

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
January 9, 2019

Easton, Pa
Wednesday
January 9, 2019
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 and to conduct a public hearing regarding proposed amendments to the Zoning Ordinances.

The invocation was given by Mayor Panto, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: Brown, Edinger, Melan, O'Connell, Vulcano, Panto (6)
Absent: Ruggles (1)

Also in attendance was Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk, William Murphy, City Solicitor, Assistant City Solicitor, and Luis Campos, City Administrator. There were twenty-one (21) other persons present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion of Mr. Edinger and Mrs. Vulcano the Agenda was amended by withdrawing Bill #2, Setting the Benefits and Compensation for Elected Officials of the City of Easton Pa., from the Agenda by the following vote:

Yeas: Panto, Vulcano, O'Connell, Melan, Edinger, Brown (6)
Nays: None (0)

On motion of Mr. Brown and Mayor Panto, the amended Agenda was approved by the following vote:

Yeas: Brown, Edinger, Melan, O'Connell, Vulcano, Panto (6)
Nays: None (0)

ACTION ON MINUTES

On motion of Mrs. Vulcano and Mr. O'Connell, the December 12, 2018 Council meeting minutes, as submitted, were approved by the following vote:

Yeas: Edinger, Melan, O'Connell, Vulcano, Panto, Brown (6)
Nays: None (0)

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PUBLIC COMMENT – on Agenda Items

Edward Reagan, 1364 Fox Ridge, Forks Township, Pa. spoke regarding concerns that he had with the proposed amendments to Sign Ordinances and how he felt that they were unconstitutional.

Mr. O’Connell said that it was his understanding that the proposed changes would bring our ordinances into compliance, and asked Mr. Murphy and Mr. Noworski if he was correct.

Mr. Noworski, Director of Planning and Codes said that the changes to the ordinances were brought about primarily from Reed vs. Gilbert. He said that the changes do not specifically regulate any type of speech and is content neutral. He said that the Lehigh Planning Commission review the proposed changes, issued a letter indicating that it was content neutral, and it has been ruled that the changes do not violate the Reed vs. Gilbert ruling. He also said that Reed vs. Gilbert did not touch on political signs.

PUBLIC HEARING
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE ZONING ORDINANCES

At 6:10 p.m. Mayor Panto opened the Hearing and turned it over to Mr. O’Connell.

Mr. O’Connell turned the Hearing over to Mr. Nowroski.

Mr. Nowroski said that a Public Hearing had been previously held for the amendments to the sign ordinances. He said that the only proposed amendment to the Sign Ordinance was for the minimum height of sandwich board signs to 3’ feet and a maximum of 4’.

He spoke on the establishment of a Business and Entertainment District regarding the plan consistency, Lehigh Valley Planning Commission Review, the creation of a premier downtown, the District location, regulations and design standards.

Mr. O’Connell asked what the maximum building height was in the existing ordinance.

Mr. Nowroski said that it was 140’ at street intersections, which would remain the same and the maximum of 125’ intermediate which remains the same.

There were no further comments or questions from Council or the audience.

At 6:15 p.m., Mr. O’Connell closed the hearing.

CONSENT AGENDA

There was no business under the Consent Agenda.

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REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL

No reports were received by Council:

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Brown, Chairman of the Finance Committee, spoke regarding legislation which he would have for later in the meeting regarding approving a Stipulation of Council.

Mrs. Vulcano, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee, asked Mr. Campos to give Council an update regarding the search for a new Economic Development Director and regarding the Request for Proposals for the development on the sites of downtown City parking lots.

Mr. Campos informed Council that the City was still reviewing resumes for the Economic Development Director position, and informed Council that there were eleven proposals received for the development of the parking lot properties.

Mr. O'Connell asked who the public members were of the group reviewing the proposals.

Mr. Campos said that they were Jared Mast, Mark Jobses and George Borowski.

Mr. O'Connell, Chairman of the Planning and Code Committee, had no report.

Mr. Melan, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, reported that the Public Safety Committee would meet on Tuesday, January 22, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

Dr. Ruggles, Chairman of the Public Works Committee, was absent.

Mr. Edinger, Chairman of the Administration Committee, had no report.

Mr. Murphy, City Solicitor, had no report.

Mayor Panto reported that the City had received the City Hall Building's LEED Certification, that Social Media had reported that former Fire Chief Bast had been forced out of his position and said that was not true, that Chief Bast had voluntarily retired. He spoke about the Federal Government shutdown and said that if funds were not received for the Redevelopment Authority the current staff may have to be furloughed.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence received by Council:

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill 43, (Ordinance 5666) Adding Article XX.1, Business and Entertainment District (BE) and amending Article XXXIII, Sign Regulations of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa. was adopted on motion of Mr. O'Connell and Mr. Brown by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

This Ordinance established a Business and Entertainment District, in the downtown area and made amendments to the Sign Ordinances.

NEW BUSINESS

Bill 1, Amending Sections contained in Chapter 285, Fees, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa. was introduced by Mayor Panto and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would repeal sub-section 285-42 (2) (c) and raise the fee for the rental of pavilions for non-residents from \$100 to \$150.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve a Stipulation of Counsel

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Brown:

1-2019

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

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

Nays: None (0)

A January 3, 2019 memorandum, regarding Council Agenda Items, was received from David Hopkins, Director of Public Works.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve a Northampton County Grant Agreement for the City to conduct an electronics recycling event.

Mr. Melan asked questions regarding the collection of the discarding of old Televisions around the City and made suggestions on how this could be addressed.

Mr. Hopkins, Director of Public Works spoke to his concerns and suggestions.

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Mayor Panto said that traffic control must be addressed at the next E-Recycling event.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Edinger:

2-2019

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

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

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve a Right-of-Way encroachment Agreement with Luan of Kosva LLC.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Edinger:

3-2019

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

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

Nays: None (0)

Mrs. Vulcano asked that further discussion be held on proposed Bill #1 at the next Committee meeting on January 22, 2019.

Mr. Hopkins spoke regarding future purchases of Public Works equipment and gave a handout of a list of the proposed purchases in 2019. (see attachment).

Council members made comments and asked questions regarding this matter, which Mr. Hopkins addressed.

PUBLIC COMMENT
(On any item other)

Mr. Chris Heagele, 801 Cattell Street, formally announced his candidacy for the position of City Controller.

Ed Reagan 1364 Fox Ridge, Forks Township spoke regarding his being blocked from what he believed from the Mayor's City's Facebook page for being critical of the Mayor's statements

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regarding political sign posting in the City and on other things. He stated that if he remained block from that site he would bring a federal lawsuit within 30 days.

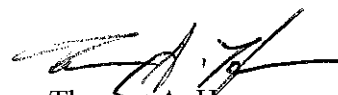
Mayor Panto said that he was blocked from the Mayor's personal Facebook page and not from the City of Easton Facebook page, and explained why he was blocked from his personal page.

ADJOURNMENT

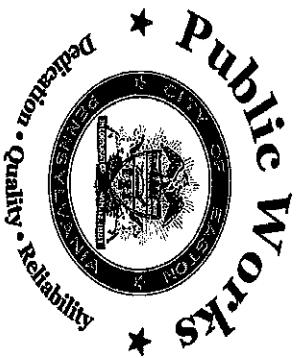
With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:48 p.m., on motion of Mr. Brown and Mrs., Vulcano by the following vote.

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

Nays: None (0)



Thomas A. Hess
City Clerk



2018-2019 DPW Equipment Requests:

<u>Projects:</u>	<u>Purchase Cost:</u>	<u>Annual Cost:</u> (4% Int)	<u>Funding Source(s):</u>	<u>Replace Existing:</u>	<u>Sale Value Existing:</u>	<u>Life:</u>
Track Skid Steer	\$55,000	\$11,400	Liquid fuels, 5-yr lease	no	Move to Maintenance	15yrs
Wheel Skid Steer w/ Mill Head	\$60,000	\$12,500	Liquid fuels, 5-year lease	Replace Rentals	Save \$10K/yr	15yrs
Street Sweeper	\$170,000	\$59,000	Liquid fuels, 3-yr lease	Yes	\$10,000	10yrs
Hot-Mix Asphalt Pug Mill	\$50,000	\$10,500	Liquid fuels, 5-yr lease	Reduce Cold Patch	Save \$10,000/yr	15yrs
10-ton Dump Truck	\$180,000	\$38,500	Liquid fuels, 5-yr lease	Yes	\$10,000	20yrs
10-ton Dump Truck	\$180,000	\$38,500	Liquid fuels, 5-yr lease	Yes	\$15,000	20yrs
<u>TOTAL:</u>	\$695,000	\$170,400				



CITY OF EASTON

PENNSYLVANIA

January 2, 2019

COUNCIL MEETING NOTICE

A meeting of City Council has been scheduled for Wednesday, January 9, 2019 beginning at 6:00 p.m., for the transaction of Regular Business, and to conduct a Public Hearing regarding amendments to the Zoning Ordinances.

The meeting will be held in Council Chambers, located on the Third floor of City Hall, 123 S. 3rd Street, Easton, Pa. 18042

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



Thomas A. Hess
City Clerk

CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA

Stated Session
Wednesday
January 9, 2019
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 – December 12, 2018 Council meeting minutes
7. PUBLIC HEARING, Proposed Amendments to the Zoning Ordinances
8. PUBLIC COMMENT – Agenda Items Only.
9. CONSENT AGENDA
10. REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL
11. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES
 - (a) Finance (Kenneth Brown)
 - (b) Economic Development (Sandra Vulcano)
 - (c) Planning and Code (David O’Connell)
 - (d) Public Safety (Peter Melan)
 - (e) Public Works (Roger Ruggles)
 - (f) Administration (James Edinger)
 - (g) Report of City Solicitor (Attorney William Murphy)
 - (h) Report of Mayor (Salvatore J. Panto Jr.)
12. CORRESPONDENCE
13. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
 - (a) Bill 43, Amending Zoning Codes.
14. NEW BUSINESS
 - (a) Introduction of Legislative Bills.
 1. Bill 1. Amending Sections contained in Chapter 285, Fees of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa.
 2. Bill 2. Setting the Benefits and Compensation for Elected Officials of the City of Easton, Pa.
 - (b) Resolution Approving a Stipulation of Counsel.

-OVER-

- (c) Resolution approving a Grant Agreement.
- (d) Resolution approving a Right-of-Way Encroachment Agreement.

15. PUBLIC COMMENT – (Any Matter)

16. ADJOURNMENT