



Allentown

435 Hamilton Street
Allentown, Pa. 18101

Minutes - Final

City Council

Wednesday, June 21, 2023

6:30 PM

Council Chambers

Invocation:

Pledge to the Flag

Roll Call

Present: 7 - Candida Affa, 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

Contract Approvals

[15-5990](#)

R104

Authorization for Contract with Alloy5, LLC, a small business, in the amount of \$50,000 to provide professional services to facilitate the relocation of the City's Police operation to a centralized location, multiple bidders.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R104 - Alloy5, LLC](#)

Assistant Chief James Gress stated that R104 was a contract award for Alloy5, LLC through the RFP process by committee in which he was a part of. They reviewed all the documents that were submitted and the contract was to look at the feasibility of a new Police Station, the plan of where it would be and the design would be. This is just the first step of many. The Alloy5 team proposal was incredibly detailed step by step. They have great success. They built other Police Departments similar to Allentown's in the area. The award was to select Alloy5.

Ms. Cynthia Mota thanked Assistant Chief Gress. She asked if they have any comments from Council.

Mr. Ed Zucal asked how much money did the city just spend revamping the desk area.

Assistant Chief James Gress stated that he is not exactly sure. He stated that it may have been about \$20,000. The renovation of the lobby was done through the city's Building Maintenance Department.

Ms. Cynthia Mota thanked Mr. Zucal and asked anybody else. She asked if there were any public comments or the administration.

Ms. Vicky Kistler stated that she thinks Ms. McNeil needs to read into the read the contract approval.

Ms. Sarrah McNeil stated that this was done as RFP 2023-17 and advertised on March 22, 2023. On April 12, 2023, the public opening was held and the city received six proposals and one was rejected. They had both technical and cost evaluations. The proposal evaluated is on the ability to meet the RFP requirements and after all the evaluations were conducted, the committee decided not to hold oral interviews. The committee made recommendations based on the firms qualifications and overall score. The committee is recommending an award to Alloy5.

Ms. Cynthia Mota thanked Ms. McNeil and asked if there were any comments from the dais or the public.

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

Yes: 8 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Joshua Siegel, Natalie Santos, and Santo Napoli

Enactment No: 30655

[15-5991](#)

R105

Authorization for Contract with Construction Master Services, LLC in the amount of \$99,738 to provide repair of the Cedar Creek Vehicular bridge in Cedar Creek Park, competitively bid and three (3) bids were received.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R105 - Construction Master Services](#)

Ms. Sarrah McNeil stated that this was done on Bill 2023-26. It was advertised on May 8, 2023. The public opening was held on June 6, 2023 and they received three bids. After the department reviewed the proposals, they are recommending the award to Construction Master Services, LLC.

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if there were any comments from the dais or the public.

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

Yes: 8 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Joshua Siegel, Natalie Santos, and Santo Napoli

Enactment No: 30656

Minutes of Previous Meeting

[15-5996](#) June 13, 2023 Special Meeting To Discuss Bill 47 Minutes

Attachments: [June 13, 2023 Special Meeting To Discuss Bill 47 Minutes](#)

A motion was made by Cynthia Mota that this Minutes be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

[15-5997](#) June 13, 2023 City Council Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [June 13, 2023 City Council Meeting Minutes](#)

A motion was made by Cynthia Mota that this Minutes be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Communications

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that there is one disclosure and an adjustment of a disclosure from the last meeting. Both Mr. Napoli and Ms. Santos disclosed that Jonathan Strauss from Cortex Residential reached out to them to discuss an affordable housing project.

Old Business: NONE

REPORTS

A Special Meeting for Confirmation of City Solicitor and Human Resource's Director - will take place on June 28th at 6 PM.

Budget and Finance: Chair Napoli, Hendricks, Gerlach

The Committee has not met since the last council meeting; the next meeting is scheduled for June 28th at 5:30 PM.

Community and Economic Development: Chair Mota, Napoli, Affa

The committee has not met since the last Council meeting; the next meeting is scheduled for June 28th at 6:45 PM.

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

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

Parks and Recreation: Chair Gerlach, Affa, Mota

The Committee met on June 15th; there are no future meetings scheduled.

Public Safety: Chair Affa, Hendricks, Zucal

The Committee met this evening; a future meeting is not scheduled.

Public Works: Chair Zucal, Santos, Hendricks

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

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

The committee met on June 15th; a meeting will be scheduled soon to review items being introduced this evening.

Controller's Report (3 minutes)

NONE

Mayor's Report (3 minutes)

NONE

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE (To be Voted On):

[15-5761](#)

Bill 23

Amending the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Allentown by allowing Elementary or Secondary School in an I3 zoning district if the subject lot is immediately adjacent to or directly across the street from a residential zoning district, and providing for a repealer clause, a severability clause, and an effective date.

Attachments: [Bill 23 Zoning Amendment](#)[ACPC Action](#)[Referral Letter from Mike Hanlon regarding Bill 23 - Allowing Elementary or Secondary School in an I3 zoning district Merged Envelopes](#)[The Morning Call Ad 7438458](#)[Rezoning Posting - 2268 S 12th Street](#)[Lehigh Valley Planning Commission Letter regarding Elementary Schools in I2 and I3 Districts](#)[Exhibit Submitted by Attorney Szczesny](#)[Exhibit Submitted by Attorney Szczesny Part II](#)[Exhibit Submitted by Attorney Szczesny Part III](#)

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if anyone had any comments from the dais.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks directed a question to Ms. Kistler regarding our rewrite. They are in the process of doing a review and rewrite of possible amendments of our current zoning ordinance. He asked if this is correct.

Ms. Vicky Kistler stated yes. She stated that Mr. Hendricks is asking if the city is in the process of a zoning rewrite and the answer is yes. They are hoping for a public first draft in the fourth quarter of this year.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Ms. Kistler and stated that is all.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that Mr. Hendricks asked if the Planning Bureau working on a rewrite and Ms. Kistler said yes. They are working on a rewrite and that will be done in October. For the record, the Community and Economic Development committee forwarded this Bill unfavorably pending the zoning rewrite.

Ms. Vicky Kistler stated that the zoning rewrite will not be done. It will be available in first public draft in the fourth quarter of this year. The draft for public comment and input will be available in the last quarter, but the whole rewrite will not be finalized. They have a ton of public comments and input from Council to consider in the rewrite.

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if it would be too premature to say that the rewrite will take place a year from now. She asked for a rough estimate.

Ms. Vicky Kistler stated that obviously it would depend on how much the public provides input to the draft and how much we debate that input or if everyone is in agreement. There won't be a debate. They hope to finalize this certainly within 2024. Ideally within the first half of 2024, but certainly within 2024.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that the important thing to recognize is that the city has to act on what is current. What may or may not occur in the future. We heard at this point it was recommended unfavorably.

Ms. Cynthia Mota thanked Mr. Zucal and asked anyone else from the dais, the administration or the public.

Mr. John Vanluvane, stated that the only comment he would like to make is that the passage of this ordinance is not going to change the neighborhood. A new ordinance generally, even if it changes the zoning or the permitted uses. You are not going to change the usage that presently exists in the zoning district. It might make some of them nonconforming, but it isn't going to change the residential look across the street and won't change the fact that it is a vacant office building. It may or may not address this issue for the Adaptive Reuse of existing buildings. A new ordinance is not going to address the facts that you have before you tonight in considering whether or not what is being proposed is or is not a reasonably good idea. He stated that his understanding from Mr. Schmehl that this ordinance has been under consideration at some level, not by Council, but at some level by staff for quite a long time. There is no guarantee and you just heard it very appropriately. There is no guarantee when you are going to have a final draft or if you will have a final draft and there is no guarantee that you are going to adopt it even if you do have a final draft for consideration. It could be one year or two years or three years or another five years. It may never happen. The ordinance of the type that is being drafted is a different concept than you are used to now. It is a form based zoning. It is not a new concept, but over the last 20 years or so. It isn't going to change what you have here. There is no reason to delay. You can't put the entire community on hold for a period of two to three years while you consider this, especially since you have not resolved as a Council yet to take action and you don't even know what the product is going to look like. In his view, Council has an obligation to the public to act on what's in front of you. You have a fact. You know this neighborhood and know what's there and no matter what this ordinance says, it is not going to change the neighborhood. The houses are still there. The vacant office buildings will still be there and the existing industrial uses will still be there. The zoning ordinance will have no effect on any of that. There is no reason to defer action based on something that may or may not happen.

Attorney Loren Szczesny, on behalf of the Allentown School District, stated consistent with the testimony that we presented from Tom, our Planner at the Public Hearing. They would ask that City Council not approve the ordinance that is presented for your consideration. Simply consistent with our testimony. It is just not good planning to propose the school use in the

I2 and the I3 Industrial Districts of the city. They would simply ask consistent with the recommendation from the Community and Economic Development committee. It was an unfavorable recommendation or forwarded to Council unfavorably. They asked that Council not approve the ordinance this evening.

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if there were any other comments.

A motion was made by Cynthia Mota that this Ordinance be approved. The motion failed by the following vote:

No: 7 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Natalie Santos, and Santo Napoli

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Michael Hanlon asked if anybody would like to take these off the Consent Agenda.

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if there were any comments from the public.

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

[15-5983](#)

R106

Certificate of Appropriateness for work in the Historic Districts: 1611 ½ W. Turner St., 941 W. Turner St., 614 N. Law St., 604 N. 6th St., 449 N. 10th St.

Attachments: [R106 HARB Resolution](#)
[449 N 10th St Final Review](#)
[604 N 6th St Final Review](#)
[614 N Law St Final Review](#)
[941 W Turner St Final Review](#)
[1611.5 W Turner St Final Review](#)

Enactment No: 30657

[15-5994](#)

R107

Cancels the July 5, 2023 Council Meeting

Attachments: [R107 Cancels July 5th Council Meeting](#)

Enactment No: 30658

RESOLUTIONS FOR FINAL PASSAGE (To be Voted On):

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

[15-5967](#)

Bill 61

DIRECTING THE LEHIGH COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO PLACE A REFERENDUM QUESTION BEFORE THE CITY OF ALLENTOWN VOTERS ON THE NOVEMBER 7, 2023 GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT TO AMEND THE CITY OF ALLENTOWN HOME RULE CHARTER TO LIMIT THE TERM OF THE OFFICE OF CITY CONTROLLER TO TWO (2) TERMS

Sponsors: Gerlach and Mr. Zucal

Attachments: [Bill 61 City Controller Term Limits](#)

Ms. Cynthia Mota thanked Mr. Hanlon and asked if there were any comments from the dais or the public.

REFERRED TO THE RULES, CHAMBERS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS AND STRATEGY COMMITTEE

[15-5966](#)

Bill 62
DIRECTING THE LEHIGH COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO PLACE A REFERENDUM QUESTION BEFORE THE CITY OF ALLENTOWN VOTERS ON THE NOVEMBER 7, 2023 GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT TO AMEND THE CITY OF ALLENTOWN HOME RULE CHARTER TO LIMIT THE TERM OF THE OFFICE OF CITY COUNCIL TO THREE (3) TERMS

Sponsors: Gerlach and Mr. Zucal

Attachments: [Bill 62 City Council Term Limits](#)

Ms. Cynthia Mota thanked Mr. Hanlon and asked if there were any comments from the dais or the public.

REFERRED TO THE RULES, CHAMBERS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS AND STRATEGY COMMITTEE

[15-5989](#)

Bill 63 CED, Recommended Favorably, with amendment
Amending the 2023 General Fund & HUD Grants Fund budget to accommodate a reorganization of positions to allow the Department of Community and Economic Development to enhance current operations for both HUD and non-HUD grant funding and administer grants more efficiently cross-departmentally while remaining in compliance with the home rule charter.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 63 Grants Staff Reorg](#)

Ms. Cynthia Mota thanked Mr. Hanlon and asked if there were any comments from the dais or the public.

REFERRED TO THE COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

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

A motion was made by Ed Zucal, seconded by Candida Affa, to Suspend The Rules to introduce and vote on Resolution 108 that Supports Administrative and Legislative Action to prohibit after hours establishments except for restaurants and enforce the nuisance abatement law.

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

Councilperson Zucal:

Request to suspend the rules to introduce and vote on a resolution that: Supports Administrative and Legislative Action to prohibit after hours establishments except for restaurants and enforce the nuisance abatement law.

Someone would need to make a motion to suspend Council RULE IV - AGENDA A. Submitting Agenda Items - relating to introducing legislation to introduce a resolution and refer the resolution to committee; you need four votes. The resolution would be referred to the Public Safety Committee. Have the Clerk read the bill into the record; ask for comments from the public; then refer the legislation to committee.

[15-5998](#)

R108 if introduced
Supports Administrative and Legislative Action to prohibit after hours establishments and enforce the nuisance abatement law.

Sponsors: Affa, Hendricks and Mr. Zucal

Attachments: [R108 Public Safety](#)

Ms. Cynthia Mota thanked Mr. Hanlon.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that it is his wish to have it sent to Public Safety.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated on. Let's send this to Public Safety.

Ms. Vicky Kistler stated that the administration would like to make a comment.

Assistant Chief of Operations Michael Becker stated that first and foremost, thank you for the opportunity to speak. He stated that the Police is looking forward to working with Council to booster the presence and hammer this issue that we are having here. It is frustrating. Chief Roca was not able to attend tonight and has spoken about this since he has become Chief of Police. The city departments are engaging in and have

been engaging in operations targeting these establishments. Some they can talk about and some they can't talk about at this time. They are looking forward to identifying new ways, if possible to address these clubs. He gave details of what they do at the Allentown Police Department. They work with other city departments: Zoning, Health, Code, and the Fire Department and have been for the last year targeting these establishments. They also, Allentown Police Department have details that go out there and will focus on Nuisance Complaints outside the clubs. That is drunkenness, disorder, and DUIs. In fact, this past weekend, we had a detail out there at Synergy the night of the homicide. Our officers were right outside when that happened that were on that detail. Liquor Control Enforcement is involved. They had a conversation with Liquor Control as well. in addition to the details that they conduct, our officers that are on patrol and often hang out at those establishments when there is no call. They are directed patrol. They are there all the time. He stated that the eastside officers are frustrated. He gets calls and texts about it all the time. He stated that he can speak on behalf of himself for the officers. They take great pride of their work, their job and this is frustrating for them and the officers out there. He knows especially for the community it is around these clubs. He stated that he looks forward to work with City Council and Chief Roca and everybody here to see what they can do.

Mr. Ed Zucal asked Solicitor Kloiber what is being done from the Law office standpoint on enforcement of the Nuisance Abatement and the Codified Ordinances that we have in place currently.

Attorney Matthew Kloiber stated that the Nuisance Abatement Ordinance was drafted in a way that sets it up that the investigations into nuisances are done through the department of DCED. He stated that DCED is working with all the different departments and identifies and when there is evidence that they can proceed with it, they would come to the Solicitor's office and they would initiate the proceedings. The Nuisance Abatement Law in which they talked about a few months back provides means that they can take immediate action and seek preliminary injunction relief if necessary and also a permanent injunction for relief. They are driven by the work of the departments. As Assistant Chief Becker says they are gathering the data and doing all sorts of things. They are ready to proceed when the circumstances are there. The Solicitor's office enforcements are driven by the departments.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated he is glad Attorney Kloiber used the word injunction. Is that something that Council can look at collaboratively and get together with all the different departments as sort of an immediate relieve for these establishments.

Attorney Matthew Kloiber stated that the Nuisance Abatement laws and part of a draw in doing that is because it does enable the means of seeking immediate relief. They have to have the evidence and when they go to court, they can present it and can withstand the scrutiny of that. But, part of the draw is that it can seek immediate relief within the tool house of what Council can do.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated a better way of asking that is if they can immediately go for a Court Order to shut the place down.

Attorney Matthew Kloiber stated that injunctions allows if there is evidence. They would have to see the evidence. If the evidence is presented to the Solicitor's office, they will and presents a case to the court. They have to get the evidence to do that.

Ms. Candida Affa asked who does the DA (District Attorney) play in all of this. How does he get involved in this?

Attorney Mattew Kloiber stated that under the Liquor Code, there are provisions that allows a Nuisance Abatement Provisions under the Liquor Code. The city can, in certain instances actually purse those, but what they are typically done is through the District Attorney's office.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that it is through the District Attorney's office.

Attorney Matthew Kloiber stated that the District Attorney handles that and in part of the discussions through the years because this is a topic that has been covered whether it has been members of the administration or members of Council. They also had the DA's office be a part of that under the Liquor Control Ordinance.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that they don't have a Liquor License so there is no Liquor Control Board involved in these after hours clubs.

Attorney Matthew Kloiber stated to Ms. Affa that her questions was how the DA would be involved in the enforcement of Nuisance for clubs. That is how they get involved in this. The city's Nuisance Abatement Ordinance as it was drafted was set because it provides a significant amount of relief for the city. If they can show the evidence and the key is that they have to go before a court and be able to have a judge that is going to look at this and say it meets the standards that we have to have in order to do that. The definition and the change that Council did back in February and in changing the Nuisance Abatement Ordinance was to in a way create more ability for the city to take action.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that the city goes through all these channels. First, the police department sighting. It goes to the District Attorney's office.

Attorney Matthew Kloiber stated for them to pursue a Nuisance Abatement, it does not have involve the District Attorney's office for that. That is something that this legislation enables them to do. What they have to do is and has multiple means if there is a Nuisance Complaint. He is going by how the Ordinance was phrased. He stated that he will take a step back just to remind everyone that the Ordinance was picked and the language was chosen because it is drawn from the Third Class City Code. The Third-Class City Code has Nuisance Abatement Provisions. The city just adopted them and in doing that we know these types of laws have not been challenged. It withstood scrutiny. We know it is going to pass scrutiny. We know that the courts rely on this Nuisance Abatement language. It setups a standard that is defensible and that it is going to work. What they do need when they go to court is evidence. If you are going to convict someone of a crime, you have to have evidence of the crime and be able to proof that. What we are going to do here is establish there is a Nuisance. Different citations coming from different locations help to establish that. The way that the ordinance is setup is that Nuisance Complaints are investigated by DCED. DCED is sort of the prime mover of the department that does that in coordination of all the other departments in the city that is involved in all the enforcement process. He went over the process again.

Ms. Candida Affa asked if the landlords and owners of the building be held if we have a DCNR and have a problem with the tenant. The landlord then has a responsibility also. In these establishments, the owners and the landlords can they also be held for some kind of citation. She asked if that is a possibility also.

Attorney Matthew Kloiber stated that the idea is that you want to have as many kinds of weapons as you can to combat this. If it is citations, make it challenging for the landlord to maintain something in order to maintain a particular tenant there. The landlord itself may be inspired to take action. It is a multi-prong of attack. It is not just the city acting, but the individuals in their own self-interest can act and say we don't want this sort of business here because of the problems. There was an effort to create a Nuisance Abatement Ordinance and then through the enforcement mechanism with that the various administrations identified ways that we could address it and approve it. Council itself adopted a Bring Your Own Beverage Ordinance a few years back. It was an interest in wanting to do what Bethlehem did. At that time, it was a different Chief, but came forward and supported that. That is one weapon that Council adopted already. There is a Nuisance Abatement Provision or other means that Council decided to try and address this. There are multiple ways to do this. He thinks that they

were always trying to identify additional tools to be able to accomplish the end of making things safe.

Ms. Vicky Kistler stated to Ms. Affa that if she can interject. They are looking forward to discussing this in committee with you and going through what they are currently doing as well as what they love to be doing in the future.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that in July they are planning to have a meeting. What would be the pursue of this meeting?

Ms. Candida Affa stated informational. Exactly what they are asking here. They will ask Ms. Kistler with the Nuisance Abatement and the Police Department. She thinks Council needs to be educated from top to bottom on exactly what the Nuisance Abatement and what legislation we can provide with the knowledge that they will get from all the departments.

Mr. Ed Zucals stated that they mentioned the landlords. He should have bookmarked it to say it word for word. On a good note, he read on Facebook today the landlord of Synergy said that he was going to go today to District Justice D'amore to have those folks evicted. From what he gathered from the article, they were supposed to be out June 14 or 24 and for some reason it was an extension to July 2 that they were supposed to be removed from the building. He was actually going to go today and have them removed immediately. In this case, it should be shut down this weekend the way it sounds to him based on the landlord's effort.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that it is so important to have a clear expectation. This whole law is difficult to understand. It is important to clarify.

Ms. Candida Affa asked Assistant Chief of Operation Micheal Becker if he said there was a patrol right outside the building where the man was stabbed.

Assistant Chief of Operation Micheal Becker stated that there was a operation detail there that night. They were literally outside the venue.

Ms. Candida Affa asked if the stabbing took place inside the establishment.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that she knows it will be a whole committee on this. Isn't it a desire by some is to eliminate the establishment of Afterhours clubs in general. On the agenda she sees the language is there. Then on the Resolution that is not one of the Therefores. To have an ordinance to straight up eliminate Afterhours clubs.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that they have to go through the Resolution first and then create an ordinance.

Mr. Matthew Kloiber stated that part of having a meeting to discuss and when it will be brought up is a number of different things that could be looked at and discussed with some detail. That sort of action is something that could be discussed.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that she brings it up because the only way to prevent 11 shootings or stabbings at these clubs. If that is the case, you can hire 100 more cops, but boom they are right outside. If the club doesn't exist then the stabbing doesn't necessarily happen there.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that they have been trying since she has been on Council. Bethlehem does not have After hours clubs and she doesn't think Easton does either. We are not able to say we don't have any. We are not able to do that. We are not able to make legislation that we can say that we prohibit.

Ms. Vicky Kistler stated that again, she thinks that this merits a deeper conversation regarding what truly is happening in clubs as they are business permitted. Restaurants pretending to be restaurants versus being a restaurant. Being a legitimate club versus not. They discussed all of that in fuller detail in order to come up with a comprehensive strategy where they all work together on a common goal.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that these are glorified Speakeasies. She knows the law as far as LCB. At 2:00 AM with a license you must close. At 3:00 AM, it is club license. BYOB restaurant, you must close at 12:00 AM. There is nothing in the state of Pennsylvania that allows anyone to have liquor in an establishment after 3:00 AM. Whether they are selling, bringing it or buying it or whatever. Back in the 60s and 70s, we just had places here and there that had speakeasies. This is nothing more than that. There is alcohol in those places and without the Liquor Control Board being able to raid them, they have no control over that. It is up to us to see what we can do as far as closing them down.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that the issue is that there is no public opinion right now.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that the issue is that there is no public opinion right now.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that it is being introduced.

Attorney Charles Smiths stated that it should be public comment prior to referring it to a committee.

Owner of Secrets Hookah Lounge and it is funny how everybody being confused on what's going on. He stated ask him. He is here and have all the answers that are needed. He knows that they should be working together and not against each other. That is what it sounded like. That is not constantly, especially not at his establishment. He can't speak for anybody else's establishment. He was at Council six months ago, back in January and spoke. Nobody reached out to him ever since then. Nobody contacted him. He believes that they need assistance. He bought a metal detector. he has been established for two years and counted twice when an officer assisted them. He felt that is what he needs. He did not create his business for violence. He did not put a boxing ring in the middle of his club.

Ms. Candida Affa asked what do you serve. At three o'clock in the morning or four o'clock in the morning when you are having a celebration, there is no alcohol in your place.

Owner of Secrets stated Hookah. We are a hookah lounge. It is a sober down time. They come in and smoke hookah and hang out. They have DJs.

Audience members (No name given) stated that he is a little bit up in age and all he has seen as a youth is speakeasies. When we are talking about the things that are happening now, it is not the police job to handle that. It is his job and anyone that has jobs that are around those alcoholic beverages. It is to get them out. He stated that 2 o'clock or 3 o'clock, we are done. It should be done regardless of what. He enjoyed those days back then. This is 2023 and it is too much now. It is time to cut them out and go home after 3 o'clock. It is time for us in the community to do our job.

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if there were any other comments from the public.

Ms. Alexina Galarza (sp), stated that she is here listening to all of this as a business owner. She also works at a mental health facility. She knows personally from working at a mental health facility, and she is a director. She has clients that get drunk at Wawa at 2 o'clock in the afternoon. She read about eight articles from Allentown city at 6th and Liberty at 7 and 11 PM, 6 PM or 8 AM. These things happen all hours of the day. Sadly, after hours have been segregated. They don't get support from the city. The police is supposed to protect and serve. She doesn't think that they protect and serve the after hours. She stated that she is a mom and has two

children. When her husband says they do not serve alcohol. We do not serve marijuana is because she does private events, mostly for children. She feels that they need the support from the city. She asked what should they do next, shutdown. Her family should not eat or they should not be able to grow their livelihood for their children. She does not think that is fair. She is here for support and options.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that what she thinks Ms. Galarza (sp) doesn't understand is they support her business. They don't support after hours. What kind of birthday parties or showers do you have.

Ms. Alexina Galarza (sp) stated that they are not in the after hours.

Ms. Candida Affa asked if it is open after 3:00 AM.

Ms. Alexina Galarza stated yes, we are.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that is what we are trying to shut down.

Ms. Alexina Galarza (sp) asked why. Do you think violence only happens during those hours because it doesn't.

Ms. Candida Affa stated yes, it does.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that this is what they are planning to do. She asked Ms. Galarza (sp) to let them know which day is it that Council is having this meeting.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that it is not for the public. Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that they will have a public meeting and everyone will be notified.

REFERRED TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Santo Napoli stated for parking for those that are not aware, the government deck is available for parking. Mr. Hanlon has parking chasers that will pay for your parking. They do expire at midnight. You have to be out of the government deck by midnight on City Council nights for all City Council meetings.

GOOD AND WELFARE

Mr. Ed Zucal told a joke about a guy riding his motorcycle and turning his leather jacket around.

ADJOURNED: 7:24 PM

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

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