



# Allentown

435 Hamilton Street  
Allentown, Pa. 18101

## Minutes - Final

### City Council

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Wednesday, October 18, 2023

6:30 PM

Council Chambers

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#### Invocation:

#### Pledge to the Flag

#### Roll Call

**Present:** 6 - Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Natalie Santos, and Santo Napoli

#### Courtesy of the Floor

#### Courtesy and Privilege of the Floor Rules

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated to please observe the Rules of Council when addressing the body. A full copy of Council Rules can be found on the city website or by email if you contact Council office. There are multiple opportunities to address Council. Individuals can speak during Courtesy of the Floor (addressing items not on the agenda) and during Bills and Resolutions on Final Passage and Introduction. When given the Floor, please go to the podium and state your name and address. All remarks must be directed towards the presiding officer or council as a body; not a particular Council member or elected official, the audience or city staff. Unless otherwise determined, individuals shall have three minutes to address council and individuals representing a bona-fide group shall have five minutes. Privilege of the Floor will not be extended for personal insults or personal attacks on any individual, name calling or other behavior that is inconsistent with the purpose and intent of conducting official business. Please address council as a body. Refrain from using offensive language, cursing and making noises while other people are speaking. Act with decorum. Remove your hat and turn cell phones off. (Council Speaking Rules: Members and others given the privilege of the floor will address the Presiding Officer. The Presiding Officer will extend the courtesy to the Councilperson(s) responsible for introducing legislation the opportunity to speak first. Each member will have the right to speak twice on any subject. No Member will be allowed to speak more than twice on any subject without permission of the Presiding Officer. No Member will speak more than three (3) times on the question without the unanimous consent of all the Members present.

Ms. Amy Hertzsic (sp) stated that she wants to bring to their attention a

safety and quality of life issue that is affecting people for the past couple of years. On your October 4 Agenda, you had an item listed to fix the pedestrian bridge at Dixon Street and she was dismayed to see it was not on the Agenda tonight. She does not know why it is not. She trust that City Council is interested in ensuring the safety and welfare. The pedestrian bridge on Dixon Street connects the neighbor. There is a bus stop on Dixon Street. The bridge has been barricaded and no attention given. Over 100 kids walk past this bridge. This bridge has been used by pedestrians and people going to work and people without cars, kids that go to Allentown Schools, Charter Schools, and Catholic schools. It is used by many people and she does not know why they are delaying fixing it, but urged them to give it the attention that it deserves.

Ms. Jessica Ortiz stated that on behalf of the Ortiz Ark Foundation she is coming to them as different departments in the Ortiz Ark Foundation and the problems that they had throughout the city. Most important to them right now is Stevens Park. They have worked with the Parks and Recreation Department with Ryan and Chris very closely and the Police department with Sergeant Leonard and Chief Roca. The problem is a big problem. In the last three days, they had nine ODs. It is not funny, but they are homeless. They don't have the means to continue to take care of because they are not the organization that gets the millions to do this work out on the streets. The Conference of Churches and Daybreak have caused a problem directly in Center City. They treat addicts and homeless and that is a problem. It is a city problem that we need to address. It is a situation that she would love to help with, but again, it takes a whole entire city to figure out a solution. She stated that she does not have a solution on how they can end homelessness at this moment or how they can fix all the addicts or the people with mental health, but the solution cannot be to dump them on 4th and Allen and 6th and Tilghman. It is very unfair. Imagine a child playing in a park with these needles that they pick up. They have four rounds a day to clean. Parks and Recreation has been amazing. They have Field Rangers and she just learned about them. They come out and help them. The APD is spending hours that she is sure is not in their budget to add to coming to this park. This is every day. They made videos this week and have been threatened and there are guys in ski masks. She stated that she doesn't care and still go to the park. Over the summer, every weekend as she mentioned the last three times a day from Friday to Sunday, different organizations rented out the park. That is great for the community. They love that, but guess what, no one follows up. What happens is you feed people with addiction or homelessness. The thing they get with a food stamp card, they now sell to buy drugs. Now, they have more drugs. This is what we have to see every day. No one is seeming to care. They have events with loud music all night long in Stevens Park. Kind of recruiting addicts and homeless. They are on 4th and 5th and Allen

or they are at Stevens Park. Where are the kids supposed to go. What are the kids supposed to do? Where are they supposed to play? It is becoming so overwhelming that it is becoming habit for the kids to watch addiction. It needs to be addressed. The kids are getting their basketball courts as she spoke to Ce Ce earlier. They don't have bathrooms where the kids play in the parks of the community. It is really unfair. They are getting pushed out. They are being told they are the nuisance. The kids that are 17 to 25 are the problem, but nobody is helping. They really need help. She sees funds going in and going out, but not where they need it. Buildings are going up and it is getting frustrating. She is really good at gathering people. She does not want to keep flooding city hall, but she will. She stated that she needs help because it is really bad. She has pictures and documents. She stated that she should not be giving mouth to mouth and cleaning up needles. She does not get paid to do that. She does not sign up to get paid, but there are people that gets paid to do that. That is what makes it really unfair because they watch it and they live here. She loves Allentown and will not ever leave Allentown, especially in this condition. There are people that get paid to do these things and they are not doing them. She needs that to be noticed and need people to help them in the park. She will give it to Allentown Parks and Rec and the Allentown Police Department. Because of them, it has been a little safer, but we need the entire village to stand up and help us.

Mr. Dan Bosket, 523 - 525 N. Seventh Street, thanked Council for indulging him again. He stated that he made the same appeal and talk at the CED meeting. Is here on behalf of Community Action Development in Allentown talking about a Youth Center Project on N. 9th Street between Gordon and Liberty. They had a community meeting on September 7th to give an update about the Youth Center Project. The meeting was held at the Allentown Public Library. Some of the members of the audience that were here this evening was actually at that meeting. They included residents from Old Allentown Preservation Association Neighborhood because that is the neighborhood where the school is located. They of course has youth at the meeting. Ideally, the purpose of the meeting was to give an update of where the project is and get some feedback from the public as well. They actually closed on the purchase of the building on September 29th at the Allentown School District. During the period of time that they were conducting the closing, they were also submitting a grant request to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development for a demolition of the building. The building itself dates back to 1819. In its current state, it is not usable. Renovating the building was determined to not being an option. The only choice is to demolish the building and then build new. They completed an environmental study as he said at the previous committee meeting. There has been no red flags from the report as of now. Of course since the building is vintage 1819 is going to have

lead and asbestos. They are well aware of that. They issued a request for proposal to select a design firm to begin the design of the building. They could not begin the design to they actually had control of the building. They have a kickoff launch meeting with a successful design firm. Mirage Design LLC is scheduled for this coming Friday. The CACLV Board actually approved that design contract on October 10th. They of course, will have to do a capital campaign. The gentleman that was up here earlier was talking about the sewer system project. He stated that they don't need that much money. They need a little bit less. The capital campaign can't launch again until they have control of the building and now they are creating a design for the building to be part of the capital campaign. Brian Nester who is the CEO of Lehigh Valley Health Network has agreed to chair the campaign for them. He stated that as they are aware, Community Action is one of the largest nonprofits in the Lehigh Valley. They are accustomed to doing large fundraising and capital campaigns. Just as a note, the United Way was able to raise \$22 million in one year as part of their capital campaign. He is acutely aware of the fact that the ARPA funds that still remains unspent could be designated for police and fire use. Obviously, public safety is very important and he understands Council's responsibility to provide public safety. He stated that they are hoping that between the Council and the Mayor they will be able to cobble together some ARPA funds that they could use to help with the Youth Center Project which will benefit the youth here in the city.

Mr. Pas Simpson stated that as they heard Brother Dan speak those ARPA funds. There was \$57 million given to our city. He has not seen anything that has been done to actually affect the benefit of the average citizen done with that money. There have been many people who made requests. They even had things passed and sat on for a year. Before all that money is spent, how do they find out as citizens with what has been done with the money, what is going to be done with the money, and what they can do to make sure that money actually gets to the people that matters.

Mr. Louis Holtzman stated that he is here to speak on behalf of the Arts Commission as the Chair of the Arts Commission. He stated that Brendon Jones is a member as well and a few others here in the audience that are on the Agenda to be appointed today as well. They are here to talk about the Public Art Committee Ordinance that is active. The Public Art Committee in itself is not and has not been for a number of years by the ordinance and how it should active or by board members on the committee itself. They are simply asking to role that ordinance into the Arts Commission because that is what has been done in practice. They are working to continue to build the infrastructure of the Arts Commission and the members Rules and Regulations and its ordinance that is a piece of the

puzzle. They are trying to push forward. They have been talking about it for years and they have it tucked in nicely here. They still have the Public Art Committee here are on the Agenda and pushes through a lot of the public works that they have. There just literally nobody on the Public Art Committee as the ordinance states other than the Arts Commission. He stated that is the request and thank you for your time.

Ms. Betty Cauler, 2212 W. Tilghman Street, talked about the Budget that the Mayor just put out. He said that the increases in taxes and garbage fees will have a limited impact on the majority of Allentonians. She believes it is not just disingenuous, but it is not true. The city budget for 2024 includes a 6.9 percent property tax increase that he said should not be a burden for senior citizens because they received an 8.7 percent COLA to their social security for 2023. She thinks what the mayor does not seem to understand is that they had to make due in the last six or seven years with zero to two percent increases. This is the first time they have gotten a significant one in response to inflation. She doesn't think that he realizes that it is a cost of living adjustment. That is because prices are up. Prices are not going to go down. Now that they are up, they are not going to go down. They get an 8.7 for 2023 and nothing is going to change. Prices are not going to go down. What is the benefit to us seniors who live on fixed incomes to get this rate increase in 2023 only to have it negated by a 6.9 percent increase in property taxes and a \$120 increase in garbage collection rates in 2024. The social security administration is set the 2024 COLA at 3.2 percent. They get one for the way prices are now and next year it will be negative by the tax increase. The IMF has projected the 2024 inflation rate at 5.2 percent. She stated that they are getting a 3.2 from the Social Security Administration. It is not keeping with inflation. They also said the underlining core inflation is likely to decline more slowly. Inflation return to target is unlikely before 2025. The majority of them over 65 live on fixed incomes and they also should have the benefit of a property tax freeze or an assessment freeze. Actually they should have both. Once they get to be 65, your taxes should be frozen. It shouldn't keep going up because there is just no way that they can afford this and stay in their homes. A lot of them like the previous person said would like to stay in our homes. He also mentioned that the increase is not going to negatively affect renters. As they will only see a weekly increase of 41 cents per unit, per week. That is incredibly negative because a friend of hers saw his rent increase 20 percent this year. The biggest increase he has ever gotten. That is not going to go down next year. It is going to go up, up, up. When he says those kinds of things, that is just not going to happen. She knows that the city is changing and allowing the downtown to become more and more gentrified. She stated that 27 percent of the people that live downtown are living below the poverty line and the city is letting all these smoked glass high-rises go up and she does not know how many of them

are getting NIZ tax breaks or whatever other Keystone breaks they get and it seems like it is not affordable housing. It is market rate housing. She stated that we need more affordable housing in the city and it is time to make the J B Reilly's of this city pay their fair share.

Ms. Kendall (last name inaudible), Mohawk Street, spoke about the pedestrian bridge on Dixon Street that was mentioned earlier. She stated that it is a really big safety issue and it really does need to be looked into. She used to walk it herself in elementary and middle school and as soon as she got to high school, it was destroyed and blocked off and she had to take the LANTA bus to school because she lives in a district that is a walking district and in order to get to Dieruff High School on the eastside, she was expected to walk from her house on the southside. She would take the LANTA bus and had to walk through the mud and a muddy baseball field rather than walking over that bridge because it was block off and she would carry extra shoes with her to change into once she got on the bus because the shoes that she wore would get destroyed walking from her house to the bus. To expect kids that don't have extra shoes to sit in school with muddy cold shoes all day. It is not fair to them. She had to get on the LANTA bus and witness a guy laying across the seat with his hands in his pants with no shoes on as a high schooler. It is disgusting. Kids should not be seeing that in the city. She thankfully have a car now and can drive home from school and whenever she gets to the intersection of American Parkway and Hamilton, there are homeless people walking through the streets, knocking on her car window begging her for money. She doesn't understand why it is not being taken care of. There are homeless people everywhere. They want money for drugs. They are not using it for the right purposes. She is literally scared that someone will open her door one day and try to get to her. It is not safe and it is not good. She would really appreciate if the bridge can be taken care of and the homeless situation could be taken care of.

**Contract Approvals: There are no contracts for approval.**

**Minutes of Previous Meeting: There are no minutes for approval.**

### **Communications**

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that he has something, but will say it later.

Mr. Santo Napoli stated that in regards to parking, he wants to remind folks that visitors at City Council are urged to use the Government Deck next door. If you do use the Government Deck, you can visit our Clerk, Mr. Hanlon for the Chaser Card to pay for parking. That is for all City Council meetings, up to midnight. He stated that he want to make sure everyone remembers that.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that this evening he was getting into the shower, he heard his doorbell ring. Obviously, he was getting read to come here. The Rule of his house is that no one answers that door unless he is downstairs. His wife looked at and thought it was political/politician time, she figured it was probably one of them. She looked out and recognized that it was obviously, their neighbor across the street. He came and done what he had to do and now leaving, he was still talking to her. It was 20 minutes later. Apparently, there has been a car in front of his house and he has called many times on this. He stated that he is pretty sure what car is it. About extremely loud music and the fact that it was parked in a no parking zone and those corners at 16th and Tilghman are marked because of the direction of sight that you can't see from Tilghman Street from 16th. He called the Police Department, an officer came out. He stated that he is not sure if the car was there when he came out, but the officer told him that he should be arresting him for calling this in. He does not know about them, but when he was a Police Officer, he did not talk to people like that. If that is how we build bridges here, they better start building flat roads before we worry about bridges. The gentleman, his neighbor has no reason to lie and actually pro police said to him this is not how he should be treated and will just make a complaint with the Chief and the Mayor. He stated that allegedly because he was not there. The cop said you can do that, but they are not going to support you because they are looking for your vote. He stated that he plans to follow up a little bit more with his neighbor because this is not how you treat people. He doesn't care if you are a cop or a firemen or whatever you are. You don't treat people like that and then to threaten that they should be arrested for making a complaint is just unbelievable. A couple of months ago, he made a statement about a lady that was bit by a dog and how she was treated from the that office. Do you know, she never got a follow up phone call to apologize or anything. He stated that we have a lot of problems here my friends.

**Old Business: NONE**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS****Budget and Finance: Chair Napoli, Hendricks, Gerlach**

The Committee has not met since the last council meeting; the next meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 31 at 5:30 PM.

**Community and Economic Development: Chair Mota, Napoli, Affa**

The committee met this evening; the next meeting is scheduled on October 25th at 6:30 PM.

**Human Resources, Administration and Appointments: Chair Santos, Zucal, Napoli**

The Committee met has not met since the last council meeting; the next meeting is scheduled for October 25th at 5:30 PM.

**Parks and Recreation: Chair Gerlach, Affa, Mota** The Committee met this evening; the next meeting is scheduled on October 25 at 6 PM.

**Public Safety: Chair Affa, Hendricks, Zucal** The committee has not met since the last Council meeting; the next meeting is scheduled for November 1st at 5:45 PM.

**Public Works: Chair Zucal, Santos, Hendricks**

The Committee met this evening; the next meeting is November 1st at 5:15 PM.

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

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

**Controller's Report (3 minutes)**

NONE

Mr. Jeffrey Glazier stated that the budget came out recently and he has been going through it page by page, line by line and he will do his best on what he considers some analysis for the public and Council. He does know that the schedule that Council is anticipating is rather compressed and that makes it difficult for him to do the work that he likes to do. He still will do his best for Council and the public.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Mr. Glazer and stated that he looks forward for his expertise in doing that. It is much appreciated.

**Mayor's Report (3 minutes)**

Ms. Genesis Ortega stated that she is here on behalf of Mayor Tuerk to delivery the



**Mayor's Report.** As the Controller said, the big news this week was that the Mayor released the 2024 Proposed Budget. In addition to that, last week they launched their Inaugural Community Health Needs Assessments. She stated to Council that anything that they can do to spread the word and encourage residents to participate in the survey would be appreciated. This survey will be instrumental in helping us shape the Community Health Improvement Plan for the City of Allentown next year. It takes 10 minutes and it is on the city website at [allentownpa.gov](http://allentownpa.gov). The Second Annual Employee Engagement Survey is now complete. Laura Ballek - Cole in the office has fully processed the data and made it digestible for them to review. She is making her rounds to departments heads to talk one on one about the findings and she will be in touch with the City Clerk to get a date scheduled to present this data at Council. Just so Council know, they received about the same response rate as they did last year. There is a lot to dissect with this data and they look forward to review that with Council. They also successfully completed the first two DEI sessions to city managers which are on the topics of cultivating neuro divergent and assessable and inclusive spaces as well as trauma informed care. The third one will be held next week and that focuses on standard DEI language. They received really positive feedback across the board about staff in these training sessions. They are also looking forward to continuing that series with them. In terms of resident engagement, the next City Hall at the Table is scheduled for next Tuesday, October 24th at Midway Manor at 5:30. If you can't make it, they have several happening next month. Laura from the office has shared that with your office and like always they encourage and welcome Council's attendance to speak with residents. Lastly, in terms of upcoming events, Hallo weekend is not week and they start off with the Coalition for Appropriate Transportation and will host a bike ride with Mayor Tuerk, city employees and residents on Friday, October 27 at lunch time. Please feel free to join if you are free. That evening is the city's trick or treat night from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. A reminder to all to turn your porch light on if you are giving out candy, be cautious and keep an eye out for kids in costumes crossing streets while driving out on the roads. That is really important. Saturday, October 28th is our Halloween Walking Parade in downtown from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM. This is a pedestrian and kid friendly event which means that like last year Hamilton Street will be completely closed from Ninth to Sixth Streets. That evening is the Super Mario Brothers at Midway Manor. This is the final movie for Movies in the Parks series which was highly successful. On Sunday, October 29th is the Day of the Dead (Dia de Los Muertos Event) in the Arts Park from 1 - 5 PM. This again is a repeat from last year's which celebrates the Mexican Holiday that honors the deceased. She stated that they are excited to offer these events to the residents and hope that they can come out and join them as well. She stated that she knows that it is a bit early to say this, but bare with her. Lights in the Parkway is just about a month away. They know a lot of people get really excited about this. They are excited to continue this really amazing Allentown tradition of the lights which starts the day after Thanksgiving until the end of the year.

**ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE (To be Voted On):**[15-6264](#)

Bill 89

Providing for the vacation of North Maxwell Street from the centerline of East Turner Street to the centerline of East Linden Street in the Fifteenth Ward of the City of Allentown.

**Sponsors:** Administration

**Attachments:** [Bill 89 N Maxwell Street - Street Vacation Ordinance](#)

[N Maxwell Street - Street Vacation Report](#)

[Letter from Mike Hanlon regarding North Maxwell Street from East Turner Street to East Linden Street](#)

[Allentown City Planning Commission Action Letter for the Vacation of N. Maxwell Street 09.12.23 signed](#)

[Letter from the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission regarding North Maxwell Street from East Turner Street - Vacation](#)

[N Maxwell Street from East Turner Street to East Linden Street Report](#)

[N. Maxwell Street from E. Turner to E Linden Street - Mailing](#)

[Addresses](#)

[Ordinance #15950](#)

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that it was sent favorably to Council. It is a partial roadway that has not been used for ages and they want to take it off the city map.

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

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

**Yes:** 6 - Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Natalie Santos, and Santo Napoli

Enactment No: 15950

[15-6270](#)

Bill 90

Amending the 2023 Capital Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Six Hundred Fifty Thousand (\$650,000) Dollars from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) to support design and construction of the D&L Trail – Allentown Segment.

**Sponsors:** Administration

**Attachments:** [Bill 90 - D&L Trail DCNR Grant](#)

[Ordinance #15951](#)

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that they discussed it tonight and forwarded favorably. It is just to support the design and construction of the D&L

Trail in Allentown.

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

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

**Yes:** 6 - Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Natalie Santos, and Santo Napoli

Enactment No: 15951

[15-6272](#)

Bill 92

This ordinance corrects legislation previously passed placing the funds into appropriate accounts. The bill will reverse Ordinance 15886, and appropriate the ARPA money allocated for HDC-Mid Atlantic project to the correct expense account within the ARPA fund. The original Ordinance 15886 was passed and allocated One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) to the 2023 General Fund DCED Director's budget. This does not allow for proper tracking and oversight of ARPA funding. The original intention of the Ordinance 15886 was to appropriate One Million \$1,000,000 Dollars for the 1528 West Hamilton St. Affordable Housing Project being developed by HDC-Mid Atlantic. These funds should be placed in the ARPA civic expenses account. 100% of the funds will be used to offset construction costs of the project.

**Sponsors:** Administration

**Attachments:** [Bill 92 - Corrects HDC Mid-Atlantic ARPA allocation](#)

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that it was sent favorably, 2 - 0.

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

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

**Yes:** 6 - Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Natalie Santos, and Santo Napoli

Enactment No: 15952

## CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if anybody had any issues with the Consent Agenda and want to remove the legislation.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that she does not have any issues, but a quick request. It is awesome that there are a lot of people being appointed to the

various commissions. She is glad to see the Commission on the Homelessness is final on there. She does not see any for the Human Relations Commission. It would be cool if they could get a list, a spreadsheet that would say here are the Commission and here are how many seats that are vacant, here are how many applications we received, and a status. Because she is hearing concerns from some people on various Commissions that they are not being filled. It is great to see there are a lot tonight, but there are other Commissions.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that they will make that request to the administration. He asked if they could make sure that happens, that would be most helpful. He stated that he would have to concur. That would be something important.

Ms. Michaela Boyer stated that she recently took over the duty of putting this forward to Council. If they have any other request as well, she will be happy to look into it. She does have that spreadsheet information available to them.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Ms. Ortega and Ms. Boyer and asked if there were anybody else. He asked if there were any comments from the public. He asked if there were any comments on the items on here.

Mr. Michael Hanlon read the Resolutions under the Consent Agenda.

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

**Yes:** 6 - Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Natalie Santos, and Santo Napoli

[15-6326](#)

R167

Certificate of Appropriateness for work in the Historic Districts: 619 N. Park St., 614 N. 5th St., 918 W. Chew St.

**Sponsors:** Administration

**Attachments:** [R167 HARB Resolution](#)  
[614 N 5th St Final Review](#)  
[619 N Park St Final Review](#)  
[918 W Chew St Final Review](#)  
[Resolution #30718](#)

Enactment No: 30718

[15-6327](#)

R168

Jessica L.Ambler, Arts Commission, 1-3-2026

**Sponsors:** Administration

**Attachments:** [R168 Jessica Ambler - Arts Commission](#)

[Memo from Mayor Tuerk regarding Jessica Ambler, Arts Commission, 1-3-2026](#)  
[Resolution #30719](#)

Enactment No: 30719

[15-6328](#)

R169

Victoria Beck, Arts Commission, 1-2-2027

**Attachments:** [R169 Victoria Beck - Arts Commission](#)

[Memo from Mayor Tuerk regarding Victoria Beck, Arts Commission, 1-2-2027](#)  
[Resolution #30720](#)

Enactment No: 30720

[15-6329](#)

R170

Daniel Djuro Goiricelaya, Arts Commission, 1-2-2027

**Sponsors:** Administration

**Attachments:** [R 170 Daniel Djuro Goiricelaya - Arts Commission](#)

[Memo from Mayor Tuerk regarding Daniel Djuro Goiricelaya, Arts Commission, 1-2-2027](#)  
[Resolution #30721](#)

Enactment No: 30721

[15-6330](#)

R171

Kyle L. Edwards, Arts Commission, 1-3-2026

**Attachments:** [R171 Kyle Edwards - Arts Commission](#)

[Kyle Edwards, Arts Commission, 1-3-2026](#)  
[Resolution #30722](#)

Enactment No: 30722

[15-6331](#)

R172

Abigail Simmons, Arts Commission, 1-3-2026 (Replacing Max Weintraub)

**Attachments:** [R172 Abigail Simmons - Arts Commission](#)

[Abigail Simmons, Arts Commission, 1-3-2026](#)  
[Resolution #30723](#)

Enactment No: 30723

[15-6332](#)

R173

Chris Giacobbe, Sheet Metal Licensing Board, 10-18-2028 (Replacing Jeff Erb)

**Sponsors:** Administration

**Attachments:** [R173 Chris Giacobbe - Sheet Metal Licensing Board](#)  
[Chris Giacobbe, Sheet Metal Licensing Board, 10-18-2028](#)  
[Resolution #30724](#)

Enactment No: 30724

[15-6333](#)

R174

Kyle Ropski, Environmental Advisory Council, 1-5-2026

**Attachments:** [R 174 Kyle Ropski - Environmental Advisory Council](#)  
[Memo from Mayor Tuerk regarding Kyle Ropski, Environmental Advisory Council, 1-5-2026](#)  
[Resolution #30725](#)

Enactment No: 30725

[15-6334](#)

R175

Carol Halper, Board of Ethics, 10-18-2026

**Sponsors:** Administration

**Attachments:** [R175 Carol Halper - Board of Ethics](#)  
[Memo from Mayor Tuerk regarding Carol Halper, Board of Ethics, 10-18-2026](#)  
[Resolution #30726](#)

Enactment No: 30726

[15-6335](#)

R176

Vicky Doulé, Commission on Homelessness, 10-18-2027

**Sponsors:** Administration

**Attachments:** [R176 Vicky Doulé - Commission on Homelessness](#)  
[Vicky Doulé, Commission on Homelessness, 10-18-2027](#)  
[Resolution #30727](#)

Enactment No: 30727

## **RESOLUTIONS FOR FINAL PASSAGE (To be Voted On):**

[15-6274](#)

R177

Authorizes the Administration to Sign a Lease with the Allentown Police Athletic League, Inc. for use of 2110 Park Drive, Allentown, Pennsylvania, 18103 and of the building adjacent thereto (hereafter called the "Building")

**Attachments:** [R 177 Lease with the Police Athletic League \(PAL\)](#)  
[R PAL Lease Approval](#)  
[Resolution #30728](#)

Mr. Jared Hanna, President of the Police Athletic League and joined by Sergeant Leonard, along with some of their PAL kids. They are here for the Lease to redo the barn. Some of you may know that it is a structure that is next to the Police Academy and the Parkway. His understanding that it was not separately deeded previously, but over the past several years it used to be for horses and other activities per the Police Department. Over the past several years, it has been used primarily for PAL kids, but has been falling in disarray. With the passing of Jim Stanko a few years ago, Sergeant Leonard along with some of the Allentown Police Officers and some of the kids decided that they would like to redo this property. That is why they are here for this Lease today. He turned it over to Sergeant Leonard and the kids to explain what they are trying to do.

Sergeant John Leonard thanked Council for listening to them today and providing this opportunity. The Allentown Police Department has been using this building that has been adjacent to the Allentown Police Academy for some years for our Youth Program. The Youth Program is a transformative Youth Mentor Initiative aimed at fostering positive relationships between law enforcement officers and the young individuals in our community. This comprehensive program focuses on mentorship, personal development, and civic leadership empowering our youth to become engaged and responsible and compassionate leaders of tomorrow. By leasing us this building, they would be able to make the much needed repairs as it is falling in disarray and deteriorating with parts of it being non operational at this time. Furthermore, by undertaking this project, they will be bringing this aligned with their commitment to be inclusive and assessable for all members of our community. Making the building ADA compliant will improve access for people with disabilities fostering more inclusive and equitable environment. He stated as they can see PAL has been working with Butz Company who has been helping them from the beginning of this process and these are some of the renderings of what some of the buildings will look like when the project is complete. He asked if anyone had any questions for them or would like to hear from any of the kids.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if any of his colleagues had any questions about this.

Mr. Ed Zucal asked has the lease been drawn up yet.

Sergeant John Leonard stated that the lease has been drawn up and submitted.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that it is part of the packet.

Mr. Ed Zucal asked if it was approved through the Solicitor's office.

Sergeant John Leonard stated that the Solicitor is the one who drafted it. Once approved, it will go through Eden and back up the system for fire approval.

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

Chief Charles Roca stated that he stands behind this program, not because he is the Police Chief, but because he was a PAL attendee. He remembers back in the 1980s, going to the Police Academy and being mentored by senior officers that were there. One thing is that you look behind him and there are a number of children that are here and the smiles on their face when they learn about the relationship, not only with police officers, but how to be leaders themselves. He stated that the mentor program is stepped in doing that and breaking that cycle of violence and breaking that cycle of division, but to combine it. The plans that are here today that Sergeant Leonard put forth and Jared Hanna is the chair of the PAL committee is a win/win for the city. Not just for the area, but for the entire community. He invited many more people to learn about the PAL program and take part in it.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that she really would like to hear from at least one of two of the children.

Mr. Charlie Shazecki (sp), E Columbia Street, stated that he is a student at Allentown Central Catholic and came to the program when he was in sixth grade and currently a junior in high school. He stated that the program has changed his life in such a great way. He came into the program for a one week summer camp when he was in sixth grade and here he is as a junior. It is a very informative program. He agrees that he will not be the person he is today if it wasn't for this program. He has met so many great friends. Some of whom are now in college. He is still friends with them and talk to them and see them. He stated that he thinks renovating this building will help this program furthermore. They are doing some pretty cool things already. This new building will make the things they do even better.

Ms. Anya Riviera stated that this is her first year attending Allentown PAL program. This summer she ha learned a lot from her peers an officers. Every day has been a learning experience for her. Joining PAL gave her the confidence to run for student government. She stated that she has



amazing leaders who care for her future and influence her to be an active leader in her community. She has become passionate about servicing her community. Next month, they will be preparing Thanksgiving meals for our local senior center. How amazing is that? She stated to Council that she would kindly request for them to grant PAL a 20 year lease for their barn. Assuring this space will allow children to continue to build leadership skills and a great way to honor Detective James Stanko. She thanked them for their time and said by the way, the kids that are all here are going to be awesome leaders.

Ms. Jade stated that this is the first in the program and it is very fun. They need to work together to make a better team. She enjoy coming out for the summer. Her favorite part was learning new people.

Sergeant John Leonard asked if any other kid wants to say anything. He said we have one of our PAL parents.

Ms. Caroline Velasquez, 365 W. Washington Street, stated that she is a parent of two PAL with one graduate. He is now a Kutztown freshman. She has a junior in Dieruff High School. She is also a mentor. She has been in the PAL program since her son was in the sixth grade. She has been a participate in a lot of activities that they do for the kids, not only just for the kids, but the community. She has seen as far as the parks. They have been going out to help and clean the parks. They have done all kinds of activities in the schools. It is definitely a benefit for the kids, especially during the summer where they have the opportunity instead of being at home. They do have a lot of activities and learn a lot about the community not as far as the police officers, but the other aspects for the EMTs. They have different programs that come and they learn about different activities. One of the activities is coming in and have the police officers that have the courses. The EMTs, Fire Department and the learn about the different aspects of not only the police officers, but also the other aspects of what makes Allentown run. Definitely, it is a good program. If her daughter could be here because she is at basketball practice, she would be here. She stated that she definitely appreciates Council's time.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that he would like to speak on behalf of this and he is certainly a big advocate of this. He gets to go down to the Academy often. He used the gym down there and he can tell them that the building that they are looking to lease from the city was in a state of disrepair and the funds that they are trying to do that rehab is sorely needed. This will benefit the Academy and a good portion of our society. These children will grow up with a respect for law enforcement and all the emergency services. He spends a lot of time down there watching them and the various programs and a lot of sports and recreation. He highly encouraged his

colleagues to support this lease. He asked if there were anybody else from the public that wishes to speak or on the dais.

**A motion was made by Daryl Hendricks, seconded by Cynthia Mota, that Council Suspend The Rules to bring forward Resolution #177.**

**Yes:** 6 - Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Natalie Santos, and Santo Napoli

Enactment No: 30728

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

**Yes:** 6 - Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Natalie Santos, and Santo Napoli

Enactment No: 30728

[15-6316](#)

R178

Approves one transfer: (1) \$125,000.00 in Parks Maintenance for \$40,000.00 to be used to construct a Pole Barn located at the Fish Hatchery to be used for storage as required by the State Regulations and \$85,000.00 will be used for upgrades to the windows and doors at the West Park Band Shell.

**Attachments:** [R178 Transfer Funds](#)

[\\$40,000 Will Be Used to Construct a Pole Barn Located at the Fish Hatchery To Be Used for Storage As Required by the State Regulations Resolution #30729](#)

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

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

**Yes:** 6 - Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Natalie Santos, and Santo Napoli

Enactment No: 30729

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

[15-6347](#)

Bill 93

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALLENTOWN TO AMEND THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALLENTOWN TO ADD A NEW SECTION THAT WOULD ESTABLISH A NEW "MIXED USE OVERLAY" ZONING DISTRICT, AND THAT WOULD APPLY THIS NEW DISTRICT TO LAND FORMERLY OCCUPIED BY THE ALLENTOWN STATE HOSPITAL THAT IS SOUTH OF HANOVER AV., SOUTH OF E. ALLEN ST., SOUTH OF WAHNETA ST. EXTENDED, GENERALLY EAST OF MAXWELL ST. EXTENDED, NORTH OF RIVER DR., AND WEST OF

THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM BORDER, AS DEPICTED IN MORE DETAIL ON AN ATTACHED MAP LABELED "EXHIBIT A", AND TO ADD CERTAIN DEFINITIONS.

**Attachments:** [Bill 93 Allentown Mixed Use Overlay Zoning](#)  
[Legal Description of Proposed Mixed Use Overlay District \(1\)](#)  
[Northridge - Allentown State Hospital Rezoning](#)  
[Northridge - Allentown State Hospital Rezoning](#)  
[Letter from Planning Department regarding ACPC Action Taken on Bill #93 Northridge Overlay \(New Bill\)](#)  
[Redline - Allentown Mixed Use Overlay Zoning Draft 8 2 23 and Allentown Mixed Use Overlay Zoning Draft 10-4-23](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any comments from the public.

REFERRED TO THE ALLENTOWN PLANNING COMMISSION

[15-6354](#)

Bill 94

Providing for the vacation of Skyline Drive from the East property line of 501 Skyline Drive to its Western terminus in the Fifteenth Ward of the City of Allentown:

**Attachments:** [Bill 94 Skyline Drive Street Vacation](#)  
[Skyline Drive Staff Report](#)  
[Portion of Skyline Drive Map - Street Vacation](#)  
[Letter from Mike Hanlon regarding Portion of Skyline Drive - Street Vacation](#)  
[Allentown City Planning Commission Action Letter for the Vacation of N. Skyline Drive 09.12.23 signed](#)  
[Letter from Lehigh Valley Planning Commission regarding Skyline Drive Street Vacation](#)  
[Skyline Drive from the East Property line of 501 Skyline Drive Report](#)  
[Ordinance #15953](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any comments from the public.

REFERRED TO THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Enactment No: 15953

[15-6358](#)

Bill 95 2024 BUDGET AND TAX RATE

An Ordinance of the City of Allentown, County of Lehigh, and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, establishing the General Fund, Administrative Order Fund, Risk Management Fund, Debt Service Fund, Equipment Fund, and Golf Fund Budgets for 2024.

**Sponsors:** Administration

**Attachments:** [Bill No. 95 2024 BUDGET AND TAX RATE](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any comments from the public.

REFERRED TO THE BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

[15-6359](#)

Bill 96 2024 SOLID WASTE

An Ordinance of the City of Allentown, County of Lehigh and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, establishing and adopting the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund Budget for 2024 and amending Article 1131, Municipal Waste Storage, Collection and Disposal by increasing the Solid Waste Fee at Four Hundred and Ninety-Five (\$495) Dollars.

**Attachments:** [Bill No 96 2024 SOLID WASTE FUND AND FEE](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any comments from the public.

REFERRED TO THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

[15-6360](#)

Bill 97 2024 LIQUID FUELS

An Ordinance of the City of Allentown, County of Lehigh, and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, adopting the Liquid Fuels Fund Budget for 2024.

**Sponsors:** Administration

**Attachments:** [Bill 97 2024 LIQUID FUELS](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any comments from the public.

REFERRED TO THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

[15-6361](#)

Bill 98 2024 RENTAL UNIT FUND

An Ordinance of the City of Allentown, County of Lehigh, and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, establishing and adopting the Rental Unit Licensing Fund Budget for 2024 and amending Article 1759 – Landlord and Rental Fee by maintaining the Residential Rental Fees.

**Sponsors:** Administration

**Attachments:** [Bill 98 2024 RENTAL UNIT FUND](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any comments from the public.

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

[15-6362](#)

Bill 99 2024 STORMWATER FUND AND FEE

**Sponsors:** Administration

**Attachments:** [Bill 99 2024 STORMWATER FUND AND FEE](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any comments from the public.

REFERRED TO THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

[15-6363](#)

Bill 100 2024 TREXLER FUND

An Ordinance of the City of Allentown, County of Lehigh and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, adopting the Trexler Fund Budget for 2024.

**Attachments:** [Bill 100 2024 TREXLER FUND](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any comments from the public.

REFERRED TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

[15-6364](#)

Bill 101 2024 ARPA FUNDS

An Ordinance of the City of Allentown, County of Lehigh, and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, adopting the American Rescue Plan Fund Budget for 2024.

**Attachments:** [Bill 101 2024 ARPA FUND](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any comments from the public.

REFERRED TO THE VARIES COMMITTEES

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

[15-6337](#)

R179

Denial of a Certificate of Appropriateness – 141 N. 10th Street

**Attachments:** [R179 HARB Resolution to DENY - 141 N 10th St](#)  
[141 N 10th St Final Review](#)  
[Resolution #30738](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any comments from the dais or the public.

REFERRED TO THE COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Enactment No: 30738

[15-6338](#)

R180

Denial of a Certificate of Appropriateness – 316 N. 8th Street

**Sponsors:** Administration

**Attachments:** [R 180 HARB Resolution to DENY - 316 N 8th St](#)  
[316 N 8th St Final Review](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any comments from the dais or the public.

REFERRED TO THE COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

[15-6340](#)

R181

Denial of a Certificate of Appropriateness – 932 W. Gordon Street

**Sponsors:** Administration

**Attachments:** [R 181 HARB Resolution to DENY - 932 W Gordon St](#)  
[932 W Gordon St Final Review](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any comments from the dais or the public.

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked what is going on.

REFERRED TO THE COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

[15-6341](#)

R182

Denial of a Certificate of Appropriateness – 1410 W. Linden Street

**Attachments:** [R182 HARB Resolution to DENY - 1410 W Linden St](#)  
[1410 W Linden St Final Review](#)  
[Resolution #30739](#)

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

REFERRED TO THE COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Enactment No: 30739

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that today was very positive and she loves seeing kids here in City Hall. They are going to be the future leaders. It is good when they come here with requesting good things for them. It was very positive and she is really grateful for that and she was glad that Council was able to let them speak. They were cute and very intelligent.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that he agrees and had the opportunity to meet with a lot of those children quite often at the Academy. IT is a great program for them. It really is. He asked if there was anybody else.

**GOOD AND WELFARE: NONE**

**ADJOURNED: 7:29 PM**

[15-5720](#) Council Rules  
Procurement Procedures  
Code of Ethics

**Attachments:** [Council Rules 2023](#)  
[Contract/Procurement Procedures from the Code](#)  
[Ethics Code](#)