

Julio Guridy, President
Ray O'Connell, Vice President
Frank J. Concannon
Jeanette Eichenwald
Cynthia Y. Mota
Michael Schlossberg
Peter Schweyer

Allentown City Council
435 Hamilton Street

Allentown, Pa. 18101
AllentownPa.Gov



COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
April 4, 2012 - 7:30 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

- 1. Invocation: Cynthia Mota**
- 2. Pledge to the Flag**
- 3. Roll Call: Eichenwald, Guridy, Mota, O'Connell, Schlossberg, Schweyer**
Frances Fruhwirth represented for the Solicitor's office

4. Courtesy of the Floor

Mr. Lichtenwalner, 1215 Lehigh Parkway South, Apartment 2 Society Hill, stated that the Mayor had this on loan for a while and provided Council the Greetings from Allentown landmark pictures.

Mr. Kirk Raup, S.M.A.R.T. Regional Rail in Bethlehem stated that he wants the three cities Allentown, Bethlehem and Easton to get together to create an agency to bring groceries to the Lehigh Valley. He wants to receive a small grant for the waterfront project. There will be a secret referendum in November for a tax provision to pay for this and tack on 1/3 percent of sales tax to pay for this. We can't afford it. The study was very inaccurate. The Lehigh Valley is three big cities. It is something that is long overdue and we deserve it.

Ms. Eichenwald thanked him for his efforts. She asked who is on the committee. Are there public officials on the committee, volunteers, or citizens of the region?

Mr. Raup stated that he has been working with the new Lehigh Valley. He is trying to pull together the cities and get something started because we have been talking about this for decades and he would like to get passed it if they can.

Ms. Eichenwald stated that this is a continuation of Mr. Marin's efforts.

Mr. Guridy asked if he talked to people from Easton and Lafayette College. He knows they had a committee going on one time which was very well attended.

Mr. Raup stated that he has not met with Lafayette College. The last he spoke to Easton officials, it was over the summer. They have a committee for a time and it was dedicated to rail and he was part of that committee until it was dissolved three or four months ago.

Mr. Guridy stated to talk to Mayor Panto if he has a chance.

Mr. Raup stated that he did. Easton has done more work than anybody else. They have all the facts and the figures for him to work with. He believes Easton has done a lot.

Mr. John Ingram stated that he is here to talk about two issues. The first one is the City Council vacancy which just opened yesterday. He just likes to point out that he is the last remaining candidate who ran last year who has not served on City Council of the democrats. He is a resident and has his business in the City of Allentown. He thinks that deserves some attention. He has suggestions in regards to the interviews if that is ok. The first one is you have used the term interviews and the fact of the matter is a number of candidates who appeared to you a couple of months spent 90 percent of their times reading statements. When someone goes to a job interview they don't sit down and read statements. They answer questions and they give questions and there is give and take, but they don't read statements. The best City Councilman has to be responsive to residents and their questions on the cuff or the spur of the moment or AdHoc and they have to be prepared and knowledgeable and have to know that something is going on without having to prepare for it. He thinks the best Councilman should be able to do. You as Council people read statements all the time. Call it something else, don't call it an interview. It is ok if you ask different candidates different questions. If you are concerned about some kind of lawsuit over something like that he thinks they are being a little over concerned and their questions are certainly ok to ask questions of specific candidates that relate to that particular candidate and the candidates background and experience and education. He does not think they should be overly concerned about some kind of lawsuit because somebody was mistreated or was at a disadvantage because of the questioning. The candidate should be mature enough to be able to handle any question as long as the question is not totally out of line. He asked is this whole controversy and if there is a lawsuit in regards to about local governments with the NIZ. He suggested and stated that the fact of the matter is most of the revenue is coming from the NIZ by far are state revenues. The local government and earned income tax aspect that particular revenue component is very minor compared to the rest of it and it is kind of silly for these local governments to go through this lawsuit when you can just amend and change it and not include the local government earned income tax. It is not needed based on what he sees. It is not needed for this project. There is plenty of revenue coming from primarily the state taxes, income and sales taxes, wholesale taxes. Instead of going to court and having a long drawn out process, just settle and don't include the other local government income tax for the residents earned income taxes. It is not necessary. He asked Mr. Dougherty if he would like to comment on that.

Mr. Guridy stated that there are people pursuing that, but we don't have any information.

Mr. Dougherty stated to his colleagues and the administration is handling that issues. We know that a lawsuit has been filed in state court and the City of Allentown has not been mentioned and we have no standing in that lawsuit.

Mr. O'Connell stated that he finds it somewhat puzzling in his own opinion and somewhat troubling that Mr. Ingram is asking or telling Council how to proceed on the vacancy on City Council.

Mr. Ingram stated that he was not telling them, he was suggesting. He preference his remarks by stating they were suggestions.

Mr. O'Connell stated that he finds Mr. Ingram's suggestions troubling and puzzling. What they did last time and he thinks they are going to proceed the same way this time. We have a vacancy, applicants can apply. We have to accept Frank's resignation and they will do that very shortly and in the time the clocks starts clicking at that point, but it was like an open book test. We want to keep the playing field leveled and have all applicants interviewed and we want to keep it transparent. Everyone had the same opportunity to answer the questions in any way they see fit. They did that and he thought the process was fair. We had many applicants that was outstanding and we could have chosen probably four, five or seven of them, but we as City Councilmembers will undertake the process, and he is keeping for himself, but he thinks his colleagues will agree the same way they did last time and let it go from there.

Mr. Ingram asked if Mr. O'Connell understood what the definition of an interview.

Mr. O'Connell asked Mr. Ingram what is his suggestion that they call it because he did not come up with one, dialog.

Mr. Ingram stated anything, but an interview.

Mr. O'Connell stated whatever they want to call it, they will call it. Whatever they want to call it they will go from there and obviously Mr. Ingram will be one of the applicants, he would assume.

Mr. Ingram stated that he believes so.

Mr. O'Connell wished Mr. Ingram well.

Mr. Dennis Pearson stated that the one thing that should be stated about the NIZ district that it has already been a raid on the eastside of Allentown for one of our businesses and that was the Darwood Wholesale that was brought by a group that has relocated and forced to stay in the NIZ district. He wants to know as the president of his neighborhood association he wants to know what the city is going to do about the empty zone on the eastside where you have a vacant Darwood building and you have a vacant stand and a gas station, vacant 7 – Eleven and former car dealer in the same vicinity. It is looking like a dark hole in his neighborhood and the City of Allentown should concentrate on rebuilding that and not concentrating on saying this area is Allentown. East Allentown is Allentown too.

Mr. O'Connell stated that in responding to your statements Mr. Pearson, there are many other businesses that are empty throughout the city, not only on the east side. He extremely respects his efficacy for the eastside. He stated that he has known Mr. Pearson for a long time, but the deal between the Darwood Wholesale Company and the people who brought that was a private deal. It is like someone buying a home on the west end and buying a home on the eastside, it is a private deal. There is nothing you can do about that.

Mr. Schweyer stated that the actual warehouse is staying on the eastside. He stated that the corporate office for Darwood Wholesale is moving, but the actual warehouse is staying there. It will not be a vacant property.

Mr. O'Connell stated well it is not vacant.

Mr. Pearson stated that it is vacant. There has been no activity at that site. Unless you prove to me there has been work there that is the point that he is trying to make from Masteralle Street almost to Jerome Street you have an empty zone on Hanover Avenue. It will be made more empty if Darwood Wholesale is an empty and it looks like now it is an empty building unless they plan to do something else. The fact is we have looked at stuff. It says it all. In 1947, the Weston Electric when it wanted to move in this area they were shown four spots by the Chamber of Commerce and none was on the eastside of Allentown. They chose not to look there. It happened that the person involved in Weston Electric coming from the airport saw that land and thought it was important for their needs and the Lehigh Chamber of Commerce changed their minds. It is also the attitudes also prevailing in the book that when they build the world headquarters on the Southside of Allentown people were complaining of Mack building their headquarters in Southside of Allentown because it was in the suburbs. South side is not the suburbs, eastside is not the suburbs and neither is the city so accept us as full membership in the city. It is like saying we have the IronPigs which is not a city function. Admit the IronPigs Stadium (Coca-Cola) is on the eastside. That is not in Mr. Whelan's book either. We want full membership.

Mr. O'Connell asked Mr. Pearson to keep Council aware of that warehouse because it would be awful hard to move that manufacturing into center city and he thinks Mr. Schweyer is correct, it would be the offices. They have to have a huge warehouse because what they are doing a lot of volume.

Mr. Pearson stated that there is an empty lot unless they are changing to another location on the eastside, but at that point it appears all vacant.

Mr. Guridy thanked Mr. Pearson.

Mr. Kenneth Heffentrager, 11th and Washington Streets, asked who is supposed to enforce the vacant building laws pertaining to it being secure and litter-free. At 132 N 7th Street, there is so much garbage at the back of that property.

Mr. Guridy stated that would be our code enforcement department.

Mr. Schweyer stated that it would be recycling and solid waste.

Mr. Heffentrager asked if it enforcement it is Code Enforcement and if it is litter it goes to trash.

5. Approval of Minutes: March 7, 2012, March 21, 2012

Minutes approved by Common Consent.

6. Old Business

Ms. Eichenwald stated that she is pleased to say thanks to Mr. Dougherty, the Spanish classes started last Thursday at 3:45 PM and our second Spanish class will be held tomorrow.

Mr. Guridy thanked Ms. Eichenwald and asked did they have any takers.

Ms. Eichenwald stated yes, we had quite a number.

Mr. Dougherty stated that they did not have enough as expected, but that will change for the next class. The feedback from the people that did attend was nothing short of phenomenal. We know we have a seasoned teacher and we had a Bureau Manager's meeting and it was a topic of discussion and people who basically gave testimonials and said that you are a phenomenal teacher and you will see a rise in attendance.

Ms. Eichenwald thanked Mr. Dougherty.

Mr. Guridy asked how many years did you teach.

Ms. Eichenwald started forty. She stated that she is especially pleased because it was exceedingly difficult to convince some of my colleagues of my capabilities, thank you very much.

Ms. Mota stated to Ms. Eichenwald that we know you are well capable.

Mr. Guridy stated that he is glad it was started and glad that people came out and would love to see the results. He asked would it be a graduation.

Ms. Eichenwald stated that there might be. On a serious note, she is so very much impressed by the employees of the City of Allentown that they decided to engage in this. It is not easy, after we pass a certain age in life to begin a study of a language and it shows that they have a concern and caring of all the citizens in the community that they wish to make this effort. She thanked Mr. Dougherty for helping make it happen and asked him to please convey to the entire workforce that she is proud to be associated with them and the interest of serving the citizens.

Mr. Guridy stated to Ms. Eichenwald if she ever decides to go on vacation and needs a substitute, you have two more here.

Ms. Eichenwald stated good, she is glad to hear it.

7. Communications

Mr. Guridy stated that we all know Mr. Concannon sent a letter of resignation and he believes that Council regretfully accepts it. He asked for someone to make a motion that we accept Mr. Concannon's resignation letter.

Mr. Schlossberg stated that he would like to make a motion to accept Mr. Concannon's resignation with regrets.

Council accepted Mr. Concannon's resignation letter by Common Consent.

Mr. Guridy stated that they will start the process and will be putting out a notice in the paper.

Mr. Hanlon stated that it was already sent in.

Mr. Guridy stated that people knows the process and he knows Council will hear from the people that are here tonight and other people that called him already. There are a couple of takers and they may be doing this sometime this year, again, if things go according to plans.

8. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

Committee of the Whole: Councilperson Guridy

There will be a Committee of the Whole on April 11th at 5:30 PM to review the CDBG, HOME and ESG funding.

Mr. O'Connell asked if they will have Community and Economic Development coming up. That timeline is pretty tight, 5:30 PM, 6:00 PM, and 6:30 PM.

Mr. Hanlon stated that CDBG stuff will be sent to the CEDC committee and everybody will be invited at 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM.

Mr. Guridy asked Mr. Schweyer to chair that committee because he is our CDBG guru.

Mr. Schweyer thanked Mr. Guridy.

Budget and Finance: Chairperson Schlossberg

The committee met on March 28th. Our income and our expenditures are relatively in line with budget projections with the notable exception of fire overtime and fire premium pay. Given the state of arbitration comes as no surprise to anybody. He has been told by the chief and Mr. Dougherty that a

solution or something is in place so that they could address this problem. The next meeting is scheduled for April 25th at 6:00 PM.

Public Safety: Chairperson Eichenwald

The committee will meet on May 2nd at 6:30 PM and the committee has met this evening.

Community and Economic Development: Chairperson Schweyer

The Committee has not met since the last council meeting; the next meeting is scheduled for April 11th at 5:30 PM they will have the CDBG meeting which will be CDBG/Committee of the Whole – the tour that they had setup that was originally set up for that night to look at the Hive 4A - the entrepreneurial development initiative. The enterprise zone has been moved to May 9th at 5:00 PM to accommodate the CDBG meeting.

Parks and Recreation: Chairperson Mota

The next meeting is scheduled for April 18th at 6:00 PM and will consist of a review of the swimming study by the consultants – all council is invited.

Ms. Eichenwald stated that she does not know to whom to address this, but she thinks it would be wonderful or perhaps they already have, if the Allentown Environmental Council could be informed of this Swimming Study and will come to the meeting. It happens to often they come in after the fact and since they were established by City Council we should avail ourselves of their expertise and interest.

Public Works: Chairperson O'Connell

The next meeting is scheduled for April 11th at 6:30 PM.

Human Resources, Administration and Appointments: Chairperson Concannon

Mr. Guridy stated that Mr. Concannon was the chairperson of that committee and we will discuss those appointments and will discuss in a while.

Rules, Chambers, Intergovernmental Relations and Strategy: Chairperson Guridy

The Committee has not met since the last Council meeting; a future meeting has not yet been scheduled.

OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS

Parking Authority – Councilperson O'Connell

Mr. O'Connell stated that he is the Council's rep. for the Allentown Parking Authority and last Wednesday they had a meeting and they were invited to Center City One and J B Reilly gave a presentation of his future plans working with the city and it was very informative and it was great and the next day, the CFO, Jim Harbaugh gave a presentation to the Chamber of Commerce and he talked to Mr. Guridy and Mr. Hanlon and he thinks it is very advantageous to bring Mr. Reilly and Mr. Harbaugh to City Council because this whole development downtown is more than an arena or entrainment district and it would be good for us to see the presentation and the public to see presentation and what this gentlemen has planned for Center City. They only need 20, 30 or 35 minutes to do it. It was very impressive.

Mr. Schweyer stated that they previously agreed to do so.

Mr. Guridy asked Mr. Hanlon to work on setting up a time and date for this. There are a lot of things going on that we should know about. He stated that Ms. Hunter is not here, but they received an LSR regarding the Parking Authority and the parking issue about the handicap.

Mr. O'Connell stated that it might be a little premature. There was a ruling that they asked the solicitor for and asked Mr. Hanlon if they received the Bethlehem Ordinance and our legal department reviewed it about handicapped parking spot and we did get a yet. He does not think it is as simple as that. We need to dialog about this and Dan McCarthy who is the solicitor for the Allentown Parking Authority is also going to review it. We can legally do what was asked from Ms. Hunter. It is within our jurisdiction to grant this,

but it goes beyond that. He stated that it would fall under the city's domain because we would make a bill for this. He stated that the local Parking Authority rules supersede state rules in this area.

Ms. Eichenwald asked if it would fall under the city's domain or the Parking Authority.

Mr. Schlossberg stated that Mr. O'Connell is absolutely correct and would like to add an important caveat, it is certainly our domain to create the parking legislation with this and how they would enforce it and if it is logistically possible. The last thing we want to say is do something and they say we can't.

Mr. O'Connell stated that it would be new to the city of Allentown and this is his own personal opinion that you could be receiving numerous requests from people that have a bum knee or bum back that want that handicapped parking spot only for them. This could open Pandora's Box.

Controller's Report

Ms. Koval stated that she is in agreement with the Budget and Finance Chairperson's report.

Managing Director's Report

Mr. Dougherty stated that the first order of business today is to recognize that our city's military liaison Nick Klein who is here in attendance today was inducted into the Soldiers and Sailor Memorial Hall and Museum in Pittsburgh Hall of Valor and joins a select group of veterans who received medals for bravery.

Mr. Nick Klein stated that he was not prepared for this from Council for the recognition and of course from his friend. He stated that he was not the only one. He is in a museum forever and it was quite a ceremony and quite an honor. He was the only one from this area who attained this honor. By some means, Senator Pat Browne and Congressman Dent were instrumental in doing this.

Mr. Guridy stated that he appreciated Mr. Klein's support and diligence and making the city look good.

Mr. Dougherty stated that the city's Director of Parks and Recreation along with the Director of Wildlands Conservancy had an article last week in the Morning Call calling to remind us of the governor's budget and the proposed elimination of the Keystone fund which the City of Allentown and the Wildlands Conservancy benefited in the tone of \$10 million since 1993 in the restoration and building of our parks and trails. He stated that Peter and Jennifer Mann are doing the best they can to argue, but we are faced with dire consequence if the governor's budget is enacted on how it is proposed. We are doing everything to advocate on our behalf. He stated that he had an emergency meeting with the staff of Rich Young and parks and streets. One of our W administration walls on Park Drive has collapsed and near collapse. The area in question is one hundred feet in length. It is dangerous. Effective tomorrow we are making Park Drive one-way and basically using the turn of Lights in the Parkway to let citizens in. Structural Engineers will go in this week to come up with a plan. We are look at substantial dollars and you can see from the pictures where the problem is. Obviously, the infrastructure is old and never had the tender loving care over the many decades it has been built and we are living with the consequences of that. To make safe, this is the actions we had to take. Greg is now contacting the large organizers of the events, especially the walk from Autism which is the next big event and will work for the event organized to re-route the special events that are planned. We are looking for a three month plan for this detour and the media has been alerted to that.

Mr. Schwyer stated that he was wondering why it was a picture of his house up there. Aside from the release do you have something specific you have in writing? He sees Mr. Atiyeh and Ms. Phillips who runs our block watch and is obviously is a neighbor of his as well should have this information so they can

disseminate as part of their neighborhood watch flyer. He asked Mr. Atiyeh to help coordinate. He stated that he would certainly help. He stated that he does have an active group in their neighborhood.

Ms. Eichenwald stated that it is obviously big money, how do we pay for it.

Mr. Dougherty stated that the short answer, we don't know at this point. This might be a combination of risk management funds, diverting funds from other capital plan projects, because of the immediacy there is a problem. There will be accommodations. Unfortunately, we don't have one fund to run to that has that much money. We are looking conservatively of \$250,000 to \$500,000 to restore. We have a commitment of the aesthetics of the parks and that cost money.

Mr. Schlossberg stated that the traffic and Park Drive has been more heavily traveled for the closure of the 15th Street Bridge. He stated that he does not know what or anything they could do about that. Is it anything being done to provide an additional detour?

Mr. Dougherty stated that everything is on the table at this point.

Mr. Guridy asked Mr. Dougherty to keep Council abreast of the developments.

Mr. O'Connell asked Mr. Dougherty were there other options, you stated restore. Is there a different alternative?

Mr. Dougherty stated that it has to come down and get an excavator in there. It has to be a long-reach excavator. He has heard too much of the specifics of the equipment needed to do this job this morning from the engineers. Take the wall down as is, preserve the stone. Each stone you see there will be taken down individually, put into a pile and once a new retaining wall pressure wall is built, the façade will be the original WPA brick/stone in the front. It will restore the appearance and the pressure will be a brand new technology sound structure holding up the wall and soil.

Mr. O'Connell asked how many walls we have like this in the City of Allentown. He stated probably miles of walls like this.

Mr. Dougherty stated that this is a particularly high wall.

Mr. O'Connell stated that Mr. Dougherty is doing what he has to do.

Mr. Dougherty stated that he wanted to bring it to Council's attention. This is how he spent part of his morning dealing with that.

Mr. Schweyer stated that they heard rumors that this wall was in trouble three months or four months ago and we talked about it in the context of Lights In the Parkway as in should we continue Lights in the Parkway and how much added stress the 50,000 cars added because it was an issue with the Park Drive pulling down. It is not a thoroughfare anymore. This is not the only wall holding up a neighborhood. There are walls on Martin Luther King also hold up Third and Thirteen Wards of Allentown. It is certainly a concern. As we move forward, are anyone concerned about Lehigh Parkway South at this point. He asked when Mr. Dougherty is going to get those engineering studies.

Mr. Dougherty stated not yet, and as soon as possible. The team is ready and begun work this afternoon.

Mr. Schweyer stated that he is sure he speaks for every members of Council when he says that they would like to see that as soon as possible and have a briefing.

Mr. Guridy asked if they are doing in-house.

Mr. Dougherty stated that it is so specialized that they have to do it in-house. We would never subject our employees in this nature.

Mr. Guridy asked if it had to go out for bids.

Mr. Dougherty stated that they used emergency powers as they did with the procurement to get the engineers. The Charter does allow us in emergency situations. Tenth Street, the completion of cleaning out the basement by a national restoration company was completed yesterday in three of the four homes. They could not clean out the home at 341 due to the instability of the structure itself. They could not go down there.

Mr. Schweyer asked who the owner is.

Mr. Dougherty stated that would be Mr. Tucker. One of his silver plates were recovered by one of our employees that he was looking for down in the basement. Perhaps it was a family air loom that we were able to recover for him. Pennoni's started their engineering studies today. They were in the house and the homeowners had the option to accompany them in their house. Now, they are just waiting for the engineering report. He is not sure if it would take one day or a couple of days, but that was done this morning in each of the homes.

Ms. Eichenwald said to Mr. Dougherty that she is glad that they are making progress, thank you. Who is paying for restoration work?

Mr. Dougherty stated that the City of Allentown pays for national restoration. National Restorations Bill was sent to us.

Ms. Eichenwald asked how we do that out of what budgetary line.

Mr. Dougherty stated that comes out of our risk fund. We have funds to cover that.

Ms. Eichenwald asked if he had an estimate on how much that would be.

Mr. Dougherty stated that he does not, but can get that for them. In addition to what some of you heard about the new software we are getting from the fire department in terms of incident tracking, he could also report they just completed the first phase of a tracking system in our HR division. This is the same principle that is replacing the old Fire Admin System. This is a new system that could talk to other systems. It is modern and can be maintained and expanded. We are also launching this month a new employee recognition system and he would like to once he has the material in hand and was done once before, but now is ready to be implemented and is long overdue and he will provide Council more information on that as that is launched this month. We have a blood drive to be held on Thursday, May 31st and appointments can be made from 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM at Mack South Fire Station. There will be more news coming out and more flyers. CPR classes will be also available at the Mack South Fire Station on April 10th, 12th, 17th, 19th, and 25th and all sessions will be from 7:30 AM to 12:00 PM. We are encouraging our employees to attend. We are absorbing the costs of the employees that want to learn and be certified in CPR at \$30. He would like to invite any of Council to attend in which the city will pick up the costs of the CPR classes and

for you to receive certification, if you please. Working with Mr. Hanlon and has disseminated new City Council protocols to City employees and staff basically articulating the protocols and timetables which we need to get legislation up to Mike Hanlon for appropriate onto the agendas. This is mainly time sensitive and want to remind them that they are deadlines and we recognize there are times for walk-ons. He wants that to be rare and few. We also wanted to tell employees that request for information coming from City Council from committee meetings or meetings are due back to the Managing Director no longer than 24 hours later so there is no delay in getting information unless the information is such a size and scope that we need more time to get that for you. He stated that he worked closely with Mr. Hanlon and we got that out this week. We are beginning our meetings on the water meters beginning on Monday. He hopes from the series of meetings beginning on Monday he will be able to have a draft as well as a communication plan which they can then come to Council to present you what a preliminary plan would be for communication and for the actual implementation of the change-out of the meters. At that meeting he is hoping for feedback on how they can find and finalize that communication.

Mr. O'Connell stated to Mr. Dougherty that he said last month and he will not repeat it after this, these managing director's report is very crucial. It helps update us on what is happening in the city because we do not always know whether or not what is happening in the city. He stated that it sounds like Mr. Dougherty is really busy, is fully back in the saddle and thanked him.

Mr. Dougherty stated that he is never bored.

9. APPOINTMENTS:

Sara Hailstone – Housing Authority – term to extend to 11/05/2016

Shalon Easterling – Human Relations Commission – term to extend to 11/01/2014

Dan Sell – HARB – Inspector – term to extend to 1/4/2013

David Huber – HARB – At Large Reappointment – term to extend to – 1/2/2015

Marvin Wheeler – HARB At Large Alternate – term to extend to 1/2/2015

Barry Brobst – HARB Architect Alternate – term to extend to 1/2/2013

Mr. Wheeler stated that he attended several of the last three HARB meetings and very happy living in a HARB district. It is very interesting to look at the design and architectural here in the historic districts and he is very eager to become a member of that board because he would like to retain the integrity of the historic district in Allentown.

Mr. Schweyer thanked Mr. Wheeler for his service and taking time out of your day just like the rest of the board, commissions, and authorities. He stated that they met at the third floor counter about five years ago and it was his first year on Council and Mr. Wheeler was submitting documents at that point in time for what he believes was a porch in the backyard and five years later, here we are and you clearly always walked the walk with your home improvement. I will never forget that and it was a further reminder that we have great citizens in Allentown. He appreciates Mr. Wheeler's willingness to serve.

Mr. Dan Sell stated that a few weeks ago, Mr. Salinger asked him to serve on the HARB and he said most certainly. Mr. Salinger stated that he had to live in the City of Allentown and he has for a long time and enjoyed it. He stated that he is a state certified building inspection in which Mr. Salinger stated that he would need and he had several other Pennsylvania Certifications. If he is appointed he will be open minded, fair, and try to learn the job from his colleagues as best as he can.

Mr. Barry Brobst stated that he is an architect and grew up on the Southside of Allentown and had his office and entire career in Center City and now on 732 Turner Street. He is proud to say they did a lot of projects in the city from the West end Fire Station, the original Concannon building along the Parkway, the building

across from the Y, did work at the Wildwater Kingdom, Hamilton Financial Center, and did the handicapped benches for the Allentown City Hall. He owes a huge commitment to the City of Allentown and he would like to give back.

Mr. O'Connell stated that Shalon Easterling was here earlier, but she had to leave. He stated that he worked with Shalon with the School District for many, many years and she will be a fine representative for the Human Relations Commission. She is a fine individual and has a pulse on the City of Allentown and what's happening with the City of Allentown and she will be real good for the commission.

Ms. Eichenwald stated that she always looks forward to this part of the City Council meetings because it gives us an opportunity to greet and to meet residents of the community that is concerned about the welfare of its citizens. She welcomed all of them and is pleased that there are so many people that are concerned and good citizens of our community. On behalf of all of us, thank you very much.

Mr. Guridy echoed Ms. Eichenwald's sentiments and on behalf of all of us, he thanked them and all the people that would like to serve the city. We have great citizens in our city and it warms his heart.

Resolution passed, 6 – 0

10. ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE:

Bill 9

Amending the 2012 General Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Nine Hundred (\$900) Dollars as a result of a donation from Tilted Kilt Pub & Eatery to the Police Department K-9 program to provide necessary equipment.

Ms. Eichenwald stated that it was in front of Public Safety and forwarded favorably 2 – 0.

Ordinance passed, 6 – 0

Mr. Schweyer asked Mr. Hanlon to send a thank you from Council to the General Manager of that establishment.

Bill 10

Amending the 2012 General Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation and transfer of Twenty-Nine Thousand Two Hundred-Fifty (\$29,250.00) Dollars as a result of a PEMA reimbursement for the purchase of EMBERS, a complete Incident reporting and records management system for the Fire Department.

Ms. Eichenwald stated that it was in front of Public Safety and forwarded favorably 3 – 0. The chief is here to answer any questions.

Ordinance passed, 6 – 0

11. ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION:

Bill 16

Referred to Public Safety

Amending the 2012 General Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Eight Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$850). This is a donation from Elizabeth McCafferty to the Police Department for police equipment.

Bill 17**Referred to Committee of the Whole**

An Ordinance providing for the expenditure of certain monies received by the City of Allentown from the repayment of loans made through the Rental Rehabilitation Program; authorized to expend One Hundred Five Thousand (\$105,000) Dollars received from the repayment of loans made through the Rental Rehabilitation Program in accordance with regulations issued by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Bill 18**Referred to Committee of the Whole**

An Ordinance amending the Consolidated Plan One Year Action Plan for the 2011-2012 Fiscal Year of the Emergency Solutions Grants Program (ESG) which allocates \$68,371 of additional ESG funds.

Bill 19**Referred to Committee of the Whole**

An Ordinance amending the Consolidated Plan One Year Action Plan for the Thirtieth, Thirty-first, Thirty-second, Thirty-third, Thirty-fourth, Thirty-fifth, Thirty-sixth and Thirty-seventh years of the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) which re-programs Three Hundred Seven Thousand One Hundred Ten (\$307,110) Dollars of unexpended funds.

Bill 20**Referred to Committee of the Whole**

An Ordinance providing for the expenditure of certain monies 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, authorizing the expenditure of Three Million Three Hundred Forty-nine Thousand Six Hundred Seventy-five (\$3,349,675) Dollars in Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), and Emergency Solutions Grants Program (ESG) funds for the July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013 grant year, for housing and community development programs pursuant to the approved Consolidated Plan, appropriate Federal Law and United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regulations.

Bill 21**Referred to Parks and Recreation**

Amending the 2012 Capital Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Three Hundred Fifty Thousand (\$350,000.00) Dollars to provide for the receipt of a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. This grant will provide funding which will be used to assist with the development of the Jordan Creek Greenway Development Project.

Bill 22**Referred to Parks and Recreation**

Amending the 2012 Capital Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of One Hundred Thousand (\$100,000.00) Dollars to provide for the receipt of a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. This grant will provide funding which will be used to assist with the Stevens Community Park Development Project.

Bill 23**Referred to Budget and Finance**

Authorizes the Mayor or his designee to enter into a cooperative purchasing agreement for 911 goods and services with other participating municipalities pursuant to the intergovernmental cooperation law (act 177 of 1996), 53 PA.C.S.A. Section 2301 Et. Seq.

Bill 24**Referred to Public Works**

Amending the 2012 Capital Project Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of One Hundred Twenty-Three Thousand Three Hundred Sixty-Four Dollars and Eighty-Seven Cents

(\$123,364.87) from various closed-out Capital Projects to three Capital Projects which need additional funding.

Mr. Schlossberg stated that since this deals with the capital fund budget and the capital budget itself and he and Ms. Koval were going back and forth on this, perhaps they could make this a Public Works meeting and Budget and Finance Committee meeting. This is an issue that touches on both areas.

Mr. O'Connell stated that he did not have any objections.

12. CONSENT AGENDA: None

13. RESOLUTIONS ON SECOND READING:

R16

Authorizes submission of a grant for the rehabilitation/construction of an educational facility at 4th and Allen Streets.

Mr. Schlossberg stated that it was in front of Budget and Finance and it was recommended favorably 2 – 0. This is a standard RACP approval they have done countless times before.

Mr. Ernie Atiyeh asked is that the school district's building.

Mr. Schweyer stated yes. He thanked Ms. Giguere for her hard work and getting it pushed through while RACP is a giant question mark.

Ms. Lauren Giguere stated that they were reviewing contract today. She stated that it will be a major improvement for that area because that is going to be \$13 million worth of improvements for that building. Right now it is vacant and it will be a lot of rehabilitation to make that building handicapped accessible and will be programs that will be during the day and after school as well. \$13 million for improvements for a facility is a major work for that neighborhood.

Mr. Guridy asked if they have a sketch or rendering of what it is going to look like.

Ms. Giguere stated no, but it will happen in all during the next year. It will happen pretty quickly.

Mr. O'Connell stated that the school district is planning on opening that in the school year 2013 – 2014.

Ms. Giguere stated yes.

Mr. O'Connell stated that it will be an alternative education site.

Mr. Guridy asked what happened to the building on 15th Street.

Mr. O'Connell stated that it will probably still be there, but they are looking for a larger facility.

Mr. Atiyeh stated that he thinks they are aware the new area down there is Jordan Heights from Tilghman Street to Linden and go from 7th Street to the Jordan Creek. This is going to be a big impact for our neighborhood down there. He thanked Council.

Resolution passed, 6 – 0

14. RESOLUTIONS ON FIRST READING:

R19

Referred to Public Works

Authorizes the installation of a fire escape and catwalk for 1353 Chew Street

R20

Referred to Committee of Whole

Approves the Submission of the Action Plan to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

R21

Referred to Committee of Whole

Approves the Submission of an Amendment to the City of Allentown's Consolidated Plan One Year Action Plan (for the period July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012) to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Ms. Eichenwald asked they do the Allentown Environmental Advisory Council.

Ms. Mota stated not a problem.

R22

Referred to Parks and Recreation

Supports the Adoption of Swimming Towards the Future, A plan for Allentown's Pools and Spray Parks

R23

Referred to Parks and Recreation

Authorizes Mayor to apply for a grant and enter into an Agreement if it is granted that would restore the Cedar Creek as it flows through Allentown's Cedar Creek Parkway

R24

Amends Council Rules by providing for a 7:00 PM Council Start.

Mr. Schlossberg stated that if Council does not object, they could dispense of this tonight.

Mr. Guridy asked where there any objections.

Mr. Schlossberg made a motion that they vote on this tonight.

Mr. O'Connell seconded that motion.

Mr. Guridy asked were there any questions or concerns from the public.

Mr. O'Connell asked did Council involve the administration in this dialog. He stated that they talked about it before. Sometimes a 7:30 PM start is too late in his opinion. He would really like to see 6:30 PM. He believes Mr. Schlossberg said it too. 6:30 PM might be too early because if we have a committee meeting before that we would have to have it at 5:30 PM or 5:00 PM. He does not work, he is retired, but the people that do work, you are pushing it really hard to get here. A good compromise is 7:00 PM for the Council meeting and if they do have a committee meeting before, it could be at 6:00 PM. That is bearable for most people. Sometimes with a 7:30 PM meeting, if we have ten, eleven people or thirteen people for courtesy of the floor, we really don't start the meeting until 8:20 PM and sometimes 8:30 PM. He looks at the school board and they have their committee meetings starting at 7:00 PM. It is a reasonable time and you do have a long meeting, you will look at 10:00 PM – 10:30 Pm instead of 11:00 – 11:30 PM. He thinks it is a good idea.

Mr. Dougherty stated that Council has.

Ms. Eichenwald stated that she is in agreement with this and the only concern she has is that they strongly advertise this and maybe you have to be a little lenient the first couple of times we try this for the people that come at 7:30 PM and want to participate in courtesy of the floor.

Mr. Guridy stated that Ms. Eichenwald is right.

Mr. Schlossberg stated upon Mr. Hanlon's suggestion, he thank him. This is something they should bring forward. He stated that they would be ok with the 6:30 PM start time personally. He would be happy to make that amended, but the impression he gets is that 7:00 PM.

Ms. Mota asked if that meant they would not be in Chambers to 1:00 AM.

Mr. Guridy stated hopefully not.

Mr. Schlossberg stated that if they are here at 1:00 AM again, he might get fired because that was a bad day at work for him.

Mr. Guridy stated that Council discussed this at length. The administration has been made aware and is in agreement and it is a consensus from Council to do it at 7:00 PM. Some felt that 6:30 PM would have been ok, but some of us have to work late sometimes and we have family and it gets difficult. Starting at 7:00 PM is good especially when questions or comments during courtesy of the floor and they have to stay here for a long time and there are people here with comments and we will send them home early to be with the family and loved ones. He agrees with them.

Mr. Atiyeh asked when that starts.

Mr. Guridy stated for the next meeting.

Mr. Atiyeh stated that he will mention that at the banquet, and will get an email out to everybody.

Mr. Guridy stated that the newspapers are here and he wants to make it possible and make sure Channel 69 gets a hold of it and work with some of the community groups and send out an email. People will adopt to this.

Mr. Schweyer asked if they are voting for the resolution. It will be voted on tonight and has been introduced the motion.

Mr. Guridy stated that they are voting on the motion right now, and then the resolution.

Motion approved by Common Consent.

Resolution passed, 6 – 0

Mr. Schweyer reminded Mr. Hanlon to change the letterhead as well since it has the 7:30 PM start time on it.

Mr. Schlossberg stated and the agenda.

R25**Referred to Budget and Finance**

Authorizes the Mayor to revise the application for the additional Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000) for the new total of Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$750,000) in Redevelopment Assistance Capital Grant Funding to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for funding for the Allentown Symphony Association Project

R26**Referred to Budget and Finance**

Authorizes the Mayor to revise the application for an additional Three Hundred Seventy-five Thousand Dollars (\$375,000) for the new total of Eight hundred and Seventy-five Thousand Dollars (\$875,000) in Redevelopment Assistance Capital Grant Funding to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for funding the Community Services for Children Safestart Project

Mr. Schweyer stated to Mr. Schlossberg that Ms. Giguere had several other RACP's that are prepared and ready to go. If Mr. Schlossberg does not have any objections and obviously if Council does not have any objections, if they are ready to go for that Budget and Finance Committee, he has no problem since they are resolutions to discuss them informally there and vote on them at final passage. If there are no objections, they could keep the process rolling and they do that often at CEDC and he would suggest they consider doing that.

Mr. Schlossberg stated given the questionable state of RACP, Ms. Giguere whatever you have sent it our way and we will expedite it.

15. NEW BUSINESS**16. GOOD AND WELFARE****17. ADJOURNED: 8:53 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.