



Allentown

435 Hamilton Street
Allentown, Pa. 18101

Minutes - Final

City Council

Monday, February 1, 2016

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

Special Meeting to Interview and Vote on Vacancy in the Controller's Office

Call to Order

Present: 6 - Ray O'Connell, Julio Guridy, Daryl Hendricks, Cynthia Mota, Candida Affa, and Roger MacLean

15-522 Contoller Vacancy - Interview and Voting on filling the vacancy in the Controller's Office

Attachments: [Controller Questions](#)
[Home Rule Charter](#)
[Administrative Code](#)
[Controller's Office Budget Summary](#)
[Internal Audit Manager - Job Description](#)
[Erlinda Aguiar Controller Letter](#)
[Erlinda Aguiar Resume](#)
[Jeff Glazier Resume](#)
[Jeff Glazier Controller Letter](#)

Mr. Ray O'Connell stated we have a series of questions and you have received the questions. Introduce yourself and tell us why you are interested in filling the vacancy in the City Controller's office. (4 minutes)

Ms. Erlinda Aguiar thanked City Council for the opportunity to interview for this position, staff for their assistance and the people of Allentown for their presence. She has been an Allentown resident since 1992, she has a Bachelor's Degree in Economics and an MBA from Moravian College. She has over 20 years experience in banking, financial and community and economic development. She held public office with the School Board. She is committed to making Allentown a better place. She named her volunteer experience. She stated that hopes that she can work on behalf of the city and rebuild the Controller's office by bringing transparency.

Mr. Ray O'Connell stated using the Home Rule Charter, Administrative Code, Controller's Budget, and Job Descriptions related to the Controller's office as a basis for your answer (attached to this email) tell us how you will

manage and prioritize the work of the office. What will be the product of the office under your direction? Be specific as you can. (10 minutes)

Ms. Erlinda Aguiar stated that the City Administrative Code and the City Charter in addition to the job descriptions basically pre-ordains the activities of the office. The Controller and the Internal Audit Manager's job have very specific tasks and need to be completed. Has to present or represented at all City Council meetings. She stated that she has experience doing this in banking, as a financial analyst, and a commercial credit analyst. She stated that she has the background needed to hit the ground running. It is a simple budget and most of it the salaries expense. What is different is how the person in charge of the controller's office and how they communicate.

Mr. Ray O'Connell stated the Controller is an elected position: Why would voters choose you to fill the position? What would be your message to the electorate to fill the position? (4 minutes)

Ms. Erlinda Aguiar stated that she is a long-time resident of Allentown, someone dedicated to serve and help to make the city better. This is my community and everyone has something to make Allentown great. There is a lot of work to be done to keep our city going. My work experience and education make me a qualified person to do this job. My door will be open and I will listen and also make sure to take care of all the duties of City Controller.

Mr. Ray O'Connell stated the Controller is an independently elected political office. Convince council of your independence & how can Council and the public be assured that you will deal with issues in an independent, transparent and public manner? Give us some examples to illustrate your points. (5 minutes)

Ms. Erlinda Aguiar stated that she never accepting political contributions from political organizations or any payment as part of any political activity. When I ran for the Allentown School Board, I made a decision not to run a conventional campaign. I did not form a committee or Friends of Erlinda Aguiar for Allentown School Board. I wanted to be grassroots and reach out to the community. I did this to preserve my integrity. My door is always open and I am willing to listen to suggestions. I have donated countless hours to so many community organizations and I continue to this day to do so.

Mr. Ray O'Connell asked what makes you uniquely qualified to fill this position - tell us why we should select you. (2 minutes)

Ms. Erlinda Aguiar stated that she has the experience through her job and volunteer service. She has the education, a bachelor's in economics and a Master's in Business Administration. She never accepting campaign contributions of any kind. She will bring to the office of the Controller integrity, transparency, and the ability to do a job. The office must cooperate and receive and given information to other departments, the Mayor's office and City Council.

Mr. Ray O'Connell stated that at this time I will open it to my colleagues.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated you said that the Controller's office was good and accountable and not problems with it. I felt that there is a problem with it and that is why the Controller is not here. Can you further explain what you meant by that?

Ms. Erlinda Aguiar stated that what she meant is that she had the opportunity to review documents, documents issued by the external auditors and other documents issued internally through the city that has been made public. Looking at the job description and looking at the Charter and the Administrative Code, there doesn't seem to be anything wrong with the office of the City Controller. Obviously, there were things wrong because things were happening behind closed doors.

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Ms. Erlinda Aguiar stated yes. The bank, Summit Financial she had the opportunity to do audits on all the files that were assigned randomly. She worked with large participation with the banks with \$250 million in transactions.

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if you are given the opportunity to be the next City Controller what would be the first thing you will do or change.

Ms. Erlinda Aguiar stated that she did not have access to all the

information. There is a wealth of information and financial statements and documents that belong in that office. She would make sure that all the contracts that are in the system, all the copies are available and start a review as well.

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Mr. Ray O'Connell thanked Ms. Aguiar and asked her to sit in the audience, we will be interviewing Mr. Glazier next and have public comment.

Mr. Jeff Glazier stated that he appreciates the opportunity to be interviewed for the Controller's position. He served the City of Allentown and its citizens for over 14 years in a variety of capacities. He is a native of Allentown, married and have raised three sons. All of them graduated from Allen High School and went on to college well prepared. In addition to graduating from Allen High school, he is a graduate of Penn State. He has a bachelor of Arts in Labor Studies with a minor in Economics, and a Master's in Public Administration. With a variety of work experience, the one that is most apt to this position is that he worked for the Treasurer of the State of Pennsylvania as an Auditor for two years. He audited the large data processing printing and telecom contracts. His goal has always been to see the serves are provided transparently and efficiently.

Mr. Ray O'Connell stated using the Home Rule Charter, Administrative Code, Controller's Budget, and Job Descriptions related to the Controller's office as a basis for your answer (attached to this email) tell us how you will manage and prioritize the work of the office. What will be the product of the office under your direction? Be specific as you can. (10 minutes)

Mr. Jeff Glazier stated that according to the Charter all the powers are to be interpreted liberally. He would take a wider view as possible to what the Controller can do. Ideally, the Controller should provide oversight, insight, and foresight to the public body. The Controller is probably the smallest department, two employees. He would assess how resources are being used to determine what if any other kinds of audits and oversights can be carried out with the offices limited time and budget. Given the current state, the contract process will be given a high priority. He would expect to be

much more involved in the budget process with feedback to Council. The Controller is secretary to the Aggregate Pension Board and given the amount of resources, this is a major responsibility. He has been on the Aggregate Pension Board for three years.

Mr. Ray O'Connell stated the Controller is an elected position: Why would voters choose you to fill the position? What would be your message to the electorate to fill the position? (4 minutes)

Mr. Jeff Glazier stated that at this point it is premature to address an election well over a year away, however, I do have priorities that will serve the public well. Transparency is the cornerstone of good Governing. I would increase that by putting audits and contracts on the web. Right now, they are not listed on the web, if you want them, you have to ask for them. The Controller's office could be a clearinghouse for financial information. Information from the Aggregate Pension Board should also be placed online. Have the office assessed by an outside review. A peer review to show what we do well and what we can improve. Increase the capacity to provide insight and foresight to City Council and the Administration as we assess programs to provide guidance.

Mr. Ray O'Connell stated the Controller is an independently elected political office. Convince council of your independence; how can Council and the public be assured that you will deal with issues in an independent, transparent and public manner? Give us some examples to illustrate your points. (5 minutes)

Mr. Jeff Glazier stated thank you. Over 14 years of service, his guide has always been to do what's best for the citizens of Allentown. One may not have always agreed with the positions I have taken or the votes that I have cast. I assure you that it was mine alone and will always continue to be. Many times when on the school board to get approval for the Keystone Opportunity Zone those approvals had to go before three boards and there were times when the school board did not always approve some of these KOZ designation and there was pressure for a yes vote. At times, I did not support those designations and we did not.

Mr. Ray O'Connell asked what makes you uniquely qualified to fill this position - tell us why we should select you for this position. (2 minutes)

Mr. Jeff Glazier stated that there are a number of things. He has a very broad array of work experience all of which made me learn absolutely new things. I am a lifelong learner and will bring that to the Controller's office. I possess the integrity, the diligence, the diplomacy and the persistence necessary to do an excellent job in this position for this city and its

stakeholders.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked in regards and said that you like the Controller to get involved in the budget process. To what extent do you mean?

Mr. Jeff Glazier stated according to the Charter, the Controller supposed to be involved and by developing capacity for some insight, budget decisions can be better performed not only at the administrative level, but for City Council as well. I hope that I can make the office more of an asset for Council.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked to do what.

Mr. Jeff Glazier stated to make better budget decisions.

Mr. Dary Hendricks asked in your past positions have you previously conducted any audits and if you would expound a little bit on that.

Mr. Jeff Glazier stated that working for the Treasury a little less than two years. I audited travel vouchers on a regular basis. I did some very large contracts for data processing for telecommunications, security and training for the Department of Welfare. One of my in travel vouchers, I noticed of series of irregularities and I pointed them out to my superiors and eventually the person whose vouchers were facing federal charges for Medicare fraud because she was in two places at once and that can't happen.

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if you are given the opportunity to become the next City Controller, what will be the first thing you will do or change as the new City Controller.

Mr. Jeff Glazier stated he would like to do first in light of the responsibilities that the Controller's office has and limited personnel and budget, it is assessed where the time is spent and see from there when I make the assessment and determine any changes may or may not need to be made.

Mr. Ray O'Connell stated that concludes Mr. Glazier's interview. At this time the interviews are complete. He opened it up to comments from the public.

Mr. Komenski commended the two candidates for the Controller's Office. He stated that the Home Rule Charter says they can't run until the next Municipal Election which will be 2017 election cycle. He asked Council to consider limiting that to two election cycles.

Mr. Ray O'Connell stated that is very fair, but according to the Lehigh County Voter Registration, this is an opening effective two years. We cannot have a Municipal Election during a Federal Cycle. The year 2016, is a federal cycle.

Mr. Lou Hershman stated that we heard two candidates for City Controller. Next year, Council should look to make it an appointed position. This will take it out of politics.

Mr. Steven Ramos stated that in regards to the previous Controller, Council has to ask themselves what do they expect from the Controller. Do you look at the work that the Controller provides. The last Controller most of the reports were process reviews. I don't think any of the offices were audited in the four years she was there. I don't think citizens should ask for permission to look at these reports to see how our city is being managed. We need to go in a different direction and chose someone that is independent of the administration and political loyalties.

Ms. Kari Holmes thanked Council for the interview process. It is helpful that this opportunity is made public. She stated that she has known Ms. Erlinda Aguiar for a number of years and came to specifically support her. She spoke very strongly and her resume shows her ability to audits and controls and the necessary skills. She stated that she did notice he provided three references and it peaks her interests that these are individuals who have come into question in regards to level of contributions. She spoke on the ability, integrity and diversity.

Mr. Anthony Toth stated that he thought the presentations were excellent. He believes the chosen candidate should have practical and good experience in municipal procurement and in regards to professional service and direct bid for a low cost. Oversight is a key word.

Mr. William Hoffman stated that the person and the power is what I would urge you to think about. The responsibilities of the Controller is set out in the City Charter. The Controller has limited powers to enforce or force various departments of the city to cooperate. I think how it operates now, the Controller doesn't have the independent power that they should have. He stated experience and degrees are all important, but you really don't know what you got until you got it and that is difficult. He said good luck with that decision.

Mr. Ray O'Connell stated just for the public knowledge, Mr. Hoffman was the Controller for four years in the City of Allentown.

Mr. Jose Flores stated that he has been on the eastside and a citizen of

Allentown for 30 years. He stated as a young supporter of change and diversity, it needs to happen. He stated that whoever you chose he feels more entitled that Erlinda has shown throughout her career in the city that she is willing to get the job done in a timely fashion and a respectful manner. As Controller, you can make a big impact.

Mr. David McGuire, 223 N. 91th Street, thanked Council for the open process. We citizens are not addressing questions to the candidates. He stated that with respect to Ms. Aguiar there is a record of accomplishments, but it seems to end at 2010. We citizens are looking for change and more openness and clarity. This is an appointed position, but ultimately becomes an elected position. It is important for Council to understand and the public to know which is each candidates position for the future. We are looking for changes in the City Charter.

Mr. Robert Trotner, 1920 N. Whitehall Street, stated that he is very concerned about the independence issue. He knows Jeff Glazier because he is on the City Council, but there are the references. How can a person that is tied at the hip to the Mayor more so than any person on Council, how can we expect that person to be independent. He got his pac money from Pawlowski.

Mr. Tom Hahn, 2016 E. Highland Street, stated that he sent emails to each Councilmember on issues that he did not want to discuss in public. Why this person who is running didn't use his knowledge on the Finance Committee to help Council and the public when questions were asked? What did he do to help the Controller and the public with the knowledge sitting on Council? Council needs to get answers before the vote.

Meeting went into Recess

Meeting Reconvened

Mr. Ray O'Connell stated that he has been advised by the Solicitor that City Council needs to hold an Executive Session to discuss the Provisions of the Home Rule Charter which relates to the interim appointment of the City Controller.

Mr. Michael Hanlon read the votes for interim City Controller (Jeff Glazier),
6 - 0

ADJOURNED: 6:58 PM

Present: 6 - Ray O'Connell, Julio Guridy, Daryl Hendricks, Cynthia Mota, Candida Affa, and Roger MacLean