



Allentown

435 Hamilton Street
Allentown, Pa. 18101

Minutes - Final

City Council

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

6:30 PM

Council Chambers

Invocation:

Pledge to the Flag

Roll Call

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

Courtesy of the Floor

Please observe the Rules of Council when given privilege of the floor. A copy of the Council Rules can be found on the council agenda on the website. If you would like to speak, we are asking that you fill out a card – they are on the back table provide them to the clerk before speaking. Include your name and address. When speakers have the privilege of the floor, personal insults, attacks, name calling or other behavior that is inconsistent with the purpose of conducting official business will not be tolerated.

Courtesy of the Floor is meant to provide public comments on items that are not on the agenda. Public comment during consideration of ordinances, resolutions and motions are limited by topic – your comments must be relevant to the subject matter of the proposed legislation. Public comments are taken before council votes on legislation.

You are given the privilege of the floor to provide public comment; it is not a question and answer session. State your position clearly and concisely for consideration. If you speak on behalf of yourself, you have three minutes and if you are speaking on behalf of a group that has several members present, you will be given five minutes in place of everyone coming to the podium. Please address the Council President not individual councilpersons or city staff. Refrain from insulting or defaming staff, officials, and the public; refrain from using offensive language, cursing, and making noises while other people are speaking. Please be aware that comments and/or behavior in violation of these rules will result in a forfeiture of all remaining time and you will be asked to return to your seat.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that if anybody wishes to speak for Courtesy of the Floor should have submitted a card from the back table. He stated for

Courtesy of the Floor only. He asked Mr. Hanlon do we have any.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated no.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that they will begin with Courtesy of the Floor. If anyone wishes to speak under Courtesy of the Floor should have submitted a card from the back table for Courtesy of the Floor only. He asked Mr. Hanlon do we have any.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated no. He stated that he is going to make a Motion to Suspend the Rules and to Move the Resolution for Final Passage R127 to the front of the Agenda.

[15-7964](#)

R127

Renames Valania Park, located at S. 6th and Union Streets in memory of Mr. Clyde Bosket, Sr.

Sponsors: Administration, Affa, Gerlach, Hendricks, Mota and Napoli

Attachments: [R127 Bosket.doc](#)

[CALV Letter of Support for Renaming Valania Park June 2025.pdf](#)

[Resolution #31120.pdf](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that he believes it is unanimous so we will do so.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated R127 renames Valania Park located at S 6th Street and Union Streets in the memory of Mr. Claude Bosket, Sr.

Audience stated Clyde.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated Clyde.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that he would like to first open it up to his colleagues on the dais. He asked if there were any comments or questions.

Dr. Cynthia Mota stated that she does have a comment.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks to Ms. Mota.

Dr. Cynthia Mota stated that she had the honor of meeting Mr. Clyde and the last time she saw him was at a great event that was held (inaudible) of the Arts. It was a really nice event. She stated that she would like say Mr. Clyde Bosket was such a pillar in our community and he leaves behind a legacy of love, faith and entrepreneurship because he helped a lot of young kids learn how to cut hair. She stated that he was able to help them put a

barber shop and she met a lot of those people that he helped. She stated that he was always showing us what it means to be the change you want to see. He was a proud man of God and his impact in this community cannot be measured. Having a park named after him will be such a beautiful way to honor him and make sure that generations to come will never forget him. Thank you.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Ms. Mota and asked anybody else.

Mr. Santo Napoli stated that he has a quick story and thanked them. He stated that back in the late 90s and early 2000s, he had a business in downtown Allentown. On the 600 Block and it was a clothing store and sneaker store and that is when he realized who Mr. Clyde Bosket is. He stated many of his employees and his customers, would speak so highly of this gentleman and actually a few of them ended up becoming barbers and going through and following his footsteps. That is when he was introduced to him as a person and just hearing the stories from that point all the way up to today was really fantastic. He stated that he is happy to hear what the city is doing for him today and for the community too. Thank you.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Mr. Napoli and stated Ms. Gerlach.

Ms Ce Ce Gerlach stated that she tends to think of stuff historically and she thinks about how all of us who are in this room now and some of us who are on this dais and through ripple effects would not be here. Even though Mr. Bosket wasn't elected, the fact that he was a businessman, a Black man in the city of Allentown during and it has always been discrimination, but back then whew, it was more than 1929. She stated 1929 and we know what this nation was like back then. She stated just to think of the adversities that he had to overcome just to make it and yet along had to provide opportunities to others. She stated we owe him for the ability to even be in this room one way or another.

Dr. Cynthia Mota stated that he opened up doors. He opened up doors.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that he did because just think about it like if there are folks that are saying oh a Black man can't run a business. Well, if a Black man can't run a business, they definitely can't be on City Council dais. They definitely can't be mayor. They definitely can't hold elected office. So the fact that he was able to break through those barriers allowed us to even be here where we are at. She stated that she hopes that our schools teach. We have a park named after this gentleman. She hopes that the school teach about Mr. Bosket and how they are in the school and learning and how that is connected to all the work that he did to pave the way for the rest of us. Thank you.

Dr. Cynthia Mota stated that is his legacy. He built a legacy.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Ms. Gerlach. He stated that he would just add that while he did not know Mr. Clyde Bosket personally. He went through his Allentown School District in his career on the Police Department and here on Council, went to school with his son, Danny. He stated by Danny, the character, his reputation is certainly a reflection of his father. A great person in the community and today, he serves the community in a great manner. Much like his father, only recently someone operated a barbershop and opened a new one and referred to Mr. Bosket as teaching him about how to treat people in the community and how his legend and stated that he will call it a legend because so many years his barbering had such an affect on people. Fortunately, many of those who gone through unfortunately being incarcerated. It is a trade they learned and now they are being taught and he was doing just that in the community to give them the skills and how to treat people more important than anything. It is about being a member of the community. He stated all that he can say knowing Dan as he does, he knows the job that his father did in fathering him and that is an important part. He stated that he will open it up to anybody.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated that he wants to echo what a lot of them said. He stated that he did not get to know Mr. Bosket well. He stated that they met a few times and stated that he thought he was some knucklehead who was out there. Nobody really paid much attention, but he was always attracted to him because of his connection to history and because he also came to Allentown from South Carolina. He was always intrigued about his path to Allentown and the Allentown he found when he got here which is certainly very different than the Allentown we know today and that has a lot to do with him. He had a huge impact on that city. That legacy that he left behind and not just of entrepreneurship, but of fundamental kindness and decency and how to treat people. He stated that he knows when he is in Allentown, he knows when he is talking to someone whose life was touched by Mr. Bosket because it is just something different. It is something different about a person who knew him because you learned a life lesson and that is absolutely true with his son, Dan and with his entire family. He stated that he is blessed to know many people who were connect to him. In that way, he wants to thank City Council for considering this request that came from the community to rededicate this critically important park that sits at the corner, a corner very near to where Mr. Bosket's shop was. A park that is still so much a home in the center of history and has a lot of history left to tell. He stated by passing this Resolution, you are taking a step in the right direction of dedicating this park after a man whose so deeply connected to our history in Allentown. He stated that he thinks there is more to do along these lines. He stated that he has spoken with a number of other folks that

additional dedications that might be made in this neighborhood so we can commemorate what was lost with the urban renewal and the demolition of the 70s and stated that he is grateful to City Council for stepping up and taking responsibility and honoring the legacy of somebody who continues to live with us every day. He stated that you might not been able to meet him very often. You are absolutely living in Clyde Bosket's Allentown and we know him every day here in Allentown and deeply appreciates him. He thanked Council for considering this.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Mayor Tuerk and stated that he will now open it up to the floor. He asked if anybody wishes to speak. He stated if there are any comments, please feel free to come up to the dais.

Ms. Becky Kiss stated that she is here to read a statement on behalf the Parks and Recreation Commission. She does want to say to Mr. Bosket's family, she does appreciate everything that your family member has done for the community. However, this question and this statement is geared towards the decision and procedures that it was made. She stated that the Board of Recreation members adamantly oppose the renaming of the park at the next City Council meeting because the board was not consulted, informed or involved in any way. This appears to have not had any very limited community input from what we were told at our last board of Parks and Recreation's meeting. The people who live in this area are very attached to the park, the Board of Recreation has been requesting movement from the city on historical signage at Valania Park that was supposed to be part of the renovation. The park opened May 25th, three years ago. She stated that they still have not had no historical signage, no movement on the signage representing the strong African American community that was built in this neighborhood. The board feels that it is premature to rename the park without having done the work involving the community and uncovering and presenting the history of the park. She stated that this was passed by a super majority of the board via email and in person. She stated that her question to you all is what was the procedure that you followed in deciding to rename the park before the historical signage that was promised as part of the renovations that had started over three years ago. She stated why the historical signage not up. What was the procedure you guys had in choosing and deciding to rename the park. Why was the Parks Department or the board not notified. She stated that it has nothing to do with Mr. Bosket and unfortunately now she is standing here with egg on her face asking for answers when this is supposed to be part of the function of the board and she is just curious how this could happen without anybody being consulted or informed or anything. She stated again, it has nothing to do with Mr. Bosket and she feels like now she is in this terrible situation because she does believe that Mr. Clyde was a fantastic man who made a lot of accomplishments, but this is the

reason why boards in this exists for collaboration, for communication. This was done without the notification of the board or the input of the board and there was no transparency with the board on how this happened.

Dr. Cynthia Mota asked could she say something and stated if it has to do with the community, the community is here.

Ms. Becky Kiss stated that she understands and sees that. She does see that and just had to read the statement as it was presented by the board.

Dr. Cynthia Mota stated that she does understand. She stated that a better person and she is not throwing him under the bus, will be out leader, Matt Tuerk.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated that he will do two things, one he will defer to Mike Hanlon to describe the process by which assets are dedicated in the city of Allentown which doesn't involve the administration. Two, he will read for the interests of everybody who is here, the powers and duties of the Board of Recreation that was adopted by City Council with the assistance of most of the existing members of the Recreation Board on October 4, 2023, including identifying recreation solutions, making recommendations to Allentown City Council and the city of Allentown departments and administrations so recreation solutions. Recommending and implementing programs to the appropriate agencies for the improvement of the quality of life within the city of Allentown. Making recommendations for the potential use and development of parks, trails, and other recreation amenities such as: skatepark, pools and waterparks, field courts and structures within the city of Allentown. Promote recreation programs, advise City Council and city of Allentown departments and administration on Parks and Recreation planning, including promoting recreation programs and use of facilities and consider such Parks and Recreation tasks as requested by Allentown City Council and City of Allentown departments and administration. It doesn't include the naming of city assets. That is the responsibility of City Council. There is a process in the Code that determines what the dedication of city assets is. He stated that Mike can describe it better than he can, but he believes it starts with a member of the community and organizations. Submitting a Petition to City Council. They connect with members of the community check in and then they hold a public meeting which is this one to consider the renaming and individuals or groups can connect with City Council as you are doing now, expressing your adamant opposition to renaming a park.

Ms. Becky Kiss stated that it is not the renaming of the park. It is not what she is saying. What she is saying is that this was done without any collaboration from the board. She stated that it was done when they asked

the Parks Department if they had any information. She stated that nobody had any information on that as well.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated that this is a City Council function.

Ms. Becky Kiss stated that she is speaking.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated that he hears that. He is just letting her know, it is a City Council function.

Ms. Becky Kiss stated right and her question is where is the historical signage for the park that the community has also been promised for the past three years and five months.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated that he is not going to answer that.

Ms. Becky Kiss stated that she guesses that is her question. She stated so you can rename a park which is fantastic. She stated that she 100 percent supports the renaming of this park however, she doesn't understand why the historical signage is not even in the works at this point and it is being asked for over and over again. There is just nothing.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated that he cannot answer that question. He stated that the original plan for the park must not have been included in the historical signage.

Ms. Becky Kiss stated that it did include historical signage. The signage was initially supposed to be part of the steps, part of the area and there is still no signage.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated that and the recommendation from the Board of Recreation is.

Ms. Becky Kiss stated to move forward on the sign.

Mayor Matt Tuerk asked when was the recommendation taken.

Ms. Becky Kiss stated that the recommendation is that this park was built in the 1970s and while that community has such a strong community within it, they feel that as the board, it needs to be represented in that community with signage that was promised as part of the parks plans.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated that the signage that he can speak to is and he thinks Ms. Gerlach wants to speak in a second. He stated that he will mention quickly, the Lehigh County Historical Society has a Walking Trail

Plan that includes a spot in front of the soon to be named Clyde Bosket Park that recognizes the urban renewal history of the park. They are considering the renaming of the additional streets around the park to recognize other figures who were instrumental in the park. He stated that he is not sure what the demnentions around the historical signage might have been. He stated that he knows that members of City Council are members of the Board of Recreation as well. He stated that he is not sure if they were able to attend and advise on the placement of the historic signage.

Ms. Becky Kiss stated that she is not sure if they were aware of the Historical Society putting in any signage at Valania Park which again which goes back to the lack of transparency and communication.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated that the member of City Council that is on the Board of Recreation.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that you have two issues here. She stated one is that you are upset about the signage and that is not what we are here for tonight.

Ms. Becky Kiss stated that you never showed up to a Park and Recreation meeting.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that they as Council.

Ms. Becky Kiss asked how would you know what we discussed in our meetings.

Ms. Candida Affa asked Ms. Kiss was she there when they discussed the meeting on how the community wanted Mr. Bosket and how the Council had a 7 - 0 vote.

Ms. Becky Kiss stated that she explained that there is no collaboration on transparency.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that there was a 7 - 0 vote and wanted this. She stated tonight you are here with this whole community here and you are upset about the signage. She stated well, we will get you the signage, but they want to continue here so that they can get Mr. Bosket and stated that this is our decision. She stated Ms. Gerlach.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach thanked Ms. Affa and stated that all three or all four things can be true at the same time. She asked does there need to be more communication, yes. Was there problems with a lack of

communication, yes? Does Mr. Clyde Bosket need this park named after him, yes? Do we need those plaques, yes? Yes, because that was horrible what happened. She stated that all three things could be true. She stated that she doesn't think that voting yes on this tonight negates the fact that even though it is not written and spelled out like a duty of the Commission, it would be a respectful thing to have that conversation. She has heard other Commissions talk about the lack of communication. It is not just the Parks and Rec Commission issue, it is just in general that there is sometimes a lack of communication between either us and them. The administration and them and what have you. She stated that all three things can happen. All three things can happen. She stated that we can get the plaque, we can name this park. It seems like there are going to be markers. She stated that she would strongly encourage that the language that are on those markers go through some of the folks who have been around for a long time to make sure that they are historically accurate and whitewash city language. She stated that she does not know how else to say that.

Dr. Cynthia Mota stated that we here you and understand that you are right. There should be more communication, but at this point it is important to continue to honor this man that has done a lot for the community. She stated that they hear her and understand.

Mr. Santo Napoli stated and lastly and very quickly, he understands Mayor Tuerk about the bylaws.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated to Mr. Napoli sorry to interrupt, but this is the ordinance that you City Council passed and was written by this Board of Recreation.

Mr. Santo Napoli stated that he knows technically that they are not in charge of it, but he thinks these boards are made up of volunteers and they all need to try harder to make sure we collaborate more.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated that he wants to be clear and it is an important point, but he thinks tonight is about Mr. Bosket. He does want to be very clear, the city's Parks and Rec staff attended these meetings. He stated that City Council members who also members of the meetings do not attend, correct.

Ms. Becky Kiss stated do not attend, what?

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated your Board and Recreation meetings.

Ms. Becky Kiss stated no, they do not.

Mayor Matt Tuerk thanked Ms. Kiss.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated thank you very much for pointing that out and they will move forward from there. He stated please anybody else that wishes to speak.

Pastor Benjamin T. Hailey, Sr., Union Baptist Church, stated to to the mayor, it is good to see you. To the president, vice president and all the Council members. He pastors Union Baptist Church on the corner of Sixth and Chew here in the city of Allentown. He stand and rise with all of those who are part of the Union Baptist Church. He asked them to all stand with him please.

Ms. Kari Holmes stated that she is an honorary member.

Pastor Benjamin Hailey stated there you go and said we have honorary members as well. He stated as members of this community, they want to commend this Council and this city for making sure that the community is represented. He stated that he heard the young lady earlier with the signage and what not. He think this renaming of Valania Park, Mr. Clyde Bosket, Sr. Park is a major ku in terms of representing the African American community that grew up around that particular park: Lawrence Street, Union Boulevard and what we call it now, Martin Luther King. He stated that entire area and this area is better served as we name this Park Clyde Bosket Park. He stated that Mr. Bosket for those of who that don't know and he think everybody that is a part of Allentown has at least heard his name at least once or twice. He stated that Mr. Bosket used to serve migrant workers. He would go out into the field and cut hair on the back of the truck to make sure that people were able to have a decent look about themselves and be able to conduct themselves with some self esteem and dignity stating that he trained most of the barbers of African descent from Easton all the way to Allentown with five different shops between those three cities. He was a marvelous, marvelous advocate for business and Black business in this community. He stated that once again, we as a community want to say thank you for recognizing one of our own and one of the finest. He stated whoever has been a part of the Allentown community. He stated thank you so much.

Mr. Hamp Smith stated good evening and stated you know he is a member of the Board and Recreation and stated that he just has a few questions. He stated that the naming of the park is wonderful and just want to make sure that our city follows policy. He stated when you receive a letter, that should go to Mike Hanlon and asked if he is correct. When you receive a letter, that should go to Mike Hanlon, correct and he should follow. He

asked did that letter go to Mike Hanlon and did this Board know that this letter was there and was there an advisory board to select Mr. Clyde. He asked was there anybody else involved with the selections.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that he would speak to it like this, so the request came in to the mayor. The request was sent to City Council and it was an immediate unanimous response that yes, they were for it. He stated so that is what happened.

Mr. Hamp Smith stated right and the other side, the community they have here right now that represent Mr. Clyde could be a lot bigger if it was sent to the community. He doesn't believe it was sent to the community. He asked was there an advisory board to select Mr. Clyde or how did that just get selected because a Bethlehem Organization sent them a letter saying, hey let's name the park after Mr. Clyde. He stated see that was what he was hoping they would do, have no interest for those questions. Because policies and procedures were not followed by the city and for this community to be represented the way that they should be, it just fell apart right now. Thank you.

Dr. Cynthia Motas asked what did the mayor and asked Mayor Tuerk what did you just read a few minutes ago.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated that the Board of Recreation bylaws, not the bylaws, the Code. He stated that Mike might be able to get there faster than he can, but the Code determines their naming of city assets and does not call for a committee. It is a letter or request is made.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that it calls for a letter, the mayor sent in a letter.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated that someone sent him a letter and he forwarded it to Mike Hanlon and let them know.

Dr. Cynthia Mota stated so that means that they have done this before. This is not the only park that they have named.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated that they did it for (inaudible) Way, Doug Snyder Way, Moonie Trexler Way, and he hoped they will do it for Jerry Christian Way. He hopes Council will do it for future dedications. It is a simple process. City Council is elected, correct. You are elected to represent the people of the city of Allentown and when we elect you, we charge you with making these determinations. That is what you did in this case. He stated again, to Ms. Affa's point, you unanimously agreed that this is worthy of renaming and then you hold a public meeting which you are doing tonight and you are hearing from the community, including Union Baptist Church,

including additional members of the community who provide guidance to you on their feeling on the renaming of the park and thus far nobody said a word edgewise about the value of renaming the park after Mr. Bosket.

Dr. Cynthia Mota stated what is amazing to here is that they have renamed other streets and other parks and it was never an issue. She stated why now, do we have an issue. She stated that is what she is not understanding that.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that she would like to say something stating this is such a special occasion tonight. She stated that everybody is excited about it and Council is all for it. The administration is all for it. She stated that a simple procedure, we are going through an hour or 45 minutes of all of this conversation and all they want to do and everyone here wants Mr. Bosket to be that name to be and now what we are doing is back and forth, back and forth because of procedure. She stated that there are times that we just vote. Things happen and like Cynthia said and the Mayor said we never had this problem before. She stated that we have a room full of people who want to see this done, so let's get it done.

Ms. Barbara Redmond, Improving Lives, stated that she agrees that they want this done, but we are sick and tired of you all not following protocol when it comes to Black people. The plaque should have been up. It is a historic area and there is no plaque stating anything about it being a historic area. She stated that they do want him (Mr. Bosket) to be recognized. They do want Clyde Bosket, Sr. Park, but we are just saying just follow protocol. Just show us some respect like they do with everyone else. That is all they are asking for.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Ms. Redmond and asked anybody else.

Mr. Pas Simpson stated that he thinks he will speak for and there are a lot of people talking about community, but the park and the community that they were talking about is supposed to be represented. It is right back there. He stated that he is blessed to say that he was the one who started this snowball by honoring Mr. Clyde Bosket while he was still here and by giving him his flowers while he was still here. By making sure our city recognized the greatness of this man while he was still here. He stated that they are wasting time focusing on things that does not matter. Yes, procedure may not have been followed and yes, the crowd could be bigger, but do we stop the greatness from being recognized because we made a mistake. He stated let's follow through and let's make sure that this man is honored, not only because he was a great Black leader, an honorable man of God, but because he built bridges that most of us couldn't even understand. He stated that his legacy will be felt long after this is gone and

we don't want any child to forget the work that he has done.

Ms. Karen Ocasio, Southside Allentown, stated that she agrees with everybody about this park being named after a man, Mr. Clyde. She stated that she also knew Mr. Clyde from him cutting her brother's hair when they were smaller and just experiences that she had with him. She stated that when she first had her daughter, but she thinks that they are missing the point of what people are trying to say. Mr. Clyde was a huge person here in Allentown. He was a Civil Rights Activist and she is sure that he would have wanted them to do it the right way. It is not about naming the park because of course, they all agree that it should be named after him. She stated that the issue is using Black people and not giving them the recognition that they deserve and the respect that they deserve. Not just using Mr. Clyde right before elections in order to be able to get Black people to vote for others. She stated that is what we are talking about. That is being said today. He is being used as a pawn to get votes from the Black community, when he does not care anything about the Black people until he gets up there and take pictures. She stated that is what they are talking about. Mr. Clyde was a Civil Rights Activist and he would have wanted this to be done right. This is not right the way. It is being done because he is being used and that is what they are talking about. Should the park be named after him, yes stating so let's give him and the Black community the respect that they deserve. Period.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked anybody else.

Dr. Cynthia Mota stated how sad.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated Mr. Hanlon.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated to Mr. Hendricks that he does want to point out that they have and he thinks that some people here wants to join a ceremony tomorrow for the unveiling of the sign and he believes it is happening at noon. He stated that he knows many of the City Council members will be attending. He stated that they do have the sign here now for those who are unable to attend. If they want to take a picture with the sign with Council. He asked if they want to take a minute to allow folks to do that.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated certainly. Tomorrow, at 12:00 at the park will be a ceremony honoring the name change for Mr. Clyde Bosket. He stated that the public is all invited. He asked what is there to sign Mike.

A motion was made by Daryl Hendricks, seconded by Santo Napoli, to move this Resolution R127 for final passage to the front of the agenda.

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

Enactment No: 31120

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

Enactment No: 31120

Contract Approvals

[15-7960](#)

R122

Authorizes and Approves the Engagement of Maria Montero, Esquire, to Provide Legal Services to Allentown City Council Pursuant to the Allentown Home Rule Charter and Administrative Code at a salary of Fifty - One Thousand Two Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$51,250).

Sponsors: Affa, Hendricks, Mota and Napoli

Attachments: [R122 Council Solicitor - Maria Montero](#)

[Maria Montero- LOE Allentown City Council 2025.pdf](#)

[Resolution #31115.pdf](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any comments, questions from his colleagues or any comments from the public.

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

Enactment No: 31115

[15-7958](#)

R123

Authorization of Cooperative Contracts to provide the City with various goods/services, for with Code 3 Public Safety Equipment, Koch 33 Ford Toyota and Brown Daub Chevrolet.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R123 Cooperative Approval - 9.17.25](#)

[Resolution #31116.pdf](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated good evening.

Ms. Jessica Baraket stated good evening and said she has an open comment and stated that these are standard cooperative purchases that come.

Mr. Daryl Hendrick stated that ok.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated he has one question and asked if these are vehicles that are also going to be part of the budget and we are just doing it a head of time.

Ms. Jessica Baraket stated no. These are vehicles that are being purchased out of this year's budget. He thinks some of them are being purchased with grant funds.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated ok.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked does anybody else. He asked if there were any comments from the public.

A motion was made by Daryl Hendricks that this Resolution be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Enactment No: 31116

Minutes of Previous Meeting: NONE

Communications

President Hendricks to note: Pursuant to Act 205, the Director of Finance provided pension the MMOs (for the Police, Fire, PMRS and O and E pensions) to council - they are on the city website and attached to this agenda.

Mr. Santo Napoli stated that also for visitors Chasers to City Council, we encourage you to park in the government deck next door and to see our City Clerk, Mr. Hanlon for a voucher to pay for your parking.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Mr. Napoli.

[15-7951](#)

Pursuant to Act 205, the Director of Finance provided pension MMOs to council - they are on the city website and attached to this agenda.

Attachments: [2026 Fire Pension MMO Communication to Council.pdf](#)
[2026 O&E Pension MMO Communication to Council.pdf](#)
[2026 PMRS Pension MMO Communication to Council.pdf](#)
[2026 Police Pension MMO Communication to Council.pdf](#)

Old Business: NONE

REPORTS**Committee of the Whole: President Hendricks**

A special meeting will take place Wednesday, September 24th at 6 PM to review Bills 69 and 70 - the zoning and subdivision and land development proposals.

Budget and Finance: Chair Napoli, Santos, Gerlach

The Committee met this evening, the next meeting is not yet scheduled.

Community and Economic Development, Chair Mota, Hendricks, Napoli

The Committee met September 10th; there are no meetings scheduled.

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

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

Parks and Recreation: Chair Gerlach, Santos, Affa

The Committee has not met since the last council meeting; the next meeting is scheduled for September 24 at 5:30 PM.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated to Councilperson Gerlach that they couldn't do that and asked if it is ok to switch it to October 1st.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated October 1st at 5:30 PM.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated 5:30 or 6:00 PM. Whatever works.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated 5:30 or 6:00.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated alright, those changes will be made.

Public Safety: Chair Affa, Zucal, Mota

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

Public Works: Chair Zucal, Gerlach, Affa

The Committee has not met since the last meeting; there are no future meetings set, however, he spoke with the Director of Public Works today and they agreed that there is no need for them having a budget discussion and he assured him that all these budgets below what it was last year as far as capital projects, he will meet with Ms. Patel sometime within the near future. He stated that there are no future meetings set.

Rules, Chambers, Intergovernmental Relations, and Strategy: Chair Hendricks, Mota,

Napoli

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

Controller's Report

The Controller has submitted reports which are on the city website.

Mr. Jeffrey Glazier thanked Mr. Hendricks and stated that he has two that he would like to go over with Council tonight. He would like to say a note about Mr. Bosket stating when he moved up from South Carolina, he found his way to Glazier's Furniture. He stated that Mr. Bosket was a customer for decades. He stated that he can say that there weren't many customers who really brought a smile to his face when they walked through the door. He stated that Clyde was one of those and come in and they would probably spend 20 minutes talking before they even got to what they needed, if he needed anything. He stated that one of the things that he learned about city government and all governments is there some marquee positions, but a lot of the progress is made by people doing every day stuff from following their personal muse to make the city and life a better place and that was really Mr. Bosket. He stated that it is a well earned honor for him. He stated that these are the final two audit reports on the interns. The first one is revenue and audit. He stated that this was released on the first of August. He stated basically what they did is residents in the city are entitled to refunds of overpaid real estate tax, business privilege tax, garbage collection fees, stormwater fees, and unused business licenses, additionally Allentown residents 65 and over that meet the income and resident criteria are eligible for garbage and water and sewer rebates. These refunds and rebates are processed by the Bureau of Revenue and Audit. He stated that they are offering water and sewer rebates that are not supported by any ordinance in this city. He stated that i.e., they are giving money back to people and there is no provision for it in any Code that they do it. At this time, there have been. It was repealed. It was not replaced with anything current. He stated that he is going to tell them that the total budget for this is \$5,000.00 a year. He stated that it is not a lot of money going out the door, but it is a pretty fundamental error that screams for correction and he doesn't think it should be that hard to get this on the books. The administration has responded that they agree and will work with Public Works. Revenue and Audit agree and they will work with Public Works and the rest of the administration to draft an ordinance. He stated that they also give out money for garbage rebates and one of the challenges there is verifying by the income of the house. He stated that they look to see that the applicant is in fact the property owner. A lot of the folks that are applying have verified income that is below the threshold. It could be 15, 20, 25,000 a year. He stated that he finds it hard to believe that it is possible to run a house on that kind of money to feed yourself, to pay your property taxes, to pay your insurances on the residents. Part of the problem is that they used a term, household income and one of the things they continually asked for

what is the supportable definition of household income. He asked does getting support from a third party count. If there sons or daughters or grandchildren are living there that are providing rent, that are paying rent on a property asking is that household income. He stated that he thinks that is one of the things the administration should do is research what a governmentally acceptable definition of household income is and see if it is worth applying in this instance or take that terminology out of the ordinance and just leave it to be the property owners income. There maybe some negative effects in a way, but it is something that they see on a regular basis and have concerns about. He stated he would say they are the two major findings and the administration has been willing to look at them in both instances. He stated if Council had any questions about this Report, he would do his best to answer it at this point before he moves on. He asked Mr. Zucal if he is thinking and stated go on. He stated that the second audit report they did was look at municipals and now he is going to say that every department that they work with has been very cooperative going back years. In this instance, He would have to say that the Parks Department was beyond cooperative. They really wanted to have these pools run as well as possible. He stated that they pushed his department and pushed the auditors to look at different things and ask them questions and to look at things and he doesn't think they always agreed on everything, but he speaks very well to management of the department because we know pools are really important during the summer and have them run as well as and efficiently and effectively as they can be run. It would be a good thing for everything. He stated that this Report came out on August 26th and once again, if you haven't looked at it, take a couple of minutes and dive into it. He stated that it is 11 pages and there are a bunch of issues and he is going to highlight some of them. He stated that they felt that hiring orientation needed improved opportunities for these applicants. He stated that we tend to operate on a 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM mentality with fewer opportunities on Saturdays. He stated that they are dealing with kids who may not have applied for jobs for it and don't have that experience. He stated that he thinks the way of saying it stating that they need to do the job to meeting them where they are and making their experience in applying for a job a positive one. He stated that this was an issue that supports coordination between the department and HR. He stated that he can say that he thinks that based on the Duane Morris Report that they said that the hiring process needs to be better and hopefully between what they recommended and what they recommended, some changes can be made going forward to make at least this aspect better for the city, better for the applicants, hopefully, the results of more people getting jobs here. He stated that they know there is communication weaknesses. He asked how do we community with these folks. If they are sending emails, and he is not sure 15 or 16 year olds spend a lot of time looking at emails. They community more via text messages and stated that is what we need to do. The administration responds that they have been working with IT to provide bulk SMS and MSS services to Recycling and Solid Waste and they believe the same solution can be applied here and that will help applicants be aware of the opportunity when

they have an appointment and see the reminder on their text messages so they will be there and a better way of communicating with this cohort. He stated at 68 he will communicate any way he can, except for Slack and Tiktok, but this is a great idea and it sounds like the administration picked up the ball here. He stated that they noticed some concession operation weaknesses and this is an ancillary service to having a safe swimming pool, but we noticed the venues would not always reflect the current food prices. Inventory was managed manually using paper tracking methods and they also noted there were broken appliances and by that we mean they weren't keeping drinks and food at the applicable food safety temperatures. He stated that it will speak well of the city and its commitment to running a top notch operation that have somebody have a certification here. The administration has responded in the affirmative on these suggestions for next year and are (inaudible) to see that. He stated that they did make a suggestion, another suggestion and the point of sale and refund issues that needed to be addressed. He stated that they don't take Apple Pay for instance and once again, he doesn't know if it is generational, but it is a very popular method to pay. He stated that they encourage the pools to be able to take a broader range payment options and he certainly understands that this is tied up with software and what services IT can provide and once again, the administration is committed to looking into that and hopefully, some of those changes could take place. The pools in 2026 and may be for other things and if other people want to come in and pay their property tax bill on Apple Pay, but certainly business licenses and other things may be a possibility. He stated that they look forward to that happening. He stated one of the last things they recommend and perhaps it is time to look at having a third party run the concessions. What they had suggested is a food truck or food trucks as the case may be. He stated that they were not thinking and he doesn't know if they communicated of just allowing food trucks to pull up willy nilly to serve the patrons. Having a year long contract with them. He stated that he thinks it bears some research on the administrations part. He stated that he thinks do to the fact that he doesn't think that they framed it accurately. The administration really didn't think that was a good suggestion. He stated that he is ok with that, but he thinks to have a third party on contract for the year would address some of the administration's issues. It might provide better level of service, a broader range menu items to patrons. He stated that he doesn't think it is the highest priority item. It is something to look forward to and one more thing he would add, if the city would decide to go that way and get one or two out of the contract at Mack and at Cedar. He stated that this provides an opportunity for small business people in Allentown, perhaps. He stated that is his Report and once again, they really appreciate the diligence that the Parks and Rec brought to this audit and they were great partners. He asked if they had any questions.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Mr. Glazier and stated that he believes Ms. Mota has a question or comment.

Dr. Cynthia Mota stated that it is a comment, not a question. She thinks it is important to have other ways, other method of payments for the city. She stated as soon as Mr. Glazier said Apple Pay, she uses Apple Pay all the time. She stated as a matter of fact, she went to Walmart the other day and it is unbelievable, they don't allow people to use Apple Pay. She stated thank God that she went with her sister and she was able to pay for her, but it is like it is unbelievable. She stated yes, they do need to use other methods of payment.

Mr. Jeffrey Glazier stated that he agrees with her and they are looking at that and they may be some other things. He stated that he is not suggesting they take Venmo for a pool payments, but it depends on what the costs are because those costs can get passed along for clients. If that is the method they use, then he thinks it is certainly a good thing to research and hopefully you know we can find providers that will do it for us and IT is able to integrate them into our systems. He stated as he mentioned broader than just the pools. It is what they do on the first floor, the second floor, the third floor, and the fourth floor for the cost of permits and permits and licenses. He stated hopefully, they will have some good news for us in the future.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated that if the Controller Venmo's him the money, he will take the cash and use it to buy hotdogs at the pool.

Mr. Santo Napoli stated that he will be super brief and stated that he can talk for an hour on this stuff. He stated Number 1, regarding payments Mr. Glazier is right, the less friction the better. He stated that they should be taking more payment forms. He stated that is really important. He stated that other thing, communication is 100 percent an issue now and he can tell them and he will speak with Ms. Tolino offline, but they actually moved to an App and the App is tremendous with communicating with employees, scheduling, employees looking for other coworkers to cover their shift. He stated that they will talk offline and stated there is a lot out there now that goes above and beyond SMS texting so, but you are on the right track stating we need to be better. He stated thank you.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated Ms. Gerlach.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated yes, just two things along that line. She stated that with Venmo and CashApp, she stood in lines at pools because it is a process to get people in. She stated what she loves with Venmo and CashApp is that they can scan the QR Code when they are already in line and by the time they get up, they can show they already paid and they get their wrist band and they just go on in and speeds things along. She stated with the food truck thing, personal that will be beneficial for small businesses that happens to run food trucks type of businesses, but no. She stated that the administration doesn't want that right. She stated that

they are not going to have.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated that he loves food and a lot of great food trucks out there, but as someone who is a purchaser of the \$2.00 hotdog and the \$1 bag of chips and he is in line with a lot of 10 and 12 year old kids and that is about their budget. A food truck can be really hard.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated yeah, no \$6 lemonades.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated that it is delicious lemonade, but you are right.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated nope. Ok, alright yeah. She stated that this is going to be something we are talking about later.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated that he thinks there are others things that they can explore, not food trucks.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated ok, cool.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated ok. Thank you, Mr. Glazier all for your comments.

Mayor: The mayor has not submitted anything for the agenda.

[15-7965](#) Controller Reports

Attachments: [Check Review Aug25.pdf](#)
[PCard Review.pdf](#)

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE (To be Voted On): There are none.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda is for items that are considered 'no brainers' – no need to have the administration explain anything the objective is to vote on all the resolutions at one time if there are no issues. The President asks if there is any request to remove any item from the Consent Agenda. If not, the clerk will read the titles of the resolutions. The President will ask for public comments, prior to council voting on the bundle. Sewage Planning Modules simple indicate there is enough capacity in the water and sewer system to handle the development.

Dr. Daryl Hendricks stated that they will move on to the Consent Agenda.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated that on the Agenda is the Mayor's Report after the Controller's Report. He stated he thinks that Mr. Hanlon indicated that he had not provided a Report. He stated what he did do this morning was provided the City Clerk with an initial Preliminary Analysis on safe parking and safe camping in the city of Allentown. He stated that he is prepared to

and can go on all night about this stuff compared to engage in some discussion around that Report. He stated if you have a chance to look at it. He stated that if you hadn't had a chance to look at it, he can give them a very brief summary of the findings of that Report. He stated that he will leave it to you as the president and your discretion.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that he has not seen it.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that you have received it this morning and it was forwarded to them this morning.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that is why he did not see it.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated just briefly, if it pleases Council, they completed with the overseen by the Allentown Health Bureau, they completed a preliminary analysis of safe camping and safe parking in the city of Allentown. He stated if you remember on August 13th, they secured an early open for the YMCA by committing funding to the YMCA that will help alleviate the disruption caused by the need to evaluate the encampment along the Jordan Creek. He stated thanks again to Council and to the administration and to some other nonprofit partners including the United Way, the YMCA of the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation as well as all the government partners. The county of Lehigh was able to get that site open which should provide for some of the needs that would be created by evacuation of that site. He stated as we discussed, there are some folks who will not be able to take advantage of an early open at the Y or the available beds at a place like the Rescue Mission or the Salvation Army. He stated that his team put together a Report and an initial analysis of the Feasibility of safe camping or safe parking sites in the city. He stated that Dave conducted this analysis with his team with the Health Bureau. He stated that we are grateful and stated that he is grateful for the work that the team did. They collaborated with other departments in the city including Public Works, Police, Fire and Law to prepare that Feasibility. He stated that it would not have been possible without the support of our Allentown Commission on Homelessness and without the support of the Lehigh Valley Regional Homelessness Advisory Board. He stated that he wants to thank all those organizations for the work that they put into preparing the Report. He stated that it is a brief Report. It is about 10 pages so you can skim it. You can read it in some depth. He encouraged them to spend some time thinking about the findings of the Report. He stated to summarize quickly. He stated that their team evaluated city owned suitable sites using certain criterias that were provided to them by the RHAB and the Commission of the Homelessness and the determination that the city not presently own a suitable safe camping or safe parking site within its existing inventory. They screen existing inventory every city property. He

stated that they look primarily and correct him if he is wrong. They looked at flat sites. They looked at deforestation sites. They looked at sites that were approximate to services that of needs of our unsheltered neighbors and there is nothing that meets that criteria within the city's inventory. He stated that it is also a tremendous amount of uncertainty associated with the cost of operating a safe camping site. Most apartments with a short amount of time are not able to prepare an accurate estimate of what cost may be. With the exception of the Law Department, who estimated anywhere from \$500,000 to \$845,000. It has to be set aside for potential legal expenditures. Further finding would be that really evaluating sites that beyond the current control of the city should be done which should be done with assistance with a professional site selection firm or a real estate broker who can take the criteria and present to that broker and then do the site evaluation. He stated that he knows that many of them have passed by sites that look like they would be great for safe camping. What is not immediate evident is that there are also former industrial sites to have contaminated soils that are not suitable for any type of housing much less camping, but those are the types of criterion we can provide to a broker who can help us with the identification and selection of a site. Another finding from the Report was the organizational capacity of nonprofit organizations in Allentown at the moment and would not allow any one of those organization to operate that site. The city certainly doesn't have the capacity and in a quick survey of nonprofit organizations, there is no one organization within the city of Allentown that would be able to take on the responsibility of the site open which should provide for some of the needs of what they created by the evaluation of that site. He stated as they discussed, there are some folks who will not be able to take advantage of an early open at the Y or the available beds to a place like the Rescue Mission or the Salvation Army. He stated that his team put together a Report and an initial analysis of the Feasibility of safe camping and safe parkings sites of the city. He stated that conducted this analysis with his team at the Health Bureau was grateful and he stated that he is grateful for the work that the team there did. They collaborated with other departments with the city, including Public Works, Police, Fire, and Law to prepare that Feasibility, but it would not have been possible without the support of our Allentown Commission on Homelessness and without the support of the Lehigh Valley Regional Homelessness Advisory Board. He thanked all those organizations for the work they put in to prepare the Report. He stated that it is a brief Report. It is about 10 pages so you can skim it. You can read it into some depth. He encouraged them to spend some time thinking about the findings of the Report. He stated to summarize quickly, our team evaluated city owned sites. Suitable sites using certain criteria that was provided to us by the RHAB and the Commission of the Homelessness and the determination of the city does not presently own a suitable safe camping or safe parking site within its existing inventories.

He stated that they screened existing inventories of city property. They looked primarily (inaudible), but they looked at flat sites. They looked at deforested sites. They looked at sites that are approximate to services that meet the needs of our unsheltered neighbors and there is nothing that meets that criteria within the city's inventory. There is also a tremendous amount of uncertain associated with the cost of operating a safe camping site. Most departments with a short amount of time are not able to prepare an accurate estimate of what cost may be with the exception of the law department who estimated anywhere from \$500,000 to \$845,000 that would have to be set aside for potential legal expenditures. Further finding will be that really evaluating sites that are beyond the current control of the city should be done, but should be done with assisted or professional site selection firm or a real estate broker who can take the criteria we present to that broker and then do the site evaluation. He stated that he knows many of them pass by sites that look like it would be great for safe camping. He stated what is not immediate evident is there is often former industrial sites that have contaminated soils and are not suitable for any type of housing much less camping, but those are the types of criteria we could provide to a broker who can help them with the identification and selection of a site. He stated that another finding from the Report is that the organizational capacity of nonprofit organizations in Allentown at the moment and would not allow any one of those organizations to operate that site. The city certainly doesn't have the capacity and a quick survey of nonprofit organizations. There is no one organization within the city of Allentown that would be able to take on responsibility of the site. The team looked at safe camping sites across the country, including the one in Harrisburg that Mr. (inaudible) reported on and consulted with people who are operating those sites and got their feedback and some potential best practices and those are summarized in the Report. He stated that the long and the short of it is not feasible for the city of Allentown to operate a safe camping site in the immediate term. He stated that is not a no way, no how we can't do this stuff. He stated that he does believe that there is an opportunity for the city of Allentown to participate in the establishment of some kind of safe camping, safe parking site within the Lehigh Valley. He stated that it is important for them if they establish something or if choose something, it is sustainable, that it is equitable, and serviceable in the long term. He stated that it is cost effective and it be done in partnership. He stated that he thinks that one thing that they discussed with many of them individually is the responsibility of other local governments and other county governments in doing this work. He stated that they need their partners at the county of Lehigh to step up. Homelessness is absolutely a regional issue. He stated that they know that if people are disrupted, people are disturbed in their current site that they don't consider city boundaries or political boundaries when they are looking for a safe alternative. He stated that this is something that would affect all and it is incumbent upon the

county of Lehigh and the county of Northampton to participate in this work. He stated that he thinks that happens in part through the Lehigh Valley Regional Homelessness Advisory Board. He stated that his recommendation to City Council was that they continue to do this work in collaboration with the Regional Housing or Regional Homelessness Advisory Board as well as the city of Allentown's Commission on Homelessness to do a more in depth study of the potential cost associated with a safe camping site. He stated that it is imperative that we do something here. He stated that this problem will not go away. because we have to evacuate people from a particular spot. He stated that it is up to us in the long-term to continue to invest in housing. He stated that he knows that they have a Zoning amendment to review in the near future which should facilitate investment in housing and Council is considering a multitude of funding options that would allow them to create housing trust funds and be encouraged by the amount of housing that is under construction. He stated at the moment, he just saw a construction barricades go up at 8th and Hamilton which is a four unit affordable structure. He stated that work is being done in a medium and long-term, but those are medium and long-term solutions and they need to identify some short-term solutions as well including additional shelter space. He stated that this is something that we must continue to work on. He stated that he guesses his final point would be he believes it will be a disservice to the people that they are seeking to serve to rush into some immediate solutions. He stated that he has said this before and believes strongly that they will do more harm than good by rushing to something. He stated that they cannot erase this problem overnight. He stated that this is something that we all face and we need everybody to step up because a conversation that he had earlier involved if they established something like this, they can't go at it alone because they would absorb the challenges that every community in the Lehigh Valley faces. He stated that they are going to need everybody to get involved. He stated that he was speaking with Mayor Reynolds from Bethlehem earlier today. He pointed out and did some quick back of the envelope tabulations. He stated that Allentown, Bethlehem and Easton collectively represents about 40 square miles of land in the Lehigh Valley. There is an additional \$700 square miles of land across the Lehigh Valley. He stated that their three cities represents five or six percent of the total land in the Lehigh Valley. He stated that he thinks it is time for the other 94 percent of the Lehigh Valley to look at ways that they can help us meet this need. He stated that if they are going to be equitable in the distribution of funds for safe roads, safe streets and if they are going to be equitable in the distribution of economic development of various other resources, they should all shoulder the burden here and should not exclusively come down to the city of Allentown. He stated that is the Report you have. The full Report. He stated again, his recommendation is that City Council work with the administration to do a deeper dive into

alternatives. He turned it back to Council.

Mr. David Synnamon stated nothing specific to that stating that he just wanted to give credit. They would not been able to get this Report done, even though it is relatively trumcaded without the great work of Danielle Mineo, the Unhoused Coordinator; Erin Connelly, the United Way and Christina DiPierro, Valley Youth House. They did a lot of the research for a lot of different parts of this and he just wants them to get their name on the record because they did a lot of heavy lifting.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated thank you all stating that he did see the headline and did not get a chance to read it. He stated that he will be and he commended him and thinks it important to make it regional search. He stated Lehigh County, Northampton County and all three cities which is something we all are facing. He stated so why not pull our resources and look for something that makes sense. He asked anybody else, Ms. Gerlach.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated real quick, and stated let's see stating that she was reading in the Report, the County Corrections Facility was identified as having 400 beds. She asked if they are just going to wait until a new administration comes in 2026 to push that. She asked what is the goal.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated that this is a Corrections Facility at Cedarbrook.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that it says 400 beds of a County Corrections building wherever that is located.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated that he believes it is appended to Cedarbrook. It is not the work release.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated Work Release. She stated the old Work Release site. She stated that she points to that specific thing because that is a county owned building. She stated that she hears them and 100 percent agrees with them that this is a regional issue. She stated unfortunately what has happened over the last and since she has been in Allentown 20 plus years, is that people say that and they always bounce off responsibility and they say, oh, because this is regional we all have to work together and then and no one ever works together and nothing ever gets done. She stated that she guesses what she is wandering is what would happen differently this time to ensure that happens way back when the three mayors were all supposed to all kumbaya and come up with a Plan. She stated that quite never did happen. She stated that Easton started to move ahead and she doesn't know if they hired a consultant for their Strategic Plan. Bethlehem already had theirs. She stated that we don't

have anything. She asked what is something tangible you can give the community, give us, that is going to be done to make sure that we are going to come together and take this regional approach. She stated that everyone says that and it never happens.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated to answer quickly the question related to and stated that he spoke to the county administration today about that building that they vacated the work release. He asked is it Cedarbrook or the one in South Mountain. He stated that the person that he spoke with was like well, it would not be an ideal site for any kind of shelter that is not on a service line. There are no services around there and that is frankly not an acceptable answer. There is no great site.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that you can create one. She stated LANTA can go there.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated you could, but there are still the challenges and part of the reason that when you speak with the who are and stated to Mr. Synnamon they were talking about this. The people that are at various different sites is in the proximity to some of the resources that exist already. He stated like Ripple, like Daybreak or the (inaudible) facility on 10th and Turner who has the St. Luke's Parisher Nurses set up. There are various different places that people like to be near, right. If you end up establishing a facility in collaboration with the county out there, then you have to build the resources up around that site which is possible as well. He stated that he only brings it up to say that this current administration doesn't see much interested in doing that. He stated that they have you City Council who controls the city of Allentown's budget. He stated that the administration can make offers and try to work with the county, but ultimately they don't control the county. He stated that they can keep going. He stated as far as concrete and tangible things, one thing that he is encouraged to know that in speaking with the United Way, they are already starting to convene conversations around safe camping in parking lots. He stated that was one of the models that was recommended or discussed in the initial analysis. He stated that it might have been in Spokeham, Washington. He stated he can't remember exactly where it was, but they kind of moved the parking lot or moved the safe camping site. He stated that every couple of months from a parking lot to a parking lot. He stated that it gets back to organizational capacity and making sure that those entities are willing to take responsibility. He stated that he can't speak for the Faith community. He can't speak for the nonprofit community in terms of their willingness to do something to that end, but he does have the sense of their capacity to do something like that. He stated that it is limited at the moment. It would require additional investment that may come from the county, may come from the city of Allentown in its next budget. It probably not going to come

from the federal government. Those are, again, those are the things that require additional exploration. He stated that there is absolutely and they can't say no to any of this. They have to continue to explore, continue to push, and look for the environments that respects and dignify the people who are living and experiencing homelessness at the moment. Also, that work for the city as a whole.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach asked Mayor Tuerk in this research Pallett Homes - Tiny Homes is not equivalent of (inaudible). This is talking about tents. She stated so then there could be potentially in the future somewhere in the world and the city of Allentown, a safe community built, a safe Pallett Homes, safe Tiny Homes whatever you want to call them.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated that there is an organization locally that is supporting Pallett Homes and they have been working with Zoning to understand the challenges that are presented by Zoning. He stated that they are going down the legitimization path to what we can do and how we could make this work which is a pretty significant step forward from where this city has been within the 20 plus years.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that she is sure because this is important and they will be more than willing to make some accommodations. Follow the rules and the laws.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated that his attitude as the city administration is that they are here to follow the rules. If the rules stink, if they don't make sense, that is up to you.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that he will bring it to them to change.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated you guys will say hey, this is something and then you go through the public process. He stated that they provide a recommendation as a city administration. You evaluate it. You take a public process and you here from people and you do what make sense.

Mr. David Synnamon asked can he speak to the point that the mayor just made.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated yes.

Mr. David Synnamon stated to your point, some of the successful programs across the country started out very rudimentary and over the course of many years evolved into having semi permanent structures, having resources on site, having kitchens on site. He stated having that expansion in mind is great. It just takes everyone going in the same direction. It is

possible. It has been shown as possible.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated so her last question is this, since everyone needs to pull together from the county and the different cities because this is a regional issue. She asked perhaps would it be wise to not only consult with a broker, but maybe some sort of consultant that could come in and help all three cities tied together because we got other things to do. She stated that maybe someone can help that process.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated so anytime you want somebody to help you to pay for it and that's where Council.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated which is why she is asking.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated that they will be amenable to that. He stated that he will tell her in the immediate term so he is connected to the US Conference of Mayors with the former Mayor of Rockford, Illinois who made a significant amount of progress in addressing veterans homelessness there between 2014 to 2018. He stated that he is working to bring him in to meet with elected officials and hopes everybody will join them on that day. He will be looking at October 9th, but to start to talk through that and see what that looks like that is not the consultant you are talking about, but they need to keep the momentum going and stated that's where he goes back to the comments that he made on August 13th is that they make progress by lots of incremental steps forward. He stated that they have to keep the momentum going and letting this subject just try to fade into the background. He stated like that ain't happening.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that is her fear. She stated that typically this happens and then it goes away stating that they all move on and fix bridges.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated that she has to trust him that they are not just going to let it fade away.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated we'll see.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated we will see.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated we will see.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated thank you.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that the Consent Agenda you have three items. There are three Sewage Planning Modules which just indicates that you

have, the city has the capacity for the development to connect up to the city system. He stated R124 is at 420 North Albright Avenue, R125 is at 326-336 Hanover Avenue, and R126 is at 1002 Walnut Street.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated ok, is there anybody that has any issues with any items on the Consent Agenda.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Mr. Hanlon and stated that he doesn't see any other business on the Agenda. He asked does anybody have anything for Good and Welfare.

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

[15-7962](#)

R124

Sewage Planning Module at 420 North Albright Avenue

Attachments: [R124 Albright.doc](#)
[Sewerage Planning Module - 420 N. Albright Avenue 2025-08-28.pdf](#)
[Resolution #31117.pdf](#)
[420 N. Albright Avenue - Sewage Planning Module \(Signed\).pdf](#)

Enactment No: 31117

[15-7963](#)

R125

Sewage Planning Module at 326-336 Hanover Avenue

Attachments: [R125 Hanover.doc](#)
[HANOVER AVE - PLANNING MODULE.pdf](#)
[326 HANOVER AVE-LDSCP AND LIGHTING \(1\).pdf](#)

Enactment No: 31118

[15-7961](#)

R126

Sewage Planning Module at 1002 Walnut Street

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R126 Walnut.doc](#)
[01_1002-Walnut-St_COA-Resolution-Binder.pdf](#)
[02_1002 Walnut BP-AR Plan.pdf](#)
[Resolution #31119.pdf](#)
[1002 Walnut Street Adaptive Reuse - Sewage Planning Module \(Signed\).pdf](#)

Enactment No: 31119

RESOLUTIONS FOR FINAL PASSAGE (To be Voted On): NONE

ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION (To be referred to Committee with public comment prior to referral) There are none.

**RESOLUTIONS FOR INTRODUCTION (Can be voted on or Referred to Committee):
There are none.**

NEW BUSINESS: NONE

GOOD AND WELFARE: NONE

ADJOURNED: 7:49 PM

[15-6577](#)

Reference Materials:
Council Rules
Procurement Code
Ethics Code

Attachments: [Procurement Code](#)
[Ethics Code](#)
[Rules](#)