

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



Allentown City Council
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COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
September 17, 2014
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

COUNCIL MEETING – 7:00 PM

1. Invocation: Pastor Joseph N. Karanja - Rehoboth Harvest Ministry

2. Pledge to the Flag

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

4. Courtesy of the Floor

Mr. Lou Hershman, 405 N. Gilmore Street, stated that two weeks ago he brought up the money that the Neighborhood Improvement Zone budgeted for the City of Allentown. The City did not bill for the reimbursement in 2013 and 2014. He asked for the 5-Year Financial Report and the water and sewer bills. Have the bills been paid without authorization?

Mr. Julio Guridy asked Mr. Dougherty to get the information. You will get information later when the chairman of the committee makes a presentation. We will take that into advisement.

Mr. Fran Dougherty stated that he understands the \$750,000 is coming here in October. They just closed their books. The check is the next thing to come.

Mr. Glenn Hunsicker stated that one of the items that Mr. Hershman was talking about the \$211 million received for the water and sewer. He understands it was never really brought out into an account number.

Mr. Peter Schweyer stated that is the first time I heard that question and I don't have an answer. We could have created a new account number, but we didn't.

Mr. Guridy stated that we put it in the unappropriated balance that has an account number.

Ms. Mary Ellen Koval stated there was a special account. It went into the nonpooled accounts. It was a water/sewer concession proceeds account in our nonpooled bank account.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated the Capital Projects money was placed in Account 88 – under general/civic.

Mr. Schweyer asked Mr. Dougherty for a full breakdown of the accounts for the water and sewer proceeds.

Mr. Guridy stated that it should be included in the finance report.

Mr. Schweyer stated that it would be separate. The CAFR is tomorrow and the \$1.7 million will be addressed.

Mr. David McGuire, 223 N. 19th Street, stated that he wants to talk about a Dog Park. City Council has received in the last couple months a \$100,000 grant for a dog park and the Friends of Allentown Park raised money. In 2009, the city did a search for a dog park and came up with a plan for a super duper dog park to be built on floodplains. You can't build a dog park in floodplains or near our parks streams. You don't want a destination park, but a city plan for dog parks.

Mr. Guridy stated that we have Cynthia Mota the chair of the Parks and Recreation Committee. She can speak to you offline.

Mr. Dennis Pearson, 942 E. Tilghman Street, asked where is the memorial stone for the firefighter who died at Adam's Island a few years ago. It was taken from the Eastside Fire House. We would like this stone returned where it belongs since most of our history is being taken away from us. The Waterfront was on the other side of the river where the Lehigh Canal came down and the railroad came to discharge passengers. History has to be remembered.

Mr. Kenneth Heffentrager, 733 N. 11th Street, congratulated the entire City of Allentown. Friday went off without a hitch. Why when I call Sweep about the 600- 700 block of N. Law Street, they came out and did beyond what we complained about with Lumber Street, Gordon Street, 4th Street and 6th Street cleaned up the areas in no time at all. This is four months and there is not a difference. The trash is still here for 336 N. Limestone, the city tends to ignore this property.

5. Approval of Minutes: August 20, 2014

Minutes approved by Common Consent

6. Old Business

None

7. Communications

Mr. Guridy stated that there was a Public Hearing originally scheduled for this evening and is in the process of being rescheduled. Committee of the Whole: Pursuant to discussion at the last Council Meeting from the Administration and Council, a Committee of the Whole has been scheduled for October 1 at 6 PM for the CD budget review and to discuss procedures relating to housing, blighted property and Sweep policies.

8. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

Budget and Finance: Chairperson Schweyer

The committee has not met since the last council meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for September 18th at 5:30 PM - the committee will review the CAFR, the budget priorities, goals and objectives, successes and failures. We will receive the monthly financials and legislation that will be introduced tonight. His colleagues are inviting everyone to the meeting since we will be reviewing the CAFR with the City Auditor.

Public Safety: Chairperson Eichenwald

The Committee met earlier this evening, there are no future meetings scheduled.

Community and Economic Development: Chairperson Davis

The Committee has not meet since the last Council meeting; the next meeting is scheduled for October 1st where we will review the budget priorities, goals and objectives, successes and failures, capital projects and any personnel or organizational changes being considered for the ensuing fiscal year in the CED Department at the October 1st meeting.

Parks and Recreation: Chairperson Mota

The Committee has not met since the last Council meeting, but is considering meeting at 5:15 PM prior to the October 1 Committee of the Whole meeting to review budget priorities and Bill 38 and Resolution 45, relating to Andre Reed.

Public Works: Chairperson O'Connell

The Committee met this evening; the next regularly scheduled meeting is October 8th.

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

None

Controller's Report

Ms. Koval stated as promised the interns reports are placed at everybody's seat. These are the last audit reports for tax certification, the workmen's compensation and business privilege tax and the police extra duties. These were audit reports that completed their projects.

Managing Director's Reports

Mr. Dougherty stated that he asked Amy Trapp of HR to come back to the full Council. Amy presented to chairman Hendricks last week a very fine presentation of the wonderful things that are happening in our HR Department. I thought for the benefit of all his colleagues and the media that she should give a truncated version of that to you all tonight under my Managing Director's Report.

Ms. Amy Trapp stated that she has been here for two years and has done a lot in the two years. We don't have Capital Projects so that piece is not in here with us. The first piece was the transformation of HR. HR really wasn't viewed as a positive place. It was where the people in the city came to live and die. They came when they started, went through a very brief orientation and when it was time for them to go when that decision had to be made that is where they came to end their time with the city. We have had a general climate change. Part of the goal is professionalization. All of my staff, but one have bachelor's degrees. Two of my staff have PHRs. The person that doesn't have her bachelor's degree will be finished within the next year with her bachelor's degree. HR has physically and aesthetically has become a more professional place for anyone that has visited the city. Our employment relationship has been much more harmonious then it has been in years prior. A big piece we are working on now is training. We have done a number of programs and worked with Muhlenberg College and we have worked with other organizations locally. We integrated an IT orientation. We have launched an online application, but we can't take them for Civil Service because it is a payment that is associated with it. We are trying to get the bidding process for contracts online, but we are not quite there yet. We have launched an e-service site. Any employee of the city can go to the e-service site and view their paychecks, their W-2s, their dependent information, their

deductions and have an electronic paycheck. We have instituted a SharePoint site that is a recruiting tool. With Social Responsibility we have done a number of things with regards to our employee population. One is a scorecard and is specifically to the LGBT community. Last year, we were graded 50 of 100 points. This year we scored an 85. We worked with the United Way and almost tripled employee giving this past year. We worked on a gatekeeper program. The Day of Caring for Firefighters. I am formally trained as a Six Sigma Black Belt. Eden has a number of approval queue's. The Personnel Policy will be updated this year. The Administration Code requires a review every other year. Budget Priorities, Risk has been a big one. It is a \$20 million budget for the city. This year we had some challenges. A piece we are going to work on is allocations to individual departments. Last year we were under budget and this year we will come under budget. Benefits are trending well. We are offering term life and spouse voluntary life insurance and short term and long term disability coverage that we don't currently offer.

Mr. Guridy asked about the use of technologies. You were talking about getting electronic bids for jobs. He asked are they Public Works jobs.

Ms. Trapp stated that if we have a management position, it will also be posted, but the requirements are not like the contracts.

Mr. Guridy asked if you don't have a computer, will you still be able to bid.

Ms. Trapp stated that we have a kiosk in our department that sits right by the reception desk. We have someone that speaks Spanish. For all jobs that are posted externally to the public.

Mr. Guridy asked about the organizational changes. He asked are you combining the position for Risk Management and Safety Officer. The only person you are hiring is the Claims Administrator.

Ms. Trapp stated that the Risk and Safety Manager needs to be out among the employee population.

Mr. Schweyer commended Ms. Trapp and stated that it is a tremendous amount of work in two years.

Mr. Guridy stated that Ms. Trapp work reflects on the caliber of employees that we have.

Mr. Hendricks offered his kudos. One of the members from the FOP commented how he felt that we have such a great working relationship.

Mr. Dougherty thanked Chairman Hendricks for his continued support and advice to Amy since he has been on Council.

9. APPOINTMENTS:

None

Mr. Schweyer made a motion to move R43 – Hiring four Police Officers to this point of this agenda.

Mr. O'Connell seconded the motion.

Motion moved by Common Consent.

R 43 Hiring - Officers -9-5-2014
Appointment of Four Police Officers

Mr. Schweyer stated for the last seven years he has been on Council, they looked at this list and seeing folks that are not from Allentown and one thing he learned from this particular hiring process, we have men and women coming back to Allentown.

Assistant Chief Morris stated thank you and it puts the Police Department up to 207 and we are moving forward with background investigations to hit our complement and move past that at one point in time.

RESOLUTION PASSED, 7 - 0

10. ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE:

Bill 33 EMS Ordinance Iron Pigs April May and June 2014 Payments

Amending the 2014 General Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Sixteen thousand one hundred ninety dollars (\$16,190.00), a distribution from the Lehigh Valley Iron Pigs for EMS Services, to be place in the Premium Pay Account.

Ms. Eichenwald stated that it was in front of the Public Safety Committee Meeting and it was passed, 3 – 0 favorably.

ORDINANCE PASSED, 7 – 0

11. RESOLUTIONS FOR FINAL PASSAGE:

None

12. ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION:

Bill 34 ASD2014.doc

Referred to Budget and Finance

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. Guridy asked any public comment.

Mr. Heffentrager asked if Bill 34 is completed.

Mr. O'Connell stated that it is an alternative education school at 4th and Allen. They will eventually phase out the Jackson Street School. It is a major project.

Mr. Schweyer stated that RACP is a reimbursement grant.

Bill 35 RACP Grant - Allentown Symphony Association.doc **Referred to Budget and Finance**

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. Guridy asked any comments from the public.

Bill 36 Fairgrounds Payment Ordinance.doc

Referred to Public Works

Amending the 2014 Capital Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of One hundred eighteen thousand dollars (\$118,000.00) from the Lehigh County Agricultural Society to be used towards matching funds for the construction of the fence and landscaping at the Fairgrounds.

Mr. Guridy asked any comments from the public.

Bill 37 E Court Street.doc

Referred to Public Works

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. Guridy asked any comments from the public.

Bill 38 Andre Reed Way.doc

Referred to Parks and Recreation

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

Mr. Guridy asked any comments from the public.

13. RESOLUTIONS FOR INTRODUCTION

R 44 HARB

HARB Cases

Certificates of Appropriateness for work at 1525 W. Chew Street, 933 W. Gordon Street and 27 N. Fulton Street

Mr. Guridy asked any comments from the dais or public.

Mr. Heffentrager asked what is being done to these three properties. Is it façade work?

Mr. Schweyer stated 27 N. Fulton is shingles on roof, 1525 W. Chew Street retain garage doors, and 933 W. Gordon is a side door.

RESOLUTION PASSED, 7 - 0

R 45 - Park Renaming

Referred to Parks and Recreation

Renames Irving Park Andre Reed Park

14. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Guridy stated that we have a new Arena and we had about 10,000 people that came to the city on Friday and no incidents. The Allentown Parking Authority, the Police Department and the Public Works Department worked together and yesterday's event was a lot easier. We have something in Allentown that many of us have been dreaming of for years. It is teamwork at its best.

Mr. Hendricks stated he sees Ken Laudenslager from the Fire Police here tonight and they were very instrumental in the traffic flow. They helped out on both opening nights by request of the Police Department.

Mr. Guridy stated that the group is always a hand when we need them.

15. GOOD AND WELFARE

16. ADJOURNED: 8:08 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.