wood Avenue.

Mrs. Sultana stated that she is recommending that the Press Box at Heil Park be dedicated to Scott Ransom. Mayor Panto stated that this is already in progress.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:23 p.m. on motion of Dr. Ruggles and Mr. O’Connell by 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

September 22, 2023

COUNCIL MEETING NOTICE

A meeting of City Council has been scheduled for Wednesday, September 27, 2023 beginning at 6:00 p.m. for the transaction of Regular Business.

The meeting will be held in Council Chambers located on the 3rd floor of City Hall, 123 S. 3rd 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 27, 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 September 13, 2023 meeting
7. PRESENTATION: Restoration Awards
8. PUBLIC COMMENT – Agenda Items Only
9. CONSENT AGENDA
 - (a) Bill No. 30 – Amending Chapter 560 Vehicles & Traffic by approving a Load/Unload Zone
 - (b) Resolution approving a Cert. of Appropriateness for 40 N. 3rd Street
 - (c) Resolution approving a Cert. of Appropriateness for 52 S. 5th Street
 - (d) Resolution approving a Cert. of Appropriateness for 100-116 Northampton Street
 - (e) Resolution approving a Cert. of Appropriateness for 353-359 Northampton Street
 - (f) Resolution approving a Cert. of Appropriateness for 325-327 Northampton Street
 - (g) Resolution authorizing the application for the US Dept. of Transportation’s Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) Grant in the amount of \$1,222,956
10. REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL
11. 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)

12. CORRESPONDENCE

13. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

14. NEW BUSINESS

- (a) Bill No. 31 – Amending Chapter 54 – Ethics of the Code of the City of Easton
- (b) Bill No. 32 – Amending the 2023 Revolving Capital Fund Budget
- (c) Bill No. 33 – Amending the 2023 Sewer Fund Budget
- (d) Bill No. 34 – Approving a Lease Agreement with New England Hydropower Co.
- (e) Resolution expressing the City’s Commitment and approving the filing of application for a Grant for the Mill at Easton - Phase III for \$500,000.
- (f) Resolution approving an Agreement with All City Management Services for Crossing Guard Services
- (g) Resolution approving MMO for City Managed Pensions
- (h) Resolution approving MMO for PMRS
- (i) Resolution approving an Agreement with OSD Design and Planning
- (j) Resolution approving an Agreement with Whitetail Disposal Inc.
- (k) Resolution approving an Agreement with Flash Parking
- (l) Resolution approving the purchase of a new John Deere Backhoe
- (m) Resolution approving an Agreement with Blair Contracting
- (n) Resolution approving an Agreement with H.T. Lyons
- (o) Resolution approving a Proposal with Insituform Technologies LLC
- (p) Resolution approving a Proposal with Alloy 5

15. PUBLIC COMMENT – On Any Matter

16. ADJOURNMENT

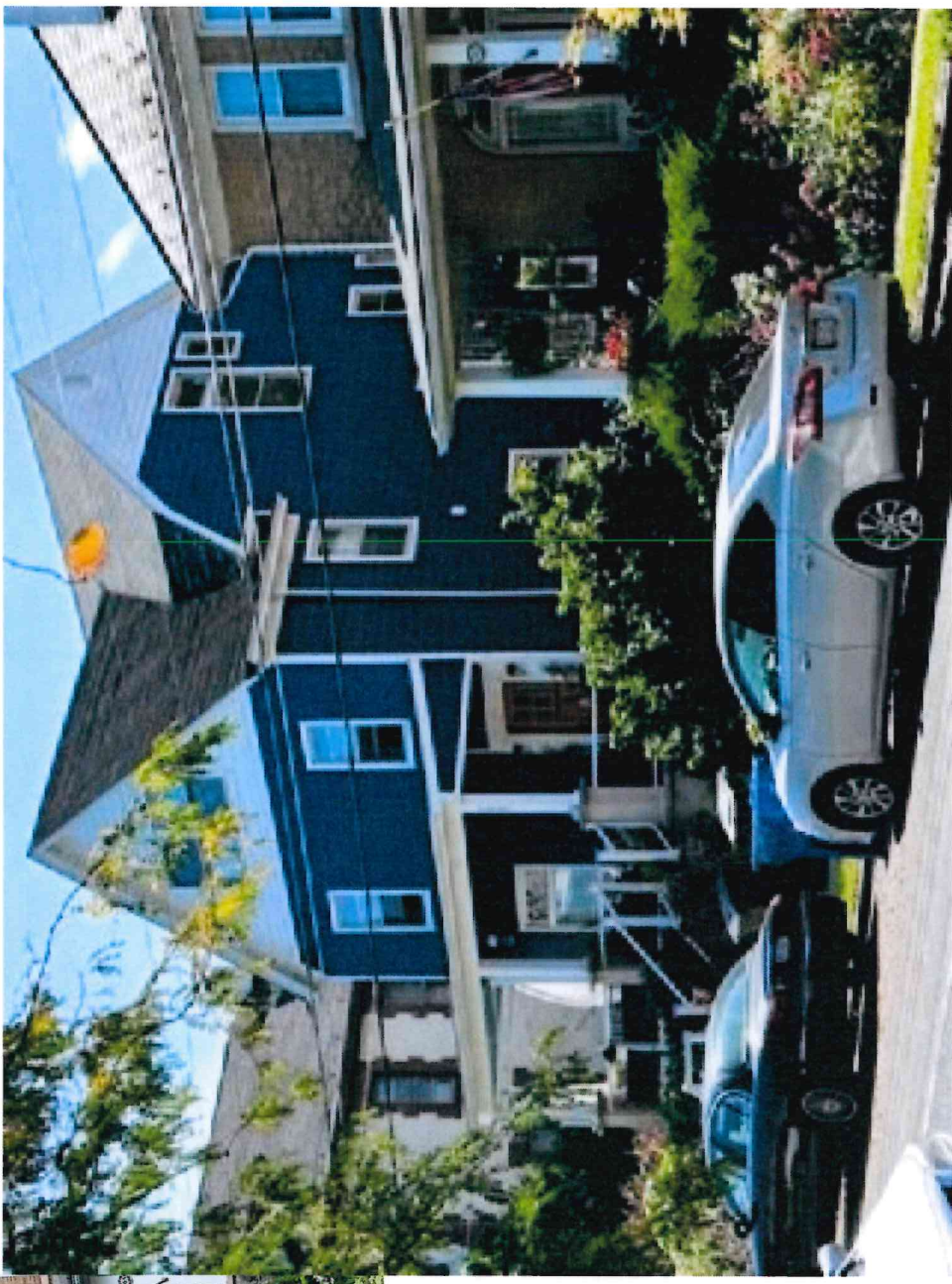


Mayor's Restoration Awards



915 NORTHAMPTON STREET





171 CHARLES STREET



204 N. 13TH STREET

Cooper Residence



625 PAXINOSA AVENUE

Lafayette College's Historic Rinek Rope property



991 BUSHKILL DRIVE

Portlock Black Cultural Center

Lafayette College

101 MCCARTNEY STREET

