

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 MEETINGS MINUTES
July 16, 2014
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

COUNCIL MEETING – 7:00 PM

1. Invocation: Pastor Sam Claudio – Christ Fellowship of Allentown

2. Pledge to the Flag

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

4. Courtesy of the Floor

Courtesy and Privilege of the Floor Rules

Mr. Lou Hershman stated that Council doesn't answer questions. You stated that you would give me answers at the last meeting. He thanked Council for taking his questions. The water and sewer rates are going to be the same. Why can't we have the sewer rates reduced accordingly. He asked if LCA or the city collecting the city's delinquent accounts.

Mr. Guridy asked if Council can get a response for Mr. Hershman.

Mr. Dougherty stated that the city is collecting our own.

Mr. Dennis Pietry, Eastside of Allentown, asked why the city is putting brick crosswalks.

Mr. Dougherty stated that they are longer lasting, requires almost no maintenance and they are decorative.

Mr. Messenger stated that it provides traffic calming. When they come to a normal painted white line, they see that as the norm. In different areas where we need traffic calming, these help out. They are raised, the rumble a little bit and give the sense of something different and slows the drivers down. Part of it is a safety issue. The majority are stamped concrete. The color is in the concrete and stays.

Ms. Paulette Hunter stated that she went to the Allentown Career Center to sign up and do a resume. They had me fill out a form that asked who lived in my home, the income, if I am disabled, in the military. I thought it was too much information to do a resume. They didn't tell you that it was optional.

Mr. Guridy stated that we will look into that.

Ms. Margaret Sunny, Liberty Street, stated that she spoke to Allentown Parking Authority who believes the extended meter time issue was shelved. I called Zoning. They should have delayed the stadium until the parking was suitably addressed. Citizens should be assigned an ombudsman to protect their interest. There is not enough parking.

Mr. Glenn Hunsicker stated that earlier they talked under the Finance Committee Report about Capital Projects Procedures and the Quarterly Report. Did the Controller's office perform that report yet.

Mr. Schweyer stated that we had a Capital Budget Report that was done within the last three months. We didn't have a cover letter for it and didn't realize what it was.

Mr. Hunsicker asked about LCA Capital Projects, there was about \$5.6 million that supposed to be spent by Allentown to complete these 2014 Projects. There have been no appropriations. Where do we stand on that? He asked about the CAFR Report and the long-term debt.

Ms. Koval asked Mr. Hunsicker if he is talking about the uncompleted work. The uncompleted work is in the agreement on pages 27 and 28. Each project is outlined in there. That was the report I gave to the committee this evening on each one of the projects.

Mr. Dennis Pearson, 942 E. Tilghman Street, stated that he asked a question when Graham Street humps will be refreshed because the white lines where pedestrians line showing where the humps are rubbing off. You made a decision on a Transfer of a Club License. We learned this week that things have changed. This club that supposed to come, fell through and Tony's Bar and Pizzeria has a for rent sign. He talked about a problem bar or club, the Former Horizon club shut down for lack of paying their mortgage, the Pitchers Club is down and a decision is being made on Platinum Plus.

Mr. Messinger stated that we have been pretty aggressive lately with painting lines for the intersections. We have it scheduled to paint the lines of Graham and the following week on Chapel Avenue. Mike Moore sent out a Press Release about our yearly line painting going on too.

Mr. Guridy stated that they are needed.

Mr. Don Hunsicker, 409 S. Tenth Street - Patriots, invited Council over for fast pitch softball. He wanted to clear up a problem with a 100 year lease we have with the City of Allentown. They are no longer going to handle and pick up the trash. The process is done twice a week and takes 10 – 15 minutes per trip. We like to know what is going to happen with this lease and is it still going to be in effect.

Mr. Guridy stated that it is a legitimate request. He will see how Council can support him. It is a nice park and he has been there several times.

Mr. Ken Laudenslager, 721 W. Cumberland Street, – President of the Allentown Fire Police, stated in 2007 PennDot issued a mandate that all Emergency Personnel responding to scenes on state roadways should be equipped with Class 2 Head Gear. This was to take effect in 2009. Like many state mandates. It was unfunded and volunteer companies around the state complained about the cost. In 2008, with the deadline approaching PennDot changed it from required to a recommendation. Allentown Fire Police purchased construction style hats as a compromise. During budget preparations, Allentown City Council approached me and asked what does the Allentown Fire Police need. I explained we need the helmets and why. A donation was given to purchase the helmets to meet PennDot's standards. Allentown Fire Police thanked the administration and City Council.

Mr. Guridy stated that he is happy that you got them and thanked the administration.

Mr. Dougherty thanked procurement.

Mr. Edward Moyer, 118 N. Ellsworth Street, stated that last year you condemned a home owned by Eugene Baker for unfit habitation. He wants to know why the city failed to reinspect that home that he move to on August of 2013. This house is a fire hazard.

Mr. Guridy stated that he is sorry that Mr. Moyer's family had to endure those issues. We are cracking down on some of them.

Mr. Dougherty stated that he will follow up on the reinspection that was done.

Mr. Kenneth Heffentrager, stated that last April I brought this gentleman up. Six of the properties in one day was shut down. They are all open again. He stated that the Allentown Tenants Association reported to Sweep a street and it was cleaned up in two days flat. We complained about graffiti and it was done, Lumber Street garbage cleaned up, Limestone Street more than a month ago owned by Joe Clark still a cesspool.

Mr. Dougherty stated that he passed around the specific location that Mr. Heffentrager was referring to owned by City Center. City Center cleaned it up, however, the Sweep's Department found in the trash that we removed, evidence of illegal dumping and we are identifying the perpetrator and going after them.

Mr. Guridy thanked Mr. Dougherty and stated that the other properties that he mentioned on Eighth and Linden we should check it out.

Mr. Dougherty stated that has been cleaned up.

5. Approval of Minutes: June 18, 2014; May 7, 2014; May 21, 2014

Approved by Common Consent

6. Old Business

None

7. Communications

Proclamation for Msgr. Grabish

8. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

Budget and Finance: Chairperson Schweyer

The committee met on June 25 and reviewed our monthly financials. A couple of things we are concerned about and we are looking at. Revenues are down slightly and expenses are up slightly. It is something that we are monitoring. We are expecting some of the tax revenues will be up again as of next finance report. We did an extensive review of our capital budget process. The results of which will be two pieces of legislation, the first codifies the quarterly capital budget reports. We did receive a quarterly capital budget report. They will be available to be reviewed at budget and finance meetings. The second piece of legislation will mandate that no capital project will take place unless a specific funding authorization has been approved by Council for a specific revenue source, except in the cases of declared emergencies by the mayor. We had reports from two interns from our Controller's office. He thanked the Controller and the interns. We did receive a report from the Controller on public questions regarding capital issues with regards to Lease Concession. We went through one bill tonight, Bill 21 and we recommended it favorably

and it is on tonight's agenda. Ms. Eichenwald and I discussed prior to the council meeting and we did ask and the administration and Mr. Dougherty granted that we would do a review after six months of receivables on our EMS finances. We can get an update on the cashflow for EMS. Did we received any downward pressure with the Affordable Care Act.

Public Safety: Chairperson Eichenwald

The Committee met this evening and have an item on tonight's agenda; the next meeting will be in August when we will discuss the parking and security arrangements for the new arena in addition to what Mr. Schweyer has just reported.

Community and Economic Development: Chairperson Davis

The July 9th meeting was canceled due to schedule conflicts. Our next committee meeting will be scheduled in the future.

Parks and Recreation: Chairperson Mota

The Committee has not met since the last Council meeting; the next meeting is scheduled for August 6th at 6:45 PM.

Public Works: Chairperson O'Connell

The Committee met this evening and have two items on the agenda that we will be talking about shortly; the next meeting is scheduled for August 25th.

Human Resources, Administration and Appointments: Chairperson Hendricks

The Committee has not met since the last council meeting; a future meeting has not yet been 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 that the Blighted Property Review Board did meet. We held a public meeting. This was an actual meeting of reviewing properties for blight declaration. This was not just a planning meeting. We looked at three properties. There was a property that he brought up to Council on 12th Street and a corner property on the 600 Block of Park Street. The Blighted Property Review Board did deem that all three of these are blighted properties. The next step it goes to the Planning Commission for their review and it will come back to us for certification of blight.

Mr. Davis stated that he has a report for AEDC. At the last director's meeting they accepted the County Spirit and will join the incubation program and the eight other companies that are in there now. Since they started in 1989 they accepted more than 50 companies in their incubation programs that provided over 300 jobs. They are doing a fantastic job.

Controller's Report

Ms. Koval stated that Mr. Schweyer did a great job recapping both the Budget and Finance Committee Meetings. For your information, the two interns that presented tonight and we still have four other interns working on projects in the office. They will be presenting at a Budget and Finance Committee meeting in August. They are working on Business Priviledge Tax, Tax Certs, the EJs (Extra Jobs) in the Police Department and Workman's Comp in our Risk Bureau.

Managing Director's Report: Graffiti Report

GRAFFITI BUSTERS 2014

Mr. Dougherty stated that hopefully everyone received the Press Release from Mr. Moore announcing that the handrails for 15th Street Bridge will begin installation on Monday and it will take two weeks. Following up on my commitment to bring Ann in and talk about Graffiti. This past Winter, besides the unprecedented amount of snow, we dealt with an unprecedented amount of graffiti. We were unable because of the

weather and the temperatures to really combat it. We had to wait until the Spring/Fall and I am happy to report that we are now proactive and we erased the backlog.

Ms. Ann Saurman stated that the Allentown Graffiti Busters is through the Bureau of Recycling and Solid Waste. The Neighborhood Improvement Ordinance is where we had the jurisdiction to do, paint over and eradicate graffiti. The key word we use is that it is an unauthorized painting, drawing on properties and individuals are a victim of a crime. That is the way we look at it, the city administration looks at it. When we perform the services under the Graffiti Busters we are doing it to help the victims of these crimes. We proactively survey for graffiti as well as take reports from residents and officials. I encourage anyone from the public, the administration or Council if you see graffiti just send an email to me and we will get that taken care of. We will notify the property owner to make sure we have legal authority to enter onto the property. To eradicate the graffiti, we photograph it before and after and we work with the Allentown Police Department. This is the notification, postcard that is sent to the property owner to let them know that graffiti has been reported to us and we saw graffiti on their property. We also leave doorhangers to try to get a response. We try to get a follow up from the property owner right away so that we can remove it as fast as possible. We are proud at the job we do and how many we can accomplish a day. When we started the program we got it down to under 400 a year between 2001 – 2005. We hit a significant spike in 2006 and that's when we started working with the detectives and the youth divisions. We did billboard campaigns that have lead to arrests and brought our numbers down. Year to date, 2014 we had 252 that we completed so far and we only have 37 right now in open work orders. Our staff is writing down time and materials so if an arrest is made we can seek restitution. Graffiti is a crime and you will be arrested.

Detective Chris McCarty from the Allentown Youth Division stated that he has several responsibilities. One is gathering gang intelligence and integral to that is the graffiti. Graffiti is known as the newspaper on the street. Gang Graffiti is meant to be a strong message and is there to advertise their presence and intimidate rivals and help recruit. Tagging graffiti to the tagger is considered art. A way to express themselves. Recycling and Solid has given us access to their database. We are doing graffiti identification. Allentown Police Department has made over 600 arrests. These people are ordered to pay restitution.

Mr. Davis asked if you have a wall and graffiti is on half of it, do you paint the whole wall or just paint over the graffiti.

Ms. Saurman stated that we try to square off. We don't want blotches all around the city which looks just as bad as the graffiti. Our staff tries to blend as best as they can.

Mr. Hendricks asked if they had an opportunity to clean the graffiti on the Susquehanna Bridge.

Ms. Saurman stated that she knows that it is in the works, but she doesn't know. She will check on it tomorrow, and let you know.

Mr. Hendricks commended Ms. Saurman and Detective McCarty. He stated that he had the honor of working with both for a number of years. Chris is also a gang expert and he has spent a lot of time in the community, goes to functions, crime watch groups and schools and school resource officers.

9. APPOINTMENTS:

None

10. ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE:

Bill 21 Finance Dept Staffing Changes

Amending the 2014 General Fund through a reorganization of the Finance Department and amending the 2014 Solid Waste Fund by appropriating funds from the unappropriated balance.

Mr. Schweyer stated that he will let the administration make a pitch for this. This is a reorganization of the finance department with an effort to streamline their department function and improve services. It will add two new people, both SEIU members. It was recommended favorably by a vote of 3 – 0.

Mr. Schweyer read the following amendment.

AMENDMENT:

Deputy Director it goes from 13 to 11 pays 18N	reduced from \$ 41,652 to \$ 35,244
Finance Operations Manager (11 pays)	15N \$ 31,382
Office Manager (11 pays)	N9 \$ 23,481 + 1,796 (FICA/MED) + 7,552
(Insurance)	
Eliminates Office Manager with a net savings	\$ 20,515
Executive Secretary (11 pays)	N7 \$17,681
Purchasing Contracts Admin (11 pays)	N7 \$21,153
Create (p. 67) Clerk 3 (11 pays)	8M \$17,343
Reclassify Purchasing Agent from	15N to 14N \$27,500

SECTION TWO: The City Council authorizes a transfer in the amount of \$32,829:

FROM		TO
000-02-0602-0003-02	\$ 23,481	000-02-0602-0001-02
000-02-0602-0004-02	\$ 1,796	000-02-0602-0001-12
000-02-0602-0004-02	\$ 7,552	000-02-0602-0001-16

SECTION THREE: That Page Solid Waste Fund (Page 423) be amended as follows:

Create (p. 423) Tax Examiner (11 pays) 15M from \$24,760 + \$1,894 FICA/MED + \$8,925 Insurance to \$20,951 + \$1,603 FICA/MED + \$7,552 Insurance

SECTION FOUR: The City Council authorizes the appropriation of \$30,106 (Thirty Thousand One Hundred and Six Dollars) from the unappropriated balance of the Solid Waste Fund to the following accounts:

085-03-8005-0001-02 from \$24,760 to \$20,951
085-03-8005-0001-12 from \$ 1,894 to \$ 1,603
085-03-8005-0001-16 from \$8,925 to \$ 7,552

AMENDMENT PASSED 7, 0

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

ORDINANCE PASSED, 7 – 0

Bill 22 Allentown Special Fire Police Constitution By-laws

Amending Article 175, Special Fire Police by requiring Council approval of the by-laws and adding a section 175.10 CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE SPECIAL FIRE POLICE modifying the laws.

Ms. Eichenwald stated that this was recommended favorably, 3 – 0 to the entire Council.

Mr. Atiyeh, 421 W. Chew Street, stated that the Allentown Fire Police, the ladies and gentlemen that run the organization is fantastic. They are out in all kinds of weather with traffic control. If you would consider what it would cost to have a police officer or any kind of city employee to do what they do. It is astronomical. They deserve all the credit they get. They are priceless.

Mr. Laudenslager thanked the words of the City Council and the public that we have been receiving tonight. The Allentown Fire Police are a group of dedicated volunteers serving the City of Allentown since 1902. We do everything we can to make everything that happens in the city successful.

Mr. Hendricks stated for a number of years he was the Police Liaison for the Fire Police and including in charge of special events and I would add there are many special events which we offered overtime and we could not get officers to work and in those cases, the Fire Police was always there to step up. At times, we could not pay our people to work and they volunteered and did it gratis.

Mr. Guridy stated that they work very closely with other Fire Police in the region and they do a great job with them as well.

ORDINANCE PASSED, 7 – 0

11. RESOLUTIONS FOR FINAL PASSAGE:

R33 Communications Legislative Template

Approving the Memorandum of Understanding for Regional Shared 9-1-1 Services with Northampton County.

Ms. Eichenwald stated that Mr. Hilbert pointed out the numerous advantages of joining together with Northampton County and it will provide better services. It was recommended favorably 3 – 0 to the entire Council.

Mr. Schweyer thanked Mr. Hilbert for his presentation. This is all technology and doesn't have an impact on employees.

Mr. Hilbert stated that this is the sharing of technology. In no way the merging of services have an impact on the citizens of Allentown will still get their services from Allentown 911 Center.

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

RESOLUTION PASSED, 7 – 0

12. ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION

Bill 23 Homeland Security Grant

Referred to Public Safety

Amending the 2014 General Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of \$15,500.00. This is a reimbursement from Homeland Security to the Police Department for investigative equipment and training of officers.

Mr. Guridy asked any comments from the public.

Bill 24 RRO Wholesale Addition

Referred to CEDC

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. Guridy asked any comments from the public.

Mr. Heffentrager asked about the Wholesale use.

Mr. Hanlon stated that it is an application from Joe Fitzpatrick to amend the zoning code. It is a zoning code amendment in the overlay district.

Bill 25 - Main Street Reimbursement.docx

Referred to CEDC

Amending the 2014 General Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of \$30,000, a reimbursement from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the Main Street Program.

Mr. Guridy asked any comments from the public.

Bill 26 Fire Training to Premium.doc

Referred to Public Safety

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.

Mr. Guridy asked any comments from the public.

Bill 27 Events Expenditures.doc

Referred to Parks and Recreation

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.

Mr. Guridy asked any comments from the public.

Bill 28 Basin Street Funds.doc

Referred to Public Works

Amending the 2014 Capital Fund Budget to increase an appropriation of \$165,000, One Hundred and Sixty Five Thousand which is 100% reimbursable Federal funds. The Bureau of Engineering is supervising and monitoring the funds. These are additional funds to the \$575,000 that was already appropriated for the Basin Street project bringing the total funds to \$740,000 of Federal funds.

Mr. Guridy asked any comments from the public.

13. RESOLUTIONS FOR INTRODUCTION

R34 Encroachment 701 Hamilton Street

Encroachment at 701 Hamilton Street: Flagpoles, Planters & a Marquee

Mr. O'Connell stated that was in Public Works and we had a gentleman from Alvin Butz Corporation stating that they want to make sure that the flagpoles, planters, and marquee in front of the arena. There was very

little discussion. My colleagues Ms. Eichenwald and Mr. Davis recommended it favorably to the entire Council 3 – 0.

Mr. Guridy asked any comments from the public.

RESOLUTION PASSED, 7 – 0

R35 Sewage Planning Module The Waterfront Redevelopment Partners, LP

Sewage Planning Module for Parcel at The Waterfront, 1 Allen Street

Mr. O’Connell stated that was in Public Works and we had Neil Kern representing Barry Isett & Associates give a short presentation. We have the capacity. In fact, we have 10,000 gallons under capacity with this project. My colleagues Ms. Eichenwald and Mr. Davis had very few questions. It all follows the guidelines of the module and it was passed favorably 3 – 0 to the entire Council.

Mr. Guridy asked any comments from the public.

RESOLUTION, PASSED, 7 – 0

R36 High Quality Pre-K for Pennsylvania.doc

Supports State Effort for Expanded Access to Pre-Kindergarten School Programs

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

Mr. Heffentrager asked does this mean public only and not Charter.

Mr. Dougherty stated that this is an administration sponsored bill for public funding.

Mr. Schweyer stated for pre-k. R36 is pre-k. I don’t know of many public pre-k programs in the Commonwealth. My wife is a pre-k teacher. Many of them are publicly funded through Title 20, Keystone Stars, Pre-K. That doesn’t make them public entities. They are very few, if any.

Ms. Eichenwald stated that Charter Schools are public schools so it would include Charter Schools.

RESOLUTION PASSED, 7 – 0

R37 Full and Fair Funding for Pennsylvania Public Schools

Supports full and fair funding for all public schools in the Commonwealth

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

Mr. Dougherty stated that we are just getting to the fundamental issue wrong with this Commonwealth about no education funding formula.

Mr. Guridy asked any comments from the public.

RESOLUTION PASSED, 7 – 0

14. NEW BUSINESS

None

15. GOOD AND WELFARE

Mr. Julio Moreno asked about Identification and stated that every person should have a formal ID. The police will stop and the person has no ID. People that don't have an ID are hiding from society. They did not approve an extension for his visa. He is urging Council to support an ID.

Mr. Guridy stated that Council passed a Resolution already. That is the most that we can do. We sent it to the state.

Mr. Schweyer stated that we did get some responses.

16. ADJOURNED: 8:39 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.