

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
March 2, 2011
7:30 PM

Mr. D'Amore noted they had an Executive Session regarding the federal emergency plan.

1. Invocation: Councilperson Guridy

2. Pledge to the Flag

3. Roll Call D'Amore, Donovan, Eichenwald, Guridy, O'Connell, Schlossberg, Schweyer were present. Frances Fruhwirth represented for the Solicitor's office.

4. Courtesy of the Floor

Mr. Lichtenwalner, Lehigh Parkway South 1215 Society Hill, stated that Gross Towers and homes should be put back up. A playground is not going to bring money to the city. He is 100 percent behind Gross Towers and wish he could have gotten on the petition.

Ms. Martha Lieberman, 1339 Allen Street - Gross Towers, she pleaded for the neighbors and friends that could not be here. They are totally opposed to a park being considered on that corner. They have a lot of legal issues with the car wash and they are afraid it will spill over on to that park. She stated that she has a petition that she would like to submit on behalf of Gross Towers and the neighbors in the area.

Mr. D'Amore stated that Mr. Hanlon is the Clerk and will accept the petition.

Mr. O'Connell asked them to bring him up to speed on the playground on 13th and Allen. He stated that he read in the paper what the mayor suggested. It was only a suggestion. He stated that he would like to see homes built where the homes were. He would not support the playground.

Mr. Bennington stated that it was only a suggestion and some people suggested a Memorial Park too.

Ms. Eichenwald stated that they should wait a little time, do homework, do an investigation, and find out what the people directly involved want.

Mr. D'Amore stated any process that would convert any piece of land that is currently under private ownership to a city park would take a number of public meetings. He stated that he does not foresee a proposal anywhere near that point.

Ms. Lieberman stated that she understands that nothing has been decided; their purpose is letting the Mayor and City Council know how they feel.

Mr. Schweyer stated that he has spoken to one of the property owners and he forwarded them to Mr. Bennington because they heard the same rumors. Not only is nothing eminent, but the process here to there is an arduous one. If the Administration wanted to pursue this, Council will have a public meeting at Gross Towers and asked the appropriate persons from the administration to be there.

Mr. Donovan stated that on the day of the disaster several Council members got together and recognized that was going to be an issue. His concerns are the complaints that were described. He asked if there was communication with the police department and does Ms. Lieberman feel that she has good service in terms of responding to those concerns.

Ms. Paulette Hunter, Allentown, stated that at the Public Safety meeting they spoke about Allentown Citizens on Patrol and she thinks it is a fantastic program. She asked if they do an investigation on what they do it federally and child abuse. She stated that the form says citizens watching over citizens. What about the children. They are going to monitor the Art Museum, why can't they do it for schools also.

Mr. Dan Mest, Allentown, stated last February 16th Bill #7 went through and it went to Parks and Recreation and he is going through the packet on the back table and Bill #7 was not in there. Was it pulled or part of Parks and Recreation next week? That is \$100,000 for Jackson Street Community Park.

Mr. O'Connell stated that will be addressed at the next Parks and Recreation meeting.

Mr. Edward Morrison, Chairman of Citizens for Appropriate Meter Placement, stated that they are trying to address an issue that pre-dates the gas issues. He stated that he prepared a formal letter for their consideration. CAMP is asking for your support to preserve the rights of the Historic Neighborhoods and Individual Homeowners to dictate how mechanical equipment, gas meters and regulators are conducted on their properties. UGI acting on a recommendation from PUC has adopted a one size fits all placement policy. Some areas will have meters placed every 20 to 30 feet. The idea of low bid contractors drilling through a one hundred and twenty year old brick, granite and marble water tables to accommodate gas service is frightening and the damage is irreversible.

Mr. D'Amore stated that he appreciates his words and there are a number of individuals and members of Council that want to comment of this. He stated that he spoke to Ms. Van Horn and she was gracious enough to send an Ordinance from the City of Providence, RI that he forwarded to the Solicitor for review and the response was that they are precluded from passing a similar Ordinance because state law in Pennsylvania prohibits a municipalities from legislating in the area if state law if this area belongs to the regulatory powers of the PUC.

Mr. Schweyer stated that they had talked about having a joint meeting and Mr. Schlossberg and he spoke about this. He stated that they will have a joint meeting between Community and Economic Development and Public Works about this. He stated that if they do a joint hearing, they can dedicate 30 – 45 minutes specifically to this topic. He asked Mr. Schlossberg if it could be within the next three weeks or so.

Mr. Schlossberg stated that it would have to be the next three weeks.

Mr. Eichenwald stated that she is very happy that Mr. Edward Morrison is here and brought it to the public's attention in this forum. She stated that they have the power of voice, the power of the press and the power of gathering of citizens and hope they can do what ever is in their power to bring this issue to the powers that be.

Mr. Edward Morrison stated that is what they want to achieve to get as much voices that are concerned about this.

Mr. Guridy stated that he would like to congratulate Mr. Morrison's group. He stated that he has been vocal of this several times to City Council over the aesthetic issues. He stated that when he drives to Seventh Street where he owns property he sees them all over their property. Not only are they putting the meters in the

wrong place, they are also taking a long time to fix the roads once they excavate it through the lines of the homes. He stated that they have his full support.

Mr. Edward Morrison stated that it is a public perception issue where mentioning gas or gas related is like yelling shark at the beach or fire in a crowded theater. When there is an incident, it is horrific and it impacts the psyche of the community.

Mr. Guridy stated that he rather have UGI replace all the old lines throughout the city, it would do a lot better than replacing meters and putting it in the wrong place. They need to be a strong voice to the PUC to put a stamp of this.

Mr. Edward Morrison stated that unfortunately the recent findings show their diligence to use their funds to extent and they seem to ignore that recommendation from a national organization, but very keen to pass this recommendation based on a state ordinance issue. He stated that he put the Rhode Island in front of Council because this fight has been fought and won and fought and loss. There are no national standards.

Mr. Donovan stated that he owns a row house on West Street which is subject to this. He stated that recognizing that he is a property owner, if the gas company came to him and said there is a significant and legitimate safety issue that would cause him to put the meter outside the house, he would listen. He stated that what really concerns him is having throughout the city, exposed gas lines six to seven feet from the byway.

Mr. Edward Morrison stated that if you go to UGI's website, they have a section on gas safety and three of the top safety recommendations on meters, they suggest is protect from traffic, keep clear of snow and ice and to make sure you teach kids not to sit on them. As a homeowner if he has to protect it from his vehicle, from my snow and from my child is one thing, but with the meter on the right of way, now he has to worry about everybody's vehicle, everybody's child coming home from school, everyone throwing snow.

Mr. Donovan recommended to Mr. D'Amore that we move to discuss this quickly.

Mr. D'Amore stated that they can have the meeting as early as all members of council are available.

Mr. Schlossberg asked to make it a Committee of the Whole meeting.

Mr. Schweyer stated that if this will be the least bit effective then at the very least have a representative from UGI and a representative from the PUC.

Mr. Schlossberg echoed Mr. Schweyer's and asked Mr. Hanlon to schedule a meeting with members of the PUC and members of UGI to find out where their options lie. It could be a matter of a Resolution.

Mr. Bennington stated to Mr. Guridy that the Mayor has sent very strongly worded letters to Governor Corbett and all the elected officials. The National Transportation and Safety Board concerned on the cast iron safety in the City of Allentown. They made increase dividends over the year and they should be plowing back. He stated that Mark Hartney did a lot of work to bring the PUC and UGI to that public meeting several months ago.

Mr. Leonard Martin, 1135 Chestnut Street, stated that the homeownership rate is about 58 percent. He would like to see the homeownership rates increase. He has seen other cities in the seventy percent and ideally close to 80 percent. He does not know if that is achievable. Ask for create financing solutions to get those homes back to the hands of homeowners.

Mr. D'Amore stated that there are fine organizations in the city that are private non-profit organizations that do that. The Alliance of Building Communities is a good example, the Housing Association, and CACLV.

Mr. Guridy stated that the Allentown Housing Authority is looking to do something in their five-year strategic plan to create homeownership in the city. He stated that realistically if we can increase it ten percent in five years that would be good.

Mr. Brown stated that he wants to speak about an update on the impasse between the Administration and the Allentown Redevelopment Authority in regards to the city and the funding. He stated that he does not know if they want to do that at the Community and Economic Development Committee portion of the meeting.

Mr. D'Amore stated that it would be appropriate to speak to it right now.

Mr. Brown stated that the city put together a new homeownership program. He asked if the City Council received the memo that he sent to them on February 22nd regarding the status of where they are. Basically, they do not have any funds going forward. The Redevelopment Authority has effectively been shut down. This is detrimental to the city. They recruited at the request of the Mayor. Dr. Pooley to run the Redevelopment Authority as Executive Director and everyone in the city acknowledges that she has done an excellent job. He stated that they put properties back on the tax roll. They gave back to the city \$194,000 in taxes that they could not collect. If it is not broke, do not try to fix it.

Mr. Donovan asked Mr. Bennington to bring us up to date.

Ms. Hailstone stated that the Community and Economic Development office did offer the Redevelopment Authority a contract as requested.

Mr. D'Amore stated that City Council entrusted Mr. Schweyer to speak on their behalf.

Mr. Schweyer stated that there are personnel matters involved. There is a limit to what they can talk about in public. He stated that he has a conversation with the Vice President of the Board of Directors. After his conversation with her and as a result has a conversation with Ms. Hailstone where they laid out an appropriate transition period with an agreement from the Board President and Board Vice President to see what direction it is going to be. There is a verbal agreement between the Board and the Administration to come up with the framework.

Ms. Eichenwald stated that she views this situation with deep regret. With any form of measurable statistics and any measuring results the Allentown Redevelopment Authority under the direction of Dr. Pooley did an excellent job. She stated that she remains confused and perplexed as to why an organization that contributed so much to the welfare of this community and its economic welfare and well-being, will no longer be. Several weeks ago when they had this discussion, it appeared to her that it was the wishes of the majority of members of City Council that a contract be issued based on the old procedure and be extended for six months and now we are told the Dr. Pooley will no longer continue and there is a transition period to eliminate this very vital and important agency. They need to work together to restore this agency and have its work continue.

Mr. Donovan stated that the reason why he asked and he said it at the Budget cycle the Redevelopment Authority has a couple legal requirements based on state law which is to acquire and move through a process and dispose of property, but there was a strategic effort to have someone with the talent of Dr. Beck-Pooley to work on a variety of issues that were more strategic in terms of blight properties and urban redevelopment.

Mr. Guridy stated that he agrees with Mr. Donovan and Eichenwald, but would like to get more direct response to the strategy in regards to the contract that was offered to the Redevelopment Authority. He asked if the city has an alternative solution to this.

Mr. Brown stated that when they received the contract they expected the contract that they had been assigned before they got to the extension period. They did not receive that contract. Basically, the contract they received would immediately eliminate all independency of the Redevelopment Authority. The urban Redevelopment law and the Pennsylvania Supreme Court have said that the Redevelopment Authority operates separate and apart from the city. He stated that this is not about dollars it is about power.

Ms. Hailstone stated that we are confusing the issue. CED gave a contract to the Redevelopment Authority to buy and sell property. That is one issue. The Redevelopment Authority as a Board with its powers under the state law will continue to remain.

Mr. D'Amore stated that he will read from the minutes of December 1st. He stated that Mr. Schweyer stated for the purpose of moving forward and continuing the dialogue it is essentially to free up \$125,000 - \$135,000 of funds. It would put the Redevelopment Authority back in the room to negotiate. If there are expenses that need to be born by the city at that point in time because it is not enough to cover expenses and they can work that out. Mayor Pawlowski stated that they can work that out in the contractual process. He stated that it is very clear in the minutes at the discussion of the Council meeting on December 1st was not definitive. It was the issue of working out a contractual relationship for the remainder of the six months that was acceptable to all parties. Council has asked Mr. Schweyer to be our representative as far as he knows that process is still on-going.

Ms. Eichenwald stated that she is confused of what she is doing here. She stated to Mr. D'Amore that she listened to what he just read in the minutes and when you have a contractual discussion there are two parties. Both of whom have a right to express their opinions and when the system works, we leave the room with a contract. Months have gone by. Dr. Pooley is lost to the city. They lost several months in the process and she distinctly remember that the two parties, the Allentown Redevelopment Authority and the Administration of the City of Allentown were to work out an agreement, where the Allentown Redevelopment Authority would work as an independent agency as mandated by state process for another six months.

Mr. Guridy stated that he would like to continue the contract or relationship. He stated that contract is with two parties can you still work it out.

Ms. Hailstone stated that they are continuing to talk to them, but they will remain as a Board and as an Authority. They have asked the CED not issue from what she understands that contract for the buying and selling of the properties.

Mr. Schweyer stated to Mr. Brown with all do respect your law partner was City Solicitor at the same to he was Solicitor for the Redevelopment Authority. He stated that he appreciates Mr. Brown stating how the Redevelopment Authority should be an independent authority. He stated that he is supportive of the City Council getting its own Solicitor. The Redevelopment Authority deserves its own protection and he been on the side. For his colleagues and for the public they are not and he has not been in conversations with any employee, nor any of their contracted professionals or property management team. He stated that he has been dealing directly with the Board. He stated that it is interesting to him that no member of the board is here talking tonight. We have person that reflects a professional contracting service speaking. He stated that all he is asking that they allow the process to move forward. It will preserve the independence of the Redevelopment Board.

5. Approval of Minutes: February 16, 2011

Minutes are approved by Common Consent.

6. Old Business

Mr. Schweyer stated to Mr. Mest that they spoke a few meetings ago about changing the timeline regarding the Shade Tree Ordinance. That is on the Agenda for the Administration and Council for the regular Friday meeting.

7. Communications

Mr. D'Amore read from the following meetings:

Committee of the Whole Meetings:

March 16, 5:45 PM – Parking Authority Strategic Report

April 6, 6:30 PM – Recreation Commission Strategic Report

April 20, 6:30 PM – Arts Commission Strategic Report

Mr. D'Amore stated that they will have further word on the gas meters. They will have a public hearing as soon as possible.

8. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

Budget and Finance: Chairperson Donovan

They have not met as a committee since last Council meeting; they are planning a scheduled meeting next Wednesday at 7:00 PM and they will discuss the budget process for fiscal year 2012, transfers will be reviewed and there will be preliminary discussions about the city's labor capacity. They met for a Committee-of the-Whole for a bond issue.

Mr. Bennington asked what time was it.

Mr. Donovan stated 7:00 PM

Public Safety: Chairperson Guridy

They have met this evening prior to the council meeting. They had two issues and one was regards to citizens on patrol organization (COPS) and endorses the program to move forward with a caveat to have a one-year tryout. They separated the issue of endorsement plus the request of \$8,000 from the City Council's budget. They will look at the issues once a memorandum of understanding is developed. Once that is done they will look how they will move forward with that particular issue. They are recommending it to full Council with a Resolution or a Bill. Some of the concerns are primarily with the legality of liability and they should have none. He stated that will Bill 4 they decided to postpone it and table it until next meeting for the 16th.

Community and Economic Development: Chairperson Schweyer

They met on February 23rd and referred several items on this Agenda. They have a future meeting for March 8th at 6:00 PM.

Parks and Recreation: Chairperson Ray O'Connell

They had a meeting scheduled for March 16th. Mr. Weitzel will not be in attendance and therefore he does not want to have that meeting. The next meeting will be on April 6th at 5:45 PM.

Public Works: Chairperson Schlossberg

They had a meeting on February 23rd. They approved a couple of items on the Agenda. They have a meeting scheduled for March 8th. They will discuss the PUC CAMP issue and he wants to see if that date holds.

Human Resources, Administration and Appointments: Chairperson Eichenwald

They have a meeting scheduled for March 9th where they are going to review the labor contract issues.

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

No meeting; no report.

OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. Eichenwald stated that at 5:30 – 6:30 PM they were privileged to have members of the Human Relations Commission with them and they discussed the issues that they have been dealing with over the last year and plans for the future. She publicly thanked Mr. Donovan for pushing the issue as far as having our important committee with whom they do work come in a present their strategic plans and she looks forward to other committees doing this. The report from the Human Relations Commission is in the packet.

Mr. Donovan complemented Ms. Eichenwald for managing the meeting.

Mr. Guridy stated that the Allentown Hosing Authority Commission met last week and adopted a five-year strategic plan.

CONTROLLER'S REPORT

No Report.

9. APPOINTMENTS: None

10. ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE:

BILL 1 Bond Issue

Capital Projects Funding and Refunding of General Obligation Bonds, Series of 2001 Bonds and Guaranteed Sewer Revenue Bonds, Series of 2001 and Guaranteed Water Revenue Bonds, Series of 2001.

Mr. D'Amore stated that it was before Committee of the Whole meeting on February 23rd and forwarded favorably.

Mr. Donovan moved Amendments offered by the Administration.

Mr. Donovan read the Proposed Amendments provided by Bond Counsel:

Amendment: The following amendments are offered by the Administration to Bill No. 1 of 2011 as originally submitted to City Council for preliminary reading February 9, 2011.

1. The maximum aggregate principal amount of the Bonds, \$13,000,000, has been inserted in the caption and the body of the Ordinance.
2. The dated date of the Bonds and the semi-annual payments has been inserted into the body of the Ordinance.
3. The purchased price for the Bonds of not less than 97% or more than 110% of the principal amount of the Bonds, have been inserted into the caption and body of the Ordinance and the Proposal of Purchasers has been added to the Schedules.
4. The maximum aggregate debt service schedule (Schedule "A"), and the name of the Paying Agent, The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., have been inserted.
5. Reference to refunding of the City's General Obligation Bonds, Series of 2001, Guarantee Sewer Revenue Bonds, Series of 2001 and Guarantee Water Revenue Bonds, Series of 2001 have been removed from the caption to the Ordinance, body of the Ordinance and schedules attached thereto.

Mr. Schweyer seconded the amendment.

Mr. D'Amore stated by common consent the bill stands amended.

Ms. Eichenwald asked did they get a good deal.

Mr. Scott Shearer stated that in the end it will be a very good deal. The team worked hard on this transaction to get it to this point. The last time the city did a public offering was in 2008. The financial world is very different now from the last bond issue. They were able to reaffirm the credit ratings, but did have an outlook change. The ratings stayed the same. They were able to secure bond insurance. They are close to the finished line. They finished a few more of the documents. They released an RFP to the top underwriters that do business in the Commonwealth and they have received responses today. They have half dozen responses and there is one really good response from a firm that does a lot of work in the Commonwealth. They will lock in the final interest rates Monday or Tuesday of next week. They wanted to wait until they got affirmative action this evening and have the firm sort through some pre-marketing. The bid that they received from this low bidder they were very pleased at the results. They are going to sell these bonds with a five-year call feature. In the past the city has done a lot of transactions with ten-year calls. When they did the last bond offering in 2008 they were able to do a slightly larger deal and slide it down to a seven year call. They worked hard to be able to put a five-year call feature on this. To be able to put a five-year call feature on this to refinance or restructure in the future without paying any rate penalty to get the best deal. They will send out the final results and shortly thereafter they can see the final pricing. They are expecting to close the transaction the early part of April. April 7th is the tentative settlement date. That is when you will receive the funds. You are looking at roughly \$6 million for Capital Projects for General Fund purposed. A little under \$4 million for sewer projects and \$1.2 million for water projects. As far as what was budgeted for debt services for 2011 they anticipate the actual debt services numbers to come in lower than what was budgeted for 2011.

Ms. Eichenwald stated that she sees the final financing is \$11 million and she heard the number \$13 million.

Mr. Shearer asked for the flexibility. He stated that they only want to come and enter the market when they think it is best which they are anticipating next Monday or Tuesday to finalized the deal. Although the ordinance reads not to exceed \$13 million, not to exceed the interest rates of 6 percent they are well below there. They have their construction fund deposit amounts that are a target of \$6 million for Capital Project for the General Fund. \$4 million for sewer projects and \$1.2 million for water projects and that is the ultimate goal. The final pricing will be the highlighted numbers and you will see the actual amortization and the total dollar amount will be substantially less than the \$13 million. For each individual level of maturity there will be principal payments due and they will be less than what is in the ordinance as well.

Ms. Eichenwald stated that she is still concerned about the enormous difference between the \$11 and the \$13 million.

Mr. Shearer stated that is the market standard. If they were doing a \$3 million deal they will have it close to \$5 million. If they were doing a \$20 million deal, the parameters will be at \$25 million. There will be a notice of non-completion filed with the stated that your bond counselor can talk about that says although the ordinance reads \$13 million there will be a legal document that is submitted with the state that says that you passed an parameters ordinance for \$13 million, you ultimately borrowed \$11 million three hundred or what ever that number is.

Mr. D'Amore stated that Mr. Shearer is the Financial Advisor for City Council. Mr. Shearer represents the interest of City Council.

Mr. Guridy asked if there were any concerns, questions or comments from the representative of the bond or the city.

Mr. Strathearn stated that if the numbers come that he saw tonight, it is fantastic. It is a great idea that the Council has its own Financial Advisor and Gary Pulcini is the city's Financial Advisor. They have Kevin Reid as our Bond Council. This team did a phenomenal job. He stated that his biggest concern was if the Government would have shutdown on Friday and we are pricing bonds.

Mr. Reid stated that essentially this tool has become more and more developed over last few years and provided municipalities like the City of Allentown with increase flexibility to be able to access markets at times that might be more beneficial to a municipality. He stated that Mr. Shearer is one hundred percent correct. What will happen in this process it is called a partial non-completion of sale. Although that original schedule would be that \$13 million after closing and filing with DEC the actual pricing schedule which will be closer to that \$11.2 million.

Mr. Hershman stated that his concern is the cost. He stated that he would like to know what the true cost would be. He stated that as he hears it from him, they are going to borrow the money to pay the cost. It will be an additional cost to the city. It will be an additional interest to pay for the cost. Will the full cost be paid by the bond issue?

Mr. D'Amore asked Ms. Fruhwirth is it part of the Ordinance. He stated that Mr. Shearer had the answer.

Mr. Shearer stated that the cost is the standard way of doing the transaction. The cost will be paid only if there is a successful closing of this transaction. That is the only way cost will be paid. The cost that will be incurred would be the cost of the rating agencies. They will be instructed to pay for that. The winner proposal that they received, the underwriter feels strongly that they will not require bond insurance. Their bid was not with bond insurance and that is a savings of \$150,000. Overall cost with this type of transaction would be \$300,000 and they are expecting it to be around \$200,000.

Mr. Guridy stated that last time it was going to be \$300,000 when he asked the question and now it will be \$200,000.

Mr. Shearer stated approximately \$200,000.

Mr. Strathearn stated that if they could do this without that is a phenomenal savings. He stated that he is stunned that they have a proposal with the rates that it does without bond insurance.

Mr. Donovan stated that he believes it would be standard policy that the cost of a bond would be like points on a mortgage. The professional fees are paid out of the proceeds of the bonds.

Mr. Shearer stated that 99.9 percent of the time the professional cost comes from the closing of the bond issued.

Mr. Donovan stated that he could imagine that the potential lender probably is feeling that they could have slightly higher rates and not have the insurance and is a win/win for all parties.

Mr. Shearer stated that the absolute level of rates that are being proposed by the winning bidder even without insurance are lower substantially lower than all the other bids. Some companies have buyers that are comfortable with just the underlining rates.

Ms. Eichenwald stated that if it sounds too good to be true, maybe it isn't. What research has been done with the lender?

Mr. Shearer stated that it is an extremely creditable lender that his firm personally does a lot of transactions. They win a lot of the competitive bond issues. They are very aggressive in this bond market. They have no reason to doubt that.

Ms. Eichenwald asked if they chose to eliminate the bond issuance.

Mr. Shearer stated that it varies.

Mr. Strathearn stated that they are getting too official and he is not going to identify. This firm has been in business in Pennsylvania for an excess of one hundred and fifty years. It has twenty six offices in the state of Pennsylvania and around the country. How it was setup it allows all the bidders to quote presale. Before they called in a notified Scott and Gary what the numbers would be the put feelers out into the market. They never would have come back with the number proposed without some strong indication that they have buyers at that level.

Mr. Atiyeh stated that asked Mr. Young is part of the \$6 million is for Hanover Avenue from Bergen to Maxwell Street.

Mr. Young said correct.

Mr. D'Amore stated to Mr. Pearson that he was concerned about that. It is part of the money.

Bond Issue as amended passed, 7 - 0

BILL 2 6th Street Vacation

Providing for the vacation of S. 6TH Street from W. Susquehanna Street to Cumberland Street in the Twelfth Ward of the City of Allentown.

Mr. Schlossberg stated that it is a Street Vacation of a paper street. It was forwarded forwardly with 2 – 0 vote.

Ordinance Passed, 7 - 0

BILL 3 EECBG 2011

Amending the 2011 General Fund Budget by appropriating funds from the unappropriated balance in the amount of Five Hundred Seventy Three Thousand, Six Hundred Eighty Dollars and Nine Cents (\$573,680.09) to provide for year two of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) from the United States Department of Energy.

Mr. Schlossberg stated that it is a reallocation of funding or continued allocation of last year. It was forwarded favorably with 2 – 0 vote.

Lauren Giguere stated that it is the continued allocation of funding that started last year.

Ordinance Passed, 7 - 0

BILL 4 ICE CREAM VENDING

Removed and Tabled by the Public Safety Committee

Amending Title One, Businesses and Licensing, of the Business Regulation and Taxation Code of the City of Allentown by adding Article 308, Ice Cream Vendor, providing for the regulation and licensing of ice cream vendors and establishing a \$35 fee to recover the costs of providing the license.

Mr. D'Amore stated that Mr. Guridy said it will be considered at the next council meeting.

BILL 6 HPRP REALLOCATION

An Ordinance providing for the re-allocation of funds within the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) Grant Program in the amount of Three Hundred Seventy-One Thousand Five Hundred Fifty-Four (\$371,554) Dollars.

Mr. Schweyer stated that CEDC recommended this bill favorably 2 – 0. It is part of the on-going effort to expend all Grant Money.

Ordinance Passed, 7 - 0

11. ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION:

Bill 9 Parks and Recreation Donation

Referred to Parks and Recreation

Amending the 2011 General Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Three Hundred (\$300.00) Dollars to provide for the receipt of a donation from W. Michael Donovan. This funding will be used to purchase recreational supplies for the Summer Playground Program.

BILL 10 EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS GRANT

Referred to Public Safety

Amending the 2011 General Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Thirty Two Thousand, One Hundred (\$32,100) Dollars from Pennsylvania Department of Health to the Health Bureau's Emergency Preparedness Program budget to enable the purchase of supplies, to perform services which are beyond the capacity of existing staff, to cover the costs of state required training necessary to achieve the goals and objectives of grant and reimburse the City for costs incurred in pursuit of this initiative.

BILL 11 INJURY PREVENTION GRANT

Referred to CEDC

Amending the 2011 General Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Eleven Thousand, Two Hundred (\$11,200) Dollars from Pennsylvania Department of Health to the Health Bureau's Injury Prevention Program budget to enable the purchase of supplies, to pay a contractor for disposal of unwanted medications and to cover the costs of state required trainings and seminars of necessary to achieve the goals and objectives of an expanded injury prevention initiative and reimburse the City for costs incurred in pursuit of this initiative.

BILL 12 SAFE HEALTHY COMM

Referred to CEDC

Amending the 2011 General Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Twenty Thousand (\$20,000) Dollars from the Pennsylvania Department of Health Division of Health Risk Reduction, and Three Hundred (\$300) from Share Our Strength, a national nonprofit, to the Health Bureau's Nutrition and Physical Activity Program budget.

BILL 13 VMRC GRANT

Referred to CEDC

Amending the 2011 General Fund Budget to provide for a new appropriation of Thirty Two Thousand Five Hundred and Three (\$32,503) Dollars from the Pennsylvania Department of Health, Office of Public Health Preparedness, and Five Thousand (\$5,000) Dollars from the National Association of City and County Health Officials, to the Health Bureau's Immunization Program budget. The Allentown Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps (AVMRC) funding will improve the health and safety of Allentown residents through the use of medical and nonmedical volunteers. AVMRC will enhance public health emergency response capacity by increasing the availability of a skilled workforce of medical and nonmedical volunteers in addition to public health professionals. The total supplemental appropriation for AVMRC would be Thirty Seven Thousand Five Hundred and Three (\$37,503) Dollars.

BILL 14 CURB-SIDEWALK CAPITAL

Referred to Public Works

Amending the 2011 Capital Fund Budget to provide for an appropriation of Four Hundred Thousand (\$400,000.00) Dollars reflecting receipt of funds from property owner reimbursement to install replacement and new curbing, sidewalks, crossovers in advance of the 2011 Streets Improvement Program.

Ms. Eichenwald stated that at tonight’s report from the Human Relations Commission a comment was made that at the end of the curb at the handicapped ramp throughout the city there is no uniformity and many are useless. She stated that she does not know how that interaction relates to this, but she is bringing it to the floor.

Mr. Guridy stated that they will find that rules have changed from the Department of Transportation and it continues to change.

Mr. Bennington stated that he will make sure that Mr. Young is here.

Mr. Schlossberg asked Mr. Bennington for him to pass the information to the Human Relations Commission and address them at the Public Works meeting.

12. CONSENT AGENDA: None

13. RESOLUTIONS ON SECOND READING:

R3 AEOP

Adopts the Allentown Emergency Operation Plan (AEOP) as Amended.

Mr. D’Amore stated that this matter was before City Council in an Executive Session. They have to take a vote.

Resolution passed, 7 - 0

R8 NSP

Submission of a Neighborhood Stabilization Program Round 3 Grant for Jordan Heights Neighborhood.

Mr. Schweyer is opportunity for the city to apply for additional funds for the Jordan Heights Neighborhood.

Resolution passed, 7 – 0

14. RESOLUTIONS ON FIRST READING:

R12 2601 UNION ST

Referred to Public Works

Authorizes the Administration to Sell the City-owned Real Property located at 2601-2625 Union Street.

R13 BANNERS

A resolution of the City of Allentown, County of Lehigh, Pennsylvania, authorizing the placement of banners across a state highway or within the highway right of way.

Mr. D’Amore stated there is a need to vote on this evening. It is fulfilling a PennDot mandate. Our Public Works department stated that it can be erected because of no obstruction of property.

Mr. Guridy stated that they used to do that before.

Mr. Bennington stated that PennDot does not allow it.

Resolution passed, 7 - 0

15. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Bennington stated that he is not going to take the attack on a competent CED Director. He stated that it was a personal attack.

Mr. Donovan stated that he understands.

16. GOOD AND WELFARE

Mr. O'Connell stated that St. Patrick's Day arrives March 17th and he thanks the City Council for passing the Resolution to put the Banner up. On March 11th it is the annual St. Patrick's Day Ball. On March 19th will be the Annual Pub Crawl. March 20th will be the Mass at Immaculate Conception at 9:15 PM followed by a breakfast at Knight's of Columbus at 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM followed by the Parade. Many of the Proceeds that they raise go to the Second Harvest Food Bank in cooperation with the Boys Scouts.

17. ADJOURNED: 9:00 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.