

Julio 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
AllentownPa.Gov

Facebook: Allentown City Council

**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
November 20, 2013
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Council Meeting – 7:00 PM

1. Invocation: Joseph Davis

2. Pledge to the Flag

3. Roll Call: Davis, Eichenwald, Glazier, Mota, Schweyer
Fran Fruhwirth represented for the Solicitor's Office

4. Courtesy of the Floor

Mr. Lou Hershman, 405 N. Gilmore Street, asked if Council will make available to the public distribution the municipal obligation (the MMO). He asked about the Budget and the many upgrades. He asked about the Personnel Code and the Reclassification Committee.

Mr. Schweyer stated to his knowledge, Mr. Guridy has not appointed such a reclassification committee. He asked Mr. Hanlon to take a look at it.

Ms. Eichenwald stated that the establishment of the Code predates our time on Council, but I do remember before I became a City Councilwoman that when I attended City Council meetings there have always been a discussion about a reclassification committee. City Council had a discussion and say.

Mr. Kenneth Heffentrager, 733 N. 11th Street, complimented the city for Hazel and Pine being cleaned up. He asked about City Center property along Walnut Street, and if they were fined. He asked about the Slumlord Hall of Shame List.

Mr. Dougherty stated that he will make an inquiry.

Mr. Dennis Pearson, 942 E. Tilghman Street, pointed out certain concerns about the neighborhoods. One is a light that should be across from Ashley Florist. He discussed repairs and traffic on Hanover Avenue. He stated that on Jerome Street we have a relative of a former Dieruff High School football player suffered damage from Sandy. The shingles are coming off and have not been replaced for a year. His neighborhood has been granted to put lights up during the Christmas Season at Irving Park.

Mr. Dougherty asked Mr. Pearson is that an existing light, a burned out light or a request for a new light.

Mr. Pearson stated that it is a request for a new light.

Mr. Glenn Hunsicker stated that this is the LCA Lease Schedule Payments. The supporting documents are attached. If you put \$170 million in the Pension Fund you have about \$11.8 million left. The consultants have been fully paid of 8/12/13. He asked how many of these people are retained for other things prior to this. Do we have a listing of those costs? He asked about wire transfers and the 2003 Bonds. We had job

descriptions on all the exempt salary people. With these new jobs are there associated job descriptions that are going to come out.

Mr. Schweyer stated for the water and sewer. He asked if you are asking if any of these consultants in the past or currently have done work for the city for anything not related to the water and sewer. PFM, King Spry, Dilworth Paxson and I believe Ballard Spahr has as well. He stated that we will look at that and try to come up with an answer.

Ms. Bowman (Acting Finance Director) stated that they addressed that during the budget meetings and for each group give the associated job descriptions for that evening.

Mr. Daniel Ruff, 348 N. 4th Street, stated that we have a national debt and we should push the Allentown debt higher. The Allentown Tenants Association should be put on Allentown Budget. The slumlords are going around the law because it is not being paid attention to.

Ms. Gail Tannenbaum, 2208 Allen Street, asked about the sewer project is going and if they put together an advisory committee. She asked about the Blight and the fines.

Mr. Fran Dougherty stated that he doesn't have an update on the status. We do have a Public Works meeting tomorrow and you are certainly invited to come.

Mr. Schweyer stated that he doesn't know if it gives the option to acquire property. We can look at it.

Ms. Tannenbaum asked why the city is not fining them so they build up and build up.

Mr. Fran Dougherty stated in some cases they are.

Mr. Schweyer stated that he knows of many instances that we levied multiple fines on one property over the course of time, several times. He asked if Ms. Tannenbaum spoke to Mr. Paulus.

Mr. Dougherty stated that he doesn't believe so.

Mr. Schweyer stated why don't we ask Mr. Paulus and he might be willing to give you and bring you up to speed. We changed some of those laws and it was Council's action of a maximum fine of \$1,000 and before that it was a couple hundred bucks. We were advised that if we go much higher they won't pay it or the judges will reduce it anyway.

Ms. Eichenwald asked that Mr. Paulus come to City Council and speak to us and give us a report about the Policy and what is the status of the payment of these fines. It has been quite a while.

Mr. Keshel, president of Mountainville 30 Crime Watch, stated that we do the broken window theory. The City of Allentown at 3:30 PM on a Friday shuts down and does not reopen until Monday at 8:00 AM. When we have incidence or problems in our neighborhood, we call the nonemergency number and we are told that can't be handled until Monday because it is a SWEEP Problem. Why can't we have a rotating SWEEP Officer?

Ms. Diane Teti stated that she is knitting because she is working with two homeless women who need a way to pay their weekly rent. It was initially subsidized by the First Presbyterian Church and they are out of funds. They are hoping to sell scarves to raise the \$125 they need a week to stay where they are. She asked about the Emergency Shelter in Allentown.

Ms. Gaffney stated that she was one of those homeless people for four years. She was involved in a landlord/slumlord situation and I am now fighting for my home at 421 W. Washington Street. She discussed blighted property on Washington Street and Tilghman Street with orange tag properties. She asked Council to work with the Tenant's Association.

Mr. Dwayne ?, 252 E Walnut Street, stated that he called the city about a vacant property that is two doors down from him and it was tag unsafe structure. Someone removed the tag. We give credit to Code Enforcement for the inspectors they have. He asked for more inspectors.

Ms. Eichenwald asked Mr. Dougherty if the city can do anything about the city closing at 3:30 PM Friday and reopening on Monday. Can we have someone on during the weekends for emergencies?

Mr. Dougherty stated that he will check into it.

5. Approval of Minutes: October 16, 2013

Minutes approved by Common Consent

6. Old Business

None

7. Communications:

Mr. Schweyer stated that we did slight changes to accommodate some Councilmembers schedule for budget.

Mr. Hanlon stated that the ultimate decision was to do CEDC at 5:00 PM on Tuesday, November 26th and Public Safety at 6:00 PM and we are still thinking when to do Non-departmental.

Mr. Schweyer asked Mr. Davis and Ms. Eichenwald are they ok with the new times?

Budget Presentation: Mayor Pawlowski

8. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

Budget and Finance: Chairperson Schweyer

The Budget and Finance budget was reviewed on November 12; the committee has not met since the last Council meeting; the next meeting has not yet been scheduled given the budget. There was a Bill that was considered and is on the agenda this evening.

Public Safety: Chairperson Eichenwald

The committee has not met since the last meeting; a future meeting has not yet been scheduled.

Community and Economic Development: Chairperson Davis

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

Parks and Recreation: Chairperson Mota

The Committee has not met since the last council meeting; a future meeting has not yet been scheduled.

Public Works: Chairperson O'Connell

The Committee has not met since the last council meeting; there will be a review of the Public Works budget tomorrow evening.

Human Resources, Administration and Appointments: Chairperson Davis

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; a future meeting has not yet been scheduled.

Special Committee – Tax Exempt Properties – Chairperson Eichenwald

We had a very positive meeting with Lehigh Valley Hospital. Vicky Kistler who is the head of our Public Health met with the representative from Lehigh Valley Hospital and I hope to soon be able to come to a wonderful conclusion.

OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Schweyer stated that as a member of the Blight Property Review Board pursuant to the last Council meeting where we had a conversation with Ms. Calluori from Community and Economic Development and I had an opportunity to meet with her and go over the Blighted Property Review process.

Mr. Glazier stated that the Pension Board met on Tuesday. Investment Returns continue to be strong even into the fourth quarter. The Aggregate Board expects to contract out the issuing checks to the retirees which will result in efficiencies and that will happen in 2014.

Controller’s Report

None

Managing Director’s Report

Mr. Dougherty recognized and congratulated Mr. Dennis Pearson on his reelection as president of the 14th and 15th Wards. We have a new visitor to the Rose Garden. We have one or two Bald Eagles that have taken up home in the Rose Gardens.

9. APPOINTMENTS:

Adam Marles	Human Relations Commission	10/25/2016
Carlos Herrera-Acevedo	Human Relations Commission	12/31/2017
Michael Ogola	Human Relations Commission	01/25/2016
Terry Young	Human Relations Commission	02/01/2016
Robin Riley-Casey	Human Relations Commission	01/01/2015

RESOLUTION PASSED, 5 – 0

Mr. Marles stated that he appreciates the opportunity.

Mr. Schweyer thanked Mr. Marles for his service.

Lee Laubach, Jr.	Prop Rehab Board of Appeals	08/05/2015
Leonard Lightner	Prop Rehab Board of Appeals	08/05/2015
William Harvey	Prop Rehab Board of Appeals	08/05/2015
James Minarovic	Prop Rehab Board of Appeals	08/05/2015
Ajay Sharma	Prop Rehab Board of Appeals	01/01/2015
Eileen Moser	Prop Rehab Board of Appeals	08/05/2015

Mr. Glazier stated that he reviewed their resumes of all and they are more than adequate to serve the city.

Mr. Heffentrager asked what they are going to do.

Mr. Dougherty stated that we can get you a description.

RESOLUTION PASSED, 5 – 0

Mr. Ajay Sharma stated that he appreciates the opportunity.

10. ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE:

Bill 63 2013 General Fund Transfer of Lease

Amending the 2013 General Fund, Capital Fund and Risk Fund by transferring money from General Fund to the Capital Fund and Risk Fund.

Mr. Schweyer stated that it was forwarded favorably with a vote of 4 – 1. I was the dissenting vote on this. The Bill 63 transfers additional dollars as a result of the water and sewer lease. This was mostly everything that we had discussed during the Special Meeting we held Thursday night. I had a concern because we were not 100 percent there with what was presented. We were missing some dollars that was yet to be transferred. If you saw Budget Memo II addressed everything and is now part of the Budget.

ORDINANCE PASSED, 5 – 0

11. ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION:

Bill 67 Pension Note Ordinance

Referred to Budget and Finance

An ordinance of the council of the city of Allentown, Lehigh county, Pennsylvania, authorizing and directing that action be taken to effectuate a deposit of certain monies to fund the city's unfunded pension liability in accordance with act 205, the municipal pension plan funding standard and recovery act, authorizing the issuance of a note in the principal amount of \$150,000,000 to fund the city's pension plan contribution and authorizing the appropriation of note proceeds to the pension fund, authorizing appropriate officers and officials to take required necessary and/or appropriate action, to bring about the foregoing reduction, providing for severability of provisions of the ordinance, providing for the repeal of all ordinances or parts of the ordinance so far as the same shall be inconsistent, providing when this ordinance shall become effective

12. CONSENT AGENDA:

CA – 1 Certificates of Appropriateness for work in the Historic Districts:
201 N 10th St, 1031 Linden St. and 522 Allen St

RESOLUTION PASSED, 5 – 0

13. RESOLUTIONS ON SECOND READING:

None

14. RESOLUTIONS ON FIRST READING:

R -31 Proclamation Honoring the Life and Legacy of President John F. Kennedy

RESOLUTION PASSED, 5 – 0

15. NEW BUSINESS

None

16. GOOD AND WELFARE

Mr. Schweyer congratulated all members of Council and residents everywhere for the confirmation of the new Chief. I think we will be happy with his performance. We look forward to making his tenure a success.

17. ADJOURNED: 7:49 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.