

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



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

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**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
October 15, 2014
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

COUNCIL MEETING – 7:00 PM

1. Invocation: Pastor Felix - New Beginning Church

2. Pledge to the Flag

3. Roll Call: David, Eichenwald, Hendricks, Guridy, Mota, O'Connell
John Marchetto represented for the Solicitor's office

4. Courtesy of the Floor

Mr. Lou Hershman, 405 N. Gilmore Street, asked about the Investment Committee. We have \$80 million of pooled and unpooled money with no oversight. We need oversight. He asked about the CAFR Report and Junk Bond or Junk Bond Grades.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that we will certainly look into it.

Ms. Jeanette Eichenwald stated that this is a serious issue. You have \$80 million in the hands of one person. Our policy is to have an Investment Committee. What is the status?

Mr. Guridy asked Mr. Hanlon to work on the Investment Committee.

Mr. Glenn Hunsicker, 844 S. 11th Street, stated that the 2015 budget there is a proposal to spend \$250,000 or more to move the recycling center from 15th and Martin Luther King. Council has to look at this. Why are they doing that? I look at that as a real estate point: location, location, location. This is one or two profit centers that the city has.

Mr. Guridy stated that he certainly been to both places and will find out your question about the safety issue and the loss of revenue.

Mr. Kenneth Heffentrager, 733 N. 11th Street – Allentown Tenants Association, asked why the City Council and the city administration insist forcing us to fill out a Right to Know to obtain information that supposed to be readily to the public. He asked who is on the Housing Taskforce with no clear answer. He read the list of the Housing Taskforce members. When was the last time they met?

Mr. Guridy stated that he knows a lot of people on that board and majority of them know a lot about housing.

Mr. Joe Davis stated that they applied for the designation. Resident have their own committee.

Ms. Milagros Canales, Old Fairgrounds and HADC, stated that Mr. Heffentrager had a question if the people on the board know the community, HADC has been in the community for more than 30 years and represent low affordable housing. She stated that her role alongside the Community Action role is to find affordable housing. As a board member, our commitment is big. We bend over backwards for our residents.

Ms. Paulette Hunter asked about the Neighborhood Partnership Strategy for the center city. Consultants were hired and the signs were sent out and we made our comments and were supposed to get something back in September. I haven't heard anything.

Mr. Joe Davis stated that it was an email sent out from Mike Moore today for the forum that will be a follow up. They are going to be talking about what we did the first two times.

Mr. Hanlon will forward Ms. Hunter the email. The meeting will be on Tuesday, October 21st at the Lehigh County Government Center at 6:30 PM.

Ms. Eichenwald stated that there is also a session at 5:00 PM.

Ms. Cecelia Gerlach, 956 W. Walnut Street, stated that the last Council meeting she was here regarding the LCCC parking situation and now it is in the paper. She implored Council to use their power to speak with people at LCCC and the Parking Authority.

Mr. Guridy stated that they are working on that already.

Mr. Ernie Atiyeh, 421 W. Chew Street, stated that the Presidents Council meets once a month. We talk about citywide issues and neighborhood issues and attempt to resolve them. We are conducting a fundraiser for the Allentown Police Department. We have 38 officers that are certified for bike patrol. We are looking for your support. We want to get cameras for their helmets.

Mr. Guridy asked when is the fundraising event.

Mr. Atiyeh stated it started and goes on until December 31st.

5. Approval of Minutes: September 3, 2014 and October 1, 2014

Approved by Common Consent

6. Old Business

Ms. Eichenwald asked is there any development as far as the Encroachment at the Hamilton Restaurant.

Mr. Craig Messinger stated that we did have a site visit and I took our construction inspector Ted Berger and went to the site and they do meet all of ADA requirements. We are going to have a site visit with Andrew from North Star to take a look.

Ms. Eichenwald thanked Mr. Messinger for his quick results. She seconded what Ms. Gerlach said. It behooves us to be silent on this issue. We have LCCC students who need relief. We can't forget about the students that enrolled at LCCC.

Mr. Guridy stated that we can do a Resolution or send a letter.

Mr. O'Connell asked can Council make a motion.

Mr. Guridy stated that we can just do a Resolution and send it to them. We should call the Parking Authority as well.

7. Communications

None

8. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

Budget and Finance: Chairperson Schweyer

The committee has not met since the last meeting. The next meeting is scheduled on October 22.

Public Safety: Chairperson Eichenwald

The Committee has not met since the last Council meeting, the next meeting is scheduled for November 5, 2014.

Community and Economic Development: Chairperson Davis

The Committee has not met since the last council meeting, the next meeting has not yet been scheduled.

Parks and Recreation: Chairperson Mota

The Committee has not met since the last council meeting, the next meeting is not yet scheduled.

Public Works: Chairperson O'Connell

The Committee met last Thursday and forwarded items on tonight's agenda.

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

None

Managing Director's Reports

Mr. Fran Dougherty yielded his time to the HR Director

Ms. Amy Trapp stated there is very exciting news. When I was in the private sector we collected feedback. It is important to collect feedback from employees and managers of what they think what is going on in the organization. In early Fall we were notified by the Morning Call that we were nominated as one of the top places to work in the Lehigh Valley. What we did was conduct an employee survey. We did not tell the employees that we were nominated for an award. I didn't think it would net a result that I was seeking. Courtney Russell and I worked 24 hours a day for a week to get in front of the employee population. We visited the platoons that were on platoons, the firefighters, all of the non-uniformed employees that we could get in front of to talk about the feedback collection. We were notified that we will receive an award. There are 30 companies and organizations across the Lehigh Valley. It required a 35 percent response rate. At the city, we got a 65 percent response rate. That is a tremendous response rate. It is February when the Morning Call rolls out the rankings and where the organizations sit in the rankings. We are very pleased that this is happening. We sit in the top five of the companies that were nominated.

Mr. Guridy stated that he had a meeting with one of the employers and it is over a thousand new people working in the city since the arena opened.

Ms. Trapp stated that we still get it filtered through us as well. I was on the job study committee as they were looking to place people.

Mr. Guridy asked about another job fair coming up. Is it planned in the city?

Ms. Trapp stated that she is not aware of the Job Fair coming up, but we would be happy to participate. We don't have a lot of open positions. She can certainly check with Career Link or the Workforce Investment Board.

Ms. Sara Hailstone stated that the Workforce Investment Board has a lot often times and coordinates with us.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated as a 36 year member of the staff for the City of Allentown, I am not surprised, I commend you none the less. It is a great place to work.

9. APPOINTMENTS:

None

10. ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE:

Bill 24 RRO Wholesale Addition

Amending the Zoning Code, Article 1301-1331 of the Codified Ordinances, Section 1314.01., RRO RIVERFRONT REDEVELOPMENT OVERLAY DISTRICT, C. Use Regulations, by adding Wholesale as a use under the Riverfront section under certain conditions.

Mr. Davis stated that this was presented to the Allentown Planning Commission back in July and they had three conditions. August, presented the three they added the three sections to the ordinance and the Planning Commission approved it and on August 13th the Community and Economic Development Committee met to discuss it. We agree with the three provisions. We thought about the traffic situation and our issues were resolved. The committee passed it favorably, 2 – 0.

ORDINANCE PASSED, 5 – 0

Bill 40 Year Round Street Cleaning

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

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

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

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

Mr. Ray O'Connell stated that it was in front of the Public Works Committee last week and passed favorably, 3 – 0.

Mr. Craig Messinger stated that this is a two part process. It is a housecleaning issue and prior we did not have the exact districts the way that they are cordoned off in the ordinance so we wanted to add 9 and 1

and District 2 adding it to the year round sweeping.

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

ORDINANCE PASSED, 6 – 0

11. RESOLUTIONS FOR FINAL PASSAGE:

R46 Encroachment 726 Hall Street

Encroachment: Steps at 726 Hall Street

Mr. O'Connell stated that the only people that showed up for the encroachment last week were the people asking for the encroachment. It was a lady that was handicapped and they want to put the steps on the side of her home instead of the front for easier access. They realize if we do pass it, they would have to get the permits and zoning approval.

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

RESOLUTION, PASSED 6 – 0

R47 Encroachment

Encroachment: Sign at 707 North 4th Street

Mr. O'Connell stated that we talked about it and there was nobody here from 707 N. 4th Street. It is going to be a cigar store. The sign will be above people that are walking down the street. It will be on the second floor. There were no objectors. It passed favorably, 3 – 0.

Mr. Guridy asked if it is the old cigar factory.

Mr. O'Connell stated that he doesn't know if it is the old cigar factory. They are going to sell cigars.

Ms. Mota asked is it across from the C-Town.

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

RESOLUTION, PASSED 6 – 0

12. ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION:

Bill 42 CDBG 39th year budget amendment

Referred to CEDC

Amending the Consolidated Plan One Year Action Plan for the Thirty-ninth year of the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) which re-programs Twenty-five Thousand (\$25,000) Dollars of unexpended funds. This bill cancels an activity and makes \$25,000 of funds available for the proposed Winter Sheltering program, operated by the Lehigh County Conference of Churches, which recently submitted an application for CDBG program funds.

Mr. Guridy asked were there any comments from the public.

Bill 43 Lead Grant

Referred to CEDC

Amending the 2014 General Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of \$35,000 as a result of a Commonwealth of PA Department of Health Grant, to the Bureau of Building Standards and Safety to provide for lead paint remediation.

Mr. Guridy asked were there any comments from the public.

13. RESOLUTIONS FOR INTRODUCTION:

Mr. Guridy made a motion to suspend the Rules to introduce R48.

Mr. O'Connell seconded the motion.

R48 HARB Case

Certificates of Appropriateness for work at 1509 W. Linden Street and 930 Oak Street

RESOLUTION, PASSED 6 – 0

14. NEW BUSINESS

None

15. GOOD AND WELFARE

The first Hockey Game is coming up on the 17th.

16. ADJOURNED: 7:47 PM