

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



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COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
October 16, 2013
WEST END YOUTH CENTER - 848 N. 20th Street
Council Meeting – 7:00 PM

1. Invocation: Julio Guridy

2. Pledge to the Flag

3. Roll Call: Davis, Eichenwald, Guridy, Mota, O'Connell, and Schweyer (Absent: Glazier)
Dale Wiles represented to the Solicitor's Office

4. Courtesy of the Floor

Ms. Gail Tannenbaum, 2208 Allen Street, stated that the whole Engineering department has really moved mountains. This morning when they came out of the Engineering Meeting, I said thank you very much and I appreciate everything you have done, and Richard Rasch now who is going to pay for all of this and I said well, we have got this covered and I anticipate it. I spoke to Senator Pat Browne and Representative Schlossberg and they are 50 percent of your funding in the State Emergency Account. When I talked to Mike Schlossberg, he recommended that we form some kind of an advisory committee that will work with the head of the engineering firm that you will hire so that we can have a contact person to follow through.

Mr. Fran Dougherty stated that we would support that. It is true that the Mayor has suspended the RFP process so this will greatly expedite choosing on an emergency basis a contractor moving forward. T and N has not been chosen yet. It is down to T and N and a couple of other firms that have specialties in hydrology studies. I know T and N has an engineer that actually wrote the software for the modeling of the software across the country. Richard Young, Rich Rasch and the engineers are looking at the firms to choose from. We will do this on an emergency basis with a justification on procurement. We probably anticipate about \$50,000 for the study. That study will tell us the problems, and will tell us gross estimates for mediating the identifying problems and as part of the consultancies work advisory groups in the affected neighborhoods are formed. They work the consultant, they give the anecdotal stories to the consultants and they educate them. An advisory committee will be formed from the portion of the project. We will put a placeholder in the Capital Budget for improvements in the affected area.

Mr. Kenneth Heffentrager, 733 N. 11th Street, stated if you look at some of these properties here, these buildings are extremely dangerous to the neighborhoods. Each one of these buildings has sidewalks and streets around them. This one in particular, 716 N. 9th Street continues to fall apart. The neighbors highlighted this building and the blight of the city. The neighbors after two weeks of being on WFMZ have repaired the property. Building Standards and Code Enforcement went out and cited the building because it was accessible. The one at 38 N. 12th Street, people are sick and tired of looking at it and this property is starting to be used as a dumping ground. People are parking their cars in the back, illegally and hiding their vehicles there. Some of these properties are ridiculous. On N. Jefferson Street, there is no roof on the building and there are bricks on the side. Did we get an answer on how many blighted properties the city believes there are.

Mr. Guridy asked Mr. Dougherty if we have the information.

Mr. Dougherty stated that Shannon Calluori is compiling that. It is not an easy aggregate number. It has to be differentiated by the definition of blight and you have various categories that overall gives you a number.

Mr. Heffentrager stated that Mr. Atiyeh asked about it and it was 487 through two separate agencies and us, the Mayor has given us 175 – 325. If you look at the map, Center City is overwhelming.

Ms. Eichenwald stated that as good as it is that you come here and tell us about this, I can remember not so long ago that Dr. Karen Beck-Pooley, who was the head of the Redevelopment Authority, would come here with exactly that information. The difference is that she had clout and there was a process. She stated to Mr. Dougherty that every time we hold this discussion, Shannon is working on the process. When will there be a process established whether the numbers are 300 or 450. If I were living next door to one of these properties, one is too many.

Mr. Dougherty stated that we had Shannon appear before City Council, and during one of those meetings you were absent. Mr. Davis has met with Shannon on a number of times and was fully briefed. I offered to bring Shannon back to Council for a public briefing session, and is up to the Chair of the DCED. As Mr. Davis can attest, he has been doing an awful lot of homework and he and Shannon are diving in to this problem.

Ms. Eichenwald asked is there a process on the books.

Mr. Dougherty stated that he believes there is and Shannon is making some real palpable progress in getting these home back into reputable hands and making a transformable difference in these homes.

Ms. Eichenwald stated that it will behoove the administration as well as City Council if we could have a report on what is happening with these properties. All of us need to know X number of properties, and what is happening to them and what is the stage. Something needs to be done.

Mr. Heffentrager stated that Dave Paulus with Building Standards and Code Enforcement, and Shannon with the Redevelopment Authority in the last couple of months we have stopped attacking them because they have been doing stuff. They have really stepped it up and a couple of properties in disarray run by the city, they have cleaned them up and secured them.

Mr. Guridy said to Mr. Dougherty you are right Mr. Davis can give an explanation of it and what is going on.

Mr. Davis stated that there is a Community Development Strategy Advisory Board and they had their second meeting last Tuesday and at that meeting there were two meetings on what the problems are and blighted properties. The next meeting coming up all the problems will be outlined and the strategies. Yesterday, the Housing Taskforce met for the second time and that is a different group of real estate agents, and bankers. I will be meeting with Mike Hefele to review and I will be reporting to Council. I was waiting for the committee to come up with a strategy because we already discussed all the problems.

Ms. Eichenwald stated that she is pleased to hear that, but her frustration comes that this is three years.

Mr. Davis stated that he has met with Ken numerous times and Dave Paulus and it is a big problem. There will be a strategy developed for both committees.

Mr. Lou Hershman, 405 N. Gilmore Street, stated that he has been writing memos to you to follow up on these questions. I am getting lost and have no file cabinets left because you never answer anybody. He asked if Act 205 requires you to file an MMO on November 30th. It should be reported. He asked about the Ethics Code and Act 205 says things that may not be in the ethics code. He asked if the Ethics Code is required by Act 205. My concern is contributions. Act 205 says that nobody should accept contributions with anybody with the pension board. We hired a number of consultants that worked the Water and Sewer Lease. The Sewer is providing money for the pension funds so it could be a conflict. Council is accepting contributions from people involved in the water and sewer lease. The mayor is chairman of the board and accepting contributions from consultants.

Mr. Guridy asked Ms. Bowman if she had any information on Act 205. He stated that he will get Mr. Hershman an answer at the next meeting.

Ms. Bowman stated that she is in the process of preparing all of that. Yes, November 30th, it should go to Council with everything on preparing the budget and going through, I am in the process of doing that. There is no penalty and it will be going to Council.

Mr. Dennis Pearson, 942 E. Tilghman Street, stated that he will note that on October 30th at Dieruff High School there will be a meeting of the Pennsylvania State Environmental Protection Agency in regards to the issue that has been brought up several times before this body. I find it interesting that Delta Thermo joined against a ballot measure even though they were grandfathered against that. What they said at the hearings for City Council was not exactly correct. They stated that their negative pressure plant will not release odorous particles in the atmosphere or even worse, will it release dioxins that is not odorous. That is the concern of the Clean Air Group. I am glad there will be a meeting that is going to be held on the subject, but at the same time I am curious to know why it is going to be held. Only because the Pennsylvania Environmental Protection Agency says that this area is in the Environmental Justice Zone is this meeting taking place. As a person that may not be considered a candidate for Environmental Justice, I kind of take offense to that. Their obligation is not to protect me.

Mr. Tom Hahn, 2016 E. Highland Street, stated that one of the questions that have always come up is trying to understand the rationale about money and why. Most times in cases like this we are told, follow the money. What I need to know is why is it that we need so much when we are now down to \$150 million and whatever expenses occur and when we ever find out where the savings is to the citizens for doing this that we were promised by the mayor. This was supposed to be an opportunity of a lifetime for the citizens of Allentown and apparently it is not working out that way and maybe we were misguided from the start. The idea that we have to have a Right to Know to get questions asked has to stop. If there is going to be honesty and transparency and you say you don't know and you are telling the truth I believe you are being honest, but when you don't know either find out and start asking the questions that we are asking because the public is concerned. Be more active as members of Council. If a question comes up that needs a second, please second it so we can have a discussion. What is our obligation to the state to put the money in the fund? Where does the money go and which fund, Fire or Police and what the result will be to the taxpayers because of the NIZ zone, the EIT, the school tax and the county tax. We are still going into parts that it is costing us and it is not much the citizens can do about the rates, the taxes or what is missing for the school taxes. How can we get a report on the savings?

Ms. Eichenwald stated that Mr. Hahn makes a really good point about citizen involvement and knowledge. I like to direct my question to Mr. Dougherty, have we created a citizen advisory board for the water and sewer as we discussed many times previously.

Mr. O'Connell stated that there are two parts to that, there is a Compliance and Review Board that is made up of professionals which has not started. That is made up of the Public Works Chair, Budget and Finance Chair and two appointees be the mayor that are nongovernmental and one appointee by City Council, nongovernmental. I started that citizen advisory group of which myself, Julie Thomases is the facilitator, Mike Siegel, Dan DeLong, Rich Neisenbaum and Joan McMahon and Mike Hanlon goes with me to the meetings and we have met twice already officially and we are meeting Monday at 9:30 AM at Panera in an informal setting and we are bringing Dan Koplisch to that meeting and he will fill us in on exactly what he is doing through the city. There are two Compliance Officers and an Administrative Supervisor. They are still facilitating the transfer and they are working with that. At this point, the transition seems to be going well and the Citizens Advisory Committee that I promised we would do when we signed this Water and Sewer Lease Agreement we will be having our third meeting on Monday.

Ms. Eichenwald asked for periodic briefings because here I sit on City Council and I have absolutely no idea that this committee was even formed.

Mr. O'Connell stated what Mr. Hahn is talking about, I am not. You are talking finance. Our group the Citizens Advisory Committee, I am not touching the financials. As a City Councilmember I will touch the financials.

Mr. Hahn stated that there seems to be an extra tease that is still available with some of these issues and I am glad to know that there is another committee looking at it. We still want to use the bid system, whether it is for money or anything else. Today, we found out that the mayor can override the bid system and do things. He stated that the trouble that we are having here where we know that the Mayor can override to help people, it is too selective.

Mr. O'Connell stated to Mr. Hanlon when we get to the other committee reports, we have the whole list of committees, I request to put the Citizens Advisory Committee (W & S Lease Agreements) and I can give periodic updates when we meet.

Mr. Douglas Kunkle, 1334 W Gordon Street, stated that his issue is the absentee landlords and the enforcement of the Property Maintenance and Rehabilitation Code in regards to the absentee landlords having registered agents sign the designation that they are registered agents within the city. I handed three documents to you and the first is the Office of Open Records, Right to Know Request and determination and I agree with the last individual regarding this record. You should make it easy for us to find things out, not make it difficult to find things out. What I found out when I asked for the signed confirmation of the designated agent of the property neighboring mine was that there was none. A number of years ago someone that works for him threw out all the signs of the designation registered responsible agent in the city and he took it upon himself to seize that part and enforce that part of the section of the code and we don't know the properties that are owned by absentee landlords and the two I have are from Bucks County. They just entered that information directly into the computer and they get a phone call and don't confirm who the responsible agent is and attached to the second document I have is a screenshot that he is indicating 1338 Gordon Street and under the date of the entry of rental agent, it is blank. Another document I have has a responsible rental agent from South Carolina and I don't know how they can be a responsible rental agent in Allentown from South Carolina. The final document I have is a Right to Know Request that I got from the Bethlehem Housing Authority. He asked about the voucher system with the Housing Authority. There is something called the portability of the vouchers and all five Housing Authorities decided to wave the Notice of Portability of Vouchers so that anywhere in Lehigh or Northampton County you can take a vouchers and go anywhere you want. None is watching any of these people. They don't tell us what Housing Authority that they are reporting to.

Mr. Guridy stated that you mention the vouchers with the Housing Authority where to tenant lives or is residing is watching these vouchers. If that person moves to Allentown, Bethlehem or to Easton that voucher has to go to the corresponding household. I would like to speak to you offline about this.

Mr. Schweyer stated that there are two issues that you are bringing up here. The first is the issue about communication amongst the Housing Authority to be able to identify a property that is owned by a Section 8 approved landlord and that is one issue that Mr. Guridy serves on the Allentown Housing Authority Board and he said that he would address that with you offline. The other issue that you bring up is something that we tried for years to get a handle on and that is the registration for the superintendent in Allentown based on what other cities have done in terms of having a responsible party. The property owners are Lehigh County Residents and they have to have someone deemed if they have three units as the responsible party and we don't do a good job. That is one thing that has fallen by the waist side and Mr. Davis and I, I was previously Chair of CEDC with a lot of good stuff about blighted property and Mr. Davis and I had a conversation. The first part is a Housing Authority issue and Mr. Guridy will handle that, but with the superintendent role, we do need to take that up, we wrote the law back in the 80s.

Mr. Glen Hunsicker, 844 S. 11th Street, stated that he is trying to get some transparency on the \$160 - \$181 million that we are going to be putting away somewhere. I know that you are presenting as part of an ordinance tonight. You have it broken down to \$114 and \$67 that comes up to \$180 million. Who is making some of the decisions before you say you are going to do this. How did you come to \$114 million and who is working on this with the city other than the administration. Is it the City Council or the budget committee that is actually working with Peirce Group or somebody and say where are we going to put this money? How did you come up with \$114 million?

Mr. Guridy stated that there is a committee that was developed, the Pension Recovery Committee. It was a committee that was actually has seven individuals that is part of the pension board and the finance director.

Ms. Mary Ellen Koval stated it is the Finance Director, the Manager of Treasury, two Councilpersons appointed by the president.

Mr. Guridy stated that those two are Mr. Davis and Mr. Glazier. Mr. Glazier is already on the Pension Review Board and Mr. Davis and been involved a lot.

Mr. Hunsicker asked would that meeting be open to the Public at some point.

Ms. Koval stated that it will be advertised and open to the public when they meet. We are still awaiting the three pension funds: Police, Fire and O&E to get back to me with their representatives.

Mr. Schweyer stated that the \$114 million that you see on a Bill that is not introduced and will be introduced later tonight and for your information Mr. Hunsicker or any other person in the audience that is interested Bill 49 is not under consideration tonight, it is for introduction and first reading and we will be having a Committee Of The Whole on October 24th at 6:00 PM in the 5th Floor Conference Room. In Bill 49, it is not \$114 million that is being moved around Mr. Hunsicker; it is closely to \$180 million. The \$180 million is the remainder of the water and sewer concession less the defeasements of the bills we have. You are referencing \$114 million and it is \$180 million that is under consideration with Bill 49 broken up into two parts: the Water and Sewer broken down and it are all based on what the concession deal and how much was the value for the water and how much the value for the sewer. That is the ratio based on what is remaining as we defeases those costs. That is how you get to that number. Part two is who is watching this and how the decision has been made. As we discussed at the Budget and Finance Committee meeting, whenever the ultimately whenever the \$160 million give or take is transferred over to the Pension

Fund, the Pension Board meetings are open to the public with Council representation and Mr. Glazier is on it. They make the ultimate decision on how those funds are invested, working with Peirce Park and presumably another entity that has yet to be decided on. In terms of how much money goes into the fire fund, the police fund and the O&E, that is the asset allocation committee that Mr. Guridy referred to and again, those meetings are public. It is a lot of moving parts and we understand that. It is \$181 million that we have to allocate and allocate properly. It was based on an 8 percent return on investment and it is 7.75 percent now and the pension board making a rules adjustment. There is still \$160 million underfunded liability that has to be filled and we have that \$180 million so that we can fill that \$160 million from the liability and those decisions are ongoing. There will be no bill that is passed that is private and there will be no committee hearing that is private. We have an agreement with the administration which we talked about numerous times publicly. Nothing is being done by paper transfer; everything is being done by Ordinance, like Bill 47 which is under consideration tonight and Bill 49 that is being introduced tonight.

Mr. Hunsicker stated that what I am getting from that is that you are still thinking of using the \$160 million and giving it to the Pension Aggregate Board and you are conceding that you are going to lose the 3.5 EIT tax.

Mr. Schweyer stated no.

Mr. Hunsicker asked do you have a solution on saving that.

Mr. Schweyer stated that he would defer to the pension board. There has been no conversation internally about eliminating the .35 EIT.

Mr. Hunsicker stated that I am not saying you are going to eliminate it; it might be eliminated from you from the state if you don't meet certain conditions. The conditions that I understand are the money you still get from the .35 has to be still put into the pension.

Mr. Schweyer stated that the EIT consideration for the Act 205 and I would argue appropriately and this is a significant public consideration. Not only the EIT .35 with the increase in the Earned Income Tax that was passed two years ago, but also the state aid is all part of the calculations. The pension board is not making this decision in a vacuum. They are getting a tremendous amount of advice from Peirce Park, our pension fund manager, from Cheiron, our actuaries and they are also in conversation with a number of organizations to talk about investments. No one is conceding that.

Mr. Hunsicker stated that you are not conceding that, but you can't assure me that we are going to save it somehow.

Mr. Schweyer stated that there is also a question of should we save all .35. There are multiple considerations here.

Mr. Hunsicker stated that he would like to see the number because it is like \$9 million to the citizens of Allentown that is basically 3 mils of taxes. When someone says they will have a \$160 million that you need for the so-called pension problem a year or so ago and it ends up paying and the ratepayers have to pay \$307 or \$.8 million loan back to LCA, someone has to pay for it.

Mr. Schweyer stated that is your answer on the \$181 million that is going to be introduced tonight.

Mr. Dougherty stated let me add for the record that the committee of the whole on the 24th will include the Mayor and Scott Shearer from PFM. You will have a lot of questions and you will get a lot of answers on the 24th.

Mr. Schweyer stated to Mr. Hunsicker that the 24th is all considering this one bill and the only thing that is on the agenda for the Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Guridy stated that we talk about the .35 all the time and we always say the same thing. Nobody is considering defeasing that.

Ms. Jennifer Frayer stated that she is here on behalf of her husband, Bryce Frayer who is the property-owner at 36 N. 12th Street and that is one of the properties that is right next to one of the properties that was highlighted earlier and was distributed in that packet. There are really no considerations and accommodations being made for the property owners that are adjacent to these properties that are falling down and should be condemned. It has rodent issue and trash accumulation and this particular property has an issue with the roof where the water is leaking and causing major water issues and it is causing us to have to sink so much additional funds into our property that it is frustrating that we have to continue sinking all this money and nothing is being done with the property next door and we don't know who to talk to or where to go. We brought it up to the Building Standards and Safety Department multiple times and we continue to hit dead ends. It would be nice to even know that we are talking about the process. We need something sooner. We can't continue to sink money when we are trying to be responsible landlords and continue to maintain our properties to the best of our abilities. It is really hard when you continue to go into the negatives every month because you have to resolve issues four times in a row. If this was our property we would be given 30 days' notice to make the improvements. This goes on for years and years and years and nothing is being done.

Mr. Guridy asked Mr. Dougherty to take a note of that, specifically for this property and see if you can get back to her.

Mr. Jacob Fritz, 514 W Cedar Street, stated that he is here because of the blight especially in my neighborhood. I have lived in Allentown all my life since I was born. I grew up there as a child. As we know, it has changed a lot. My main concern is eight years ago I moved back into Allentown to start a family. The neighborhood was alright and since then it really went to crap. I have sink holes on the side of me. There are abandoned houses all around me and it is a warzone area. Every time I mention something and we make calls they don't have the money right now to take care of the stuff. It gets more expensive if you ask me. I personally got subpoena to court because twice people were trying to steal copper and I kept them there until the cops got there. To me it would be cheaper to take care of the blighted properties before the roofs get worse or copper gets stolen. I moved back here to see if I can bring my family back here, but it is getting so difficult. I could easily take a loss of my home. My property value went down big time. I could easily take a loss on it, but I would be like everyone else that skips town. I would like to stay there and fight for my property and do what I have to do. We need to see some better results. I am really concerned about the sink holes on the side of my house because the last time the people came to measure it, it had gotten a lot bigger. It is just the two end homes living there and I don't know how long they are going to stay there. My house is right across from it and the guy that was there said if it continues to grow it could lead towards my house.

Mr. Guridy asked Mr. Dougherty if his address is 514 W Cedar Street and can you make sure everybody gets there and check out the sink hole.

Mr. Jacob Fritz thanked the city and the house right behind him 521 Washington. They knocked the garage down. It was falling. I appreciate that as well. Unfortunately, now we have a bunch of people living there and using it for whatever and working on cars. It is kind of frustrating. I work two jobs and don't feel like coming here. I will start doing it if I have to because I don't want to give up. He asked if we could start seeing some changes.

Ms. Eichenwald stated that what we heard tonight is really heart wrenching and I appreciate Mr. Davis when you talk about patience, but these people are running out of patience and as wonderful it would be if we could help you and the other people that came here. I know that there are so many other people who aren't able to come here. They are elderly or working at this time and they are just not available. I have been sitting here now on City Council for six years. The first couple of years the process worked really well. I know I keep harping on this, but when we had a Redevelopment Authority, the process worked. For three years, we have not had it and something needs to be done. It is very nice to say that we are working on a process, but these people, time is money and every day that goes by and every week that goes by.

Mr. Fritz stated on top of working two jobs and raising a family, my wife is really good in helping me out and she is very concerned with the kids growing up here. I am constantly on the phone and dealing with the crime. It is not only the blight, it is the crime. May be we can get more patrol in these areas. Fixing the blight would get more people in there. The Hockey Arena is great, but it is not going to get the nice family that makes money and works hard to move in an area like that unless you make the area a nice place to be.

Mr. Guridy stated that it is sad to say this and is difficult to say, but what Ms. Eichenwald said is true. We need to do something. Mr. Dougherty indicated that they are working on a plan and I don't know how long that plan is going to take and I can't give you that information. We need a comprehensive plan.

Mr. Fritz stated that he works for Community Action of the Lehigh Valley and I deal with many different agencies all the time that go out of their way to bypass certain parts of Allentown to get where they have to go. Putting the Hockey Arena or the Ballpark is not going to change much. You have to focus on Allentown itself and put the money where the people are and change the neighborhoods and make it a better place to come, period.

Mr. Guridy stated that he knows it is difficult and it is hard to say. We are working on some things. It will take a little time. We have tons of committees and boards and you said that you wanted to participate; I will like to refer your name to see if you can get on a board. I know that you have two jobs and have a family, but maybe you can do something on the weekend.

Mr. Ernie Atiyeh, 351 W. Chew Street, stated that he is on that Housing Taskforce. We are very aggressive looking at a lot of things. There are a lot of legal issues that are coming up. Shannon and her people are working on a number of other things. We are trying to do the best we can. We have to be careful. We can't just take people's properties from them. We are very aggressively looking at the blighted properties and some of the other things. Hopefully, next month we could come back with some really positive feedback.

Mr. Schweyer stated that for the better part of the last couple of years we have been caring about the process. I chair the Blighted Property Review Board and I kind of know a little bit about it. The one part of the conversation that we keep not having is the fact that the reason why a lot of the stuff ended was because the Federal Government cut the Community Development Block Grant which they funded the whole thing in the first place. I don't want anyone thinking that it hasn't been a lack of desire and understanding because it seems after week, after week we understand. I work at Sacred Heart Hospital and part of my job is to address Blighted Properties around the hospital. We do understand. Ultimately,

the larger question in addition to process, personnel, legal rights are how we are going to pay and what we are going to pay for. That is the larger part of the conversation now. Mr. Hunsicker came up earlier tonight and was talking about the very extreme measure we took in the city to try to get out from underneath a pension obligation. We needed \$160 million just to be able to move forward. The larger question with blighted properties, it is can we identify them, we can. Can we go after the property owners, we can. Do we do that, we do. It is a question of when we do acquire property: A. How do we buy it, and B. How do you fix it because you can't fix it for free. Ultimately the conversations and the housing taskforce and the community development strategy that Mr. Davis was talking about is not just a bunch of people sitting around the room talking about is there a problem or isn't there a problem, where is the problem or who is responsible for the problem. A big part of it is talking about how do you fund the solutions to the problem and that is what we are trying to figure out as the state government changes their rules on how we can fund these types of programs and as the Federal Government whenever they open back up decides to or if they are ever able to reinstate some of the CDBG cuts (Community Development Block Grants). Can we use federal money or are we going to have to look for other sources of revenue and if we are looking for other sources of revenue where are these magic pots of money. It is really a big part of the conversation of Blighted Properties and is there desire and are we trying our best and how we are going to fund it and since I have been on council, all we have been doing is decreasing funds from city operations and every year we talk about do we have enough cops or firefighters. How do we cut funding so that we don't have to raise funds, do we reduce more of our parks workers and when we do that, it means we have less money to do things, like fix things up for blighted properties since the federal government and the state government don't want to come to the rescue? We are trying to figure out how to fund these issues. These are not small problems. They are not insurmountable, but they are not free either. A significant part of the conversation that is being held right now is how much are certain projects going to cost are where do we find that funding. We are going to continue to look for avenues to fund it. I don't want anybody to leave thinking we are tone deaf to the problem.

Mr. Atiyeh stated what Mr. Schweyer talked about is absolutely the truth. He hit the nail on the head. On the Housing Committee, we have developers and pretty much every bank in the Lehigh Valley and we have nonprofits and we are just trying to focus and once we get our ducks in order we will be able to aggressively go after these properties.

Mr. Guridy stated that when I went over to your office, you showed me a couple of maps that target the whole city. It is not just downtown and a block of Seventh and Eighth and Hamilton. They are looking at the whole city.

Mr. Eric Kramer, 36 N. 12th Street, stated that the property 38 N. 12th Street has been condemned. I have been constantly on the phone talking to the tenants' association and talking to Code Enforcement and I have talked to the police. Code Enforcement I talked to with concerns about the trash and the care of the building falling a part of bricks falling into the street. The infestations because we have seen roaches and mice come over and our landlord is constantly exterminating which is unusual for a lot of Allentown landlords, but I talked to code enforcement about what sorts of infestations are over there. They told me, you name it, they have it. My other concern is with the drugs that go on over there. There is drug activity and people use that as a garage dumping auto parts in the yard. The last time I called the police was about a year ago at which point the cops said if I don't stop calling them they were going to have me arrested for harassment. I am quite frustrated because I am not getting anywhere with the police and with code enforcement on this property being taken care of. The last time they were they open it up and they took out a bunch of trash from the kitchen and they told me they were taking out cans of food that have exploded and food that was left in the refrigerator. The stench stayed in the neighborhood for about two weeks. This is how powerful of an odor the food that was left in the building. It is causing damage to the property. In January, it was a health hazardous and a haven for criminal activity. I would like something done about

the property. I have lived here over 25 years. In spite of it, this is a good city and worth fighting for. I am not willing to run away because those that just don't care choose to stay here.

Mr. Guridy stated that we have already talked about the property. Let's make sure that we get somebody there to look at it and find out if we could do something immediately. Thank you for staying in the city. We need good and concerned citizens that stay in the city. There is a new Captain, in the area Captain Gail Struss. You may want to talk to her about the police department saying if you don't stop calling they will arrest you for harassment.

Mr. Kramer stated that he does know her. She is involved with McKinley as well. My daughter is there.

Mr. Guridy stated that he never wants anybody to hear one of our police officers to tell citizens that it will be a problem if you don't stop calling or if you keep calling I am going to arrest for harassment. That is uncalled for.

5. Approval of Minutes: October 2, 2013

Minutes Approved By Common Consent

6. Old Business

None

7. Communications

Mr. Guridy stated as Mr. Schweyer said there will be a Committee of the Whole on October 24th in the 5th Floor Conference Room to discuss Bill 49 which deals with the Transfer of the Funds as a result of the Water and Sewer Lease Concession and how the transaction will go into the General Fund so that we can pay bills.

8. Committee Meetings

Budget and Finance: Chairperson Schweyer

The committee met on October 9th and forwarded an item Bill 47 on tonight's agenda with a favorable recommendation; We have spoken at length and had information distributed that was made available to the public about the process and what we are doing with the proceeds from the Water and Sewer Concession. There were four steps that were outlined by the administration. Step 1 was Bill 34, and Bill 34 was passed several months ago and we will address that when we get to Bill 47. That was passed. Step 2 was Bill 47 which is tonight and Transfers personnel from the General Fund from the Water and the Sewer Funds and later on tonight it will be introduced as Bill 49 which is the first step of the distribution of the \$181 million plus remaining from the Lease Concession Agreement and Step 4 which was the cleanup in the final Budget with the final budget we will be able to see everything. We also gotten an agreement with the administration on what the calendar/fiscal year of 2014 will look like so that we can more easily compare apples to apples as positions are moved from one to another. I did not see what that looked like yet, but we did have that conversation at Budget and Finance. A future meeting is being scheduled for October 24th at 5:30 PM to review the monthly financials which we do every month just prior to the Committee of the Whole meeting which was referenced earlier.

Public Safety: Chairperson Eichenwald

The committee has met this evening and Bill 42 will be part of our agenda.

Community and Economic Development: Chairperson Davis

The committee met on October 9th and forwarded two items on tonight's agenda; the next meeting will be scheduled if needed during our budget deliberations.

Parks and Recreation: Chairperson Mota

The Committee met on October 9th and reviewed the summer pool usage and issues going forward – the major issue is the city’s pools are beyond their life span – they are old and are in need of renovation and rebuilding – the approach at this point of time is to start with those in most need or repair and at risk for going down and to get a general cost estimate for all needed pool repairs; the next meeting will be scheduled if needed during our budget deliberations.

Public Works: Chairperson O’Connell

The Committee met prior to the last Council meeting; the next meeting will be scheduled if needed during our budget deliberations.

Human Resources, Administration and Appointments: Chairperson Glazier

The Committee has not met since the last Council meeting; a future meeting has not yet been scheduled; the next meeting will be scheduled if needed during our budget deliberations.

Rules, Chambers, Intergovernmental Relations and Strategy: Chairperson Guridy

The Committee has not met since the last Council meeting; the revisions to and council rules in general are currently being reviewed by the solicitor’s office; the next meeting will be scheduled if needed during our budget deliberations.

Special Committee – Tax Exempt Properties – Chairperson Eichenwald

The Committee has not met since the last meeting; meetings have been set up with local non-profits; the next meeting will be scheduled if needed during our budget deliberations.

Mr. Guridy stated that he was at a meeting yesterday morning and it was a Chamber of Commerce sponsored breakfast with College Presidents and the Superintendent with the City of Bethlehem School District and they told about the same thing we are getting into and education is getting so expensive and they are looking at ways of how to make less expense, but more fruitful. They have plans and are trying to bring it to fruition, but it is a lot of work that needs to be done.

Ms. Eichenwald stated that we were approaching it from another viewpoint. The expenses of the city are ever-increasing and 27percent of the property in the City of Allentown is in the hands of non-profits. That is almost one-third are in the hands of nonprofit and that is what this committee was formed to accomplished to see what we can work out an arrangement in Lieu of the Property Taxes.

Mr. Guridy stated that most of the county buildings are in the City of Allentown.

OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Guridy stated that the Housing Authority met on the third Thursday of the month and the minutes are sent to all councilmembers.

Controller’s Report

None

Managing Director’s Report

None

9. APPOINTMENTS:

Reappointments to the Disruptive Conduct Board of Appeals:

Richard Young	06/01/2015
Joseph Hanna	06/01/2015
Kenneth Laudenslager	01/25/2016
Sara Hailstone	06/01/2015
Charles Thiel	06/01/2015

Mr. Hahn asked if there is \$3 million in unpaid taxes at the time of the budget and is that figured in that it is going to be collected and how does that work.

Mr. Guridy stated that we are voting on the appointment of these individuals right now.

RESOLUTION PASSED, 6 – 0

Mr. Kenneth Laudenslager stated that he would like to thank the City Council and the administration for approving me for this position.

Mr. Guridy thanked all appointees and stated that he appreciate their support.

10. ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE:

Bill 42 EMS

Amending the 2013 General Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Thirteen thousand three hundred eighty seven dollars and 50 cents (\$13,387.50) from the Lehigh Valley Iron Pigs.

Ms. Eichenwald stated that this was handled before the City Council meeting and it was passed favorably 3 – 0. This is an appropriation of an additional \$13,887.50 from the Iron Pigs on behalf of the EMS.

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

ORDINANCE PASSED, 6 - 0

Bill 43 Injury Prevention

Amending the 2013 General Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Nineteen Thousand, Nine Hundred and Thirty-Five (\$19,935) Dollars from Pennsylvania Department of Health, Division of Health Risk Reduction to the Health Bureau's Injury Prevention Program budget.

Mr. Davis stated that the committee met on October 9th and this is an injury prevention program and the committee voted it favorably.

Ms. Vicky Kistler stated that this is a fall prevention program done in physician offices to encourage the use of canes and walkers for those that are not steady on their feet.

ORDINANCE PASSED, 6 – 0

Bill 46 Health Lead Hazard Control Grant Roll-Over

Amending the 2013 General Fund Budget to provide for a roll-over of Five Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty-Three Dollars and Eighteen Cents (\$5,733.18) of unexpended funds (01/01/2012 to 12/31/2012) from the Pennsylvania Department of Health Lead Hazard Control Grant.

Mr. Davis stated that the committee passed it favorably 3 – 0. Mr. Paulus is here to explain it.

Mr. Paulus stated that we received money from the state to do lead hazard control work. Their fiscal year is different from the city's fiscal year, plus we had a matching with the CDBG funds which was the third fiscal year we tried to blend it together. I take responsibility that it got overlooked. I am not an accountant, but the state said if we get it amended for this year, we won't lose it. We still have use of the funds. It

would be put towards construction work and remedying lead where there have been children identified with high levels in apartments.

ORDINANCE PASSED, 6 – 0

Bill 47 Transfer of Funds

An Ordinance transferring monies for the Water and Sewer Fund and making necessary appropriations for and transfer into the General Fund Programs and Positions that are now part of the General Fund.

Mr. Schweyer stated that Bill 47 was recommended favorably by a vote of 3 – 0. As I mentioned early Bill 47 is step II in the on-going budget process done by ordinance as a result of the Lease and Concession Agreement of the Water and Sewer Fund. What Bill 47 does is transfers programs that are going to remain as city programs. From the water and sewer funds that we are closing out by the end of this year into the General Fund and by next budget this will all have to be a part of the General Fund anyway. Overwhelming this is an accounting of a Bill that begins the process of closing out those funds and moving them out to the General Fund. I am going to publicly thank Mr. Hershman. He pointed out that we made a mistake in the previous Bill. Bill 34 where we created the office of storm water management and the office of oversight and compliance which passed by a vote of 7 – 0 established the staff salaries and talked about the staff positions. What we failed to do with that Bill is account for fringe benefits: FICA Tax, Holiday Pay, and Healthcare Costs. We did not actually allocate that. It was applied. Bill 47 includes a correction to that by adding those fees into the General Fund as well.

Ms. Eichenwald stated that there is no amount on the Resolution.

Mr. Guridy stated that he is not sure if the total is right.

Mr. Schweyer stated that they are also in the detail sheets and spreadsheets behind them.

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

Mr. Hunsicker asked the responsibility of the Solicitor's office or the Controller's office when you write an ordinance like this. I am sure that they look at all the ordinances. Do they review them and see if they are right.

Mr. Guridy stated that normally we create positions during the budget season and that is part of the issue. I thought it was all inclusive and it wasn't. The administration took a look at it and it is rectified.

Mr. Hunsicker stated that in the public's eye it doesn't look good.

Ms. Eichenwald stated that she distinctly remember when we were having the discussion that was the question that I asked. The first time it was brought up I said I was unprepared to vote because it didn't include the benefits. I don't know where in the process that this piece of information was lost. You can't pass a Bill without knowing what the amount is and again I am concerned that there isn't a total that will be read into the minutes.

Ms. Bowman stated that Bill created positions that were not part of the budget. We did have the appropriation in the Water and Sewer Fund. There was money appropriated. We are moving it from there. The first Bill was to create positions that we did not have in the General Fund.

ORDINANCE PASSED, 6 – 0

11. ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION:

Bill 48 Recovery Street Excavation Costs

Referred to Public Works

Amends Part 9, Streets, Utilities and Public Services Codes, by creating uniform standards for street repairs and recovery of costs

Bill 49 Interfund Transfer Appropriation

Referred to Committee of the Whole

Amending the 2013 Water Fund and Sewer Fund – recognizing the receipt of funds from the Water Sewer Lease Concession transaction and placing the funds - \$114,710,204.49 and \$67,369,485.18 – into Interfund Transfer Accounts of the Water and Sewer Funds

12. CONSENT AGENDA:

CA –1 Sewage Planning Module for Four Center City

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

RESOLUTION PASSED, 6 – 0

CA-2 Certificates of Appropriateness for Work in the Historic Districts at the following addresses:

607 N 6th St

608 N 6th St

1641 W Linden St

530 W Liberty St

533 W Liberty St

453 N 6th St

508 N 6th St

536 W Allen St

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

RESOLUTION PASSED, 6 – 0

13. RESOLUTIONS ON SECOND READING:

None

14. RESOLUTIONS ON FIRST READING:

None

15. NEW BUSINESS

None

16. GOOD AND WELFARE

Mr. O’Connell thanked Mr. Dougherty and Ms. Kistler for hooking up the Lehigh Valley Health Network for the flu vaccines for the city residents and also for non-residents for the city.

Ms. Kistler stated that it is a small amount of anybody without insurance.

Mr. O’Connell thanked them for reaching out and doing that for the residents.

17. 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.