

**PUBLIC HEARING – 7:15 PM
JUNE 18, 2008**

The purpose of the public hearing is to take testimony on R38.

R38

Authorizes the Intermunicipal Transfer of Restaurant Liquor License No. R-13810 to Cosmopolitan, Inc. at 22 North 6th Street.

There was no testimony given at the public hearing.

**COUNCIL MINUTES
JUNE 18, 2008**

1. Invocation: Julio Guridy

2. Pledge to the Flag

3. Roll Call

4. Courtesy of the Floor

Mr. Howells responded to a citizen's question about AYouth. As one of the founders, he said the first meeting was held at Mountainville Memorial Association. AYouth means Allentown Youth Organization United To Help. The Allentown Recreation Commission also holds an annual banquet when they honor various organizations and individuals for all the work they've done in the past. He thanked him for his comments, but it's already been taken care of.

Pamela Willen said she's here to talk about the hiring of the part time police officers. The part time or full time should all have the same training as a full time officer. They could be a liability. They should be entitled to benefits – not full benefits but some type of benefits.

Louis Hershman, 405 North Gilmore Street, said he questioned a bill for \$147,000 for the Allentown School District that the Project Manager estimated. Has the Controller completed that audit?

Mr. D'Amore said he found no fees were waived.

Mr. Hershman said this could be a half a million dollars of fees until they're done. Building Standards and Safety eliminated items on permit applications not required by state law. Has this partnership now been extended to all permit applications? Did Council legislate when to extend this partnership to other groups, like St. Luke's, Lehigh County, the ballpark? You passed a resolution asking for money from the County for more police. Couldn't we also use the money from the school district for more police?

Mr. D'Amore said he thinks there's a big difference between the comparable tax base of the City and the Allentown School District than with Lehigh County. The school district and the City are practically the same.

Mr. Hershman said one provides an education; the other provides services.

Dr. Darryl Johnson said he has lived at the Livingston for 10 years. On May 13th a sign was posted on his building saying it was unfit for human habitation. On the front was a 15 day notice to move out and another, a 30 day notice to move out. The landlord sent a maintenance person who said he'd never seen such signs. The Police said he shouldn't stay there that night. He thanked Councilperson Donovan, Code Officers and the Assistant to the Mayor for helping them get through the first stage of the problem. They had to engage a lawyer and the retainer cost \$3,000. This is a problem the City has known about for 4 years, through 2 different landlords. The worst part of this was the landlord telling them the building was going condo, and to buy the apartment was \$225,000. On behalf of the tenants, they'd like to see increased communication. They'd like to create a tenant advisory committee.

5. Approval of Minutes: None

6. Old Business: None.

7. Communications: None.

8. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

ADMINISTRATION – Chairperson Donovan

The Committee has not met since the last meeting. The next committee meeting is scheduled for July 23rd. Next Wednesday, the Ad Hoc Committee is scheduled to take testimony on the presales inspection program at 5:30 PM, in Council Chambers.

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – Chairperson Schweyer

The Committee toured 7th Street on June 11th and met the following night at 6:00 PM forwarding some items on tonight's agenda.

PUBLIC WORKS – Chairperson Guridy

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

PUBLIC SAFETY -Chairperson Howells

The Committee met tonight; a future meeting has not yet been scheduled.

APPOINTMENTS - Chairperson D'Amore

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

LEGAL AND LEGISLATIVE – Chairperson Phillips

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

RULES AND CHAMBERS – Chairperson D'Amore

The Committee has not met since the last Council meeting; a future meeting is not yet scheduled.

OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS

AEDC: Mr. Donovan said Scott Unger was hired as the new Executive Director.

Presales Inspection Meeting: Mr. Donovan said the Committee met on June 9th at 5:30 PM with the Bureau of Building Standings; the first public meeting to take testimony will take place on June 25th at 5:30 PM.

Blighted Property Review Board: Mr. Schweyer said the Committee met on June 9th. At a previous meeting they designated 28 properties for blight. Of the 28 properties, 10 of them were removed because sufficient upgrades were made to the properties. The City of Reading sat in on the last meeting.

Council Reform – Mr. Schweyer said the Committee met before the last Council meeting

CONTROLLER'S REPORT

Mr. Hoffman said he has no report but he would like to address audits. The Controller's Office is obligated to perform audits requested by Council or the Mayor. We are also anxious to hear complaints for credible evidence about financial issues from the citizens. There's a difference between credible evidence and unsubstantiated accusations. They need issues with meat and background in order to investigate.

9. ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE:

Mr. Guridy and Mr. Howells moved to suspend the rules to move R38, Approving the Intermunicipal Transfer of Restaurant Liquor License No. R-13810 to Cosmopolitan, Inc. at 22 North 6th Street, to the front of the agenda.

The rules were suspended by common consent.

Ted Zellner, Esquire, requested Council approve the municipal transfer application.

Mr. Howells said this will certainly enhance business downtown.

Ernie Atiyeh, 1909 Congress Street, suggested employing people from their neighborhood.

R38 was approved, 7 Yeas and 0 Nays.

Bill 39

Amending the 2008 General Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Two Hundred Seventy Five Thousand (\$275,000) Dollars in Elm Street Residential Reinvestment Grant funding from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development for Elm Street Program designs and activity implementation in Old Allentown.

Mr. Guridy said this bill was recommended favorably, 2-0

Mr. Phillips asked Alan Salinger to elaborate on what the construction for \$240,450 entails?

Mr. Salinger said facades and rehabilitation.

Mr. Donovan asked if this is going to put a bind on his bureau to accomplish the projects that you originally envisioned? Do you need to cut back at all?

Mr. Salinger said no.

Bill 39 was adopted, 7 Yeas and 0 Nays.

Bill 43

Providing for the vacation of North Bird Street from Court Street to Linden Street and Court Street from North 18TH Street to North Bird Street, in the Thirteenth Ward of the City of Allentown: St. Luke's Street Vacation

Mr. Guridy said this bill was recommended favorably, 2-0. They took a tour of the area. They were comfortable with recommending it favorably.

Richard Young said the City supports the vacation. The streets have no impact on the traffic flow in the area. A sanitary sewer easement was required and is part of the legislation.

Dick Nepon, 1803 Linden Street, said the issues with the neighborhood and St. Luke's have been worked out.

Mr. Schweyer said this will effect parking and public safety. St. Luke's has agreed to put an emergency call button for the residents and employees who will be parking on the site.

Mr. Phillips said his only concern are these conglomerates that are taking over neighborhoods by the arm of big money.

Mr. Ford, St. Luke's Hospital, said many of you have seen the property. It's a parking lot and not a very attractive property. When we're done it will be much more attractive than it is presently, and the use isn't changing. We're not gobbling up any homes. It's our property. We're just improving it.

Mr. Phillips said he's not opposed to it. We, as stewards, should be concerned.

Ms. Eichenwald said she agrees with what Mr. Ford has said. It will definitely enhance the quality of the neighborhood.

Bill 43 was adopted, 7 Yeas and 0 Nays.

Bill 44

Providing for the vacation of North Dauphin Street from Hanover Avenue north for approximately 705-feet to the right-of-way line of the proposed New England Avenue, in the Fourteenth Ward of the City of Allentown.

Mr. Guridy said this bill was recommended favorably, 2-0. This is part of the Housing Authority's HART Project. The committee also reviewed the proposal for New England Avenue and closures that would be required during construction. The traffic signal at Dauphin and Hanover will be moved eastward to meet at Hanover and the new New England Avenue that will be constructed. It will provide a better site for the HART Project.

Richard Young said the vacation is being proposed by the Administration, not by the Housing Authority. It's going to help with the layup of that development. This is for the New England Avenue Project, not the Housing Authority.

Mr. Donovan asked how it's going to line up?

Mr. Young said New England Avenue is going to be lined up with Dauphin Street. The vacation is to remove that section of Dauphin Street that will no longer be used. There are no other residences along there.

Mr. Donovan asked if he realizes it takes away a shortcut to the ball park?

Mr. Young said there will be some short interruptions of traffic flow, but they're going to work with the developer and the contractor for New England Avenue. This part gets done first.

Mr. Donovan asked when they hook up near Ellsworth one of the first things that will happen is there will be a new access at Dauphin Street?

Mr. Young said that's correct.

Mr. Donovan said it will be temporary timing. One is closed and then the new bridge will be in and then further aspects of New England Avenue, and that's going up to the American Parkway Project.

Mr. Young said just south of the American Parkway Project, right near where the existing driveway is to the existing stadium.

Mr. Phillips said there's a major industry there – Monarch. What have we done to help them in conducting their business? James Street is going to be a problem for them with their big trucks.

Mr. Young said he spoke with the business owner and he said he can make accommodations. He knows this is temporary. He's going to work around it. He's a strong advocate for this project. He believes he plans to get the contract for the precast concrete.

Bill 44 was adopted, 7 Yeas and 0 Nays.

Bill 45

Amending the 2008 General Fund to provide for a supplemental appropriation of \$17,000 from the Pennsylvania Department of Health to the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program of the Health Bureau, Department of Community and Economic Development to encourage citizen preparedness for emergencies via the production of a GET Ready DVD focused upon prepared for repairs to the Allentown Public Library

Mr. Gurdy said this bill was recommended favorably, 2-0. Ms. Kistler has done a great job in attracting money for us and looking at programs that serve the community.

Vicky Kistler said this is a grant that would enable the Health Bureau to create a DVD for citizen preparedness for people with special needs – physically handicap, visually impaired, etc. The County will pay for the duplication of the DVD.

Bill 45 was adopted, 7 Yeas and 0 Nays.

Bill 35

Amending the 2008 General Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of \$15,000. \$10,000 from Muhlenberg College and \$5,000 from Cedar Crest College to the Police Department to provide for a Crisis Negotiation Phone for the Emergency Response Team

Mr. Donovan recused himself from the discussion and vote on Bill 35, since he is an employee of Cedar Crest College.

Ms. Eichenwald also recused herself from the discussion and vote on Bill 35, since she is an employee of Muhlenberg College.

Mr. Howells said this bill was forwarded favorably.

Mr. Schweyer requested Mr. Donovan and Ms. Eichenwald thank the appropriate people at their respectful institutions.

Bill 35 was adopted, 5 Yeas and 0 Nays.

10. ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION:

Bill 47

Administration Sponsored: Amending the 2008 General Fund Budget to provide for a donation of \$700 from David B. Schwartz, Esquire, to provide for bullet resistant vests

Bill 47 was referred to Public Safety.

Bill 48

Amending the 2008 General Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Five Hundred and Sixty-Nine Thousand Six Hundred and Fifty-Two Dollars and Twelve Cents (\$569,652.12), Parks and Recreation, Capital Fund, to various accounts in Parks and Recreation to complete City-Wide park improvements, renovations and feasibility studies.

Bill 48 was referred to CEDC.

11. CONSENT AGENDA:

CA1

Administration Sponsored: Certificates of approvals by the Historic Architectural Board for work to be done in the historic districts: 417½ North 10th Street, 947½ Oak Street, 335 North 8th Street, 624 Park Street

CA1 was approved, 7 Yeas and 0 Nays.

12. RESOLUTIONS ON SECOND READING:

R33 was pulled from the agenda at the request of the Administration.

13. NEW RESOLUTIONS:

R39

Administration Sponsored: Denial to maintain two satellite dishes on the first floor front wall of the property located at 31 North 12th Street

R39 was referred to CEDC.

R40

Administration Sponsored: Denial to maintain a satellite dish on the second floor front wall of the property located at 809 Turner Street, in the Old Allentown Historic District

R40 was referred to CEDC.

R41

Administration Sponsored: Denial to maintain a satellite dish on the first floor front wall of the property located at 945 Oak Street, in the Old Allentown Historic District.

R41 was referred to CEDC.

14. **NEW BUSINESS:** None.

15. **GOOD AND WELFARE:** None.

16. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Michael P. Hanlon
City Clerk