



Allentown

435 Hamilton Street
Allentown, Pa. 18101

Minutes - Final

City Council

Tuesday, December 30, 2025

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

Special Meeting

Roll Call

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated good evening everybody stating tonight, they are here for a special meeting. He stated that this meeting was called for by two of our members who wished and did make a Motion to bring forth an attempted override of the mayor's veto of the budget. He stated so at this time he would ask if there is a Motion to do so.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that this is actually a Resolution. He stated that it is R199. It was sponsored by Zucal, Gerlach, Santos and Mota (inaudible mic is off). He stated that it overrides the mayor's veto. Bills 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, and 90 stating those were the Budget Bills. He stated that was the Resolution. He stated that you need five votes to override.

Female audience member asked Mike to use his microphone.

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

RESOLUTIONS FOR FINAL PASSAGE (To be Voted On):

[15-8157](#)

R199

Overrides Mayor's Veto of Bills 84-2025, 85-2025, 86-2025, 87-2025, 88-2025, 89-2025, 90-2025

Sponsors: Gerlach, Mota, Santos and Mr. Zucal

Attachments: [R199.doc](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that at this time he will open it up for conversation.

Mr. Ed Zucal asked is that from Council or the general public.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated no, from his colleagues.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated ok, he will make this final statement. He stated that he just wants to refer quickly to our solicitor. He asked is it true or not true that

there is no default budget in the city of Allentown.

Attorney Maria Montero stated under current Charter there is no default budget.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated ok, so the public knows and it's been spread that should the veto fail tonight that the mayor's initial budget go into effect. That is not correct. Allentown does not have a default budget stating that was a result of a Referendum back in 2019. He stated that he has it here and also it is very clear in subsection 805, Section C that the Council and the administration must come to an agreement for the budget. He stated therefore if this fails, you will enter 2026 basically as the state and federal government did with no budget. He stated that he wants to make it as part of the record. Thank you.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated ok. He asked is there anyone else from Council that wishes to speak. He stated and now he will open it up to comments from the public. He stated if you wish to speak, please step up to the podium and state your name and address. He stated good evening.

Ms. Betty Cauler stated good evening, happy new year and stated in 2025 (inaudible, mic off). She stated that they all know that there are several lawsuits against the Allentown Police Department as well as three against the city administration. We have a mayor who isn't transparent about the details. She stated that she wants them to remember who has to pay the legal costs and settlements. She stated about the taxpayers. It is not part of the budget. She stated that she does not recall seeing Ms. Patel's spreadsheet and how those cost would affect it. All she heard from the mayor is how this tax increase will continue to provide the city services, but yet the city workers were here wearing masks the last time at the last meeting. She stated what can you say, a lot of families are losing their homes because of the cost of living in Allentown when it is already burdensome some of the taxpayers and elderly.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated thank you. She is now hearing the mayor is asking for a tax increase to help the city workers and their collective bargaining. She is only hearing nine percent raises, capital projects, and turn one way streets around on the sidewalk in the Seventh Street. She asked is that what the community needs right now asking is that what is necessary at a time of great want in this city. She stated but really, this is a time when this city, when this state and this country have almost zero or zero with huge tax deductions. She stated our influential downtown developers and the administration. She stated that we all sat here, you all sat here and listened to dozens of alternate methods of raising capital, but to her knowledge not one of them have been acted on. She stated that they

all sat here and listened to dozens of alternative methods of raising capital, but to her knowledge not one has been enacted as a proposal. She stated that they were told to enact an entertainment tax, an amusement tax, and end the NIZ. She stated tax the rich. Cut the police budget and reign in the corrupt APA like our sister city Reading has done stating not a single one has been acted on. Instead, the mayor's petulant response to your vote to cut a mere \$50,000 for the homeless services. She stated that she is speaking for the citizens of Allentown stating she gets five minutes, right come on. She stated that it is almost over.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked Ms. Cauler you speaking for who?

Ms. Betty Cauler stated that citizens of Allentown. The citizens of Allentown who are under oppressive rule.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that doesn't qualify.

Ms. Betty Cauler stated that there are only a couple more sentences.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated please, finish up. Ms. Betty Cauler stated after all, he cut the \$50,000 earmarked for homeless services. After all, we can't have that money going to those people while he is, but for the grace of God riding around town in his \$45,000 taxpayer funded mustang. She stated that one of the three of you have got to change your vote, stand up and change your vote to a no. She stated please, we are asking you stating that you have to stand with the majority of the citizens in this city. She stated that they are all struggling to meet our bills. People can't pay for their children's needs. They can't pay their rent. They can't buy their medication, their health insurance and their groceries. She stated that is what taxpayer money should be for. Making things better for all residents, not just the JB Reilly's and the big donors. She stated don't let our city become a victim of narcissistic photo -ops and crony capitalism. She stated please, for God sake do the right thing. She stated override the veto. She stated one of three. Thank you very much.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Ms. Cauler.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that the other gentleman had.

Mr. stated it is ok.

Mr. Joseph (inaudible) stated that he resides at 209 N. 4th Street here in Allentown. He stated that he is a former County Commissioner here in Lehigh County and a practicing attorney. He stated that he has been very politically active. He stated that he can speak for some of the tenants in the

city. The proposed budgets which ever the way you are looking at is causing problems in the rental market. People that haven't had increases in several years and haven't seen gross amounts of increases like 10 to 20 percent increases in their proposed rent and it will start in a lot of cases in January, ok. He stated also to echo what Councilman Zucal said, there is no default budget. That is just like that state and the county level and also the federal situation. He stated so we don't have that. He stated that he would actually recommend to override the budget. The veto and he doesn't quite understand and he doesn't know if a lot of people do. He asked what seems to be the big context, contest between he guesses it was a 3.96 percent increase in the revenue coming from taxes and then there was a lot of discussion about the Solid Waste fee. He asked does that seem like the big problem here. There are other issues that are involved.

Ms. Candida Affa (inaudible)

Mr. Joseph (inaudible) stated yeah. He stated that seems to be the two big issues. He stated that the reason he says is because he saw the proposals of something to do. It is not overridden and you have the mayor's proposal and Council proposal.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if he had a copy of it.

Mr. Joseph (inaudible) stated he read it over and filled out.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated all the details are spelled out.

Mr. Joseph (inaudible) stated that he read it, but haven't studied it. He stated based on a spreadsheet. He stated that he doesn't know what their original budget was passed in November he guesses, November 19th and something like that and then it went through some compromises and so forth, just from what he read here.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that there was no budget passed. There were just Budget Hearings that were held. He asked when was the actual Budget passed that the mayor vetoed. He stated December 17th.

Mr. Joseph (inaudible) stated that he was not sure. He stated that is all he has. Thank you.

Mr. Quinn Allen, Allentown, stated that this is going to be the final fight against tax increases, but how about we get a mayor that can handle the finances properly and instead of doing whatever he wants with our money, and all the wise maybe we should have an investigation within the budget by an unbiased investigator to see what's really going on because it is

really hard to get transparency within our government these days and he is getting a little sick and tired of it, especially when the next tax increase can bring more homelessness, could raise some rents, could get people out of their homes that may people can't already afford or they have to pay taxes so they will go hungry. He stated one or the other which will be the only two choices many people will have. He stated it is sickening. He stated really sickening. He stated that he is going to spend all of 2026 looking at the budget and the spending from the last couple of years from the Tuerk administration and from City Council and seeing where they are messing up. Thank you.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Mr. Allen. He stated good evening.

Mr. Lewis Shupe, Allentown, PA, stated that he was convinced to come up and say a few words. He stated that he is sure they heard the arguments before that not raising taxes and how it could fall back bad on various landlords and such. He stated and it is true. Raising taxes is hardly ever a good idea, especially when other options are available. He stated to the new people, who is going to be here next year, not and stated don't take offense to anything, but maybe next year they can talk about other ways to raise money. On the Allentown PA Community Group which he had been has been proposing the idea of turning the Hamilton Street Dam into a hydroelectric generating station that can fill the coffers of Allentown with money. Money that can be used may lower taxes down the road because any electricity generated from this hydroelectric station can be sold back to the state grid by law. They have to buy it. He stated that he doesn't know why ideas like that are never considered, but maybe they can talk about that down the road. Thank you.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Mr. Shupe. He asked is there anybody else.

Ms. Candida Affa stated Mr. president.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated Ms. Affa.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that she knows and she did not want to say anything before, but would like to address and asked if he would mind.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated not at all.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that the mayor's proposal of the 3.9 percent plus the \$50, knocked off of the garbage she thought was a great proposal. She stated on her own, with her calculator stating she does own property at 12th and Chew. She stated that she is a landlady. She stated that she figured it out that 3.9 percent would raise her taxes for the year, \$50. She

stated \$52. She stated now knocking off \$50 dollars for the garbage, she would be paying \$2.00 more a year. She stated that if we are looking, 12th and Chew is not a high end earners. This is basically what we talk about when we talk about people that can't afford, people that are having problems and as a landlord, she has to tell them even at \$50 a year, if she has the audacity to raise her tenants rent because she is paying \$50 more a year she is doing nothing, but gauging and being and just being shellfish and blaming the city. Well, the city raised taxes so I have to raise your rent. How many tenants are going to ask, well, how much did you pay or how much are you going to pay their. She stated that they are not going to ask that. She stated do you know why, because people vote for Council to make the right decisions. She stated now, when she looks at her property and if you take your calculators out and look at yours, Ms. Patel, our Finance Director, our Controller all said the same thing. She stated 23,000 homes will be affected just like that she was affected. She stated that some of them will pay less. She stated that this year, in 2026 with that proposal of the rate they knocked down.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated excuse me and stated point of order, Mr. president stating he does not know why she is discussing that. He stated that there has been no Motion by the four people that voted that down to have that discussion.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that she just wanted to point to the gentleman here.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that she is discussing what was voted down.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that she is discussing the Bill itself.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated no, no she is discussing about the four percent and the \$50 reduction of the trash fee. That is what she is discussing.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that she is addressing.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that he made his point of order. Thank you.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that she apologized she just wants to explain where she is going to not override the veto. Because she truly believes they are helping the taxpayer this year because they have next year and the following year. She stated that they have so many years after that. She stated next thing you are going to be looking for another 27 percent tax raise like they did before and if they don't do small increments and don't. She stated that this proposal was beautiful. She stated 23,000 homes save money and thank her colleagues for costing her \$50 as opposed to

\$2. She stated that is it. Thank you.

Mr. Santo Napoli stated that he wants to quickly add and stated that the biggest driver of a rental increase is going to be the trash. He stated that is something that they can't control. He stated that was a contract that was competitively bid and if they override the mayor's veto, that trash isn't going away. It was the fee that was set. He stated that he thinks he believes is was \$135 for 2026 or \$140. He stated if they do nothing, and if they don't raise taxes a penny, that trash fee is still there and that is what landlords may use as an excuse. He can tell them that many properties in Center City, the tax increase is \$15 bucks for the year, \$18 bucks for the year. The tax increase is really not part of this conversation. It is the trash. He stated that again is something that they couldn't avoid because it was something that a contract that was again bid and they took the lowest bid. He stated that they did what they had to do, but when he hears rents will increase because of a tax increase, he doesn't believe because of a tax increase. He thinks it is because what they are dealing with trash and enforcement. There is no way around that. He stated to Ms. Affa's point, it was a compromise out there. He state that he can't believe they are not talking about it and there are a lot of senior that would have actually made out with that compromise. He stated that they would have put money in their pocket and they continue to avoid that and he doesn't want to kick the can down the road. He thinks politicians do that too much. A lot of folks he has spoken with prefer a small increment versus a bigger increase down the road. He heard about the federal and state government. He stated that he doesn't want to look like them. He stated if we do nothing tonight, we showed that they are just like them and we can't get something done and we just kick the can down the road in 2026 and some of you won't be here and some of us will be here and will be left cleaning up the mess and all because we couldn't come to a compromise and have a conversation on how we can get this to the finish line. He stated to him that is very disappointing. He stated thank you.

Mr. Ed Zucal asked can he comment on this Mr. Napoli. The amendment was to reduce the \$50 and still have the tax increase. He stated so you are saying double. He stated that he is in agreement, let's reduce it \$50. He stated that he loves that, but no tax increase. He stated that it is right here. Reduce the or decrease the solid waste by \$50 and reinstate the tax increase at 3.96.

Mr. Santo Napoli stated that he will give an example. If a property with a 3.96 percent owed \$16 of taxes. He stated that we will reduce their fees \$50, essentially they would come out \$34 ahead. He stated that they will be putting money in folks pockets by using that compromise. He stated now, they did a study and he heard earlier from a member of the public that

they need to find a way to make sure folks who can't afford it aren't paying and the folks who can, can. He stated that actually the compromise does exactly that. That folks who has the most expensive properties and the commercial property owners who have the deep pockets, they are the one who are paying more and the folks who are living in a property that is a lower value is actually getting money back in their pocket. He stated again, he is a little confused here because he thinks what they are trying to accomplish with a compromise actually accomplishes what folks want. The 3,000 households that have deeper pockets will pay more and the ones who don't will either come out neutral or have money in their pocket. He stated that he is confused about this conversation and where it is going.

Ms. Becky Kiss, Allentown, asked if she is able to say something.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that it was open to the public.

Ms. Becky Kiss asked is it off the table now.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that we will give her an opportunity, yes. Anyone on the dais can speak again. He stated that go ahead. He is going to override their own rules and let her speak.

Ms. Becky Kiss stated that she guesses her comment here is by reducing the trash fee by \$50, you are kicking the can down the road. Because they still are going to have to pay that \$50 at the end of 2026. It is moving into 2027. She asked why are you borrowing it from the Solid Waste Fund and then in 2026, the trash every year.

Ms. Candida Affa stated a little bit every year. She stated that it will increase by a little bit every year to make up for the \$50. She stated not the next year. That's not next year.

Ms. Becky Kiss stated that is not her understanding of it because she understood that for the 2026 budget, you guys are going to borrow \$50 per household from the Solid Waste Fund and then pay that back over time. She stated now in 2027, when the mayor comes and gives his 2027 budget they are going to have to owe that \$50 and the 3.9 increase from this year and whatever increase he wants to do next year. She asked is that correct.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that it was designed that it will be paid back over five years, if he is not mistaken. He stated not one year so it will be a decrease.

Mr. Santo Napoli stated by the city and not.

Ms. Becky Kiss asked what will we be paying next year for trash fees with and without the \$50.

Ms. Candida Affa stated with the \$50, the city will have five years to pay it back.

Ms. Becky Kiss stated that they still are going to have to pay it back and also pay a 3.97 increase on top of it. You are kicking the can down the road and now on top of that you are saying that we also are going to have to pay on the December 17th meeting, you said it is going to be three percent competitive interest on the \$1.5 million you are borrowing from the Solid Waste Fund.

Mr. Santo Napoli stated so what is being paid stating our Controller asking Mr. Glazier, do you want him to answer or do you want to answer. He stated so the General Fund is paying the Solid Waste Fund back, not the residents. The money that is brought in with this compromise is being paid back in five payments, but not by the residents of Allentown, but by the General Fund. He asked is he is correct.

Ms. Becky Kiss asked who pays for the General Fund, us as the taxpayers. She stated that we put money in taxes into the General Fund and that is how you guys have a General Fund.

Mr. Jeffrey Glazier stated if he may, this concept has A: been done before; but in reverse and B: discussed before Council two years ago. There was a time when the General Fund borrowed money from the Solid Waste. He stated that this was years ago and paid it back over seven years. He stated that at this point, the concept of borrowing from one fund to another is well established. He stated that he is sure other cities do it also. He stated that the proposal here is that this year you got cost that are going up or could go up on two fronts. He stated that one is a 3.96 percent tax increase which we know from the calculations is relatively minimum on properties, especially lower valued properties. He stated that the other driver is a subcontracted Solid Waste increase which is \$140 on every property. Whether your property is worth \$10,000 or whether your property is worth \$10 million. It is the same \$140.

Ms. Becky Kiss stated that which make it \$740 total per house, correct?

Mr. Jeffrey Glazier stated that they are getting to that over time. He stated that he does not remember what the maximum cost is going to be, but the way the contract was written, the costs are increased incrementally because to do it all in one year, the last year would have made heads

explode and the city would still be cleaning up. He stated doing something every year and asked what is the best way to do that. He stated what essentially they are doing is borrowing and essentially what is happening here is the Solid Waste Fund would borrow money from the General Fund.

Ms. Becky Kiss stated and pay it back at three percentage interest.

Mr. Jeffrey Glazier stated that it could be two and a half stating he doesn't think it is set in stone. Originally, when the General Fund borrowed money from the Solid Waste Fund, interest rates were practically zero. There was no finance charge then. Now, they are getting three percent or four percent, he thinks personally and he is not speaking for the administration. He stated that there needs to be some interest charge. It could be less in recognition of the situation, but once again, that would be paid back within five years and so it might be an additional \$5 in your Solid Waste. For \$5.50 or whatever the number is to cover the interest fee every year.

Ms. Beck Kiss stated so what she is still hearing is you are robbing Peter to pay Paul.

Mr. Jeffrey Glazier stated no, we are borrowing and we are paying it back.

Ms. Becky Kiss stated with interest and at the end of the day ultimately, the taxpayers are still paying for their trash increase and the 3.97 and whatever it is going to be next year.

Mr. Jeffrey Glazier stated that there is no free lunch.

Ms. Becky Kiss stated that you are making it seems like it is some big great deal because you are saving \$2.00 on your property at 12th and Turner Street, but that is not the case for everybody across the board. She stated that we are going to have to pay for the trash regardless, across the board and the tax increase across the board. She stated that she thinks they are making it seem like you are giving them some big deal and you are making some grand gesture towards us and at the end of the day, they still are all paying for it.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated good evening.

Ms. Barbara Redmond, Improving Lives, stated she keeps hearing them say the people in the west end have larger home and can more taxes. She stated a lot of people that live in the west end now are retirees or senior citizens now. They are on a fixed income so you need to stop saying that people in the west end can afford to pay taxes when you don't know for sure. Thank you.

Ms. Betty Cauler stated one more time and she is on the west end.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated you had an opportunity. You get one chance.

Ms Betty Cauler stated but she is talking about what they are talking about now which is the trash fee.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated it doesn't work that way.

Ms. Betty Cauler stated that trash fee. She stated that she would rather pay the trash fee and scrap the tax increase.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated thank you.

Ms. Betty Cauler stated that her house is in the west end. She stated when she bought it, it was \$57,000 and now it is worth \$250,000. She asked can she afford a tax increase on a fixed income. She stated what Ms. Redmond said, Amen. She stated remember folks, there is a housing bubble. It is going to burst again and all of our housing is going to come down again. So here we are paying what and stated what are you saying honey, please say it out loud to everybody. She asked what did you say, please Candida. She asked Ms. Affa do you have something to say.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated thank you, ma'am.

Ms. Candida Affa stated you don't have to call me out.

Ms. Betty Cauler stated your name is Candida, is it not.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated Point of Order. We have been breaking the Rules all night.

Attorney Maria Montero stated if you could address all your comments.

Ms. Betty Cauler stated did you not see her make a snide comment.

Attorney Maria Montero stated if you could address all comments to the president, thank you ma'am.

Ms. Betty Cauler stated why don't you talk to me afterwards like you did to Karen Ocasio. She stated maybe you can threaten to beat me up.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated alright, that's enough. Please.

Ms. Candida Affa stated she is completely out of order.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated Point of Order. There is not supposed to be back and forth. When some members come up, they are told that they are not supposed to be back and forth. It is not a Q & A and stated she is not even talking about this. She is just talking about in general Point of Order in terms of violations of the Rules right now at this very moment. She stated that Council has been violating the Rules this entire night the way that this meeting has been conducted. So just to point out one situation, it is incorrect, but let's move on. She stated that she still has her comments to make.

Ms. Betty Cauler stated thank you.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated you wanted to speak. Go ahead.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated so since what's on the table is Resolution to override the mayor's veto stating she will be supporting that. She stated the reason why is it is important that we look at tax increases as a body as part of the context, the larger context. She stated that they are looking at some of the folks that were talking about who are working class, on a fixed income, are the same folks that will be very soon will be paying to \$300 to \$500 a month for their medical insurance. These are some of the same folks that are paying a 3.2 percent increase in grocery prices. These are some of the same folks who live in old homes that are hard and expensive to heat and will be paying 6.7 percent from UGI increase and anywhere from four to 10 percent PPL increase so again, we have to look at the broader context. It is not just us increasing taxes and saying that oh well, you know the garbage fee will offset that. It is also everything that's happening in this economy. She stated that rent will increase because of greed, because of corporate greed and it is great that there are perhaps landlords on this dais who maybe don't function that way, but part of the reason why they raised the Deed Transfer Tax is because we recognize that many of the properties are owned by corporations, by LLCs. Not good folks like yourself so therefore corporate greed plays a role and there are not regulations in terms of rental increases in Pennsylvania. She stated that we have seen corporations and other aspects take advantage like corporations, grocery stores and stated not grocery stores, but manufactures for groceries and take advantage of this current economic situation by raising prices. These corporate landlords will do the same thing. They looked across the street at the Allentown School District stating that if there is one entity that continues to be under funded it's the Allentown School District and yet, they were able to figure out a way to not raise taxes. They are underfunded like on paper, underfunded by the state, but yet, they did not raise taxes. Because they see the context that the families

that the kids are living in exists. She stated that she applauds them for not raising taxes and encourage them to follow in their suit. Again, it is not just what they do. It is what is happening all around us. She stated \$5 is someone's prescription meds. She stated that she will be voting to override the veto. Thank you.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Ms. Gerlach. He stated that he just wants to mention also that he will not be voting to override this. He stated that he has heard constantly and stated please, he does not want to hear anymore shout outs or you are going to be forced to leave. He asked do we understand.

Ms. Betty Cauler stated yes, sir.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated thank you. He stated 23,000 out of 26,000 homeowners will be paying less under this compromise. He stated that he constantly hear about costs going up and they are and they are going up for the city also. The city has not had a tax increase in six years stating that he thinks it is a responsible compromise that they had presented. It makes absolute sense and all you are doing is a short-term loan on the Solid Waste Fund. When you have three quarters of the people that are going to get a tax break or nothing more. He stated that to him is a big benefit at a time when it is vastly needed. Thank you.

Ms. Betty Cauler stated to look at the spreadsheets.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated ma'am, please.

Dr. Cynthia Mota asked Mr. Hendricks if she could speak. She stated that a lot has been said this budget season and she continues to stand by what she said that she is not voting stating actually she is voting to override the mayor's veto. She stated that if it doesn't pass, she hopes that the administration sees that this extra dollar coming from our residents pockets is their hard earned money and we need to use this money responsibly. She stated that the city needs to manage its finances responsibly and do good by our residents. Thank you. He asked is it anyone else on the dais that wishes to speak.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that maybe he can ask the Solicitor if there is no budget which there will be none depending on what the vote is tonight, will anybody get paid in city hall. He stated that he wouldn't see how because there was no funding so and stated thank you.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated you're welcome.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated Mr. president I have four yeas and three nays.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Mr. Hanlon. He stated moving forward he would like now to present Amended proposal to revisit it and for nothing else to go through the Motions. He stated that this was sponsored by himself, Ms. Affa, and Mr. Santo Napoli, also.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated Point of Order. He stated to the Counselor, he does not believe that Mr. Hendricks can do that. It has to come from the four members that initially voted on it, correct.

Attorney Maria Montero stated that if there is a Motion from any Council member who did not vote for that, they are the ones who can make that Motion.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated correct. They are the only ones that can make the Motion, correct stating yes.

Attorney Maria Montero stated yes.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that he will make that Motion to move forward and asked if he could have a Second.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that you can't make it. You cannot make the Motion. It only could be the four that voted against it.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated oh, against it stating ok. He stated very good. He stated that he believes that the business of this Council this evening is now ended stating thank you very much.

Yes: 4 - Cynthia Mota, Ed Zucal, Natalie Santos, and Ce-Ce Gerlach

No: 3 - Daryl Hendricks, Candida Affa, and Santo Napoli

Council President Hendricks would like the amended proposal revisited if the override fails, per council rules he would like a motion from a councilperson that voted for the bill make a motion to reconsider the proposal to decrease the solid waste fee by \$50 and reinstate the tax increase at 3.96%. (Sponsored by Councilpersons Affa, Hendricks, Santo)

15-8105

Background/Attachments

1.A proposal to decrease the solid waste fee by \$50 and reinstate the tax increase at 3.96%. (Affa, Hendricks, Santo)

Background: On November 19th City Council amended the General Fund Budget to remove the mayor's proposed 3.96% tax increase. At that time,

the Mayor proposed a compromise that would reduce the solid waste fee by \$25. President Hendricks scheduled a special meeting on December 3 to review the mayor's compromise. After reviewing the compromise and reviews by the Finance Director and the City Controller, Councilpersons Affa, Hendricks and Santo are proposing a reduction in the solid waste fee by \$50 and reinstatement of the mayor's proposed tax increase. The General Fund would lend funds to the Solid Waste fund which would be paid back over time – a common practice this city has used multiple times. In the recommended alternate proposal the property owners least able to absorb increases remain protected. In the new proposal fixed-income taxpayers are NOT disproportionately impacted. The City still generates the revenue needed to sustain services. The alternate proposal lowers the garbage fee and results in little to no increase for lower-valued homes and some even pay less than they are paying currently. Higher-valued properties contribute slightly more, which reduces the burden on residents living on fixed or limited income. This makes the alternate proposal a more equitable option for our community while maintaining essential revenue for services. The new proposal would have a positive impact on 23,000 single family residents – out of a total of 26,000. The impact is presented on the spreadsheet attached to the agenda. This policy would retain cash reserves and a fund balance that would lower borrowing costs for projects everyone on this dais has approved. It follows recommendations from our Finance Team, Controller and Financial Advisor.

2. Proposal submitted by the Mayor found on Budget Memo 2: Increase the Mayor's operating budget by \$50,000 to support the Conference of Churches in providing an additional day of weekly services for homeless support.

000-09-00908-0091-50040 - \$50,000 \$50,000

Attachments: [Amend FV.docx](#)

2026 Finance Budget Memo 2.docx

For 12.10.2025 Meeting - Garbage Fee Data.pdf

[Smaller Sample of Properties For 12.10.2025 Meeting.pdf](#)

\$50 Proposal Impact Single Family Residence Detailed Tax Impact.xlsx

Unhoused Coor Svcs 2026 revised.pdf

Finance Budget Memo No. 1.pdf

HC.pdf

Background Verification Analyst Job Description Final 11. 2025.docx

Per Unit Garbage Fee Cost and Revenue.pdf

Property Tax and Garbage Fee Analysis-12.2.2025.xlsx

Recommended Alternate Proposal.pdf

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 2026.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill No. 84 -2026 BUDGET AND TAX RATE.docx](#)

[15-8041](#) Bill 85

An Ordinance of the City of Allentown, County of Lehigh, and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, establishing and adopting the Building Code Fund Budget for 2026 for Community and Economic Development per Chapter 270 of City code for Building Fees.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill No 85 .- 2026 BUILDING CODE FUND.doc](#)

[15-8042](#) Bill 86

An Ordinance of the City of Allentown, County of Lehigh, and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, adopting the Liquid Fuels Fund Budget for 2026.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill No.86 - 2026 LIQUID FUELS.doc](#)

[15-8043](#) Bill 87

An Ordinance of the City of Allentown, County of Lehigh, and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, establishing and adopting the Rental Unit Licensing Fund Budget for 2026 and amending Article 1759 – Landlord and Rental Fee by maintaining the Residential Rental Fees.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill No.87 -2026 RENTAL UNIT FUND.doc](#)

[15-8044](#) Bill 88

An Ordinance of the City of Allentown, County of Lehigh and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, establishing and adopting the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund Budget for 2026 and amending Article 1131, Municipal Waste Storage, Collection and Disposal by increasing the Solid Waste Fee at Seven Hundred Forty (\$740) Dollars.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill No. 88- 2026- SOLID WASTE FUND AND FEE.doc](#)

[15-8045](#) Bill 89

An Ordinance of the City of Allentown, County of Lehigh and

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, establishing and adopting the Stormwater Fund Budget for 2026 and amending Article 393.15 – Stormwater Utility Fee by maintaining the Stormwater Utility Fee at Twenty (\$20) Dollars per Five Hundred (500) square feet of impervious surface.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill No.89- 2026 STORMWATER FUND AND FEE.doc](#)

[15-8046](#)

Bill 90

An Ordinance of the City of Allentown, County of Lehigh and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, adopting the Trexler Fund Budget for 2026.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill No.90 - 2026 TREXLER FUND.doc](#)

ADJOURNED: 6:38 PM