

Julio Guridy, President
Ray O'Connell, Vice President
Joseph Davis
Jeanette Eichenwald
Daryl Hendricks
Cynthia Y. Mota
Peter Schweyer



Allentown City Council
435 Hamilton Street
Allentown, Pa. 18101
AllentownPa.Gov

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**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
October 1, 2014
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

COUNCIL MEETING – 7:00 PM

1. Invocation: Pastor Mia White - Hope United Church of Christ

2. Pledge to the Flag

3. Roll Call: Davis, Eichenwald, Hendricks, Guridy, Mota, O'Connell, Schweyer
Dales Wiles represented for the Solicitor's office

4. Courtesy of the Floor

Mr. Lou Hershman, 405 N. Gilmore Street, asked about a Budget and Finance meeting on the Actuarial Study. When will the Annual Financial Statement, 5 Year Plan be available.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated we will work on it.

Mr. Peter Schweyer stated that he doesn't serve on the Pension Board. I will take it under advisement.

Mr. Glenn Hunsicker refused to give an address and asked for an update and status on the quarterly report on the Capital Projects. He asked two weeks ago why the 211 wasn't put in an account with an account number assigned to it.

Mr. Schweyer stated that we passed that ordinance and it is due September. It should be part of the October meeting. He stated that we discussed it at length and Ms. Koval informed us that it was put into a separate account. My goal is to get accounts listed into that document and get more details that includes the transfers.

Ms. Paulette Hunter, 737 W. Tilghman Street, stated that she is here about the Center City Neighborhood Strategic Plan that was done. They had posters on 7th and Hamilton Street. She wanted to know how many city residents participated and what are the results.

Mr. Joe Davis stated that was brought it up at the last Council meeting. The request was asked. I will follow up.

Mr. Dennis Pearson, 942 E. Tilghman Street, stated that now that you are planning to change the name of the park, it would be about time you do something there since the 1990s. Because of the overuse, redo the grassy area of the baseball fields and soccer fields. Watch out for the potholes where the grades are. It needs to be fixed.

Mr. Kenneth Heffentrager, 733 N. 11th Street- Allentown Tenants Association, thanked Mr. Hendricks for following up. People complained about the field at Irving. Noting Emaus refused to play Dieruff on the field. Boarding up places look unsightly. He believes that when a building is tagged, the city needs to get on the owner and find out if they are going to do anything with it. Can you financially do something with it? Some of the properties are big. The 300 block of N. 9th Street properties are big.

Mr. Ray O'Connell asked Mr. Heffentrager and Mr. Pearson what sport Emmaus refused to play Dieruff in.

Mr. Heffentrager stated soccer.

Ms. Mota asked when was this.

Ms. CeCe Gerlach, 956 W. Walnut Street, stated that due to some of the changes at the parking garages, the parking the LCCC students used to only pay a \$1 for, has now increased to \$10.

Mr. Guridy stated that Mr. O'Connell sits on the Parking Authority Board.

Mr. O'Connell stated that we had a Parking Authority meeting yesterday and that was brought up. There was a letter to the Editor. The Parking Authority and the president of LCCC are talking. Some relief may come on LCCC's end.

Mr. Julian Kern, 252 E. Walnut Street, asked if the housing update given tonight has anything to do with the Housing Taskforce. Who is on the Taskforce?

Mr. Davis stated that they developing the strategies at the meetings. Various realtors and business leaders are on this taskforce and it is separate from the Community Strategy Board.

5. Approval of Minutes: September 17, 2014

Approved by Common Consent

6. Old Business

None

7. Communications

Mr. Guridy stated that there is a Public Hearing on October 15th at 6:45 PM in Council Chambers. That will be in regards to the Riverfront Redevelopment Overlay District for the PRD – Planning Residential Developments. We will be meeting here.

8. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

Budget and Finance: Chairperson Schweyer

The committee met on September 18 and reviewed the CAFR and monthly reports. The next meeting is scheduled on October 22. We will do monthly financial reports and Act 46 and the Quarterly Capital Report.

Public Safety: Chairperson Eichenwald

The Committee has not met since the last Council meeting, there are no future meetings scheduled.

Community and Economic Development: Chairperson Davis

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

Parks and Recreation: Chairperson Mota

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

Public Works: Chairperson O'Connell

The Committee met this evening and have two items on the agenda tonight; the next meeting is scheduled for October 15th at 6:40 PM.

Human Resources, Administration and Appointments: Chairperson Hendricks

The Committee has not met since the last Council meeting, there are no future meetings scheduled.

Rules, Chambers, Intergovernmental Relations and Strategy: Chairperson Guridy

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

OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Peter Schweyer stated that he serves on the Board of Directors for LANTA and they concluded a search process to replace our soon to be retired Executive Director Armand Greco. We selected Owen O'Neil. I am very excited about his appointment.

Mr. Guridy stated that the Allentown Housing Authority had a meeting last week and Council will get the meeting minutes in their email.

Controller's Report

None

Managing Director's Reports

Mr. Fran Dougherty stated that the Administration is extremely pleased to put forth two candidates for the Ethics Board tonight. We are fully supportive and enthusiastic that we can get two gentlemen of this caliber to serve on the Ethics Board.

9. APPOINTMENTS:

Ethics Board Appointments

| | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Gerald Alfano | 12/15/2014 | (Replacing Grant Harranty) |
| Robert Donatelli | 12/15/2015 | (Replacing Sy Traub) |

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that tonight we have two candidates, both to be appointed to the Ethics Board at the retirement of Mr. Grant Harranty and Mr. Sy Traub.

Mr. Guridy stated that their resumes are in your packets. I have known Mr. Alfano for a long time and Attorney Donatelli.

Mr. Schweyer stated that I serve on the Board for the Alliance of Building Communities with Mr. Alfano and serve on the board of the Friends of Allentown Parks with Mr. Donatelli. Neither of those positions are compensated so there are no conflicts tonight.

Mr. Hendricks commended both of them for their willingness to serve.

Mr. Heffentrager asked what does the Ethics Board do.

Mr. Guridy stated that if it is an ethical issue.

Mr. O'Connell stated that there are five members and if you were a resident think that I am doing something unethical, you can file a complaint with the Ethics Board. They would come together, investigate and make a rule.

Mr. Dennis Pearson, 942 E. Tilghman Street, stated that he is assuming the 12/15/2014 term to expire is correct and we will have another motion regarding this individual.

Mr. O'Connell stated that Grant Harrity is being replaced, and Mr. Alfano is on until December 15, 2014. We would like Mr. Alfano to continue and hopefully in January we can look and say Mr. Alfano we are going to extend yours term until 2020. Hopefully, we will see Mr. Donatelli at the end of next year. They have to fulfill the expired term.

RESOLUTION PASSED, 7 – 0

Mr. Robert Donatelli stated that he looks forward to serving on the board. He is a lifelong Allentownian and has been practicing for over 50 years.

Mr. Gerald Alfano thanked Council. He wants to do more for the city.

10. ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE (To be Voted On):

Mr. O'Connell made a motion to move Bill 38 and Resolution 45 forward.

Ms. Cynthia Mota seconded the motion.

The Motion was approved by Common Consent.

Bill 38 Andre Reed Way

Providing that a section of East Washington Street between North Irving and North Jerome Streets, be called "Andre Reed Way."

Ms. Mota stated that it was passed favorably, 3 – 0.

Mr. Guridy stated that he seconds everything that Mr. O'Connell said at the committee. He met Andre back in the 80s.

Ms. Jeanette Eichenwald stated that she is a football fan and is in awe with Mr. Reed's athletic prowess. I am more in awe of the man that he is, of his character and his family. She thanked Mr. Hughes for all of his efforts in bringing this honor to fruition.

Mr. Guridy thanked Mr. Hughes, Mr. Hendricks, and Mr. O'Connell.

ORDINANCE PASSED, 7 – 0

R 45 - Park Renaming

Renames Irving Park Andre Reed Park

Mr. Guridy asked if there are any comments from the dais.

Mr. Schweyer stated that he wants to bring a comment that Mr. Pearson brought up. The last thing that anybody wants to do is to talk about this great honor and not have the park look at its absolute best. I know Rick, Vicky and the entire department are doing everything they possibly can for all our parks in the city. Considering this recognition when we get the capital budget for next year, if there is a little something left over that we can do to add a little extra paint, extra playground equipment or grass seed to Reed Park it will very appropriate.

Ms. Mota stated she agrees with Mr. Schweyer and said she was going to speak to the administration about that.

Mr. O'Connell asked if Dieruff High School and the city could work together on the park.

RESOLUTION PASSED, 7 – 0

Bill 34 ASD2014

Amending the 2014 General Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Two Million Six Thousand Two Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$2,006,250.00) as a result of a grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to the City of Allentown in the form of a RACP pass through grant to the Allentown School District for the construction of a classroom facility at 4th and Allen Street.

Mr. Schweyer stated that Bill 34 was approved with a 3 – 0 recommendation. The building is complete. The 2.5 percent is held by the state in a retainer until all the auditing is done. These are drawdown grants.

Ms. Eichenwald asked is this a new school building.

Mr. Schweyer stated that this is the old Kids Peace.

Ms. Lauren Giguere stated that it was a Kids Peace facility at 4th and Allen and they rehabilitated the building

Ms. Giguere stated that it is being utilized as a school. They started using it in the Fall.

Mr. Guridy stated that it is an alternative school.

Ms. Giguere stated that they already received one payment of over a \$1 million. This would be the second payment that they would receive.

Mr. O'Connell stated that the school is up and running and beautiful. It is called the William Penn Building.

Mr. Heffentrager asked if the kids from Jackson will be going to this school now.

Mr. O'Connell stated that the Jackson School building was called the IBeam Building and that was utilized for alternative education. It is going to supplement it and the school district will continue to keep the building for office building.

ORDINANCED PASSED, 7 – 0

Bill 35 RACP Grant - Allentown Symphony Association

Amending the 2014 General Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Four Hundred and Eighty-Four Thousand (\$484,000) Dollars as a result of additional grant funds from the Commonwealth

of Pennsylvania to the City of Allentown in the form of a RACP pass through grant to the Allentown Symphony Association for construction costs.

Mr. Schweyer stated that it was recommended favorably, 3 – 0. This is another RACP and pass-through.

Ms. Giguere stated that it is to pay for a new boiler that they had installed in January and the balcony project. Next year, they will be doing Phase III of the RACP Project.

ORDINANCED PASSED, 7 – 0

Bill 36 Fairgrounds Fence Matching Funds

Amending the 2014 Capital Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of One hundred eighteen thousand dollars (\$118,000) from the Lehigh County Agricultural Society to be used towards matching funds for the construction of the fence and landscaping at the Fairgrounds.

Mr. O'Connell stated that Mr. Messinger and Mr. Berger did an outstanding job with the questions from Mr. Hershman about the accounting on the fence. It passed, 3 – 0.

Mr. Craig Messinger stated that 1238 is the actual project number. The other numbers are different accounts.

Ms. Giguere stated that if you look on the Ordinance it has 1238 and that 001 denotes as a Capital Project. 03 Public Works, 1238 is the specific project, 1412 is the funding source and that varies.

ORDINANCED PASSED, 7 – 0

Bill 37 Street Vacation

Providing for the vacation of Court Street from the centerline of N. Sixth Street in a westerly direction for a distance of ninety (90') feet to the projected West lot line of 22 N. Sixth Street in the Fifth Ward of the City of Allentown.

Mr. O'Connell stated that it passed favorably, 3 – 0. He asked Mr. Messinger and Mr. Berger to give brief points.

Mr. Messinger stated that it is for the Street Vacation for the Cosmopolitan to have some outdoor seating. The area is closed off and not being used as a closed street. It is an outdoor place with business through the line. I think it is the right thing to do.

Mr. Gurdy stated that Bill Grube asked to be excused for the record and I didn't think it was going to be a problem so I said it would be ok.

ORDINANCED PASSED, 7 – 0

11. RESOLUTIONS FOR FINAL PASSAGE:

R45 moved up.

12. ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION:

Bill 39 Department of Justice Grant

Referred to Public Safety

Amending the 2014 General Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of \$68,202 from a Department of Justice grant, 2014-DJ-BX-0793 to the Police Department to provide for the

installation of digital In-Car Video System Police Cameras in patrol vehicles.

Mr. Guridy asked any comments from the public.

Bill 40 Year Round Street Cleaning

Referred to Public Works

Amending Article 539, Street Cleaning, of the codified ordinances, by adding a section that delineates certain districts that will be subject to year round street cleaning. Those areas include the following districts:

#1: Front Street to 10th Street, Chew to Sumner and 4th to Front from Chew to Union Streets, as posted.

#2: 10th to 17th from Martin Luther King Jr. Drive to Sumner Avenue, as posted.

#9: 4th to 12th Streets from Union to Chew Streets, as posted.

Mr. Guridy asked any comments from the public.

Mr. O'Connell stated that he thought for October 15th he had two encroachments. Now, we have Bill 40, year round street cleaning. I would like to get dates. I think it should be a standalone meeting.

Mr. Heffentrager asked if the city would consider what Philadelphia, Detroit and parts of New York do with the year round street cleaning would be snow removal days.

Mr. Messinger stated that currently we do that in District 9. The amount of resources that it takes to complete that we would not be able to do any other districts.

Bill 41 Donation

Referred to Public Safety

Amending the 2014 General Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of \$1,446.94 as a result of a donation to the Police Department for the purchase of a bicycle.

Mr. Guridy asked any comments from the public.

13. RESOLUTIONS FOR INTRODUCTION:

R46 Encroachment 726 Hall Street.doc

Referred to Public Works

Encroachment: Steps at 726 Hall Street

Mr. Guridy asked any comments from the public.

R47 Encroachment

Referred to Public Works

Encroachment: Sign at 707 North 4th Street

Mr. Guridy asked any comments from the public.

14. NEW BUSINESS

None

15. GOOD AND WELFARE

Ms. Mota stated that Council would like to invite everyone for National Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration at City Hall on October 15th from 4:00 PM – 6:45 PM. Bring family and friends.

Mr. Guridy stated that National Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated on September 15 to October 15 every year. Most Latin American Countries got their independence between those months.

Mr. Guridy stated that he hopes everyone is enjoying beautiful downtown and able to go to some of the games.

16. ADJOURNED: 7:55 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.