

Michael D'Amore, Ph.D., President
W. Michael Donovan, Vice President
Jeanette Eichenwald
Julio A. Guridy
Ray O'Connell
Mike Schlossberg
Peter Schweyer



Allentown City Council
435 Hamilton Street
Allentown, Pa. 18101
Phone: 610.437.7539

AllentownPa.Gov

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
April 21, 2010 - COUNCIL CHAMBERS

COUNCIL MEETING - 7:30 PM

1. Invocation: Ray O'Connell

2. Pledge to the Flag

3. Roll Call

D'Amore, Donovan, Eichenwald, Guridy, O'Connell, Schweyer, and Schlossberg. Marty Danks represented for the Solicitor's Office

4. Courtesy of the Floor

Ernie Atiyeh, 1909 E Commerce Street, Midway Manor stated that they had their Allentown President's Council Banquet (24th Annual Crime Watch Leonard Buck Awards Banquet) this past Thursday and he was honored that he received a Emeritus Citation from the Mayor and he just want to read the last paragraph it says "Now therefore, I Ed Pawlowski, Mayor of the City of Allentown and Michael D'Amore, President, City Council along with all members of City Council do hereby honor the Allentown Crime Watch President's Council and thank them for all their dedication and commitment to the City of Allentown. Whereas, Allentown Administration and City Council work as partners with the President's Council to improve the quality of life in the City." Ernie Atiyeh stated that he really appreciates it because Mr. D'Amore wanted to look for involvement. He mentioned at the Banquet that Councilman Donovan was not there because he received an award at his college. And because of the Census, Mr. D'Amore and his wife went way above and beyond by having twin boys.

Mr. Atiyeh stated that he had the pleasure of introducing Assistant Chief Joe Hanna and Chief Roger MacLean and he forgot to introduce the Mayor.

Mr. D'Amore is thankful for Mr. Atiyeh's overjoyed exuberance to work with Council as they make the city a safe place to live.

5. Approval of Minutes: April 7, 2010 – Minutes Approved by common consent

6. Old Business

Mr. Donovan stated that last year the Superintendent of the School System was here to do a presentation and talk about partnership with the city. Given recent events around the school in the last few weeks and in the neighborhood where his step-daughter was verbally accosted by kids who are in back of their alley, we need to return to the topic of education and child development within the city of Allentown. He has repeatedly noted that we have 108,000 people living here and out of that group a few chose to participate in a destructive and uncivil manner. Enforcement is obviously important but before that and after tragic events. That's what happens. We need to consider the sources of this anger, arrogance and hatred as well as disregard and disrespect for others that exist in the city. The sources that contribute to disruptive neighborhoods, crime and violence. He believes that people are taught an influence to hate. Now there are two age groups that might contribute to most of the problems in the city one would be the kids from age 10-17 (school aged kids) and

other is often young adults ages 18-30. You rarely hear of a 65 years old person doing something violent or a crime of any nature. It is time; he thinks that the school department and the city to do much more in building social capital in Allentown. He knows that things are on its way. He spoke to Mr. Schweyer regarding a need to school and the city. It is not enough what is going on right now. We are experiencing a great deal of problems It is spilling out into the streets. He was appalled with the article in the paper about the young girl who's gone missing and a relationship with when it was the gang fight on Seventh Street last year. He is also appalled that the school department has been separate from municipalities. When he grew up that was not the case. It is time for the Council to work with the school board.

Mr. D'Amore stated that in the last sixteen days he is more personally concerned about the schools. He hopes his children grow up to become fine contributors to the Allentown community. They will definitely go to the Allentown Schools. That is a decision that him and his wife has decided. He committed on a personal and professional level be more engaged in how the schools are.

Mr. Donovan stated that he knows that the Mayor speaks to the superintendant and that is changing. This has to be moved on aggressively. The School Board and the Council need to take an aggressive stance.

Mr. O'Connell stated that he echoes the remarks. A partnership will be forged. Councilman Donovan and he and David Zimmerman, school board member and Assistant Chief Hanna are on a committee to look at school safety. They vision working closely to the schools. First meeting will be Friday, May 7th at 10:00 AM. It is not a once in a month shot. It has to be ongoing. Safety in the school. Safety in and out of school. The city cannot survive with disrespect and hatred. They need to do more and have a monthly meeting.

Ms. Eichenwald stated that she has concern of the good that happens in the school, these acts of violence overshadows what takes place in the schools. She hopes that they don't lose sight. There is a dangerous situation at Hanover Avenue. The real world when someone is not there, someone else is there. She is still awaiting 5th, 6th or 7th times what is happening with Hanover Avenue. In a real world if someone is not there, someone else takes over.

Mr. Donovan would like to echo Ms. Eichenwald. Someone should be able to speak about the report. He can't believe that there is no one is the data not available. Was the report written or was it going to be a verbal interpretation?

A woman (name inaudible), a paraprofessional for the school district. She was there for 5 months with no cuts. Two weeks she said all she has to do is look into the kids' eyes and say they would be in the paper. When she was assaulted she was having panic attacks.

Mr. Atiyeh asked Mr. O'Connell is putting together a committee and would like to get two residents to sit on the committee. They can have a communications with the President's Council to know what is going on.

7. Communications

Mr. Guridy said that he will make a report for the Housing Authority.

Mr. D'Amore stated that would be under other committee reports after the regular scheduled

Mr. Bennington stated that Ms. Hailstone will be the representative representing the Allentown Housing Authority as was the previous CD Director.

8. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

Public Hearing: There will be a public hearing on April 28 at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers following the Budget and Finance meeting. (Rental Property Licensing Fee Increase)

Budget and Finance: Chairperson Donovan

The Committee has not met since the last Council Meeting; the next meeting will take place on April 28 in Council Chambers at 6:30 PM. We will review the monthly statement, and draft legislation on ABC management, and the budget and capital project process. He will welcome everyone to be a part of the meeting.

Public Safety: Chairperson Guridy

The Committee has not met since the last council meeting; the next meeting will be around the second council meeting next month.

Community and Economic Development: Chairperson Schweyer

The Committee met this evening; the next meeting is scheduled for May 11 at 6:30 PM in Council Chambers.

Parks and Recreation: Chairperson Ray O'Connell

The Committee has not met since the last council meeting; a future meeting will take place on May 19 at 6:30 PM in Council Chambers.

Public Works: Chairperson Schlossberg

The Committee held a tour of water resources facilities; and held a meeting regarding an Encroachment that was on the agenda tonight and will be discussed on May 5th.

Human Resources, Administration and Appointments: Chairperson Eichenwald

The Committee reviewed the appointment on tonight's agenda; a future meeting has not been scheduled.

Rules, Chambers, Intergovernmental Relations and Strategy: Chairperson D'Amore

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

OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. Eichenwald stated that in their packets are hard copies and sent over internet is a Ad Hoc report on communications and how they can better notify citizens of Allentown.

Mr. D'Amore asked if any should be actionable and should have Resolutions behind them.

Mr. Donovan stated that he and Mr. Hoffman discussed the Ethics Board working with the Ad Hoc committee

CONTROLLER'S REPORT

9. APPOINTMENTS

Human Relations Appointments [HumanRelationsAppt.pdf](#)

Elizabeth Bradbury Term Ends: 1/5/2013

Debra Rozear Term Ends: 2/1/2013

Resolution passed 7-0

10. ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE: None

11. ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION:

B21 10TH ST TRAFFIC CHANGE.DOC

Referred to Public Works

Amends the Traffic Control Map: TWO WAY at North 10th Street from Hamilton Street to Court Street

B22 PCCD GRANT.doc

Referred to Public Safety

Amending the 2010 General Fund Budget to provide for the supplemental appropriation of Thirty-nine Thousand Seven Hundred Six (\$39,706) Dollars from the PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency in support of the City of Allentown's Weed and Seed initiative.

Mr. Schweyer made a motion to suspend the Rules to introduce Bill 23.

Bill 23

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ALLENTOWN:

SECTION ONE: That City Council amends the Administrative Code, Article 135 Department of Police, by adding the following section:

135.06 Notification and Reporting Requirements

1. The Police Chief or designated officer shall provide notice within two hours, either by email or phone, any report of Type 1 crimes, three alarm fires, or weather related emergencies, to all elected city officials.

2. The Police Chief and designated staff shall attend quarterly Public Safety meetings with City Council in Council Chambers or at any place so designated by the City Council, to review crime reports, trends, patterns and deployment strategies relating to public safety.

3. The Police Chief shall attend quarterly executive sessions with Council to provide updates on ongoing investigations.

4. A \$500 fine shall be levied against the Police Chief for failure to comply with provisions of this section.

SECTION TWO: That this Ordinance will take effect ten (10) days after final passage.

SECTION THREE: That all Ordinances inconsistent with the above provisions are repealed to the extent of their inconsistency.

By common consent, the rules were suspended; the Bill was read into the record and was referred to Public Safety Committee.

Mr. Bennington stated since he received the Bill this evening, he has no comment at this time and will be reviewing it.

Mr. D'Amore stated that he would imagine that Mr. Bennington would.

12. CONSENT AGENDA:

CA1.DOC

Certificates of Appropriateness for Work in the Historic Districts

126 N 17th Street; 419 N Church Street; 207 N 10th Street; 1131 W Turner Street; 201 N 10th Street; 436 N 8th Street; 1123 W Linden Street

The Resolution passed 7-0

13. RESOLUTIONS ON SECOND READING:

If forwarded by Public Works Committee:

R19WAllenStreet2809Encroachment.DOC

Encroachment for 2809 West Allen Street

2809 W Allen Street Encroachment.pdf

Removed by the Public Works Committee and will be considered by City Council on May 5th. The petitioner has been notified of that and he will be present at that time.

14. RESOLUTIONS ON FIRST READING:

R22HOMESTEADING.DOC

Referred to CEDC

Authorizes the filing of a proposal for funds with the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED), Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for obtaining funds from the DCED in the amount of \$150,000 for prevention and elimination of blight under Section 4 (c) of the Housing and Redevelopment Assistance Law, as amended.

15. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Schweyer stated that he was following up on the conversation that was happening earlier with the on-going conversations with the School District. He is reminded about his first months and year of his tenure on Council that they had an extensive conversation about the Youth Advisory Council and the potential role that the YAC could have in helping to alleviate any potential amount of stress or tension among the young folks, who unfortunately in some cases have a propensity for criminal behavior and give younger folks a seat at the table in a sense of buy-in with the direction of our city and theirs as well. He would like Mr. Donovan and Mr. O'Connell to put it on their radar screen for something for them to discuss and after on any point of time they have questions he will be certainly be happy to fill him in on what has been done.

16. GOOD AND WELFARE

Mr. D'Amore asked if anyone was aware how Robert Smith is doing and is he progressing along in his convalescent.

Mr. O'Connell stated that he went to visit Bob last Thursday and he is really banged up and talking to Lou Hershman later that evening, he believes that he is home and he came home yesterday and need some rehabilitation, but he said that he rather be home. The step might have been for him to go to Good Shepherd for Rehabilitation but he thinks that Bob is home and wants to stay home.

Mr. Guridy stated that he read in the paper that Bob was going to try to attend the school Board meeting tomorrow.

Mr. O'Connell stated that believe it or not Bob will be there.

Mr. Schlossberg stated that believe it or not Facebook can actually serve a purpose. He is looking at friends of Robert E Smith Jr. fan page and it says that he is home and he will be in the house and his therapy starts on Thursday.

Mr. Donovan asked if it would be appropriate for Council to have a Proclamation for my Smith and his heroism.

17. ADJOURNED 8:30 PM