

Michael D'Amore, Ph.D., President
W. Michael Donovan, Vice President
Jeanette Eichenwald
Julio A. Guridy
David M. Howells, Sr.
Tony Phillips
Peter Schweyer



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

AllentownPa.Gov

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
December 16, 2009 - COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Public Hearing: 7:15 PM
ARA Resolution on Acquiring Certain Properties by Eminent Domain

R74 Blighted Property Resolution

Properties to be acquired by Eminent Domain by the Redevelopment Authority

914 N 4th Street	615 N 6th Street	616 N 6th Street	906 1/2 N 6th Street
735 N 7th Street	121 N 9th Street	112 N 10th Street	112 N 11th Street
318 N 13th Street	902 N 18th Street	377 1/2 - 379 Allen Street	393 Allen Street
536 Allen Street	511 Chew Street	1112 Chew Street	1002 - 1006 Club Avenue
320 N Fountain Street	369 Liberty Street	533 Liberty Street	392 Pratt Street
1202 Union Street			

The meeting was called to order at 7:20 PM. Councilpersons D'Amore, Donovan, Eichenwald, Guridy, Phillips, and Schweyer were present. Councilperson Howells was absent

Mike Fisher stated that 121 N. 9th Street was sold and requested that it be taken off.

Ms. Pooley noted the action is against the property and the owner will be contacted to work out a plan.

R. J. Geiger, Allentown, noted the unit fee as gone from 35 to 75 dollars.

Mr. D'Amore noted this should be taken up under Courtesy of the Floor at the next meeting.

Mr. Howells arrived at 7:25 PM.

There was no further testimony.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30.

COUNCIL MEETING - 7:30 PM

1. Invocation: David M. Howells, Sr.

2. Pledge to the Flag

3. Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM. Councilpersons D'Amore, Donovan, Eichenwald, Guridy, Howells, Sr., Phillips, and Schweyer were present.

4. Courtesy of the Floor

Jay Geiger stated the \$75 fee for inspections was not made public, it wasn't covered in the Morning Call, and that increase in fee is not budget neutral.

Teresa Rice Trieber, said her parents and another elderly women were killed in front of Our Lady Help of Christians Church in the 900 block of Hanover Avenue. She suggested actions need to taken to curb the speed of the cars. She offered two suggestions: a flashing yellow light or rumble strips at the far eastern property line of the funeral home.

Mr. Young, Public Works Director, said his Department is currently gathering information - they put out counters today and had a person doing turning moving counts – and will be looking at options from speed bumps to signals.

Charles Johns, 753 East Tilghman Street, noted speed bumps are on Graham Street, and inquired about the fee for rental inspections.

Dennis Pearson, 942 East Tilghman Street, said previous Council's have not dealt with the speeding problem on Hanover adequately and suggested raising fees is similar to raising taxes – noting raising a garbage fee is like raising taxes.

Frayda Kamber, 2859 College Drive, said the issue of notice is a continuous problem with the City citing the park improvements at Cedar Park and the rental fee.

An Ad Hoc Committee was created to deal with how the government communicates with the citizenry. Ms. Eichenwald will be the chair and Mr. Guridy will also be on the Committee.

5. Approval of Minutes: None

6. Old Business

7. Communications

8. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

Budget and Finance: Chairperson Donovan

The Committee met this evening – the plan is to conduct future meeting on the fourth Wednesday of every month next year. Noted Premium pay running high and EIT running low on forecast but others running along City forecast, and it appears that we will be looking at a three to four million dollar deficit for the year.

Public Safety: Chairperson Howells

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

Community and Economic Development: Chairperson Schweyer

The Committee met this evening; a future meeting has not been scheduled but a future plan exist to conduct such meetings on the second Tuesday of each month.

Parks and Recreation: Chairperson Phillips

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

Public Works: Chairperson Guridy

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

Human Resources, Administration and Appointments: Chairperson Eichenwald

The Committee has not met since the last council meeting.

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

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

9. APPOINTMENTS: Ethics Board Appointments are Under Review

The rules were suspended by common consent, the appointments to the Human Relations Commission were introduced and voted on 6 – 1 (Phillips).

Ed Diaz – replaces Serilio Molina – term to expire 12/31/2011

Debra Rozear – replaces Lissette DePaula who resigned – term to expire on 2/01/2010

Mr. Donovan suggested the Human Relations Commission provide us with a report on their activities.

10. ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE:

Bill 100

Providing for the vacation of Clyde Street from E. Brookdale Street to Wabash Street in the Nineteenth Ward of the City of Allentown

The bill passed, 7-0.

Bill 104

Amending the 2010 General Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Nine Hundred and Six Thousand Ninety-eight (\$906,098) dollars to provide for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant, EECBG, from the United States Department of Energy, to develop a strategy to reduce energy costs

The bill was moved forward favorably at the committee level, but Mr. Schweyer noted in the future he will request input on legislation of this type from the Environmental Advisory Council.

There was discussion about placing money into the unappropriated balance, inquiring about what impact such an action might have on the grant, is paying a consultant \$71,000 to review electric use in Parks when the electric budget in Parks is \$83,000 a wise use of the funds, does the City need to spend this money exactly as submitted to the federal government, and will it lead to any job creation.

The bill was tabled to gather more information.

Bill 105

Amends the 2009 Debt Service Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of One Hundred Twenty Thousand (\$120,000) Dollars reflecting a transfer from the General Fund for the debt service payment on the Five Million Two Hundred Fifty-two Thousand Eight Hundred Forty-six (\$5,252,846) Dollar General Obligation Note

Amendment:

Add this as a new Number One (deleting the old Number One – this would account for the transfer): That Council authorizes a transfer of \$120,000 from the General Fund, General and Civic, Account 000-01-0609-0001-88, to the Debt Service Fund. (Lou had mentioned a transfer issue he experienced, it was spending beyond what was budgeted in the police overtime budget which was readjusted at the end of the year – I think – I remember it being much \$ but I am not sure it was \$2.8 million but it was 1 million plus.)

The bill and amendment were passed, 7-0.

11. ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION:

[BILL106POLICE CAPTAIN.DOC](#)

Refer to Public Safety

Amending the 2010 General Fund budget by deleting the position of Chief of Investigations (19N) and adding the position of Captain of Detectives (18N).

12. CONSENT AGENDA:

[CA1HARBAPPROVALS.DOC](#): Certificates of Appropriateness
[HARBMINUTES.PDF](#)

The resolution passed, 7-0.

13. RESOLUTIONS ON SECOND READING:

[R74BLIGHTED PROPERTY.DOC](#)

Properties to be acquired by Eminent Domain by the Redevelopment Authority

There was a motion to pull the resolution out of committee since it was not forwarded at the committee meeting earlier. The motion passed by common consent.

[R74BLIGHTED PROPERTY.DOC](#)

[LIST 2009-01 - CITY COUNCIL MEETING PACKET.PDF](#)

[LIST 2009-01 - CITY COUNCIL PPT.PPT](#)

Properties to be acquired by Eminent Domain by the Redevelopment Authority

914 N 4th Street	615 N 6th Street	616 N 6th Street	906 1/2 N 6th Street
735 N 7th Street	121 N 9th Street	112 N 10th Street	112 N 11th Street
318 N 13th Street	902 N 18th Street	377 1/2 - 379 Allen Street	393 Allen Street
536 Allen Street	511 Chew Street	1112 Chew Street	1002 - 1006 Club Avenue
320 N Fountain Street	369 Liberty Street	533 Liberty Street	392 Pratt Street
1202 Union Street			

The resolution passed 7-0.

[R75ENTERPRISE ZONE.DOC](#)

Authorizes the Submission of a Basic Grant Application for the Enterprise Zone Program

The resolution passed 7-0.

[R77ACIDAEXTEND.DOC](#)

[ACIDAMEMO.PDF](#)

Authorizes the extension of ACIDA

The following amendment was made by common consent, adding this language at the end of the resolution:

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Allentown is required to review and adopt any amendments to the Authority's Articles of Incorporation; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Allentown desires to approve and adopt the foregoing amendments to the Authority's Articles of Incorporation.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Allentown hereby approves and adopts the foregoing amendments to the Authority's Articles of Incorporation and authorizes the Mayor to execute on behalf of the City of Allentown, any documents required to bring these amendments into full force and effect.

The resolution passed 7-0.

[R78SLATTERY.DOC](#)

Authorizes the Dedication of Field #2 at Union Terrace as the Richard D. Slattery Field

The resolution passed, 7-0.

A motion was made to suspend the rules to introduce and vote on a resolution, R-81 that amends a resolution that Council had passed in August to change a \$350,000 to \$500,000 authorization for a Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program Grant.

[R81BUTZ RACPDRAFT.DOC](#)

Submission of the application for Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) grant funds to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on behalf of Alvin H. Butz at 9th and Hamilton Streets

The resolution passed, 6 – 1 (Phillips).

14. RESOLUTIONS ON FIRST READING:

[R79BETHLEHEM SEWER AGMNT.DOC](#)

Referred to Public Works

Resolution by the Council of the City of Allentown to approve the "City of Bethlehem, PA Draft Report of the Act 537 Plan Update Revision" dated November 2008.

[R80RECORDSRETENTION.DOC](#)

Refer to HR, Administration

These all meet the records retention act – I see no need to send to committee but it is your call.

Authorizes Disposition of Certain Records

15. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. D'Amore submitted a memo for President and Mr. Donovan a memo for Vice President.

16. GOOD AND WELFARE

17. ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 PM.

Council meetings are held on the first and third Wednesday of each month beginning at 7:30 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 hanlon@allentowncity.org to receive an email notice of the meetings.