

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



Allentown City Council  
435 Hamilton Street  
Allentown, Pa. 18101  
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## COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

June 5, 2013

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

435 Hamilton Street

7:00 PM

### 1. Invocation: Jeanette Eichenwald

### 2. Pledge to the Flag

3. Roll Call: Davis, Eichenwald, Glazier, Guridy, Mota, Schweyer  
John Marchetto represented for the Solicitor's Office

### 4. Courtesy of the Floor

Mr. Rich Fegley, 1002 S Bradford Street, stated that he wanted to follow up to see where we were on the Clean Air Ordinance and when we are going to meet next and get feedback from the Solicitor and receive something from the DEP as well.

Mr. Guridy stated that we haven't gotten a letter back from the DEP. He asked Mr. Dougherty is that is correct.

Mr. Marchetto stated that we haven't received anything.

Mr. Guridy stated that as soon as we get a letter we will look to scheduling another meeting.

Ms. Paulette Hunter stated that he NIZ and they could not give me a figure as far as Allentown residents they have hired to do the job or what percentage they will hire afterwards. They did say 20 percent will be Latino and African American and women. I am concerned about that because they could have 20 percent all Latino and meet the criteria or 20 percent all women because that is altogether. It should be divided out with 20 percent women, 20 Latino percent and 20 percent African Americans. We had a lot of discussions about the water and it reminds me of my sister who is in the hospital and she woke up and her skin was flaky and peeling because of the medicine. A lot of businesses hire focus groups when they start a project and they pay a lot of money for the focus groups to see what the problems are for the business. You didn't have to do that because Allentown residents gave ideas of what could happen. See how we can utilize that and put it in the contract and if it does happen how can we make it in the contract that it does not hurt the city at all.

Ms. Eichenwald stated that we really don't have any control over what ANIZDA decides to do. She stated that 51 percent of the people that live in Allentown are women; 50 – 65 percent of the people in this community are minorities and when we look at the 20 percent that makes me sad. That doesn't make me happy that 20 percent will fit into those categories. I think that the workforce should represent the citizens of Allentown. We don't have any control over their hiring policies. I am disappointed in that 20 percent figure.

Mr. Guridy stated that we all agree with that one.

Mr. Hershman asked if we read the letters that we received in the mail from LCA and how they are going to repay the \$220 million without raising our rates. How could they do something like that and you guys couldn't come up with that? Borrow the money and repay using the water and sewer rates. Now, you gave the whole thing away and they are going to benefit by it.

Mr. Guridy stated that Mr. Schweyer is working on that in his committee.

Mr. Schweyer stated that Mr. Hershman was at the last meeting as we talked about how the budget process is going to go. The administration is going to be providing every single dollar that is going to be escorted through Council, not as a Transfer, but as a budget amendment which will have a Bill or ordinance which means we will have first reading at a council meeting, consideration at Budget and Finance and the full vote to council. We don't have a check for \$220 million minus the money it will take to de-fees the water and sewer debt. We instructed the Budget and Finance Director to give us a report along with our actuarial fund. We are still waiting for a final report from Cheiron. We have been asking for that on several occasions. Mr. Dougherty and I had a conversation two days ago about vacancies and the bumping process and even though I am not chair of the HR committee, I did volunteer because we do go through the vacancy report every month with our financial reports. The positions that we are filling are currently budgeted positions that are from the vacancy factor and we all know that the administration is in process with coming up with a plan to come up with an office of ombudsman. The only positions that are being filled are the ones previously budgeted that are currently in the vacancy.

Mr. Hershman asked if they will have this done by August 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Schweyer stated that we are working feverously on it. There are going to be some kind of surplus is our intention after this. We could put it directly in the pension fund, we could do something different.

Mr. Hershman asked about the massive job postings that you have posted for these jobs are not budgeted yet.

Mr. Schweyer deferred to the administration.

Ms. Amy Trapp stated that the positions that are posted are positions that are in departments that were from the vacancy list that will go through a bidding process effort to thwart bumping so that people are not displaced.

Mr. Schweyer stated that they are not new positions that were created outside of the budget.

Ms. Trapp stated there are positions in the Streets department and positions in other departments across the city totaling 39. We realized that there were some in process that we have to remove.

Mr. Hershman stated that the problem is that it has to be amended in the budget

Mr. Schweyer stated that there are already budgeted.

Mr. Dougherty stated that we are preparing ordinances on personnel and organizational changes that will introduced for introduction, then discussion and passage, hopefully in July. It will address your concern about the complement and the organization of each.

Mr. Schweyer stated at our last budget and finance meeting I had asked for a list of those 39 positions and the administration said they will provide it for the next budget and finance meeting.

Mr. Kenneth Heffentrager, 733 N. 11<sup>th</sup> Street – vice president of the Tenants Association of Allentown, stated that as you know we maintain several sites on the internet and blight is another thing that we have been looking at besides taxes, property and slumlords. Recently, a bunch of people have been messaging us and saying that the fact that they just got a Sweep ticket because their grass is too high or because there is garbage out there. Meanwhile, 716 N. 9<sup>th</sup> Street is collapsing. The porch is about to give way from the weight of the walls of the building. We have an ordinance in this city, Article 1752 about vacate properties. This property violates eight laws.

Ms. Eichenwald asked Mr. Dougherty asked what our process in situations like this. Once upon a time we there were so many violations this property would have been condemned and would have given the city the right to take it over to rehab it. All of us are excited of what is happening on Hamilton Street, but what about the core. All around our city is decaying.

Mr. Heffentrager stated it is condemned.

Mr. Dougherty stated that he would agree with that and don't know the specifics of this situation. I will make an inquiry. The process is there is a boarding up process and the condemnation process and none of which is quick. He stated with the new hire and new deputy in DCED now consolidating the housing pieces and inspection pieces under one portfolio. It is our hope and plan to really invigorate the process by having centralized management.

Ms. Eichenwald stated that it seems we are taking steps forward; we have taken so many steps backwards. When Dr. Karen Beck-Pooley was here, it was a process. We would see the houses on the screen and vote to condemn them and they would be rehab and you would see beautifully rehabbed houses. We need to spend some time going through the process so that we on City Council will understand this. We can't have houses like this. They will collapse and our city will collapse if something is not done. Another property, 38 N. 12<sup>th</sup> Street façade collapsed He stated another property, 38 N. 12<sup>th</sup> Street façade collapsed onto the sidewalk.

Ms. Eichenwald stated that this destroys the whole block.

Mr. Guridy stated that the process has always been that the property is condemned and this one is already condemned and we approved that condemnation. Before we had Ms. Karen Beck-Pooley they used to apply to get it through eminent domain and then eventually the city through the Redevelopment Authority would start rehabbing those properties. He asked has the deputy started.

Mr. Dougherty stated that her education has begun. She is spending time working with the inspectors and seeing how this stuff is working and not working. We are taking a fragmented process and trying to bring more centralized management.

Mr. Joe Davis stated that he had a meeting with Shannon and Dave Paulus and we discussed this. They showed me the program they are developing and they are saying that the foreclosure ordinance that Mr. Schweyer introduced they are 50 percent caught up with that. There is a budget issue in there and an issue to decide who owns it and who is going to fix it. I saw what they were talking about and they showed me the report. Shannon and I will be meeting on a monthly basis.

Mr. Dougherty invited Ms. Eichenwald to attend one of those sessions.

Ms. Eichenwald stated what has her frustrated is that we did have a process and we have gone backwards.

Mr. Guridy stated that they are both right. Let's move on.

Ms. Julie Thomases, 824 N. Broad Street, stated that she wanted to give an update on an issue that she brought up about a Water Lease Independent Oversight Committee and Mr. O'Connell said that it would fall under the Public Works Department. She wanted to follow up. She spoke to Mr. O'Connell on Monday and Mr. Schweyer just before the meeting. Mr. O'Connell said we would have a meeting on this in two weeks. We are collecting bios from scientists and want to make it clear that it is not an adversarial committee, it is a science based committee to review the actions and activities of LCA and this water lease and water lease agreement. She stated that she looks forward to working with them on this.

Mr. Glen Hunsicker stated that he is just trying to find more answers. We received a letter from LCA and one of the things that go back to the free cash flow numbers and PFM of \$4.5 million and the administration settled for \$500,000 per year. It is not supposed to start for four years. That was part of the free cash flow. This administration will do anything to make something work and as council you have to take responsibility on some of this stuff. The storm sewer wasn't in the contract. In the new master list that they put out this week, they have 17 positions there for the new storm department. Will that department be announced as a new department or hidden under the Street Department. Most of the equipment went to LCA. Over \$100,000 vacuum is gone, unless they negotiated to get it back. What is the cost for new equipment and this new department?

## **5. Approval of Minutes: None**

## **6. Old Business**

None

## **7. Communications**

Mr. Schweyer stated that he has the opportunity and privilege to serve on the Friends of the Park board. This was created between members of the community and the administration right when Mr. Weitzel's tenure here as a Director of Parks and Recreation had an opportunity to raise money and raise awareness and creates educational programs to supplement the great work that the Parks and Recreation department does. This is the fifth anniversary of the Friends of the Allentown Parks. I have been on the board for less than a year and I am amazed on the amount of volunteerism that comes from the organization, and amount of work that comes out of a very financial small, but very mighty organization. On behalf of Council, we would like to congratulate the Friends of the Allentown Parks for their fifth anniversary and we are hoping to add a couple of zeroes after that because we hope that you are here for a long, long time to continue the great work of our parks and recreation department. He stated that Ms. Mota is our chair for the Parks and Recreation Committee and perhaps she would an appropriate choice to say a few words.

## **City Council provided a Proclamation for Friends of the Allentown Parks**

### **Public Hearing Notice: June 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:45 PM.**

Mr. Hanlon stated that Mr. Zeller contacted our office and stated that he can't make it so we will have to reschedule.

## **8. Committee Meetings**

Budget and Finance: Chairperson Schweyer

We have several Bills for final passage this evening. We did look at the financials and nothing specifics came out of the monthly financials. The expenses were in control and the revenues were on line. Ms. Eichenwald and other councilmembers suggestion on Account 46 to track the moving in the Account 46 plans will be at the next Budget and Finance Committee meeting. We will have our first quarterly report from the administration outlining all the projects that may ultimately be changed because the funding did not go through or it was no longer deemed appropriate and they will give a report on how those dollars are going to be reallocated if they plan on reallocating them at all. The first quarterly report will be in June.

Ms. Eichenwald asked for a report on the final tally of how much money was spend on legal and PFM expertize on the water lease and Delta Thermo.

Mr. Schweyer stated that we did not ask for that, but that is an appropriate thing to ask for. He asked Mr. Dougherty to have that available as well.

Ms. Eichenwald stated as close to final as possible.

Mr. Dougherty stated current because PFM will not be doing theirs until the deal is actually closes.

Public Safety: Chairperson Eichenwald

The committee has not met since the last meeting; no report.

Community and Economic Development: Chairperson Davis

The Committee has not met since the last Council meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for June 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:15 PM. This Monday at the America on Wheels Museum from 4:30 PM – 6:00 PM, the city is hosting a community development strategy. They will discuss the quality of life issues in Allentown.

Mr. Guridy encouraged everyone to go there because he thinks there will be people like you Mr. Heffentrager. They want to hear from the public what their strategies are for these houses. I encourage you strongly to participate.

Ms. Eichenwald asked has this publicized.

Mr. Guridy stated yes.

Mr. Davis stated that he saw emails.

Parks and Recreation: Chairperson Mota

The Committee has not met since the last council meeting; we are looking at setting up a meeting when Engineering finishes its review of the Robin Hood Bridge and the impact on any changes on the dam might have on the bridge. She stated that on yesterday I spent a few hours with some of the staff from Parks and Recreation and they gave me a great tour and I saw some of the issues that we have. It was very educational.

Public Works: Chairperson O'Connell

The Committee has not met since the last council meeting; the next meeting is scheduled for June 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:15 PM.

Human Resources, Administration and Appointments: Chairperson Glazier

The Committee met last Tuesday and forwarded a Bill 28 on tonight's agenda; a future meeting has not yet been scheduled.

Rules, Chambers, Intergovernmental Relations and Strategy: Chairperson Guridy

The Committee met this evening. We had a wonderful discussion on how to deal with our unwritten traditions of Council Rules. We have gotten a lot of information from other third class cities and

municipalities. We will study this a little further and come up with a way to be just for everybody and have as many people that want to speak, speak.

Special Committee – Tax Exempt Properties – Chairperson Eichenwald

The Committee has not met since the last council meeting. We are preparing a Resolution that is on the agenda tonight.

### **OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mr. Guridy stated that he sits on the Allentown Housing Authority Board and they are going into Phase II redeveloping Cumberland Gardens as we go along in different Phases. That is being done by Penrose. I will keep you posted. If you drive down there lately, you will see some nice developments. It is a challenge because some of the people have to leave the units and place them some place until their units are rehabilitated. The Allentown Housing Authority is losing a lot of money and it is affecting our city and our housing as well.

### **Controller's Report**

Ms. Koval stated at the last Budget and Finance Committee meeting, our intern presented the Process Flow that he worked for Lights in the Parkway. We have four interns that just started within the last week and a half. They will be going over the Process Flows for our Treasury, Recycling Grants, Engineering permits and our Swimming Pools. By the end of the summer, we will have process flows for those four different areas.

Ms. Eichenwald commended the report of Lights in the Parkway. We obviously have been doing this for years and I have never seen a complete process report. You looked at the issues and found difficulties and made recommendation to improve it. I am looking forward to those recommendations being put into place. I am sure that we will have a much more financially successful Light in the Parkway if those processes are put into place.

Ms. Koval stated that the intern did a very good job.

### **Managing Director's Report**

Mr. Dougherty thanked Ms. Mota for spending the best part of her day with us and the parks staff, immersing herself with the issues of Parks and Recreation from her absence. The staff has been working around the clock getting the pools ready for the opening this weekend, Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup>. Two spray parks were open on June 1<sup>st</sup> which included Bucky Boyle Park and the 5<sup>th</sup> Street Play Lot. The Pool at Mack will open a delayed opening for June 15<sup>th</sup> to do some emergency repairs over one of the structures there. We have started our compliance with ADA regulations and we now have five handicapped chairlifts installed at four pools. Two were installed at Mack Pool. We will continue to make stride through budgetary limits to further this compliance. Keck Park was one of the six outstanding DCNR grant projects that we had. We are finalizes a grant with DCNR walkthrough and closeout scheduled for June 17<sup>th</sup>. The ball fields and turf areas have been rebuild and reestablished; the parking lots have been reseeded which you realize the damage from last year's erosion and hurricane. The ball field access pads and the ball area have been completely installed and resurfaced. Baseball play is now permitted. Fall ball and soccer may be allowed this Fall depending on the establishment of the turf. The new pedestrian bridge has been put in place at the Parkway just west of the Rose Garden. We lost that bridge during Hurricane Sandy. This past year, the abutments and the encroachments and the concrete has been poured and we think the bridge is more inviting as ever before.

Ms. Mota stated yes, 100 percent. It is gorgeous.

Mr. Guridy stated for Stevens Park he realizes that we have gotten some money and he did his research that the money is available, but the plans are being done and by July and August they should start the work. He asked about a skateboarding park. A lot of youth have been requesting it. I know funding is tough to get.

Mr. Dougherty stated that he does not know the specifics of the schedule, but can get the specifics for you. That is almost the next project for our DCNR.

Ms. Mota stated that is one of the priorities at this point.

Mr. Dougherty stated yes, the next project. It is a high priority and long overdue. He stated that we are fortunate in our new parks director who has actually overseen the creation of skateboard parks in his other duties and we have explained to him that almost everyone on council wants to see a skate park. We should be given some serious consideration on moving forward with that study and action item.

Mr. Schweyer stated that we have no appointments, but if we could indulge, I would like to move R-15 to this point on the agenda to allow for the police appointments.

Mr. Guridy seconded the motion.

**R-15 Police Appointments.doc**  
**Appointment of Three Police Officers**

Chief MacLean stated that it will bring us to our budgeted strength of 216. I received a resignation today so we have another officer that is leaving on the 17<sup>th</sup> of June. We will get that one replaced. We are continuing to do background investigations so we have a pull of candidates to pick from.

**RESOLUTION PASSED, 6 – 0**

**9. APPOINTMENTS: None**

**10. ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE:**

**Bill 22 Capital Projects Transfer.doc**

An Ordinance to amend the 2013 Capital fund for the purpose of transferring funds and closing out completed projects.

Mr. Schweyer stated that this is the latest of several Bills. You have seen these before where the department of Finance has gone through old capital expenditures and some of them have been General Fund Operating Revenue for General Obligation Bonds and from Short-Term borrowing. She found remainders in some cases less than \$6 or over \$32,000. The projects are complete, but we have this money. They are shifting it over to other capital projects that have already been approved. It was recommended favorably unanimously.

Mr. Ortiz, 457 W Gordon Street, asked about the police officers and did they say the names because he could not hear.

Mr. Hanlon stated yes and repeated the names of the police officers.

**ORDINANCE PASSED, 6 – 0**

**Bill 23 City Drainage Improvements.doc**

An Ordinance to amend the 2013 Capital fund for the purpose of transferring funds and the consolidation of the Drainage Improvement Projects

Mr. Schweyer stated this was recommended favorably, 3 – 0. This was not money that was found, but four separate capital improvement projects all relating to drainage issues and consolidating them into one instead of having four different line items for the sake of internal accounting.

Ms. Bowman stated that this is for consolidation so that we have it all in one account instead of the east and north side and central. We will have one capita project for the same types.

**ORDINANCE PASSED, 6 – 0**

**Bill 25 Detailed Sheets.doc**

Amending the Administrative Code by requiring budget detail sheets to be submitted concurrent with the Mayor's presentation of the budget to City Council and the public.

Mr. Schweyer stated that it was recommended favorably, 3 – 0. This was legislation that was introduced by Mr. Glazier. I love seeing legislation coming from Council since we are the legislative body of the City of Allentown.

Mr. Glazier stated that at the budget session the detail sheets did not come concurrently with the budget and I thought that it made it pretty tough for council to do its job to review the budget and very hard for the public to have an idea of what is on that list. The information is available concurrent with the budget and this bill will assure that we will get it the same time so when we are doing our due diligence of reviewing the budget the second it comes to our hands I will have all that information. Essentially, it is the last piece of the puzzle to look at it. It would make the process a lot better for everyone.

Mr. Guridy stated that it is a good addition to it.

**ORDINANCE PASSED, 6 – 0**

**Bill 28 HR REORG.doc**

Amending the 2013 General Fund through reorganizing the Human Resources Department creating a net savings of approximately \$18,628 (Eighteen Thousand Six Hundred Twenty-Eight Dollars) in Permanent Wages and Temporary Wages.

Mr. Glazier stated that the committee reviewed this at its last meeting and recommended it favorably. What it does is reorganizes the department and empowers those managers to do what they do with greater depth and breadth so they will serve the city and its employees better.

Ms. Trapp stated that doesn't affect the head count at all.

**ORDINANCE PASSED, 6 – 0**

**11. ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION:**

**Bill 30 VAC-ORD N Gilmore St.doc**

**Referred to Public Works**

Providing for the vacation of N. Gilmore Street from E. Washington Street to E. Jeans Street in the Fifteenth Ward of the City of Allentown:

**Bill 31 VAC-ORD Sycamore St.doc**

**Referred to Public Works**

Providing for the vacation of Sycamore Street from east property line of 13 Sycamore Street to the eastern limit in the Sixth Ward of the City of Allentown:

**12. CONSENT AGENDA:**

**CA-1 Sewage Planning Module.doc**

**Sewage Planning Module for Parcel at 740 North Fenwick Street**

Mr. Young stated that these Planning Modules come through from time to time and it is for new developments. Ever since the city was issued the Administrative Order from the EPA, the DEP has required new developments to have the Planning approved. This particular one is a small development on the east side. It was a small, flexible space that was being development.

Mr. Chris Brown from Brown Design Corp. stated that he is the Landscape Architect for the project and this is the consolidation which includes the former Union Boulevard drive-in movie theaters and the Planning Module is for sewer services for a multi-purpose building which is a private community center for the personal use of this property by Allentown Classic Motor Cars.

Mr. Guridy asked if New England Avenue go east or west of that.

Mr. Brown stated that it is west.

**RESOLUTION PASSED, 6 – 0**

**13. RESOLUTIONS ON SECOND READING:**

None

**14. RESOLUTIONS ON FIRST READING:**

**R 16 - Tax Exempt Properties.doc**

Establishes a Committee to Systematically Review, Analyze, Report and Act on the Impact of Tax Exempt Properties in the City.

Mr. Guridy stated that it is basically appointing a committee that I appoint as president. Some other municipalities have done this as a Resolution.

Ms. Eichenwald stated what this Resolution will do is give more gravitas to this committee that was formulated to study the tax exempt issue of the nonprofits of the City of Allentown. We met with the Lehigh Valley Hospital and we had a good starting meeting and by this Resolution would give more import to this committee as we go further on in our deliberations. All this does is give more credibility to the establishment of this ad hoc committee. This Resolution has the support of the three councilmembers of representatives of the finance department and Vicky Kistler of the department of health. Deb Bowman is in finance.

Mr. Schweyer thanked Ms. Eichenwald and stated that he wishes he could vote for it, but when this committee was established, I work for Sacred Heart Hospital and I am going to recuse myself from this Resolution because of the nature of it.

## **RESOLUTION PASSED, 5 – 0 (Schweyer recused himself)**

### **15. NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Eichenwald stated that in view of the situation of what happened with Mr. Carter and the Wasserman Firm, I think it is in our best interest to open up a discussion about that at some point and our continuous with the Wasserman Firm. She asked Mr. Dougherty does he know the administration's intentions with the Wasserman Firm and what has occurred.

Mr. Dougherty stated that there were discussions in the aftermath of the administration learning.

Mr. Guridy stated that the firm that was hired to assist the city to hire a new police chief.

Mr. Dougherty stated Strategic Policy Partners is the name of Wasserman's Firm. They were hired through a competitive process. A member of the team that he assembled included a local, Dr. Gary Korder of Kutztown and included a member of his team names Joe Carter. We found out that once Mr. Carter started interviews we were informed of some allegations that happened in the past, thirty years ago, but it was enough for the mayor to rule that we did not want to taint the very critical process of selecting a police chief and the search process itself. We had asked Mr. Wasserman in turn to please remove Mr. Carter. We felt that was the appropriate thing to do. The Mayor showed decisive action in calling for Mr. Carter to leave the team and Wasserman was amiable of doing that. Our forensic situation, it was unfortunate. We did not know anything of Joe Carter's past, but forensic stated that it wasn't enough and felt that we did not taint the process itself because the process of interviews had just begun a day before. We felt that it was sufficient time and the beginning, the inception of the process where we did not have to go back to the drawing board. It preserved the integrity of the process and we stand by Mr. Wasserman. Mr. Wasserman has a tremendous reputation in the field of criminology and police and I think his record speaks for itself. We are sticking with the Strategic Police Partners.

Ms. Eichenwald stated that she totally agrees and commends the mayor for his quick and decisive action. I have a different take on our relationship with the Wasserman Firm. Since ironically we are hiring the Wasserman Firm to do screening on all of the candidates, this does not point to the best judgment of the Wassermann Firm. I recognize that we did vote to hire them, but I just want to publicly states and as chair this is my own opinion that given the position that I hold as chair of public safety that I have lost enough confidence in the Wasserman Firm. I am not saying it taint the process, but it taints the idea that we hired a firm to do all of our background checks and that's one of the major things that we are asking them to do and yet they failed us in sending us Mr. Carter. I have grave reservations in continuing this process with this firm.

Mr. Dougherty stated that he appreciates it and it is duly noted.

Mr. Davis asked if he was a police chief in Boston and the transit authority.

Mr. Dougherty asked if Mr. Davis was referring to Mr. Carter.

Mr. Davis stated that he had recent positions.

Mr. Guridy stated that he had a position as a police chief. I interviewed with him a day prior and he told me he was a police chief for Martha's Vineyard and his work in Martha' Vineyard was such good work. His policy was implemented throughout the whole state of Rhode Island of the policies that he developed in Martha's Vineyard. I don't know much about him and I did not do my due diligence in investigating him.

Mr. Dougherty stated that he was a contract employee for the Wasserman Group, for this project. He is not a principal of the company. His resume and his background in police were impressive, not only as a police chief, but an adjutant general for the Massachusetts National Guard. He was a One-Step General and apparently these allegations from 30 years ago reared their head again up in Massachusetts and it took its own turn.

Mr. Guridy stated that his understanding of the case, although there were allegations, he was never convicted. He finished his term and retired as a General.

Mr. Schweyer stated that with all his credentials notwithstanding that it was appropriate that he was asked to be removed. I do agree with the administration's decision. Mr. Carter did do work in the interview process. Because it was only a day of his time that he was up here I am sure he did not interview said hundred people. I spoke with him and I know some others did. I was less than impressed on how my interview went. Are we going to reschedule those meetings so that the next person coming in. What are your plans moving forward with that? Are we taking the responses that he got and applying them to the next or are we going to interview those folks in the community again.

Mr. Dougherty stated that the first step in this very comprehensive process was Mr. Carter and Mr. Corder interviewing people to see what skillsets, characteristics, and background they would like to see in a new police chief. That process has started with Mr. Carter. The first day he gotten through five interviews and the next day the story hit. The next day he performed two or three interviews before we were informed of the allegations. Gary Corder as the other side of the tag team already had begun his interviews with the next group of people.

Mr. Schweyer stated that is the gentleman from Kutztown.

Mr. Guridy stated that I actually came to that meeting with the public. We don't know what is going to happen. Something may come out of Mr. Corder. I think he did a good job.

Mr. Dougherty stated that if those who we canvassed an interview with Mr. Carter would like to interview, Mr. Carter's notes were handed over to Mr Corder. We know that happened. For those who interviewed with Mr. Carter would like to have an interview with Mr. Corder we can certainly arrange that.

Ms. Eichenwald stated that the issue is not Mr. Carter. The mayor decided that he was no longer to be a part of the team. I don't think it is in our best interest to debate what his experience was. My issue is that I personally lose confidence in this particular firm that would hire in such an important role. He told me he a strategic partner. He was representing the Wasserman Firm and then it turns out that the background check revealed this allegation which makes me personally lose my confident in this particular firm.

Mr. Dougherty stated that we disagree and there is no one better qualified then Ms. Wasserman who knows our police and has done work here before. Who knows the weaknesses, the strengths and the opportunities that will present itself. We remain very confident in Mr. Wasserman's ability to give us a first class, first rate search.

Mr. Guridy stated that we obviously have two differences of opinions and you are not suggesting that we withdraw our Resolution.

Ms. Eichenwald stated I would suggest at minimum we have a conversation with Mr. Wasserman about this issue at minimum. You hire someone to find you a good candidate and the person they send you, you then have to dismiss because of the background check.

Mr. Guridy stated that can be arranged.

Ms. Eichenwald stated you hired him to hire a police chief.

Mr. Guridy stated that your point is well taken.

Mr. Dougherty stated that Mr. Wasserman will be spending a lot of time with all of us, including council over the next few weeks.

Mr. Guridy stated that we can do it separately or as a public hearing. I think it merits a time to coordinate a time when he can come over to appease the minds of the people that may have legitimate concerns. He asked Mr Dougherty to arrange a meeting with Mr. Wasserman as a group or individually.

Mr. Dougherty stated absolutely.

## **16. GOOD AND WELFARE**

Mr. Glazier took this opportunity to announce that the inaugural season for middle school baseball in the Allentown School District comes to conclusion tomorrow with a championship game at 6:00 PM at Bicentennial Park and all four middle schools are fielding teams and 160 young men came out and they have been some really well contested games throughout the season and this project was organized by the Allentown School District Foundation, but it was made possible by grants and generosity from the Cheftell, the Iron Pigs, and the Allentown Drive. I know we are all busy, but if you have nothing to do tomorrow starting at 6:00 PM at Bicentennial Park come on down. There will be a game, possibly two and an awards ceremony.

Mr. Schweyer stated we spent a lot of time this evening of Mr. Heffentrager showing some really atrocious pictures on the property on N. 9<sup>th</sup> Street and we talk about the blighted properties in the concerns and I understand why and it is certainly very important and we don't want to lose focus on that. I also don't want to lose focus that there is a lot of wonderful work being done in the City of Allentown and this week I had the opportunity to join the members of Housing Association Development Corp. (HADC) with a number of folks from the administration and HADC is nearing completion of a rehab of the north side of North Street and they are halfway done with that block and the south side is fully completed. There was such a tremendous transformation. I would recommend to my colleagues that if you have the opportunity to meet with Dave, the executive director and HADC or take a stroll down 4<sup>th</sup> Street to see the transformation of that neighborhood.

Mr. Guridy stated that I do agree with me and had an opportunity to drive myself the other day and it was a treat. For you to really enjoy it, you would have had to see it before. Most of the properties before were 12 feet wide. HADC started this process years ago. They have done a wonderful job. It is a diverse neighborhood and the houses are beautiful.

## **17. ADJOURNED: 8:30 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](http://www.allentownpa.gov) or contact the Clerk at [Michael.Hanlon@allentownpa.gov](mailto:Michael.Hanlon@allentownpa.gov) to receive an email notice of the meetings.*