



Allentown

435 Hamilton Street
Allentown, Pa. 18101

Minutes - Final

City Council

Wednesday, June 15, 2022

6:30 PM

Council Chambers

Invocation:

Pledge to the Flag

Roll Call

Present: 7 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Joshua Siegel, and Natalie Santos

Courtesy of the Floor

Courtesy and Privilege of the Floor Rules

Mr. Dan Bosket, 523 - 525 N. Seventh Street, stated that he was curious. He attended the groundbreaking for Valania Park last week. He drove by once and then again today just to make sure that he saw it. The larger shade trees that were already there were actually cut down. It is kind of odd that you are creating more greenspace, but then you take it away. Was there a reason the larger shade trees were taken out?

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that he had an opportunity to speak with Ms. El Chaar before the meeting and she explained that they could not be kept because of the plans. She tried, but there was no possible way to do it. He stated that he is disappointed himself because those trees or any tree at that age is hard to replace.

Mr. Dan Bosket stated that he grew up in that neighborhood at 5th and Union Streets. He is assuming some of those trees were there when he was younger.

Ms. Natalie Santos asked Mr. Hendricks if he knew if they were going to be replaced by new trees.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that he believe they will. He stated that the city's ordinance call for it. When a tree is taken down, it has to be replaced. It may not be in the same location. It is because of the way of the design of the park is at this time. They were not able to keep them. That is what he was told. He doesn't believe they will be the same size when they go up.

Ms. Aline Rodriguez Gonzalez, 1645 W. Linden Street, stated that she

wants to petition for a three way stop sign at the intersection at West and Linden Streets by William Allen High School. Also, speed limit signs for school hours for 15 MPH. In the eight years that she has lived here, she has witnessed numerous accidents that have happened because coming out of the alleyways from people who live there and people that are crossing. We can't see people coming out of the intersection. We also have people coming up from Linden Street since the last traffic signal is on 15th Street. There is no other one until 17th Street. They try to come from 15th Street all the way down to make it through the last light on 17th Street. They are speeding and it is causing numerous accidents. Two weeks ago, there was a devastating accident and it flipped the car over onto the sidewalk almost entering a porch to a home. It would be add more safety for the neighbors that live there as well as the students that are coming out of the school because they are coming out at various times during the day. Even in the summer when they have summer school or programs as well.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that they will send that to the Public Works Department. He stated you can talk to Mr. Shahda about her concerns and he will work with you.

Contract Approvals: NONE

Minutes of Previous Meeting

[15-5122](#) May 25, 2022 City Council Special Meeting - ARPA Discussion Minutes

Attachments: [May 25, 2022 City Council Special Meeting - ARPA Discussion Minutes](#)

Yes: 7 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Joshua Siegel, and Natalie Santos

[15-5130](#) June 1, 2022 City Council Special Confirmation Hearing Minutes - Public Works Director

Attachments: [June 1, 2022 City Council Special Confirmation Hearing - Public Works Director](#)

Yes: 7 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Joshua Siegel, and Natalie Santos

Communications

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that pursuant to our Ethics Disclosure provisions, Councilperson Zucal in an email on June 2nd noted he had a brief conversation with members of the Syrian Arab American Club in regards to the Iron Pigs and their potential for our ARPA. The only question that was asked of Mr. Zucal was did the vote take place last night his answer was no and they ask that, if possible he update them when it will appear next. (Conflict of Interest: Mandatory disclosure. Officials and employees who

have had communications of any kind with individuals or entities seeking to do work for the City, or seeking to receive government funds, must disclose those communications to the City Clerk prior to the government taking action in designating who will conduct the service, receive the contract or receive the funds. Such disclosure will take place on an electronic or paper form or process to be prepared jointly by the Administration and Council.)

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that it was not required for him to do the disclosure because the Syrian American Club is not asking for any money. The only reason why he disclosed it because the term the IronPigs used.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach asked Ms. Mota a question that posed to the Council Solicitor Smith about having these public conversations. We know that some of us have disclosed or revealed that we had conversations with organizations and people that are interested in receiving funding. Mr. Zucal did not even know that he did not have to. She asked if there is a way that Council can really press this. She stated that they are getting close to making allocations. From an ethical standpoint. Do we have a list of all the disclosures.

Attorney Charles Smith stated that the procedure in place is that they decided to make disclosures via email to the City Clerk. He stated that he is sure Mr. Hanlon maintains a record of that. He asked is that accurate Mr. Hanlon.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that it is accurate. He stated that they are referred to Communications so there is actually a public record.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach asked if the administrations disclosures are also a part of that.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that whatever he receives he has given Council.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach asked how can they push the issue. How can we know that the administration and Council are all very transparent of who we had conversations with.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that is really difficult. If you are transparent person, you will disclose it. Who will be there next to you to hear that conversation? It is all up to the individual to make sure that the person is honest enough and is open enough to disclose that conversation.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated 100 percent. They are not going to go around and giving people lie detector tests. She does think it is important whatever could be possible at the Solicitor's level to ensure and help

people that don't know how as be as transparent. Help facilitate that.

Attorney Charles Smith stated that it has been a while since he looked at that. He asked if he could go back and review the procedure and give Council a report. That is probably the best way. He does remember when they made that disclosure requirement, they are in some way on the honor system. He stated that they will see what remedies are in place in the event of a violation.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated only if it is the will of Council. If she is the only one concerned the.

Attorney Charles Smith stated that he is happy to review that.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that Ms. Gerlach is right. This is legislation we passed. Are there consequences if Council finds out that someone was having these conversations and not disclosing. This isn't just, we should do this. This is legislation that we passed.

Attorney Charles Smith stated right. He asked for a chance to review and he will provide Council with an overview of the requirements and what if any remedies there are in event that someone failing to need their responsibilities. Rather than getting it wrong, he will take a look.

Ms. Cynthia Mota thanked Ms. Affa, Ms. Gerlach and Attorney Smith.

Old Business

Councilperson Affa plans to make a motion to untable Bills 39 and 40, refer them the council's special meeting on ARPA funding on July 13 and to discuss expanding council's suggested categories to include tourism and entertainment.

No Motion Made by Councilperson Candida Affa

[15-5103](#)

Bill 39

Amending the 2022 ARPA Fund Budget to provide for a transfer of One Million Five Hundred Thousand (\$1,500,000) Dollars to Da Vinci Science City, LLC.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 39 \\$1.5m ARPA to Da Vinci](#)

[15-5102](#)

Bill 40

Amending the 2022 ARPA Fund Budget to provide for a transfer of One Million Five Hundred Thousand (\$1,500,000) Dollars to Coca Cola Park for COVID-19 Safety Improvements.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 40 \\$1.5 M ARPA - COCA COLA PARK](#)

REPORTS

Special Council Meetings: Council held a special meeting on June 8th on ARPA funds and has scheduled another meeting for June 22nd at 5:45 PM to take testimony on from experts regarding homelessness.

Budget and Finance: Chair Siegel, Hendricks, Santos

The Committee has not met since the last Council meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for June 22 at 5:30 PM.

Community and Economic Development: Chair Gerlach, Siegel, Mota

The Committee met on June 8th and referred one item on tonight's agenda; the next meeting is scheduled for July 20th prior to the council meeting to discuss the HARB denial being introduced this evening.

Human Resources, Administration and Appointments: Chair Santos, Hendricks, Siegel

The Committee has not met since the last council meeting; there are no future meetings scheduled at this time.

Parks and Recreation: Chair Affa, Gerlach, Santos

The Committee met this evening; there are no future meetings scheduled at this time.

Public Safety: Chair Hendricks, Zucal, Affa

The Committee has not met since the last council meeting; there are no future meetings scheduled at this time.

Public Works: Chair Zucal, Affa, Hendricks

The Committee met this evening; there are no future meetings scheduled at this time.

Rules, Chambers, Intergovernmental Relations and Strategy: Chair Mota, Zucal, Gerlach

The Committee has not met since the last council meeting; we are going to schedule a meeting to review the changes to council's rules.

Controller's Report (3 minutes)

NONE

Mayor's Report (3 minutes)

NONE

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE (To be Voted On):

[15-5098](#)

Bill 37 Public Works

Amending the 2022 Capital Fund Budget to provide for a transfer of One Hundred Nineteen Thousand Five Hundred and Two (\$119,502) Dollars from Capital Project 2005 – Jefferson Street Road Diet and Flasher to capital project 1225 Traffic Signals – Upgrade Various.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 37 Capital Project Transfer](#)

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if there any questions from the dais.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated only from the committee. It was send favorably to Council from the committee.

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if there were any questions from the public.

Yes: 7 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Joshua Siegel, and Natalie Santos

Enactment No: 15818

[15-5099](#)

Bill 38 Parks and Recreation

Amending the 2022 Capital Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Six Hundred Ninety (\$ 690.00) Dollars from Hijinx Brewing Company toward the construction of Phase 2 of the Jordan Skatepark project.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 38 HIJINX BREWING COMPANY DONATION](#)

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if there were any questions from the dais.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that it moved favorably with a 3 - 0 vote to Council.

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if there were any questions from the public.

Yes: 7 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Joshua Siegel, and Natalie Santos

Enactment No: 15819

[15-5101](#)

Bill 42 Community and Economic Development

Amending the 2022 General Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Eighteen Thousand (\$18,000) Dollars from the PA Department of Health, Prescription Drug Monitoring/Overdose 2 Action for continued support of the part-time Opioid Prevention Administrative Coordinator position.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 42 PA DOH OPIOID Grant](#)

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked Ms. Gerlach.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that this will allow for the continued data collection for the opioid use. It was forwarded favorably to Council.

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if there were any other questions from the dais or the public.

Yes: 7 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Joshua Siegel, and Natalie Santos

Enactment No: 15820

CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if anybody had any issues and want to take something off the Consent Agenda. She asked if there were any questions from the dais or the public.

Yes: 7 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Joshua Siegel, and Natalie Santos

[15-5116](#)

R92
COUNCIL OF YOUTH
Natalie Santos
Term Expiration: 12/31/2022

Attachments: [R92 Appointment Council of Youth - Natalie Santos](#)
[Resolution #30451](#)

Enactment No: 30451

[15-5070](#)

R93
Sewage Planning Module at 2955 Ithaca Street Development - confirms there is capacity for this project.

Attachments: [R93 2955 Ithaca Street Subdivision - Sewage Planning Module](#)
[Sewer Planning Module - 2955 Ithaca Street](#)
[Resolution #30452](#)
[Signed 2955 Ithaca Street Sewage Planning Module](#)

Enactment No: 30452

[15-5071](#)

R94
Sewage Planning Module at 1014 Sumner Avenue Land Development - confirms there is capacity for this project.

Attachments: [R94 1014 Sumner Avenue Land Development - Sewage Planning Module](#)
[Sewer Planning Module - 1014 Sumner Avenue](#)
[Resolution #30453](#)
[Signed 1014 Sumner Avenue Development Sewage Planning Module](#)

Enactment No: 30453

[15-5139](#)

R97

Certificates of Appropriateness for work in the Historic Districts: 23 N. 12th St., 319 N. 8th St., 506 N. 5th St., 1015 Oak St., 428 N. 6th St., and 118 W. Turner St.

Attachments: [R97 HARB Resolution June 15](#)
[HARB Final Reviews-June 2022](#)
[Resolution #30454](#)

Enactment No: 30454

RESOLUTIONS FOR FINAL PASSAGE (To be Voted On):

[15-5072](#)

R95

Approves five transfers: (1) \$114,500.00 in Community and Economic Development to reallocate funds for hotel stays for COVID unsheltered and COVID funding for Hispanic Organization for Rental Assistance from Account #700-01-7620-0235-40 (Other Services & Charges), Account #700-01-7620-0211-50 (Civic Expenses), Account #700-01-7620-0205-50 (Civic Expenses) to Account #700-01-7620-0235-50 (Civic Expenses), Account #700-01-7620-0211-40 (Other Services & Charges, Account #700-01-7620-0205-40 (Other Services & Charges); (2) \$32,500.00 to hire a fleet maintenance consultant to look at the cost involved with bringing the fleet maintenance operations back in-house; (3) \$31,598.00 to rebuild and install motor for the elevator in the Public Safety building; (4) \$20,454.00 to cover the cost of the summer intern program run by the City Controller's office; (5) \$9,750.00 to cover the costs of two vaccine refrigerators and two vaccine freezers for the Allentown School District; (6) \$8,500.00 to cover the required additional Traffic overtime for PPL Events and Special Events.

Attachments: [R95 Transfer Funds](#)

[To Cover Cost of the Summer Intern Program Run by the City Controller's office](#)
[Hire Fleet Maintenance Consultant](#)
[Elevator Repair in the Public Safety Building \(Door Motor Needs to be Rebuilt and Installed\)](#)
[Cover the Costs of 2 Vaccine Refrigerators and 2 Vaccine Freezers for the Allentown School District](#)
[Traffic is Required to Work Additional Overtime for PPL Event and Special Events](#)
[Reallocate Fund for Hotel Stays for COVID Unsheltered and COVID Funding for Hispanic Organization for Rental Assistance \(1\)](#)
[Resolution #30455](#)

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if there have any questions from the dais.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that the last one, number 6. Who are we paying the traffic overtime to? He stated that he is going to assume the police.

Mr. Leonard Lightner stated that the overtime is for the street workers. They have to set up the streets and the cones for traffic.

Mr. Ed Zucal asked how many events did that \$8,500 cover.

Mr. Leonard Lightner stated that it is covered from now to the end of this quarter.

Mr. Mark Shahda stated with the increase amount of special events, he foresees another transfer happening later in the year. There are demands for events. They do not really have any other alternatives to cover the overtime costs.

Mr. Ed Zucal asked if PPL contributing to any of this.

Mr. Leonard Lightner stated that PPL has a set amount that they contribute to the city every year. That said amount that the city gets every year is required in the contract through the agreement. There is not an additional funding from PPL to cover that cost.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that he does not know if that is a good plan.

Mr. Leonard Lightner stated that PPL and Special Events cannot do traffic patterns.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that he understands that. What he is saying is if they give you \$8,500 for 60 events and they are having 100 events. That is another 40 events that we are paying for.

Mr. Leonard Lightner stated that it is not for the lack of not trying. The city had the conversation with PPL and we are still having other conversations with them. They know that they have to do something with the upcoming events in the future years. That is a conversation that the city had and will continue to have conversations with them until we get to a point.

Ms. Cynthia Mota thanked Mr. Zucal and Mr. Lightner and asked if there were any questions from the dais.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach asked why doesn't PPL pay this. She asked about Item 1 for the hotels stays for the unsheltered COVID. Where are we numbers wise because COVID hopefully is on the down swing.

Mr. Leonard Lightner stated that he does not have the exact numbers, but can get that to Council as far as how many were placed in hotels over the last year. He stated that they can get those numbers for Council. It is still occurring and they are still having COVID cases and the city still has to provide that shelter for them right now. The funding is there from the COVID dollars from CDBG. As long as we have the funding there and there still is a need, we still going to meet those needs.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that Mr. Lightner may not be able to publicly state this because it is a purchase. Are we going to buy that hotel? Are we looking at buying any hotel?

Mr. Leonard Lightner stated that it is not in Allentown proper. He stated no. He stated that the city talked to hotel owners and had that conversation with them, but there is nothing on the market. Even if we were going to do that we have to have an operational plan on who is going to maintain that. The city is not looking at options. We have to look at the fact of operational costs and who is going to maintain it. Right now, there is nothing on the market for us to consider.

Ms. Cynthia Mota thanked Ms. Gerlach and Mr. Lightner. She asked if there were any other questions from the public.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked how is the city responsible for paying for the refrigerators and freezers for the school district.

Mr. Garry Ritter stated that the funding is grant funded. It is from immunization grants that the city received from the state. The city is working closely with the school district to catch up the hundreds of kids that are behind in their immunizations that includes COVID and any of the

regular required back to school immunizations. Currently, they were able to establish three certified VFCs (Vaccine for Children Clinics) at three schools. It is Allen, Dieruff, and Central. They are working to get clinics in South Mountain and Harris Morton. Those units will go to those schools to assist the school nurses.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated to Mr. Ritter, you are saying that it is grant funded.

Mr. Garry Ritter stated that it is all grant funded.

Ms. Cynthia Mota thanked Mr. Hendricks and asked if there were any questions from the public.

Mr. Dan Bosket, 523 - 525 N. Seventh Street, stated that on item #1 on the transfers his office gets a lot of calls looking for rental assistance. He asked if they are transferring funds that will be paid out through HAO.

Mr. Leonard Lightner stated that is correct.

Mr. Dan Bosket asked for individuals and must it be a COVID related homeless situation.

Mr. Leonard Lightner stated right now, it could be both. It could be COVID, but also it is not a lot of funding. We are having HAO to actually run that program.

Mr. Dan Bosket asked if there is a process or procedures or better to get in touch with HAO to find out what the process is.

Mr. Leonard Lightner stated that the city has the process written out so he can talk to Maria Quigney. She can get him the information and connect him with HAO.

Yes: 7 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Joshua Siegel, and Natalie Santos

Enactment No: 30455

[15-5132](#)

R96

Cancels the July 6, 2022 Council Meeting

Attachments: [R96 Cancels July 6th Council Meeting](#)

[Resolution #30456](#)

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if there were any questions from the dais or the public.

Yes: 7 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Joshua Siegel, and Natalie Santos

Enactment No: 30456

ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION (To be referred to Committee with public comment prior to referral)

[15-5083](#)

Bill 43

Providing for the vacation of North Peach Street from the centerline of Cedar Street to its North Terminus in the Eighth Ward of the City of Allentown:

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 43 Peach Street](#)

[Peach Street Staff Report](#)

[Letter from Mike Hanlon regarding N. Peach Street from the intersection with W. Cedar Street to the intersection with Sumner Avenue](#)

[ACPC Action - Peach Street](#)

[Staff Report Vacation of Peach Street Staff Report 01.27.22](#)

[Peach Street from Centerline of Cedar Street to its North Terminus](#)

[Letter from Lehigh Valley Planning Commission regarding N Peach Street - Street Vacation](#)

REFERRED TO PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if there were any comments from the dais or the public.

[15-5134](#)

Bill 44

Amending the 2022 Capital Fund Budget to allocate Sixty-Two Thousand Six Hundred Twenty-Six Dollars and Fifty Cents (\$62,626.50) from the unappropriated balance of the Golf Course Fund to the Golf Grounds Maintenance budget and Golf Capital Projects budget.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 44 Golf Course](#)

REFERRED TO PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if there were any comments from the dais or the public.

[15-5135](#)

Bill 45

Amending the 2022 General Fund Budget to appropriate Twelve Thousand (\$12,000) Dollars from the unappropriated General Fund balance to Parks Maintenance General Fund account. Funds are needed to cope with the

rising costs of heating oil, fuel, and other petroleum-based lubricants.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 45 Parks Funds 6-15-22](#)

REFERRED TO PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if there were any comments from the dais or the public.

[15-5137](#)

Bill 46

Amending the 2022 Trexler Fund and Capital Fund Budgets to provide for a transfer of Fifty Thousand (\$50,000) Dollars from the Trexler Fund to the Capital Fund to provide the additional funds needed to complete the Valania Park Capital Project.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 46 Valania Fund 6-15-22 - FINAL](#)

REFERRED TO PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if there were any comments from the dais or the public.

[15-5131](#)

Bill 47

Renaming of the alleyway, Frederick Street which is located at the rear of the Patriots Building "Moonie Trexler Way". The request is from Allentown Patriots.

Sponsors: Administration, Affa, Hendricks, Mota, Mr. Siegel and Mr. Zucal

Attachments: [Bill 47 Renaming of the Alleyway on Frederick Street to Moonie Trexler Way](#)
[Bill 47 Moonie Trexler Way](#)

REFERRED TO PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if there were any comments from the dais or the public.

RESOLUTIONS FOR INTRODUCTION (Can be voted on or Referred to Committee):

[15-5140](#)

R98 CEDC, Chairperson Gerhach, forwarded favorably Denial of a Certificate of Appropriateness for the proposed style of windows at 617 N. 6th Street

Attachments: [R98 HARB Resolution to DENY - 617 N 6th St](#)
[617 N 6th Final Review](#)

REFERRED TO COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

COMMITTEE

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if there were any comments from the dais or the public.

NEW BUSINESS: NONE

GOOD AND WELFARE: NONE

ADJOURNED: 7:02 pm

[15-4437](#)

Council Rules
Home Rule Charter
Contract Procedures

Attachments: [HOMERULE June 2021](#)
[Council Rules March 2021 Edition](#)
[Contracts \(4\)](#)
[Ethics, Code of \(7\)](#)