

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



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COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
January 5, 2011 COUNCIL CHAMBERS

COUNCIL MEETING - 7:30 PM

Mr. D'Amore stated before the Invocation, the Council has two brief notes and both are sad ones. He stated that he just want to dedicate this meeting in memory of Michael Wilson who was only twenty years old and died in an accident at work yesterday at the Linden Street Bridge here in our city. We want to send our condolences to Mayor Pawlowski on the death of his mother about a week ago and this is from Council to him and his family. He asked for a moment of silence and then Mr. Guridy will begin the Invocation.

1. Invocation: Julio Guridy

2. Pledge to the Flag

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM.

3. Roll Call: D'Amore, Donovan, Eichenwald, Guridy, O'Connell, Schlossberg and Schweyer were present. Fran Fruhwirth represented for the Solicitor's Office.

4. Courtesy of the Floor

Mr. Hershman stated Happy New Years and they all read Jarrett Renshaw's column and it is interesting that he brought out that the Mayor bypassed City Council in the Disability Pension. He asked if the police officer is collecting disability benefits already. He asked if the Mayor is going to amend the pension ordinance with a section in the ordinance and will you be doing an actuary study. He stated that on December 15th he asked about the Bid Rigging on the Bond Issue. When did this Bid Rigging happen and who was involved. The city is going to get about \$117,000. When did this Bid Rigging happen?

Mr. Bennington stated that the police officer is not collecting a pension and that the studies are underway right now.

Mr. D'Amore stated that he has the article in front of him and Mr. O'Connell was polite to share it and they were going to discuss it under communication, but since he brought it up. It does discuss proceeds from bonds from 1998 to 2003 in the newspaper article. He is not aware if those dates are accurate, but is the best information they can work on. He asked Mr. Donovan to put it on the Budget and Finance agenda.

Mr. Hershman stated that they should look in to this more in-depth because it could be more the \$116,000 for the City of Allentown.

Mr. D'Amore stated that he believes it was a settlement which means that they are due more than that, but it is part of the settlement. He stated that he could imagine and Ms. Fruhwirth can tell you that most settlements include a provision that once the settlement is engaged you can not go back for one more bite at the apple.

Mr. Bennington stated that if you read the article further there is another \$4 million in restitution that will be spread between the City of Allentown, Bethlehem and the County of Lehigh.

Mr. D'Amore asked Mr. Donovan if he could put it on the Agenda for the next Budget and Finance meeting.

Mr. Donovan stated that he would and Mr. Strathearn and he have discussed this and it is his understanding after reading some other materials other than the Morning Call that when they say Bid Rigging it is not something that was being done here at City Hall. Even when the envelopes arrived in terms of the bid, it was what was going on in the primary and secondary markets in terms of collusion with the major players that were bidding. While that may not be the truth and maybe someone in City Hall was doing something wrong. It is his read that it was going on it was out in the marketplace.

Mr. D'Amore stated that the City of Allentown became a member of this class in the Class Action Suit.

Mr. Schlossberg stated that in regards to the settlement money, they have not received anything yet and it is coming down the pike. He stated that he would imagine that some of that money would go towards to replenishing some of the Risk Management Fund. Has there been any conversation about that. He stated with the Pension item, he understands what is going on. The Pension benefits have taken effect before January 1st before an actuary study and before Council approved any benefit enhancement is that correct.

Mr. Bennington stated that a signed valid contract is between the city and the union. Therefore, you are probably right that an actuary study should have been done before that, but it is being done now and before he provides the Ordinance change the actuary study has to be there before he submits the Ordinance to them.

Mr. Schlossberg stated that he understands, but how can the Pension changes take effect before Council approved the Ordinance.

Mr. Bennington stated that as Mr. Michael Moore mentioned to the Morning Call that a signed valid contract exists between the City and the Police Union which the administration intends to honor implicit in the agreement is the completion of an actuary study currently underway in accordance with Act 205. The Ordinance will be submitted to City Council.

Mr. Schlossberg asked Ms. Fruhwirth if a contract can become legally binding before Council has a chance to approve it.

Ms. Fruhwirth stated that would be correct and the reason she says that is because several years ago a Court case involving a court order with Judge Wallitsch and his ruling was that in terms of persons/representative of the city for collective bargaining purposes was the Mayor and the Mayor was authorized to enter contracts and MOUs in regards to pensions with the Bargaining Units, but in order to implement contracts that would work out with the Mayor as the representative it would need to be an Ordinance implemented in which was agreed to. That is the interaction.

Mr. Schlossberg asked how an Ordinance has been implemented without City Council approving the Ordinance.

Ms. Fruhwirth asked is this the Disability. She stated that she would not know the answer to that. She will have to check on that.

Mr. Schlossberg stated yes. He stated that it is a little concerning to him.

Mr. D'Amore stated to Mr. Schlossberg that he had a discussion with Mr. Snyder and Mr. Marchetto yesterday and they do not agree. He respectfully disagrees with Mr. Snyder determination on some of these matters. He does not agree with the administration's interpretation on some of these matters and he knows that. He put a request to the Solicitor's office and hopes that they will return expeditiously regarding their interpretation of city council to have an executive session meeting on this matter considering it could end in litigation. His argument is from the section of the Sunshine Act permitted to. He believes that what they need is for the seven members of the City Council to sit down and discuss these matters because there are many troubling concerns arising from this instance, but he does not think any of the concerns can be alleviated tonight.

Mr. Hershman stated that Council can turn that contract down.

Mr. D'Amore stated that the Solicitor's office is saying that we can not and it is precedence that says they can and he stated to Mr. Hershman that he agrees with him.

Ms. Eichenwald stated that the entity that works the most similar to a City Council would be a school board and she is referring to a negotiation of pensions agreements with bargaining units and at the school board it was the policy that a) that they were allowed to discuss it because it was a personnel issue even under the Sunshine Law in private. They were allowed to discuss the benefits that they were willing to concede to the various bargaining units and that bargaining agreement did not go into effect until it was approved by the school board. She stated that she would imagine that a similar procedure would be allowed here at City Council.

Mr. D'Amore stated that it is not quite analogist, but it is certainly and he believes that precedence of previous contracts have given City Council at least some stake, but they need to work that matter out.

Mr. Schweyer stated that he will yield.

Mr. Guridy stated that Ms. Eichenwald is absolutely right and in the past, Mr. Hershman can attest to this when they had a bargaining unit agreement with the Mayor and it was the last agreement prior to Mayor Pawlowski had the agreement was brought before Council and Council rejected that agreement and it went back into the bargaining unit and they had to bring an arbitrator because Council did not pass it. There is precedence in this issue. That is how they did it before and that is when they sued the FOP because they did not agree with what the arbitrator said as well. He stated that he believes that it was Judge Wallitsch that stated at the time that it is the Mayor that represents the city therefore they had no standing in City Council and they appealed it to a higher court in Pennsylvania.

Ms. Fruhwirth stated that the Ruling of the Court was an issue of standing and it stopped there.

Mr. Schweyer stated that he is looking at it with a slightly different perspective. The question that Mr. Hershman brought out about bonds which are Bank of America and the settlement that he finds interesting is that happened prior to Council having its own financial advisor which happen in 2007. It demonstrates to him that City Council having its own professional staff helps mitigate risks and make sure they have the best advice that they can. Now we are having a conversation in which certain members of Council are disagreeing with the administration and the solicitor that we share. The inequities and inadequacies that they have which they are allowed to have their own financial advisor, but can not have their own legal advisor when many of his colleagues disagree with the rulings of the administration. They will deal with it during the executive session and he knows that Mr. Donovan has commented on this during his committee report so he does not want to elaborate on it.

Ms. Janice Bowman, East side of Allentown, stated that she is coming up today concerning the pensions for this coming year and she was just wondering and asking them what are they doing to look into solving the

problem this year instead of letting it snowball and get bigger and bigger. Is it anything on the table on how you can fix the pension?

Mr. Donovan stated that as he mentioned earlier that there are a variety of things that they are contractually committed to past payments. Council does not negotiate any benefits arrangements that are the administration. He stated that he will comment in a few moments about the pensions and what they need to do. The solution to our pension situation comes down to one or two things 1) the pensioners would agree to go to a fair and equitable pension when they left the city 2) and all future employees come under a totally different plan and the administration has started chipping away with that in recent agreements. What we have now looming this year and next year is the result of decisions made six or seven years ago which unfortunately under American Constitutional Law, contracts can not be broken and that was one of the first Supreme Court Cases that came to the Supreme Court.

Ms. Bowman stated that the Mayor can do certain things without coming to Council which now it looks like Washington, just put it through executive order and your votes do not mean anything and we are just matching what the Federal Government is doing.

Mr. Guridy stated that he wanted to address this and they are binded by the Charter here and that is how the city is run. They are not allowed by law to supersede the Charter as it is unless they take it to the voters to change some of that.

Mr. Schlossberg stated to Ms. Bowman that he disagrees with the assertion Council is powerless in certain areas when it comes to the Mayor. In many areas he finds himself with the majority of areas and agrees with the Mayor and with this he does not. He would not make the assumption that they just rubberstamp it or they are completely powerless. They do have some sway and plan on using it.

Mr. Ernie Atiyeh, 1909 E. Congress Street, Midway Manor, asked would this money/settlement be discussed later on. Who decides where it goes?

Mr. D'Amore stated that the actual income has to be brought in by an Ordinance like any stream of new income would. Mr. Donovan plans on discussing it at his Budget and Finance report.

Mr. Bennington stated that he expects it was not budgeted.

Mr. Atiyeh asked when this money comes in who will decide where it goes.

Mr. D'Amore stated that if it is budgeted and added to the 2011 budget it will have to be an Ordinance just like when they get any stream of income. The administration would have to put forward because only the administration can open up a budget another provision of the Charter. The administration would have to sponsor the Bill and then the Bill will designate where to accept the money and put it in the Budget on a Budget line or go into the unappropriated balance. He asked Mr. Hoffman if that was that right.

Mr. Hoffman stated that he does not know if the provisions of the settlement require them to pass an Ordinance. They typically do and if it is undesignated on the expense side it would go under the unappropriated fund balance.

Mr. Bennington stated that he would equate it to when the IronPigs gives a donation we have an Ordinance.

Mr. D'Amore stated that it would be allocated by an Ordinance. Mr. Schlossberg is not alone with his concerns on the Risk Management.

Mr. Atiyeh stated that Mr. Schlossberg brought up a good point.

Election of President and Vice President

President

Mr. D'Amore stated that they will move to the election of President and Vice President of City Council and stated to Mr. Hanlon that the election of President of Council takes place first under the Rules and the nominations are made prior to this meeting and there is one nomination.

Mr. Hanlon stated that Mr. D'Amore was the only one to submit a nomination letter.

Mr. Guridy stated that he nominates Mr. D'Amore for president of City Council.

Mr. Donovan seconded and stated that Mr. D'Amore has done a good job for them in the last few years and has decided to run again and Mr. Donovan looks forward to his leadership over the next year.

President approved, 7 – 0

Mr. D'Amore thanked his colleagues for their confidence and it is something that he does not take for granted and he appreciates it so much as tries to live up to. It is a tremendous responsibility and he hopes that he has been acting in according to that responsibility.

Vice President

Mr. Guridy stated that he would make a nomination for Mr. Schweyer.

Mr. Donovan seconded that and he is glad to pass the torch to Mr. Schweyer.

Vice President approved, 7 – 0

Mr. Schweyer stated that he wanted to thank them very sincerely. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve his home town in this capacity and the chair that Mr. Hershman sat in for a number of years. He publicly thanked Mr. Donovan who served in this position and his leadership and willingness to step up during the last two years.

Mr. D'Amore echoed those words of Mr. Schweyer and stated that he and Mr. Donovan have enacted a few things and he and Mr. Schweyer will continue to work with them.

Mr. Donovan stated that he will not run for election. He stated that in his remarks he was going to discuss the pension issue. There is a pension solution and some cities have gone so far and tried to push it politically. He stated that if he had his way he would prefer stopping making payments that are higher than the 80 percent of an individuals normal pay in his/her last year for the city. He stated that they need to start thinking about that. In an ideal world this would send a message. He stated that he knows that it can not be done, but he would love to do it. It was an article in the New York Times where some cities have tried bankruptcy and that has not worked. It has harmed a lot of people beyond the pensioners. The police disability arrangement that was talked about this evening that was made by the administration without Council's input distresses him. He stated that he was on the pension board and was the deciding vote on that and he voted no. Not because he felt that the person did not need the disability because it did appear that this person was disabled, but the rules called for 25 percent and the FOP was asking for 50 percent which was not under our normal rules and he

voted no. Then the administration went ahead and negotiated an arrangement after sending a letter to us saying they wanted to work together on this and he is disappointed. What is considered fair is really strange here. At the one hand, they must proceed with an actuary impact that was discussed this evening that has to do with the Domestic benefit while the administration can negotiate pension changes before considering an analysis. He stated that he knows it will be done, but it is one more example of there is no good teamwork between the administration and Council. He stated that it is not Mr. Bennington; he has worked extremely hard with Council to maintain a very good insight relationship. The city needs a modest Real Estate increase in 2012. He stated that he will be pushing that notion throughout the year. He stated that when he first arrived here seven years ago he attended a couple of galas and at these events he was asked several times by very high ranking individuals in the community his thoughts about moving here. He stated that he was enthusiastic and described what he saw as overt racism and classism as a result of the abandonment of the cities, Easton, the south side of Bethlehem and Allentown and the response was in which really disappointed him was that it is their fault. He was amazed. Now, years later he can say and he is on a variety of committees and a variety of groups that getting powerbrokers in the city to acknowledge the deeply seeded hatred and anger that seems to be a fruitless cause. At the last Council meeting he provided demographic evidence of a changing city that makes him and almost everybody in the room except for Mr. Guridy a minority. If one looks at the school system, we can not ignore what exist. Eighty-four percent of the children who are not Caucasian are taught or administered by a totally different geographic group. He stated that he has facts from the school system that shows just how much change has occurred in the city. According to a recent report prepared by the Lehigh Valley Research Consortium of the 1,296 instructional staff within Allentown schools several years ago, only six percent was from national minority and five percent were Latino. In 2008 – 2009, the ASD only employed 59 Latino teachers' meanwhile non-instructional staff more closely reflects the composition of the students. Of the 756 ASD non-instructional staff that would be maintenance, clerical, etc. were minorities. Twenty percent identified themselves as Latino. He finds that fact particularly distressing because to him it smacks of a caste system. Something is exceptionally wrong in Allentown and it has to do with a lack of fairness, justice and civic deliberation. The power rest in the hands of few while the rest of the city faces the specter of poverty and discrimination. The structure is aligned with major theories of urban politics which sees coalitions with municipal employees. Small voter interest groups and corporation developers are having influence that perpetuates this inequality. We see this not only in Allentown, but around country. Investment only occurs when a city is perceived by outsiders as capable of building confidence, achieving fairness, and solving problems. He stated that he hopes that Allentown citizens discover new and diverse leadership not only here, but in our schools and police force, in the fire department and various corporations within the city. He challenged the Council to send the message to the Mayor that we are not going to save the city through restaurants. We are going to save the city by recognizing the population that we have in it.

Mr. Bennington thanked Mr. Donovan for his service as vice president. The change of language disability pension and the memorandum of understanding now protect police officers from the very first day of the job who are injured and totally disabled in the line of duty. It puts the eligibility requirements in line with the third class code which was outlined in a September memo to City Council.

Mr. Donovan stated that he understands that and also feels that there are issues of less than five years and are issues regarding catastrophic situations, but we were not involved in that discussion and the Mayor said that we could be involved in that discussion and the only reason he voted no, he was going to vote yes for that individual, but he voted no because the FOP was asking something that went beyond what the normal rules were. He was expecting that it would be a discussion at this council about that and that never happened.

Mr. D'Amore stated to both Mr. Bennington and Mr. Donovan that they have made their points and he hates to reiterate as he said before, he does not think they will settle this tonight.

Mr. Bennington stated that he agrees and thinks the Mayor cares very deeply about this city. Mr. Bennington stated that he takes the issue with the point that Mr. Donovan made.

Mr. Donovan stated that then he would see evidence of it some day.

Mr. Guridy thanked Mr. Donovan and stated the he as a vice president and councilman always spoke and loudly about the issue of racism. He stated that he likes the fact that Mr. Donovan is saying it because if he says it people would say that he is playing the race card. He stated like Mr. Donovan he would like his fellow council members and the administration to take notice of that. He has been asking the administration and the new directors of departments to make sure that they keep in mind that the ethnicity of the city has changed and that the city should be represented by the people who live in the city.

Mr. O'Connell thanked Mr. Donovan for his service as vice president over the last year and he has stated to him privately that he learned a lot from his leadership from Budget and Finance. He does share many of the concerns that he addressed this evening. He sees that he pointed out the demographics of the school system and obviously it changed from the 1980s to now. The make up of the student population and the staff sometimes statistics is not because of lack of effort. He knows that the effort is not satisfying to him at this point. He believes in February the council will have the superintendent join us and some things that can be done as a council and board member. Ms. Eichenwald was an excellent board member for many years and her heart was with the Allentown School District. No matter what the city is like now when he was an administer in the system you asked any parent, black, green, orange, purple, blue why did they come to Allentown. They came to Allentown for two reasons 1) for a better life for themselves and two for a better life for their children and he agrees they have a long way to go and supports what they can do as a coalition with the school district getting more minority staff on board to better reflect what is standing or sitting in front of you. Sometimes statistics and data do not always quantify the effort. He stated that he did fill in for the Human Resources for twenty-six months and sometimes the candidates African American candidates Hispanic Candidates they are not there. He thinks they are making a step in the right direction by going to an Allen and Dieruff with council members and talking to the kids. What is important to you with the youth in Allentown? Sometimes you learn more from the youth then the aged.

5. Approval of Minutes: December 15, 2010

Minutes approved by common consent.

6. Old Business

Mr. Donovan asked to be briefed on the status on the COPS request.

Mr. D'Amore stated that they have yet to receive a response from the solicitor regarding the request that we made.

Mr. Eichenwald asked has a contract been issued to the Development Authority.

Mr. Bennington stated yes.

Mr. D'Amore stated that it was picked up yesterday.

Mr. Schweyer stated that he is putting this under old business and is not sure if it should go under communications but do not know if they will get it now. He reminding his colleagues that several months ago they passed an ordinance that requires for Campaign Finance reports not only to be filed with Lehigh County, but also with the City Clerk. The deadline was December 31st and it is due January 31st of this year to the Lehigh County office of Voter registration and it goes to the Controller and the Mayor. It has to be filed with the City Clerk. That ordinance extended to candidates of office and stated to Mr. Hanlon to have a conversation with the folks at Lehigh County office of Voter Registration to alert any potential candidate for city council or city controller that they would have to file with him as well.

Mr. D'Amore made a recommendation that Council has a requirement that all candidates when they files their petitions they have to file with the county and have to bring a copy of the Ethics Statement up to the City Clerk's office and we can ask the folks at voter registration. We can type up a memo and we can have the folks at Voter Registration to provide that to city candidates that when they bring in their ethics statement also know they need to provide campaign finance information as well.

7. Communications

Mr. D'Amore stated that there will be a Committee of the Whole meeting on February 16th. This was reference by Mr. O'Connell and Mr. Donovan. On February 16th at 6:30 PM and Dr. Zahorchak will be our guest. He is the new superintendent for the Allentown School District.

8. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

Budget and Finance: Chairperson Donovan

Mr. Donovan stated that they have not met since the last council meeting and they have a meeting scheduled at 6:30 PM in the Chambers for January 26th. The Controller has brought to the president and him certain issues concerning the PMRS interest, negative balance issues and funding in the Risk Fund and he believes that the Controller will mention a few of those items in his report.

Public Safety: Chairperson Gurdy

Mr. Gurdy stated that they have not met since the last council meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for the February 2nd.

Community and Economic Development: Chairperson Schweyer

Mr. Schweyer stated that the CEDC has not met since the last council meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for January 19th. It will be a busy day for CEDC. At 5:30 PM they are having a tour of the new Veteran Sanctuary and they have started and have done in the past field trips for council members to see community development activities and economic development activities. At 6:30 PM in Chambers they have one piece of legislation to discuss that is the HARB denial which is on the agenda for this evening to be assigned to a committee. They will have the comprehensive CDBG process conversation. They tried to squeeze it in this evening, but the Department of Community of Economic Development was not quite prepared and it was short notice. He stated that the Redevelopment Authority has received a contract with minor changes from years before from prior years that have to do with reporting of specific activities. The email chain that was made public that referenced was a conversation with the Department of Community and Economic Development and the Redevelopment Authority. The contract was prepared at the end of 2010 and was ready to be signed and it was picked up today. It is a six month contract and gives six months to continue the conversation between the administration, council, the community and the Redevelopment Authority about the most important roles of the Redevelopment Authority. He has met with Dr. Beck-Pooley and Ms. Hailstone on one instance to begin the conversation.

Parks and Recreation: Chairperson Ray O'Connell

Mr. O'Connell stated that the committee has not met since the last meeting. The next meeting is January 19th at 7:00 PM.

Public Works: Chairperson Schlossberg

Mr. Schlossberg stated no meeting and no report.

Human Resources, Administration and Appointments: Chairperson Eichenwald

Ms. Eichenwald stated that the committee met this evening and no future meetings have been scheduled.

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

Mr. D'Amore stated no meeting and no report.

OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Guridy stated that the Allentown Housing Authority met last month and they discussed the issue of Cumberland Gardens, the development and the issues that affect the city including funds that are pass-through money to the Housing Authority for the redevelopment of Cumberland Gardens as well as the land that is owned by the city which is Hanover acreage. It is a trail in the area and the Housing Authority is working with the city to make sure that it is an easement, sold or given to the Housing Authority. They discussed the long-term plans for the Housing Authority. When he gets the minutes he will forward to council.

CONTROLLER'S REPORT

Mr. Hoffman stated that three items and Mr. Donovan mentioned the Risk Management contributions and they really prefer to delay that until the Director of Finance is here during the Budget and Finance Committee meeting. With the negative balance and expenses, he talked to the administration today and they are working on it. The books on the expense side are not yet closed for 2010 because of the last paycheck which we get next Friday.

Mr. Bennington stated next Thursday and he promised that the negative balances would be reconciled and he sticks to that promise by the end of January. He stated that they talked about that today.

Mr. Hoffman stated that the other issue is the PMRS excess interest that was brought up a week or two ago and he looked at some time ago and he described that how they ignore PMRS or do not spend a lot of time with PMRS because it is dealt with and administered in Harrisburg. Right now as of 2009 they had about \$77 million of city money and it is really money and covers a lot of employees. What PMRS created is excess interest that is really earnings above their threshold which is currently six percent which is portfolio earnings. We have an eight percent threshold. Sometimes we earn more than that and sometimes we earn less than that. PMRS has done is say that you have \$100 million and earned six percent. If you earn ten percent with some time lag they can say about four percent is excess interest. You the City of Allentown, the City of Bethlehem, the City of Easton are asked what to do with the four percent. One option is keep it in your account which they do with other pension accounts. The other option is to give it to the active and invested members so that when they retire it will incrementally increase their pension benefits. The third option is to give it to the current pension retirees. It will incrementally increase their current or future pension benefits or put it between all three. In 2001, council passed an ordinance stated whack it up between all three. Part of it is if you look at excess interest in the 1990s almost every year it was declared. The stock market was doing well. The trouble is that times get bad and when times get bad, it starts with a 100 and goes down to 70. This city obligated to pay debt money up through the MMO calculation which they contribute every year. When times are good you can split it, but when times are bad the city pays for it all. It seems inheritably wrong to him. The city takes all the risks and only gets a third of the reward. He urged the administration and council to take a look at and consider changing the ordinance. If the city is taking all the risks then it should take some of the rewards when the market does well.

Mr. Donovan thanked Mr. Hoffman and stated that it was going to be an item on the Budget and Finance Committee.

9. APPOINTMENTS:

Ms. Eichenwald stated that she appreciates the indulgence of the candidates she stated that she would like to first turn this portion over to Mr. O'Connell for the first candidate to be from Parks and Recreation.

Recreation Board Appointment: Robert A. Trevorah, Term to Expire 1/5/2014

Mr. O'Connell introduced Bob Trevorah and stated that he knows Bob from 1972 when he was a student at Mosier. Bob is a coach at the East side youth center and served as an officer at the Board of Directors with

the East side Memorial Little League. Bob is truly committed to the youth of Allentown and is a role model for the youth of Allentown and will be a valuable member of the Recreation Commission and the east side of Allentown and welcomes Bob as member of the Recreation Committee if the vote goes through.

Ms. Eichenwald thanked Robert A. Trevorah and his family and stated that she appreciates his willingness to serve. She read the words that Mr. Trevorah wrote about why he is interested in serving on this commission. He stated that for more than twenty years he has enjoyed coaching, teaching and mentoring children from kindergarten through high school. As a forty-seven year old married father of four he has been very involved in sports and activities which includes and are not limited to baseball, basketball and football. He served as an officer of Director for the Allentown east side memorial league and currently serves as a coach and director of the girls basketball program as well as director of advertisement at the east end youth center. Ms. Eichenwald stated that he being a hardworking well respected individual with strong values with a commitment to family and community. He stated that he feels his contributions will be a positive and important asset to the Recreation Commission. He stated that he would find it very rewarding to be a part of such a worthwhile project and want to thank Council for considering him for the position. Ms. Eichenwald stated that having read those words, having heard Mr. O'Connell's remarks and with the presence here of Mr. Trevorah she highly recommends this candidate for appointment to the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Mr. Guridy welcomed Mr. Trevorah and they were fellow alumnus of East Stroudsburg University around the same time and he is glad he is here now and working together.

Mr. Donovan thanked Mr. Trevorah and stated that Recreation is one of the most important aspects that an urban area can give to children. He stated the he and Mr. O'Connell talked about it and he is glad to have Mr. Trevorah on board.

Mr. D'Amore echoed what his colleagues stated and thanked Mr. Trevorah for his willingness to serve. He is particularly giddy that he lives on the east side and they have an east side representative on the Recreation Board. He stated that as someone who played sports for both the east side youth center and east side memorial he thank him for helping make that happen because it would not happen for kids like him if it were not for folks like Mr. Trevorah that was willing to give your time. He really appreciates it.

Resolution passed, 7 – 0

Environmental Advisory Council Appointment: Silas Chamberlin, Term to Expire 1/1/2013

Ms. Eichenwald stated that Council has another appointment Mr. Silas Chamberlin. She asked if Mr. Chamberlin was there and thanked him for joining them. She appreciates his willingness to serve. It is an extremely important position. Many of the decisions that they make here in Council will require opinions from the EAC and they look forward to his participation. She stated that as she did with Mr. Trevorah she would like to share with fellow members of City Council and the public the comments of Mr. Chamberlin about why he was interested in serving in the EAC. Mr. Chamberlin stated that he is interested in joining that Allentown EAC because he wants to be able to preserve and promote the natural landscape of Allentown and the Lehigh Valley. He thinks that Allentown with its parks and close proximity into natural areas is a great place to live and work and he wants to help keep it that way. He stated that he has lived in Allentown for five years and recently purchased a home here. He stated that he is an Environmental History doctoral candidate at Lehigh University and a Resources Specialist with Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor. In both capacities he works on local environmental issues which are open space and conservation, trail development and environmental interpretation on a daily basis. At the D and L he assist with the development of 165 mile trail which passes through Allentown and he works with Lehigh Valley greenways and an advocate for the preservation of heritage sites and promotes the use and understanding of the natural landscape through our website, blog, print publications and environmental interpretations. Ms. Eichenwald stated that one can see from Mr. Chamberlin's professional and educational career that he would be an extraordinary important and

useful member of the committee and she highly recommends that her colleagues consider his appointment this evening.

Mr. Donovan stated that he is very glad to have Mr. Chamberlin and thanked him for waiting through this. He stated that he wanted to read his dissertation on the trial of the History of American Hiking. He stated that as an avid hiker in New Hampshire in particular and a member of the Appalachian Mountain Club he looks forward to chatting with him and welcomes him.

Mr. O'Connell thanked Mr. Chamberlin for serving on the Environmental Advisory Council. He stated that it is a very important Council. He stated that he does not think that it has been in the works too long. He stated that a lot of issues that he, Ms. Eichenwald, and Mr. Schweyer serve on the Parks and Recreations Committee and some issues that come on the Parks and Recreations Committee are dealing with environmental issues. He stated that he does not have a strong background on environmental issues and he looks for experts and Mr. Chamberlin's resume is outstanding. He stated that his youth, energetic and initiative will be an excellent member of the Environmental Advisory Council and welcome you aboard and look for your input and expertise in the field. Thank you for agreeing to serve.

Mr. D'Amore thanked Mr. Chamberlin for his willingness to serve and stated that he will be on a relatively new committee council and still sort of feeling itself around as an entity and hopefully that he will make a contribution as the EAC develops its identity. It can serve a valuable purpose to the city and he thinks that they all feel that way.

Resolution passed, 7 – 0

Ms. Eichenwald thanked the administration for giving them the two candidates and is grateful and appreciative.

10. ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE: None

11. ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION: None

12. CONSENT AGENDA:

CA-1 HARB APPROVALS

Certificates of Appropriateness for work at the following properties: 333 N. Lumber Street, 615 N. 6th Street, 938 North Street, 228 N. West Street, 301 N. 8th Street

Resolution passed, 7 – 0

13. RESOLUTIONS ON SECOND READING: None

14. RESOLUTIONS ON FIRST READING:

R1 HARB DENIAL

Referred to CEDC

Denial of Certificate of Appropriateness: 236½ N. 11th Street

15. NEW BUSINESS

16. GOOD AND WELFARE

Mr. D'Amore stated that tomorrow morning he will be attending a mock Congress at Dieruff High School where participants from both Dieruff and Allen High Schools mock Congress team is going to be judged by a celebrity panel in preparation for their formal competition. He stated that he brings it up because of the wonderful things that are going on in our schools and he knows there are a lot of problems and they say probably full of school

spirit and he looked around the dais and stated that he is the only person up there who graduated from the Allentown School District and he is proud to say that. It got him all the way to a Ph.D. program in and he hopes that there are students today that can do the same thing and he hopes that they can make the school even better so that more of the students that come out of Allentown today have the same opportunities that he had. He is very happy to do it tomorrow. He stated that all he has to do is cross the street.

Mr. O'Connell wished Mr. D'Amore well with the judging of Allen and Dieruff and stated please do not be bias. He stated that Allen and Dieruff basketball there is a boy/girl doubleheader on Friday at Dieruff. The girls' basketball varsity is at 6:30 PM and boys' varsity is at 8:00 PM. Dieruff is doing fairly well in boys' basketball and Allen is doing really well in boys' basketball, but it is always very difficult to go on the east side and beat the Husky's on their home court.

Mr. Schlossberg stated that he remembers being in Eight Grade and being in a mock Congress. It inspired him and is one of the reasons why he loves politics so much. He is glad that one of Council is participating in it. He stated that he hopes that Mr. D'Amore can inspire someone as he was inspired.

Mr. D'Amore stated that he will do his best and remembers participating in Government day and as a Dieruff High School student sat on this dais as a mock City Council member and look what happened.

17. ADJOURNED: 8:39 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.