



Allentown

435 Hamilton Street
Allentown, Pa. 18101

Minutes - Final

City Council

Wednesday, November 2, 2022

6:30 PM

Council Chambers

Invocation:

Pledge to the Flag

Roll Call

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

Courtesy of the Floor

Courtesy and Privilege of the Floor Rules

Mr. George Saeed, 1812 E. Greenleaf Street, thanked Council for their time and stated that he will be as brief as possible. He stated that he was born and raised on the eastside of Allentown. He talked about the Synergy hookah lounge on Union Boulevard. There have been multiple incidents involving this after-hours nightclub. He stated that he resides at that home with his family at 1605 Greenleaf Street for over 30 years. Their quality of life and overall safety is in jeopardy because of this business. He stated that he understands the shift in regard to the businesses in the city and wants to reap the benefits of that, but this place is nothing but a nuisance. He stated their quality of life and overall safety is in jeopardy. Just this past early Saturday morning, there was yet another incident involving gunfire. This is the second incident in which his family's vehicles were struck by stray bullets. He stated that his brother has a nephew, and he was visiting from the west coast and God forbid one of these bullets went into one of the houses and jeopardizes a life of an adult or a young one. The fear is one of the bullets may enter the house next. He stated that his brother has to cover his son when he hears this gunfire going off. And, his family should not have to suffer and going through insurance claims because of the negligence of that business and the patrons that do not know how to carry themselves. He stated that he review the city's ordinance last night and based on his observation and he and his neighbors complained, this business is a nuisance. Two incidents that he can state where his vehicles were struck pointing to the ordinance were six points per incident. He thinks it qualifies when things are a nuisance with 12 points. With two incidents alone, they are at 12 points. Police are there every week regarding loud music which is another three points and there have been multiple multiple altercations that require police. This past Saturday

morning afternoon, Allentown Police released a statement regarding the Fourth Street shooting. There was not a mention about the Synergy shooting. There has been more than one. The workers from Golden Gate Diner have to deal with the hoopla when they are coming into work when they are coming in at 5:00 or 5:30 AM in the morning. He looked over the ordinance and in his knowledge and understanding, this business does qualify as a nuisance in the neighborhood. He feels that the quality of life and safety are in jeopardy. The city needs to do something about this ASAP before someone really gets hurt and there is a life at stake. He stated that his neighbors and himself have also consulted with some attorneys regarding bringing civil proceedings against and all options for them if the city does not take any action.

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked is it possible that he can give Mr. Hanlon his phone number and your name. She stated that Council will make sure that someone will contact him.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that he will make it a point to get in touch with Mr. Saeed. He stated that he is the chair of the Public Safety Committee and will speak to the Chief and discuss it with him.

Mr. George Saeed stated that he called Chief Roca on Monday morning and did not get a call back from him. He stated that he did speak to the mayor as well. He is aware as well.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that he will get Mr. Saeed's information and he will hear back from him. He stated that he will make it a point to get in touch with Mr. Saeed.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that she understands this Nuisance Abatement law and she was a large part of getting it passed. It seems to be kicked to the curb and she agrees with Mr. Hendricks that they need a meeting with the Police Department and the Solicitor's to find out what exactly the point system we have. It has been kicked to the curb and seems like a lot of after hours situations.

Mr. George Saeed stated that with all due respect he is coming very calm, but it is not a joking matter anymore. When there are bullets flying in your neighborhood that you are not accustomed to, it is not a good quality of life and not what is going to attract people to Allentown. Especially in our particular neighborhood. We never had to deal with this. The problem started when this business came into play. It is clear, cut, dry and evident that they are a business nuisance, and they should be removed from that spot. He stated that they should be more than glad to move somewhere else, but they should not be near a residential area where bullets are flying

every other weekend.

Ms. Candida Affa stated maybe in Bethlehem.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that they will certainly look into it. He stated that Mr. Saeed will hear back from him.

Mr. Wayne Matthews, 1604 E. Greenleaf Street, and lives right across from Mr. Saeed's parents. He has been in the neighborhood better than 20 years. It has been a wonderful neighborhood. Now, it is getting dangerous. This weekend his daughter was terrified, and he had to tell her if she hears something like this, get on the floor, crawl to the bathroom and get in the bathtub. That's not right. You walk around the neighborhood and he walks his dogs and there are broken bottles all over the place, there are used condoms on the ground, there are blunt wrappers. It is a mess. He stated that he is a big proponent of being a business owner and commerce and the world of capitalism that we live in, but at some point people have to take a look at what's the cost of a life. What is the cost of degrading a neighborhood. To Mr. Saeed's point, what type of people are you going to attract to this neighborhood if it is not safe. He had mentioned two incidents. There have been around six incidents that gunfire has erupted. There has been at least one stabbing. It is happening right in front of his house. The reality is that gun incident happened and the car was parked in front of his house. He saw the video footage where this gentleman opened fire over his head and got in the car and drove down the street ripping bullets down the street and shooting up his parents' cars. That is not acceptable. He stated that he doesn't know what needs to take place. He recommended that maybe the APD or someone puts a camera on the street post that is right there. He also thought that the businessowner has to have armed security. He believes that if there was security out in the parking lot, maybe off duty police officers there will probably be a lot less nonsense. There are at least 50 to 60 cars that are parked out there every single weekend. There are probably 200 people that come in and out of place. He stated that he doesn't think it is necessary zoned for that. It is a neighborhood that he loves and he cherishes and will certainly do everything that he can to continue to make it a good place. He thanked them all for what they are doing. Something definitely has to be done. What want to do it this way, but if there is something that is not done civilly than it will be done civilly. He stated that he knows that legal has been contacted and advised to officially put everybody on notice. We are coming here first.

Ms. Candida Affa asked for Mr. Matthews address again.

Mr. Wayne Matthews stated 1604 E. Greenleaf Street.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that if you can leave your contact information.

Mr. George Saeed stated that his brother's vehicle was struck this past week. His work vehicle was struck before. The bullet that entered his brother's vehicle just to give an impact, entered through the rear corner panel window. he has a Chevy Tahoe and went through the headrest above his nephew's car seat and hit the windshield. The bullet was located into the firewall by the Allentown Police. They did retrieve the bullet. Just for an impact, they literally went for the headrest above his nephew's seat. When is enough, enough.

Mr. Wayne Matthews stated that one of the shooters dropped his cell phone. That has been taken into evidence and hopefully that can be used in some sort of apprehension or prosecution.

Contract Approvals:

There are no contracts for approval.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

[15-5418](#) October 19, 2022 City Council Public Hearing on Bill 55 Minutes

Attachments: [October 19, 2022 City Council Public Hearing on Bill 55 Minutes](#)

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

[15-5416](#) October 19, 2022 City Council Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [October 19, 2022 City Council Meeting Minutes](#)

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

Communications

Disclosure

Council President notes that we have this disclosure to make pursuant to our ethics disclosure legislation:

Councilperson Affa met with representatives from AEDC and Mr. Marcon at the request of AEDC to speak about a request for ARPA funds for the development of Metal Works.

Old Business:

Mercury Associates Report

[15-5421](#) Mercury Associates Insource Feasibility Study

Attachments: [Mercury Associates Inc - Allentown Insource Feasibility Assessment](#)

Mr. Scott stated that city hired Mercury Associates to come in and look at the possibility of bringing the Fleet Maintenance in-house. He stated that he came out and spent a few days over at Fleet, looked at lots of things, looked at the budget, and came up with some recommendations and findings. First of all your current code of operation is that you have been outsourcing your vehicle maintenance repairs since the mid 90s. The contractor uses your facility, all your tools, all your equipment. The contractor charges you for M&R Services using target and non-target approach which is commonly used in the industry. The city does have an employee that oversees and manages the contract. A big thing that they found is that the city doesn't own its own Fleet Management information system. There is a problem with this and he will tell them why. The contractors are under a contract to supply the Fleet Information System. However, recently when they ended the contract and started with a different contractor, all the information was not provided by the old contractor from the new one. There was a lot of information on assets that are being lost. If you had your old Fleet Information System you would have very good data, especially on how much it is costing you to operate that vehicle or how much fuel that vehicle is using what the cost was and you can run some analysis of what could be the best replacement cycles as well. You can run a lot of KPIs such as PM compliance, vehicle downtime, utilization, on how often the vehicle is being utilized. That is something to keep in mind even if they don't decide to insource your maintenance. You really need to get your own Fleet Information System. What he did is looked at the cost, what is it costing the city to operate or use the contractor. The price has gone up over the years. Looking at what they charge you isn't truly accurate. They are looking at what they charge the city. There are costs and what they are doing is using your facility and your tools. These are the things that you are paying for, but the costs are really floating to the top. He stated that he kind of figured out what the in-house and sublet repairs were for your current code of operation. With all the budget information that Public Works provided him and what the contractors are charging everything, they are charging you \$4,716,344 per year and that is going to be the cost of 2023 going into the new operating year. For the new mode of operation, he calculated first how many vehicle equivalent units you have. You have 614 assets in your fleet. What he wanted to do is break it down to Vehicle Equivalent Units. Vehicle Equivalent Units are what they take and kind of use them to level the playing field. You have such a diverse fleet. One will be is a sedan, and let's say your fire trucks could be eight to 10 VEUs. What they did was level it for how much maintenance would be required for that more complicated vehicle. He calculated that they had about 1400 VEUs. That came out to for demand hours, 14,000 demand hours using direct labor per technician and what they can logically book on each job and look for the year 1500 direct labor hours per units. He came up with 9.3 technicians that you guys would need. He did a staffing requirement

and figured out that they would need. You need a Fleet Manager, a Fleet Coordinator, a Clerk, a Maintenance Supervisor, three EVT Technician IIIs, four Technician IIs, one Technician I, a Welder, a Body Technician, and one Parts Clerk. He got all the benefits and salaries and got the benefits from the Human Resources Department. With the salary ranges, he had a starting range and ending range and kind of figured out where it fits in. He used Salary.com and contacted the City of Bethlehem to see what they are paying their Fleet and looked at what the contractors pay scale was. That is how he came up with his salaries for the new technicians. What he calculated for their new operating inhouse Fleet would be \$5,502,894 to bring that work back inhouse. He also calculated what the shop labor will be. The 1400 is the probable that you could book per technician would be \$136.40. If you hit the 1500 per technician per year, it would be \$127. They figured that it should be an Asset Management Fee of \$2445, a Fuel Markup of \$.34 cents, a Sublet Markup of 18 percent and a Parts Markup of 26 percent. Now, if they took out the onetime transition costs which is about \$395,000. What went in this was the new FMIS, the Fleet Information System, Technician Toolboxes, and a few other startups for the parts room costs. If we took those dollars out of it, your optimal labor rate would be \$106.80. Your Asset Management Fee would be \$22.42. The fuel would be \$.36 cents. The sublet markup will be 16 percent and the parts markup will be 19 percent. They went ahead and put this side by side for a side-by-side comparison so moving to an inhouse maintenance and not using a contractor anymore, the additional cost for the first year to get started up is going to be \$786,560. There are some transition costs in there that you guys are unavoidable. If you take those costs out, you are looking at an increase of \$391,560. He stated that he wants to cover a few things to keep in mind. You are going to have to build an inventory of parts, supplies and a bench stock. There are a couple of options you can do by the existing inventory of parts. Some are from the current contractor. You can establish a parts inventory from the ground up: i.e. starting a zero-based inventory. Again, he talked about the FMIS and he did get them a quote of \$160,000 for the new Information System is spot on. You also have to think about the projected reoccurring annual costs for software maintenance that would be \$9,400. That is for support from the FMIS people where you can call if you have issues so they can go ahead and walk you through and try to help you fix the problem. He stated that is the nuts and bolts of it. He asked if there were any questions that they might have.

A motion was made by Cynthia Mota, seconded by Ed Zucal, to request that the administration prepare and introduce a Bill to bring the garage back in-house by the next Council meeting.

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

REPORTS

Special Budget Meetings: Our next meeting is scheduled for November 9 at 5:30 to review the Public Safety Budget.

Budget and Finance: Chair Siegel, Hendricks, Santos

The Committee has not met since the last council meeting; the next meeting is not yet scheduled.

Community and Economic Development: Chair Gerlach, Siegel, Mota

The Committee has not met since the last council meeting; the next meeting is scheduled for November 9th at 5:15 PM.

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

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

Parks and Recreation: Chair Affa, Gerlach, Santos

The Committee has not met since the last Council meeting; there are no future meetings scheduled at this time.

Public Safety: Chair Hendricks, Zucal, Affa

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

Public Works: Chair Zucal, Affa, Hendricks

The Committee met this evening; there are no future meetings scheduled at this time.

Rules, Chambers, Intergovernmental Relations, and Strategy: Chair Mota, Zucal, Gerlach

The Committee has not met since the last council meeting; there are no future meetings scheduled.

Controller's Report (3 minutes)

NONE

Mayor's Report (3 minutes)

NONE

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE (To be Voted On): None

CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Cynthia Mota thanked Mr. Hanlon and asked if there were any questions from the dais or the public.

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

[15-5391](#)

R160

Queenette Echefu, Human Relations Commission, Term Expiration:
1-1-2024

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R160 Appointment Queenette Echefu - Human Relations Commission](#)
[Queenette Echefu, Human Relations Commission, 1-1-2024](#)
[Resolution #30521](#)

Enactment No: 30521

[15-5395](#)

R161

Fred Banuelos, Housing Authority, 11-5-2026

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R161 Appointment Fred Banuelos - Housing Authority](#)
[Banuelos, Housing Authority, 11-5-2026](#)
[Resolution #30522](#)

Enactment No: 30522

[15-5393](#)

R162

Craig Taylor, Human Relations Commission, 1-1-2025

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R162 Appointment Craig Taylor - Human Relations Commission](#)
[Craig Taylor, Human Relations Commission, 1-1-2025](#)
[Resolution #30523](#)

Enactment No: 30523

[15-5397](#)

R163

Batool Salloum, Council of Youth, 8-20-2023

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R163 Batool Salloum - Council of Youth](#)
[Batool Salloum, Council of Youth, 8-20-2023](#)
[Resolution #30524](#)

Enactment No: 30524

RESOLUTIONS FOR FINAL PASSAGE (To be Voted On):[15-5388](#)

R164

Approves three transfers: (1) \$60,000 in Traffic to purchase six speed boards to replace the temporary speed board on College Heights, two temporary speed boards on Parkway Boulevard, and add two speed boards on Irving Street by Dieruff High School to slow the traffic down by the school; (2) \$50,000 in Streets – Liquid Fuels required because the premium pay account is currently negative, the Transfer should cover the Liquid Fuels premium pay account for the remainder of the year (depending on weather); (3) \$11,828 for an Old Invoice not Posted and Funds not Available any longer for Target Solutions Invoice in the amount of \$11,828 for 2/1/2022 – 1/31/2023 for LMS.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R164 Transfer Funds](#)

[To Purchase 6 Speed Boards to Replace the 2 Temporary Speed Board on College Heights Required Because the Premium Pay Account is Currently Negative Old Invoice Not Posted and Funds Not Available Any Longer Resolution #30525](#)

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if there were any comments from the administration.

Mr. Seth O'Neill stated that there are no comments. She asked if there were any questions from the dais or the public.

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

Enactment No: 30525

[15-5420](#)

R165

Authorizes expenditure of funds for an independent forensic audit of the use of overtime and sick/leave time across all city bureaus and departure pay-outs

Sponsors: Affa, Gerlach, Hendricks and Mr. Zucal

Attachments: [R165 Forensic Audit](#)

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if there were comments from the administration.

Mr. Seth O'Neill asked if someone could define forensic audit.

Ms. Candida Affa asked Mr. O'Neill what did you ask.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated can we define forensic audit.

Mr. Seth O'Neill stated that the administration would like to know exactly what this entails. He stated that it is a pretty loaded term. He stated that clarity would be appreciated. He stated that is his only comment and Council does not want to answer it.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that she would like to make a motion.

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if anybody would like to answer that.

Attorney Charles Smith recommended that Council keeps the notion of the Executive Session out of it and send it to committee. He stated so that he can speak to the Law Department about scheduling that whether they read that as appropriate. He stated that he would not cloud the two.

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if there were any comments on it from the dais.

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

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

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

[15-5411](#)

Bill 84

Amending Part I Administrative Legislation, Authorities, Boards and Commissions, Article XIV Commission on Homelessness by updating the language in Sections 12-75 through 12-77.

Attachments: [Bill 84 - Amending Commission on Homelessness](#)

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if there were any questions from the dais.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that it is just making the language more person centered versus situation centered. Instead of calling someone a homeless person. It is a person who is experiencing homelessness.

Ms. Cynthia Mota thanked Ms. Gerlach and asked if there were any comments from the public.

REFERRED TO THE COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

[15-5412](#)

Bill 85 Refer to Parks and Recreation Committee

Amending the 2022 Capital Fund Budget to provide for a transfer of Fifty Thousand (\$50,000.00) Dollars from the General Fund – Swimming Pools

into the Irving Pool Improvement Capital Project for the use of construction of the Irving Pool Project.

Attachments: [Bill 85 - Aquatics Transfer](#)

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if there were any questions from the dais or the public.

REFERRED TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

[15-5413](#)

Bill 86 Refer to the Parks and Recreation Committee
Amending the 2022 Capital Fund Budget to provide for a transfer of Fifty Thousand (\$50,000.00) Dollars from General Fund – CED into the Parks Master Plan Capital Project that was allocated for the grant match for this project. These funds would be placed in the Parks Master Plan Capital Project.

Attachments: [Bill 86 - CED Parks Grant Match](#)

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if there were any questions from the dais or the public.

REFERRED TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

[15-5414](#)

Bill 87 Refer to Parks and Recreation Committee
Amending the 2022 Capital Fund Budget to provide for a transfer of Eleven Thousand Two Hundred and Seventy Five (\$11,275.00) Dollars from WPA Structures Capital Project into the Valania Park Improvement Capital Project to use for construction of the Valania Park.

Attachments: [Bill 87 - WPA to Valania Transfer](#)

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if there were any questions from the dais or the public.

REFERRED TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

[15-5415](#)

Bill 88
Amending the Codified Ordinance, Part Two: General Legislation, Chapter 163: Animals, Article I: Animal Control to include the prohibition of the declawing of cats in the City of Allentown unless the procedure is necessary for a therapeutic purpose.

Attachments: [Bill 88 - Declaw](#)

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if there were any questions from the dais or the public.

Mr. Hal Warner, Lehigh Valley Humane Society 640 Dixon Street, stated that Council recently passed legislation to ban the sale of puppies from

puppy mills and he appreciates Council doing that. This is the next logical step in making Allentown one of the most pet friendly cities in the state. Currently, only Pittsburgh has a ban to declaw cats. It is a horrific procedure. Imagine if you will cutting your fingers off at your first knuckles on every finger on your hands. That is what declawing a cat is. It is a horrific procedure and it is really time to say enough is enough. We are not going to do this anymore. There is another person here that is a much greater cat advocate than he is, and he would like to let her speak for a couple of minutes. He looks forward to being at the committee next week.

Ms. Stephanie Gallagher, 402 Newlins Road East - Easton, stated that she is happy to be here with Mr. Warner to thank them for introducing this Bill and she knows that they will receive in committee letters of support from the Humane Society of the United States as well as Best Friends who are the biggest advocates in animal welfare. As we continue to evolve and as president for the Feline Urban Rescue and Rehab, they are one of the biggest cat rescues in the Greater Lehigh. They service the valley area and into New Jersey. We touched the lives between one thousand and 1,500 cats every year through our volunteer base. As they continue to grow and evolve and become a more compassionate and ethical society, they have seen improvements in laws that protects domesticated and wild animals in which we share our planet and our homes. Through this growth, they have come to recognize that the declawing of cats is inhumane and cruel and barbaric mutilation of our companion animals. Claws are intrinsic to being a cat. Claws are used to walk the grass, play, groom, scratch kneed, climb. balance and for some self-defense. They are really much different than the way you and I use our fingers and our toes. Declawing is a medical procedure. It is called an Onychectomy which is the removal of the third knuckle. It is just not the removal of the claw, but it is the removal of the bone. In cats, claws grow from the bone. In human, our claws grow from our skin. In cats, you have to remove the bone in order to remove the claw itself. It is an extremely painful procedure, both immediately and long-term. Once the declawing is done, and the knuckle is removed, the extreme painful situation requires hospitalization and pressure bandaging by trained staff because of this severe pain and bleeding that occurs. Part of the problems with declawing is that the general public does not understand the significant lifesaving surgery and the vet is not likely to explain that procedure as an amputation or mutilation of their pet. If they did, why would anybody choose to have such an elective surgery done. With declawing, pain is both immediate and long-lasting. Complications includes bone and nail regrowth under the skin and atomical changes, infection, arthritis of the wrist, elbows, shoulder and knees of cats. When cats no longer can have their claws, they walk differently on their feet due to the pain in an attempt to compensate for these amputations. Cats that have been declawed often develop behavioral problems. These problems

are typically reported to shelters and rescues which includes biting since cats no longer have their primary claws as a defense. A cat bite is far more dangerous than a cat scratch. It is for that reason that the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the National Institute of Health the (NIH) do not support cats being declawed. The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty of Animals also does not consider the potential exposure to disease from cat scratches as justification of declawing. People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals and the Human Society of the United States also strongly oppose declawing. the American Association of Feline Practitioners as well as large international veterinarian hospitals oppose declawing. The other most behavioral problem reported to animal shelters and rescues from owners requesting to surrender their declawed cat, is an appropriate elimination. Meaning cats are no longer using their litter boxes most likely due to pain in their paws but are defecating and urinating in other areas of the home, including on furniture. Owners than choose to surrender these animals to shelters and rescues. It is not true that banning declawing will cause more cats to be surrendered to shelters or fewer people to adopt cats. Shelters and rescues actually see quite the opposite. What we see is owners surrendering declawed cats due to behavioral problems resulting from declawing. Veterinarians are not the ones at the end of declawing, it is the shelters and rescues that are dealing with the problems that are being created. There are lots of anecdotal notes about animals being surrendered and there are two studies that she would encourage the community to look at. One out of California and one out of the British Columbia showing that in areas where declawing has been banned, there has been no significant increase in animals being surrendered to shelters. There are many ways to prevent cats from scratching furniture. She stated that 82 percent of cats that are declawed are reported to be declawed in order to avoid scratching the couch. These include furniture protectors, scratching posts for cats, along with trimming nails can easily correct this behavior. The first city to ban declawing was in West Hollywood. Many cities have since banned declawing and within their city limits and Pittsburgh was the most recent city to do so in September 2021. Declawing has been banned in other countries for many, many years, including 42 countries and currently eight out of the 10 provinces in Canada. New York was the first state to ban declawing in 2019 and Maryland followed suit in 2022. She stated that she believes that Delaware will be next. In Pennsylvania, House Bill 1624 was authored by Representatives Hanbidge and co-authored by Malagari, and unfortunately that Bill still remains in judiciary committee and has not yet been moved or brought to vote. Allentown is in a unique position to set the tone of compassion for cats in the state of Pennsylvania by passing the anti-declawing ordinance within the city. As this Bill moves to committee, she would encourage the members to watch a documentary entitled "The PAW Project." You can watch it on YouTube or Netflix. The is an excellent

documentary that documents the history of declawing in this country. On behalf of all of the cats that are in the city of Allentown, and the advocates who continuously fight to improve their lives as well as care for the abuse, neglected and declawed cats surrendered by their owners due to behavioral problems, we greatly appreciate the Council's time and consideration and are hopeful that you would support passing this Ordinance to ban declawing in the city of Allentown. You will be one of the leaders in making declawing illegal within the Commonwealth and eventually within our country.

Ms. Candida Affa asked how is this controlled. Obviously, it is not just veterinarians that are doing this. Are there other people out there or clinics that do this.

Ms. Stephanie Gallagher stated that you have to be a licensed veterinarian to declaw a cat.

Ms. Candida Affa stated when this Bill is passed, the veterinarians in Allentown will no longer be able to do this procedure.

Ms. Stephanie Gallagher stated correct. It is an elective procedure.

Ms. Candida Affa stated basically it has to be a veterinarian.

Ms. Natalie Santos asked Ms. Gallagher if she is aware of any other domestic pets, it is common to declaw or is it only in cats.

Ms. Stephanie Gallagher stated that she thinks that if they were sitting here talking about declawing dogs, we would be mortified.

Ms. Natalie Santos stated like gerbils.

Ms. Stephanie Gallagher stated that she is not aware of other animals that are pets in our homes that are declawed. The declaw movement in the United States actually started with big cats. Lions, tigers, bobcats, panthers, those who are in roadside zoos and those kinds of places. Those animals were routinely declawed for the protection of the workers at those places. Other than house cats as far as domestic cats, she is personal not aware of other domestic animals that we keep in our homes that veterinarian distinctly declaw.

REFERRED TO THE COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE

**RESOLUTIONS FOR INTRODUCTION (Can be voted on or Referred to Committee):
NONE**

NEW BUSINESS: NONE**GOOD AND WELFARE**

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that Ms. Kistler asked him to come up with a joke for tonight. This one is just for her. She the only one that can participate. We have kind of a lunch deal going on. He stated that Dolly Parton has a new diet out, can you tell me the name of it?

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked Mr. Zucal to repeat that.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated Jolene, Jolene. The song.

Ms. Vicky Kistler stated cheese and water it is.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated no, no. Steak my friend. It's a song.

Ms. Candida Affa stated Jolene.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that is unfair. Crack another joke. That was unfair.

ADJOURNED: 7:18 PM

[15-4437](#) Council Rules
Home Rule Charter
Contract Procedures

Attachments: [HOMERULE June 2021](#)
[Council Rules March 2021 Edition](#)
[Contracts \(4\)](#)
[Ethics, Code of \(7\)](#)