

Allentown

435 Hamilton Street Allentown, Pa. 18101

Minutes - Final

Community and Economic Development Committee

Wednesday, February 5, 2025 5:30 PM Council Chambers

Roll Call: Chair Mota, Napoli, Hendricks

<u>15-7446</u> Bill 9

Amending the 2025 General Fund budget by transferring \$150,000.00 from the Health Bureau, Administration program to a new Health Bureau, Unsheltered Coordination Services program to fund the Unsheltered Services Coordinator position (11N), with a total annual salary of \$68,987.

Attachments: Bill 9 Unsheltered Services Coordinator.doc

Unhoused Services Coordinator Job Description FT.docx

Homeless Services Coordinator Job Description.pdf

Ordinance #16102.pdf

Dr. Cynthia Mota asked do they have the administration there to speak.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that they have the Health Director and the CD Director.

Ms. Vicky Kistler stated yes, Ms. Mota we are here.

Dr. Cynthia Mota stated hi, Ms. Kistler.

Ms. Vicky Kistler stated that she brought Dave Synnamon with her today stating that he has the job description that has been provided to Council. This position was put in the 2025 Budget at the request of both the administration and Council. She stated that they are both here to to answer any questions you may have about the addition of this position.

Dr. Cynthia Mota asked if there were any comments from Council, from the dais.

Mr. Santo Napoli stated yes, first, he wants to speak to and discussed this briefly a couple or a month ago. He thinks it is a tremendous opportunity to have someone in place that can help coordinate and really maximize the resources that are out there for this community. He stated that currently, what they learned and what he has learned is that it tends to be duplication, missed opportunities and having someone that can help manage not just

what the city is doing, but also the nonprofits and everyone in the community that is working towards the same goal. They will only again, maximize their resources and hopefully maximize the results. He stated that he thinks this is great and definitely in favor of it.

Dr. Cynthia Mota thanked Mr. Napoli and asked is there any other comments from the dais.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated Dr. Mota I am not on the committee so she will wait to see anyone else.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated no one else on the committee has any comments.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated ok and said definitely great to see this position get fleshed out and the job description is definitely an improvement from last time so that whoever does get this position are clear and direct of what they are to do. It is much more than an overhead versus like micro, in the weeds with everything. She stated a couple of questions, on the description, Letter D states that one of the duties and responsibilities is to maintain a consensus of all unhoused persons. She asked would the administration and/or whoever else be open to making a change or acknowledging that some folks that are unhoused do not want to be on the census nor should they be forced to encompass that so like maybe it could say all unhoused who choose to participate in a census or whatever term and then also for the person themselves who gets this job is impossible for there to be a census of all unhoused. She stated maybe it could be the majority. She stated that she just want to see feedback on that.

Ms. Vicky Kistler asked if she could respond to that and Dave can also add in. She stated that she thinks the intent behind this was to work with those programs that are tracking folks within their census, but obviously there is a count that is done every year that is not a by name count, but that is a head count. Certainly she can't imagine that they would encourage anyone to be turned away from services because they wouldn't be named or be counted. She asked Dave to add to that.

Mr. David Synnamon stated that he ha no problem doing those verbiage changes. He stated that the intent behind that wording was once he touched before making this job description he touched basis with community partners. He stated that the data piece that was discussed when it was approved by Council as well as talking to their community partners is a huge deal, not so much is individual names, but getting more data about what our unhoused population looks like. He stated that they have the point in time count. There was another issue, but they have

people in this community that are unhoused or have unstable housing that aren't collected in the total picture of what they should be looking at. He stated when they want to argue for more funding, more programming for this community, they need to make sure that they are capturing all these individuals no matter if they are what you say are typically with someone that is unhoused or other. A big part of that is their unhoused or underhoused population in the school district. He stated that is the intent behind that. He stated that he has no problem making those changes. He stated that he noted them.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated ok, alright great. She stated that she thinks even just saying instead of all, just majority. She stated that would account for those who don't want to quite participate with the system. She stated that the last time, there was a member of the community who was concerned about the pay and she then at least one member of the Commission of Homelessness also expressed that concern. She stated that the pay this go around is less than the pay last time.

Ms. Vicky Kistler stated that the position last time was a totally different position and that position was graded at an 9N. This position is more of a working among agencies data collection, data analysis, networking. She stated that so this is two grades above what the position was the last time. This position was graded evenly with other managers in the city system with similar responsibilities.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated ok. She stated that she guesses there are to more things and said she believes that they are going to have to vote on this tonight. She stated that it would be great, if in the future that members of the Commission on Homelessness got to review the job description and everything before it gets this far. She stated that she knows that the chairperson did, but that doesn't always means that it gets disseminated amongst the members. She stated for the future and is there a way to add an element of lived experience as a factor in the hiring.

Ms. Vicky Kistler stated that she thinks that they have to run that by the Human Resources Department. This job description was approved to meet the qualifications and match that as approved by the Human Resources. She stated that they can certainly ask that question if, they could add that stating she doesn't know if lived experience could be defined a number of ways. She stated that she would think that they would need their input as to how they would measure that lived experience.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated yes, she was at a conference and wishes she remembers the state, they essentially just said lived experience with housing instability or being unhoused. She stated that they factored that in.

Ms. Vicky Kistler asked how do you verify that.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that she doesn't know if you do, but she means it is something that they put in. She stated that she guesses people can lie, but people can lie about a lot of things. She stated that would be great because far too often, the people that are making the decisions have never actually experienced the situation that they making decisions about. She stated that she thinks that's it. Thank you.

Dr. Cynthia Mota thanked Ms. Gerlach and asked anybody else from the dais. She asked anybody from the public on this Bill.

Ms. Vicky Kistler stated that both she and Mr. Synnamon will be on Teams if there are questions during the General Council Meeting regarding the position.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated ok, thank you.

A motion was made by Santo Napoli, seconded by Cynthia Mota, that this Bill be forwarded to the full Council Meeting.

Yes: 3 - Cynthia Mota, Santo Napoli and Daryl Hendricks

15-7410 R233

Denial of a Certificate of Appropriateness – 523.5 N 6th Street

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: R233 Denial - 523.5 N 6th St

FINAL Pre-Review 523.5 N 6th Street Facade Alterations

523.5 N 6th St-WITHDRAWN PHONE NOTICE

Adjournment: 5:41 PM