



Allentown

435 Hamilton Street
Allentown, Pa. 18101

Minutes - Final

City Council

Wednesday, February 17, 2021

6:15 PM

<https://link.allentownpa.gov/CityCouncil-02172021>

Confirmation Hearing - Fire Chief

Public Comment Provisions during COVID-19: The meeting will be live streamed. The link to the meeting can be found on the city website with the agenda and legislation at <https://www.allentownpa.gov>. Council will receive comments on the legislation prior to the meeting and will consider all comments from city residents. All comments must include your name and address, including your city, and be emailed to Michael.Hanlon@AllentownPa.gov by 2 PM on the date of the meeting. Comments can also be registered using the ecomment provision on each agenda item found on the city website. Comments received from city residents by that deadline will be forwarded to the Mayor and Council members prior to the meeting and will also be noted at Courtesy of the Floor or Public Comment periods of the meeting. These timely received comments will also be posted on the City's webpage as a supporting document to the meeting. Any comments received on the meeting day, after the 2:00 pm deadline, will be forwarded to the Mayor and Council as soon as practicable. In addition, if you would like to speak during the meeting, please send your name, address, including municipality, and telephone number to the email address above indicating what issue you would like to speak on or call the office at 610.437.7555 and do the same, and you will be called during the meeting.

Roll Call: President Guridy

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

Resolution will be on the agenda of the council meeting.

Mr. Efrain Agosto thanked Mayor O'Connell for having faith and confidence in him to take over this department. He stated that he joined the department back in 2003 and served approximately nine years as a firefighter before he decided to apply for the Fire Marshal position. As a certified Fire Investigator and a Fire Inspector under the direction of the Assistant Fire Chief, he investigated multiple fires of commercial structures, residences, vehicles and so forth. On the Inspectors side, he was tasked to perform inspections at multiple facilities for code compliance and permitting purposes along with providing educational information regarding fire safety in general. In 2014, he was promoted to Assistant Fire Chief for Fire Prevention. As the Assistant Chief of Fire

Prevention and under the direction of the Deputy Fire Chief and the Fire Chief he has full management and control of all matters pertaining to the Fire Prevention Division and all subordinate officers: Fire Marshals, Captain of Public Affairs, and any member of the department he was assigned to the office. He was responsible for all the fire prevention laws and ordinances related to the protection of life and property from fire and made sure that all Industrial American Tile Institutional Educational and High Density Residential Occupancies were periodically inspected. He stated that he worked in that position for approximately four years before being promoted to Deputy Fire Chief and Bureau Manager his responsibilities included supervising and evaluating Battalion Chiefs, Assistant Chiefs, Captains, Lieutenants assigned to their respective divisions. Personnel and apparatus assigned to the Fire Department so that efficient operations are accomplished. The disposition of all apparatus and equipment assigned to the Fire Department ensuring that the equipment is kept in the best condition possible. It has to be readily available for all emergencies. Other responsibilities are personal assignments, personnel vacations, budget preparations and so forth. He stated that it is an honor to have Chief Wehr set the bar for him and embraces this challenge. Chief Wehr tackled some very difficult issues over the past year, especially the during this pandemic. He should be acknowledged for all the hard work that he put forth in order to our members as safe as possible while still providing the public the best service that could be provided by our members. He stated that he earned the confidence of the city administration and fire department and the community. He stated that he is very grateful for this opportunity and looking forward to continue to move this department forward for many years to come.

Mayor Ray O'Connell thanked Mr. Agosto. He asked if there were any questions for Mr. Agosto.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that he doesn't have any questions. He is very happy that Mr. Agosto is being chosen for this position. You are making history in the City of Allentown. You are the first person that has been appointed to any position in this administration in a cabinet capacity and this is history making for our city. The city has been for 160 years and you are the first person who was appointed for a cabinet position as far as he knows in the City of Allentown. He is the first Hispanic who has been appointed. He is very, very proud of this moment.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked Mr. Agosto if he grew up in the Cumberland Gardens Housing Projects. It shows too how important it is for other children in this city that growing up in the Housing Projects or wherever you grow up is not an appendant to further yourself to the highest level to the

career you chose. It shows and is a testament. He stated that it is quite an accomplishment you should be proud of.

Mr. Efrain Agosto stated thank you, I am. It goes to show if you have the ability to just continue to move forward without feeling that you are less than an individual because you grow up in poverty or you grow up in the system or you grow up in any situation that is not always totally acceptable by the general public at lot of times. It goes to show that you can do something if you choose to do something for yourself.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that it sends a great message.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked Mr. Agosto if he grew up in the Cumberland Gardens Housing Projects.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that she is very excited to have Mr. Agosto in this position. That is a plus. You are Dieruff High School. That is so important to make sure that we look and we hire people within. she stated that she always say that over and over again. There are a lot of qualified people in our city. In our beautiful city of Allentown. We tend to sometimes look elsewhere when we have gold and diamonds here in our city. She stated that I am really glad.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any further comments. He asked to call the vote.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that it is on the Agenda this evening.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated R21.

Mr. Julio Guridy thanked Deputy Fire Chief Agosto. We will wait until the meeting.

Mayor Ray O'Connell thanked Mr. Guridy, Ms. Mota and all Councilmembers.

[15-4083](#) R21 Appointment of Fire Chief

Attachments: [R21 Appointment of Fire Chief](#)
[RESUME_EFRAIN_AGOSTO](#)
[Resolution #30147](#)

Enactment No: 30147

[15-4094](#) Appointments - Charter and Code

Attachments: [Appointment Procedures, Compensation - Charter and Code Summaries](#)
[1 General Administration](#)
[HOMERULE March 2020](#)

ADJOURNED: 6:21 PM