

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



Allentown City Council
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Allentown, Pa. 18101
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COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
June 17, 2015
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
COUNCIL MEETING – 7:00 PM

1. Call to Order

2. Invocation: Pastor Jim Rivera, City Limits Assembly of God

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

4. Courtesy of the Floor

Ms. Diane Teti, 328 N. 8th Street, stated that she was at a Council meeting two meetings ago requesting a representative. Ms. Heidi Baer is one of the co-chairs so you probably want to discuss it with her. She asked about the property on S. 10th Street.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that he wanted to do it, but it is the timing. If it was in the evening or early in the morning. He will reach out to Heidi. He stated that it works well because he is the chair of the Community and Economic Development Committee.

Mr. Ray O'Connell stated if Mr. Guridy can't make it he can make a meeting or so.

Mr. Fran Dougherty stated to talk to Mike Hanlon.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that he sent an email on it in regards to making sure that we look at it check if they are abiding by the code. The fence fell and we want to make sure the kids are safe.

Ms. Morel 765 W Emmaus Avenue, stated that she is representing the Allentown Hispanic Softball League and the League has been playing at Jordan Park for the last five years. They are a nonprofit organization and coordinate competition between our community and other parts. She thanked Council regarding the fence last year. Since last year, we have been receiving complaints of the music level. The music starts at 11:00 AM and ends at 6:00 PM. We took the speakers and faced them to the street. The Allentown Police Department stated that they received complaints and said we could not play the music. They received tickets because of the music. They believe that they are being harassed. They were told that the only option is to move the League to Bucky Boyle Park.

Mr. Ray O'Connell asked what days do you play, on Sundays.

Ms. Morel stated yes, from April through October.

Mr. O'Connell asked Mr. Dougherty to get all the stakeholders together.

Mr. Fran Dougherty stated that the issue warrants a larger meeting with all the stakeholders. He stated that she mentioned a number of quality of life issues. He proposes to have a meeting with the Health Department, the Parks Department, and Police Department and Codes and sit down in the conference room and go over what the rules and the law say. Both Councilman Guridy and Councilwoman Mota have been tireless advocates of bringing this to our attention.

Mr. Ray O'Connell asked if he could attend the meeting.

Mr. Dougherty stated any member of Council is welcomed as long as we don't violate the Sunshine Act.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that it is a great League and they have played by the Rules. They are open minded and met with the administration.

Mr. Jeff Glazier stated this has been portrayed as an issue to a specific organization and suggested that you might want to look at it in a broader context of music in the parks.

Ms. Keshl, 119 W. Walnut Street, talked about police harassment. The police goes on calls when they are asked to. That is not harassment. I don't believe they are picking on them because of their race. It is quality of life.

Mr. Jalil Rasheed, 140 N. 7th Street, stated that he has a Petition for window guards or safety for children for more than one story. People are concerned about safety measures that needs to be permitted or a law that needs to be passed. He wanted to Allentown to implement a law with pants below the waist. That is a quality of life issue.

Mr. Ray O'Connell stated that once that tragedy did happen, we began to check with other cities and municipalities. We could not have tragedies like that here in Allentown.

Mr. Kenneth Heffentrager, 733 N. 11th Street – Allentown Tenants Association, stated that he is not arguing the last gentleman's point, but if we require them in the windows the city inspections how often would have to go out and look at this. Every five years won't cut it. This building had them and they were removed. Where is the City Center Initiative with the \$2.5 million that supposed to be earmarked for the city?

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that he wanted to address the issue with the Allentown Housing Authority. This issue has been going on for several years. There is a bedbug issue. This is an issue that we have to keep targeting. The Board asked Mr. Farrell to buy a steamer. When tenants move out of the apartment make sure that they steam the apartment.

Ms. Milly Canales, 530 W. Allen Street, stated that she loves the City of Allentown. Last weekend on Saturday Wells Fargo had a big community day and had over 254 residents and 35 volunteers from Wells Fargo. She stated if there is a new policy, please inform her so that she is versed.

Mr. Ray O'Connell asked specific event are you talking about.

Ms. Milly Canales requested a portable skate park and was turned down three times. She felt that she could not do anything at the last minute.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that she is talking about the Skate Park which actually was her idea to buy and then she couldn't use it on the day she wanted it. It was an insurance issue. He requested a meeting.

Ms. Mota stated that she would like to be a part of the meeting.

Mr. O'Connell stated to Ms. Canales that we will be in touch.

5. Approval of Minutes: June 3, 2015

APPROVED BY COMMON CONSENT

6. Old Business

NONE

7. Communications

Watson Skinner Award – Ernie Atiyeh

Mr. Ray O'Connell stated that Watson Skinner was an educator, a guidance counselor, a city councilmember for many years and very instrumental in moving the city forward. We started the Watson Skinner Memorial Awards and Milagros Canales Ramos won it last year. This year's recipient is Ernie Atiyeh. He, Council and the Watson Skinner family presented the Watson Skinner Award to Ernie Atiyeh's family.

Mr. David Atiyeh stated that it is an honor to be here. He is still struggling with his dad's death. We are working on project to keep his name and dreams alive. The VFW at 1110 Front Street is having a hoagie sale on July 19th. He was approached by Pastor Bowman who did his father's service. Tomorrow he and Pastor will put together a few buildings to put 55 plus beds together for homeless people, create a recreational area for the kids around here and teach them some of the trades. He thanked all for the award.

Mr. O'Connell thanked the Skinner family. Ernie Atiyeh was loved by many. He talked the talk, but walked the walk. He was at City Council meetings and very pro-city. He was the President of the Presidents Council. He is looking down tonight.

Mr. Julio Guridy congratulated Mr. Atiyeh's family and said he and Ernie were good friends. We talked a lot and he was a very proud man who loved the city. He was a champion of the city.

Ms. Atiyeh stated that if anyone knows Ernie, it is her. On March 28th, they were married 51 years. I have known him since the eighth grade.

Dennis Pearson – Flag Day, Essay Contest

Fares Saed, 1st Place

Peter Capote, 2nd Place

Vanessa Cruz, 3rd Place

Mr. Ray O'Connell stated that we have another nice event this evening. The Flag Day Essay Contest winners. He asked Mr. Pearson to come up to the podium.

Mr. Dennis Pearson stated that the Allentown Flag Day Association is the oldest Flag Day Association in the country. It has existed for 108 years. One of our mission for the Flag Day Association is of course to support the flag, but welcome new citizens at naturalization ceremonies. We have an essay contest at middle schools in Allentown. We recently awarded the awards for this contest. We had 24 entries, 13 from South Mountain, eight from Harrison Morton, and three from Trexler. We had a trifecta. These three

youngsters come from the same school and had the same teacher. She also got an award called the Joe Zeller Teaching Achievement Award at the event and we gave her a gift that we give to new citizens. He introduced Fares Saed, and mentioned his brother Haheed Saed who won first prize in the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science.

Mr. O'Connell stated that each student is going to read their essay.

Fares Saed read his essay.

Mr. Dennis Pearson introduced Peter Capote.

Peter Capote read his essay.

Mr. Dennis Pearson introduced Vanessa Cruz.

Vanessa Cruz read her essay.

Mr. Dennis Pearson stated that he is really proud of these three youngsters. This shows what is good with the Allentown School District. As President of the East Allentown Rittersville Neighborhood Association, we support this type of thing as well as my involvement in the Allentown Flag Day Association. We sponsored six awards this past month.

Mr. Ray O'Connell thanked Mr. Pearson for what he does for the Allentown Flag Day Association and Essay Contest. He congratulated Fares, Peter and Vanessa. He asked the family members to please stand.

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 July 15 at 6:30 PM.

Public Safety: Chairperson Eichenwald

The Committee met yesterday; the next meeting is not yet scheduled.

Community and Economic Development: Chairperson Guridy

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

Parks and Recreation: Chairperson Mota

The Committee met this evening; 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 not yet scheduled.

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:

NONE

City Controller's Report

NONE

Bill 30 Street Vacation

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. Joe Davis stated that we met this evening and the presentation was given to the Public Works Committee. This street vacation is associated with the previous bill with Sacred Heart. There were no issues with the administration. All questions that the committee had were answered fully. The Committee voted 2 – 0 to pass it to full Council.

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

ORDINANCE PASSED, 6 – 0

Bill 29 Police Fees Adjustment

Amending Article 397.01, Police Fees, and Article 397.02, Police Academy Fees, by increasing fees for accident reports, false alarms, criminal history checks, and police training fees; and establishing a fee for video requests for civil services to better reflect the costs associated for providing the particular services.

Mr. O’Connell stated that it was in Ms. Eichenwald’s committee. Ms. Eichenwald is not here tonight. Mr. Hendricks is on that committee.

Mr. Hendricks stated that it was voted 3 – 0 favorably to full Council. All the fees seems reasonable and commensurate with the amount of work required to fulfill them.

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

ORDINANCE PASSED, 6 – 0

Bill 31 PEMA Grant

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. Daryl Hendricks stated that was moved forward favorably, 3 – 0.

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

ORDINANCE PASSED, 6 – 0

Bill 32 WPA Parkway Restoration

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.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that we met this evening and it passed favorably, 3 – 0. It was for \$23,850 to rebuild a fallen WPA Retaining Wall.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if the ice skating rink going to be eliminated or still going to have the ice skating rink.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that it is left over money.

Mr. Fran Dougherty stated that they were able to purchase two ice skating rinks. We had one established this past winter and haven't had the opportunity to set the other one up. They will be set up in the winter time. They both came in under cost. It freezes up the money to transfer.

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

ORDINANCE PASSED, 6 – 0

11. RESOLUTIONS FOR FINAL PASSAGE:

NONE

12. ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION:

Bill 33 EPA Grant

Amending the 2015 Grant Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of \$404,667 from an EPA grant, The Environmental Protection Agency, for the Community Department to provide for Brownfields funds for a remediation Allentown Metalwork project.

Ms. DeBias, Business Development Manager for DCED, introduced Scott Unger who represents Allentown Economic Development Corporation. We made a request to the EPA in February to grant approximately \$400,000 into the cleanup of the former Allentown Metal Works site located on S. 10th Street, former heavy industrial manufacturing facility with approximately 20 acres. It is the same funding source as our Brownfield Funding source that cleaned up the Kalo Site and Neuweiler Brewery. This is the last of the allocation and the funding will be used for environmental remediation. The Planning Department for the DCED department paid for and conducted Parts II and III of the Reindustrialization Strategy. The Economic Impact Study once it is completed and the project is built out, Phase I, the economic multipliers including direct and indirect jobs are 400 jobs with an annual payroll of \$21 million. Mr. Scott Unger and ADEC and is board are going to take on the project and remediate the site. We are requesting \$404,667 as a pass through grant to ADEC.

Mr. O'Connell asked any comments from my colleagues.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked is that enough money to clean the site and make it ready for development.

Mr. Scott Unger stated that we anticipate that there is a number of levels of clean up. In order to get the site to be compliant with the Act 2 Program which is a voluntary cleanup program through DEP, it will cost approximately \$460,000 and AEDC is prepared to insert its own funds to cover the balance. There will be lead paint and asbestos remaining after the first phase of clean up. It is so common that it is not part of the Act 2 process. This is Phase I.

Ms. DeBias stated that we put a request in to the EPA a joint request with AECD and Lehigh Valley Land Recycling Initiative for an additional \$500,000 of clean up dollars to continue to work on Allentown Metal Works and other sites.

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

Mr. Julio Guridy stated an additional \$500,000.

Ms. DeBias stated in EPA money, correct. We have not heard back yet on that issue.

Mr. Scott Unger stated for the environmental portion.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked are we still having a lot of problems with trespassing and scavengers.

Mr. Scott Unger stated not in the past several weeks.

Mr. O'Connell stated Section Three of this Bill that by an affirmative vote of this Council eliminating the 14 day waiting period between introduction and final passage. It will take effect June 27th.

AFFIRMATION VOTE ELIMINATING THE 14 DAY WAITING PERIOD, 6 – 0

Bill 34 Zoning Map Change Referred to CEDC, City and Lehigh Valley Planning Commissions

Amending the Zoning Map by rezoning 715, 715 ½ and 717 North Railroad Street from Medium High Density Residential (R-MH) to Limited Business/Residential (B-1/R) and 707, 709 and 711 North Railroad Street from Medium High Density Residential (R-MH) to Limited Business/Residential (B-1/R).

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

13. RESOLUTIONS FOR INTRODUCTION:

R29 Grant Submission for Pedestrian Street Lighting

Authorizes Submission of an Grant Application to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation for One Million (\$1,000,000) Dollars from the Multimodal Fund for Center City Pedestrian Lighting.

Mr. Fran Dougherty stated that Nelson was unable to attend tonight. Ted Berger is representing him.

Mr. Ted Berger stated that this is for the pedestrian street lighting. This is something that is not in our department. This is actually being handled by Mike Hefele. We have been working with him on this. This is for various locations in the city, Sixth Street and Turner Street. This is a grant to put pedestrian lighting in as part of a project.

Mr. Ray O'Connell asked any questions from my colleague.

Mr. Jeff Glazier stated if you could enlighten us as to what pedestrian lighting is.

Mr. Ted Berger stated that you have two types of lighting, you have your street lights which are way up on the poles and pedestrian lighting is a smaller pole usually about 12 feet high. They are spaces about 30 feet. That is lighting specifically to light up the sidewalk areas for pedestrians. The arena has them. All the new projects, the City Center buildings have them installed.

Mr. Fran Dougherty stated that is a model to look at. This is trying to leverage additional funds using what we have.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked are those historical lighting. They are not like the ones on Hamilton Street. Do we have a model of what they are right now? You are going to put them on Sixth Street.

Mr. Fran Dougherty stated no.

Mr. Ted Berger stated that there is a set of plans. I believe Sixth Street we might have the grant for. This might be for Turner Street. This was Mike Hefe's project.

Mr. Fran Dougherty stated that we can get that to you.

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

(Name Inaudible) asked is it really necessary to have pedestrian lighting on just that little area. There are streets Sixth and Liberty and Allen that are really dark.

Mr. Fran Dougherty stated that he doesn't take exception to what he is saying, but if money was no object they are warranted on those things. This project is predicated on the Center City Initiative. We have a Strategic Plan that we are following. Hopefully, the next Phase will get to another street.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that you might not want to put street lights at that area because it is residential.

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

RESOLUTION PASSED, 6 – 0

R30 Grant for American Parkway Lighting and Monitoring System

Authorizes the submission of a Grant Application to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation for One Million Four Hundred Thousand, (\$1,400,000) Dollars in Multi Modal Funding to be used for the installation of new LED Street light with monitoring system along American Parkway from Union Street to Airport Road project.

Mr. Fran Dougherty stated that this is an important link in terms of the safety of pedestrians and motorist on this section once completed on American Parkway.

Mr. Ray O'Connell stated it is quite a stretch. He asked Mr. Berger if he wanted to add anything.

Mr. Ted Berger stated that this is a grant that we needed to apply for and need Council's approval.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked where are we with the expected completion date on the extension. He asked is Ridge Avenue and American Parkway expected to open soon.

Mr. Ted Berger stated that the bridge itself is planned to be finished this year.

Mr. Fran Dougherty stated December 15th. He stated that I don't know. We can get back to you on that.

RESOLUTION PASSED, 6 – 0

R31 HARB Approvals

Approves Certificates of Appropriateness for work at 340-1/2 N. 9th Street and 348 N. 9th Street.

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

RESOLUTION PASSED, 6 – 0

R32 Cancels July 1st Meeting
Cancels July 1st Council Meeting

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

RESOLUTION PASSED, 6 – 0

14. NEW BUSINESS

NONE

15. GOOD AND WELFARE

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that on Monday, June 22nd at 1:30 PM there will be a dedication of E. Washington and what will be the former Irving Street Park into the Andre Reed Park and Andre Reed Way.

Mr. Jeff Glazier stated that last Wednesday the School District and the School District Foundation sponsored the student showcase of Academic Excellence at Symphony Hall. It was broken up into two parts. They showed National History Day videos on the first level and up on the Rodale Room they had the other National History Day Exhibit and Science Fair Exhibits and there were at least 500 people there. It was really good. This is the first year they done National History Day and already had great success on a regional level.

16. ADJOURNED: 8:28 PM