

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



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

AllentownPa.Gov

COUNCIL MEETING
November 17, 2010 COUNCIL CHAMBERS

COUNCIL MEETING - 7:30 PM

- 1. Invocation: Michael Schlossberg**
- 2. Pledge to the Flag**
- 3. Roll Call:** D'Amore, Donovan, Eichenwald, O'Connell, Schlossberg and Schweyer
- 4. Courtesy of the Floor**

Mr. Bob Romancheck, S. 16th Street, stated that there is an agenda item, but he is not speaking of that particular he is doing what he presented as an overview. He stated for the years that he worked at PPL plus consulting time he had a few years with refuse burning. He had one customer for an example who had tile and the tiles had 5,000 BTUs and half the weight of a pound of coal. They were grey. When they went to DER to ask permission to build an incinerator to burn them and generate steam and electricity, they were told that they would be able to get a temporary permit. When the plant is completed and it is up and running then they would tell you if you could operate it. He stated that his only point is that these are very touchy situations with DER. He stated that he does not know the make up of the refuse in Allentown. It really has to be looked at in order to see what kind of BTU content you are going to have out of the fuel. Any kind of refuse will have to burn a lot of natural gas, gas or oil because you can not keep the flame going with just the stuff coming through the waste material at solid waste. He stated that he wanted to give his overview and tell them to be careful when making any decisions.

Mr. Hershman stated that he looked into the minutes and since the Mayor is here he gave an opinion from the Solicitor's office last meeting and it was not a part of the minutes. He asked would they be amending the minutes by putting the solicitor's opinion as part of the minutes.

Mr. D'Amore asked which minutes for which meeting. He stated that Council has approval of the minutes for November 3rd and Mr. Hershman can make his opinion after that.

Mr. Hershman stated on November 7, 2010 that Mr. Gary Strathearn was going to give them opening and closing balance for 2010 and 2011. He asked would they be getting that shortly.

Mr. Gary Strathearn stated that they have that with them and can distribute after the meeting.

Mr. Dennis Pearson stated that he is representing East Allentown Rittersville Neighborhood. The City Council of Allentown passed a zoning code that will severely impact the residents on the east side with the closing of the State Hospital. He stated that one part of the Hospital has been divided by the state and another part remains to be divided. The hospital is down to 28 residents. Some residents remain at the hospital upon closing under a contract with Lehigh County. North Western Enterprises will set in the admissions building of the state hospital on the second floor. Some residents will be moving into Overlook Terrace for a halfway house there that is being built. Act 74 2007 authorized a transfer of 29 acres to the Allentown Commercial and Industrial Authority and general services deeded the property to ACIDA 9/29/09. The City of Allentown accommodated the state law by allowing commercial and senior houses in the ID district. Unfortunately, it is

possible that 232 houses can be built on plots since the ID legislation said that you can have eight houses per acre. No official announcements of this buy to nearby residents affected by this closure and change of zoning uses. No official announcements between state representatives effective by this closure and change of zoning codes and permitted uses. The media whether electronic or print has been silent on these facts for whatever reason since 2007. The city is applying for a \$325,000 grant to create a site grant for the rest of the property. There is already a new zoning ordinance to say what are the permitted uses are in ID district. The City of Allentown does not own the remaining 190 acres.

Janice, East Hamilton Street, stated that she heard about the bridge on 15th Street. She can give them a good idea to close it down and only use it for emergency cars. They have to get used to going another route anyway. She stated that they still can have that avenue for emergency vehicles. She suggested an early closing for safety reasons. She stated that she heard about the firehouse being closed by Dieruff High School.

Mr. D'Amore stated that the building is not structurally sound and the building has to be fixed.

Mr. Strathearn stated that is on the city's Capital Project for 2011.

Mr. D'Amore asked was it a determination of when the project will begin.

Mr. Bennington stated that soon as they pass it.

Mr. Strathearn stated that it is in the budget and they will get on it right away.

Ms. Janice stated that it was a truck to be placed in another building and she does not know if that was figured out.

Mr. D'Amore stated that he will be upfront on this matter. He lives on Irving Street. There will be a fire trucks on the east side.

Ms. Paulette Hunter thanked the City Council and the members of the city for making the park possible. She thanked Sally from the Pediatric Therapy Association since she dragged her to all of the meetings. She also thanked Lauren Giguere for doing a lot of grants to take to the state in order to get something done. She stated that she knows that Council is working on the Youth Council. She stated that Weed and Seed is doing an excellent job where youth are concerned. She stated that Sam is doing a outstanding job. She asked Council to start that strong recreation and make Weed and Seed the point person to make the Youth Council possible. She thanked the Recreation department Greg and Wendy. She stated that before the Youth Council was assigned to Greg.

Mr. D'Amore stated that a number of Council members are involved with it. Mr. Schweyer has a comment on that.

Mr. Schweyer stated with the Youth Council, Sam has been doing an amazing job. They had a hearing on this and they were trying to figure out how to do it and get something accomplished. It was a realization that they has at a meeting with, Mr. O'Connell, members of the School Board, Mr. Hanlon and they just finally decided to stop saying how to do it, but build from there. Last month, Mr. Donovan, Mr. O'Connell, and he went to Dieruff High School and have Allen in two weeks, and then Central Catholic and then they are going back to the high schools again. They are starting off as a formal conversation. They are trying to come up with a structure to make sure they had representation across the city and it became cumbersome. He stated that at the very least they started a conversation. He stated that it was an outstanding discussion and the kids were fantastic. He stated that they brought up interesting topics. He stated with Weed and Seed there will be some proposed restructuring in the department and Community and Economic Development Committee Budget

Hearing. It will be discussed during the Community and Economic Development Committee budget hearing which is on the 22nd at 6:00 PM.

Mr. O'Connell stated November 30th.

Ms. Hunter stated that Sam has dealt with youth that has been in trouble, youth that is in jail and has a good core provider network of youth throughout the city. She stated that what ever Council does, Sam needs to be involved. She stated that he knows how to do it. She asked Council to consider Sam as the point person to try to make it happen. She asked can they include Weed and Seed as they move forward.

Mr. Bennington stated that he also attended the Dieruff High School meeting.

Mr. D'Amore stated that they do not want to leave Mr. Bennington out.

Ms. Hunter asked can they include Weed and Seed when they go.

Mr. Schweyer stated that they were not in the Weed and Seed area.

Mr. Atiyeh, 1909 E. Commerce Street, stated that he has to echo what Ms. Hunter stated. He stated that Sam is a wonderful person. Please have him involved.

5. Approval of Minutes: November 3, 2010

Mr. Hershman stated that the Mayor provided an opinion last Council meeting and looking into the agenda and the City Clerk has everything that took place, but he failed to mention the Mayor and his opinion. He would greatly appreciate Council to amend the minutes and get the opinion in the agenda. Any thing that takes place at a Council meeting should be part of the Agenda.

Mr. D'Amore stated that this is a solicitor's opinion which in part the Mayor read into the record.

Mr. Hershman stated yes and it is not here.

Mr. D'Amore stated that he would say and made a proposal to his colleagues and asked Mr. Hershman to deem this satisfactory they can note in the minutes that the Mayor read a portion of the Solicitor's opinion into the record and note the text of what it is he read into the record. He asked were there any objections from his colleagues that they amend the minutes and asked were there any other comments regarding approval of the minutes. He asked was it a motion to approve the minutes as amended. He stated that the minutes are approved as amended by common consent.

Mr. Donovan seconded the motion.

Mr. Hershman stated that next meeting he can get a copy of the minutes.

Mr. D'Amore stated yes and in regards to the approval of the minutes are there any other comments to the approval of the minutes from members of Council or the public. He asked was it a motion to approve the minutes.

Mr. Donovan motioned to approve the minutes.

Mr. Schweyer seconded the motion.

6. Old Business

Ms. Eichenwald stated that at the last meeting they introduced a discussion on the COPS (Citizens on Patrol) and she has noticed that it is not on tonight's agenda. She asked are they doing anything to move it forward.

Mr. D'Amore stated that Mr. Atiyeh had some discussions today with Chief McKlean and Assistant Chief Hanna on Monday and Mr. Atiyeh reported that those conversations were very positive.

Ms. Eichenwald asked could she look forward to having it on the Agenda in the future.

Mr. D'Amore stated that the question on the agenda is depended upon a question they asked the Solicitor's office regarding the property procedure of Council appropriating funds that has already been allocated through the budget process. They have not had a chance to get a definitive answer on that yet. Once they get that then they can move it forward on the agenda if it is appropriate to put on the agenda.

Ms. Eichenwald asked Mr. Marchetto does he have that request.

Mr. Marchetto stated yes.

Ms. Eichenwald stated then she would look forward to the response.

7. Communications

Mr. Donovan stated that this afternoon he met with one of the residence that currently leases property to the city within the Park district and they have been briefed on that and the individual made a compelling argument for them to request for the administration to delay implementation of their plan at least until the end of the year, December 31st. He thinks it needs to be more discussions about the arrangements and he does believe that the particular person involved convinced him that to rush into something by November 30th which is the drop-dead date would not be the best course of action. He stated that they decided a motion from Council to request the administration to delay the request for a decision by the residents until December 31st. He stated that he will answer any questions that they might have.

Mr. Bennington stated that this is the first time he heard it at this time. The administration is able to give those folks that are still renting a month by month as long as they pay One Thousand \$1,000 Dollars in January and February. He stated that they are not shoving people out.

Mr. Donovan stated that he does not disagree with that, but he was the first to be aware of it and he had to read through the package of information that was given to him. There are articles within the lease agreement that he thinks legitimately may be onerous and should be recognized in a more detailed discussion. He stated that all he heard from the administration and the other party and when the administration briefed them on this matter they did not know some of the details, the language that was in the lease and also some other issues that he thinks are important to be discussed between the residents and the city on this. One of which has to do with maintenance obligations and care obligations on this. He stated that he is bringing this based on a meeting that he had today. He only was briefed by the administration and he has met with the resident who he feels have some concerns and he does not know if it really hurts anyone to have a little more discussion for thirty-five days.

Mr. O'Connell stated that he agrees with Mr. Donovan and he does not know if they need a Resolution for this or just a general discussion among the Council members. He stated that he spoke with the same gentleman maybe two times over the phone and reviewed all of his questions. He stated that they were briefed for about twenty-five minutes and they have some questions and they had to rush down to chambers. He stated to be fair to all the parties; they can wait a month to get more information, more details and do what has to be done properly for the city and for the people renting.

Mr. Donovan asked for a gentlemen's agreement between the administration and take some type of Resolution which he knows is not binding anyway, but has some political force. He is hoping that they can delay for thirty days.

Mr. D'Amore asked Mr. Bennington is that acceptable to him?

Mr. Bennington stated that he hesitate to answer about the thirty-five days. He asked for the information that Council received and he can meet with the persons that he is working on this with and sees if there is legitimacy for a thirty-five day delay.

Mr. D'Amore stated that there is not more than can ask for right now. He stated that he is not clear that it will satisfy the request and he is not going to speak for Mr. Donovan. He stated that if that is what Mr. Bennington is willing to do, he would appreciate that. However, if Mr. Donovan or any one on City Council feels that is insufficient.

Mr. O'Connell asked a question to the administration and realizes that it is the administration's call and that this one will not be binding. He asked have the people affected by this had proper recourse to meet the Mayor, the managing director to talk about their concerns that Council is hearing now.

Mr. Bennington stated that when the people met with them individually they were told that they can meet with the managing director if they had questions concerning, no one did meet with the managing director.

Mr. O'Connell said Mr. Bennington stated that no one asked to meet with him.

Mr. Bennington stated no.

Mr. Donovan asked when the tenants received their notification.

Mr. Bennington stated that he did not have that information.

Mr. Donovan asked approximately.

Mr. Bennington stated November or October.

Mr. Gary Strathearn stated somewhere in mid October.

Mr. Donovan stated that these tenants are currently at will. He quite frankly cannot make a decision and he realizes that it is not his decision, but he heard enough today to question whether the arrangement is yet appropriate for all parties. He does not understand why and he stated that he has to read the packet that the person gave to him. He stated that all he had from the administration is a briefing of how much you will charge and the arrangements, but he has not seen a lease and now they are getting concerns from the resident that wants to strike something that is fair. He does not understand why waiting thirty days. He stated that they are in the middle of the budget cycle; Thanksgiving is coming up next week and to try to have proper discussion is going to take a few days.

Mr. D'Amore stated that Mr. O'Connell has made the most relevant procedural point which is under the purview of the administration to make this decision. Council can only weigh in an advisory capacity and if any member of council feels that they should in a formal manner a proposal for resolution should be made, if not then the on-the-record comments that have been made already do stand as at least some notation of disagreement that is coming from some members of council.

Mr. Bennington stated that he heard all Council's comments and he is a fair man and he will do what is fair for the people involved.

Ms. Eichenwald stated that she will put her faith in Mr. Bennington and he has heard Council's concerns and she feels that he will act upon it accordingly.

Mr. D'Amore stated that they will note that the remainder of budget schedule will be as follows:

- Monday, November 22nd at 6:00 PM – Community and Economic Development. This is a switch. Community and Economic Development will be first and at 8:00 PM Parks and Recreation, Trexler Fund, Golf Fund.
- Tuesday, November 23rd – Public Works along with a number of funds Solid Waste, Water, Sewer, Liquid Fuels, Equipment and Capital Projects.
- Discussion on the non-departmental that they tabled for this evening and any other topics if needed.
- Schedule on Ordinances to be voted on final passage vote at the Council meeting December 1st.

This is subject to change.

8. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

Budget and Finance: Chairperson Donovan

Mr. Donovan stated that they have not met since the last Council meeting. No future meeting has been scheduled until they finish the budget season. It may be the last week in December unless there are any bills present. He would like to report that they have a major issue of the extent that an EIT tax will be raised and if a small Real Estate would come with that. He stated that he has done a lot of work trying to understand the impact. No one wants additional taxes, but he has been trying to look at the fairness across the city. He stated that he has his numbers that indicate that a large percentage of the residents within the city will not have a big increase \$60 bucks a year, \$75, \$50 bucks a year, or \$30 bucks a year. It would be helpful to him. He double checked sites with county records and the assessment records of the county. He doubled checked variety of sites with county records and double checked his math to make sure it ducktails with the total city tax, but he did not understand the three properties the mayor picked off today which is out of whack on the number he has or they are at the extreme. It would be helpful for him to kind of get a representation of the typical taxes at the lower end assessment in the city, the mid-range, the median and the upper and what the total taxes are and that way they actually know what a 5%, 6%, or 3% increase in real estate taxes would mean to most people in the city.

Public Safety: Chairperson Guridy

Ms. Eichenwald stated that the committee met last Wednesday, and had several items on tonight's agenda.

Community and Economic Development: Chairperson Schweyer

Mr. Schweyer stated that the committee has not met since the last meeting. The next meeting has not yet been scheduled. He asked a moment from his colleagues that they have met with the administration and there is a re-alignment in the community and economic development department and it was scheduled to be discussed at budget hearing. After the meeting he would like to entertain their thoughts on how best to restructure that so they do not have to repeat and frustrations that many of them felt during the budget hearings. They accomplish their goals reviewing the budget as well as learning the direction of the department because it will be a little different. He stated that he will make himself available if anybody has any ideas or thoughts.

Mr. Donovan stated that the reason for the switch is because he teaches on Monday nights and he stated that he wanted to be there for the Community and Economic Development. He stated to feel free to work around him and take as long as they need.

Mr. D'Amore thanked Mr. O'Connell for the change.

Parks and Recreation: Chairperson Ray O'Connell

Mr. O'Connell stated that the next meeting is scheduled for November 22nd. They are reviewing the Parks and Recreation's budget. He spoke to Mr. Weitzel today and will speak to Mr. Weitzel Monday morning just to get a quick overview to have a handle on it.

Public Works: Chairperson Schlossberg

Mr. Schlossberg stated that they had a brief meeting before the Council meeting. They have two items on the agenda. He asked Mr. Richard Young to repeat what he stated at the Public Works meeting regarding the 15th Street Bridge in front of Council.

Mr. Richard Young stated that he received a phone call from PennDot about 10:00 AM this morning. Typically bridges are inspected every two years. For a long time the 15th Street Bridge was on a yearly cycle because of its condition. It had changed and now at a 6 month cycle. They called the city this morning and 6 months ago they told them they needed to post the weight limit at 10 tons. Deterioration has continued and on Friday right after the rush hour, they are going to be closing the northbound lane on the 15th Street Bridge until the bridge is replaced. He stated that he probably could do some repair to keep it opened, but he has spent a \$250,000 for several years on the bridge and he is so close to the replacement that he does not want to throw money away. He stated that it is new information as of this morning. They are getting signs up for detours and closing lanes. It will be an inconvenience. The bridge during construction was planned to be closed.

Mr. Bennington asked was PennDot willing to lower the weight limit.

Mr. Richard Young stated that he asked can they lower the weight limit to three tons and keep vehicle traffic on and they turned him down.

Mr. D'Amore stated that he was asked that question in between meetings. He stated to Mr. Young that he glad he answered them.

Mr. Young stated to Council it is one beam at the south end of the bridge that is in the middle of the drive lane in the north bound traffic. The beams are 36 inches high which consist of a top flanch, a bottom flanch and center piece which creates the eye configuration. The center portion of the eye is rusted through from the top flanch to the bottom flanch totally through. He stated that six months ago it was an area seven feet long that has grown. He stated that it is longer than seven feet. It is gone.

Mr. D'Amore stated that he drove over the bridge today.

Mr. O'Connell stated that it is a grated bridge.

Mr. Young stated that is a steel grate bridge. The problem for years is that the salt has gotten to the steal.

Mr. O'Connell asked can they give assurances that going south they are ok, but going north you are closing it.

Mr. Young stated that is a fair question and he does feel confident with that. It is because where the beam is. The bridge has a total of nine beams all the way across. This is the seventh one from the left hand side going north.

Mr. O'Connell asked what would prevent someone coming north and say they want to go south what will they do.

Mr. Young stated that they talked about that today. He stated that he does not know how they will prevent that, but will put up a do not enter signs in addition to the road closed signs.

Mr. O'Connell asked would it be fair just to close the whole bridge as the lady suggested for safety reasons.

Mr. Young stated that he considered that, but for traffic reasons he would like to keep it open. It will be closed in both directions anyway.

Mr. O'Connell asked what the timeline is. Is it the same as the Ott Street Bridge.

Mr. Young stated that it may be longer. They are advertising for construction now.

Mr. O'Connell stated that he knows that Mr. Young will make the right thing.

Mr. Young stated that it is a hard decision to close the whole bridge or half of it. He even looked at the possibility in shifting all the lanes to the side and keep one lane direction over, but it puts the barrier that they have to put up right on top of the beam. He does not want to put that weight on it.

Mr. Bennington asked what Mr. Young plan of detour route.

Mr. Young stated that the detour will be as you are coming north from Jackson Street to Wyoming to 10th and 10th to Martin Luther King and Martin Luther King back to 15th. The signed route will take 15th Street.

Mr. Schweyer stated that in addition of what Mr. Young went through, he has two immediate concerns in addition to the obvious i.e. someone walking under it and the whole thing falls down. He asked if the Shivers Bridge will be more heavily used including people coming from Salisbury Township. It is a nightmare especially those making a left hand turn onto Martin Luther King. No one would construct a bridge like that again. He asked to keep an eye on accident reports. He asked do they use the bridge as overflow for Lights in the Parkway. It is something that Mr. Young should pay attention to. He stated that Bridge Out is far scarier than bridge closed.

Mr. Young stated that bridge was constructed in 1748. He stated that he does not like bringing this type of news. If he had earlier notices, he would have given it to Council. He found out this morning.

Mr. Donovan asked when planning for the bridge replacement was started. When did they actually formally start the planning to build the bridge?

Mr. Young stated that the contract for design was signed in 1995.

Mr. Donovan stated that with his experience in bonding, a city this size would have bonded years ago to build it on their own instead of waiting for the money to come along. It is also true about the Parking Garage which is now owned by the Parking Authority. This is not the first piece infrastructure problem they have because they do not properly fund themselves.

Mr. Young stated that he understands completely what they are saying and they are constantly hounding PennDot over that very issue. He stated to be fair, it is not only PennDot it is also some Federal Highway. He heard a report a year ago that nationwide from the time that a project start design through the start of construction is average thirteen years.

Mr. Donovan stated that he constantly hears how far from the debt limit they are, but they are afraid of debt in doing infrastructure projects.

Mr. Young stated that this project will cost them \$15 million.

Mr. Donovan stated that look what it is going to cost them since they took so long.

Human Resources, Administration and Appointments: Chairperson Eichenwald

Ms. Eichenwald stated no meeting and none scheduled.

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

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

OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

CONTROLLER'S REPORT

None

Mr. D'Amore thanked Mr. Hoffman for his participation and his assistance through this budget process. He stated that there was an executive session held today with the Solicitor and Mr. Hoffman and City Council regarding legal questions they had about the budget process and about the legal determination that the Charter makes on the ability for Council to vote on budget and deadline.

9. APPOINTMENTS:

Ms. Eichenwald stated that she urge Mayor Pawlowski to appoint more members to the Human Relations so they can not function without a quorum and he has five suggested candidates on his desk and she is hoping that he will act on it.

Mr. O'Connell stated that there are several appointments on the Mayor desk for City Recreation Department. They are about two or three down. He said that it is very imperative that they get a representative from the east side. He stated that they have a good one in the name of Bob Trevorah.

Ms. Eichenwald stated that the ones on the Human Relations Commission are great too.

Mr. D'Amore stated that they had a longstanding of eastsider's who happened to step down at the same time and they honor the services because some of them were on the board for a very long time, but they did have a lack of east side representation.

10. ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE:

[Bill 68 American Parkway Right of Way Acquisition .doc](#)

An ordinance of the City Council of the City of Allentown, Pennsylvania, for the purpose of authorizing the Administration of the City of Allentown to open and acquire property for the American Parkway and authorizing the Mayor to execute the American Parkway right-of-way plans prepared by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Transportation.

Mr. Schlossberg stated that this legislation would allow them to purchase right of way for the American Parkway. This is part of the on going effort to expand American Parkway and was forwarded favorably 2 – 0.

Ordinance passed, 6 – 0

[Bill 69 EMS IRON PIGS.DOC](#)

Amending the 2010 General Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Eight Thousand Three Hundred Thirty Eight Dollars and Seventy Five Cents (\$8,338.75) as a result of payment from the Lehigh Valley IronPigs Baseball Team to the City of Allentown Paramedics for provisioning of on-site Emergency Medical Services during baseball games at Coca-Cola park for the months of August and September 2010.

Ms. Eichenwald stated that it was approved unanimously by the committee.

Ordinance passed, 6 - 0

[Bill 95 HANOVER PROJECT.doc](#)

Amending the 2010 Capital Fund Budget to provide for an appropriation of Two Million Seven Hundred Seventy-two Thousand Six Hundred Forty-Two Dollars and Eight Cents (\$2,772,642.08) reflecting receipt of funds from the America Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to install replacement water line, install ADA standard handicap ramps, and provide milling and paving of Hanover Avenue extending from the Hamilton Street Bridge to Graham Street. The Bureau of Engineering is supervising and monitoring the funds

Mr. Schlossberg stated that this is the standard pass-through. They received money from the Stimulus in order to do work on Hanover Avenue and it was forwarded favorably 2 – 0.

Ordinance passed, 6 - 0

11. ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION:

[Bill 97 HSDRB.DOC](#)

Referred to CEDC

An Ordinance providing for the establishment of the Hamilton Street District Review Board; repealing Ordinance No. 12864 of the City of Allentown and all other Ordinances and parts thereof in conflict herewith, also known as Part Seventeen, Building and Housing, Article 1729 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Allentown.

[Bill 98 ARTICLE 331 EIT INCREASE Amended V2.doc](#)

Referred to Budget Hearing on 11/23/10

Amends the Earned Income Tax to be increased from 1% to 1.4% on salaries, wages, commissions and other compensation earned on and after January 1, 2011 by individual residents and non-residents of the city.

Mr. D'Amore stated that this was already discussed and it nullified Bill 92 for purposes of the record.

[Bill 99 VAC-ORD E Carey St 2.DOC](#)

Referred to Public Works

Providing for the vacation of E. Carey Street from N. Ellsworth Street to the N. Fenwick Street in the Fifteenth Ward of the City of Allentown:

[Bill 100 SHADE TREE.doc](#)

Referred to Parks and Recreation

Amends Article 911, Shade Trees to more specifically outline the powers and duties of the Shade Tree Commission.

12. CONSENT AGENDA:

[CA-1 HARB APPROVALS.DOC](#)

Approves work to be done in the Historic Districts.

Resolution passed, 6 - 0

13. RESOLUTIONS ON SECOND READING: None

14. RESOLUTIONS ON FIRST READING:

The administration is requesting that you vote on Resolutions 52, 54 and 55.

[R52 WASTETOENERGY.DOC](#)

Authorizes Submission of a Redevelopment Assistance Capital Grant for the Construction of a Waste to Energy Project.

Mr. D'Amore stated that there has been a request from the Administration for Council to vote on it this evening and was there any objections to that. Seeing none, they are going directly to R52.

Mr. Bennington asked Ms. Giguere to come up and explain the urgency of the process.

Ms. Giguere stated because many of the RACP projects are being processed quickly due to the end of the administration, they are asking that they approve the resolution so that the process can begin for the application. They already received a release letter of \$2.5 million, but the state will not act on it until they receive the resolution.

Ms. Eichenwald asked does this bind them in any way to this project.

Ms. Giguere stated that because it is a reimbursement, it does not appropriate any funds. The only purpose of the resolution is strictly to give approval for submission of the application. It does not bind them to the project.

Ms. Eichenwald asked if for some reason they did not go ahead with the project would there be any consequences.

Ms. Giguere stated not financially.

Ms. Eichenwald asked any way at all.

Ms. Giguere stated that as long as they did not spend any money that is correct.

Mr. Schweyer stated that he spent the last two days at the capitol watching boxes being packed and offices being moved. He would like to assure both members of the public and his colleague that the need to expedite all grants get signed contracts prior to this administration is paramount. He stated that he has questions yet to be answered on this one. He stated that it only binds money to the project, not the city to the project. If they do not use it for this project, it goes back to the Commonwealth and he stated that Ms. Giguere worked with a number of RACP projects and knows the project more than he does. He stated that they will be accurate in their accounting and make sure that the money will only be used for this purpose should it be approved by all interested parties.

Mr. Donovan stated that he wants to make sure that this does not bind them. He stated that they do have their guess here tonight and he apologizes for sitting through democracy in action. He stated that he would as future reference to Mr. Bennington that the administration should be looking at other expertise such as people involved in chemistry, chemical processes and etc. He still is not convinced of the black box side even though he read some compelling arguments about it and reads the documents that are provided to him. He stated that he is not an engineer or scientist. He stated that since Council will be voting on this they have to be

convinced and the person they hired was a mechanical engineer not a scientist or chemical engineer. He would want to do more due diligence on the technical side of the project before he would say yes and they can figure out a way to get that information. He is looking ahead and once they get the grant money in, they have to make a decision of do they go ahead as a city.

Mr. D'Amore stated that they should mention in the Resolution that the City of Allentown is the project administrator and that designation was done by Mr. Bennington and that is part of the guarantee that they have that this is not an authorization. It allows the city to continue their consideration and this need to go forward.

Mr. Van Arden stated that they from Delta Thermo Energy come there tonight with members of the International team which are experts in the field to offer the City of Allentown the best and most innovative ideas in order to transform the City of Allentown waste disposal system. They have been working with the city for over a 1 ½ years in order to customize and tailor their solutions with the city's needs. Their goal is to provide Allentown with clean energy and an environmentally green alternative by eliminating the city's waste while providing new Green job opportunities. In the process they have secured grant monies from the federal and state governments for Allentown for this specific project which will defray the risks and costs to the city. It is their hope that the City Council will be proactive and forward-thinking to act expeditiously so that the grant money now a total of \$5.5 million can be applied to the project as soon as possible. After all in this year of financial crisis this project alone will save the city \$4.5 million in the first year of operations based on the proposal that they submitted to the city at this time.

Mr. D'Amore stated that he wanted to recognize their guest whom came from so far away and who have joined them this evening. He stated that they are honored by their presence.

Mr. Schlossberg echoed Mr. D'Amore statement and appreciates Delta Thermo representatives for coming so far and appreciates their travel. He stated that the country has lost the flare of the big idea and taking a chance and accomplish something good and innovative. He said he supports the project and has questions along with his colleagues. At the end of the day it seems like it is environmentally sound, technologically savvy and will save money and will be a benefit for the environment. This is government innovation at its finest. He wishes they had more projects like this.

Resolution passed, 6 - 0

[R 53 1520 Hanover Sewage Plan Module.DOC](#)
Sewage Plan Module for 1520 Hanover Avenue

Referred to Public Works

[R54 GC CELL TOWER LAND LEASE.DOC](#)
Authorizes the Administration to Sign a ground Lease with SBA Towers for the property under the Golf Course Radio Tower.

Resolution passed, 6 - 0

[R55 CELL TOWER SALE.DOC](#)
Authorizes the Administration to Sell the City-owned Golf Course Radio Tower and Cellular Lease Agreement with Sprint Spectrum, LP located on the Jerome Street Water Tank.

Mr. D'Amore stated that there has been a request from the Administration for Council to vote on it this evening and was there any objections to that. Seeing none, he asked Mr. Hanlon to read into the vote R55 as well. Mr. D'Amore stated as Mr. Bennington stated there is a tie in with the two Resolutions and request for Council to vote on it this evening and asked was it an objection to voting on R55 this evening.

Mr. Bennington stated that the administration has been working on this potential sale for quite some time. Mr. D'Amore and Mr. Donovan have been involved in this process for 4 or 5 months. He stated that what he would like are the two people that worked the hardest and made this thing a go is Ms. Koval and Mr. Hilbert to provide a brief explanation.

Mr. Hilbert stated that they also have with them tonight Nick Pullen from TowerOne. He was the consultant that the city uses in the valuation study that they will go over shortly and he is available to answer any questions that they might have on the process. The presentation is a very quick overview of the project and the process that they followed to get to where they are today. The intent of the project is to evaluate the city's current wireless lease agreements that were held by the city and evaluate the communication towers that are owned by the city and determine if the value of the assets versus the potential future values to the city. In July of this year the city issued an RFP for a consultant to assist with the valuation with their wireless assets with the potential of soliciting proposals to purchase any and all assets identified. It was a non-binding RFP if they chose to go toward they could. If they chose not to go forward there was no risk to the city. The contract would be on a flat fee or commission basis and the city would not be responsible for any payments to the consultants that were hired. The successful bidder in that RFP was Tower One Partners out of Doylestown. The valuation process that they followed identified four city owned tower sites and six wireless leases that the city owned. The first was the tower sites at the east side reservoir which was built in 1984 used basically for public safety. This site is currently in use today for police radio backup and interoperability transmissions during the process they determined that this will not be a commercially viable site. They chose not to include this in the proposal. They looked at the South Mountain Reservoir Tower built in 1984. It was a police and fire receiver site that was decommissioned in year 2000 and that site is currently not in use. The tower was deemed not a commercially viable site and was excluded from the proposal. They looked at the Golf Course radio tower. This tower was built in 1985 as a fire and police receiver site and was decommissioned for that use in year 2000. In 2001, the city entered into a lease with their first wireless carrier since that time the tower was expanded twice from original height of 110 feet to 141 feet which is its current height and current holds four cellular carriers and one wireless backhaul carrier. The city does receive lease rent from all of the carriers. They still own and manage the towers and that is managed by communications since the tower was built in 1985. The other piece that they looked at was an existing cellular lease that is on top of the Jerome Street Water Tank this was a contract that was entered into by the city in 1999 and it is strictly a lease for space on the tower by a cellular carrier and the contract is managed by the water department. He stated that they identified the two tower sites and the cellular leases that they were looking to evaluate and in October of this year, the city issued an RFP for the sale of these assets. That will be the actual tower at the Golf Course including the five wireless lease agreements that they hold in addition to the wireless lease agreements on the Jerome Street Water Tank. A requirement of the RFP had a minimum bid price of \$1.1 million. They had five companies that reviewed the proposals and looked at the assets and the city did receive two bids on that proposal with the highest bidder being SBA Communications out of Boca Raton, Florida with a bid price of \$1.14 million. That was the price to the city for those assets. On slide 11 they see the review of the potential 10-year income from their wireless assets. They total \$1.18 million and the leases do have escalators in them. Each one of the leases has different values and escalates at different times with different values. This is the potential income that the city will see over a ten-year period. If you turn to slide 12 you will see if you compare the bid price of the \$1.14 million against the income over the next ten years, it would take almost ten years to realize the income on a yearly basis as they would with the upfront money. The chart does not take into consideration the maintenance that would need to be done on the tower and the fact that the city still owns that tower and would be responsible for it. The city would be responsible for the maintenance of the tower going forward. They did lose out on another carrier to go up on that tower in get additional income because the structural modification that would be required for the tower was so great that the carrier could not foot those bills as other carriers have done when they went on the tower. It would have required the city to make the structural modifications to the tower or provide substantial rent rebates to that carrier to move forward. On the Jerome Street water tank they are simply selling the wireless lease. They are no ground lease issues there

and there are no options for the buyer to add carriers under this lease. Any other carriers that would want to go on that tank would have to negotiate with the city. For the tower at the golf course they would have to enter into the ground lease which is the resolution before council. The ground lease has 3100 square feet and the initial term of that ground lease would be five years with a renewable five year term for a total of thirty year ground lease. The rent initially would be \$100 per month for these five years and after that it will be a fifteen year escalator tied to that Consumer Prices Index for each of the additional five years terms. The buyer would pay all utilities at the site and would carrier a minimum of a \$2 million liability insurance with the city named as a co-insured and they will be responsibility for all the maintenance at the tower and at the site. The buyer would pay any taxes that are applicable do to the fact that the ground lease would be in effect and what they also negotiated in was the ability for the city or the county or the state to utilize the tower as public antennas at no cost to the city. They are asking for Council's support in both of the Resolutions R54 and R55 and the project would be willing to answer any questions they might have on this process.

Mr. Donovan stated that he wants to point out that not only would it take a long time for the city to get the equivalent amount of money of the sale and that assumes no interest what so ever. This deal when you compare the potential of getting the ten lease payment versus getting \$1.14 million today is if they are getting \$236,000 - \$400,000 today. The \$1.14 million is worth more today than the 10 payments in the future.

Mr. Bennington stated that as a former supervisor in Hilltown and a former manager a lot of the cell companies came to them and suggested to pull down the cell tower so the no one knows how many years you will have the cell tower to get lease payments from.

Mr. Schweyer stated that it makes sense and seems like a logical thing to do. He said the question is in regards to the Jerome Street water tank, Mr. Hilbert said it was the contractors' management by the water department. He asked were the revenues generated from that particular cell phone. Do they go to the water fund? He stated that he is assuming that the sale would all go to the General Fund.

Mr. Hilbert stated no they do not. They were all general fund.

Mr. O'Connell stated that the \$1.14 million will be reflected in 2010 budget. He stated nice boost and thank you very much. He stated that he could tell that the team did a lot of work and a lot of research.

Mr. Bennington stated correct.

Mr. Hoffman stated that he just started looking at it today and it is a very interesting transaction. Clearly, the city is not in the Cell Tower business, but what they are doing is giving up a stream of income for 25 years to get a lump sum today. Implicit in that price today is a discount rate assumption of expenses. He stated that he suspects the discount rate is probably higher than the current borrowing rate and certainly higher than the reinvestment rate of .15% on market markets. He stated there are risks to the city if they own it. Business could change and the tower could need improvements. SPA had to figure that into their price.

Mr. Donovan stated that they can discuss the bidding process and why that this was a good price to go with.

Mr. Hilbert stated that Nick can discuss it and that is why they brought TowerOne on-board.

Mr. Nick Pullen with TowerOne thanked them for having him here today and stated that Cell Phone towers are evaluated based on Tower Cash Flow. Tower Cash Flow is your gross revenues, minus your expenses including in those expenses is a set figure for maintenance, insurance, taxes, etc. SBA is publicly traded tower company. They are similar to a Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT) although they are not classified as such and you can trade them on the New York Stock Exchange and they own ten of thousands of towers. They buy it because they want the long run revenue. They are going to take the risk on the carriers even

though they may merge or go bankrupt. They manage ten thousands site. The city has four carriers on the tower and they would do a broadband carrier of TTMI and since the city has four the multiples are in the range of ten to twelve cash flow. He stated with this instance with the Jerome Street lease about \$95,000 income and when they price that at \$1.1 million they own cell phone towers and sold cell phone towers. They had a really good sense of what they could get and what the fair market value was. He stated that is the thing about an eleven or twelve times multiple, for the record most four or five carriers of cell phone towers are selling in the ten to eleven range and this end up being in the eleven to twelve range. When they set that minimum bid price they wanted to be at market rate and they got above market rate. In the long-term of the city it is a tremendous value. It removes you from being in the cell business and alleviates the risks that carries can merge.

Mr. Hoffman stated that they now know how it was calculates, but it still was a discounted rate calculated in it. SBA is apparently very knowledgeable and is assuming the risks they talked abut and they are still paying \$1.140 million. How does Tower One get paid? We are indirectly paying the fee or the sale price would have been higher. He asked what the city will do with the money. He stated that they are effectively borrowing it at 8% or 10%. They talked about the multiples discussed. There is an implicit discount rate. He stated that the city is giving up this future income at 8% and giving up the risks. What are we going to do with the money? He stated that he is not sure if these proceeds are included in the projected budget for 2010. If they take this money which is twenty-five year money and put it in the unappropriated fund balance at .15% at 8% for twenty-five years and it is gone. It has happened in the past and not by intent, but it has happened. In 2006, the city took out a \$10 million loan which they put it in the Risk Management Fund and now they realize that they do not need all that money in the Risk Management Fund and the city spent some of that. Some of it went to the General Fund even though the \$5 million is in a lock box. The city incurred long-term debt and spent the money. It is not a wise long-term thing to do. The city keeps doing it. He stated that if the city is going to sell assets which are productive assets which in the Resolution it states that assets are in no use to the city. He stated that he would suggest the city change that part of the Resolution because they are income producing. He asked what they are going to do with the money. He stated up until tonight he did not have an answer until he saw the mayor put a \$4 million into the reduction of the unfunded liability of the pension fund. He suggested that they do the same thing with this money. Increase the contribution to the pension fund for 2010 and that would effectively work against the 8% implicit earning rate that is in the pension fund analysis. It would be a good long-term investment. Do not put it in the General Fund because it is going to be spent.

Mr. Hilbert stated that the SBA pays TowerOne fees as a separate check.

Dennis Pearson stated that he and Mr. Hoffman has the same thought on the \$1,400,000, but he wanted to give them an example of what it really represents He stated by his personal experience he is on Social Security and went on at age 62. If he would have went on later he would have received more Social Security. He stated for money now it will build up to a point where he will start losing in the future. In 30 years, they will be at the point where they suppose to be and have the money already. He stated that one thing he is confused about is that this sale has not taken place and they are talking about the 2010 budget when they are working on the 2011 budget. He asked are they going to make this retroactive to the 2010 budget or will the money be placed in the 2011 budget.

Mr. D'Amore stated that since they are still in 2010 and part of the reason why the administration wants them to vote on it tonight. If the sale closes in 2010 then it should be booked into 2010.

Mr. Pearson stated as far as revenue side, yes. He stated that Mr. D'Amore cleared up a point that is confusing. He stated to SBA which will be buying the communication works on the Jerome Street Tower should they approve it that they be a good neighbor and during the Christmas Season or Hanukah put up a candle decoration up on the water tower.

Mr. D'Amore stated that they will go on record stating that they would like to make that request. He stated that on that the east side property there will be consideration of holiday décor during the holiday season.

Mr. Hilbert stated that he will check with the FAA to make sure that there is no violation.

Mr. Bennington asked Mr. Hilbert to make points in reactions to Mr. Hoffman's comments.

Mr. D'Amore stated that in light of Mr. Hoffman's comments he was going to ask Mr. Marchetto a procedural question; it will help them have an intelligent conversation. He stated that there are no designations in either of these resolutions where this money is going to go, and therefore if it continues to be no designation in the resolution, the money would go in the general fund and would be booked as revenue and effectively that is what will happen to it. With the exception of ten percent which already has been designated for paying down the debt by a council ordinance. He asked if this qualifies.

Mr. Marchetto stated correct, it will be revenue for 2010.

Mr. Bennington stated that this will be for property itself. He stated that they are leasing the property; it will be the sale of the antenna on the lease property.

Mr. D'Amore stated that they are leasing the ground, but selling that structure but the structure is the property. He asked does the council ordinance of ten percent of the gross sale apply to this case. He stated that he thought it did.

Mr. Marchetto stated in regards to the lights on the tower is that his understanding is all they are doing is selling the lease of the current antenna up there. SBA will not have the authority to go on the tower to do anything else unless the city permitted them to and it is still a publicly owned tower so they may have a first amendment issues about putting certain types of decorations.

Mr. D'Amore stated that he noted that it should be a Holiday and that it should be a request.

Mr. Hilbert stated that is the price to us. TowerOne's fee is not included in that number. SBA pays Tower One's fees as a separate check.

Mr. D'Amore asked Mr. Marchetto is it any designation on the resolutions to say where the money will go. If there continue to be no designation the money will continue to go into the general fund and will be booked as revenue. With the exception of ten percent which has been designated for paying down the debt from the Council Ordinance. Does this qualify? He asked are they leasing the ground and selling the structure. Does the Council Ordinance of the ten percent of the gross sale apply in this case?

Mr. Bennington stated that he does not think so. They are leasing the property. It will be the actual sales of the antenna on the lease property.

Mr. D'Amore stated that he understands and that is why he noted that it should be a holiday and it should be a request. He stated Mr. Marchetto that the sell will be booked as revenue if the council ordinance applies and if it does not then it does not. He asked if the sale will be booked as revenue and effectively there is nothing they can do and if they amend the resolution it would change that. They would have to pass an ordinance to allocate that money.

Mr. Marchetto stated that is correct if it is additional revenue that has not been budgeted you will have to appropriate it and if they are running a deficit this in year's revenue is the extra revenue already appropriated because of the deficit situation.

Mr. D'Amore stated that one of the aspirations of the administration is that the shortfall in revenue that they are likely to see would be made up with the property sale and money that has been allocated and spent over the revenue (it was the problem last year. It was an overspending and a lack of revenue below what was anticipated). Spending has not been in line of what has been allocated and the revenue is not and booking this as revenue would cover that shortfall. If they decide to redirect this money they will still have to cover the shortfall.

Ms. Eichenwald stated that even though she wants the sale to go through, she takes Mr. Hoffman's suggestion to heart. She asked Mr. Marchetto how they can sell, take the revenue and then protect it from going into the general fund to meet the deficit.

Mr. Marchetto stated that will be a finance question. He said that he could tell her if what they are doing comports with the ordinances, charter and how financial things work, but how to allocate the funds or make it go into the pension fund. He stated that he is unclear of what she is asking of how they can make it happen. He asked Ms. Eichenwald where she wants to put it. Is it new money that you want to appropriate?

Ms. Eichenwald stated that she wants the sale to go through, but she wants to protect that money from going into the General Fund.

Mr. Marchetto stated that would be an issue of the appropriation money. He stated that is what he has been trying to say to President D'Amore. He does not have a specific answer for them since they are running a deficit. The question is if the money is already spent or is it funds that you have to appropriate.

Mr. D'Amore stated that it is safe to say that is the goal and achieve at this moment. He stated that if it is the will of Council that is not something they can do at the moment.

Mr. Marchetto stated that the sale can go through the money could come in and be booked for 2010 or how the function can happen later.

Mr. Eichenwald stated that they would have to reopen the budget.

Mr. Marchetto stated that no, it will be the 2010 budget. It would be when you get other monies in such as the IronPigs tonight that came in for a purpose for an allocation.

Ms. Eichenwald stated that the money is now in the general fund. She stated that they get the check and they put it in the general fund.

Mr. Marchetto stated that the question is how it gets spent after the money gets put in the general fund. Once it gets into the general fund the answer is predicated on the question of whether or not it is spent because of the deficit.

Mr. Hilbert stated that there is no guarantee that the carriers on the towers now will be there five years from now. He stated that Mr. Pullen indicated that several years ago they lost a deal with another carrier because they merged. They lost roughly \$18,000 a year in revenue. These carriers can merge or change their footprints and decide that this tower site is not advantageous to them and they are simple out the revenue. They already are dealing with a twenty-six year old tower. This tower is going to need maintenance. Ten years from now they will have a thirty-six year old tower. There is going to be maintenance cost and a possibility that the tower has to be replaced. He stated that Mr. Donovan mentioned earlier that it is a lack of investment.

Mr. Donovan stated that Mr. Hoffman raised some very important points that he has also raised for discussion stating that they are basically borrowing against the future. There are a couple of issues here one they were mergers, the question is if they would be able to negotiate higher rates. There is an issue that data is becoming more important and valuable than audio. There is a question if they should be in the game or not. He stated that if he had a crystal ball and would know what would happen in ten or thirteen years yes, the deal does not look as good. There is also an issue that they are running a deficit. He stated that two years ago or three years ago he raised a point that they needed to raise revenue in order not to go into a deficit and they did not and the mayor ignored it and he was very vocal about that and they are probably going to have a deficit this year and there is question of closing the gap. He stated that he feels for Mr. Hoffman about is this money and should they be using other sources or close the gap. In this particular case and closing the gap and they do not know what is going to happen five, seven or eight years from now, he thinks it is appropriate to sell. He stated that like they were selling other real estate property that until they get their act together with proper revenue stream, it is important to close the gap. They do not have much more room in the General Fund balance. They are in their pension fix and \$1 million is not going to significantly change pension fix, but it will help them close the gap.

Mr. D'Amore stated to Mr. Hoffman that in the grand scheme of things that he is probably correct, but the reality of the situation is they spent more than they anticipated. That money has to come from somewhere either that sale or the bank account. It does not seem that useful to pull it out of the bank account if they do not have to. This is not a case of over-spending. The spending has been adhere to. This is a case of under realization of revenue. There is nothing they can do about it. The revenue projection they accepted as part of the budget. Even they close the gap with this or close the gap with something else, but the gap will close.

Resolution passed, 6 – 0

Mr. Donovan asked how many towers do the city own. He asked did SBA own one thousand and said for them what will happen if some reason strategically that this tower became feasible they can absorb that and that is the issue of finance here. Why are they willing to pay that and why they are willing to take the risk? It is one of ten thousand and the probability of ten thousand going dead at one time would not be there. He stated that is why for the city to take that risk with one and the city do not necessary want to do that get the money upfront.

Mr. Hilbert stated that they own three towers.

15. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Schweyer stated that when they speak to Mr. Young they are paying for Hanover Avenue renovations from Bridge to Graham Street and they have talked in length and at several public hearings about improvements for the rest of the way. It is part of the capital budget. He asked if during the capital budget presentation Mr. Young will present something or at the very least can they have further conversations because there is an issue with traffic transfer at the city line with Bethlehem specifically turning left.

Mr. Bennington stated that he was not sure it is in the Capital.

Mr. D'Amore stated Mr. Marchetto that Council received from the mayor budget memo #2 and unlike budget memo #1 this one has changes to his proposal. Considering the process they used in the previous years and the precedence that has been established do they not have to take a vote to it to accept this budget memo as they did in the past?

Mr. Marchetto stated that if you accepted the budget because the budget process starts two months before the final year that any of the budget memos that are attached become part of the original budget that the mayor

has submitted and they get subsumed in the final disposition of the budget. He stated just how they did the original budget.

Mr. D'Amore feels that this is why they have to formally accept that.

Mr. Marchetto stated just as they did with the original budget, that is fine.

Mr. D'Amore asked Mr. Hanlon if this is something that they did in the past.

Mr. Hanlon stated correct of what they did last year.

Mr. D'Amore asked if they do become part of the mayor's proposal.

Mr. Donovan stated that looking at the charter and he is quickly looking at this at 130.05 the paragraph that says the mayor may propose an amendment of the original amendment and that is what this recommends. It is amendments to the mayor's original proposed budget. Any amendment that increases a tax rate or fee should be part of the original budget provided city council approves each amendment by five and none of these makes that change. He stated that other mayoral amendments that do not increase the tax rate or fees should become part of the original budget provided council approves each amendment by four votes.

Mr. Schweyer put forth a motion to accept the revised budget memo 1 and budget memo 2.

Mr. Donovan seconded the motion.

Passed 6 – 0

16. GOOD AND WELFARE

Mr. Donovan thanked every one for staying for the entire meeting.

17. ADJOURNED 9:10 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.