

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
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**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
August 6, 2014
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

COUNCIL MEETING – 7:00 PM

- 1. Invocation: Pastor Nydia Ramos, Spanish Emmanuel Church**
- 2. Pledge to the Flag**
- 3. Roll Call:** Davis, Eichenwald, Guridy, Hendricks, Mota, O'Connell, Schweyer
John Marchetto represented for the Solicitor's Office

4. Courtesy of the Floor

Courtesy and Privilege of the Floor Rules

Mr. Kenneth Heffentrager, 733 N. 11th Street – Allentown Tenant's Association, stated that they are going to try a new idea to shame these people to do something about properties.

Ms. Eichenwald asked who in the administration is responsible for these issues like Code Enforcement.

Mr. Dougherty stated that Mr. Heffentrager brings up multiple issues. Some issues are in Dave Paulus jurisdiction, others are part of the Sweep Office which is under Ann Saurman and Tom Harper, and other issues are the Police Chief and others.

Ms. Eichenwald stated that she believes it is an untentable situation. For people having to live next door to these homes. Isn't that a way that we could have Dave Paulus, Ann Saurman, and other people come and speak to us on what is holding up these issues and what the problems are.

Mr. Dougherty stated that it would be one thing if we were ignoring these issues, but you see the budget and you see the man-power that we put to these things. We don't ignore these things, but there is no panacea that we can solve these problems. These are systemic and have been going on for years. The important thing is that we stop the bleeding and pass legislation to help us do more. It is not like we are idle. They are doing their job and doing it well.

Ms. Eichenwald stated that she will feel better as a Councilwoman if we could have a public discussion based on what are the issues and what is holding it up, time after time.

Mr. Dougherty stated that he is not opposed to bringing the team together and providing a more clearer picture to you. They are working as hard as they can. It is human behavior that I cannot change over night. It is not just landlords, I have tenants that are out of control dumping. At 211 Priscila Street, the tenant here because she was being evicted deliberately collected 300 rubber tires. We are working with the landlord to dispose of this hazard.

Ms. Eichenwald stated if we can advertise that meeting, it will be very helpful.

Mr. Guridy stated that they can do as a Committee of the Whole and have everybody be involved.

Ms. Milly Canales, president of Old Fairgrounds and the Jordan Heights Community Liaison, stated that once a month we have a meeting at Sacred Heart and we have the police and Sweep and whoever else that is interested and it is open to the public. We do talk about those particular issues that were just addressed. On July 26th at Stevens Park we had unveiled the portable skate park and I would like to thank the city for that. It was 245 residents and 125 kids participated on the skatepark. Julio Guridy, Sara Hailstone and State Representative Mike Schlossberg participated in the tournament. We know that Stevens Park is up for renovations and we hope that happens soon. We cleaned the park when we got there, we cleaned the park while we were there and we cleaned the park after we left.

Mr. Guridy stated that he went to all the events that day and they were wonderful events and I would like to see more like that in the city.

Mr. David Keshl, president of Mountainville 30 Crime Watch, said addresses should be posted on homes especially in Alleys. The police, and EMS cannot find homes. No physical numbers on homes or alleys.

Ms. Diane Teti, 328 N. 8th Street, stated that she is checking on the homeless situation. She asked if someone can request for Ms. Eichenwald to be notified. We are moving forward at the Shelter at Alliance Hall this year. It will be called the Sixth and Chew Winter Shelter. They are hoping to have cots and showers and maybe dinner and breakfast. They are going to need a lot of money. Please help support the shelter.

Mr. Glenn Keller, Allentown, stated that Mr. Hershman could not be here tonight. He was here for the first part of the Public Safety meeting. I understand that he left some correspondence after last month's City Council meeting regarding the transfers from the fire department and the water and sewer department. He asked if anybody had an update or response for him.

Mr. Guridy stated that there were updates.

Mr. Hanlon stated that the updates were in regards to Mr. Hershman's questions.

Mr. Dennis Pearson, 942 E. Tilghman Street, stated a number of months ago there was a Resolution with the Lehigh County Commissioners which gave two more delegates on the LCA Board. One of these directors, a businessman was nominated Mr. Muell and approved by the County Commissioners. As of June 2014 this individual still hasn't taken his seat. He knows that Jeff Glazier was turned down by the Lehigh County Commissioners. He asked about an Memorandum of Understanding that Allentown has not assigned as far as Capacity Planning at Klein's Island.

Mr. O'Connell stated that at the last meeting we had the people from the Riverfront, Neil Kern and there is enough capacity.

Mr. Pearson stated that this is what Lehigh County Authority is dealing with. It comes from the June minutes that they haven't signed anything regarding a Memorandum of Understanding as far as capacity.

Mr. Dougherty stated that he will follow up with the LCA Board regarding the two representatives and I don't know what he refers to on the latter. He stated that the white pedestrian lines were repainted on Graham Street.

Mr. Julian Kern, 252 E. Walnut Street, stated that eight months ago he spoke about the housing issue and the slumlord issues and was told that the housing taskforce was working on it. He asked the status. It has been 13 years that my girlfriend's dad home hasn't been inspected. Last year, you told us that it was going to be inspected and now it is August and it still hasn't been inspected.

Mr. Davis stated that the meeting is scheduled for August 25th. He will give an update on the Keystone Community Zone.

Mr. Guridy stated that the idea is that they should be inspected every five years. There is a caveat to that.

Mr. Dougherty stated that 116 and 2428 N Ellsworth Street according to our records were complied rental units back in 2013. No complaints are showing in our system. Electrical and Heating Permits were pulled for 118 N. Ellsworth Street in June 2014.

Mr. Dan Mest, 940 Jackson Street, stated that 2 ½ weeks ago my neighbor and I observed two gentlemen in the 900 block of Spring Garden Street which is the alley behind Jackson Street. One gentleman was from Hanover Engineer and the other gentleman was from the Parking Authority and they had a set of blueprints for the Jackson Street Community Park and we just glanced at it. The Parking Authority had blueprints to take away our Jackson Street Community Park and make it into a parking lot with permanent structure. We have been trying to get a park since 2006. We have \$100,000 grant from DCNR, we had a match from the City of Allentown on the \$100,000 grant. The mayor and I did a three minute commercial to get a \$99,000 under \$10,000 from Brownfield money. I understand that the Parks Department and John will be coming up to you to have Trexler Grant money to add to that. He called the mayor's office and some people to see when we were going to break some ground on this to turn backtop into grass. If the Parking Authority gets a hold of this one acre, we will never get it back. If this comes to a vote, I want you all to vote no because we need green space in Center City.

Mr. O'Connell stated that he is the City Council representative for the Allentown Parking Authority and I go to every meeting and nothing has been stated by the Parking Authority. We need green for the kids, not blacktop.

Ms. Cecelia Gerlach, 956 W. Walnut Street – Secretary for the Third Ward Community Group, echoed everything that was just stated. If it ever does go before you, please vote no. If it ever comes before you as a compromise where we will own the blacktop half the park, please vote no. The plans are for the entire parking lot. Let's turn the entire parking lot into green space, not half of it. I wouldn't speak on the entire community group, but I can pretty much guess that we are all against turning what is now an eyesore of weeds and it could be a beautiful greenspace for our kids. I can assume that everyone in the community will be against turning it into a parking lot. If there is a need for parking then I would urge the Parking Authority to look elsewhere, not a potential greenspace.

Ms. Eichenwald asked Mr. Dougherty what is holding up the development of this park. We have been talking about it for years. We have seen plans. Mr. Mest stated that there is \$300,000 available.

Mr. Dougherty stated that there is \$100,000 available for DCNR. We do not have the city match at this point in time. As you may recall our top priority is Stevens Park. We finally for years were unable to identify matching money for that project which has a longer history than Jackson Street Park. It is long overdue and we found the money with the help of City Council and you voted on that a while ago and we have an RFP on the streets. We have six major projects going on in the parks through DCNR grants or other grants. This is certainly very important to us.

Ms. Eichenwald stated that we will look forward to having some additional information so that we can create this long overdue park.

Mr. Guridy asked is the Request for Proposal for design or construction.

Mr. Dougherty stated that he thinks it is for design/build.

5. Approval of Minutes: July 16, 2014

Approved by Common Consent

6. Old Business

Mr. Guridy stated that we talked about the question to Hershman and those were taken care of at least the ones that were previous to the last meeting.

7. Communications

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 August 27th at 5:30 PM.

Public Safety: Chairperson Eichenwald

The Committee met this evening and have a few items on tonight's agenda.

Community and Economic Development: Chairperson Davis

The Committee has not met since the last Council meeting; the next meeting is scheduled for August 25 at 6 PM, following the Public Works meeting.

Parks and Recreation: Chairperson Mota

The Committee met tonight and have one item on the agenda; the next meeting is not yet scheduled.

Public Works: Chairperson O'Connell

We have one Resolution #40 on the agenda tonight; the next meeting is scheduled for August 25th at 5:30 PM.

Human Resources, Administration and Appointments: Chairperson Hendricks

We do have an appointment tonight and the Committee has not met since the last council meeting; a no meeting at this time.

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

Mr. Guridy stated that we had an Allentown Housing Authority meeting and there are some issues regarding the Teamster Union over the maintenance workers.

Controller's Report

Ms. Koval stated that on everybody's seat I left a copy of the Controller's Report on the Accounts Payable Weekly Check Review for the period of July 5th through August 1st. The Controller's office reviewed a total of 523 checks in the amount of \$3,970,508.19 and 12 wire transfers in the amount of \$1,333,356.98. Any of the findings and resolutions regarding that report is attached for your information.

Managing Director's Report: Trash and Recycling Collection Nights

Mr. Dougherty stated that he will use his time tonight to ask Ann Saurman to attend once again and field any questions or clarifications on the trash and recycling collection changes.

Mr. Guridy stated that he went to Hola radio station and talked about this in Spanish. I didn't get any major callbacks.

Ms. Saurman stated that we were there this morning as well, on Hola. Council is always concerned on how we are getting the word out. This initial postcard which is very detailed in English and Spanish was sent and paid by Waste Management and the City of Allentown followed up with a smaller postcard that is hitting this week because it takes affect this Sunday night. We did a letter to every landlord to let them know that their tenants received this and to follow up with their tenants. A letter was sent to every business in city collection to let them know fo the change. Robocalling is also being used. She thanked Mike Hilbert in helping her with this project. We are doing a Press Release and notices in stores in key zones. Sweep Officers are issuing warnings.

Mr. Guridy asked is the robocall going to be in English and Spanish. If you want somebody to write it in Spanish, I will volunteer.

Ms. Saurman stated that it is limited now. It is 30 seconds. Right now it is in English.

Mr. Ernie Atiyeh, 421 W. Chew Street, thanked the administration and Ms. Saurman. He stated that he is on the Seventh Street Redevelopment Committee and have been working on this concept for many years. On a Friday night, it was recycling night and anybody would drive down Seventh Street on Saturday or Sunday and the Street Sweepers didn't come around until Monday. People were putting their trash out and landlords were doing cleanouts. It was a mess.

Mr. Guridy stated that if it rains during that weekend or had a big windstorm it blows off everything. It is a great move.

9. APPOINTMENTS:

Sheet Metal Examining Board

Nicholas A. Lynn

Term to Expire 5/6/2019

Mr. Lynn thanked everybody for this opportunity. He has been doing sheet metal for 12 years. It is his life and career. It is what I love and a great opportunity.

Mr. Hendricks thanked Mr. Lynn for his interest and willing to serve the citizens of this city.

Mr. Davis echoed the sentiments.

Mr. Guridy asked any comments from the public.

RESOLUTION PASSED, 7 – 0

Mr. O'Connell asked are the sheet metal workers at full employment with guys in the Valley. Are we doing good with employment.

Mr. Lynn stated that we are doing pretty well.

10. ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE :

Bill 23 Homeland Security Grant

Amending the 2014 General Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of \$15,500. This is a reimbursement from Homeland Security to the Police Department for investigative equipment and training of officers.

Ms. Eichenwald stated that it will help out police department with some additional tools that they need. It was passed favorably by a vote of 3 – 0.

Mr. Guridy asked any comments from the public.

ORDINANCE PASSED, 7 – 0

Bill 26 Fire Training to Premium

Amending the 2014 General Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Thirty Nine Thousand (\$39,000) Dollars as a result of funds received from the City of Bethlehem to the City of Allentown Fire Department to cover expenses incurred for Fire Academy Instructors overtime.

Ms. Eichenwald stated that the Fire Chief explained to us that this will cover the expenses that were incurred by the Bethlehem Fire Department for the training of the fire personnel and it was passed favorably by a vote of 3 – 0.

Mr. Guridy asked any comments from the public.

ORDINANCE PASSED, 7 – 0

Bill 27 Events Expenditures

Amending the 2014 General Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Three thousand seven hundred and twenty (\$3,720) Dollars as a result of funds received from vendors and sponsors to cover events for the July 4th Celebration.

Ms. Mota stated that it was passed favorably 3 – 0.

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

ORDINANCE PASSED, 7 – 0

11. RESOLUTIONS FOR FINAL PASSAGE:

NONE

12. ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION

Bill 29 - Cap Projects Reporting.docx

Referred to Budget and Finance

Amending the Administrative Code, Article 130.10 Capital Plan, 3. Capital Project Reporting, by requiring quarterly and 'closing' reports on capital projects.

Mr. Guridy asked any comments from the public.

Bill 30 Cap Projects Revenue Source.docx

Referred to Budget and Finance

Amending the Administrative Code, Article 130.10 Capital Plan, 2. Final Proposal and Financing, by requiring revenue sources to be identified when any capital project is authorized.

Mr. Guridy asked any comments from the public.

Bill 31 LCA Oversight.docx

Referred to Public Works

Amending the Administrative Code, Title 11, Authorities, Boards and Commissions, by adding section 179B, Water and Sewer (Lease and Operations) Compliance Review Board to review compliance issues and reports relating to the City of Allentown's lease concession agreement for water and sewer services.

Mr. Guridy asked any comments from the public.

13. RESOLUTIONS FOR INTRODUCTION

R38 DUI Checkpoints

Approves grant application for DUI Checkpoints

Ms. Eichenwald stated that this was before our committee this evening and representatives of the police department explained to us that DUI Checkpoints serve a valuable interest in protecting the citizens of our community. I strongly urge that we vote on this tonight and we approve it.

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

RESOLUTION PASSED, 7 – 0

R39 Hiring - Officers - 7-24-14rev

Appointment of Four Police Officers

Ms. Eichenwald asked if any of them are local Allentown residents.

Mr. Schweyer stated it is in the notes. There are three that are Lehigh Valley, not Allentown. One is from outside of the county.

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

Mr. O'Connell asked with these four officers that brings our policeforce to 204. We need to get the full allotment of 216 cops on the streets in Allentown.

Mr. Hendricks stated that in the past we used outside resources for doing background checks. I don't know if we can look into doing or has it been researched at all.

Mr. Dougherty stated that it has been and I think that the Chief decided to expand the number of his internal officers that are doing background checks. He is putting more officers on background checks to expedite this as much as possible.

Ms. Eichenwald stated that we were also told that we can hire from other departments without them going through and that hasn't helped us either. We need these officers.

Mr. Dougherty stated that we don't disagree. Just rest assured that the Chief has all of the resources that we can possibly give him. It is not easy. There are those that fail background checks and we have to start all over again.

Mr. Hendricks stated that it is a very difficult selection process and one that we do not want to cut any corners on. We have high standards.

Mr. Guridy stated that we all agree. No cutting corners for police officers.

Mr. Schweyer asked about the justification notes that we get from the administration, In the future can we add information if they are hired through the Civil Service or from another department.

Mr. Dougherty stated that he like that idea.

Mr. Guridy asked any comments from the public.

RESOLUTION, PASSED 7 – 0

R40 Encroachment 826 Linden Street

Encroachment: Sign at 826 Linden Street

Mr. O'Connell stated that we have Juan Ramos from the Tim Haus Group and on the Parking Authority we are familiar with the Tim Haus Group. We are doing aesthetic things from the spiral deck.

Mr. Ramos stated that we are planning on replacing an entrance sign. The existing sign is very dirty and we are upgrading all of the signage. It is above the sidewalk.

Mr. Guridy stated that they usually come to us when it encroaches 1/3 of the sidewalk.

Mr. O'Connell stated to Mr. Ramos that it is just protocols and procedures to bring you forth.

Mr. Schweyer asked is this above the sidewalk. It is not going to have any impact on pedestrians whatsoever.

Mr. Guridy stated that the issue is the signs are not always at the same place. There are small sidewalks that they come into.

Mr. O'Connell stated to Mr. Schweyer that is something we should take on another day.

Mr. Dougherty stated that the administration will support the reevaluation on the Ordinance.

Ms. Eichenwald stated that she happened to notice today when she was driving by very slowly where the Hamilton Restaurant has opened up and I remember we granted them the right to put those planters and I stopped my car and looked. If you were pushing a wheelchair you would have a very hard time going around that.

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

RESOLUTION PASSED, 7 – 0

14. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Mota invited everyone to Noches De Ritmo at Jordan Park from 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM. A little league is coming from the Dominican Republic and this is going to be their first time in the country and will be playing baseball. We will have a lot of events throughout the park.

Mr. Davis stated that the city had the forum for the Downtown Improvement. They had it at Center Square.

Mr. Guridy asked if the notes under Old Business was mailed to Mr. Hershman.

Mr. Hanlon stated no. It was something from the Solicitor's office. We don't release Solicitor's Opinions.

Mr. Guridy stated that Mr. Hershman is not here, but he asked a question about LCA enforcement City Ordinances relating to water and sewer issues pertaining to a Third Class City Code. He needs to look under Section 7.3 of the Lease Concession Agreement, the City is charged with enforcing its Ordinances and the Lehigh County Authority (LCA) reimburses the City for its costs for doing so. The Third Class City Code does not apply as the City is a Home Rule municipality. LCA has supplemental civil enforcement authority under the Municipal Authorities Act under which it was formed. He asked can the City reduce water and sewer rates? The Answer is No, the water and sewer rates are governed by the Lease Concession Agreement and the rate Ordinances adopted in conjunction with the Agreement. There were certain rates that were set up to 4.5 percent. The Lease Agreement is on the website. Go to www.allentownpa.gov.

15. GOOD AND WELFARE

Mr. Hendricks stated that there are petitions going out now to the renaming of E. Washington Street between Irving and Jerome Street as well as Irving Park to honor the recently inducted Andre Reed. A fellow alumni of Dieruff High School. Irving park was named after Washington Irving, the author.

Mr. O'Connell stated that it was a proud moment for the Lehigh Valley, Allentown and especially Dieruff High School. He had talked about Dieruff High School and Irving Park as Andre Reed Way. Andre Reed grew up on the Southside. Wouldn't it be more appropriate if we looked at Roosevelt Park.

Mr. Hendricks stated in addition to his skills and what he is given to the football field, it is what he is given back to the community which is the most important thing. He

Mr. O'Connell stated that there was a gentleman that ran the Boys and Girls Club name Nick Franknedo. It was a Safe Haven for a lot of kids on the streets and he was a good friend of Gino Calcavni was an assistant football coach at Kutztown University. It was a proud moment for Allentown.

Mr. Guridy stated that you guys have to figure out which park should be named after Andre Reed, but something should be named after him.

Mr. Schweyer stated that the following Saturday, August 16th from Noon to 4 there is a street party on Sixth Street Celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the Sixth Street Shelter.

Mr. Guridy stated that he was on that board for 12 years and it is very much needed.

Ms. Gerlach stated that she was speaking with Ms. Eichenwald earlier today and won't it be great that our local businesses of Seventh Street could really benefit from this arena. Wouldn't it be good to setup tables or kiosk outside of the arena and give the people a little taste and eventually they will go down to Seventh Street.

16. ADJOURNED: 8:15 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.