

Ray O'Connell, President
Julio A. Guridy, Vice President
Joseph Davis
Jeanette Eichenwald
Jeff Glazier
Daryl Hendricks
Cynthia Y. Mota



Allentown City Council
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COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
April 15, 2015
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

COUNCIL MEETING – 7:00 PM

1. Invocation: Minister Daniel Blount, New Christian Harvest Church

2. Pledge to the Flag

3. Roll Call: Davis, Eichenwald, Glazier, Guridy, Hendricks, O'Connell
Frances Fruhwirth represented the Solicitor's office

4. Courtesy of the Floor

Mr. Kenneth Heffentrager, 733 N. 11th Street, asked to use the laws in the city. Mr. Joseph Clarke stated that his current condemned buildings are being worked on. There are no permits in the building. He dumps trash at other rental properties. Rental units in NIZ there were 92 apartments there. Rents were as low as \$325 and as high as \$550. I could not get confirmation on three buildings. S. 8th Street is another City Center building that had a fire. Fire and police had to come out because it was an unsecure building. We called SWEEP about illegal dumping in the Tenth Ward. Pennsylvania under the Keep Pennsylvania beautiful program will loan you three high definition cameras to put up in areas where it is constant dumping. On January 20th, citizens asked for a Resolution to get money out of politics.

Mr. Ray O'Connell stated that they are here.

Ms. Paulette Hunter, 733 W. Tilghman Street, thanked Mayor Pawlowski for his presentation on the State of the City at the Hotel. He gave a lot of good information. I have his presentation and will highlight it and track it. On the police overtime. I read in the paper it is way over. It is increasing. It is not going to get less because the city is getting bigger. The arena should pay for the police. We have to think about the safety.

Mr. Ray O'Connell stated that at the Public Safety Committee meeting in which Ms. Eichenwald is the chair, we had a lively meeting with the Assistant Chief Morris. They spent \$250,000 in overtime in January and February. Ms. Eichenwald and I asked tough questions. They met with the Police Chief and they are making decisions on pulling back on police officers that are making overtime. We are monitoring it.

Ms. Jeanette Eichenwald stated that I think this is an important issue that City Council should discuss in a public forum with the Police Chief. We have not been able to accomplish that. It is my intention to call another meeting in June. It is my sincere hope that the Police Chief will be here so that we can have this discussion.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that he had an opportunity to speak to the commander in charge of the police station around the arena and they have made alterations. Some are coming from regular duty.

Mr. Dennis Pearson, 942 E. Tilghman Street, stated that he wants to give an inventory of the Parks in East Allentown. He went to Canal Park and today it looked pretty good. The boathouse was painted and it looked clean. There are still problems at Keck Park. There is a second ball field with no fence. The field that does have a fence, it is so bad. The Islands down Jerome Street which is maintain by the city parks looks pretty good. The place on Highland Street is a city park and the grass is cut. The Eastside Reservoir Pavilion has no tables and the place looks un-kept. He has a concern about the arena and surprised by a building so young has many cracks in the first deck around the arena floor.

Mr. Ray O'Connell stated that we did receive your email about the eastside reservoir and I will be happy to discuss in the next couple of days.

Mr. Glenn Hunsicker, 844 S. 11th Street, asked about the Capital Improvements Projects and the spreadsheet. It has been nine months now and the administration should make an effort to provide this information. When will we have that report? There are 105 projects and they made a report last year with a new Capital Plan.

Mr. Jeff Glazier stated that we had one in January and there will be one at the next Budget and Finance meeting on April 27th. We asked for additional information with start and stop dates. I will meet with the Finance staff in advance of the meeting. Most of the things have been addressed.

Mr. Donald Senderowitz, 2752 Chew Street, stated that the city is doing the street on 28th Street and it is the worst block on the west end of Allentown. Now, we have gotten notices to fix our curb and sidewalk. Our curb is ok and was hit by the city when they had to plow the street. The city is forcing up to do it. They want us to get permits for it. Permits should be included in the deal. They charge a 5 percent administrative fee.

Ms. Jeanette Eichenwald thanked Mr. Senderowitz and stated that she wasn't aware there was a 5 percent administrative fee. Could the administration speak to that?

Mr. Craig Messinger stated that with the administrative fee there is a lot of work that goes along as far as if they are using the city's service. There are mailers that have to go out. We are going out for contracts. There are extra services all the way through the city if they are utilizing our contract with it.

Ms. Jeanette Eichenwald stated that she is turning to her colleagues so they could look at this.

Mr. Ray O'Connell stated that there is no debate. We are going to review it.

Ms. Verbie Bar, 37 Saw Grass Drive, stated that she is a concerned citizen asking City Council to act on a Resolution which was the fifth anniversary of the Supreme Court Citizen United decision. Pennsylvania is one of five states which has unlimited campaign finances.

Mr. Ray O'Connell stated we have it and we have not done anything. I can't get the mayor tied down to discuss this. He asked if she went to Easton or Bethlehem.

Mr. Robert Trotner stated two City Councilmembers in Easton and one in Bethlehem is very supportive of it. We can't get meetings with anybody.

Mr. Steven Patterson, 803 N. 2nd Street - Emmaus, stated that he has been employed by Weinstein Supply on 3rd and Hamilton for 27 years and the train station property filled with litter. The building doesn't look like it is collapsing yet, but it is a major intersection and is horrible. If he refuses to clean it, send parks people there to clean it and send him the bill.

Mr. Fran Dougherty stated that he will report back to Council.

Mr. Samuel Cordoba, 106 N. 10th Street, thanked Council and Mayor Pawlowski for the opportunity for citizens to work at the arena especially when they have a criminal history. He talked about the bars that are the same cesspools. Why are we not doing stuff on the nuisance bars?

Mr. O'Connell stated that we are going to look into it. There are procedures and protocols in place by the Allentown Police for nuisance bars.

Mr. Robert Trotner, 1910 Bayard Street – Bethlehem, stated that he wants to clarify if the next steps should be to contact Mayor Pawlowski.

Mr. O'Connell stated that he can be the conduit with Mr. Dougherty.

Ms. Diane Teti, 328 N. 8th Street, stated that her first concern are properties on the 300 block of 8th Street which has four properties that have been sitting abandoned for years. Two are them are with Habitat for Humanity. They were awarded two properties on 9th Street. Since the façade money is there, would they do something with the properties? We have not had no commission meeting since November about the homeless. It is a Commission to End Homelessness. Can you find out why we are not meeting anymore? She thanked the Rescue Mission and they have been really wonderful. They provided us with sleeping bags. The Salvation Army and Sixth Street Shelter stopped Code Blue once the winter ended and there is no place for women to go.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked for the addresses to be sent to Mr. Hanlon.

5. Approval of Minutes: April 1, 2015

APPROVED BY COMMON CONSENT

6. Old Business

NONE

7. Communications

Mr. Hanlon read the letter for the 2014 Great Places in Pennsylvania in the Category of Great Neighborhoods Certificate West End Theatre District.

2014 Great Places in Pennsylvania- Category of Great Neighborhoods Certificate

West End Theatre District

Sara Pandl, APA-PA Chapter Board of Directors, Presenter

Joe Schaefer, West End Alliance President

Michael Drabenstott, West End Alliance Past President

**2015-04-15 Very Abridged FINAL McMahon Presentation - Downtown Allentown City without video
Mid-Atlantic ITE Award for the Downtown Allentown Traffic Event Management & Mobility Plan**

8. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

Budget and Finance: Chairperson Glazier

The committee met this evening on Bill 17; the next meeting is scheduled for April 22nd at 6:00 PM.

Public Safety: Chairperson Eichenwald

The Committee met this evening; the next meeting has not yet been scheduled.

Community and Economic Development: Chairperson Guridy

The Committee has not met since the last council meeting; the next meeting is scheduled for April 22 at 6PM where we will review the federal grant programs – as in the past all councilpersons are invited to this meeting.

Parks and Recreation: Chairperson Mota

The Committee has not met since the last meeting; the next meeting has not yet been scheduled.

Public Works: Chairperson Davis

The Committee met this evening, the next meeting is not yet scheduled.

Human Resources, Administration and Appointments: Chairperson Hendricks

The Committee has not met since the last council meeting, the next meeting is not yet scheduled.

Rules, Chambers, Intergovernmental Relations and Strategy: Chairperson O’Connell

The Committee has not met since the last council meeting; there are no future meetings scheduled as of this time.

OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Jeff Glazier stated that the Blighted Property Review Board will meet on April 21st at 7:00 PM and following up on properties that are the pipeline and moving them along.

Mr. Joe Davis stated that tomorrow the AEDC board will be meeting and reviewing the current AEDC Strategic Plan, along with the city’s Economic Development Strategy and Phase I Reindustrialization Strategy.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that Allentown Housing Authority will be meeting tomorrow morning.

City Controller’s Report

Ms. Mary Ellen Koval stated that the interns will be presenting their process flow chart at the next Budget and Finance Committee meeting.

Managing Director’s Report

NONE

9. APPOINTMENTS:

Alan Salinger	Zoning Hearing Board	Term to Expire 1/03/2019
Appointment Effective May 1, 2015		

Mr. Fran Dougherty stated that with a heavy heart that we put Alan who is retiring from us and we are losing a friend, colleague, a super-professional who has served this city tremendously well. We are pleased that he will continue to serve and give back to the city at this capacity if you choose tonight.

Ms. Jeanette Eichenwald commended the administration on its choice. Mr. Salinger has been an honored and respected employee of the city for many years and an honored and respected member of our community and resident.

Mr. Julio Guridy echoed Ms. Eichenwald’s comments. We have been friends for a longtime and worked together on many projects.

RESOLUTION PASSED, 6 – 0

Mr. Ray O'Connell stated to Alan that he has known him for many years. They don't come better than you. A true professional and gentleman. He is my daughter's neighbor. You are a fine representation of the city.

Mr. Al Salinger stated that he never was the one to believe that longevity was a virtue. It's been a great place to work and practice a profession in which I enjoyed. It is wonderful to be able to contribute to this community. Thank you all for your kind words.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Mr. Salinger for his willingness to serve.

10. ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE:

Bill 16 Parking Meters

Amending Articles 533, Parking Meters and 534, Residential Permit Parking, of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Allentown by extending hours of parking meters in all parking meter areas – Monday through Saturday from 8 AM to 10 PM, increasing the meter rate from \$1 to \$2 per hour in the central business district (Hamilton Street between 4th to 10th Street and the unit blocks between Walnut and Linden), and making Walnut Street from 9th to 10th Street eligible for a Residential Parking Permit Zone designation.

Mr. Joe Davis stated to the administration that you heard the discussion and we passed it along without a recommendation.

Ms. Tamara Dolan stated that what we are proposing tonight is based on current need. We anticipate coming to Council in the future with other recommended changes. These recommendations did not come to you in a vacuum. This is part of a larger plan. We feel strongly about addressing the current need.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that he would like to make an amendment to Bill 16 by deleting Section 3 and numbering the remaining section properly.

Mr. Ray O'Connell seconded the motion.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated Section 3 will remove any reference to the Residential Parking Permit Zone.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that he requested the amendment to make sure we giving one block an opportunity to get a residential Parking Permit we should look into it more if other blocks need it.

Ms. Tamara Dolan stated that the on-going Residential Parking Permit a year is \$20.

Ms. Jeanette Eichenwald stated that it shows that in order for good decision making to occur, we the decision makers should have as much information as possible. When we last met we ask that residents would be polled. Deep thought and discussion will be placed and we will be given a comprehensive plan. There is no immediate rush. I want to wait until we have all the facts available.

Mr. Kenneth Heffentrager asked what is the amendment.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that the amendment is to look at the removal of the block and what else we could do throughout the city.

Ms. Jeanette Eichenwald stated to go back to the drawing board.

Mr. Ray O'Connell stated that this amendment is on the residential parking permit only. It is a standalone.

AMENDMENT TO REMOVE SECTION 3 FROM THE BILL PASSED, 6 – 0

Mr. Joe Davis stated that we need to do something about the parking in Center City. The arena is more than a hockey game. We have events coming up. Turnover is very important. We have to do something to open up on-street parking.

Mr. Jeff Glazier stated that he father used to say when he was never at work and doing School Board stuff, Jeffrey remember you have a business to run. Today was one of those days. Parking is one of those things in cities kind of like the Commons. Parking fills that definition. It is my understanding that the Authority studied the area under question on none arena event nights. When Ms. Dolan talks about the 85 percent number that is something that has been talked about and born out of 30 years of research. Parking is higher in the core. I find that this plan will meet the needs of downtown and its residents. There is going to be additional revenue generated from the meters. He asked Ms. Dolan within the permit parking zones you can't park on every street. The Parking Authority is committed to having a study done by the middle of July. Will that be for all permit areas or permit area 4? He asked about Walnut Street that is impacted. Arrangements will be made for permit holders on surface lots. Those arrangements need to be made and communicated.

Ms. Tamara Dolan stated all permit areas. In many of the residential zones there are lots in our decks that are discounted to residents at night and on weekends. We can't enforce after 6:00 PM, currently.

Mr. Jeff Glazier asked if the ordinance passes, the enforcement is extended to all parking areas. He stated that the plan is well thought out. It is not a financial windfall for the Parking Authority. The additional funds will be used for the benefit of the affected downtown areas. These resources can be harness to make downtown a better place. The City will do a study on what streets on in the zones. I will support this.

Ms. Tamara Dolan stated yes.

Ms. Jeanette Eichenwald addressed Mr. Glazier by stated theories are very good. I also read from professional theorists who study this and at the best plan is to have less expensive parking even free parking. Tonight, we heard about reality. We heard from residents who are obviously concerned that their lives will be impacted. We heard from six merchants who are in this area and are extremely concerned about how this plan will affect them in the negative. I am concerned about the well-thought out idea. I heard some excellent ideas not included in the plan. My concerns are with residents with no residential parking, there are businesses who are concerned how the parking will impact their livelihood, having parking lots where employees can place their vehicles, and the students at LCCC with the additional burden upon them. We need to give the plan more thought.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked for clarification on what Mr. Glazier said on the timing outside of the district zone. Did you say the residents are all eligible for parking?

Ms. Tamara Dolan stated that residents who have permits in the residential permit parking zone pay the annual \$20 and they park within their zone.

Ms. Jeanette Eichenwald stated but not those who are not in that zone.

Mr. Jeff Glazier stated that they are transient parkers. The issue with the LCCC students have been resolved in their favor.

Ms. Tamara Dolan stated that is correct. The school leases out a lot where their students can park in at no charge from the students. There is ample space. They choose to park at the meters because it is convenient for them.

Mr. Ray O'Connell asked for free.

Ms. Tamara Dolan stated that it is free to the students.

Mr. Fran Dougherty stated that Tony Ianelli and Miriam Huertas are here.

Mr. Tony Ianelli thanked Council. From a chairman's perspective, Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce. We are very concerned with what Allentown Chamber of Commerce feels. Miriam has worked her professional life with PPL and lives in Allentown. Mr. Glazier spoke about what the reasons are for. There is a balance and we get that.

Ms. Miriam Huertas stated that she is a downtown resident and a senior vice president at the Chamber of Commerce. A while back we had a City Council meeting and unfortunately I could not be here. I did not attend the meeting and in my stead Mitch Hanna attended the meeting and it went over his head. He gave information from what he was presented at the time. We need a survey of the businesses that would be impacted. Within the survey there is information that you have. A lot people that are impacted say that it will be important to have additional time on meters and it to be enforced. We had a candid difference of opinions. Parking is a hot-potato topic.

Ms. Sara Hailstone stated that it is a very difficult thing to do. Nobody likes parking. As the Community and Economic Development Director, the residents are as important to me as the businesses are and Jeff Glazier said about the studies, the time, energy that people put into really understanding the tight-walk that you have to do when you talk about urban revitalization about businesses in the downtown. We are talking about a very small area.

Mr. Ray O'Connell asked any comments from his colleagues.

Mr. Rich Fegley, 1002 S. Bradford Street, asked if they received a plan and/or have you seen a copy of this study that they spent so much time and money on. I keep hearing them say that there is no plan. That they have no plan. It is just short-term thinking. I have to tell my guests that they have to pay \$2 extra for parking and after 10:00 PM you have to pay the meter until 10:00 PM. Where is the study? None of the merchants want the extended parking. None of them are here and the ones that are here spoke negatively about it.

Ms. Jeanette Eichenwald stated that she has not seen it.

Mr. Kenneth Heffentrager stated that last year he asked was it permanent parking at every meter and you said it wasn't. Almost all the meters are in Center City. They talk about studies, but they did not talk to the residents who matter a little bit.

Mr. Guy Anthony stated as a consumer, one of the decisions on where I am going to shop, where I am going to spend my money and where I am going to go is parking. Allentown is in the middle of a Renaissance and it is in its infancy and it could be in jeopardy. Right now, parking is reasonable downtown

Allentown. This is not talking about a modest increase, it's talking about double the meters.

Mr. Lou Hershman, 405 N. Gilmore Street, stated that the bigger plan is that last year budgeted \$400,000 - \$500,000 from the Parking Authority and they came up \$200,000 short. This year, we have \$1.25 million budgeted. If you don't pass this, increase enforcement. How do we increase enforcement, give out more tickets.

Ms. Diane Teti stated that this is a premature discussion and agree that it is shooting ourselves in the foot. We are not at the point to have this discussion. The only businesses that are downtown right now are restaurants. I am more liking to leave then to feed my meters especially as a single female at 9:00 in downtown Allentown. I would like the Parking Authority to re-enforce the Rules that they now have.

Mr. Dennis Pearson, 942 E. Tilghman Street, stated that he recognizes what this plan is. It is a plan for downtown Allentown. Hopefully, it doesn't expand anywhere else. The attraction in the NIZ district is the arena and that's what is causing certain problems. Let's be careful of raising costs of the parking meters.

Mr. Tom Hahn, 2016 E. Highland Street, stated that when he attended the meetings the Parking Authority stated that we don't need the money. Tonight, I heard from one of the people on Council that the Mayor needs the money to plow snow and do things downtown.

Mr. Jeff Glazier stated that you mis-interpreted what I said early. There was a feeling earlier that the additional revenue was going to be used solely for the benefit of the Parking Authority. What the Parking Authority has agreed to do is take the additional funds at the Hamilton Street meters and meters that are at the unit blocks from 4th and Tenth and return them to the city to be used for the benefit of those areas. It could be an additional contribution to the Rescue Mission for the Blue Team to keep our streets clean or an afterschool program for some of the kids or maybe it could be for security.

Mr. Tom Hahn asked is everything Mr. Glazier said Council all agrees with.

Mr. Ray O'Connell stated that we discussed that earlier that we will put some of the revenues back to the restaurateurs, businesses downtown, park benches, and planters.

Mr. Tom Hahn asked why the residents have to pay for that.

Mr. Douglas Brace, 313 N. 10th Street, stated that as you may know, shortly after the arena opened there was a parking situation for the county government meetings. I haven't heard anything mentioned how citizens would be able to attend a City Council meetings without having to pay to park.

Mr. Jeff Glazier stated that Mr. Dougherty has an answer to that.

Mr. Fran Dougherty stated that if it passes, we have arrangements with the county to use the county lot for free.

Mr. Aaron Hodge stated that he owns a custom Men's Wear Business at 544 Hamilton and has been here since December. He stated that his clientele is everyone from recently college graduates looking for quality clothing to go to job interviews up to the highest C level executives here in Philadelphia, and New York City. No matter what income status they are at, no one likes to be nicked and dimed. When there is no demand, why enforce.

Ms. Bosco, 29th Street, stated Diane Teti talked about her concerns on safety and security. I really don't

like to go out and put money in a meter. My main question is under financial impact there is a bullet point for costs and benefits and it looks like the benefits portion is empty.

Mr. Ray O'Connell states it says financial impact and costs on-going.

Mr. Fran Dougherty stated that we spent enough time tonight talking about the pros. That is a cursory summary of the Bill. Not the details of the studies, conversation or other analysis.

Mr. Jeff Glazier stated that one of the benefits to the downtown merchants that if you can keep your parking utilization at 85 percent there is a space that some wanting to come downtown can grab a shirt on an impulse purchase. They don't have to drive around the block. With the agreement of the Parking Authority we can create a parking benefits zone and use the additional parking fee monies for the benefit of the downtown merchants and effected areas on Walnut and Linden Streets. The effected meters where the rates go up to \$2, will there be a time limit on the meters.

Ms. Tamara Dolan stated that there already have time limits. They are all different upon their location.

Mr. Jeff Glazier asked two hours. Would it be possible to adjust that?

Ms. Tamara Dolan stated that technological speaking, it is certainly possible. Two hours is about what you want a customer to use a meter.

Ms. Jeanette Eichenwald stated that it is a difference between theory and reality. We heard from merchants tonight. Not one merchant has come here this evening to tell us this is what they desire. The merchants have said that it would be a disadvantage to their business if this passes.

Mr. Ken Laudenslager, 721 W. Cumberland Street, stated that those who are unaware of history are bound to repeat it. Allentown used to be the center of all activities. I want Council to be very aware and reserved at making any adjustments. Make sure the studies are in place.

Mr. Tony Ianelli stated that people are saying they haven't heard from a merchant. Mr. Glazier's business has been here for over 100 years. I don't know if they qualifies you as a merchant. One thing we have missed and that is this city has evolved like never before. The amount of businesses that moving into the city and into these offices are unreal, unheard of. People asked where are they going to park. Tamara and Sara have provided parking. We have had tremendous growth.

Mr. Doug Brace stated that the limit is approximately two hours. If you go longer, the person in the event may take that spot and you may lose parking revenue.

Mr. Lou Shoup, 1130 Hamilton Street, stated that he is an independent businessman here in downtown Allentown. I am a computer security analyst for 25 years. Sometimes I work out of my home at or an office nearby. I generally charge \$50 an hour for my special services and one of my biggest complaints is parking. By raising these rates, it is going to change my customers perception of coming downtown Allentown. As a consumer, I understand that point.

ORDINANCE PASSED, 5 – 1 (Eichenwald)

Bill 14 Curb and Sidewalk Funds

Amending the 2015 Capital Fund Budget to provide for an appropriation of Four Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$400,000) reflecting receipt of funds from property owner reimbursement to install replacement and new

curbing, sidewalks, crossovers in advance of the 2015 Streets Improvement Program. The Bureau of Engineering is supervising and monitoring the funds.

Mr. Joe Davis stated that it was forwarded favorably, 3 – 0.

ORDINANCE PASSED, 6 – 0

BILL 15 Bridge Repair Funds

Amending the 2015 Capital Fund Budget to provide for a transfer of Forty-Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$40,000.00) from the Union Street Bridge project to the Bridge Repairs Capital Account. Bureau of Engineering is supervising and monitoring the funds.

Mr. Joe Davis stated that it was forwarded favorably, 3 – 0.

ORDINANCE PASSED, 6 – 0

Bill 18 Ordinance for funds

Amending the 2015 Capital Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of \$16,943.00 as a result of grant reimbursements, settlements for illegal tree removals and payment in lieu of tree plantings for the purchase of new street trees.

Mr. Joe Davis stated that it was forwarded favorably, 3 – 0.

ORDINANCE PASSED, 6 – 0

Bill 17 PO Rollover 2014 to 2015

Amending the 2015 General Fund, the 2015 Liquid Fuels Fund, the 2015 Trexler Fund, the 2015 Risk Fund, the 2015 Equipment Fund and the 2015 Solid Waste Fund by appropriating funds from the un-appropriated balances for the rollover of encumbrances for the prior year commitments

Mr. Jeff Glazier stated it was recommended favorably.

ORDINANCE PASSED, 6 – 0

11. RESOLUTIONS FOR FINAL PASSAGE:

NONE

12. ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION:

Bill 19 Lead Funding Modification

Referred to CEDC

Amending the 2015 Grant Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of \$5,000 as a result of a Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Health Grant to the Bureau of Building Standards & Safety to provide additional monies for lead paint remediation and repealing Ordinance No. 15184 passed by City Council on February 4, 2015.

Mr. Ray O'Connell asked any comments from my colleagues or the public.

Bill 20 Rental Rehab

Referred to CEDC

An Ordinance providing for the expenditure of Forty-seven Thousand (\$47,000) Dollars received by the City of Allentown from the repayment of loans made through the Rental Rehabilitation Program to be used for eligible HOME Investment Partnerships Program activities.

Mr. Ray O'Connell asked any comments from my colleagues or the public.

Bill 21 Reprograms Funds

Referred to CEDC

An Ordinance amending the Consolidated Plan One Year Action Plan for the Thirty-fifth, Thirty-sixth, Thirty-seventh, Thirty-eighth, Thirty-ninth and Fortieth years of the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) which re-programs Three Hundred Sixty-seven Thousand Thirty-six (\$367,036) Dollars of unexpended funds.

Mr. Ray O'Connell asked any comments from my colleagues or the public.

Bill 22 CDBG Accounts Ordinance

Referred to CEDC

An Ordinance providing for the expenditure of Three Million Four Hundred Forty-one Thousand Four Hundred Thirty-five (\$3,441,435) Dollars in Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), and Emergency Solutions Grants Program (ESG) funds for the July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016 grant year, received by the City of Allentown under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended; The Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act of 2009; and Title II of the National Affordable Housing Act of 1990, as amended; for the purpose of undertaking programs of housing and community development within the City.

Mr. Ray O'Connell asked any comments from my colleagues or the public.

Bill 23 Purchasing Reorg

Referred to Budget and Finance

Amending the 2015 General Fund Budget by eliminating one full time Senior Buyer position (11N) and replacing it with one full time Buyer position (10N) – there is no budgetary impact as this was the remaining budgeted allocation for the full time Senior Buyer position.

Mr. Ray O'Connell asked any comments from my colleagues or the public.

Bill 24 Health Fees

Referred to CEDC

Amending Article 395.23, of the **Health License, Operational, Inspection and Plan Review Fees** by adjusting licensing fees to more closely reflect the actual costs of conducting the licensing and inspection program activities and also creates some new licensing categories that are representative of the changes taking place in the retail food industry.

Mr. Ray O'Connell asked any comments from my colleagues or the public.

Bill 25 Public Safety Civil Service Rules

Referred to HR, Admin and Appointments

Adopting Article 174, Police and Fire Rules for Hiring and Promotions, which spells out rules that cover the prerequisites, qualifications, written and oral examinations for new applicants and the promotion of current firefighters and police officers pursuant to the Third Class City Code revisions and repealing existing Articles 176, Fire Civil Service Rules and 179, Police Civil Service Rules, of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Allentown.

Mr. Ray O'Connell asked any comments from my colleagues or the public.

13. RESOLUTIONS FOR INTRODUCTION:

R20 Consolidated Plan Resolution

Referred to CEDC

Approves the Submission of the Five Year Consolidated Plan

Mr. Ray O'Connell asked any comments from my colleagues or the public.

R21 HARB

Certificates of Appropriateness for 329 N. 8th Street, 345 N. 8th Street, and 533 Liberty Street.

Mr. Ray O'Connell asked any comments from my colleagues or the public.

RESOLUTION PASSED, 6 – 0

R22 911 Draft

Supports Municipal Control of 911 Systems.

The current draft of the legislation that is being reviewed by both the House and Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee removes the language that allows the Cities of Allentown and Bethlehem to receive funding and maintain control of their respective 9-1-1 Centers, giving control to the base County.

Mr. Michael Hilbert stated Council was made aware several weeks ago about pending legislation in the Pennsylvania General Assembly which would rewrite the current Title 35 legislation which is where the City of Allentown and other facilities get their money. You were made aware that there was a movement within the House to exclude the Cities of Allentown and Bethlehem 911 Center from that legislation. After that was made public, the administrations in the City of Allentown and the City of Bethlehem working together followed this legislation and found out that was the case that there were efforts in the House to specifically exclude cities from the 911 Bill. Allentown and Bethlehem being the only two within the Commonwealth. We have been working in lock-step with the administrations of the City of Allentown and the City of Bethlehem to gain support of all our local legislatures and we have been doing that and are here tonight to seek your support as well to add your comments, and wishes to that list of support. Just as an update the Bill which is now known as House Bill 911 was voted out of the Veteran's Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee today and went to the House floor and the language that excludes the City of Allentown and the City of Bethlehem was included in that legislation. We were unsuccessful in getting it pulled out of committee. The fight is not over and this is why we are here seeking your support. We want to add your comments, your feelings and your weight behind our campaign to get this changed.

Mr. Ray O'Connell stated I am with you. Colleagues, please weigh in.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that this Bill will be detrimental for us. We have to make sure that our cities stick together and we keep our 911. I am in full support of the resolution. We have an excellent 911, and an excellent director and I don't want to see it mixed with any other municipalities. I would like to keep it separate.

Mr. Ray O'Connell asked what was the vote. That is a committee that Mr. Schweyer is on.

Mr. Michael Hilbert stated that is correct.

Mr. Fran Dougherty stated you can assume all party lines.

Ms. Jeanette Eichenwald stated that she discovered that often lobbying what matters the most. Do we have a lobbying effort?

Mr. Fran Dougherty stated yes and a vaulted one at that. State Representative Peter Schweyer is not only a State Rep., but he serves on a specific committee. He has fought tooth and nail for the city one amendment after another and they all went down in defeat, but he is fighting the good fight. If it passes the House, our fight will be in the Senate where we will hope through our State Senator that things will change.

Ms. Jeanette Eichenwald asked can you mass a citizens group to come and get on buses and you go.

Mr. Fran Dougherty stated that Mike can talk about it and I have to allow his efforts here. He asked Mike to speak on how he mobilized the grassroots.

Mr. Michael Hilbert stated that there are two 911 groups in the State of Pennsylvania PA APCO and PA NENO of which I am a member of both groups. My colleague in Bethlehem, the 911 Director in Bethlehem and myself have been actively involved in this legislation and in writing this legislation for over two and half years. At no point, during those discussions was Allentown or Bethlehem in jeopardy. This Bill is also being sponsored by C – CAP which is a county organization, but they have had no issue with the City of Allentown or the City of Bethlehem. When we learned of the efforts in the House to exclude the cities of Allentown and Bethlehem, myself and my colleague from Bethlehem forced the hand of the PA APCO and the PA NENO to get behind us and lobby for our 911 Centers to be maintained and we have secured that support. We have worked very closely with the administration of the City of Bethlehem. Our administration has sent letters to their representatives and Bethlehem has sent letters to our representatives. We are working in lock-step and complimenting each other's efforts. We are looking to extend that out. We are requesting support from the other 911 Directors throughout the Commonwealth to not only lobby their representatives for the passage of this Bill. This is a very important Bill for 911 and the Commonwealth. We are asking them to lobby on the efforts to retain Allentown and Bethlehem in addition to the Bill itself.

Mr. Fran Dougherty stated in addition to that we asked our local FOP and Fire Union to help out and mobilize their statewide union who has also lobbied on our behalf.

Mr. Jeff Glazier stated that the negative is that the current funding expires at the 30th of June. This is going to get done one way or another or the funding stream goes away.

Mr. Michael Hilbert stated that they would not to pass this Bill or extend the sunset for another year.

Mr. Fran Dougherty stated that we all know that we can't operate without that subsidy.

Mr. Jeff Glazier stated that nobody can. Peter said that Allentown and Bethlehem are significantly larger than some of the county systems that are out there. The rationale for having this separate is certainly very strong.

Mr. Michael Hilbert stated that if you look at it from a workload standpoint for 911 calls only. Out of the 69 911 Centers within the Commonwealth, Allentown had the 53rd most 911 calls and that is from a 2010 legislative and budget analysis report, Bethlehem was 39th. If you add our two calls together we are right up there with the big boys of Alleghany and Erie. We do have significant workload.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that coming from the County Communications Center when I was in South Whitehall Township many years ago, there is no comparison. To expect someone from the county dispatch to understand the intricacies of the City of Allentown, you just can't expect them to do it. I credit Executive Muller from the County who said that he would probably take on some of those. There is no guarantee. It is going to be a real detriment and a danger to our public safety agencies.

Mr. Ray O'Connell stated that he totally agrees. He asked any comments from his colleagues or the public.

Mr. Dennis Pearson stated that he doesn't think the state should be doing what they are doing with the 911 Bill. A couple weeks ago when Percy Dougherty brought it up as a proposal by the county group and was in favor of it. I said there is one problem with people who might run 911 and it would be locations of certain off block streets in the City of Allentown.

Mr. Doug Brace stated that one thing he has been doing with this in trying to explain his concern with his social media audience is I used to live in North Whitehall Township and North Whitehall is the Lehigh County and in that situation there were non-emergency situations that I would need to contact somebody and the county doesn't necessarily dispatch in non-emergency situations and Allentown does.

Mr. Ray O'Connell stated that it would be a detriment to the City of Allentown. He asked any comments from his colleagues or the public.

RESOLUTION PASSED, 6 – 0

14. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Ray O'Connell stated that we have a beautiful arena and we need to do something and have more events. We were told by the administration that the arena will have ongoing events. We need to start the conversation with someone for events.

Mr. Fran Dougherty stated that he couldn't agree more and the Mayor shares the same thoughts on this matter. It may be pre-mature, but I believe there will be an announcement tomorrow from Comcast-Spectacor with additional events.

15. GOOD AND WELFARE

NONE

16. ADJOURNED: 9:28 PM

Council meetings are held on the first and third Wednesday of each month beginning at 7:00 pm in Council Chambers. For copies of the agenda or meeting announcements, please visit our website at www.allentownpa.gov or contact the Clerk at Michael.Hanlon@allentownpa.gov to receive an email notice of the meetings.