



Allentown

435 Hamilton Street
Allentown, Pa. 18101

Minutes - Final

City Council

Wednesday, August 18, 2021

6:30 PM

Council Chambers

Invocation

Pledge to the Flag

Roll Call

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

Courtesy of the Floor

Courtesy and Privilege of the Floor Rules

Mr. Glenn Hunsicker, 19th and Highland Streets, stated that he is concerned about the oiling and chipping on 17th, Liberty, and Sumner Streets. The city did this before and stated he does not understand why they are doing it. It took three weeks for the stones to bind. Why are we stoning the streets? They are running in the storm sewer. Who is going to clean them out?

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that they just his street and it is brand new right now. He has not seen much stone on the curb. They just put the oil on.

Mr. Glenn Hunsicker stated to track over to Sumner Avenue and look at the edges.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that he drove on there and agrees with Mr. Hunsicker. It is a big inconvenience. It is dirty and full of dust all over. The stones just lay there.

Mr. Craig Messinger stated that the maintenance program that is going out now as far as cost. It does not come down to cost. They are paving every day. The majority of the oils are down already. If you driven on 15th to Highland to the city line that they did in 2010. Some of the streets need to be maintained. If anyone wants to go through the life of the streets, he will do that at anytime. If a contractor goes out, it will be four times the cost. The cost is very minimum. They are in and out. They can do six miles within about a three week time. It has been cost effective since 2010.

Mr. Glenn Hunsicker stated that if that is the case and it is a maintenance

issue, why we were going back in history then. Why did we let them get so bad then?

Mr. Craig Messinger stated that they try to do and their goal maintenance and paving about 15 miles a year. It is a fact of some streets do not require to be milled and overlaid.

Mr. Glenn Hunsicker stated that these are major thoroughfare streets. He stated that he spoke to the Chief in the hallway. He had five unlicensed dirt bikes popping wheelies behind him with a four wheeler and eventually they all past him on 26th and Tilghman. He called the nonemergency number and they said they would get an officer there as soon as they are available. Two and a half hours later, he was dropping somebody off on Ninth and Linden and guess what, the same five motorcycles and four wheelers came zipping on Ninth Street. This is a quality of life issue in major cities. He stated that he got some encouraging news from Chief Roca. The city needs a concrete plan.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that it is a major problem in all cities. Last Sunday night, he was at Musikfest in Bethlehem and there were 10 of them doing the same thing. It is a problem all over.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that it is an international problem. They are doing it in other countries as well.

Mr. Ken Laudenslager, 721 W Cumberland Street - President of the Fairview Crime Watch, stated that as far as Mr. Hunsicker is concerned, he does bicycle in the city and it is a safety hazard to them. As long as the loose stones are there, it is a safety hazard. Lights in the Parkway is going to be again and the traffic pattern was horrendous to the southside and his neighborhood. He does not see a reason why it was changed to the prior year. He wants the City Council and the administration to return to the traffic pattern. That needs to be addressed.

Mr. Glenn Hunsicker, south Allentown, stated that he wants to follow up on the 2007 Loan. He asked if there will be a Budget and Finance Committee meeting. The 2007 Loan Series A, we are spending over \$1.5 - \$2 million a year. What are we going to do about it? He would like the administration to make a decision on how they are going to tackle this with the consultant or consulting with themselves. That is why we need checks and balances. They have a duty to whom they are representing.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that Mr. Siegel is here and the Chair of the Finance Committee.

Mr. Joshua Siegel stated that Mr. O'Neill is here and we will make sure he addresses next week at the Budget and Finance Committee Meeting.

Mr. Glenn Hunsicker stated that he wants it more than addressed. He wants a solution.

Mr. Eugene Grantham, 520 Walnut Street, stated that he bought the house 23 years ago. It happens to be concerning Valania Park. He has lived there and from the second he gets up to the second he goes to sleep he listens to vulgar music and sees at least 15 crimes being committed every day. He called the hotline, the Police Department and the noise complaint. He stated that an Police Officer from the second he walked in his house, he felt sorry for him. One of the solutions is there should be no electricity outside. The place is a amphitheater.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that he and Mr. Grantham spoke for about a half an hour on this issue. Thank you for letting us know what is going on over there. He stated that he knows it is an issue.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that they will discuss it with Parks and Recreation with the cooperation with the Police Department.

Mr. Tom Hahn, E Highland Street, asked if it is appropriate to ask what is going to be discussed about the \$1 million added to the Police Department Budget last budget session and now they are going to talk about defunding that budget.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that if it is on the Agenda, you should wait.

Mr. David Menser, 138 Sycamore Street, stated that there is a problem there for several years. He has pictures of an alley that is a garbage dump and the pandemic did not help that. The garbage dump grew significantly. This is not a wealthy area. They live in an area and have renters. They cleaned it up and it cost \$500. Now there has to be a better way. There used to be a camera on a pole. That camera is no longer there. There are rentals. There is a new owner in the double house they live in that has been struggling with the city permits and could not renovate the place. They went to Sweep and Sweep insist that it is something they have to maintain as landlords.

Ms. Candida Affa asked if there was a camera there. How long has it been since the camera has not been there. When she first was on Council, they had a tour and there were cameras. What happened to these cameras?

Mr. Leonard Lightner stated that he does not know, but will look into it.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that they will look into it. He stated that he was with Ms. Affa on that tour.

Ms. Barbara Haver-Menser, stated that she is Dave's wife and they told her they could not come up together. This alley was called Utica Lane and she has a map. It really did make a difference when the cameras were there. A whole bunch of fencing came from the houses facing Tilghman Street. They were all thrown back there. The oil, the tires, garbage bags and people are doing work on their cars back there. It is really, really unfair to expect individuals to clean it up. At 135 is where this stuff is taken place. She hopes that they can see some cameras back there.

[15-4529](#) August 18, 2021 City Council Courtesy of the Floor Handout

Attachments: [August 18, 2021 City Council Courtesy of the Floor Handout](#)

Contract Approvals

[15-4492](#) R126
Authorization of Contract with Earth Engineering, Inc. for \$2,400 for engineering services for Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment for the Fire Academy, single quote.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R126 Earth Engineering Inc](#)
[Resolution #30269](#)

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any questions.

Ms. Jessica Baraket stated that this is a single quote and falls under the dollar threshold where only one quote is required.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any comments from the dais or the public.

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

Enactment No: 30269

[15-4490](#) R127
Approves an amended contract on a contract previously bid with Barton and Loguidice for \$13,628.31 for site monitoring as a result of a 1999 agreement on a superfund site dealing with garbage disposal, the contract would extend to September 30, 2023, this is the city share and a result of prior settlements and agreements.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R127 Barton and Loguidice](#)
[Resolution #30270](#)

Ms. Jessica Baraket stated that this was done as RFP - 2016 44. The contract was originally approved on October 1, 2017. The contract has an annual CPI increase each year and the city is seeking approval because that increase is over the 10 percent amount.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there are any comments from the dais. This is for garbage disposal. Does this have anything to do at all with the contract that we have with the people that pick up our garbage.

Mr. Jessica Baraket stated that it is separate from the Waste Management contract. That is its own RFP. She stated that there are some technical issues. She will follow up with Crag and get a response.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any further comments from the dais or the public.

Mr. Craig Messinger stated that this is for water monitoring of an area that was utilized as a garbage dump and the DEP came along and stated that they needed to work as a group that actually did the dumping at this Dorneyville Site. There were requirements that they have to do. Part of what they agreed to do in 1999 would be the water monitoring. The water monitoring is going very well. The year prior was \$55,000. This year and going forward it is only \$13,628 plus the CPI. The monitoring is coming back very good. We went from having it tested four times, down to only testing it one time a year. The city agreed to do it for 30 years so they are doing it 2029.

Mr. Glenn Hunsicker stated that Craig answered one of the questions that in 2029 it should terminate. The city of Allentown has to contribute to this cost.

Mr. Craig Messinger stated that it is in Dorneyville. We gave an address and a picture of the site to Council. It was part of the agreement.

Mr. Jeffrey Glazier stated that the city of Allentown dumped there.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any other comments from the public.

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

Enactment No: 30270

[15-4491](#)

R128

Authorization for an additional \$250,990 to the contract with Construction Masters Services, LLC to add additional ADA Ramp locations as a result of a lower bid, expending remaining CDBG funds, the contract term shall expire on April 1, 2022.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R128 Construction Masters Resolution #30271](#)

Ms. Jessica Baraket stated that this was done as Bid #2021-09. It was approved by City Council on June 22, 2021. The Contract was awarded to Construction Masters. The Project came in under the budgeted sum, therefore, the city is looking to amend its current contract with the contractor to add additional ADA ramp locations throughout the city for the remainder of the CDBG funds could be used.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if Ms. Baraket choose to add the ADA ramps. Sometimes people who are low income and probably can't pay for the ramps and it is their properties. Do we give them an opportunity for them to apply.

Ms. Jessica Baraket deferred to Craig to answer.

Mr. Leonard Lightner stated that is two separate programs. The ADA ramps are required by the state. No homeowner should be responsible for the ADA ramps. That is why CDBG Funds are used.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any further comments from the dais or the public.

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

Enactment No: 30271

Minutes of Previous Meeting

[15-4493](#) July 21, 2021 City Council Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [July 21, 2021 City Council Meeting Minutes](#)

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

[15-4499](#) August 4, 2021 City Council Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [August 4, 2021 City Council Meeting Minutes](#)

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

Communications

Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) Program: "Excellence in Law Enforcement" award to the Allentown Police Department

Mr. David Andrascik stated that he is with the statewide Law Enforcement Program entitled the Drug Evaluation Classification Program. Part of the Program, they train Police Officers as drug recognition experts to identify people who are under the influence of drugs. Most of the time, they are operating a vehicle under the influence of drugs. Part of the program that is run throughout the country and throughout the world. They wanted to recognize the Allentown City Police Department. They have four officers that are trained as Certified Drug Recognition Experts. More than an agency besides the State Police in the stated of Pennsylvania.

Chief Charles Roca recognized Sergeant Craig Berger, Officer Phil Shedaker, Sergeant Bill Williams, and Officer Cody Mullins and thank them.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that they are very proud of the APD and the cooperation with the gentleman to his right Chief Roca. He thanked them for the award and Allentown is right after the Pennsylvania State Police in the number. We are in pretty good company.

Old Business

Motion 1: Motion to "Untable" Bill 68 expanding the Council of Youth and creating a police liaison (non-debatable)

Motion 2 contingent upon 1 passing: Motion to refer the bill to Parks and Recreation

[15-4438](#)

Bill 68

Amending Article 180B, Council of Youth, by modifying the composition of the board by changing the provision that five members shall be adults and be representative of youth organizations, interests or advocacy to eight and that the Department of Police designate a non-voting designee to the Council.

Sponsors: Guridy, Hendricks, Mota, Administration, Mr. Zucal and Affa

Attachments: [Bill 68 Council of Youth Amendment](#)

A motion was made by Julio Guridy, seconded by Cynthia Mota, that this Bill be untabled. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Sharea Wells (sp), 104 N. Eighth Street, stated that there needs to be more mentors in reference to the youth involved with this. There needs to be half the amount of involved adults. If there are 20 youth, there needs to

be 10 adults involved ad the ratio.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that is the plan. The board is going to talk about it and discuss it.

Mr. Edward John White, 1922 W. Highland Street - Representative of the Allentown Citywide Initiative/Advocacy of Youth and an appointed member Council of Youth, stated that the Council of Youth is still influx. It is disappointing to him because they have been pushing it for four years. They would actually like to see them do something. They needs the full composition. It has been a lot of discussion in the community the fact that this should be a board composed of more youth. the purpose of the board - Council of Youth is to advise Council on anything related to youth issues and promote youth issues. It is not a Youth Club. It is a vehicle of youth advocacy.

Ms. Phoebe Harris, 1817 17th Street SW - Allentown School Board Director, stated that she disagrees with Mr. White. She believes that they should have more youth on the board than adults. This was started before Covid and she was one of the original ones meeting with Mr. Guridy with the students from two years ago that wanted a voice. How dare us not give them one. Shame on us. We are adults, but they are young adults. We don't have a clue what they are going through. She stated that she is 55 and what does she know. She has a 19 year old, but also has a 35 year old. What do we know. You all don't know. The closest we got is Ce Ce and Josh. How could they trust us, if we don't trust us. They won't trust us. Two years ago, she, Cheryl, and Lisa went to the Board of Education because they saw Lincoln Leadership Academy was graduating children with an Associate Degree, 60 credits. They went to the School District and asked them to do the same. May 2021, ASD graduated children with Associate's Degrees before they got out of high school. That is because we had expectations that Allentown students can do it and they did it. Above and beyond. What is the difference? It is the same students.

Mr. Paz Simpson, N. 30th Street, stated that when they talk about the Council of Youth, there are some things to consider. Ms. Phoebe said some great and powerful words. We have to make sure we have the youth voice be heard. That we are empowering the youth. As we are picking this Council of Youth, we don't just pick the kids that are getting straight A's in school. They may not know the pain or feel the pain. The people that are closest to the pain are not being heard. If we are going to put together a real Council of Youth, let's not do this in the dark. Let's not do this in silos. How do we actually choose our youth to lead. If you chose a youth based on grades, you will never choose his son, but he can guarantee he is one of the biggest leaders in the city. We have to make sure we not only know the

adults in the room, but we are capturing the true pain in our city so we can provide real solutions.

Mr. Fred Montgomery, 1426 W. Liberty Street, stated that he was appointed to be a part of the Council of Youth. It is important that we do listen to what a kids have to say. The minimum of emotional impact of children is a parent. It's huge and during this pandemic it has been huge. It is huge and it will continue to trickle down. We have to start opening up our doors. It should be diverse and should be based on a kid's interests, desires, and where they will fit in our society. One day they will be taking care of us. we got to start opening up the dialogue and start to look at a consortium and some type of forum. We got to be able to identify some of these leaders if we wish empower the Council of Youth and move it along and grow it. Allentown is a city of love. It is a city of love and unity. It has to be an exclusive plan and a plan of empowerment. Our youth are yearning to lead.

Mr. Tom Hahn, E. Highland Street, stated that he would like to put in what the youth need with a police officer involved to show trust in the neighborhood and take away the motion and notion to defund the police when there is a million dollars left over in the budget for training and everything else and we are talking about the youth. The youth knows what other kids are doing. The parents suffer when something goes wrong and everybody is sorry. If this thing is going to work and it has to be community based, we need a lot more people in there so that the work is done and we know what is going on. Until there is a better plan to defund the police and have social workers with cameras and trained in case of something erupts in violence. It should be taken into consideration.

Mr. Patrick Palmer, 617 Allen Street, stated that he is still a little confused as to which youth, student or anyone under the age 18 in general asking about a police officer joining the Council of Youth. This seems like another situation where we are telling them what is best for them, instead of asking them what they actually want. He learned probably learned in the last year from a 17 year old girl about how life is in Allentown. That is from a youth who can tell you what the struggles really are and what it is like out there. She knows what it is like not to be listened to. Imagine if it was you being told what to do and instead to actually being listened to, being told we need more adults to monitor you. That is not going to end well by not listening from the start. One of the things that was written here is, the purpose of this committee is to foster strong relationships with our youth, parents and the community at large to ensure a safe, nurturing, caring and learning environment and given value and a define meaning of obtaining a sound and well rounded education that will yield a sustainable life and employment. Do you guys know where these words came from? He

stated that it came from him because he wrote it. The last time he was up at the podium, he was told there was barely any involvement from him. That was a lie. We need to start listening to these youths. That is what he has been doing is listening to the youth and they are tired of not being heard.

Ms. Aijalynn Washington Street, 713 N. Nelson Street, stated that she spoke about this last time and it was tabled. She stated that adding more adults overshadows them and they are not heard. Growing up, they are told you can have a voice and we can do it, but we are not listened to. We are not listened to when we speak up and we are not listened to when we speak on our issues because we are belittled. We are not the adults in this and do not know as much as adults. We are not giving a platform to speak. We are the generation that will overtake your positions. We are going to be the ones that are going to speak to the generation after us. We are not giving a chance to learning your steps if we are being overshadowed. She knows so many kids that can speak on this. That have ideas and can give so many great ideas. They are not giving a change or a platform to speak.

Ms. Briana Ortegas Pena, 301 S. West Street - Captain of the Ortiz Ark Foundation and the Youth Volunteer Council of the Lehigh Valley, stated that this putting more adults into the youth organizations, is it really what we need. We are youth. We want to have a voice. We want to be heard. We are speaking to you, but are we really being heard. Is there really going to be a change. We come up and speak and you said we are going to work on it and no change. You guys are the adult, but we go through things differently. There are still kids on the streets. These organizations and these foundations for the youth changes that in a way. It takes these kids off the streets and gives them an opportunity to have a future. It gets us somewhere, but where are we going to get without a voice. She asked that the youth be heard and for a change.

Ms. Jessica Ortiz, 523 Tilghman Street, stated that she knows a lot of them don't like her and feel personal ways, but she was a youth that nobody listened to. She stated that she goes above and beyond because as Paz said the kids selected for these boards are often the straight A, the honor roll, the ones that are on clubs. The three students here, one of their moms is chronically ill and was in the hospital this morning. One of the students do not have food in her cabinet today. Another student of her is being molested on a regular basis. Another was raped by a teacher and had no one to go to move to the city of Allentown. Another boy, who we recently transferred, parents were making him sell drugs to make ends meet. These are students. These are my youth. The reason they came to us is because they came to her and said we can talk to you. We can talk to Phoebe. She stated that her daughter that is 23 is more relatable. She

stated that she does not live in a generation of Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, but she needs them to start listening to these kids. They don't have food in their homes. Their parents are forcing them into drug life. They want to share this with the community. They want to sit in those seats one day. Do you know how hard it is to come up here, if you did not eat all day. It was not easy for one of those young ladies to do that with no food in her house. To go back to that and think you don't listen. When she presented it to the 32 students that she has at the Ortiz Ark Foundation, she said who would like to sign up for the city's Youth Council and they said they are not going to pick us. We are not the kind of kids they want. She stated that all they want is to be heard. She respects the decision to make motions and do what you guys do, but you need to include them. Is it a Youth Council. She stated that she was raped and molested during her school years and did not have anybody to go to. By teachers and family members. She stated that she lived a life style of addicted parents and didn't have anybody to turn to. These kids have different organizations like the Ortiz Ark Foundation and Promise Neighborhoods Zero Youth Violence. She stated that she wishes there were hundred of them. At least the city is saying they are taking a step. She stated that she really need to listen to these kids because they are in pain. When they saw on Facebook, President Guridy with all due respect he hopes people listen. Do you know what they said and screenshotted. He did not listen to us. She stated that hurts her because some people think it is her personal agenda, but all she does is advocate for her people and the people that come to her on a regular basis. It hurt their feelings and that is why they are here today. Some are out selling drugs because they is what they have to do to help pay their parents rent so they all can be here. She asked that Council start listening to them a little bit more and take their voices seriously before you post on Facebook.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that this is basically to move it to the committee. There will be other opportunities for people to speak at the committee. He stated that if they thought that he was not listening. He is listening. Right now, we have five members that are adults. He stated that probably 70 percent of the school district are Hispanic. We have one Hispanic member on the board. Let's expand it more to get more Hispanics on the board. It does not mean we will have more adults than children. Let's increase it a little bit to have more Hispanics on the Council of Youth. He does not have a problem of having more youth than adults on the board. He would like to more it forward to the committee.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that last meeting he brought up an incident of a gentleman's insurance was kind of messed up. He thanked Mr. Ferry from Risk Management. By 8:00 the next morning it was resolved. The gentleman wanted him to personal thank Council, the administration for

getting it all squared away.

Mayor Ray O'Connell thanked Mr. Zucal for bringing it to his attention. He was not aware of it. They got on it. They are going to work with that gentleman and continue to work with that gentleman and other people in the same predicament. He asked if Bill 68 is going to the Parks and Recreation Committee. Are we looking at pretty soon, Mr. Hendricks?

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that he will get together with Mike and will schedule it in the very near future.

Mr. Julio Guridy thanked everyone that spoke, especially the three young ladies. It was very eloquently spoken and he really appreciates them to continue to come to City Council and their views on what we are talking about here and the decisions we are making.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any further discussions from the dais or the public.

REFERRED TO PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:**Special Meeting: President Guridy**

City Council will hold a special meeting on August 25th at 5 PM to review and vote on Mayor O'Connell's nomination of Charles Roca as Police Chief. We are moving that to September 1 regular Council Meeting.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that Mr. Zucal is now good with the 25th.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked Mr. Zucal if he is good for the 25th.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that it would be good for the regular Council meeting.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that it will not be on the 25th, it will be on September 1 at the regular Council Meeting.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that there is a Public Safety Meeting at 5:30 PM. You can do a Public Safety Meeting and then do a Committee of the Whole. He stated that Cynthia will have four Bills and then you will do the presentation on the Child Caring Program.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked how long is the presentation.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that it could be 15 to 30 minutes.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that it was scheduled a long time ago.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that she does not want to have another six hour meeting. What is the reason we can't do the 25th.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that his wish is to have it on the 1st.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that she is good with the 1st. We know it is going to be a long meeting and prepare for that.

Budget and Finance: Chair Siegel, Hendricks, Mota

The committee has not met since the last council meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for August 25th at 6 PM.

CEDC: Chair, Gerlach, Guridy, Affa

The committee met on August 11 and forward an items on tonight's agenda; the next meeting is not yet scheduled.

Human Resources, Administration and Appointments: Chair Affa, Mota, Zucal
The committee has not met since the last council meeting; there are no future meetings scheduled.

Parks and Recreation: Chair Hendricks, Gerlach, Siegel
The committee has not met since the last council meeting; the next meeting is not yet scheduled.

Public Safety: Chair Mota, Hendricks, Zucal
The committee has not met since the last council meeting; the next meeting is scheduled for September 1 at 5:30 PM.

Public Works: Chair Zucal, Affa, Siegel
The committee met this evening; the next meeting is not yet scheduled.

Rules, Chambers, Intergovernmental Relations and Strategy: Chair Guridy, Mota, Hendricks
The committee has not met since the last council meeting; the next meeting is not yet scheduled.

Controllers Report

Mr. Jeffrey Glazier stated that he has one Report which is the P-Card Review for the month of May 2021. They reviewed 62 P-Card Statements and the total dollar amount was \$192,744. Within those 62 Statements there may have been 350 invoices. Each one of these invoices get looked at least twice. Jacquie does it one way and she does it another. We are able to exercise a fair amount of scrutiny on these charges. The first issue that they have is the lack of AIM compliance for travel. If you are a city employee is traveling there are up to three forms that need to be filled out. One is called a TRA (Travel Request and Authorization Form), the second form is a TER (Travel Expense Form), and if there is Petty Cash that gets expended as well. There might be a petty cash form as well. There was a trip taken where the TRA was not submitted for approval in a minimum of 14 days before the travel. The form was missing a significant amount of signatures for approval. The TER was also missing signatures and the department was advised on the issue. The expense was charged education when it was more of a business nature. We suggested that a different account should be used and the department complied and a journal entry was done. Sales tax paid on one invoice and the department was advised and they will do their best to get the tax credited. There were seven invoices where the incorrect expense account was used. The Bureau was advised on the issues and journal entries were submitted to make the corrections in all cases. Untimely payment of invoices - There were nine that were paid late. There were 12 invoices where the documentation was not attached in Eden. For the June P-Card Statement, the Purchasing Department. They had an Eden invoice entry issue.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any comments or questions from Mr. Glazier.

Administration Report

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that he had no Report, but want to follow up on the award to the APD tonight. When you have the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting, you may want to go to a larger venue. He stated that it kind of bothered him when some of the people came up and they were unmasked. If you going to make a rule that you have to wear a mask then you have to wear a mask. He stated that he thinks Council will have a lot of people there that night when you get a date.

15-4523 Controller Reports

Attachments: APayable - Check Review
AR +10\$ HR
AR +10K Police
P Card Review

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE (To be Voted On):

[15-4474](#) Bill 75 Public Works, this evening
Providing for the vacation of Sycamore Street from the centerline of North Brick Street to its East limit in the Sixth Ward of the City of Allentown

Attachments: [Bill 75 Sycamore Street from the centerline of North Brick Street](#)
[Letter from Mike Hanlon regarding West Sycamore Street from North Brick Street to 1 West Allen Street](#)
[Letter from Irene Woodward from Planning Department regarding regarding W. Sycamore Street](#)
[Letter from Lehigh Valley Planning Commission regarding Street Vacation - West Sycamore Street](#)
[Staff Report - Sycamore Street from N Brick Street to its East limit](#)
[Sycamore Street Mailing Labels](#)
[Ordinance #15740](#)

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that it was sent favorably, 3 - 0.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any further comments from the dais or the public.

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

Enactment No: 15740

[15-4475](#) Bill 76 Public Works, this evening
Providing for the vacation of Dale Street from the centerline of Catasauqua

Avenue to the centerline of North Brick Street in the Sixth Ward of the City of Allentown

Attachments: [Bill 76 Dale Street from the centerline of Catasauqua Avenue to the centerline of North Brick Street](#)
[Letter from Mike Hanlon regarding Unopened part of Dale St from Catasauqua Ave to N Brick Street Street Vacation](#)
[Dale and Brick Streets - Street Vacation Staff Report](#)
[Letter from Irene Woodward regarding Dale Street from Catasauqua Ave to N. Brick - Street Vacation](#)
[Letter from the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission regarding Unopened Part of Dale St from Catasauqua Ave to N Brick St and Unopened part of N Brick St](#)
[Dale Street Mailing Labels](#)
[Ordinance #15741](#)

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that it was sent favorably, 3 - 0.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any further comments from the dais or the public.

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

Enactment No: 15741

CONSENT AGENDA

Does Council or the Public have any comments on these items collectively or would Council like to remove any of the items?

[15-4509](#) R129
Sewage Planning Module at Allentown Industrial

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R129 Allentown Industrial - Sewage Planning Module](#)
[1811 Glenwood Sewer Planning Module](#)
[Resolution #30273](#)

Enactment No: 30273

[15-4514](#) R130
Appointment -Vic Mazziotti to the Ethics Board, 12/15/2023

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R130 Ethics Board Appointment](#)
[Vic Mazziotti, Ethics Board, 12-15-2023](#)
[Resolution #30273](#)

Enactment No: 30273

[15-4513](#)

R131

Janet Keshl, Disruptive Conduct Board of Appeals 06/01/2024

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R131 Disruptive Conduct Board of Appeals](#)

[Janet Keshl, Disruptive Conduct Board of Appeals, 06-01-2024](#)

[Resolution #30274](#)

Enactment No: 30274

[15-4512](#)

R132

Don Lichty, Appointment to Water and Sewer Compliance Board
05/01/2025

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R132 Water and Sewer Compliance Appointment](#)

[Donald S. Lichty, Water & Sewer Compliance Board, 05-01-2025](#)

[Resolution #30275](#)

Enactment No: 30275

CONSENT AGENDA VOTE

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any further discussions.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that Janet Keshl has been a longtime community member and does a great job with the Disruptive Conduct Board. He stated that Don Lichty, God bless him. He is here all the time. He is a great guy. Someone that is new tonight is Vic Mazziotti to the Ethics Board. We have been looking for years, years and years. He stated that Mike Hanlon bothers him about 10 times a month. We need people on the Ethics Board because there are cases that are out there that haven't been heard. Vic Mazziotti is an outstanding choice and a good community member. He is a great guy. He is all Allentown and stated that he has respect for him. He appreciates Vic wanting to serve. He is a good person.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that he has known Vic for over 20 years and always used to come before City Council years. He is a community member who has a good representation in our community. He stated that they always got along. He is a very nice man and never heard anything bad about him. He stated that he will support him.

Mr. Vic Mazziotti thanked Mr. Guridy and Councilmembers. He is honored to be on this committee. He does take ethics very seriously. It is an important matter. He has served as an elected official and an appointed official. It is important that they not only do our job well, but do it in an

ethical way. He will assure him that he will take that responsibility seriously. As a matter of fact, he takes it so seriously that when he first considered it, the thought of publicly judging fellow citizens of this city/residents of this city and both public elected officials and appointed officials makes him a little nervous. When he realized that he will be one member of a board of five and if he erred in his judgment that hopefully the wisdom of the other four would overcome that. Not that he plans to err. He plans to do his best. He thanked the Mayor for the nomination.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Mr. Mazziotti for his willingness to serve. Many people will not.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that we need both sides. We always need both sides.

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

RESOLUTIONS FOR FINAL PASSAGE (To be Voted On):

[15-4470](#)

R125

Approving The Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice And Authorizing The Filing of The Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice With The U.S. Department Of Housing And Urban Development (HUD)

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R125 HUD Fair Housing](#)

[Allentown AI Presentation](#)

[Resolution #30276](#)

[Signed Document for Approving The Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice and Authorizing the Filing of the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice](#)

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any further comments from the dais or the public.

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

Enactment No: 30276

[15-4494](#)

R133

Appointment of One Police Officer

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R133 Hiring Police Officer](#)

[Resolution #30277](#)

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if the Chief and Captain Gress here.

Captain James Gress stated that he would like to give a brief background on Paul D'Onufrio. He is a 43 year old, full-time Deputy Sheriff currently employed with the county. He graduated from Temple University Police Academy in 2014. He comes from a long family of law enforcement. He stated that he believes he will be an asset to the department. He stated that they almost reached their goal of 222 officers.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any comments from the dais.

Ms. Candida Affa asked how old is he Mr. D'Onufrio.

Captain James Gress stated 43.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any comments from the dais or the public.

Yes: 5 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, and Ed Zucal

No: 2 - Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Joshua Siegel

Enactment No: 30277

[15-4498](#)

R134

HUD Eviction Prevention Grant Application Submission

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R134 HUD Eviction Prevention Grant](#)

[Resolution #30278](#)

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any comments from the dais, the administration, or the public.

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

Enactment No: 30278

[15-4505](#)

R135

Approves \$35,000 Transfer from City Council Account 46 (Other Contract Services) to Account 44 (Legal Services) to place funds in the proper account for legal services.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R135 Transfer Funds](#)

[Based on Resolution #30268 - Authorizes and Approves the Engagement of Charles Smith, ESQ.](#)
[Resolution #30279](#)

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were there any comments from the dais or the public.

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

Enactment No: 30279

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

[15-4497](#) Bill 77 Refer to Public Safety Committee
Amending the 2021 General Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Fourteen Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty-Eight Dollars and Sixty-Nine Cents (\$14,728.69) from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Office of The State Fire Commissioner Grant, to the Allentown Fire Department for the purchase of high-quality particulate hoods.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 77 Fire OFSC Grant](#)

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any comments from the dais or the public.

REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

[15-4496](#) Bill 78 Refer to Public Safety Committee
Amending the 2021 General Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Twenty-Two Thousand Two Hundred Sixty-Seven (\$22,267.00) Dollars from Highmark to be used to further prepare for medical emergencies and rebuild supplies from COVID-19.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 78 EMS Hhighmark Contribution](#)

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any comments from the dais or the public.

REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

[15-4495](#) Bill 79 Refer to Public Works Committee
Amending the 2021 General Fund Budget and the 2021 Capital Fund Budget to provide for a transfer of Thirty Thousand (\$30,000) Dollars for roof repairs on several City buildings.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 79 Roof Repair Transfer](#)

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any comments from the dais or the public.

REFERRED TO PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

[15-4503](#)

Bill 80 Refer to Public Safety Committee
Amending the 2021 Capital Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand (\$250,000) Dollars as the result of a grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development (PA DCED) Initiative Program to the Allentown Fire Department to provide funds to be utilized for costs associated with the construction of the Fire Academy Public Safety Training and EOC building, including appliances and furnishings.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 80 Fire Academy Building](#)

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any comments from the dais or the public.

REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

[15-4504](#)

Bill 81 Refer to Public Safety Committee
Amending the Civil Service Board (CSB) Rules for Firefighters that were adopted pursuant to the provisions of Article 155 of the Codified Ordinances by revising the Part V: Rules Governing Appointment of Fire Fighters.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 81 Fire Civil Service Rule Changes](#)

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any comments from the dais or the public.

REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

RESOLUTIONS FOR INTRODUCTION (Can be voted on or Referred to Committee):

NEW BUSINESS: NONE

GOOD AND WELFARE

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that he might have said this before there is a group of youth baseball players that came from Puerto Rico to play at an Cultural Exchange Program with kids from Allentown with the Juan Sanchez Baseball League. They played and the Mayor was there this weekend. They took some pictures and he gave them some nice words and talked to them. These kids are youth and there were two teams. One is from 10 to

13 and the other ones are from 14 - 16. They are playing at our parks over at Fountain Park. They are going to keep playing throughout the week. Ms. Mota is inviting everybody. She is having a little get together for them at her house tomorrow.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that it was a good day. The kids are great. They are having fun. They came from Puerto Rico and they were great. The kids were from Juan Sanchez and Dominicans and Puerto Ricans. It was great. The coaches are good people. It was a fun day. Where is The Morning Call and WFMZ when it is something good. It is all about the youth. Let's get the Youth Commission up and running. Let's go. Let' get the bylaws and the guidelines. Let's have a large meeting and go from there.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that he agrees.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that every year when tend to bring people from the Dominican Republic. She stated that she is really excited that this year they are also from Puerto Rico and she saw them in 2018. She went to Puerto Rico and saw them play in 2018. Now, they are huge. It was nice to see most of the kids again. She is really excited that they are going to get together tomorrow. Of course, everyone is invited.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that with the help of the Mayor, he thinks next year they will try to bring a group from Ireland to play.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that he does not know about baseball, but cricket and they will party afterwards.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that we will bring some Jamaicans here to play cricket with them.

ADJOURNED: 8:12 PM

[15-4437](#)

Council Rules
Home Rule Charter
Contract Procedures

Attachments: [HOMERULE June 2021](#)
[Council Rules March 2021 Edition](#)
[Contract Procedures](#)