

CITY COUNCIL
ORDINANCE NO.
CITY COUNCIL
BILL 107 – 2024
November 6, 2024

Amending the Environmental Advisory Council by allowing nonresidents who have a significant property or business interest in the City to serve on the Council at the discretion of City Council in order to encourage the broadest participation authorized under the Home Rule Charter.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ALLENTOWN:

SECTION ONE: That the following be added and deleted from Article IX, Environmental Advisory Council, in the Codified Ordinances:

ARTICLE IX

Environmental Advisory Council

[Adopted 2-8-2008 by Ord. No. 14566 (Article 177 of the 1962 Codified Ordinances); amended in its entirety 4-21-2021 by Ord. No. 15692]

§ 12-46. Purpose.

Allentown City Council and the Administration of the City of Allentown deem it to be in the best interest and the general welfare of the citizens and residents of the City of Allentown to: be advised as to environmental issues within the City of Allentown; encourage sustainable design and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions including the use of renewable energies, protect and preserve natural resources within the City of Allentown; maintain possible uses of open land in the City of Allentown; and promote community environmental programs.

§ 12-47. Establishment; composition.

A. The Environmental Advisory Council shall be composed of seven members, the majority of whom shall be residents of this City, and all of whom shall be appointed by the Mayor with approval of City Council.

A.B. Nonresidents of this City who have a significant property or business interest in the City may be appointed to the Environmental Advisory Council by the Mayor with approval of City Council.

B.C. The Council members' terms of office shall expire on the first Monday in January following the last year of their term in office, unless the Mayor has failed to reappoint or

replace the member in which case the member's term shall continue until reappointment or replacement;

C.D. Unless removed from office by other Council members due to nonfeasance, duly appointed Council members shall serve a term of three years, except that initial appointments shall be so staggered that the terms of approximately 1/3 of the membership shall expire each year;

D.E. A member of City Council is to be a liaison to the Environmental Advisory Council. The City Council member, as liaison, is to be in a nonvoting capacity with the Environmental Advisory Council, and the liaison to the Environmental Advisory Council is to be selected by the President of City Council.

§ 12-48. Chairperson; compensation.

A. The Chairperson of the Council shall be elected by the Environmental Advisory Council at their first meeting held in each calendar year. Environmental Advisory Council members shall receive no compensation for their services.

B. The Environmental Advisory Council is to be advisory to and shall coordinate its activities with the elected officials, City staff, Planning Commission and other such local governmental agencies.

§ 12-49. Powers and duties.

A. Identify environmental issues, research solutions, and make recommendations to Allentown City Council and City of Allentown Departments and Administration;

B. Recommend plans and programs to the appropriate agencies for the promotion and conservation of the natural resources and for the protection and improvement of the quality of the environment within the City of Allentown and its surrounding areas;

C. Make recommendations as to the possible use of open land areas and/or environmentally sensitive lands within the City of Allentown and its surrounding areas;

D. Promote community environmental programs;

E. Advise the appropriate local governmental agencies in the acquisition of property, both real and personal;

F. Review subdivision and land development plans as appropriate;

G. Advise Allentown City Council and City of Allentown Departments and Administration on climate action planning including promoting energy conservation and renewable energy;

H. Undertake such environmental tasks as requested by Allentown City Council and City of Allentown Departments and Administration.

§ 12-50. Annual report.

A. The Environmental Advisory Council shall keep records of its meetings and activities and shall make an annual report which shall be printed in the annual municipal report (if applicable) or otherwise made known and available. Minutes of each meeting shall be forwarded for posting on the City's website. The annual report shall be presented to City Council at a public meeting no later than the second meeting in March.

B. The Environmental Advisory Board shall prepare a written report of the year's activities, a one-year plan and long-term goals and scenarios using a template provided by City Council. The report shall be given to the Mayor and shall be presented to Allentown City Council at a public meeting, which can be at the same meeting as the presentation of the annual report.

SECTION TWO: That this Ordinance takes effect ten (10) days after final passage.

SECTION THREE: That all Ordinances inconsistent with the above provisions are repealed to the extent of their inconsistency.