

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
November 5, 2014
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

COUNCIL MEETING – 7:00 PM

1. Invocation: Bishop Iris Smith

2. Pledge to the Flag

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

4. Courtesy of the Floor

Mr. Kenneth Heffentrager, 733 N. 11th Street, asked if the city can remove a name from the Landlord Hall of Shame. These people no longer own property in the city. Why are properties not being inspected for decades. He asked about the Housing Taskforce.

Mr. Joe Davis stated that the Housing Taskforce was formed to prepare a strategy for what they plan to do once we get the Keystone Community Designation. A strategy and what part of the city they will start. It is an overall strategy.

Mr. Lou Hershman, 405 N. Gilmore Street, stated that his main concern is the \$54 million encumbered in Capital Projects. He asked about the \$1.7. Do we really have the money? Are we going to swear in a new councilperson tonight?

Mr. Peter Schweyer stated meetings have to be advertised publicly.

Mr. Glenn Hunsicker congratulated Mr. Schweyer. Two weeks ago we showed you about the Capital Projects. They left off the funding codes. I see a story in the paper that they need \$15 million. Fourteen months ago, we got \$211 million. He said \$15 million is what they need now. These numbers don't balance. We need more transparency in the city.

Ms. Diane Teti, 328 N. 8th Street, stated that the Shelter did open and the first night 12 people, two nights at 20 and last night they had over 30 people. The night of the Eagles concert, my two roommates decided to walk downtown. They didn't have tickets, but they wanted to check out the restaurants and all the excitement. As they were leaving the Brew Works, they were approached by the Police and offered an escort back to their car. They explained to the officer that they live in Old Allentown, and they were fine and the officer proceeded and assisted that they needed an escort and questioned as to their sanity. This is

upsetting. She came to her house last week and she had a sticker and basically said it is in violation of the City of Allentown Ordinance. There is an assumption that I am in violation. It was posted on my door because of something that I posted on Facebook. This took place all in one week. This was posted on Monday and by Friday, this was on my door. I have three houses across the street from me that have been boarded up for six years, 329, 343, and 345 No. 8th Street. One of the properties is going to be transferred to Penrose. I was told back in April that the Redevelopment Authority was working on the property. In July, I was told that the properties will be transferred to Penrose and absolutely nothing has happened. The other two properties, I was told were going to be transferred to Habitat for Humanity. She asked how is it possible for Hamilton Towers to collect rent for over a year and still be considered a Hotel.

Ms. Jeanette Eichenwald stated that what you brought to us is obviously distressing. I hope that it will be followed through. She thinks that Alliance Hall being opened as a shelter is attributed to you and your efforts.

Mr. Julio Guridy pointed out the Police telling people they are crazy for living downtown is unacceptable. It is hearsay, but we can talk to the Police Chief.

Ms. Teti stated that this is the third incident and has happened with one of the board members. She asked for follow up on the three properties on N. 8th Street.

Mr. Guridy stated that the Mayor is here and can certainly follow up on it.

Mr. Julian Kern, 252 E. Walnut Street, stated that there are properties in this city going 14 + years without being inspected. What's going on with 201 N. 7th Street that has been blighted for 13 years. He asked about the Housing Taskforce and if a plan is developed and who developed it. How can we see the strategy.

Mr. Davis stated it was developed. It was another taskforce and the city administration. We had a public forum on it.

5. Approval of Minutes: October 15, 2014

Approved by Common Consent

6. Old Business

Mr. Ray O'Connell read and Council presented Proclamations for Epilepsy Awareness Month and to Brew Work's for the Bronze and Gold Metal winner at the Great American Beer Festival.

Mr. Fegley stated that they will continue their Brew Beer in the Lehigh Valley and are going to expand our Brewery. They are thankful for being in Allentown.

7. Communications: Mayor's Budget Presentation

Mr. Ed Pawlowski stated that so much has happened. We stood together to open up the new PPL Center. We are seeing a renewed vitality. There are more feet on the streets than we have seen in decades and a \$1 billion worth of development over the next several years. In less than two months, our arena have opened and hosted such national headliners such as the Eagles, Tom Petty, WWE and Professional Bullriding that was national televised on CBS Sports. Neil Diamond will be kicking off his world tour. He sold out two shows. We finalized the lease concession of the water and utilities. As a result, our cash position is in far better shape as is our financial outlook. Both Moody's and Standard & Poors have

improved their comments on the city's outlook going forward. If you look at 2015 Proposed Budget continues to build upon the extraordinary success of our great city. These phenomenal achievements have garnered the City of Allentown international acclaim and recognition of a city that has taken full control of its destiny. Late last year, these two projects were recognized as the Northeast Deal of the Year by the Bond Buyer. This administration has worked tirelessly with City Council and the City Controller to vigorously pursue initiatives and reduce spending in all areas of city government. The city anticipates finishing 2014 with expenditures \$3 million under anticipated revenues. The proposed 2015 Budget conservatively estimates revenues for 2015 and calls for \$97 million in spending. As promised, the 2015 budget lowers the cost of doing business in Allentown. The proposed budget reduces the Act 205 Earned Income Tax rate for non-residents from 0.33% to 0.28%. The Business Privilege Tax remains stable, as does the \$52 Local Services Tax. The Refuse Collection Fee remains flat. The 2015 Budget will see no increase in Real Estate Taxes. That is the tenth year in a row, we have done this. We had no layoffs in our Public Safety Staff. Bulk of expenses are in personnel. The vast number is in Public Safety. We had contractual increases: 4 percent increase for Police this year, 3 percent for Fire and 1.5 percent for SEIU. We have increases in insurance related to Healthcare and Workmen's Comp. and the overall budget decreases by \$6,374,000 over the 2014 budget. The city has cut costs on every level and greatly reduced the size of city government and staff. New staff for 2015 includes five new grant funded police officers and one additional SWEEP officer to address community blight issues. Continue to fill open positions in police department, 5 new positions by end of 2015 due to new federal grants. Bringing the overall police compliment to its highest level in over a decade. The city will purchase in-car cameras for police vehicles and body cameras for all our officers. This new technology will increase transparency and accountability for the members of the department. We will begin improvements to the APD record management system, mobile data computers and add street cameras to increase efficiency and enhance safety in our neighborhoods. Information Systems, the city needs to upgrade information systems equipment and we have developed a three year plan to accomplish that task. Our PC's, scanners and network switches are behind the times. Upgrades are necessary. The city will also purchase a computerized time clock system for use by city staff to improve work place performance and efficiency. Infrastructure, we are making a significant investment in our infrastructure. Reconstruction or repair projects of the Union and Albert Street bridges and Schreiber's Bridge are nearing completion or are underway. Work is also proceeding on the long-awaited American Parkway Bridge and the reconstruction of the Eighth Street and the reconstruction of the Tilghman Street Bridge. The city will convert its streetlights to LED's reducing our electricity consumption by 35-to-40 percent and saving approximately between \$200,000 to \$300,000 annually. The traffic signalization improvements in the downtown have been getting rave reviews. Just about a week ago we learned that the city will receive \$2.1 million from the state from the Multimodal Transportation Fund for the installation of a traffic responsive signal system at 56 additional intersections, the development of a Traffic Management Center, and improvements at Lehigh Street/Union Street and 6th Street/Union Streets. We will embark on a large scale city-wide paving program over the next three years on city streets. Several years ago, we had a study of our pools suggested millions of dollars in construction and renovations were needed. This year we are committing \$3 million to improve our aged city swimming pools. Just last month, the city offered a self-forgiving loan program to qualified homeowners who are required to install/replace curbs/sidewalk on their property in conjunction with the city's Street Reconstruction and Pedestrian Safety Program. That will continue in 2015. Proposed Borrowing - It has been over a year since the Concession Lease of the Water and Sewer Utility System brought us from the precipice of a financial tsunami. Our cash position is in far better shape as is our financial outlook. We have reduced our overall debt as a results of that transaction by \$46 million dollars over the past year. The current interest rate climate is at its lowest in decades, but indications are rates will rise within the next year. The budget proposes that the city take out a short term loan to fund those necessary items in the police department, for some of our I-T related projects and for fleet vehicles that are estimated at 10 year lifespan. The budget

also proposes that the city go to a long term bond issue for the previously mentioned street lighting, paving and pool projects, for larger pieces of equipment and for public works projects like the Livingston Watershed and bridge repairs. These projects exceed the limitations of the annual operational budget, but are necessary improvements that will enhance the services that we offer to our residents, better the delivery of those services and protect the investments in our infrastructure that were the wise decisions by our leaders dating back more than 50 years.

In 2015 the city is also continuing to invest and improve its infrastructure and assets. These projects are as follows:

ESCO Project	\$ 3,000,000
City-wide Street Repairs	\$ 2,500,000
Citywide Pools	\$ 3,000,000
PENNDOT Projects	\$ 1,626,000
Large Equipment	\$ 3,000,000
Roof Replacement & Bldg	\$ 750,000
Traffic Lights, Bridges, etc.	\$ 924,000
Livingston Street Watershed	\$ 200,000
	\$15,000,000

These funds will also be matched by other state and federal funds totaling more than \$8 million dollars to bring the city's total capital infrastructure investment to \$23 million in budget year 2015. My Department Directors will appear before you to review their proposed budgets. Here is the schedule.

He thanked everyone for your attention and let's continue working together to move Allentown forward.

Ms. Eichenwald thanked the Mayor and asked about the reduction of the EIT Tax. You talked about a reduction for nonresidents. Is there a reduction for residents?

Mayor Pawlowski stated that there is not. Act 205 relates to nonresidents. Under state law we are required to ratched that number down as we built in dollar of our pension fund. We have increased costs. We have 25 new officers, more than the city of Pittsburgh. We were the first to utilize that law. As we sure up the pension fund, we should phase it out. We have new companies coming in the city based on the promise to the general public.

Ms. Eichenwald asked for a solicitor's opinion on residents versus nonresidents. She asked about the number of police. We have 207. We received the grant to increase the number.

Mayor Pawlowski stated that we have 221 budgeted. It would be the highest complement that we have. We are picking up police. It is not that easy. We have to follow a civil service procedure. We have to go through background checks and physical checks and psychological checks. If they pass all those, then we present them to you. We presented four and have three more to present to you in the next week and several more after that are going through the academy. As we fill those positions, we have retirements, leave the force to go to other departments and go across the country. We had several officers that we had to fire. As we fill positions, we have positions that become open. I am confident that with the new folks that are in the academy and we have a streamline system, we will fill the positions over the next year.

Ms. Eichenwald asked is it an open-ended grant.

Mayor Pawlowski stated that it is a grant based on us filling the positions. As soon as the positions are filled we are able to draw down on that money from the Department of Justice. We have asked for extensions.

Ms. Eichenwald asked with the \$15 million how was the amounts based. How did you come to the conclusion. Do we have RFP's out.

Mayor Pawlowski stated based on estimates.

Ms. Eichenwald asked if the calculations were included as far as the debt service. How much will it cost us and over what year.

Mayor Pawlowski stated that the \$15 million comes a little bit over \$900,000 in debt service. If you look at what we are saving, it is cost neutral. We are probably going to pick up \$250,000 - \$300,000 in savings in electricity cost alone with replacing lights with LEDs. Our Liquid Fuels Fund, thanks to Governor Corbet for increasing gas tax which increased our Liquid Fuels. We are budgeting \$400,000 for street repair materials. We are going to amortize out. That will save \$300,000 a year in the General Fund. We want savings and efficiencies. We are going to a voice-over system. There is \$400,000 which will save significant dollars to Verizon or the phone company.

Ms. Eichenwald asked are the cost-savings already represented in here in the 2015. She asked about making the pools ADA compliant.

Mayor Pawlowski stated yes, and you will see them in 2016 and 2017. If we are renovating the pools, we have to make them ADA Compliant. We are losing millions of gallons of water because of leaks and we will save dollars there. The pools are past their lifespan. We are doing the ones that most in need of repair.

Mr. Gurdy stated that he had an opportunity to meet with the Mayor before, but he does have a question about short-term projects and long-term projects.

Mayor Pawlowski stated that he doesn't have it in his presentation, but you will have it in your packet. We are expanding the camera system dramatically, \$200,000 went towards cameras. They have proved to be extremely effective.

Mr. Gurdy went over the budget schedule.

8. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

Budget and Finance: Chairperson Schweyer

The committee has not met since the last meeting. The next meeting is not yet scheduled.

Public Safety: Chairperson Eichenwald

The Committee met this evening, the next meeting is not yet scheduled.

Community and Economic Development: Chairperson Davis

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

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 Gurdy

The Committee has not met since the last council meeting. There are no future meetings scheduled as of this time.

OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Schweyer stated he is tending his resignation from the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission. There will be an appointment open for an elected official from the City of Allentown to be made by the Lehigh County Executive.

Controller’s Report

NONE

Managing Director’s Reports

NONE

9. APPOINTMENTS:

Appointments to the Allentown Public Arts Committee Dan Kainz, Peter Lewnes, David Mickenberg, Mario Peralta, Debra Rabinsky

Appointments to the Allentown Public Arts Committee

Dan Kainz	01/05/2015
Peter Lewnes	01/05/2015
David Mickenberg	01/04/2016
Mario Peralta	01/04/2016
Debra Rabinsky	01/02/2017
Jeanette Eichenwald	01/01/2015

RESOLUTION PASSED, 6 – 0

Ms. Rabinsky thanked Council and stated they have started 3rd Fridays on 19th Street.

Mr. Peralta thanked Council for the opportunity.

Mr. Kainz thanked Council for the appointments and said they have a lot of work to do to get the sculptures refurbished.

Mr. Dougherty stated that they are reviewing names for the Public Arts Committee and hope to have it completed in a short period of time. Lauren Giguere was successful in appealing to the Century Fund. We were awarded a \$12,000 that we are putting towards the Public Arts Committee.

Mr. Gurdy stated that art is a language that we all love.

Appointments to the Electricians’ Examining Board Clive Levy

Appointments to the Electricians’ Examining Board

Clive Levy

04/18/2017

RESOLUTION PASSED, 6 – 0

Mr. Levy thanked Council for the appointment.

Mr. Davis stated that he was able to speak to Mr. Levy's co-workers and received very good recommendations.

10. ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE:

Bill 39 JAG

Amending the 2014 General Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of \$68,202 from a Department of Justice grant, 2014-DJ-BX-0793 to the Police Department to provide for the installation of digital In-Car Video System Police Cameras in patrol vehicles.

Ms. Eichenwald stated that it was forwarded favorably by a vote of 2 – 0. She stated that Assistant Chief Morris was here to explain this was up-to-date new technology and it is common in most police districts throughout the country.

ORDINANCED PASSED, 6 – 0

Bill 41 Bike Donation

Amending the 2014 General Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of \$1,446.94 as a result of a donation to the Police Department for the purchase of a bicycle.

Ms. Eichenwald stated that it was passed favorably, 2 – 0. This was a contribution from an individual citizen in our community. I am hoping that we can recognize the citizen in an appropriate manner.

Mr. Ernie Atiyeh, 421 W. Chew Street, stated this is part of the Allentown Presidents Council. We are doing a fundraiser to purchase ten police bikes. We are looking to get cameras for their helmets.

ORDINANCED PASSED, 6 – 0

Bill 42 CDBG 39th year budget amendment

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. Davis stated that the committee met tonight. Unfortunately, we did not have a quorum. He made a motion to pull it from the committee and present to the full Council.

Mr. Schweyer seconded the motion.

Motion passed, 6 – 0

Mr. Davis stated that this money is going to the Winter Sheltering Program. They were not ready to present their proposal to CDBG and it came up later.

Ms. Heidi Baer stated that during the CDBG Budget deliberations, the Winter Sheltering Program was still in discussion. Diane Teti, the city staff, and the Sheltering Committee, and the Conference of Churches brought together a program which is operating in Alliance Hall on November 1st. The Conference of Churches had a finalized proposal to request for CDBG funds. I have found unused prior years funds in order to budget for this account for this year, \$25,000 for the Winter Sheltering. It is a transfer from one to another, but because of HUD rules and regulations we have to cancel out the Fair Housing Proposal and add a new activity which is the Winter Sheltering Program.

Ms. Eichenwald congratulated Ms. Ms. Baer on her flexibility and your willingness to make this possible. We had several discussions last year in the dead of winter about the need for this. Thanks for making this possible.

Ms. Baer stated in addition to this \$25,000, and you had approved funding for the Allentown Rescue Mission, the Salvation Army, the Sixth Street Shelter and the Conference of Churches for Outreach and Rapid Rehousing. It is a pilot program this year.

Ms. Eichenwald stated that this \$25,000 will make an enormous impact. I feel confident that the money will be well spent.

Mr. Guridy asked about the Warmer Shelter. Behind the Wells Fargo building, a man stopped me stating that he was homeless and needed a dollar. I said if you are homeless we have several shelters. He stated that he has been to the Rescue Mission, but did not have an ID and they did not let him stay there. He said the same thing about the Alliance Hall Shelter.

Ms. Baer stated that she does not know if that is true, but knows for a fact the Winter Sheltering and because of the Conference of Churches and she spoke to the Executive Director earlier today, that they are working and making connections with some of the people at the sheltering.

Mr. O'Connell stated that the Shelter at Alliance Hall doesn't need an ID. The Rescue Mission you do.

Ms. Baer stated they do have to register and fill out an intake form.

Mr. Richard Fegley thanked Council and Heidi for coming up with this money. It is what is kick-starting this homeless shelter. He stated that it cost over \$125,000. This \$25,000 just kicks it off. They may have another \$25,000 pledged and at the meeting they are able to staff with two people and it will take them to January 1st. He asked for more awareness.

Ms. Baer stated that the Winter Sheltering at Sixth and Chew is November 1st to April 30th. Bethlehem has a Sheltering program that doesn't begin until December 1st and end at the end of March. We can get some better data on the status of homelessness.

ORDINANCED PASSED, 6 – 0

**11. RESOLUTIONS FOR FINAL PASSAGE:
NONE**

12. ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION :

The following Bills were introduced and forwarded to Budget Review Committees.

Bill 44 Adopts the 2015 Solid Waste Budget

Bill 45 Adopts the 2015 Solid Waste Fee

Bill 46 Adopts the 2015 Liquid Fuels Budget

Bill 47 Adopts the 2015 Trexler Fund

Bill 48 Adopts the 2015 Golf Course

Bill 49 Adopts the 2015 Equipment Fund

Bill 50 Adopts the 2015 Risk Fund

Bill 51 Adopts the 2015 Debt

Bill 52 Adopts the 2015 E911

Bill 53 Grant Fund

Bill 54 EIT Rate Reduction

Bill 55 Adopts the 2015 Capital Project Budget

Bill 56 Fee Adjustments **Referred to Parks and Recreation, November 12**

Bill 57 2015 General Fund

Bill 58 2015 Tax Rate

Bill 59 **Referred to Parks and Recreation, November 12**

Amending the 2014 Trexler Fund and the 2014 Capital Projects Fund to provide for a supplemental appropriation of One Hundred Seventy Thousand, Two Hundred Dollars (\$170,200) to the Trexler Capital Funds to provide for the annual receipt of capital improvement funds from the Trexler Trust designated by Court Order dated April 19, 2011.

13. RESOLUTIONS FOR INTRODUCTION:

R49 Parking

Recommends Resolving Parking Increase for LCCC Students

Mr. Guridy stated Tamara Dolan from the Parking Authority stated that this is a private deal between the lot behind Wells Fargo and the College. It has nothing to do with the Parking Authority.

Mr. O'Connell stated that he thinks when the discussion of the Resolution came forward, I was under the impression where the LCCC students parked it was behind Wells Fargo. I thought it was owned by the Parking Authority and later found out that it was owned by JB Reilly. It may be wiser that LCCC to have a dialogue with JB since he owns the lot.

Ms. Eichenwald stated that we don't have any authority over a private lot and that was never my intension. What my goal was that the Parking Authority that owns the Government Center lot will be encourage to allow the students to park for a \$1. My request is encourage the Parking Authority to consider reducing the fee to LCCC students in the Parking Authority – Government Center lot.

Ms. Koval stated that Tamara stated that she was already in discussions with LCCC about the Government Lot and other lots.

Mr. Davis stated that he would be hesitant to do this since we went through this at the Art Museum. We didn't take any action on that.

Mr. Dougherty stated that the administration is not going to take a position on the Resolutoin for or against. The Bond payments do not allow discounts the way you are proposes. It has financial implications.

Ms. Eichenwald asked Mr. Dougherty you can't lower rates, but you can increase rates for an Arena.

Mr. Dougherty stated that you are carving out one constituency in a deck in which other people are charged a different rate.

Ms. Eichenwald asked for a Solicitor's opinion on that.

Mr. Dougherty stated that I would provide the pertinent language.

Ms. Koval stated that Ms Dolan did bring up about the Bond Covenance. She is looking at other solutions at other parking lots, some community parking lots versus some of the decks that are within distance.

Ms. Eichenwald stated that it would be in our best interest to get a certified legal opionion as to how it operates.

Mr. Guridy stated that he is leaning towards tabling it until we have more information.

Ms. Mota agreed.

Mr. Guridy made a motion to table.

Mr. Schweyer objected. It is in the Resultion that it is a desire of Council to have affordable parking for students. Nothing in this document is a mandate to the Parking Authority, private entities or anything else. What we are saying that it will be cool if we can make sure that students have affordable parking.

Mr. Guridy stated that he agrees with Mr. Schweyer to a point that we help the students.

Mr. O'Connell stated that it just encourages the Parking Authority and LCCC to continue dialogue. There is no mandate here.

Ms. Eichenwald stated that the Symphony initiated the discussion and they were not concerned about the cost. They wanted to make sure there was availability.

Mr. Guridy stated that they were concerned about the cost.

Ms. Cece Gerlach, 956 W. Walnut Street, stated thank you. It is a statement of support for LCCC. It doesn't get into specifics. I am hoping that the conversations with LCCC and the Parking Authority comes to a beneficial agreement for the students of LCCC. She stated that she called an individual at City Center and they own the lot and they indicated that any type of arrangement is completely between LCCC and the Parking Authority. City Center is going to take control of Parking Garage in the Arena.

RESOLUTION PASSED, 6 – 0

R50 301 S St Elmo St.doc

Referred to Public Works, November 19th

301 S St Elmo Encroachment for Council

Authorizes Encroachment for Sign at 301 S St. Elmo Street

R51 Adopts Five Year Capital Projects Program

Referred to Public Works, November 19th

14. NEW BUSINESS

NONE

15. GOOD AND WELFARE

Ms. Eichenwald stated Mr. Schweyer and her share a unique timeline. We ran together for the very first time, seven years ago. We ran again for the second time. We share standing out in polling booths. It has been a pleasure to serve with you. You are a man of great intelligence, who has many gifts. Going to the state legislature is a difficult task. We all know that there are issues that go before it that needs reasoned, careful debate. You are a person born to do that. You make the word politician have a positive connotation. I wish you well in your future endeavors. We will take pride as you take part of the city that has chosen you to be its state representative.

Mr. O'Connell stated that I was a cycle behind Ms. Eichenwald and you. As young as you were, I learned quite a bit from you. I see Mike D'Amore in the audience. You are very young, a lot of wisdom and a great future ahead of you. I see bigger and better things. Never forget where you came from. You were so proud of your roots in Allentown. The smile that your mom had on her face was worth \$10 - \$20 million.

Ms. Mota congratulated Peter and stated that she knows he will do a great job. She is excited for him and for us. Please don't forget about the southside.

Mr. Davis thanked Peter for being a mentor. You had the knowledge and the passion to serve the residents and you are willing to share the knowledge. It has been a great pleasure serving with you.

Mr. Guridy stated that he and Peter go back a long time. It has been a pleasure serving you and a friend like you in addition to being a colleague. You are a man of honor and integrity.

Mr. Schweyer thanked his colleagues for their kind words. It means more to him than you know. He talked about disagreements, the tragic gas explosion and seeing the first responders at their best, and the opening of the arena. Allentown's best days are ahead.

16. ADJOURNED: 9:04 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.