



Allentown

435 Hamilton Street
Allentown, Pa. 18101

Minutes - Final

City Council

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

6:30 PM

Council Chambers

Invocation:

Pledge to the Flag

Roll Call

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

Courtesy of the Floor - Privilege of the Floor Rules

Please observe the Rules of Council when given privilege of the floor. A copy of the Council Rules can be found on the council agenda on the website. If you would like to speak, we are asking that you fill out a card – they are on the back table provide them to the clerk before speaking. Include your name and address. When speakers have the privilege of the floor, personal insults, attacks, name calling or other behavior that is inconsistent with the purpose of conducting official business will not be tolerated. Courtesy of the Floor is meant to provide public comments on items that are not on the agenda. Public comment during consideration of ordinances, resolutions and motions are limited by topic – your comments must be relevant to the subject matter of the proposed legislation. Public comments are taken before council votes on legislation. You are given the privilege of the floor to provide public comment, it is not a question and answer session. State your position clearly and concisely for consideration. If you speak on behalf of yourself, you have three minutes and if you are speaking on behalf of a group that has several members present, you will be given five minutes in place of everyone coming to the podium. Please address the Council President not individual councilpersons or city staff. Refrain from insulting or defaming staff, officials, and the public; refrain from using offensive language, cursing, and making noises while other people are speaking. Please be aware that comments and/or behavior in violation of these rules will result in a forfeiture of all remaining time and you will be asked to return to your seat.

Mr. Quinn Allen stated hello and stated you know me by now. He stated that he is looking at this and it looks like you are going to talk about a little bit on the issue of homelessness tonight. He stated that he is asking because if you are then he will wait until that time to speak.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that he is not aware of anything on the agenda.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated he is not aware either and that's why.

Mr. Quinn Allen stated yeah, yeah. It looks.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that it might be some appointments on the agenda.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that there is an appointment to the Homelessness Commission.

Mr. Quinn Allen stated ok so what does that mean.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that means that the mayor put forth a name of somebody he wants to appoint to the Commission.

Mr. Quinn Allen stated alright and stated that he will wait this out and if it is not talked about tonight, on how we could improve Allentown, he will speak at the next meeting at the Courtesy of the Floor.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated ok, thank you.

Ms. Ruth Marcon, 326 N. 27th Street, stated that Council usually ask for name and address. She stated that she is speaking for herself and going to read so she won't leave out a word or two. She stated that she is speaking for herself, but knows others who feel and think the same as she does. She stated that her great concern is about ICE and how they were operating across the country. She stated that she reads newspaper accounts and watch news programs daily. She has read and heard much about our federal government wanting the cooperation of local police and state police to assist in their operations and arrests. She stated that her opinion and viewpoint is that local law enforcement should not be required to participate with ICE unless officers are deputized by the federal government and paid by the federal government operating and acting like ICE agents is not the role of our local police.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Ms. Marcon.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that is all he has. Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated ok and stated that they will move on to Contract Approvals.

Contract Approvals: The general idea for approving contracts is that the council acknowledges that proper procurement procedures were followed pursuant to the city code. The Clerk will read the resolution. After staff explains the process, comments are taken from the dais and the public before a vote.

[15-7850](#)

R79

Authorization for a change order in the amount of \$17,522.00 with Penn Mount Stone, LLC to provide masonry repair and preservation of a WPA Staircase and Wall located at the entrance of the Rose Garden for The Allentown Department of Parks and Recreation. The original contract was for \$64,494.42, the addition would bring the contract to a new total of \$82,016.42.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R 79 - Contract Increase Penn Mount Stone Resolution #31072.pdf](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated ok.

Ms. Sarrah McNeil stated that this is a previously awarded contract that is requesting additional funds in the amount of \$17,522 due to the contract to install blue stone stairs on the Rose Garden stairs and to install new stone columns and install a new sign at the Rose Garden. She stated due to the cost of the Change Order exceeding 10 percent of the contract, the amount is being presented to Council.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Ms. McNeil. He asked if he has any questions or colleagues from his colleagues or any comments from the public.

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

Enactment No: 31072

[15-7851](#)

R80

Authorization for a change order in the amount of \$5,500.00 with Pennoni Associates, Inc. to obtain the services of an Engineering Firm to perform structural evaluations for Emergency and non-Emergency call outs as needed to make structural assessments and evaluations on commercial and residential properties in the City of Allentown. The original contract was for the estimated budgeted sum of \$25,000.00 per contract year, the addition would bring the contract to a new total of \$30,500.00.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R80 - Contract Increase Pennoni Resolution #31073.pdf](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Mr. Hanlon.

Ms. Sarrah McNeil stated that this is a previously awarded contract that is requesting additional funds in the amount of \$5,500 as the Parks Department wants to utilize this contract for the consultant to complete a structural analysis of the Golf Course Maintenance Barn office area. To determine the condition of the building as the current silo is falling apart.

Due to the cost of the Change Order exceeding 10 percent of the contract amount and it is being presented to Council.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Ms. McNeil. He asked if there were any questions or comments from his colleagues.

Mr. Ed Zucal asked is this R80.

Ms. Sarrah McNeil stated yes.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated yes, ok. He asked if Purchasing is renewing the Contract.

Ms. Sarrah McNeil stated what happen is that this Contract originated in CED. Now, Parks is actually utilizing the vendor and piggybacking off that Contract. She stated that originally this contract is for CED and Parks just wanted them to do a structural analysis for them.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that you are upgrading it to the \$30,000, right.

Ms. Sarrah McNeil stated yeah, they are adding that \$5,500 for parts.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Mr. Zucal. He asked anyone else from the dais. He asked is there any comments from the public.

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

Enactment No: 31073

[15-7849](#)

R81

Authorization for a change order in the amount of \$37,456.00 with Michael Baker International, Inc. to provide consulting and engineering design services related to the D&L Trail: Allentown East Segment Design. The original contract was for \$233,336.00, the addition would bring the contract to a new total of \$270,792.00.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R81 - Contract Increase Michael Baker](#)
[Resolution #31074.pdf](#)

Mr. Sarrah McNeil stated that this is a previously awarded contract that is requesting additional funds in the amount of \$37,456 due to the consultant needing to apply for an NPDES Permit as required by LCCDMPA Department for the D&L Project. She stated that this will allow Michael Baker to apply to this MPDES Permit and approve post construction stormwater management plans. Due to the cost of the Change Order exceeding 10 percent of the contract. The amount is being

presented to Council.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Ms. McNeil. He asked if there were any questions or comments from his colleagues.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated just one quick question and asked for the next meeting can they possibly get the total amount that they have either through grants or whatever to put into the D&L trail.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated ok, thank you. He asked anybody else. He asked if there were any comments from the public.

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

Enactment No: 31074

[15-7844](#)

R82

Authorization for Contract with AMGG, LLC. in the amount of \$268,474.00 to provide a detailed and thorough facility condition assessment and analysis of its facilities, fixed assets, and miscellaneous structures on City owned or managed properties including review and update of asset inventory, identification of current facility condition deficiencies, recommendation of corrections for all deficiencies, provision of cost estimates for corrections, and forecasting future capital renewal cost. Thirteen (13) proposals were received; however, three (3) proposals were rejected. Contract shall be for one (1) year with two (2) additional one (1) year renewal terms beyond the contract expiration period.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R82 - AMGG](#)
[Resolution #31075.pdf](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Mr. Hanlon and asked if there were any questions or comments from his colleagues.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that they were just going to explain it.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated after and said he is sorry.

Ms. Sarrah McNeil stated that this was done as RFP2025 - 13 which is a facility condition assessment. It was advertised on Public Purchase April 7, 2025. There was a public bid opening on May 5, 2025. The city received 13 proposals. However, three proposals were rejected. Two included cost in their Technical Proposal and a third for not completing a complete proposal. The evaluation team consisting of six members conducted both technical and cost evaluations. Proposals were evaluated based on IBE preference, qualifications, relevant based on IBE preference,

qualifications, relevant project experience, project understanding, and approach and costs. She stated after evaluating proposals, the evaluation committee decided to move forward with oral presentations with the top two scoring firms AMGG, LLC and EC as Mid Atlantic, LLC and stated that these were held on June 25. The committee is recommending an award to AMGG, LLC.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Ms. McNeil. He asked if there were any questions or comments from his colleagues.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach asked will this be inclusive of or exclusive of the Fire and Police buildings since Alloy5 already did those. She asked was that factored in like in the description for those who bid so they will know how to project their costs.

Ms. Sarrah McNeil stated that it is her understanding that this is just our facilities that we currently have. They are going to do a condition assessment on those.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated yes, those current facilities. She stated that current Central Fire and the current Police. She asked if they are going to be reassessed.

Ms. Bina Patel stated no. They will not be reassessed. AMGG, LLC will not be reassessing because those assessments have already been done.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach ok, just confirming. Thank you.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked anybody else. He asked if there are any comments from the public.

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

Enactment No: 31075

[15-7848](#)

R83

Authorization for Contract with Simone Collins Landscape Architecture in the amount of \$159,950.00 to provide detailed consulting and engineering services for design, construction documents and specifications, and construction cost estimates for the construction of the Franklin Park Improvements Project. Five (5) proposals were received; contract shall be for one (1) year with five (5) additional one (1) year renewals beyond the contract expiration period.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R83 - Simone Collins](#)
[Resolution #31076.pdf](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Mr. Hanlon.

Ms. Sarrah McNeil stated that this was done as RFP2025-10, Franklin Park Design. It was advertised on Public Purchase on May 1, 2025. There was a public bid opening on May 29, 2025. The city received five proposals and the evaluation team consisting of four members conducted both technical and cost evaluations. Proposals were evaluated based on IBE preference. The ability to meet the RFP requirements with prior experience, team member qualifications and costs. After evaluating the proposals, the Evaluation Committee decided to not hold oral presentations. The committee is recommending awards to Simone Collins Landscape Architecture.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Ms. McNeil. He asked if there were any questions or comments from his colleagues.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated so they are in Norristown and asked will they be coming here to meet with the Franklin Park Neighborhood Group or how is that going to work as they do their consulting.

Ms. Sarrah McNeil stated that she believes so.

Ms. Mandy Tolino stated that they are from Norristown, but they have people that live locally. It will include meetings and site visits and spending a lot of time in Allentown. It will be built into the contract that they will be spending significant amounts of time in Franklin Park and at community meetings, so yes.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated thank you.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked anybody else. He asked if there were any comments from the public.

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

Enactment No: 31076

[15-7845](#)

R84

Authorization of Cooperative Contract(s) in an amount greater than \$40,000.00 to provide the City with various goods/services, for T.M. Fitzgerald & Associates, Samsara Networks Inc., and Invisio.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R84 Cooperative Approval - 7.23.25](#)
[Resolution #31077.pdf](#)

Ms. Sarrah McNeil stated that these are all being purchased from various Cooperative Contracts.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Ms. McNeil and asked if there were any questions or comments from his colleagues or any comments from the public.

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

Enactment No: 31077

Minutes of Previous Meeting

[15-7843](#) June 18, 2025 Public Hearing Bill 16 Meeting Minutes

Sponsors: System

Attachments: [June 18, 2025 Public Hearing Bill 16 Meeting Minutes.pdf](#)

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

Communications

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated if anybody needs a ticket/chaser. He stated that if you park in the city lot next to city hall, please see Mr. Hanlon, the City Clerk. He will provide you with a voucher.

Old Business: NONE

REPORTS**Public Hearing: President Hendricks**

A Public Hearing is being scheduled for August 6th at 6:15 PM on Bill 47, a request from Cedar Crest College to Rezone 2851-2865 College Drive from Low Density Residential (R-L) to Institutional-Governmental (I-G).

Budget and Finance: Chair Napoli, Santos, Gerlach

The Committee met this evening; the next meeting is scheduled for August 6th at 5:15 PM.

Community and Economic Development, Chair Mota, Hendricks, Napoli

The Committee met on July 16th and forwarded an item on this evenings agenda; and this evening. the next meeting is scheduled on July 30th at 6 PM.

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

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

Parks and Recreation: Chair Gerlach, Santos, Affa

The Committee met this evening; the next meeting is scheduled for August 6 at 5:45 PM.

Public Safety: Chair Affa, Zucal, Mota

The Committee has not met since the last council meeting; the next meeting is scheduled for August 6 at 5:30 PM.

Public Works: Chair Zucal, Gerlach, Affa

The Committee met this evening; there is one item on the agenda. The next meeting is scheduled for August 6th at 6 PM.

Rules, Chambers, Intergovernmental Relations, and Strategy: Chair Hendricks, Mota, Napoli

The Committee met on July 16th at 6 PM and forwarded an item on tonight's agenda; there are no future meetings scheduled.

Controller's Report

Mr. Jeffrey Glazier thanked Mr. Hendricks and stated that he has a P-Card Report for the month of March 2025. He stated as they know they been using Munis lately and the Controller's Department is coming down the learning curve which is probably the most charitable way to describe it and what they have found out so far in using it is that it is exceptionally time consuming through P-Card Statements under this software. Consequently, he just done with March. it will probably be another month

or so until they are done with April and May is God knows when. He stated that they are kind of frustrated with that, but they are working through it and trying to figure out better ways to do it more efficiently. It affects Council in that you guys have some request for him to look at things which he very much like to do, but he is also very cognizant that this reporting needs to be timely for any journal corrections to be done so this is sucking up a tremendous amount of time and will get to your request as soon as he can. He stated that they are doing a balancing act there. He stated that of course, Jacqui is also doing interns. He stated that is time consuming as well. He stated they will be done in August and then she will have a little bit more time to work on some of this stuff. As far as the P-Card Report goes, he got to say that by and large, the departments are getting better. They understand what to look for and a lot of the errors that they used to have gone away and that is a good thing. He stated that they had sales tax paid on two invoices. The departments were advised and are seeking a refund. He stated that they had 10 invoices where the incorrect expenses account was used. The departments were advised. Journal entries are being done. He stated that credit card fees are becoming an issue. They do a lot of business with credit cards, clearly because there is some convenience there and some businesses facing the slim margins may add a convenience fee to that. The city policy says don't do it. He stated that they just call it out when it happens. The administration is aware of that. They are either going to let things continue to go as they are or will advise the departments to migrate over away from those vendors to charge the fee or they are just going to have to change the policy. It is their call, but we acknowledge and call it out when it happens. He stated that is really the Report for the month of March. He stated that he will see them in a month or so for the April Report. The Check Reports will come in a normal timely fashion.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Mr. Glazier and stated that it is much appreciated. He stated that the mayor has not submitted anything for the agenda tonight.

[15-7871](#) Controller Reports

Attachments: [PCard Review.pdf](#)

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE (To be Voted On):

[15-7796](#) Bill 53
Amending the 2025 General Fund to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000.00) to support the Main Street Program in the Department of Community & Economic Development.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 53 Main Street Program](#)
[CED Committee Presentation Summary July 16 2025.docx](#)
[DAA City Council 7.15.pdf](#)
[Ordinance #16145.pdf](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Mr. Hanlon and stated Ms. Kistler.

Ms. Vicky Kistler stated yes, it was reviewed in the DCED committee meeting with a presentation by the chair and co-chair who are both here with them today. She stated that this serves to create the Main Street Program. The nationally designated model program that is similar to the programs running in the Sister cities. She stated that this program and money is like the seed money to start the organization. A 501(c)3 that is focused on several pillars that again their chair and co-chair can explain more in depth if need be. She stated that she thinks the slide presentation was given to Council along with a summary, but basically it funds various components of the Main Street Program including the Ambassador Program for the Boots on the Ground folks to help with directions, reporting, into city staff. The hospitality component along with an engagement increasing foot traffic dealing with trying to recruit so that the vacancy rate of the first floors decreases along the corridor and increase the programming that is reflective of the cultural heritage in the city to attract more of our citizens down to our Main Street Program. She stated if Council has questions regarding the Program, she can do her best, but actually the Chair Matt Milosky and the Co-Chair Kyle Edwards both can introduce themselves and can answer any questions that Council may have.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Ms. Kistler. He asked was it any comments from his colleagues.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated by doing this, we are creating another nonprofit and asked is that correct.

Ms. Vicky Kistler stated that a new nonprofit would be created that would be the focus of the Main Street Program, yes.

Mr. Ed Zucal asked who is running that Program per se now. She stated that there isn't a running the Program per se now. She stated what is happening is that the United Way is offering guidance to the creation of the nonprofit and then the nonprofit will be a stand alone with a board that is composed of our downtown businesses as well as nonprofits and citizens.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked anybody else and stated Ms. Gerlach.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that yes, so thank you Ms. Kistler and Mr.

Hartney for meeting with her yesterday and answering her plethora of questions. She was not able to attend the committee meeting, but did watch the video. She stated that she looked at the PowerPoint. She stated that her main questions which she thinks it would be for them all is that they know that the board isn't fully fleshed out yet, but she would love to hear kind of what the vision is from the co-chairs as to what that board would look like so it is not like it is the same old people because the same old people got them what they got right now and didn't even know who they were or didn't know where to look. She stated that it is you two.

Ms. Vicky Kistler stated if you both can introduce yourselves so that Council knows who you are.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that if she and the reason she asked that is because she doesn't have the data. The majority of the business owners on Allentown she believes doesn't necessarily reflect the demographics of Allentown. She stated that she doesn't know if she is wrong and stated tell her she is wrong. She stated if they are trying to outreach to get people in Allentown to come on Hamilton if that is honestly the goal then how is a board made up of business owners that not necessarily reflect the demographics of Allentown do that. She stated that she is just interested in what your vision is on how to get a board because traditionally boards don't represent the community like demographically. She stated these kinds of boards.

Mr. Matt Milosky thanked Ms. Gerlach for her question and is the chair. By way of that in terms he was raised on the eastside of Allentown.

Dr. Cynthia Mota asked Mr. Milosky if he minds using your.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated turn your mic on.

Mr. Matt Milosky stated that he serves as chair of the Downtown Alliance and was raised on the eastside of Allentown. He went to Mosser, Harris - Morton and Dieruff. He stated that he was a business owner until recently and merged his business with another one located on Hamilton Street. He allowed his co-chair to introduce himself.

Mr. Kyle Edwards stated that he also grew up in Allentown on the southside. He stated that he played Mountainville football, graduated from Dieruff High School. Go Huskies. He stated that he is a business owner downtown, lives and work downtown. He attended schools in the area. He is very much invested in this initiative as well.

Mr. Matt Milosky stated to answer your question directly, the initial board

makeup is a combination of business owners and public representatives as well too. He stated as we flesh that out, they are going to have a committee structure and that committee structure is going to follow the four pillars which Ms. Kistler referenced in her introduction and those pillars include enhancing engagement and vibrancy in the downtown, inspiring loyalty and advocacy. That is the positive messaging that we feel is lacking now. There was a strategic committee that preceded their involvement, but commissioned a study by a national consultant that looks at downtowns. These were their findings and what they recommended to them is the blueprint for forming this organization that he and Kyle are working out right now. Those are the first two pillars. Next, was celebrating and elevating cultural heritage and cultivating a dynamic retail environment in the downtown. He stated how we plan to do that is to form our committees based on these pillars and those committee and how we are going to still allow the people who have the interest in each of those four pillars. The cultural heritage, retail, the loyalty and advocacy and engagement and vibrancy. He stated that what they hope to do in time because they have term limits in their bylaws and United Way helped them put those together and then did the filing for the 501(c) 3 which is currently being reviewed at the state level is to utilize the committees then as kind of the form system for future board members. The people who are actively engaged and are the most active in those separate committees leading those pillar initiatives will be the ones that succeed as we send other board members as we term out after a two or three year term on the board.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach asked how many people would you foresee initially on the board. He stated eight to get us off the ground and that is because they are very much in our formative positions. They are doing the filings and making visions such as this for foundational support for the organization. He stated that in our bylaws, they are allowed to 20 or 25 total board members, but in the beginning doing the mechanics of this organization and get it off the ground, they want to keep the board intentionally small. They are in the process of filling out the committee structure. She stated that so you got and the majority of folks and she doesn't know the person from the Chamber is somewhere, but the majority of folks are corporations.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated right now, it is you two and asked do you have any other folks in mind.

Mr. Matt Milosky stated that they have six others on the board as well.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that you have six others on the board right now. She asked are they able to publicly name them.

Mr. Matt Milosky stated that he believe so. He stated that if he can

remember them off the top of his head, they have a representative from PPL, a representative from Air Products, a representative of the Chamber of Commerce, he stated the two of them, and stated that is five. The city of Allentown and they only met about four times.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that it is all good and knows that it is a new kind of thing. She stated so the majority of folks and she does not know the person from the Chamber is a business, but the majority of folks are corporations so far.

Mr. Matt Milosky stated that he and Kyle are small business people. He stated that he had his own which was four people.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that she knows he is a small business.

Mr. Matt Milosky stated he had his own which were four people. He stated that obviously the big names are PPL and Air Products and corporations.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that people that are a part of DAA (sp). She stated that is her concern that the people that are currently part of DAA(sp) who supposed to be doing this and supposed to have this vision and execute foot traffic and everything and now also part of this board. She asked how do we expect something different from the same people.

Mr. Matt Milosky stated that their mission is different. They are following the blueprint that the study put together. He stated that his understanding of DACI(sp) when he served on it and they really had some involvement with Building 21 and some other things. He thinks that they sort of picked projects. Where their focus will be the missing pieces of the downtown which is identified in the study which thankfully was not clean and safe because statistically compared to our peer city, we are pretty clean and safe. You can always improve. That wasn't the thing that was missing. The missing piece for us and the mission is missing cohesive management of the downtown. He stated all these cultural institutions and people living in the area and neighborhoods. He stated that obviously we don't have that with a big residential population. They do close to downtown. He stated that there is nobody looking after the downtown. They are curating the environment. Like the Greater Easton Partnership does in Easton. His understanding of that was not the DACI mission. He stated that is their mission. They are going to overlap with other nonprofits who has their own mission in the area. They are already working with the United Way. They do have some overlap with the Chamber, but if they wanted to have an event, perhaps they hired them to curate the event. He stated that they are a separate organization focused on creating a vibrant downtown area for the city.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach thanked Mr. Milosky and asked does he know any of the folks are Allentown residents. She stated you are an Allentown resident. She asked do you know how many of the folks demographically represent Allentown. She asked how many folks are people of color of the people that you named since most people in Allentown are people of color.

Mr. Kyle Edwards stated that personally how it stands, it is just him as a person of color as it currently stands. He thinks their focus is creating this cohesive board where folks represent much of the city that you are referring to. He stated that he wants to make sure that they make sure that the city is represented and they work with city members to make sure they create something that is dynamic and longstanding. They don't want it to be a fly by night sort of thing and being methodical and strategic. They want to make sure the right people are on the board to move things ahead and something that will be longstanding, self sustaining to a point where they can kind of take their hands off the wheels and it runs itself. They want this to be vastly different that's ever been done before.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated ok. She stated thank you and stated that she does not have anymore questions.

Mr. Matt Milosky stated who were supposed to be doing this and supposed to have this vision and execute the foot traffic and everything. They are now also a part of this board.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach asked are they currently part of the DABBI (sp) or whatever.

Mr. Matt Milosky stated DACTI (sp) and stated yes.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that is her concern and she doesn't have any more questions. She doesn't know if anybody else does, but she doesn't.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Ms. Gerlach.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that she is first.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated Ms. Affa.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that you mentioned on the board someone in the city and a Councilmember to be appropriate to be on. 37:30

Mr. Matt Milosky stated yes, and they were looking at the number ex-officio response so there won't be a conflict of interest, necessarily. Perhaps

someone at the state level, someone at the city level, from the administration as well to. They are thinking the county as well ex-officio. There were people to what everything is going on, but not necessarily voting members. He stated that was the initial idea.

Ms. Candida Affa stated being a voting member.

Mr. Matt Milosky stated that you can self fund it then or not. They thought it would be a firewall there. There could not be any perceptions of and everyone is in favor and no one ever points any fingers., but if someone is not in favor then just to protect elected officials. It is a mile that he used to see and served as a chair of an educational foundation and the district superintendent and district staff ex-officio because the group raised a lot of money to support the district. The district will be there and advise on what the needs were, but were not voting members because they were public officials.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that you made a statement about you wanting it to benefit everyone citywide. Currently, you both state that you have businesses on Hamilton Street. He wants them to try to tell him how he can tell the gentleman on Second and Gordon that the \$300,000 that Council is going to vote on to give them is going to benefit him.

Mr. Matt Milosky stated yes, and they were looking at the number ex-officio response to

Mr. Kyle Edwards stated that their focus is helping small businesses to win stating that is their goal. He stated he would say to the gentleman on Second Street and Gordon is that a thriving downtown, the heartbeat of the city, the heart of the city will permeate throughout the rest of the city. When you go and travel throughout the world, people generally visit downtown areas. They visit center cities. They want to have an experience stating that they hope to be that glue to put the various pieces that they already had together. He stated that is all they want to do and as a whole they will benefit as a city. He stated that he was born and bread here. A proud Allentonian. He stated that he wants this to win because he wants his kids to live in a better world. He wants that man's kids to live in a better world. He stated that this is much bigger than some fly by night organization. They want it to be again, strong and sustaining. He stated that he is very passionate about the city of Allentown. He stated that he has a vested interest. He stated that he lives and work down here, but more than that he does a lot of outreach. There are a lot of things he does behind the scenes to help everyone. He is always in the spirit of collaboration and DAA will be no different.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated to Mr. Edwards that he did not answer his question.

Ms. Vicky Kistler stated Mr. Zucal we can.

Mr. Mark Hartney stated that they did a quick analysis of the DAA footprint. In general, that area and percentage, the city total land area about 1.74 percent of the city. It generates 8.9 percent of the real estate taxes and has 13.18 percent of the real estate value and also generates over 25 percent of our Business Privilege Tax in the city. He stated so when the downtown does better and thrives, it is the economic engine of the city. He stated that those taxes don't necessarily get spent and paid for all the Police Department. All the Fire Department.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated ok so what you are saying is that Second and Gordon is in much better shape then the 10 hundred block of Hamilton. He asked is that what you are saying.

Ms. Vicky Kistler stated no. They are saying that if the downtown flourishes some of that excess revenue, that will come back to the city can be used in all of our neighborhoods. She stated Second and Gordon, everywhere. She stated when you look at the city of Easton and you look at the changes that has happened and their budget has continually grown through the years. The reason it has grown is because they are funneling higher, higher and higher percentage of that budget. Back into the programming that is happening in that urban core and that money generating by that urban core is now going to help the westward and the other parts of Easton that needs that help.

Mr. Ed Zucal asked how much is the \$300,000 is the gentleman getting at second and Gordon because now it sounds like he is footing the bill itself up to this point.

Ms. Vicky Kistler asked are you talking about a business person.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that they are voting on \$300,000 for the corridor of Hamilton Street where these two gentlemen will benefit because they already has a business there which is nice. He stated that the city is giving other people taxpayers money to fund them or help them succeed when the other job got at another location got to foot the bill itself.

Ms. Vicky Kistler stated that again she is trying to follow and tries to understand him about the business at second and Gordon. He stated any business. He doesn't care Second and Gordon.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated any business. Second and Gordon, 14th and Allen. It

doesn't matter.

Ms. Vicky Kistler stated let's say that we attract through our event and Hamilton, 125,000 people. There are not all are going to be able to eat on Hamilton all on the same time. She stated maybe they are going to come down to Second and Gordon. Maybe this group is going to promote businesses all throughout the city. This group is going to promote what is going on in the city, not just going on in a square block.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that he heard it is to promote what is going on Hamilton Street.

Ms. Vicky Kistler stated to activate Hamilton Street which is our urban core, but certainly when we have a hockey game, there is a lot of people who eat at Damascus or eat at the Aladdin or eat elsewhere when they are coming into the city. That is what they come to know. They are anticipating more people coming to the city and more people staying in the city after work and going to places in the city and the revenue increasing. She stated that right now they get constant comments about there is no one on Hamilton after a particular hours. There is no one coming unless there is a special event. She stated that these guys have a Plan, this whole nonprofit along with the city as a partner to change that and the \$300,000 that they are asking for tonight on average, right now in designated Main Street Programs for every one dollar contributed by a municipality, it generates \$23.71 because what happens is the business start to contribute. The taxes start to come in. Redevelopment starts to happen. In some cities facade grants to improve actual buildings. Like Lancaster improved history buildings using the money generated by this revenue generator. If you look at the city of Easton, there are people on the street. There are restaurants thriving and that is what they want to try to happen here.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated ok, then it doesn't hurt to believe in miracles and stated thank you.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated thank you.

Mr. Santo Napoli stated a couple of things. He stated that he voices the same concerns as Ms. Gerlach. He stated that Ms. Kistler has heard, Mr. Hartney has heard them, Matt and Kyle heard them. He stated that this board needs to reflect our community. He stated that he has learned that and understand the board was setup this way in the beginning, but he is optimistic that as you round out the board and fill it over time that you will focus on the neighborhoods and residents. He stated that has been their biggest challenge. He stated that he has been really disappointed with the disconnect between downtown and the neighborhoods. He stated that it is

heartbreaking because every city has one downtown. In the neighborhood, this is their downtown. They don't feel connected to it and this is something that this organization has to fix so it does start with the board. He stated again, he is optimistic that they will round up the board in a proper way because we need residents, we need folks that will help us connect to these neighborhoods that honestly felt disconnected over the years and that needs to change. He stated that one thing that he would mentioned to on the slide he mentioned 18 percent vacancy rates. One comment that he would make probably with Mr. Zucal is when he sees vacancy properties on Hamilton and they see jobs and the fact that they are vacant doesn't help bring job creation. He stated getting those properties utilized and programmed and getting businesses in there and hiring will only help the neighborhoods. He knows from being downtown for the last 26 years, the majority of these folks working in these businesses are from the neighborhoods. There are a ton of people that walk to work, take the bus to work so that 18 percent vacancy rate. They really need to attack and get them going because for the gentleman that is down in the wards, that is a job opportunity. He stated for the woman in Jordan Heights that is a job opportunity. He stated that is something that he really wants to focus on.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Mr. Napoli. He stated Ms. Mota.

Dr. Cynthia Mota stated thank you, Mr. president and stated well this presentation was done in her committee. She stated with true honesty, she was really impressed. They talked about working with different nonprofits. She stated that it is a new initiative. The reality is that the downtown looks good. She stated that the issue is that businesses open and out of a blink of an eye, they are gone. It is obvious that they need something else. She stated with this initiative, she is really excited and she knows the wealth will be tickling down to Second and Ridge Avenue. She stated that she is really excited, but when they did the presentation, they talked about the importance of people feeling that they belong. It would be good to practice radical welcoming. The reality is that there are things going on downtown, but the community, you don't hardly see them there because they feel that they don't belong. She stated that the same concern that Ms. Gerlach has and Mr. Napoli, she does have the same concern and she thinks that they would know the difference. She stated let's get people involved and people excited and you also talked in the presentation about loyalty and stated she likes that. She stated that you want people to be loyal when they talk about the city of Allentown. She stated that when you talk about loyalty you talk about having the same message pretty much, positivity. Sometimes we tend to talk about the negative, but yet we don't look at all the good things that are happening in the city. She stated that she is pretty sure that they will be the difference and you will do the difference to. Hopefully, let's see what happens with this vote.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Ms. Mota.

Ms. Candida Affa stated if she can address Mr. Zucal's concern. She stated that she believes like in any city, the locals knows where they want to go. She stated that this is the Hamilton Street Corridor Program. She stated that she had a business on 12th and Chew for almost 40 years. It would have been detrimental. They knew where she was and across the street they have a business right there. She doesn't know the name, but Cynthia might by her bar. They have a booming business. If you want to move anywhere else. She stated that her point is what they doing on Hamilton Street she doesn't think it is going to hurt somebody on Gordon. They can move if they like. The point is many of them don't want to move. She stated that it is hard to have a business on Hamilton Street. She found it easier on 12th and Chew. As long as you have a good business, and people know who they are whether it be Halal, Damascus, folks will go where they want to go. She stated that she doesn't think this is going to hurt. She stated that she knows it would not have hurt her business. They probably would have helped somewhere, but the last thing she wanted to do was to move her business because she was good at that corner. She stated Lui's was good at that corner stating that they all had different places where locals whether you are in New York City or here in Allentown, you will always go where you would like to go. She stated one Italian restaurant out of 5,000. She stated that she doesn't think it is going to hurt anything, Mr. Zucal. She stated that somebody on Gordon and he has the opportunity and they have the opportunity to move.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated to Ms. Affa that she is missing his point. His point was that the city is giving them \$300,000. He stated that the city is not giving anything to the guy on 14th and Hamilton.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that she did not get anything at 12th and Chew.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that is fine, you were successful. Maybe they are struggling. His point is that they are giving one group of people money of taxpayer money and not giving it to the other people. He stated that it seems a little bit unfair.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that they could benefit from this. This is Hamilton Street. This is our downtown. This is all that we are looking at is our downtown to make it more vibrant.

Dr. Cynthia Mota stated that they need to stimulate the economy and this initiative can be a good way. She stated that she is telling them that the downtown is beautiful. They are building beautiful buildings, but again, it

needs something. She believes that this might be it.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Dr. Mota and stated Ms. Gerlach.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated concerning the board and the people who are here and implored them to not tokenize people. She implored them to make sure that you don't get the Latino, let's get the Black person, let's get the Asian person and stated, we are good. She stated that tends to be what happens. With these types of boards especially when it comes to downtown develop. She stated looking at the board right now. She implored them. She does not share the optimism. She stated that she hopes she is wrong. She has been proven wrong before and she loves it. She stated that she is happy to see when the arena was first being constructed and the NIZ kind of first came to be herself and a number of community members shouted from the rooftops to ANIZDA, came to Council and said this ain't for us. This development is not meant for us. They looked at the stores that were going on. They looked at the gentrification that was happening and now we have to spend \$300,000 to try to reverse some of that gentrification. She is happy now they are acknowledging it and never thought she would hear a City Council person that wasn't her acknowledge the fact that people feel like they do not belong on Hamilton Street anymore. She stated that is cool. That is progress. She does want to make sure that when the Ambassadors are hired that they are trained and trauma informed care and speak reference what Dr. Mota had said with the radical welcome because we do have populations of people in Allentown that maybe don't fit traditional societal norms. She stated that they got a CIS Program and what does it look like to ensure Ambassadors are reaching out what CIS person instead of just calling the cops to have them locked up.

Ms. Vicky Kistler stated to Ms. Gerlach if they could add, the Ambassadors will be part of the Block by Block Program who is a national model for doing this kind of work. They actually have technology capabilities with them that would allow them to be connected to services that the city would permit. If there is a way they can create a connection, they would certainly do that to make sure ambassadors can say that the garbage can is overflowing in the individual needs help. Someone is behaving erratically and get the help that they need to come to where they are. She stated that has been part of a lengthy discussion in these meetings about using Block by Block for that purpose.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated as much as she doubts that this will trickle out and actually help the residents of Allentown, unless the board actually looks like Allentown and therefore knows what Allentown's residents want or at least has a cousin that lives in Allentown. She stated that it is going to be

the same old same old. If they actually want downtown to thrive, they need Mr. Napoli's point an they need Allentown residents shopping at the places in Allentown. Setting up shop as entrepreneurs. She stated that they have a strong entrepreneur drive in Allentown. Not everyone is legit with business licenses, but everyone has a skill that they side hustle with. If there is a way to help cultivate that so they can become the taxpaying official economy, that would be cool. She doesn't know if this current board is supporting something like that, but Ms. Kistler had said yesterday when they met right now, they don't have nothing. She stated that is true. They don't have anything. Right now, they have empty streets and got no one going into you business. They don't have many people that should be going into your business. She stated that she does not know if this is going to work. She doesn't think it is going to actually help. She stated to the Allentown residents, she stated that she hopes she is wrong, but she is going to support it just to take a risk and see what happens. She stated that they will see.

Dr. Cynthia Mota stated that she also thinks that this is the beginning. She stated to Ms. Gerlach you voice your opinion and everyone voice their opinion so you guys have an idea of what it is that City Council would like to see. She stated that she believes it was a clear message of what they would like to see. She stated that she believes it was the beginning of something that is a new beginning and stated why not.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated thank you. He stated that he wants to give the public a chance.

Mr. Matt Milosky stated that he wants to say thank you and stated that they agree and talked about everything that they are talking about. They have to start somewhere and anything is better than nothing for right now and they are going to work hard to proof them wrong, but understand things have been tried before. They are both volunteering and both part of precursor organizations and very frustrated and he knows his initial reaction when he first heard about the initiative and asked if he would be interested in getting involved and how this is going to be different because he has been involved in other things before and could see it wasn't private. There wasn't a real commitment to it and he doesn't want to spin wheels to pretend that they are doing something. He stated that he is not here to do that. He stated that he is volunteering his time and whatever talents that he could bring to it and stated that he got a great partner in this and are going to try their best to succeed. He stated that he thinks they have a Strategic Plan. It is mapped out and think it encompasses all of the concerns. He asked how is it going to benefit people at Second and Gordon. How is this going to grow to reflect the community. He stated that it is difficult and he knows because he currently serves on the LANTA board so he knows about

trauma informed with all of the operators go through all those trainings. He knows what it is like trying to fill an education foundation board out and have it be reflective and it is not something you could work on the month before the meeting to elect new members. He stated that is why the committee structure is real when he does this to really recruit people in the committees and see who you can see rise up and is the person, the cultural person, the retail person, the loyalty and advocacy person, the engagement person. Who is really bringing it and who is showing up. Who is not just doing the upright and sitting at the meeting and walking out. He asked who is really bringing ideas to the table. Those are the people that they want to tap to replace us on the board and have that board fill out with the pillars which is going to be Allentown residents included and culturally diverse people. He stated that is their Plan. He stated

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

Enactment No: 16145

[15-7798](#)

Bill 54

Amending the 2025 Trexler Fund by authorizing a supplemental appropriation from the unappropriated balance of the Trexler Fund in the amount of One Hundred Twenty-One Thousand Seven Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$121,750.00) to the operating and capital budgets of the Parks and Recreation Department and correspondingly increase the City Match amount by Seven Thousand Three Hundred and Five Dollars (\$7,305.00) to follow the 6% requirement.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 54 - 2025 Trexler Allocation.docx](#)
[Ordinance #16146.pdf](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that this was in your committee, Ms. Gerlach.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated yes, it was and it was forwarded favorably tonight.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Ms. Gerlach and asked if there were any comments or questions from his colleagues. He asked is there any comments from the public.

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

Enactment No: 16146

[15-7797](#)

Bill 55

Amending the 2025 General Fund budget by changing the Fixed Cost Distribution (FCD) for seven (7) positions within the Department of

Community & Economic Development (DCED) to direct a portion of their salary and benefits expense to the Grant Fund Recompete Program budget to reflect work performed under the grant.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 55 Recompete FCD Amendments](#)
[Ordinance #16147.pdf](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that this was in your committee in Budget and Finance this evening, Chairman Mr. Napoli.

Mr. Santo Napoli stated that it was forwarded favorably.

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

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that he initially had some issues with some of these salaries, however, he did a little research and these of kind of within the limits and with in line. However, he is kind of curious that every year about this time, they seem to be upgrading positions without waiting until budget time. He stated that this is the wrong bill and stated that he stands corrected.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that he thinks Mr. Zucal was talking about the reorg though. He stated that this is transferring money around for the reorg.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated to disregard it.

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

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

Enactment No: 16147

[15-7805](#)

Bill 56

Amending the 2025 Trexler Fund by authorizing a supplemental appropriation from the unappropriated balance of the Trexler Fund in the amount of One Hundred Ninety-Three Thousand Three Hundred and Five Dollars (\$193,305.00) to the operating and capital budgets of the Parks and Recreation Department.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 56 - Capital 2025 Project Allocation](#)
[Ordinance #16148.pdf](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated thank you and this was in your committee, Ms.

Gerlach.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated yes, it was and it was forwarded favorably to tonight. Thank you.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Ms. Gerlach. He asked if there were any questions or comments from his colleagues or any comments from the public.

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

Enactment No: 16148

[15-7810](#)

Bill 57

Amending the 2025 General Fund budget to accommodate the upgrading, retitling, and addition of positions in the Departments of Law, Finance, City Council, Police and Public Works.

Sponsors: Administration, Affa, Hendricks, Napoli and Mota

Attachments: [Bill 75 Personnel Changes.docx](#)

[Benefits Coordinator.pdf](#)

[CES Job Descript.docx](#)

[Payroll & Treasury Coordinator final.docx](#)

[Procurement Sourcing Specialist.pdf](#)

[PW Operations Supervisor Job Description.docx](#)

[Senior Accountant Job Description Updated.docx](#)

[Ordinance #16149.pdf](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Mr. Hanlon and stated that this was in his committee as chair and it was forwarded favorably, 3 - 0. He asked if there were any questions or comments from his colleagues.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated yes, now he will ask.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated Mr. Zucal.

Mr. Ed Zucal asked where are they getting the additional money for these salaries.

Ms. Bina Patel stated that they are transferring from the approved budget and transferring from and realigning the budget where they anticipate the expenditure will be less than what they have budgeted for. They are realigning the budget. It is not taking funds from unappropriated balance. It is from the approved budget from one account to another account.

Mr. Ed Zucal asked Ms. Patel if they are talking about the budget they approved for 2025.

Ms. Bina Patel stated correct.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated well, this is all additional money then what they initially approved.

Ms. Bina Patel stated no. You approved this budget in one account and now they are transferring into different accounts because they anticipate the expenditure in the budget that you have approved. It is going to be less than what it was going to be approved for. She asked is she making sense.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated no. How could it be less when you are adding money to it.

Ms. Bina Patel stated that she will try one more time. She stated let's say you approved a budget of \$100,000 and they anticipate that the expenditure is going to come in at \$80,000, not \$100,000. Now, you have a surplus of \$20,000 and that is what they are taking that approved budget and realigning from one account to another account. She asked does it make sense now.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated no because if you approved \$80,000 and it is now \$100,000. You have to add.

Ms. Bina Patel stated reverse and stated tha they approved \$100,000 and now the expenditure came in at \$80,000. Now, you have a surplus of \$20,000.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated because you have a surplus you going to hand out that money, basically.

Ms. Bina Patel stated that it is not handing out. She would not say handing out. It is recognizing the staff that has been coming to them for the last three years to recognize and there it was a budget time or during the year. These are the same positions that have been coming to you. In front of you and requesting a change.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that it is usually every year.

Ms. Bina Patel stated every year and rejected every year. They keep coming back. These are the same the same positions.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that he knows it is the same thing. Year after year, yes.

Ms. Bina Patel stated that is nothing new. She thanked Mr. Zucal for listening.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Mr. Zucal. He asked anybody else.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that on those lines and stated that she does not know who informed her of this. She was informed that in Philadelphia they actually will have an Administrative Policy or perhaps an Ordinance that halfway through the year, potentially maybe right now that they go into the budget and they look for places that they can transfer money because of an anticipated surplus. She asked is what they are doing now is looking for those areas of surface. Is it a policy and something that happened this year or something they do all the time. She stated that Philly adopted it as a policy. That is what they do.

Ms. Bina Patel stated that they don't have a policy, but see how the market is moving and how what they projected to do and can not move forward with it because of different constraints.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach asked could they potentially explore adopting something like some sort of official policy that whoever is on Council knows that at a certain time of year the Finance Department is going to review the budget and look for areas where they may be able to make some adjustments to the budget to help people either help employees or help the community because if it is a surplus it determines that these positions is how the administration would like to utilize that surplus. Perhaps some of them might also have ideas on how to utilize that surplus. Perhaps the public may have ideas so we can move towards a participatory budgeting type of situation. She asked if they can adopt something so they know Mr. Zucal isn't continuously be like, why are we doing this. She stated that they will know every month and every August, they are going to look at the budget and see where they can move things around to adjust.

Ms. Bina Patel stated absolutely. We can explore that.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that Philly has it. She stated that her second thing is the procurement sourcing specialist from what she read in the job description, it says that they will maintain a vendor database of vendors and facility vendor outreach. She stated that this will be the person that would kind of manage and oversee to make sure that they are not in compliance, but they are fully taking advantage of opportunities like the IBE Program and make sure they got more people coming in. She stated that would be that person.

Ms. Bina Patel stated yes, that is the person. She stated that currently, they are in Procurement Bureau and they are siloed and this will be all staff that will be doing that. Outreach for vendors and making sure that they reaching out to vendors and making sure they are offering their business opportunities to everyone, inclusive of all demographics and this is what they will allow them to do that because they won't be tied up anymore. Everyone will be doing procurement and the same job. She stated ok. She stated that again, she was not at this meeting, but did watch the video and she means the last time this came up her concern was making budgetary decisions outside of budget season without being able to forecast what this future budget season might look like and how this would have implications on that budget and she also look at the Community Advocate Leader Program or position that will work on the CIS Program. She stated that she is definitely supportive of that.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked anybody else. He asked if there were any comments from the public.

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

Enactment No: 16149

[15-7811](#)

Bill 58

Amending the 2025 Capital Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of One Million (\$1,000,000) Dollars from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) to support construction of the MLK Trail Extension.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 58 - MLK Trail Grant.docx](#)
[Ordinance #16150.pdf](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Mr. Hanlon and stated that this also was in your committee this evening Ms. Gerlach.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that yes, it was. It was forwarded favorably to tonight meeting.

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

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

Enactment No: 16150

[15-7815](#)

Bill 59

Providing for the vacation of Hill Street from the centerline of South 22nd Street to the centerline of South Ruhr Street in the Eighteenth Ward of the City of Allentown:

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 59 VAC-ORD Hill St.doc](#)

[maps.pdf](#)

[22nd and Hill Street \(2151 & 2143 W Fairview Streets\) Street](#)

[Vacation Mailing List.csv](#)

[ACPC action Hill Street 12.10.24.pdf](#)

[PW Staff Comment Hill St Vacation.pdf](#)

[Hill Street DT.pdf](#)

[Ordinance #16151.pdf](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Mr. Hanlon and stated to Mr. Zucal that this was in your committee.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated yes, and it was sent favorably, 3 - 0.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated yes and asked if there were any questions or comments from his colleagues or any comments from the public.

Mr. Jose Cartagena asked if there was a vote on that vacated.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated yeah stating at the committee meeting.

Mr. Jose Cartagena asked if it was a 3 - 0. He asked is it another step to that.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated no stating just their approval.

Mr. Jose Cartagena stated your approval for it. He stated that the gentleman is not here today. He is one his neighbors.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that which was explained to them at the committee meeting. An opportunity was given to all the residents nearby there and nobody responded against.

Mr. Jose Cartagena stated right and stated that he support it also. He stated that he is not here and that is why he showed up. if you are interested in something, you show up.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if he wanted to speak to it other than just what you said.

Mr. Jose Cartagena stated no, that is basically it. He will give it to him and

let him go through the process of it.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that he got an email from Mr. Tulloch and he could not make it at the last minutes, but stated that he can assure him that Mr. Tulloch went above and beyond getting signatures from the abutting property owners. He expresses his sorrow that he missed the meeting.

Mr. Jose Cartagena stated that is fine and stated that he is the one that opened up a can of worms here. He stated that he was the first one that bought the vacate lot on Hill Street and Ruhr Street. He stated that all the neighbors wanted to know how and he explained it because the other half of Hill Street is vacated and it is a jungle there. They just didn't clean it up and take it as a property. He asked why not. he stated that if they vote, he will thank them for it.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that it is an unopen street.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that is a good thing like neighbors like you who help people that don't understand how government works. He thanked Mr. Cartagena.

Mr. Jose Cartagena thanked Council and stated that he appreciates it.

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

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

Enactment No: 16151

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that there are a number of items. The appointment of Roslyn Kuba to the Commission on Homelessness. The appointment of Brandon Swayser to the EAC board. William Rhoades to the board of Parks and Recreation. They have a Sewage Planning Module at Cumberland Apartments and another one at Firehouse Flats. Certificate of Appropriateness for Work in the Historic Districts for work in the Historic Districts at 806 Monroe Street, 1022 Chew Street and 931 Gordon Street. He stated that those are the items on the Consent Agenda.

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

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

[15-7865](#)

R85

Roslyn Kuba, Commission on Homelessness, Term Expiration: 6/19/2029
(Reappointment)

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R85 Rosylan Kuba - Commission on Homelessness, 6-19-2029.doc](#)

[Memo](#)

[Resolution #31078.pdf](#)

Enactment No: 31078

[15-7866](#)

R86

Brandon Swayser, Environmental Advisory Council, Term Expiration:
1/3/2028 (Appointment)

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R86 Brandon Swayser - Environmental Advisory Council, 1-3-2028.doc](#)

[Memo](#)

[Resolution #31079.pdf](#)

Enactment No: 31079

[15-7867](#)

R87

William Rhoades, Board of Parks and Recreation, Term Expiration:
6/19/2030

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R87 William Rhoades - Board of Parks and Recreation, 6-19-2030.doc](#)

[Memo](#)

[Resolution #31080.pdf](#)

Enactment No: 31080

[15-7817](#)

R88

Sewage Planning Module at Cumberland Apartments

Sponsors: System

Attachments: [R88 Cumberland Apartments - Sewage Planning Module.doc](#)

[Cumberland Apartments Sewage Facilities Planning Module.pdf](#)

[Resolution #31071.pdf](#)

[Cumberland Apartments Sewage Planning Module Documents
\(Signed\).pdf](#)

Enactment No: 31071

[15-7863](#)

R89

Sewage Planning Module at Firehouse Flats – 711 West Chew Street

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R89 Firehouse Flats at 711 W Chew Street - Sewer Planning Module.doc](#)
[Sewage Planning Module - Firehouse Flats.pdf](#)
[Resolution #31081.pdf](#)
[711 West Chew - Sewage Planning Module Documents \(Signed\).pdf](#)

Enactment No: 31081

[15-7821](#)

R90

Certificate of Appropriateness for work in the Historic Districts: 806 Monroe St.; 1022 Chew St.; 931 Gordon St.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R HARB Resolution.doc](#)
[FINAL Review 806 Monroe Door.pdf](#)
[FINAL Review 931 Gordon Street Steeple Roof.pdf](#)
[FINAL Review 1022 Chew St Dormer.pdf](#)
[Resolution #31082.pdf](#)

Enactment No: 31082

RESOLUTIONS FOR FINAL PASSAGE (To be Voted On):

[15-7760](#)

R72 .

Denial of a Certificate of Appropriateness – 1550 Chew Street

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R72 1550 Chew St - HARB DENIED.doc](#)
[FINAL Review 1550 Chew Roof Replacement.pdf](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated ok. He asked if there were any questions or comments from his colleagues or any comments from the public.

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

[15-7835](#)

R91

A resolution of the City of Allentown, approving the Walk Works Bike Plan. The Walk Works Bike Plan is a citywide initiative to make biking safer, more accessible, and more convenient for all residents. It outlines strategies to improve bicycle infrastructure, promote active transportation, reduce pollution, and support mobility, aligning with Allentown's long-term transportation and sustainability goals.

Attachments: [R91 - Adopting Walk Works Bike Plan.Revised - 6-23-2025.doc](#)
[City of Allentown Bike Plan \(1\).pdf](#)
[Resolution #31084.pdf](#)

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that this was before Council previously and Councilperson Gerlach requested a copy of the full Plan which you received.

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

Mr. Kyle Ropski, 528 N. Berks Street, stated that he is the chair of the Allentown Environmental Advisory Council. He stated that he is here to urge Council to support the approval of this plan. The Plan directly advances the EAC's purpose statement to protect our environment, promotes sustainable design, produce greenhouse gas emissions and encourages healthier, more connected lifestyles for residents. He stated that bicycling is not only a clean, affordable and assessable form of transportation. It is also a practical climate solution. He stated that as many of them know particularly if they are staying in tune with LVPC's Climate Action stuff. He stated that the transportation sector is the largest contributor to greenhouse gases in the region. As climate change brings rising temperatures and worsening air quality. Safer and more connected bike infrastructure. Gives residents a real alternatives to car travel. It cuts pollution and improve public health and make our city more resilient in the face of catastrophic impacts inevitable as our climate collapses. As an EAC, they believe this Plan compliments other city efforts to reduce emissions, improve our air quality, and improve alternative forms of transportation. He stated that they thanked the administration for keeping this in mind and keeping sustainable design in mind and he urged them to all support this Plan and anything that it says, pretty much. He thanked Council.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Mr. Ropski and asked him to try to impress on people to ride bicycles the same way as traffic.

Mr. Kyle Ropski stated that he would like to point out the details of the Plan, but in the last couple of years he has seen E-Bikes and motors explode used here in the city. Biking infrastructure is short on improve upon that and save them from emissions and emit cancer causing chemicals. He stated the less cars, the better.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Mr. Ropski. He asked if there were any questions or comments from his colleagues or any comments from the public.

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

Enactment No: 31084

[15-7858](#)

R92

Approves the submission of an application for a grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development for construction of the Dixon Street Sidewalk and Path Project, connecting the neighborhoods with a safe travel route via sidewalks and a path. The City is asking for \$98,382.71 in grant funding with no match required.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R92 DCED Grant Application Dixon St](#)
[Resolution #31085.pdf](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Mr. Hanlon and asked if there were any comments or questions from his colleagues. He asked if there were any comments from the public.

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

Enactment No: 31085

[15-7859](#)

R93

Approves the submission of an application for a grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development for the continued development of the Martin Luther King Trail – Phase 2 - Cedar Creek to MLK. The City is asking for \$1,000,000.00 in grant funding with no match required.

Attachments: [R93 - DCED Grant Application MLK Phase 2](#)
[Resolution #31086.pdf](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Mr. Hanlon and asked if there were any questions or comments from his colleagues. He asked if there were any comments from the public.

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

Enactment No: 31086

[15-7860](#)

R94

Authorizes the submission of a Formal Application for funding from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant in the amount of approximately Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000) to complete a StreetScape Project on Jordan Street from Turner to Gordon Street.

Attachments: [R94 Public Works MultiModal Grant Application](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Mr. Hanlon and asked if there were any questions or comments from his colleagues. He asked if there were any comments from the public.

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

Enactment No: 31087

[15-7864](#)

R95

Approves the following transfers: Public Safety/Police - \$131,000.00; CED – Planning & Zoning - \$50,000.00.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R95 Transfer of Funds.doc](#)

[CEDC.pdf](#)

[Pubic Safety.pdf](#)

[EMS.pdf](#)

[Resolution #31088.pdf](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Mr. Hanlon and asked if there were any questions or comments from his colleagues. He asked if there were any comments from the public. He stated seeing non, Mr. Glazier.

Mr. Jeffrey Glazier thanked Mr. Hendricks and stated that one of these transfers is for Police. They want to purchase two vehicles. One in which is a prisoner transport vehicle which they desperately need because two are out of service. They are waiting for one from a local supplier who is taking an abnormally long time to deliver. This will allow them to get one in service pretty quickly. The second vehicle they want to purchase is another patrol car. He stated that it highlights an opportunity for the city to really have a good discussion about what a good police fleet looks like. He stated that they understand that police use their vehicles really, really hard. It is an opportunity to look what the proper size the fleet should be. It is an opportunity to look at what the replacement policy can be. It is an opportunity to looks at what the proper operational policy should be i.e. and the Chief knows this and Assistant Chief Gress was here. The button issue he has is idling. He stated that they knows that idling destroys engines over time and it is part of the problem they are having. He asked is there a best practice where they don't have to do that. If they go more towards a hybrid fleet in the Police Department, will those engines idle less and last longer yielding better performance for our officers. He stated that their experience is limited there. They had one and his understanding from the shop is that hybrid only had one hour train repair and that was a transmission repair. He stated that it is certainly indicative that it would be

a good thing and could be a good thing going forward. He stated as they head into budget season, it is a great opportunity to look at this and hopefully the yield would be that they get a more dependable fleet for our officers in the street and maybe they can save a little bit of money on the back end not only in the costs of purchasing fleet or the operational costs as well. He stated that he would certainly ask for their support and ask for the Chief's support and Public Works and Finance and see if they can do that over the next six or eight weeks.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Mr. Glazier and stated that he knows that the Chief is here and hears you loud and clear. He would suggest that he would take it under advisement and look to do that just what you are asking.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that she heard them say it all before. A lot of it and stated especially who will make sure that this advisement happens.

Mr. Jeffrey Glazier stated that he thinks what he suggested at this point Ms. Gerlach.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that she heard him say before talking about studying how often they replace Police vehicles and other high use vehicles. She stated that she heard him say that before in previous years. She stated that she also heard him advise or not you, but Council voted to study like after the mustang was purchased and to move towards E-vehicles. She asked who makes sure that this advice.

Mr. Jeffrey Glazier stated that he thinks that ultimately you guys have to do that.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated so what, Resolutions.

Mr. Jeffrey Glazier stated to ask and hold the administrations acceleration pedal to the fire as the case maybe. It came up now because of the transfer, but also timing wise it is a good opportunity to look at it and also they transferred and changed providers. He stated that they no longer subcontract repairs and when that subcontractor went away, they took the service histories with them. He stated that nobody had the database to really make informed decisions on vehicles of this magnitude. He stated that now, they have been running it for two years and his understanding is they got enough information that they feel confident with and can make some predictions and come to some conclusions. He stated now is probably the earliest time to do it. He stated that it really upset him that they lost that information on our vehicles. It was really about our vehicles. He stated that he doesn't think it would be wise to make those decisions without having that information. He stated that they got it now. It is on our

system. It is our information and the parties can sit down whether it will be Police or Public Works or Parks and really make some informed decisions about their fleets and how they manage them and how the drivers treat them out in the field. The time might be a little short, but it is shortly a good time to start. It is something that you will see come budget time when they look at the 83 account which was 083 funded which where they purchased rolling stock where they purchase police cars. Where they purchase dump trucks. Where they purchase fire engines. He stated that they can look at that and ask what the outcome of the discussions were.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach thanked Mr. Glazier.

Mr. Jeffrey Glazier stated you're welcome.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated ok and thanked Mr. Glazier.

Mr. Kyle Ropski, 528 N Berks Street, stated that he will never miss an opportunity to not advocate for transition to electric vehicles and EV for the production of greenhouse gas emissions and the benefits Mr. Glazier indicated. The cost savings and whatnot. It is also a public health issue. He stated again, cars emit toxic chemicals EVs and even hybrids are better than nothing. He is definitely and advocate for transmission of hybrid vehicles and it is always the right time. It is a very urgent thing. He stated please convert our fleet to EV, if possible.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated to be clear Councilmen, all electric vehicles are not in the cards for the Police. He stated though Chevrolet does make one. He stated that thing screams at 560 horsepower, but when you have to charge them, you run a 24-hour, seven day a week operation. He stated that is not happening.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated not yet. It is very difficult. He stated that they would have to double the fleet or triple it.

Mr. Kyle Ropski stated that he will settle for hybrids.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated and that was suggested.

Chief Charles Roca stated that he just wanted to comment. He thanked Council for allowing him to comment. He stated that he does agree with Mr. Glazier. It is important that they look at their costs, but having a specific electric vehicle, if the battery goes, the car is done. That would be impactful for many different public safety reasons. He stated that a hybrid would be appropriate stating that is a really good make of a car and in fact it has a lot more power than gas powered vehicles does. It will help the

fleet. It will help the control and if it is done properly and with the full data, they can definitely make some changes in impact. He stated that he is very interested in learning about that process as far as the hybrid vehicles and how that will impact their fleet. He stated to understand that it would have an increase cost in the acquisition of those items.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that those may be costs by an offset by the extended life span of the vehicle.

Chief Charles Roca stated correct.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that it was a great opportunity to look into it. Thank you.

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

Enactment No: 31088

[15-7870](#)

R96

A resolution supporting HB 1200, the legalization of the recreational use of marijuana by adults, with sales through state-owned stores and Democratic Gov. Josh Shapiro's proposed budget which has included a plan to legalize and tax the sale and use of recreational marijuana.

Sponsors: Administration, Mota, Affa, Gerlach and Napoli

Attachments: [R96 HB1200 and budget.doc](#)
[Resolution #31089.pdf](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Mr. Hanlon and asked if there were any questions or comments from his colleagues.

Ms. Candida Affa stated several years ago, she sponsored the decriminalizing of marijuana. She stated that it wasn't enforced because out District Attorney wasn't fond of it. She stated that right after they did, Bethlehem passed it and they do enforce it. She stated that she is a proponent of this stating before when she sponsored decriminalizing. She stated that she owned a bar and one of the worst drugs out there is alcohol. She stated that marijuana as far as she is concerned is a plant and in today's world they would probably tax wise, especially if they lock in with the school taxes, they wouldn't pay school taxes. She stated that they are surrounded and all the other states have legalized it. One of the things in today's world is that people are dying from smoking pot because they are lacing it with fentanyl and things like that. She stated that if they legalize this, you could go to the liquor store or a store that is licensed for this and you will be getting pure marijuana. You wouldn't have to worry about going out in the streets and getting and wondering what it is laced with. She believes if they allow people and remembers Jim Martin's said Ms. Affa,

you think a 15 year old smoking pot on the corner is good. She stated that she doesn't think a 15 year old drinking a Coors Light is good. She stated that it is a drug, but it is a plant and believes if they legalize it, tax wise it is great for the city, but if they are looking at the health issue, she really believes that in today's world with fentanyl and everything else they lace it with, if they legalize this marijuana, people are never going to stop smoking this plant. She stated that is just the way it is and if they could protect the people who want to smoke this without having to go out on the street, she thinks it is a good idea. It is so much more healthier on your body, believe it or not then drinking a martini because it affects your liver. It is just a plant. She stated that she is really in favor of and like she said the surrounding states are getting all this tax money, stating New Jersey and New York. She stated that they can go over there and not get the money. She stated that she is really in favor of passing this or having the state pass it.

Dr. Cynthia Mota thanked Ms. Affa. She stated that this was her Resolution and would like to thank the sponsor of this Resolution, you Ms. Affa, Gerlach, Napoli, Santos. She stated that her interest is in threefolds. Easton recently approved legislation as everyone knows on the possession of marijuana that has similarities to the legislation they passed. She stated that Chief Roca has noted that the Police still cites under the state law and she is simply asking the mayor to visit this issue. Asking that the possession of a small amount not to be a criminal offense. Perhaps it could look or maybe they could look into this and report back to the Public Safety Committee. Second, regarding the Resolution, it supports the HB1200 which was introduced by the democrats in the state house. This will legalize the recreational of marijuana by adults and actually Representative Schwyer is also a sponsor on this and applauds him for this. She stated that Governor Shapiro has included a Plan to legalize and tax the sale and use of recreational marijuana. She stated that this is happening now in this budget proposal. She stated that the neighboring states have already taken the route. The Resolution supports the initiative and supports Governor Shapiro's budget. She stated that the Governor is a friend and supporter of this city interests. She stated that Council needs to give their support to his proposal. In the end, drug usage shall be treated as a health issue. Not a policing or criminal issue. This step moves them in that direction and that is why she ask all the Councilmembers to support this Resolution. She stated finally she would like to ask this office to send a copy of this Resolution out to the local representatives on this Council's behalf.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Ms. Mota and asked anybody else and stated Ms. Gerlach

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated thank you Dr. Mota for introducing this

Resolution. It is much needed and she would implore the current DA to take a look at that law that they all passed long before and making some changes so they can achieve that. She thinks other cities that have done so and actually enforce it, get a ticket.

Dr. Cynthia Mota stated that in Reading as a matter of fact she just in case if you guys would like to come with her Monday, they are going to go to Reading because they are going to be voting for this for the decriminalization of marijuana.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that if you think about it and think about how much police time it will free up and they can go and focus on the actual crimes that are happening in the city and not weed. She stated that not only does she support this Resolution, but she shares her sentiments and actually enforcing the city's own ordinances. She stated that this is a social justice issue to her and an economical issue. She stated thanks for introducing this and it looks as though it is going to pass.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Ms. Gerlach.

Dr. Cynthia Mota stated that Mr. Hendricks is such a gentleman.

Mr. Santo Napoli stated to Ms. Gerlach thank you again, but it is also important that they finally start to remove the barriers. There are too many folks that are experiencing barriers to employment, to housing and it is all because of the antiquated laws. This is an opportunity to clean some of that up and help the next generation by not putting something in the way to prevent them from getting housing or employment. He stated that it is a great move.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Mr. Napoli and stated Ms. Affa.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that she has a question from some solicitor. She asked how does this work when the legislative body here passes the legislation that they are going to decriminalize it. She asked what power and how does he have the power to say no to this. She stated that she doesn't quite understand how when they pass a law that they can have a police officer.

Chief Charles Roca stated that he can answer that. State law trumps city ordinances. Until state law trumps city ordinances. State law is what they have to go by. He stated that the police swore an Oath to uphold the law of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Ms. Candida Affa asked why can Bethlehem do it.

Chief Charles Roca stated that is a choice that they made, but he will say that until the state law changes, they have to go by that method.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that they were not asking to legalize it. They were asking to decriminalize it. She stated that if they pass the legislation in Allentown to do that and Bethlehem did the same thing, she is still confused on how he used the fact that the state doesn't recognize decriminalizing.

Chief Charles Roca stated correct because you are changing the grading of the offense which something that has to legislatively plead through the Pennsylvania legislature. It has to be adjusted or they state that cities, townships and bureaus can set that tone. It thinks a lot of it has to do with consistency.

Ms. Candida Affa stated like she said right after or three months after they did Bethlehem, legalize it and they put it into effect so it is funny, if you cross the boarder and you have a joint on you get arrested in Allentown and they did the same thing. It was a \$25 ticket or \$50. She stated that it depended on the amount and when Ms. Gerlach brought that up and she has been thinking about it for several years. She asked how can one city and they passed the legislation that you can and this city passed legislation that we can. She stated that even though she knows the state supersedes, but obviously Bethlehem did and asked could we address it or change it. It is a different DA.

Chief Charles Roca stated that until it is changed by state law, they treat it like a misdemeanor.

Ms. Candida Affa stated pardon her.

Chief Charles Roca stated that until it is changed by state law, they are going to treat it as a misdemeanor. He stated that the outcome of that is determined by the court process. Typically, the person isn't really going to jail on that type of charge.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that is another thing that they brought up was the fact that no matter who you were, if you got a \$25 fine, but at that time and probably still is. It depends on the officer. If the officer doesn't like that person or had a problem with them before he could actually arrest them. She stated that takes away the discrimination completely. She stated that was another point that they brought up. She stated that no matter who you are or what color you are and your criminal activity before or whatever. A \$25 fine is a \$25 fine. She stated to Chief Roca that he knows himself that an officer has a discretion. They are still here in Allentown arresting

somebody for a joint. They get fingerprinted, a mug shot, scholarship taken away or whatever and it is just not right.

Chief Charles Roca stated that he is not going to speak on the back and forth and if it is good or not. Until the state law is changed, they have to treat it as a misdemeanor. They will also say that they understand the medicinal benefits of marijuana for those who have medical marijuana. He stated that they have to be careful with toxins, especially on how that is going to impact public safety, employees of the city or anyone who can now use marijuana without any recourse. Because as a police officer, you cannot have marijuana in your system. You will be decertified by MOPEC (sp) which is the police certification. It will be across MOPEC which is the Municipal Police Officer Training Commission.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that if they had alcohol in their system, it is ok.

Chief Charles Roca stated not if you are intoxicated. He stated that is what he is saying if it is to the point of intoxication then that can result in some impacts that they don't know yet. He stated that is the only thing he is saying. He stated that plus for the Allentown Police Department, they are going to follow state law, whatever that might be.

Ms. Candida Affa stated so basically if you want to smoke pot, go to Bethlehem.

Dr. Cynthia Mota stated Candida. You are something else.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that it seems like you had mentioned discretion that seems like it is concerning why Bethlehem has it one way and we have it. It seems like a discretion of the Allentown Police Department and the discretion of the DA. They are choosing to.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that they are talking about the state. The state of Pennsylvania is included in Bethlehem.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated yeah.

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

Dr. Cynthia Mota stated that you are not allowed to go out.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that is what happened last night.

Yes: 5 - Cynthia Mota, Natalie Santos, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Candida Affa, and Santo Napoli

No: 2 - Daryl Hendricks, and Ed Zucal

Enactment No: 31089

ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION (To be referred to Committee with public comment prior to referral)[15-7852](#)

Bill 60

Amending the 2025 Trexler Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Eighteen Thousand One Hundred Seventy-Eight Dollars and Sixty-Six Cents (\$18,178.66) from the 2024 Springwood Trust operating budget to the 2025 Springwood Trust operating budget. These funds will be used to complete projects at Trexler Memorial Park.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 60 Springwood 2024 Unappropriated Funds](#)
[Ordinance #16154.pdf](#)

REFERRED TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated thank you so much.

Enactment No: 16154

[15-7853](#)

Bill 61

Amending 2025 General Fund Budget to provide a supplemental appropriation of One Hundred Eighty-Two Thousand Dollars (\$182,000.00) from the Commonwealth of PA Economic Development & Community Development Initiatives Program to the City of Allentown Police Department to utilize the funding for replacement of Police Academy range tower.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 61 EDCDI - Academy Range Tower](#)
[Ordinance #16155.pdf](#)

REFERRED TO THE COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Enactment No: 16155

[15-7854](#)

Bill 62

Amending the 2025 Fire Department budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Two Hundred Thousand Three Hundred Seventy-Five Dollars (\$200,375.00) from the County of Lehigh grant. These funds will be used to update and repair the Fire Academy Training Tower.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 62 Fire Academy County Grant](#)
[Ordinance #16156.pdf](#)

REFERRED TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Enactment No: 16156

[15-7855](#)

Bill 63

Amending the 2025 Fire Department budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) from Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Community and Economic Development grant. These funds will be utilized to support the Public Affairs Office, The Honor Guard, and the Underwater Recovery Team.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 63 Fire DCED Grant](#)
[Ordinance #16157.pdf](#)

REFERRED TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Enactment No: 16157

[15-7856](#)

Bill 64 The bill was forwarded favorably by the Community and Economic Development Committee, Chairperson Mota.

An Ordinance providing for the expenditure of certain monies received by the City of Allentown under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1976, as amended; The Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act of 2009; and Title II of the National Affordable Housing Act of 1990, as amended; for the purpose of undertaking programs of housing and community development within the City.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 64 HUD Allocation](#)
[Ordinance #16152.pdf](#)

REFERRED TO THE COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Enactment No: 16152

[15-7857](#)

Bill 65

Amending the 2025 General and Liquid Fuels Fund Budgets to provide for a transfer of Five Hundred Sixty-Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty-One Dollars and Thirty-One Cents (\$567,951.31) from the unappropriated balance of the General Fund to the Liquid Fuels Fund. This transfer stems from an audit finding on the Liquid Fuels funding from 2016-2020 stating that the paving of more than one inch required prior approval from the Department of Transportation and that prior approval was not received. This was not found in previous audits and has since been corrected once the city was made aware.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 65 - Liquid Fuels Transfer Allocation](#)
[Ordinance #16158.pdf](#)

REFERRED TO THE BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Enactment No: 16158

[15-7862](#)

Bill 66

Amending the 2025 Capital Fund Budget to provide for an increase of Two Million Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$2,750,000.00) to a newly created Capital Account to complete the Center Square Project at 7th & Hamilton as part of the Public Improvement Project in accordance with ANIZDA guidelines. The City entered into a Reimbursable Agreement with PennDOT for up to \$2,500,000 for the improvements at 7th & Hamilton Street and 7th & Linden Street to include new traffic signals, paving, and pavement markings. The City's match is Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00) for inspection fees and construction oversight. The City will be reimbursed up to Two Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$2,500,000.00) from PennDOT through discretionary funding for this project.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 66 Center Square Project Transfer](#)
[Ordinance #16159.pdf](#)

REFERRED TO THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Enactment No: 16159

[15-7861](#)

Bill 67

Amending the 2025 Capital Fund Budget to provide for a transfer of Two Hundred Ninety-Three Thousand Five Hundred Forty-Six Dollars and Eighty Cents (\$293,546.80) from various capital accounts to the Traffic Signals-Upgrade capital account to repair traffic equipment at 7 intersections in the City due to accident damage.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 67 Traffic Equipment Transfer](#)
[Ordinance #16160.pdf](#)

REFERRED TO THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Enactment No: 16160

[15-7869](#)

Bill 68

Amending the 2025 Trexler Fund by authorizing a supplemental appropriation in the amount of One Hundred Twenty Thousand Seven

Hundred and Twenty Dollars (\$120,720.00) to the Parks and Recreation Department to support the Court Upgrades capital project, Roosevelt Park capital project, and Rose Garden capital project. This is part of the 2025-26 Trexler Capital Project allocation.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 68 - 2025 Trexler Allocation.docx](#)

REFERRED TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Enactment No: 16161

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

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated real quick because she knows that time is of the essence. She wanted to make sure that everyone on Council was aware. Sometimes it is unintended consequences of things that we pass. The Allentown Human Relations Commission has been disbanded since Council passed that new law that repealed the whole ordinance and replaced it with a new one that is modeled after the county's. That Commission has been disbanded. It does not exist right now. She stated that she was informed by the former chair, Dr. Swann. There are currently six applications that have been sent to the mayor. Four of whom are from the old Commission. Two of whom are new individuals who are interested. She stated that it takes seven people, a quorum of seven to make any decisions. She stated that it is of the utmost importance because it is a case right now that they need to mediate and help out with. A case of alleged discrimination. There is possibly an effort to staff the Commission with people who have law background which is cool, but everyone can't have a law background. She stated that she is sure that the four that were on at least did not. She stated if that is the case, the administration or whoever will prefer people to have a law background. She stated that she is weary. She is scared that the four people who were on it before, who dedicated their time and be reappointed. She stated that she was hoping to see them tonight to be appointed knowing allegations of discrimination of the utmost importance and she knows that the administration cares about that. She stated that she just wanted to inform each of Council. She just wanted to put that out there that they need to fill that Commission and it needs to be filled rapidly. She stated since there are six applications, they just need one more person and boom, they will have quorum to help this person file a case. She stated that she doesn't know if it is something that the president and vice president could make sure it gets done from the administration, very soon.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that this is now the county.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that this is our Human Relations Commission.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked which will mean.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that it is disbanded. It doesn't exist anymore. She stated that we don't have one. It has been disbanded. It has ended because Council updated it and it was an unintended consequence of updating our ordinance. She stated that she thinks it was the solicitor who decided that they updated the ordinance therefore they needed to implement an entire new Commission.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that he will make sure it gets to the mayor that it gets filled.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach asked for a timeline. Give him to a certain date. Clearly, he has a timeline. She stated that she knows that the solicitor disagrees or the mayor. One of them disagrees. She asked if Council can give a timeline. Because by ordinance, if he does not appoint by August 15th or something like that Council is empowered to make a nomination or nominations to that Commission. She stated that she is sure Council doesn't want to take his power.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that they will ask our attorney to look into that and see if there is a reasonable period of time. She stated that she just doesn't want to stretch it out to the deadline. She stated that she is sure he doesn't either.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that if you would Ms. Montero. He respectfully asked her to do that and hopefully they can find that out.

Dr. Cynthia Mota stated that they only need one.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that if Mayor Tuerk accepts those four people from the old Commission. He wants legal backgrounds.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated ok, anything else.

Chief Charles Roca stated that he has one thing and just want it for and with great sadness and regret that he announces the passing of Ralph Romano, a retired Police Detective. For many years, he served on the department on multiple platoons. He was an emergency response team member. He served from 1992 to 2008. He went on to the Lehigh County Detective Bureau under Jim Martin and now Gavin Holihan. On behalf of the grateful department, they pray for him during this time and wish the best to his family and it is a real blow to the Law Enforcement community. He just wanted Council to know so they can share that information.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated thank you, Chief.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that Ralph came on with him on the department. Ralph was one of the guys that was a true gentleman.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that he had the honor of working with him and had the utmost respect for him. He stated that he would also add for those who knew him, Tom Smith also passed away recently and his obituary was in the paper today. He was an employee of our Parks and Recreation department for a number of years. He stated there too, keep him in your prayers an thoughts.

NEW BUSINESS: NONE

GOOD AND WELFARE

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked is there anything for good and welfare.

Dr. Cynthia Mota stated that Candida is not allowed to go over tonight. She must behave.

ADJOURNED: 8:25 PM

[15-6577](#)

Reference Materials:
Council Rules
Procurement Code
Ethics Code

Attachments: [Procurement Code](#)
[Ethics Code](#)
[Rules](#)