

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.
February 13, 2019

Easton, Pa
Wednesday
February 13, 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.

The invocation was given by Mr. Melan, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: Brown, Edinger, Melan, O’Connell, Ruggles, Panto (Phone) (7)
Absent: None (0)

Also in attendance was Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk, William Murphy, City Solicitor, and Luis Campos, City Administrator. There were sixteen (16) other persons present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion of Mr. Melan and Mrs. Vulcano the Agenda was amended by removing Item b, a Resolution appointing the Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee to the Board of Directors of the Easton Emergency Squad, from New Business, by the following vote:

Yeas: Panto, Vulcano, Ruggles, O’Connell, Melan, Edinger, Brown (7)
Nays: None (0)

On motion of Mr. Edinger and Mr. O’Connell, the Agenda was further amended by removing Item (c), a Resolution which would approve a Job Description for a Junior Foreman position, and Item (f), a Resolution amending the 2019 Salary & Wage, from New Business, by the following vote:

Yeas: Edinger, Melan, O’Connell, Ruggles, Vulcano, Panto, Brown (7)
Nays: None (0)

On motion of Mr. Brown and Mrs. Vulcano the amended Agenda was approved by the following vote:

Yeas: Brown, Edinger, Melan, O’Connell, Ruggles, Vulcano, Panto (7)
Nays: None (0)

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ACTION ON MINUTES

On motion of Dr. Ruggles and Mr. O’Connell, the January 23, 2019 Council meeting minutes, as submitted, were approved by the following vote:

Yeas: Melan, O’Connell, Ruggles, Vulcano, Panto, Brown (6)

Nays: None (0)

Abstain: Edinger (1)

RESOLUTION
Death of Benjamin Cavotta Sr.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Melan:

09-2019

On motion of Mr. Melan and Mr. Brown the above Resolution was adopted by the following vote:

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

Nays: None (0)

Mayor Panto and the City Clerk offered words of condolences and remembrance of Mr. Cavotta when he was a Police Officer.

Mr. Richard Cavotta, Mr. Cavotta’s son, was presented with a framed Resolution, thank Council for the honor and spoke about his father’s love for the City and for the Police Department.

CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION

At this time Certificates of Appreciation were read for retired Fire Fighters, Leo Englehardt, and Stephen Finelli, and for Retired Fire Chief John Bast.

Fire Fighters Englehardt and Finelli were not in attendance. Deputy Fire Chief Kevin Arnold accepted the Certificates on behalf of Englehardt and Finelli.

Mr. Melan presented Retired Chief Bast with a framed Certificate, and Deputy Fire Chief Arnold presented Chief Bast with a memorial Silver Fire Ax.

All Council members spoke regarding retired Chief Bast’s service to the City and its citizens And wished him well in future endeavors.

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Chief Bast thanked Council for the Certificate, and said that he appreciated his time with the City.

PUBLIC COMMENT – on Agenda Items

There were no comments from the audience.

CONSENT AGENDA

On motion of Dr. Ruggles and Mr. O’Connell the following items were adopted by the following vote:

Resolution 10-2019, which approved an appointment to the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission.

Resolution 11-2019, which approve re-appointments and appointments to various Authorities, Boards, and Commissions.

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

Nays: None (0)

REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL

The following report was received by Council:

- (a) City of Easton Police Department 2018 Annual Report.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Brown, Chairman of the Finance Committee, spoke regarding legislation, which he would have for latter in the meeting, regarding approving an Agreement with turnkey Taxes.

Mrs. Vulcano, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee, reported that an Ad Hoc Committee would be meeting on Friday, February 15, 2019 to review the submitted proposals to develop the properties of the off-street surface parking lots, and then to re-interview developers on the proposals that they choose..

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

Mr. Melan, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, had no report.

Dr. Ruggles, Chairman of the Public Works Committee, had no report.

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Mr. Edinger, Chairman of the Administration Committee, read an Administration Committee memorandum. (see attachment).

Mr. Murphy, City Solicitor, had no report.

Mayor Panto had no report.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence received by Council:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

Bill 2, Amending Sections contained in Chapter 285, Fees, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa. was introduced by Mr. O'Connell and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would amend Construction fees.

Bill 3, Setting the Benefits and Compensation for elected Officials of the City of Easton, Pa. was introduced by Mr. Edinger and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would set the Benefits and Compensation for elected officials.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve a Professional Services Agreement with turnkey Taxes.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Brown:

12-2019

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

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

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve a Grant Agreement with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection for an E-Cycle Program Grant.

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The following Resolution was introduced by Dr. Ruggles:

13-2019

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

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

Nays: None (0)

PUBLIC COMMENT
(On any item)

Reverend Larry Vandever, 331 S. Main Street, Nazareth, Pa., said that in 2018 the City had allocated funds to his Organization for trapping, neutering, spaying and releasing feral Cats. He said that the funds were not used in 2018 and wanted to know if those funds were available in 2019.

Mr. Melan said that they were not and that in two weeks there would be a proposed Ordinance to amend the 2019 budget for the needed funds.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m., on motion of Mrs., Vulcano and Mr. O'Connell by the following vote.

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

Nays: None (0)

Thomas A. Hess
City Clerk