

Julio Guridy, President
Ray O'Connell, Vice President
Joseph Davis
Jeanette Eichenwald
Daryl Hendricks
Cynthia Y. Mota
Peter Schweyer



Allentown City Council
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COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
June 4, 2014
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

1. Invocation: Elder Robert Smith - Full Effect Gospel Ministries

2. Pledge to the Flag

3. Roll Call: Guridy, Eichenwald, Schweyer, Davis, Hendricks

4. Courtesy of the Floor

Mr. Pearson, 942 East Tilghman Street, stated a property at 404 North Jerome Street needs repair.

Ms. Hunter, Allentown, asked about the 8th Street Bridge. It was noted it was a 2 ½ year project and a fence will be installed around the perimeter.

Mr. Hahn, 2017 East Highland, requested information on the \$1.7m, the capital projects in the water system and listed a litany of items: no one needs Delta Thermo, the cost of the equipment that was transferred to LCA needs to be accounted for, there is no savings to the water lease, can the auditors show the solvency of City.

Mr. Hershman, 405 North Gilmore, asked about getting a fact sheet on the \$1.7m, how money from the water fund can be spent, suggested the EIT tax need to be lowered and asked for a solicitor's opinion on the same, suggesting the city is in violation of state law.

Ken Hefentrager, 733 N. 11th, referred to properties in need of repair – noting 338 North 12th Street is rbad, said water bills are skyrocketing, suggested boarding buildings and painting the wood black, and noted he reported properties to SWEEP – such as 741 Hazel and properties on Penn.

Ms. Eichenwald requested Mr. Dougherty to explain how the Keystone Designation – the Center City Initiative, would affect dealing with 338 N. 12th Street.

Mr. Fegley, 1002 South Bradford Street, noted under the DT contract we will be paying over \$100 a ton for trash disposal while the Easton contract was \$40 a ton. Reading rejected the incinerator from DT and hired a consultant to deal with the waste stream.

Ms. Eichenwald noted Delta Thermo has not sold this incinerator to any other city – they will be walking off with double the costs that Easton is paying.

Diane Teti, 328 North 8th Street, asked about the entrance from the parking area to chambers; notification of meetings of the Homeless Commission – requesting Ms. Baer notify Ms. Eichenwald and Ms. Schaller, and consider changing their meeting times; she noted the Conference of Churches would take the lead for

meeting the homeless needs this winter; noted the cemetery in the Old Allentown area needs maintenance; and 308 North 8th Street is a problem and needs to be secured.

Mr. Guridy asked Ms. Giguere to look at the cemetery issue.

Ms. Bosco, 432 North 29th Street, commented on the votes in regard to the Delta Thermo proposal referencing an article in Lehigh Valley Live, noting there is no pilot program and suggested continuous emission monitoring.

Mr. Dougherty, in response to Ms. Eichenwald, said he would find out about the \$2m grant for DT.

5. Approval of Minutes: None

6. Old Business

7. Communications

8. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

Budget and Finance: Chairperson Schweyer

The Budget and Finance Committee met on May 27th and forwarded an item on tonight's agenda and had a conversation on the city's monthly reports. In response to discussion at the meetings, the chair committed to reviewing the capital process and capital tracking, find out what, if anything, needs to be done on the \$1.2m transfer of equipment to LCA, and get a status report on the capital projects in the LCA agreement. It was noted the 1.7m happened in 2005 with a failure of council oversight, allowing an expenditure without a revenue source – we will be looking at an accounting fix. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 25th.

Public Safety: Chairperson Eichenwald

No report.

Community and Economic Development: Chairperson Davis

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

Parks and Recreation:

The Committee has not met since the last Council meeting; the next meeting has not yet been scheduled.

Public Works:

The Committee has not met since the last meeting; there are no future meetings scheduled at this time.

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 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. Schweyer said the Blighted Property Review Board is meeting next week to review procedures and properties.

Mr. Guridy noted minutes will be forthcoming from the Housing Authority.

Controller's Report:

Ms. Koval summarized the accounts payable check review, attached.

Managing Director's Report: Mr. Dougherty noted Ms. Saurman will review the graffiti program at the next council meeting.

9. APPOINTMENTS: None

10. ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE:

Bill 20 Arts Walk RACP

Budget and Finance, forwarded favorably, 2-0

Amending the 2014 General Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Fifty Thousand dollars, (\$50,000) as a result of a grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to the City of Allentown in the form of a RACP pass through grant to Allentown Art Museum.

There were no public comments, the bill was approved 5-0.

11. RESOLUTIONS FOR FINAL PASSAGE:

R15 Encroachment 645 Hamilton Street

Authorizes the installation of planters & grade separation at 645 W Hamilton (Two City Center)
Mr. Hefentrager asked who is responsible for tearing up the street and repaving it.

Mr. Hefentrager asked about who is responsible for repairing the street degradation.

Mr. Gentile, applicant, noted they are responsible for taking care of what they do.

The resolution passed, 5-0.

R16 Encroachment 27 N 7th Street

Authorizes the installation of a connector bridge from 27 N 7th Street (Four City Center) to Linden Parking Garage

In response to Ms. Teti, it was noted this is residential with commercial on the first floors.

The resolution passed, 5-0.

12. ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION:

Bill 21 Finance Staffing Pattern Change

Referred to Budget and Finance

Staffing Pattern Change in the Finance Department

13. RESOLUTIONS FOR INTRODUCTION:

R20 Keystone Community Designation

Approves the Submission of the Application for Keystone Community Designation to the Department of Community and Economic Development, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Mr. Davis gave the committee report, noting this is an application and a result of the meetings we have had the past year and a half on the housing task force. The would increase the likelihood of getting grants in the future if we get the designation.

Mr. Salinger noted there are several community projects in center city that receive some level of state assistance – Jordan Heights, 7th Street (Main Street), Old Allentown, and the Promise Neighborhood. The state is requesting a coherent comprehensive plan, and this is it.

Mr. Hefentrager suggested extending the coverage of strategic planning beyond the area designated in the plan.

Mr. Pearson asked if there is rolling nature to the five year plan.

Mr. Salinger said the plan will be subject to change, but these are the boundaries.

Ms. Teti noted we need to make funding and programs impact the community not just developers.

Mr. Atiyeh, 521 West Chew Street, noted the plan makes sure everyone is on the same playing field.

Jeremy Bender, 1553 West Turner, asked about the tax incentives in the neighborhood assistance program.

Mr. Salinger noted the neighborhood partnership program is where commercial entities are providing income for the community and they get a tax credit.

Ms. Bosco asked about the requirement for the management coordinator and the elimination of the blight declaration that was found on a state website explaining the Keystone designation.

Mr. Salinger noted Mr. Sadiua is the coordinator, the position is budgeted. He was unsure of the context of the power point presentation's reference to eliminating the blight declaration.

Mr. Hahn suggested getting clarification on this blighted issue and funding before the vote.

Mr. Salinger reminded them this is a submission of an application, if you need additional two weeks that is fine.

Ms. Eichenwald said we need to find out how the blight declaration issue interplays with the Keystone designation; and what are the city's obligations if we get a grant.

The Resolution was tabled.

14. NEW BUSINESS

15. GOOD AND WELFARE

Someone from the Latin Soccer League, requested two portable toilets and a net at Fountain Park; and shrubbery behind the concrete wall needed to be trimmed.

Mr. Hahn said the organizations could pay a fee for porta potties.

Ms. Eichenwald suggested Mr. Dougherty should remain at meetings and answer questions from Councilpersons and citizens; and asked the Clerk to inform Mr. Dougherty of this request.

Mr. Guridy said your points are well taken, there should be someone from the Administration here all the time.

16. ADJOURNED

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 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.