



Allentown

435 Hamilton Street
Allentown, Pa. 18101

Minutes - Final

City Council

Wednesday, February 1, 2023

6:30 PM

Council Chambers

Invocation:

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked that everybody keep in mind, the city lost two employees this past week in the city of Allentown. He stated that a former retired Inspector, Thomas Schray had approximately 20 years with the city as an Electrical Inspector and from the Police Department, former EMT and Para Police William Mentosana, who was approaching 49 years of service. He asked that everyone please, keep them in their thoughts.

Pledge to the Flag

Roll Call

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

Courtesy of the Floor

Courtesy and Privilege of the Floor Rules

Ms. Dawn Godshall, Community Action Development in Allentown - 523 N. Seventh Street, asked that as the city finalizes the final distribution for the remaining ARPA funds that they continue to see a youth center in Allentown. She asked for a financial commitment from the city.

Ms. Betty Cauler, talked about oversight for the Allentown Parking Authority and talked about Officer 506. She stated that she retained a lawyer and will pursue legal action against the APA and the city of Allentown. She asked for the removal of Mr. Hendricks from the Parking Authority Board. She asked for an apology from Ms. Affa for the rude and condescending remarks she made.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks read a statement regarding the Allentown Parking Authority having a quarterly evening meeting that will start in the near future.

Ms. Milagros Canales, 932 N. Law Street, talked about the value system. She talked about community and playground shootings shaking the public to its core. She stated that city needs all hands on deck.

Ms. Jessica Lee Ortiz, 523 Tilghman Street, stated she started a Call to Action to sign Petitions for a Special Meeting according to the Charter.

She stated that she does not want to be a part of the club where her kids are in the ground. She stated that the city is not safe.

Mr. Eddie Aviles, 209 N. Fourth Street, stated that he is here to talk about how to help businesses stay open and stay safe. He stated that the city has not cooperated with the clubs and deemed them undesirable. He asked the city to make the police available to make their presence felt. He stated that he wishes and prays that Ms. Gerlach will resign.

Mr. Lance Lopsey, 779 E. Washington Street, stated that he is here as a father, a husband, and an Allentown resident for over 37 years. What he is seeing in Allentown is Pay to Play going to the Dominican Republic, signing the city up as a Sister City, giving certain people special rights and special amounts of money to stop gun violence. He stated that we need to stop all the violence. He stated that we have a mayor who is disappearing with a board member to make deals. We have a person on this board that dropped a teenager off to a tent city. We are giving all this money and there are no resolutions at all.

Ms. Jeani Garcia, 208 S. 13th Street, stated that she is a mother with a dead son in this city and would never come before Council and represent herself like that. She talked about the businesses, the community and the violence in the city. Crime is down by five percent in the city. Promise Neighborhoods canvasses the streets and the schools for prevention and response.

Mr. Pas Simpson, 215 N. Ninth Street, stated that this was a little disappointing. At the end of the day our leaders do not know how to lead. You can't end gun violence if you can't sit down and be quiet. It is about violence prevention.

Mr. Dave Derosa, 1216 W Turner Street, stated that he is a high school student. This city requires passion instead of pointing fingers. If we teach our students that is how it works, that is not something to be taught.

Mr. Tim Ramos, 1408 Linden Street, stated that David took the words right out of his mouth. The problem is there are a lot of personal gripes and grudges. We seem to not be able to put any of that to the side to get the job done. The people that have lived here for generations can no longer afford to rent rooms in this city.

Mr. Sean Forkid, (sp) 219 1/2 E. South Street, stated that he was invited here to speak. He stated that he owns a lounge. It is crazy when he hears people state to work together and then he sees this nonsense. He opens his lounge for everyone to have a good time. He stated that certain people

owe him an apology because they were wrong with the actions that they stated. He hopes that they can find a solution.

[15-5628](#) Betty Cauler - Courtesy of the Floor (February 1, 2023)

Attachments: [Betty Cauler - Courtesy of the Floor \(February 1, 2023\)](#)

15-5643 Proclamations for the Trench Rescue

A motion was made by Candida Affa, seconded by Ed Zucal, that this Ordinance be Suspend The Rules. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Contract Approvals

[15-5605](#) R30

Authorization for a change order with ABE Doors Inc in the amount of \$35,000 for time and materials contract for on-call, on-site Overhead Door replacement, repair, inspection and maintenance, at various City owned and/or operated facilities. The resulting agreement shall include all labor, equipment, licensing, materials, tools, travel and all other items necessary to complete orders on an "as needed" basis. Services will include but not limited to emergency repairs, preventative maintenance, general repairs, and repairs to springs and tracks, as well as door replacements when necessary.

On September 29, 2022, both parties mutually agreed and entered into an agreement that the contractor will provide a time and materials contract for on-call, on-site Overhead Door replacement, repair, inspection, and maintenance, at various City owned and/or operated facilities. The resulting agreement shall include all labor, equipment, licensing, materials, tools, travel, and all other items necessary to complete orders on an "as needed" basis. Services will include but not limited to emergency repairs, preventative maintenance, general repairs, and repairs to springs and tracks, as well as door replacements when necessary. At this time, the department is requesting an increase in the amount of \$35,000 for A B E Doors and Windows, Inc as there was an increase in services needed to maintain the overhead doors on City properties. Since September, the City has paid out \$33,420.00 of the \$50,000.00 from the original contract.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R30 Change Order](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any questions, comments or concerns from Council.

Mr. Ed Zucal asked if the city a couple of months ago do an RFP for

additional money for them through a Change Order.

Ms. Sarrah McNeill stated that the RFP was submitted for \$50,000. The city has to do a little bit more repairs than they were expecting. To date, they paid \$33,000.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that it seems like they are always coming to Council for these repairs.

Mr. Mark Shahda stated that he understands their concerns for additional funding that is being requested. The city has 79 total garage doors that they are responsible to maintenance throughout the city. There is hardware that has aged and requires a lot of maintenance.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Mr. Shahda and Mr. Zucal.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach asked for this contract and the remaining contracts are any minority or women businesses.

Ms. Sarrah McNeill stated that she was going to address it with the next contract coming up.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any questions or comments, questions or concerns from the public.

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

Enactment No: 30582

[15-5607](#)

R31

Authorization for Contract with FIA NYC, Inc., to provide recruitment services in the amount of 25% of the gross annual salary of each employee placed per contract year.

The City advertised the solicitation on December 7, 2022, seeking a qualified firm to provide recruitment services, preferably a firm that is experienced in placing diverse underrepresented talent, in order to expedite the hiring process for City vacancies. On December 21, 2022 a public opening was held for which the City received five (5) proposals. The technical evaluation was held on January 4, 2023, 1:00 PM. All committee members were present. The Proposals were scored based on the RFP requirements, IBE Preference (10 Points), Ability to Meet RFP Requirements (25 Points), Specialize in Diversity (25 Points), Recruitment Methodology (25 Points). Cost proposals were opened on January 4,

2023. Proposals were distributed to all committee members via Teams for evaluation after the completion of the technical evaluation. The cost evaluation committee meeting occurred on January 6, 2023, 10:00 AM. All committee members were present. The committee members discussed the cost proposals. The evaluation committee has decided to not hold oral interviews for this project. They have decided based on the Technical and Cost Proposal scores.

The Contract term shall commence upon full execution and shall cease one (1) year thereafter. Upon written agreement, this contract may be extended for up to an additional four (4), one (1) year renewals beyond the contract expiration period.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R31 FIA NYC, LLC](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any questions, comments or concerns from his colleagues.

Mr. Ed Zucal asked if this will be for every employee that they do a background on or a specific department.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated that he will be able to use this contract to hire for a specific position. The one position that remains open is for the Director of Human Resources. They are asking for assistance from FIA NYC for recruitment.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that was going to be his follow up question. With all the experience that we have in the city, he finds it impossible that they can't come up with a committee with different people to do a background.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated that this is not just for background.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that the city should be able to come up with a committee of different department heads with Deputy Directors as a team.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated that the administration needs additional help. The administration needs outside help in this case. The specific position for HR Director was posted in August of this year. They had 21 applicants and none of which met the qualifications.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any other questions, comments or concerns from his colleagues or the public.

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

Enactment No: 30583

[15-5608](#)

R32

Authorization for a contract with Ross Body & Framework, Inc. dba A-1 Towing Service to provide towing, storage and impounding services to the City of Allentown.

On December 9, 2022, the City advertised a solicitation Towing Services, the intention of this Invitation to Bid is to secure vendors to provide towing, storage and impounding services to the City of Allentown, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The City shall at all times receive priority service. Work under this project shall include locked, fence-enclosed lighted compound area, preferably attended for security purposes. The Contract term shall commence upon full execution of said Contract and shall cease December 31, 2024, with an option to renew for one (1) additional year. Upon written notification, this contract can be extended for up to an additional three (3) months beyond the contract expiration period. On January 5, 2023, there was a public opening held, one (1) bid was received. Upon review of the bid it was determined that Ross Body & Frame Works was the only bid and therefore at this time the City is recommending award to Ross Body & Frame Works.

General Fund for City Vehicles: Budget of \$4,000.00 – Contractor tows City vehicles at one-half the rates established in the bid
Towing Services for the Year 2023: \$303,600.00
Towing Services for the Year 2024: \$318,780.00
Total Revenue for 2023-2024 Towing Services: \$622,380.00

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R32 Ross Body & Frame Work](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any questions, comments or concerns from his colleagues.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that these amounts that you see is that they are paying us, the city to have this contract.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any other questions, comments or concerns from his colleagues or the public.

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

Enactment No: 30584

Minutes of Previous Meeting

[15-5621](#)

October 26, 2022 City Council - Special Meeting on Finance Department Budget Minutes

Attachments: [October 26, 2022 City Council - Special Meeting on Finance Department Budget Minutes](#)

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

[15-5604](#) November 9, 2022 Special Council Meeting on Public Safety Budget Review Minutes

Attachments: [November 9, 2022 Special Council Meeting on Public Safety Budget Review Minutes](#)

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

[15-5614](#) November 14, 2022 Special Council Meeting - Parks and Recreation, Human Resources Budget Review Minutes

Attachments: [November 14, 2022 Special Council Meeting - Parks and Recreation, Human Resources Budget Review Minutes](#)

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

[15-5612](#) December 19, 2022 Special Meeting on Council's Vacancy Minutes

Attachments: [December 19, 2022 Special Meeting on Council's Vacancy Minutes](#)

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

[15-5615](#) January 4, 2023 Public Works Committee Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [January 4, 2023 Public Works Committee Meeting Minutes](#)

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

[15-5603](#) January 4, 2023 Special Meeting on Council Vacancy Minutes

Attachments: [January 4, 2023 Special Meeting on Council Vacancy Minutes](#)

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

[15-5597](#) January 4, 2023 City Council Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [January 4, 2023 City Council Meeting Minutes](#)

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

[15-5594](#) January 18, 2023 City Council Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [January 18, 2023 City Council Meeting Minutes](#)

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

Communications

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that as a result with the Allentown Parking Authority, they will be having quarterly evening meetings that will start in the near future at a time and location to meet the public demand. These meetings will be held in the evening hours to accommodate the public who otherwise might not be able to attend.

Old Business: NONE

APA Meeting Note: President Hendricks

As a result of discussions with the Allentown Parking Authority, they will be having quarterly evening meetings that will start in the near future at a time and location to meet the public demand.

REPORTS

Budget and Finance: Chair Napoli, Hendricks, Gerlach The Committee met this evening; the next meeting is scheduled for February 22 – we are scheduled to have our previous auditors review the CAFR. (Council is responsible for conducting an annual audit per the City Charter, typically it is completed in June. This is late because financial statements relating to the PMRS pension system were not completed.) (Just a note: Councilperson Zucal has also requested the committee solicit areas of concern to be addressed in a ‘forensic’ audit, per a resolution introduced last year Mr. Zucal suggested the following items as areas of concern: ARPA funding, overtime, sick time, out of class pay, etc.)

Community and Economic Development: Chair Mota, Napoli, Affa The committee met this evening; the next meeting is scheduled for February 8th at 6 PM on issues the committee would like to see addressed and priorities the Community and Development Department has.

Human Resources, Administration and Appointments: Chair Santos, Zucal, Napoli The Committee has not met since the last council meeting; there are no future meetings scheduled at this time.

Parks and Recreation: Chair Gerlach, Affa, Mota The Committee has not met since the last council meeting; there are no future meetings scheduled at this time

Public Safety: Chair Affa, Hendricks, Zucal The Committee has not met since the last council meeting; the next meeting is scheduled for February 15th, time to be determined.

Public Works: Chair Zucal, Santos, Hendricks The Committee has not met since the last council meeting; a future meeting has not yet been scheduled.

Rules, Chambers, Intergovernmental Relations, and Strategy: Chair Hendricks, Mota, Gerlach The Committee met this evening; a future meeting is scheduled for February 8th at 6:45 PM to review two items being referred to the Committee this evening.

Controller’s Report (3 minutes)

Mr. Jeffrey Glazier stated that seven years ago, Council and the public put their faith in him and appointed him the City Controller. He stated that he works diligently every

day to keep earning that trust for Council and the public.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that the garage was using P-Cards to purchase stuff and the city transferred \$750,000 over. When will it take place that they are allowed to have accounts.

Mr. Jeffrey Glazier stated that Ms. Patel be able to address this better, but the P-Cards have limits on them, and they are doing fair volume on the garage. They need adequate stock. These purchases will be on the monthly P-Card statements.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated that Mr. Glazier is accurate, and Ms. Baraket reminded him that they are going out to bid.

Mayor's Report (3 minutes)

Mayor Matt Tuerk thanked Mr. Hendricks and congratulated him on being Council President. He thanked the Councilmembers who attended the State of the City Address hosted by the Chambers of Commerce. The administration will conduct two presentations of the State of the City address at no charge. The revenues are seven percent higher than anticipated budget. Expenditures for the city of Allentown were six percent lower. The financial condition of the city, the General Fund balance is over \$32 million and has a good cash position and lead to a good Credit Rating Agencies from A minus to A stable. He talked about the accomplishments in 2022. Gun violence is too high. There is a vacancy on the Parking Authority. He stated that the administration is working with PPL on notifying residents on their bills. The City of Allentown received a \$312,000 grant under the IIJA and the US Government Department of Transportation to plan around street and road safety.

Ms. Natalie Santos asked about the deadline to apply for the Allentown Parking Authority Board.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated that it is a rolling deadline with a deadline of January 31 to have time to look at it.

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE (To be Voted On):

[15-5563](#)

Bill 3

Amending Part II General Legislation, Taxation, Article IV Payment of Property Taxes by updating the language in accordance with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Act 57

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 3 - Act 57 Tax](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any questions, comments or concerns from his colleagues the public.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any questions, comments or concerns from his colleagues or the public.

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

[15-5616](#)

R33
Sewage Planning Module at 417 North 15th Street Adaptive Reuse

Attachments: [R33 417 North 15th Street Adaptive Reuse - Sewage Planning Module](#)
[415-417 N 15th Street - Sewage Planning Module](#)

Enactment No: 30585

[15-5619](#)

R34
Daryl Hendricks, Aggregate Pension Board, 01/01/2024

Attachments: [R34 Appointment to Aggregate Pension Board - Daryl Hendricks](#)

Enactment No: 30586

[15-5620](#)

R35
Daryl Hendricks, Police Pension Board, 01/01/2024

Attachments: [R35 Appointment to Police Pension Board - Daryl Hendricks](#)

Enactment No: 30587

RESOLUTIONS FOR FINAL PASSAGE (To be Voted On):

[15-5580](#)

R29
Denial of a Certificate of Appropriateness – 322 N. 8th Street

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R29 HARB DENIAL - 322 N 8th St](#)
[322 N 8th St Final Review](#)

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that it was forwarded favorably, 3 - 0.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any questions, comments or concerns from his colleagues or the public.

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

Enactment No: 30588

[15-5595](#)

R36

Appoints Mandy Tolino as Director of Parks and Recreation

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R36 Appointment Director of Parks and Recreation Appointment](#)

[Letter Mandy Tolino Dir Parks and Rec](#)

[Mandy Tolino Resume Dir Parks and Rec](#)

[Common administrative procedures. - Heads of departments, offices](#)

[and agencies. - Qualifications. - Prohibitions](#)

[Department of Parks and Recreation](#)

[Heads of departments; duties](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that we have Ms. Tolino here and asked if there were any questions, comments or concerns from his colleagues or the public.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated that one of the things that they are focused on in the State of the City is to invest in talent. He stated when they conducted searched for individuals to step in these leadership positions. They were careful about the approach to make sure they have the right hire. They have the ability to raise of their team and bring them to a new level. He introduced Ms. Tolino.

Mr. Ed Zucal asked what is the salary that is proposed for Ms. Tolino.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated that the administration is asking Council to approve a salary of \$111,000 which is step A of Classification of 21A.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated to Ms. Tolino that they never met. He asked seven questions based on her resume: Family's Vineyard? What is the largest number of employees you managed? It is a bargaining unit facility which involves grievance procedures and employee contracts, what experience do you have? 2023 is \$6.5 million what is the largest budget you are in charge of? He asked if she is familiar with pass through and matching grants? If she had experience with Trust Fund, large scale recreation programs and the Golf Course? You were on the board and committee on that was responsible for a program called the Injustice related to Tree Canopy Program and the Monarch Butterfly is an endangered species. There is a lot of that in our Park System in the city. He asked what experience she had with control of that type of chemical to protect the milkweed.

Ms. Many Tolino stated no, but it is nice to meet you. Similar experience in business with 40. She stated that she does not have direct experience. She stated that she was in charge of a larger budget than that. When she was working for a small business, the operating budget was more than \$6

million. She talked about federal grant for ARC. She talked about a Trust in Delaware. The city of Wilmington has a municipal golf course. She is a certified arborist.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that she stated that she looks at resumes, but she needs to speak to the candidate or the person. She and Ms. Tolino spent several hours and they had a wonderful conversation. Everything Mr. Zucal asked her, she already had. She was impressed by the leadership qualities and recognized the beauty in our parks. She stated that she spoke with Rick Holtzman and he likes you.

Ms. Cynthia Mota welcomed Ms. Tolino and asked if she gets appointed tonight, what would be the first thing she is planning to do. There is a lot of things going on in the city. What would be your main emphasis. Do you have experience with a diverse community.

Ms. Many Tolino stated that she would have a listening session, learning from the people that have been here a really long time and finding out where we are right now. She stated coming up with some immediate goals. She stated that the city of Wilmington was a diverse community, and her role was working with residents for the tree program.

Mr. Santo Napoli stated that they did have an opportunity to meet with Ms. Tolino, Mr. Hendricks, Ms. Gerlach and it was a great meeting. Ms. Tolino brings a wonderful skill set. It is really tough to get the whole package. The entrepreneurial side is one of his favorite because they tend to be problem solvers. He spoke about recreational activities.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any questions, comments or concerns from the public.

Pastor Jim Rivera stated that he used to take kids from the inner city and the first ward for 29 years and got 79 guns off the streets and never put anybody in jail doing it. He took the kids off the streets and took them hiking on Sand Island.

Mr. Pas Simpson stated that he heard a lot of great things from her. What is her plan for the people? We are a community that is highly impoverished and a lot of the things that were planned in the past did not include the people. He loves the trees, but people are here.

Ms. Mandy Tolino stated that the first thing is to recognizing the barriers and if it is financial, it is clear. If it is for another reason, it might take a little longer to figure out for the access.

Mayor Tuerk stated during the State of the City he talked about city hall at large and the efforts of the Manager of Civic Engagement to get out and engage residents on how to improve city services and collaborations.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that what they are looking to do is complete funding for the Irving Street Pool and that would help the eastside residents.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that it is very appropriate to thank Mr. Holtzman for the job he has done for stepping in after Ms. El Chaar left. He stated to Ms. Tolino that with Mr. Holtzman you have education and experience in the city. You have a good second hand to help you.

Pastor Jim Rivera stated that 20 years ago he went to the Parks Department and asked if he could borrow one or two. He stated that they took them and took a bunch of kids and went kayaking and canoeing.

Mr. Tino Babayan stated that he is big on soccer. What is she doing to bring soccer in the city?

Ms. Mandy Tolino stated that she is currently involved in her children's youth sports. There is a lot of interest in soccer, and she has a really good base knowledge to start the discussion and figure out why we need more soccer. If it is a demand in the city, that is the way they should be moving and get feedback from the people.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any other comments.

Mr. Luis Acevedo, 2106 Baker Drive, welcomed Ms. Tolino. He stated that he is a former president from Mountainville Little League Baseball. Unfortunately, Little League Baseball took the Charter away from Allentown. He asked for a conversation to see if they are able to get it back to Allentown.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if anyone had a comment.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks congratulated Ms. Tolino and welcomed her to the city of Allentown.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated that Ms. Tolino's first day will be the 6th. She will start very quickly.

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

Enactment No: 30589

[15-5618](#)

R37

Appointment of the Director of Finance - Bina Patel

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R37 Appointment of Director of Finance](#)

[Bina Patel Resume](#)

[Memo from Mayor Matt Tuerk regarding the Nomination of Bina Patel for Finance Director](#)

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated that he hopes it is much excitement for the appointment of Ms. Bina Patel. Obviously, Ms. Patel is stepping up to the Finance Director's position after a very short time after the departure of Mr. O'Neill. He did a fantastic job in putting a department together in preparing his staff to take over after he was gone. Ms. Patel has been the Treasury Manager for a couple of years now. She is incredibly well equipped. It made the search easy. They did open the search and saw a handful of candidates that did not come anywhere close to Ms. Patel. They had a slightly longer search for the Chief Information Officer position that the administration filled today. That is not an appointment position. They made the hire of Gerald Anthony who is another internal candidate to lead the IT department.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that he has 15 questions for her, but will forego them tonight.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that he did speak to her earlier and she will do everything in her power to make sure we don't have a tax increase next year.

Mr. Santo Napoli stated that he only been here for a short amount of time, but he gotten to know Ms. Patel and worked with her in the last month or so. He finds her to be very qualified and very confident with her position leading the Finance Department which is really important for our residents.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks commended Mayor Tuerk for looking inside for a candidate. She has 15 years with the city. It is important to give our employees the opportunity to move forward with the city.

Ms. Candida Affa thanked Ms. Patel for the work she has been doing for the city. You are good enough to become Director and you will continue to do good work.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that she comes highly recommended and Ms. Patel will continue to do a great job.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any questions, comments, or concerns from the public.

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

Enactment No: 30590

[15-5591](#)

R38

Approves five transfers: \$73,590 in Health for a part-time position - Community Health Nurse/HIV Navigator; \$15,000 in Parks Maintenance for Overtime for special events; \$12,536.08 - Building Standards and Safety for overtime for weekend and overnight call outs; \$12,349.47 – Buildings Standards & Safety for overtime, longevity and shift differential overages due to personnel issues and manpower shortages; \$5,251.75 – Health to correct a negative account to Zero.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R38 Transfer Funds](#)

[Funds Required to Pay for OT Needed Special Events Run by City Staff](#)

[Transfer Will Correct A Negative Account to Zero - Health](#)

[OT To Help Assist 4th Floor with Weekend and Overnigth Call Outs](#)

[Significant Overtime, Longevity and Shift Differential Overages Due to Personnel Issues and Manpower Shortages](#)

[Part Time Position \(#912-001 Community Health Nurse HIV Navigator\)](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Mr. Hanlon and asked if there were any questions, concerns or comments from the dais or the public.

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

Enactment No: 30591

[15-5572](#)

R25

Amends City Council adding and issues relating to inclusion and equity under the jurisdiction of the Community and Economic Development Committee

Sponsors: Gerlach and Mota

Attachments: [R25 CD Jurisdiction](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any questions, comments or concerns from the dais or the public.

Mayor Matt Tuerk thanked City Council for contemplating formally adding Inclusion and Equity into the committee structure. He appreciates Council taking this issue seriously and giving it appropriate level of attention.

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

Enactment No: 30592

[15-4944](#)

R35 Forwarded with a proposed amendment
Amends Council Rule VIII, Voting by requiring a councilperson to submit to council a request in writing for abstaining on a vote prior to the meeting, stating the reason for the abstention pursuant to the local, state and federal statutes and in absent of council approval of such request, the vote shall be recorded in the affirmative.

Amendment: See File, adding this sentence and deleting the provision that turns an abstention into an affirmative vote:

If the abstention is approved by Council, the vote of the abstaining Councilperson shall be recorded as an abstention approved by Council. If the abstention is not approved by Council and the Councilperson does not vote yea or nay, the vote shall be recorded as an abstention not approved by Council

Sponsors: Gerlach, Affa and Mr. Zucal

Attachments: [R35 Council Rules](#)
[Rule Change with Proposed Amd](#)
[Abstention The Unexpected Power of Withholding Your Vote](#)
[Roberts-Rules-Cheat-Sheet](#)
[Rules](#)

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that this goes back a long time ago. It was also an amendment to recording the vote in the affirmative. This was Attorney Smith's recommendation. The request was to do an amendment to this.

Attorney Charles Smith stated that there was some abstention behind treating it as an affirmative vote. In the past, there were members seeking to abstain.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any questions, comments or concerns from the dais or the public.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any questions or comments from the public.

A motion was made by Ce-Ce Gerlach, seconded by Ed Zucal, adding a sentence and deleting the provision that turns an abstention into an affirmative vote:

If the abstention is approved by Council, the vote of the abstaining Councilperson shall be recorded as an abstention approved by Council. If the abstention is not approved by Council and the Councilperson does not vote yea or nay, the vote shall be recorded as an abstention not approved by Council.

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

Enactment No: 30593

A motion was made by Daryl Hendricks that this Resolution be approved as amended. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Enactment No: 30593

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

[15-5624](#)

Bill 4

Amending the 2023 ARPA Fund by transferring One Hundred Thousand (\$100,000) Dollars from the ARPA Fund to the General Fund to develop and evaluate a pilot Credible Messenger Program; and One Million Two Hundred Thousand (\$1,200,000) Dollars from the ARPA Fund to the Capital Fund to cover expenses for the Irving Pool Project.

Attachments: [Bill 4 ARPA Funding Pool and RFP for CMP](#)

[Info/links to various models](#)

[Opportunity--RFP-128-2021-Messenger-Program-06-29-2021-94623 \(1\)](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any questions, comments or concerns from his colleagues.

Ms Candida Affa stated that she would like to make a comment on the Credible Messenger Program. It is a good program and she thinks they should have a PILOT to be overseen by Cedar Crest College to see in a year that the statistics will show that it is working and we have made progress with violent crime.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that idea was that it was \$100,000 not for a Credible Messenger Program, but could be an Interrupter Program or whatever the RFP request gets.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that thought the \$100,000 was for someone to come in and help us develop the RFP and make sure we have the in structure as a city or as a county to actually implement a Credible Messenger Program and have an expert come in.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated that was the intent. The idea was to work with someone for guidelines.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that the guidelines to know how to determine.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that Mr. Hanlon sent on to the Mayor and someone else. This has been done. What the city has been doing is new to us in terms of how the heck do we do this. She asked is this the only ARPA conversation on the 8th is on gun violence.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated no, it all falls under the pool.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that they will have meetings on other things.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that he thought it was an internal agreement to get the ball rolling on the \$1.2 million for Irving Park and get the Credible Messenger or Interrupter Program RFP out there and look at other expenditures as stuff was introduced.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated she certainly shares the concern with the pool and gun violence.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that she thinks the point is that some of the money is needed to go out there and start the programs. She stated to the people on the eastside that they are going to have a pool.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any other comments, concerns or questions or the public.

Ms. Dawn Godshall stated that Community Action has given almost \$100,00 a year to Promise Neighborhoods to run a Credible Messenger initiative. She found out from her predecessor that Reports were not in order. She asked the executive director of Promise Neighborhoods if they were certified Credible Messengers, she was told what difference does it make as long as they were doing the work.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that Council will do their due diligence before anybody is awarded funds for such a program.

Ms. Pas Simpson stated that as the lead Certified Messenger for the State of Pennsylvania, he is a little disappointed. What expertise does Cedar Crest College have to oversee this program. It is keeping a program that is lasting for our community.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that Ms. Affa offered that up as an example. They will do it in conjunction with our Police Department.

Mr. Pas Simpson stated that when they do presentations, let them do it

publicly.

Ms. Jessica Ortiz, 523 Tilghman Street, stated that she appreciates people overseeing and she likes the example. The title says it all, Credible Messenger. There are several individuals who promote Credible Messenger and they are not credible. You have to live here, work here, and invest here. Let's look at who is truly a Credible Messenger in the community.

REFERRED TO RULES, CHAMBERS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL
RELATIONS AND STRATEGY COMMITTEE

[15-5626](#)

Bill 5 Refer to Budget and Finance Committee
Amending the Police Pension Fund Ordinance with various editorial
revisions to enhance its clarity.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 5 Police Pension Ordinance 2023 revision](#)

REFERRED TO BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

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

[15-5625](#)

R39
Street Dedication

Attachments: [R39 - Street Dedication](#)

[Request](#)

[Dedicating City Assets](#)

REFERRED TO RULES, CHAMBERS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL
RELATIONS AND STRATEGY COMMITTEE

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that she wants money to go to affordable housing. How does she get this money from ARPA to go to affordable housing.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that she can talk to him and they can talk about scheduling.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated scheduling or putting it on the agenda like these items were.

GOOD AND WELFARE: NONE

ADJOURNED: 8:37 PM