

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
June 3, 2015
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – 7:00 PM

1. Call to Order

2. Invocation: Priest Twila Smith, Episcopal Church of the Mediator

3. Roll Call: Davis, Glazier, Guridy, Hendricks, O'Connell
Juan Camacho represented for the Solicitor's Office

4. Courtesy of the Floor

Mr. Kenneth Heffentrager, 733 N. 11th Street – Allentown Tenants Association, stated that it is not our sole purpose to talk about one slumlord. There are many in the city that needs to get their act together. Something needs to be put forth to do what's right. Fines don't affect these people. Last year money from the NIZ is generated through tax dollars and \$475,000 was spent on the little parcel of land to Joe Clark. The Allentown Housing Authority buildings are atrocious. There are boards on top of air conditioning units. There are a dozen people with no working refrigerators and there is a bedbug infestation. He also mentioned Aqua Realty and another financial institution have properties not maintained.

Mr. O'Connell stated he heard \$328,000.

Mr. Guridy stated that he will relay the message to Mr. Farrell. Some items have been addressed. We are working on that.

Mr. Mike Park, 214 ½ N. Front Street, stated that his daughter Teresa rents from Joe Clark. Her basement is totally covered with sewage. You can smell the sewage before you enter the house. It has not been repaired properly. He needs to be held responsible.

Ms. Cecelia Gerlach, 956 W. Walnut Street, asked that no more tickets be given after 6:00 PM until the Allentown Parking Authority completes their study.

Mr. Guridy stated that he was told it is \$25, and they will issue you a permit.

Mr. O'Connell stated that we will get clarification.

Ms. Gerlach stated that \$25 is a lot of money for some households.

Ms. Pamela Willen, 106 N. 9th Street, stated that she went to the Parking Authority and they wanted me to pay \$75 to park in the spiral deck parking garage and a \$75 deposit. They stated for a permit, I have to

park on Turner. I do video programming for my church and don't get home until 1:00 AM in the morning. She suggested there is illegal activity going on around the laundromat.

Ms. Bilma Kingsley, 111 S. 9th Street, stated that she works at a local hospital. I work 12 hour shifts and they extend the hours. I don't want to park blocks away. I feel that I don't have a decent home if I don't have parking available to me.

Ms. Colon 822 W. Walnut Street, stated that she is a single mother of three and struggling to maintain herself. She is waking up feeding the meter. She received a ticket in front of her house. The parking tickets are accumulating.

Ms. Pat Kantz, 1140 Catasauqua Avenue, stated there were three shootings in four days. We called the police on the activity that goes on. Why the rules are not being enforced? The landlords are absent.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated give us the addresses and we can look into it with the police department. Under the disruptive conduct, if it is verified that we were there three times. It is a process.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that he will follow up with Tamara Dolan in regards to the parking issue.

Mr. Ray O'Connell welcomed the new Assistant Solicitor, Juan Camacho.

5. Approval of Minutes: May 20, 2015

MINUTES APPROVED BY COMMON CONSENT

6. Old Business

NONE

7. Communications

Mr. O'Connell announced two public hearings will occur on June 17th.

Allentown City Council will conduct a Public Hearing on Wednesday, June 17, 2015 at 6:00 PM in Council Chambers, 435 Hamilton Street, Allentown, PA 18101. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to take public testimony on the request for the Intermunicipal Transfer of Liquor License Number R-1524, LouAnn Restaurant Group, LLC, from 129 - 131 Howertown, Road, Catasauqua, PA 18032 to 365 S. Cedar Crest Boulevard, Allentown, PA 18103 (Weis Markets, Inc.). The transfer applicant is Weis Markets, Inc. There will be a resolution on the council meeting that follows the public hearing that will allow City Council to approve or disapprove the transfer.

Another Public Hearing will commence at 6:30 PM – Council will take testimony on a proposed ordinance amending the City of Allentown Zoning Ordinance. The amendment proposes to rezone an area bounded by North 5th Street to the west, North Penn Street to the east, W. Turner Street to the south, and generally Oak Street extended to the north from Medium High Density Residential (R-MH) and Institutional and Government (I-G) District to High Density Residential (R-H) District. City Council may adopt this amendment to the Zoning Ordinance at the regularly scheduled Council Meeting immediately following the Public Hearing.

Mr. Ray O'Connell stated that he is so thrilled with Dieruff High School. If that didn't bring a tear in your eyes. He gave a Proclamation to everyone.

Ms. Sarah Pastelyak invited the cast up to perform *In the Heights*.

Mr. Guridy read off the names of the recipients of the Proclamations.

Mr. O'Connell asked any comments from my colleagues. Mr. Hendricks is a Dieruff grad and Ms. Koval is a Dieruff grad.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated you make me really proud. I have to say that it is such a broad spectrum when you go from what you do to being awarded. In a couple of weeks we are going to offering an award to a former Dieruff alumnus in the world of sports and that will be rededicating a city street and a park in the name of Andre Reed. I am looking sometime down the road renaming some other city asset in the name of one of you students who perhaps will go on to Broadway and from what we see tonight I see there is a real possibility of that. Thank you so much and I wish you continued success.

Mr. O'Connell stated that his mom is back there. I see Joyce. Ms. Koval, our controller is a Dieruff grad also.

Ms. Mary Ellen Koval congratulated all of them and stated that it is a great honor that you brought not only to Dieruff High School, but also to the City of Allentown. You should be very proud of yourself. I think in the history of the Freddy's and they are not that old, but you guys certainly have pulled together and gone right to the top. Thank you.

Mr. Jeff Glazier stated speaking as an Allen grad. I remember it wasn't that many years ago when Dieruff didn't have a theatre program and it was thanks to the support of Representative Samuelson who got an appropriation of \$10,000 for Dieruff and also with support from the School District Foundation. It's been able to invest in Dieruff and its students. All I can say is that the payoff is absolutely amazing. Having been on the School Board for a number of years and work for the Foundation for a number of years, I am certainly very proud of all of you. Keep up the good work.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that he graduated from Freedom High School, but *In the Heights* is about Dominicans that live in Washington Heights. I never lived in New York, I always lived in Bethlehem and Allentown, but I have relatives that live in the Heights and it is very dearing to me. The main guy is a Dominican guy and so am I. They even mentioned my name in the play. Didn't they say Julio? Congratulations, you did a wonderful job.

Mr. O'Connell stated I would like for you to play that part.

Mr. Joe Davis stated that he graduated from Liberty, but does have two daughters who graduated from Dieruff. I was one of the fortunate ones, my wife when Ed Hanna first starts talking about the Freddy awards she watches everything. I was really impressed with the competition you faces. You did a fantastic job. Not that I know anything about music, but my wife was happy all the time. I would like to congratulate you. You made Allentown proud and my wife. You did very good. I was impressed. I thank you for being who you are and the commitment that you put in the program and wish you the best of luck.

Mr. Ray O'Connell stated that I would be remised if I didn't say hello to my good friend, Ms. Hamburger. When I worked at the school district, she was at Harrison Morton as an art teacher for years and now you are at Dieruff High School.

Ms. Hamburger stated that she is retired. I come back to help.

Mr. O'Connell asked if the parents of the students here that had nothing to do, but support. I saw there were some parents that were actively involved. Just to be a supporter of the practices and rehearsals and the tears and the smiles. You definitely made Dieruff proud, the Allentown School District proud, and made the entire City of Allentown proud, because it's Dieruff. You say Dieruff and Allen, Dieruff and Allen. You are the city's kids. You are us. We love you for what you do and we want you to grow up and be productive young citizens. We want you to go away and get an education and come back to Allentown. Make the city even better. We have turned the corner. A lot of things are happening in the city. Seeing the future of the city. It is fantastic. Congratulations on your achievement. This is a moment that will be with you for the rest of your life. You deserve it. Bask in the glory.

8. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

Budget and Finance: Chairperson Glazier

The committee has not met since the last Council meeting; the next meeting is not yet scheduled. It will be prior to the next Council meeting.

Public Safety: Chairperson Eichenwald

Mr. O'Connell stated the Committee has not met since the last meeting; the next meeting is not yet scheduled.

Community and Economic Development: Chairperson Guridy

The Committee has not met since the last Council meeting; the next meeting is scheduled for June 17th at 5:45 PM.

Parks and Recreation: Chairperson Mota

Mr. O'Connell stated the Committee has not met since the last council meeting; the next meeting has not yet been scheduled.

Public Works: Chairperson Davis

The Committee has not met since the last Council meeting, the next meeting is scheduled for June 17 at 5:30 PM.

Human Resources, Administration and Appointments: Chairperson Hendricks

The Committee has not met since the last 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. Joe Davis stated that the Compliance Review Board met for the first time tonight. We reviewed the first report that dealt with 2014. It was a very positive report. The Compliance Office did a fantastic job in getting that report to us. They worked very well with the committee. Looking forward to future meetings with them. Members of LCA were also here and gave a short statement. On a whole it was a very positive report. Some issues will be put on the next agenda.

City Controller's Report

Ms. Mary Ellen Koval stated that if you have not already received, the following reports were being emailed to Councilmembers and the administration. The Accounts Payable Weekly Check Review for the month of April where we reviewed 545 checks in the amount of approximately \$2.5 million and 11 wire transfers in the amount of \$1.5 million. You will also be receiving the cash account report for the Golf Course and the audit report and the process flow for the encumbrances.

Managing Director's Report

Mr. Fran Dougherty stated that the Faces of the Budget will continue in July with the Parks department coming before you and talk about the youth program and the successes since the reorganization. I would like to announce Phase II of the Faces of the Budget will now working with Heidi Baer and it is our intention

starting in September to try to bring majority of the 30 entities that receives CDBG funding which you fund and authorize before you to meet them and tell us what they do and what they are achieving what the money you that body allocates. Two points of order, I would like Anne and Jim come up for the presentation of the Clean Team.

Clean Team Presentation:

Jim Byrnes – Allentown Rescue Mission – CEO

Michael Mauro – Allentown Rescue Mission – Clean Team Manager

Ms. Ann Saurman stated good evening and stated that Fran had asked her about the progress of the Allentown Rescue Mission Clean Team. As you know as a Bureau Manager as the Bureau of Recycling and Solid Waste, I am the administrator of the contract we have with the Allentown Clean Team and this is paid out of the Solid Waste Fund. We had previously had two separate contracts with the Clean Team for services in the Hamilton District area and adjacent neighborhood area. We have entered into a new contract with them effective January 2015 which has combined those two contracts. They are responsible for the central business district and also adjacent neighborhood district. They are cleaning the area from Walnut to north to Tilghman Street from 4th to 12th Street and side streets in between, as their time allows. They are responsible for helping with special cleanup projects and special event assistance. In General, these duties include litter cleanup, power washing of the sidewalks, set up and teardown of special events, such as Independence Day, Blues, Brews, and Barbeque, Special Projects which involve additional cleaning services before and after certain events and snow removal, salting and clearing around the meters, pedestrian corners at the intersections and around the parking meters which this winter was no easy task by all means. They were out in all kinds of weather during the storms so that as people were leaving restaurants and PPL Center, the sidewalks were safe for travel and they were out post storm for cleanup. They did a tremendous job this winter for us. I especially like to acknowledge Mike Mauro, who is a Clean Team Manager. He is truly dedicated and a hardworking individual and an inspirational leader for his staff and the Clean Team Men and the ones he built a wonderful relationship over the years. It is a pleasure for me to work with him on a day to day basis, week to week. He is somebody that says he is going to do it, he gets the job done. He makes my job as a contract administrator easy to do. Also, to his right is Jim Byrnes, CEO of the Allentown Rescue Mission.

Introduction & Thanks – Jim Byrnes

Mr. Jim Byrnes stated from the bottom of my heart in the six week of my tenure of the new CEO of the Allentown Rescue Mission, I can't tell you how much we appreciate the amazing contract you award us on a regular basis. From our board of directors, our staff and way more important, our clients that serve faithfully cleaning the City of Allentown. We thank you, thank you, and thank you. The recycle and non-recycle products that we pick up, think about the recycling project we have. A man that may be sleeping inside of a store entrance or on a curb or under the bridge. He gets the ability to find a mission to be able to begin to rebuild his life through our programs and to be able to join the Clean Team after his program and become a working man of society serving our great city. It is my pleasure now to introduce to you the man behind the Clean Team, Mike Mauro.

Clean Team Statistics & Client Success – Michael Mauro

- **Amount of trash & recycling removed from City Streets since new contract inception**
- **Projected amount of trash & recycling to be removed in 2015**
- **Number of men who successfully found employment since program inception (2008)**
- **Client success story**

Mr. Michael Mauro thanked the city for again selecting the Clean Team this year to provide a variety of services that we do under the contract. As Ann has said, we have been operating under this contract since January 18th of this year and this year's success of what this men accomplished both practically and personally is the reason that we are here for you tonight. Whether it will be picking up litter in the City of Allentown or whether it be shoveling the sidewalks on Hamilton Street during a snowy night at Neil Diamond Concert or setting up for special events downtown such as next weekend we have the Blues Brews and Barbeque. The men learn personally by earning the wages, building values that they can take to other employers here in the community. That is just absolutely a success. The sheer amount of practical success that these guys have done. Since contract inception, January 18th of this year through last month, the Clean Team Men have filled 999 bags of recycling with an estimated weight of almost ten tons. These men filled have filled 1,700 bags of trash with a total weight of 7.3 tons. For the year 2015, I project that the Clean Team men will pick up and fill 2,274 bags of recycling with an estimated weight of 54,000 pounds which is about 27 tons and 4,600 bags of trash with an estimated weight of 46,000 pounds. As Jim has said, who would have thought that guys that may have been sleeping on our corners are now being out and being productive members of our society and picking up almost 50 tons of material piece by piece? How does this opportunity impact the men personally, since the Clean Team Program started in 2008, we helped transition over 148 men into employment here in the community. Officer Jim Stankel from the Allentown Police Department often reminds me of one of our successes. In late 2012, we had a man named Derick who completed the Rescue Mission's In House Life Skills Program. Derick came to us with a background in business. He had his associate's degree business and a certificate from Lincoln Technical School and he has struggled holding down a job and came to the Rescue Mission and went through our Life Skills Program and was hired on the Clean Team and through the good work that the City of Allentown allowed us to bid upon at that we had won through the contract, Derrick was placed downtown on the Hamilton Street District to do litter cleanup. I am very happy to announce in 2013, Derrick left the Clean Team to a full-time position in collections within the 500 block of Hamilton Street. If Derrick would not have been working in the Downtown District through a contract that was provided by the City of Allentown, he may have never made that connection with that company. And, may not have been working Downtown, contributing back at the taxpayer base. On behalf of the Allentown Rescue Mission's Clean Team Program, he and Jim presented an award to City Council and the City of Allentown.

Plaque Presentation – In Recognition of the City's support of the Clean Team Program

Ms. Ann Saurman stated on behalf of Fran, me, the administration and Craig thank you for all you do

Mr. Ray O'Connell thanked the Allentown Rescue Mission's Clean Team and stated that they do a wonderful job to allow the transition from the Rescue Mission back into the workforce.

9. APPOINTMENTS:

NONE

10. ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE:

NONE

11. RESOLUTIONS FOR FINAL PASSAGE:

NONE

12. ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION:

Bill 30

Referred to Public Works

Providing for the vacation of a portion of North Levan Street from the centerline of Turner Street to the

centerline of Russell Street and a portion of Russell Street from the centerline of North Levan Street to the centerline of North Penn Street located in the Ninth Ward of the City of Allentown.

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

Bill 31

Referred to Public Safety

Amending the 2015 General Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of \$14,284.70 from a PEMA grant, Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, to the Fire Department to provide for Self Contained Breathing Apparatus Equipment.

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

Bill 32

Referred to Parks and Recreation

Amending the 2015 Capital Project Fund Budget to provide for a transfer of Twenty Three Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty (\$23,850) from Capital Project 1698 (Ice Skating Rink) to Capital Project 2202 (WPA Structures) for design services and construction documents necessary to rebuild a failing section of WPA stone masonry retaining wall along the Lehigh Parkway.

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

13. RESOLUTIONS FOR INTRODUCTION:

R26 My Brothers Keeper

Supports my Brother's Keeper Community Challenge.

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

RESOLUTION PASSED, 5 – 0

Mr. Ray O'Connell stated that he received a phone call from Ms. Mota. Ms. Mota if she was here wants to put on the record that she is very supportive of this program. Ms. Eichenwald supports R26 My Brother's Keeper as well.

R27 Legislation Livingston Watershed Body

Authorizes Submission of an Application to Watershed Restoration and Protection Program for a Three Hundred Thousand (\$300,000) Dollar Grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, for the Livingston Watershed Project.

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

Ms. Craig Messinger stated that this goes back to the issue we had on Albright and Andrew Street with the flooding. In 2013, we actually did a study of the Livingston Watershed. There were some repairs and work we could do in house in taking care some issues. In the report, there were a list of items to help alleviate flooding issues in that area. In 2015, we actually with your help have \$200,000 to do some repairs to the intersection there. We are actually going to lower the intersection so it won't dam up any more. We have a design now that we have in house to lower that intersection and add inlets and help with the damming of that with the flooding issue. We are going to be doing it partially in house and partially with contractors, but there is an estimated cost of \$200,000. We saw there is a Growing Greener Grant that we were told that would average about \$300,000 that we would be able to leverage with the money we are spending on our own. We are working with a consultant to get all those taken care of, but this Project will be able to not only

advance the study of the Livingston Watershed which was necessary, but it will create a list of Green Projects that we can do in the future so that we can have projects ready to go so when future grants monies are there we are ready to go out for them. It would create Green Projects sort of what we have on Nineteen Street in the area of Liberty and Allen. The planting and it takes some of the water and keeps it from flooding into the drains. We want to try to utilize the money and the capital that the City is putting out already to add another \$300,000. In essence taking \$200,000 of ours and changing it to \$500,000 project.

Mr. Fran Dougherty stated that Craig has demonstrated time and time again his ability to leverage our money and to extend it. Especially with the traffic control system that we put around town. We ask that you help us support him in this endeavor. Under Craig's leadership, we have had no flooding issues since that time. We have been pro-active with the recently formed Storm Sewer Operations. We have the ability to clean the inlets and it has made a world of difference. Craig has been working with the Fairgrounds which contributes significantly to the issues of flooding there. They have done a tremendous job and should be lauded for that for all the work that they do for the short-term and long-term.

Mr. O'Connell stated that he could not agree more. He lives at 25th and Allen and behind my Allen is Andrew Street. I saw the machine yesterday going down. He asked Mr. Messinger did you say on Albright you are going to level it.

Mr. Messinger stated that basically when you are traversing eastward on Andrew Street, you come up to Albright Avenue. The street currently comes up with a high crown and comes down again. That damming action is the lowest area in that area. It creates a bathtub effect. What we are doing that was designed in house for the intersection to go straight across with new curbing, sidewalks, handicap ramps, crosswalks and a rain garden in that area. We have a pretty elaborate set up in that area. We are trying to take every step we can.

Mr. O'Connell at the Fairground that night was an unbelievable amount of rain. I don't think we will ever see that again. The Fairgrounds, please fill me in. That whole tunnel was three feet high. What do they have to do?

Mr. Messinger stated that there is a couple of areas that we worked with the Fairgrounds that they feel would work for rain gardens. There are two areas that we will be able to catch some of the run-offs before it will come out of the Fairgrounds out onto Liberty Street.

Mr. Dougherty stated half their piping was block because it hadn't been clean.

Mr. Messinger stated that their piping was clean and we also upgraded some of the inlets. We are trying to do everything we can in house. This will create a larger project and take more of the storm water away.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated Mr. Messinger is very good at answering complaints. I think it was midnight when I sent him an email on a view obstruction at a dangerous intersection and at 7:30 AM he went through the intersection, he responded and agreed with my findings and was working to get it alleviated.

RESOLUTION PASSED, 5 – 0

14. NEW BUSINESS

NONE

15. GOOD AND WELFARE

NONE

16. ADJOURNED: 8:36 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.