

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



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

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COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
February 18, 2015
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

COUNCIL MEETING – 7:00 PM

1. Invocation: Rabbi Seth Phillips, Congregation Keneseth Israel

2. Pledge to the Flag

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

4. Courtesy of the Floor

Mr. Kenneth Heffentrager, 733 N. 11th Street, stated that he is excited to see the Redevelopment Authority posted 15 properties in front of the Allentown Planning Commission. He asked about the Center City Housing Initiative. He stated that Mike Hefele got back to him and invited him to the Taskforce. He is glad that people put input in. He talked about the housing under the Allentown Housing Authority and Gross Towers not having hot water and cafeteria ceiling fell.

Mr. Julio Guridy thanked Mr. Heffentrager. When did they tell you about some of the issues?

Mr. Heffentrager stated on Sunday.

Ms. Milagros Canales, 530 W. Allen Street, stated that a couple of years ago the Old Fairgrounds put two dog waste stations at Sixth and Allen and Fifth and Chew. The dog waste station is not intrusion and it doesn't say, look at me I am a dog waste station. Your garbage can covers that the dog waste station. The new dog waste station is green and almost six feet tall, and reads dog waste station clean up behind me. She stated she is totally against it because it goes against the integrity of the neighborhood. It uses expensive doggy waste bags and the ones on Sixth and Chew are recyclable waste bags.

Mr. Kirk Raub, 1818 W Union Boulevard – Bethlehem, talked about the rail project and it being stalled. He stated that Mayor Donchez announced to Council on the record that he and Mayor Pawlowski and Mayor Panto discussed how they can pull three cities together and actually form a Rail Authority. It will be forthcoming sometime in March.

Mr. Ray O'Connell stated we appreciate your continued support with this. If you have the three mayors together and they are all nodding their heads that is a sign right there.

Mr. Dennis Pearson, 942 E. Tilghman Street, stated that he will be presenting something next month. He stated given the fact that A-Street closed down. He wants to reestablish A-Treat and keep it in East Allentown. That is where it belongs. The Lehigh Valley Digital Printing moved from East Allentown and

moved to Bethlehem. Our neighborhood is concerned about Keck Park. People that were hanging around Keck Park will reappear in the spring. We constantly need to clean up the park.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that the issue is Keck Park. She stated that we will investigate and get back to you.

Dr. Holmes, 1143 Marks Street, thanked Council for Allentown's first Black History Month Celebration. It makes me remember how long it took to get Martin Luther King Jr Day as a celebration in 1990. It takes too long, but it gets done. She stated in May 2008 City Council was going to look into a hate crime committed on her daughter. Several hate crimes happened that day to several other people. She even has what Mr. Guridy stated in the minutes that you would look into when Kari asked for an amendment that anytime an officer's report shows up that the amendment is there with the report. Some things that were put in place for the police report when it was changed. There are things in place when it happened. We still need a hate crime that matches the Commonwealth.

Mr. Guridy stated to Dr. Holmes stated he did speak to her daughter and there was a different Chief of Police and they had a different way of doing things. He is not sure that it was a state law that was enacted. He stated that he will research it.

Mr. Dan Mest, stated he is here tonight as an executive board member for the Third Ward Community Group. He stated that the first page he gave Council is that he received a \$10,000 from Senator Pat Browne's office in 2007 for a Pavilion and expansion at Ninth and Jackson which is finally getting going. The figure that is on the bottom is \$16,545. He said subtract \$2,500 which is the delivery charge now is \$2,800. The next figure is the \$14,045 which is for the 16 x 28 Pavilion. He stated that he will give Council the final of what the proposal is for Pavilion compared to the Pavilion that will be brought from the City of Allentown. The \$14,045 includes a metal roof which is a lifetime warranty compared to a shingle roof which is 25 – 30 years. He stated steel columns versus laminate columns. The City of Allentown only had to put \$573 towards our \$10,000 and we are not getting it. He spoke out his closeout agreement and put two extensions on it. We took our 16 x 28 Pavilion and we closed out the state grant with that number.

Mr. O'Connell stated that we will look into that.

Mr. Vogel Weston asked where is the operation going. He likes Allentown and Lehigh Valley. He is interested in Mass transportation. He asked how to get a word of congratulations to the citizens of the Lehigh Valley. There is no excuse for fracking going wrong.

Mr. Robert Trotner, 1910 Bear Street – Bethlehem, Coffee Party, stated that he wants to reiterate what Mr. Vogel Weston said about you working hard with very little pay and you do a tremendous job. The whole world is crashing around us. He talked about Pay to Play, Bribes, Self-Dealing and massive Pentagon Scandals.

5. Approval of Minutes:

NONE

6. Old Business

NONE

7. Communications

NONE

8. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

Budget and Finance: Chairperson Glazier

The committee has not met since the last Council meeting; the next meeting is scheduled for February 25 at 6:00 PM.

Public Safety: Chairperson Eichenwald

The Committee has not met since the last council meeting; the next meeting is scheduled for March 4 at 6:15 PM – the agenda will include Bill 6, introduced at the last council meeting – a donation from Ms. Steedle to be used toward the purchase of Tasers; Bill 8 which will be introduced this evening, and a discussion on police and fire overtime.

Community and Economic Development: Chairperson Guridy

The Committee met this evening; the next meeting is scheduled for March 4 at 5:45 to review Bills 7 and 9; and Resolution 9 which are being introduced this evening.

Parks and Recreation: Chairperson Mota

The Committee has not met since the last Council meeting; the next meeting is not yet scheduled. I would like to thank the Parks and Recreation staff for their planning session they had on Stevens Park – we look forward to the final results of their effort.

Mr. O'Connell stated that Ms. Mota was instrumental in forming and creating the Black History Month Celebration tonight. It was a wonderful celebration. This room was packed. It was a lot of community pride and the community was involved in performances. You did a great job.

Ms. Mota thanked Council for their support.

Public Works: Chairperson Davis

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

City Controller's Report

NONE

Managing Director's Report

Mr. Fran Dougherty stated that Standard & Poor's has raised the city's Bond Rating from BBB+ to A+. That came out this afternoon. You have the Press Release in front of you. You now understand the fruits of our joint labor in moving this city forward. This is testimony to that hard work. Our Bond that we are going out for has an A+ Rating and Stable Outlook. I asked Dale to show you a copy of a new multi-unit recycling station where we are putting in City Hall and various city offices. This is a new state of the art recycling stations. We hope that it would encourage further recycling by our employees and makes for a more aesthetic look in the hallways. We are expanding the number of units at people's desks around the city. We are on our 15 mobilization for adverse weather tonight. It is the 15 mobilization. We call this nuisance storms and are costly when it comes to materials. Materials have been a problem this winter. We try to watch our salt. Some municipalities around are low on salt. Mark is doing a tremendous job managing his human and material sources.

9. APPOINTMENTS:

NONE

10. ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE:

NONE

11. RESOLUTIONS FOR FINAL PASSAGE:

NONE

12. ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION:

Bill 7 Food Service Ordinance.doc

Referred to CEDC

An Ordinance repealing subchapter A through subchapter G, inclusive, of Ordinance 14189 as amended, Article 1123 of the codified ordinances with respect to food service sanitation in their entirety to conform to the state Retail Food Facility Safety Act of Nov. 23, 2010, P.L. 1039, No. 106, amending subchapter H with respect to administration by substituting statutory references in section 1123.1102(a), by deleting sections 1123.1102(c) through 1123.1104 and section 1123.1121 through section 1123.1142, by renaming section 1123.1143, by deleting section 1123.1143 (a) through 1123.1143(c), by adding a new section 1123.1143(a) and re-lettering the remaining sections of section 1123.1143, by deleting section 1123.1144 and by adding violation tickets to section 1123.1147 for violations thereof and repealing all other ordinances inconsistent herewith.

Mr. O'Connell asked are there any comments from the public on Bill 7.

Bill 8 LV Kennel Club Donation

Referred to Public Safety

Amending the 2015 General Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of \$1,500.00 as a result of a donation from the Lehigh Kennel Club to the Police Department for the purchase of K-9 equipment.

Mr. O'Connell asked are there any comments from the public.

Bill 9 Safe and Healthy Communities Grant

Referred to CEDC

Amending the 2015 General Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of \$40,425 from a Commonwealth of PA Department of Health grant, to the Health Department to expand services under the Safe and Healthy Communities Grant related to the reduction of cardiovascular disease and to increase breastfeeding rates.

Mr. O'Connell asked are there any comments from the public.

13. RESOLUTIONS FOR INTRODUCTION:

R9 Civic Theatre RCAP

Referred to CEDC

Authorizes the City to submit the application for Two Million (\$2,000,000) Dollars in Redevelopment Assistance Capital Grant Funding to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for Civic Theatre.

Mr. O'Connell stated that this is a wonderful grant application. I just hope that we get this. The Civic Theatre/Nineteenth Theatre is a jewel. I have been in there recently and if we get this \$2 million that is a big bonus and is fantastic.

14. NEW BUSINESS

NONE

15. GOOD AND WELFARE

Mr. Guridy stated that we are going to have a little celebration for the Dominican Independence Day on celebrated on February 27th and a flag raising ceremony at City Hall on Saturday, February 28th at 1:00 PM.

Mr. Jeff Glazier stated that he had the opportunity to attend the Grand Opening at Sacred Heart Hospital new recovery room. It is a tremendous facility and state of the art. I am so proud of them to have a facility like that in Allentown.

16. ADJOURNED: 7:47 PM