



Allentown

435 Hamilton Street
Allentown, Pa. 18101

Minutes - Final

City Council

Wednesday, October 1, 2025

6:30 PM

Council Chambers

Invocation:

Pledge to the Flag

Roll Call

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

Courtesy of the Floor

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

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

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

Ms. Gerry Traupman, 407 S. 18th Street, stated that she is coming forward. She lives on S. 18th Street and not too sure where to start with the city in

reference to Family Child Care Homes Services. If they are limited in reference to the numbers that are allowed in each area. She stated that there are four in our two block radius. She stated if you look on the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, there are 51 in a one mile radius and when she says family home child care, she asked do you know what she means. She stated that this is a facility that the city allows stating there are many licenses. She stated that is where she doesn't know where to start to get some questions answered. She stated there is fire and you have to go through the city for a permit. They have to get their Certificate of Occupancy, but it is where a home and an individual resident can take care of up to seven children. She stated like five to seven children. She stated that she realized that this happened in all the years she lived in Allentown. She stated talking about it she now lives next to one and just mentioning the impact of five to seven children in a row home or a half of a double. It is like they might as well be in your house. She stated that she understands that kids are high energy. She stated that her inquiry she guesses is there are four within a two block radius. She stated that three of them are associated with the same childcare name. She stated like it is different names and is the same individuals that will manage or run it. She asked is there a restriction, what city department would she find out about those rules. She asked would that be Zoning, Economic Development.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated that the best place to start is with Vicky Kistler's team in the Department of Community and Economic Development. He stated to Ms. Traupman if she provides her name and number to Mike Hanlon, they will have someone from the Zoning office reach out.

Ms. Gerry Traupman stated she is just looking to educate herself. She stated that she knows group homes are expected and certain things have to be 1,000 feet (inaudible).

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated quite frankly she could have saved herself tonight to have done that and called in.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated they like to see that she is here.

Ms. Gerry Traupman stated listen she will stay for the whole thing. It is all good.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that they will make sure she gets an answer to all her questions.

Ms. Gerry Traupman thanked Mr. Hendricks stating he has my information.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated give him your phone number.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated yup.

Ms. Gerry Traupman stated that she started with Zoning and was like, oh, this is kind of good timing.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated ok, stating they will get back to her.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that is the only card he has.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated the only one. He stated thank you for being the only one, anyhow. He stated that they will move on from here to Contract Approvals.

Contract Approvals

[15-7979](#)

R128

Authorization Engagement of Professional Services with HT Lyons in the amount of \$19,740.00 for engineering services to develop the scope of work, schematic design, and firm design/build pricing for the renovation of the VAV system and duct distribution at City Hall and Public Safety Building.

Attachments: [R128 - HT Lyons](#)
[Resolution #31121.pdf](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated ok and asked anyone from the administration that wants to expound on that.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated he thinks Sarrah McNeil is on the line and can provide any additional details that Council has any questions do to the contract, if they have any questions.

Ms. Sarrah McNeil stated that this is a.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated go ahead, Sarrah.

Ms. Sarrah McNeil stated that this is professional services purchase over \$10,000 in requiring Council's approval. She stated that they are utilizing a CoStars Cooperative.

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

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

Enactment No: 31121

[15-7980](#)

R129

Authorization for Contract with Penn Credit Corporation for collection services for past due accounts on behalf of the City of Allentown, accounts will primarily be for the Bureau of Revenue and Audit, the Bureau of Recycling and Solid Waste, and Emergency Medical Services. Three (3) proposals were received, contract shall commence on November 8, 2025 and shall be for two (2) years with three (3) additional one (1) year renewals beyond the contract expiration period.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R129 - Penn Credit](#)
[Resolution #31122.pdf](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Mr. Hanlon.

Ms. Sarrah McNeil stated that this was done as RFP 2025 - 36, Collection of Delinquent Fees. it was advertised on Public Purchase on August 8, 2025. There was a public bid opening on September 5, 2025. The city received three proposals. An evaluation team consisting of five members conducted both technical and cost evaluations. The proposals are evaluated based on IBE preference, ability to meet RFP requirements, project approach, experience, qualifications and costs. She stated after evaluating the proposals, the evaluation committee decided not to move forward with oral presentations. The committee is recommending an award to the top scoring firm Penn Credit Corporation.

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

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated she is sorry she did not have this question initially. She stated that she just now Googled. She stated that this organization and asked do we know if they have any lawsuits against them in Pennsylvania. She stated that she sees they had one in Virginia.

Ms. Sarrah McNeil stated not that we are aware of. She stated that would be legal that needs to look into that.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that it was concerning violations. The Fair Debt Collection Practices.

Mr. Ed Zucal asked did you say Sarrah that you wanted to look into it.

Ms. Sarrah McNeil stated that is something that legal needs to look into it,

but this has been our vendor currently. She stated that as far as she knows they have not had any issues with them.

Mr. Ed Zucal asked Ms. Gerlach when was the lawsuit? Does it say?

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated in Virginia and stated it was back in 2017.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that was a while ago.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated just wondering. She stated quick Google and would say, yes.

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

Enactment No: 31122

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

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

Enactment No: 31122

[15-7981](#)

R130

Authorization for Contract with WSP USA Inc. in the amount of \$200,000.00 to assist the City with developing its first Climate Action Plan (CAP). The CAP process will include robust community outreach and education, an inventory of the existing greenhouse gas emissions, greenhouse gas emission reduction goals, prioritized emission reduction measures, climate adaption strategies, and as outline of required resources and funding mechanisms to implement the plan. The contract term shall be for one (1) year. The contract may be extended for up to two (2) additional six (6) month terms.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R130 WSP USA Inc.](#)
[Resolution #31123.pdf](#)

Ms. Sarrah McNeil stated that this was done as RFP2025-25, Climate Action Plan. It was advertised on Public Purchase on June 13, 2025. There was a public bid opening on July 24, 2025. The city received seven proposals. An evaluation team consisting of four members conducted both technical and cost evaluations. Proposals were evaluated based on IBE preference, ability to meet RFP requirements, prior experience, team members qualifications, and cost. She stated after evaluating the proposals, the evaluation committee decided not to move forward with oral presentations. The committee is recommending an award to the top scoring firm, WSP USA Inc.

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

Mr. Kyle Ropski, 528 N. Berks Street, stated that he is here tonight on behalf of the Allentown Environmental Advisory Council. He stated that he came up a couple times this year focusing on getting them intuned with the Allentown EAC's purpose statement which is to advise the city on environmental issues, encourage sustainable design, and greenhouse gas production, protect and preserve our natural resources, promote environmental programs that benefit our community. The development of an Allentown specific Climate Action Plan is directly inline with that purpose. He stated that this Plan represents important steps forward for Allentown and a long overdue return to the intentions laid out in Allentown Vision 2030. The Living Chapter Principle One Plan for a resilient and sustainable Allentown. The key next step one in that was to develop a Climate Action Plan with the intention to measure our Greenhouse Gas Emissions, establish clear reduction goals, prioritize strategies that not only cut our emissions, but prepares us for the impact of climate change which are going to come and going to be very real. He stated just as importantly stating that this is specific to this one. This Climate Action Plan will include investments in robust community engagement, ensuring that the residents, businesses and institutions in our city has a voice in shaping the solutions that we put forth. Climate Action is not only about natural environment, it is also about protecting public health, strengthening their economy and preserving quality of life for future generations by adopting a plan, Allentown will join cities across Pennsylvania, including both Bethlehem and Easton and taking proactive responsible steps to address climate challenges and opening opportunities for funding, partnerships and innovation. Importantly, the strategy that he identified through this Plan will be fiscally responsible, helping the city save taxpayer dollars to improve deficiencies, smarting infrastructure investments and access to outside funding sources. He stated that on behalf of the Environmental Advisory Council he thanked City Council and the administration for prioritizing this work and recognizing that a strong Climate Action Plan is essential meeting our shared responsibility to the current and future residents of the city of Allentown. If they choose to approve this contract tonight, they look forward to supporting the city and the community throughout this process. He stated thank you.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Mr. Ropski. He asked anybody else from the public.

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

Enactment No: 31123

[15-7978](#)

R131

Authorization of Cooperative Contract(s) in an amount greater than \$40,000.00 to provide the City with various goods/services, for Dell Marketing LP, ET&T, Recycling Equipment Corp., and SIV Ambulances.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R131 Cooperative Approval - 10.01.2025](#)
[Resolution #31124.pdf](#)

Ms. Sarrah McNeil stated that these are all being purchased through various Cooperative Contracts.

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

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

Enactment No: 31124

Minutes of Previous Meeting

[15-7991](#)

August 20, 2025 City Council Meeting Minutes

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [August 20, 2025 City Council Meeting Minutes.pdf](#)

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

Communications

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated Chasers, if anybody needs any Chasers, Mr. Napoli has them available. He stated to please stop up after the meeting.

Old Business

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that she just has one. She stated that it is the same thing as last time. She stated that she is just wondering about the \$8,000 allocation that they all agreed to for tents and tarps for the unsheltered. She stated that she sees that the Conference of Churches has a wish list and stated that she is wondering what is going on and stated that last time they had the conversation here, they did not have any money in the account. She stated that she doesn't know if that has changed. She stated if maybe the account that it is coming from has changed stating they have to get the Conference of Churches money so that they can get these tents and tarps for folks. She stated that they should not have to go on

Facebook to do it, when we promised them money. She stated that she believes it was specifically for the Conference because she remembers Ms. Affa has said like she wanted it to go there and Council voted yes. She stated that should be honored. She stated that she is wondering if it is an update like how could Council get them their money like ASAP stating cut them a check. She asked who can answer that.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated what he can answer is his understanding he thought it was going for tents themselves so he actually put it into a 68 Account. He stated if they want to flip it to Other Contract Services for the Conference of Churches is that would be an internal transfer and that the Controller would need to lay out what type of invoice the Conference of Churches need and then the check would be cut on the Council President's approval.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated gotcha and stated so if it were kept internal where the city were to just buy tents and tarps, how would that look. She asked who does that. She asked who will buy the tents and tarps.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that he did not know what they were going to do. He stated that he had to transfer the money so he put it into an account for tents. He stated that if you are going to give it to the Conference of Churches, he is thinking it would have to go into a 46 Account and go to them. He stated that he would ask the Controller what is needed.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach asked could we do that so that they have their discretion. She stated that she doesn't think any of them are experts. They could just buy what they need.

Mr Michael Hanlon stated that it is the body's call. He stated that is your desire.

Mr. Santo Napoli stated that he would rather and asked could he jump in. He stated that he would rather not make it for one item. The Conference of Churches needs something and stated let them make the call and just help them with the funding.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated on their wish list, they have way more than tents and tarps. They have bug spray, they have sun block, they have sleeping bags, they have multiple items that people would need after the eviction.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated ok and stated that he will work with the City Controller to get something spent and see what. He stated that the Controller isn't here tonight to solve it.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated alright, cool. Thank you.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated ok, anybody else.

REPORTS

REPORTS Public Hearing: President Hendricks

A Public Hearing will take place Wednesday, October 15 at 6 PM to take testimony on Bills 69 and 70 - the zoning and subdivision and land development ordinances.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that a Public Hearing will take place Wednesday, October 15 at 6:00 PM. He stated at that time, they will take testimony on Bill 69 and 70 - the Zoning and Subdivision and Land Development Ordinances with the intention to act on both Bills at the Council meeting that follows.

Budget and Finance: Chair Napoli, Santos, Gerlach

The Committee has not met since the last council meeting; the next meeting is not yet scheduled.

Community and Economic Development, Chair Mota, Hendricks, Napoli

The Committee has not met since the last Council meeting; the next meeting is scheduled for October 15th at 5:30 PM.

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

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

Parks and Recreation: Chair Gerlach, Santos, Affa

The Committee met this evening to discuss Budget priorities; the next meeting is October 15th at 5:40 PM.

Public Safety: Chair Affa, Zucal, Mota

The Committee has not met since the last council meeting; the next meeting is scheduled for October 15th at 5:50 PM.

Public Works: Chair Zucal, Gerlach, Affa

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

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

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

Controller's Report

None

Mayor's Report

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked do you have anything that you would wish to speak of.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated that he did not provide a Report so he will save it.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Mayor Matt Tuerk.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that there are a number of items on the Consent Agenda. He stated that the appointment of Mr. Daigle to the Human Relations Commission with the term to expire on 9/18/2028; the appointment of Craig Beavers to the Human Relations Commission with the term to expire on 9/18/2028; Travis Bonney to the Human Relations Commission with the term to expire on 9/18/2028; Krissi Echevarria to the Human Relations Commission with the term to expire on 9/18/2027; Nikayah Hill to the Human Relations Commission with the term to expire on 9/18/2027; R137 is the appointment of Tinku (Arundhati) Khanwalkar to the Human Relations Commission with the term to expire on 9/18/2026; Jose Rivera to the Human Relations Commission with the term to expire on 9/18/2026. He stated that there are two Sewage Planning Modules at 930 W. Hamilton Street and at 600 West Hamilton Street.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Mr. Hanlon and asked did anybody have any request on those to be removed.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that he would say Ms. Tinku has done an excellent job all the time up to this point. He stated that he would absolutely recommend her.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated alright, very good.

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

[15-7968](#)

R132

Michael Daigle, Human Relations Commission, Term Expiration:
9/18/2028

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R132 Daigle \(Human Relations Commission\).doc](#)

[Mayor Tuerk HRC Appointment Memo 2025 - Michael Daigle \(Term to Expire 9-18-2028\).pdf](#)
[Resolution #31125.pdf](#)

Enactment No: 31125

[15-7969](#)

R133

Craig Beavers, Human Relations Commission, Term Expiration: 9/18/2028

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R133 Beavers \(Human Relations Commission\).doc](#)

[Mayor Tuerk HRC Appointment Memo 2025 - Craig Beavers \(Term to Expire 9-18-2028\).pdf](#)
[Resolution #31126.pdf](#)

Enactment No: 31126

[15-7970](#)

R134

Travis Bonney, Human Relations Commission, Term Expiration: 9/18/2028

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R134 Bonney \(Human Relations Commission\).doc](#)

[Mayor Tuerk HRC Appointment Memo 2025 - Travis Bonney \(Term to Expire 9-18-2028\).pdf](#)
[Resolution #31127.pdf](#)

Enactment No: 31127

[15-7971](#)

R135

Krissi Echevarria, Human Relations Commission, Term Expiration: 9/18/2027

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R135 Echevarria \(Human Relations Commission\).doc](#)

[Mayor Tuerk HRC Appointment Memo 2025 - Krissi Echevarria \(Term to Expire 9-18-2027\).pdf](#)
[Krissi Echevarria Resume.pdf](#)
[Resolution #31128.pdf](#)

Enactment No: 31128

[15-7972](#)

R136

Nikayah Hill, Human Relations Commission, Term Expiration: 9/18/2027

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R136 Hill \(Human Relations Commission\).doc](#)

[Mayor Tuerk HRC Appointment Memo 2025 -Nikayah Hill \(Term to Expire 9-18-2027\).pdf](#)

[Nikayah Hill Resume.pdf](#)

[Resolution #31129.pdf](#)

Enactment No: 31129

[15-7973](#)

R137

Arundhati Khanwalkar, Human Relations Commission, Term Expiration: 9/18/2026

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R137 Arundhati Khanwalkar \(Human Relations Commission\).doc](#)

[Mayor Tuerk HRC Appointment Memo 2025 -Arundhati Khanwalkar \(Term to Expire 9-18-2026\).pdf](#)

[Tinku Khanwalkar Resume.pdf](#)

[Resolution #31130.pdf](#)

Enactment No: 31130

[15-7974](#)

R138

Jose Rivera, Human Relations Commission, Term Expiration: 9/18/2026

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R138 Jose Rivera \(Human Relations Commission\).doc](#)

[Mayor Tuerk HRC Appointment Memo 2025 -Jose Rivera \(Term to Expire 9-18-2026\).pdf](#)

[Jose Rivera Resume.pdf](#)

[Resolution #31131.pdf](#)

Enactment No: 31131

[15-7988](#)

R139

Sewage Planning Module at 930 W. Hamilton Street

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R 139 930 W. Hamilton Street - Sewage Planning Module.doc](#)

[Sewerage Planning Module - 930 W Hamilton.pdf](#)

[Resolution #31132.pdf](#)

Enactment No: 31132

[15-7989](#)

R140

Sewage Planning Module at 600 West Hamilton Street

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R140 1 Center Square - Sewage Planning Module.doc](#)
[1 Center Square Sewer Planning Module 2025-07-25.pdf](#)
[Resolution #31133.pdf](#)

Enactment No: 31133

RESOLUTIONS FOR FINAL PASSAGE (To be Voted On):

[15-7987](#) R141
Authorizes the submission of the formal application to the Pennsylvania Office of the Budget for a grant of Seven Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$7,500,000.00) to support the Allentown Art Museum.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R141 - Allentown Art Museum RACP](#)

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

[15-7982](#) Bill 75
Amending the 2025 Grant Fund to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Twenty-Six Thousand Seven Hundred Three Dollars (\$26,703.00) from the PA DCED Local Share Account Grant. These funds are a pass-through grant that will support the Allentown Patriots Athletic Association.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 75 - Allentown Patriots LSA Appropriation](#)
[Ordinance #16168.pdf](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Mr. Hanlon and stated that this will go your committee Councilwoman Mota.

REFERRED TO THE COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Enactment No: 16168

[15-7983](#) Bill 76
Amending the 2025 Grant Fund to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000) from the PA State Office of the Budget RACP grant. These funds are a pass-through grant that will support the Da Vinci Science Center.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 76 - Da Vinci RACP Appropriation](#)
[Ordinance #16169.pdf](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that this will also go to your committee, Ms. Mota.

REFERRED TO THE COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if anybody wishes to comment from the public on either one of those items.

Enactment No: 16169

[15-7984](#)

Bill 77

Amending Page 378 of the 2025 Equipment Fund Budget to provide for an increase of Twenty-Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Ten and 00/100 Dollars (\$27,910.00) from the General Fund Fire Department Equipment Account for additional costs associated with Seagraves Pumper VIN # 1F9EB28T6SCST2052 and Seagraves Pumper # 1F9EB28T4SCST2051.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 77 - Equipment Fund Transfer Fire Pumper Ordinance #16170.pdf](#)

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

REFERRED TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Enactment No: 16170

[15-7985](#)

Bill 78

Amending the 2025 Trexler Fund by authorizing a supplemental appropriation from the unappropriated balance of the Trexler Fund in the amount of Seventy-Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Five Dollars (\$77,805.00) and an appropriation from the Cedar Beach Improvements fund in the amount of One Thousand Six Hundred Eighty-Four Dollars and Ninety-One Cents (\$1,684.91) to the Roosevelt Park capital budget of the Parks and Recreation Department. These funds will be used to construct a spray park and are a part of the 2024-25 Trexler Capital Project allocation.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 78 - Roosevelt Park Allocation Ordinance #16171.pdf](#)

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

REFERRED TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Enactment No: 16171

[15-7986](#)

Bill 79

Amending the 2025 Capital Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Seventy-Two Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty-Nine (\$72,869.00) Dollars from the Allentown Parknership to support construction of a basketball court. This is a reimbursement from the Parknership.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 79 - Stevens Park Basketball Court](#)
[Ordinance #16172.pdf](#)

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

REFERRED TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Enactment No: 16172

**RESOLUTIONS FOR INTRODUCTION (Can be voted on or Referred to Committee):
NONE**

NEW BUSINESS: NONE

GOOD AND WELFARE

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that they have one item on the Agenda which is a Resolution to be given out and stated that he is going to pause the meeting at this time and those people should show up. They were scheduled for 7:30 PM. He stated that he is going to turn over the reins to vice president Cynthia Mota.

Dr. Cynthia Mota stated good evening and stated it gives her a great pleasure to welcome the staff of WFMZ tonight and to congratulate them on their Emmy Award in the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Science. She stated WFMZ TV staff members were nominated 19 Emmy Awards. She stated again, 19 Emmy Awards. She stated the city and Lehigh Valley are fortunate to have the local station that consist of such an exceptional talent. She stated that we are all winners with excellent broadcast, journalism and television media. She stated that they would like to thank WFMZ for having a Spanish Edition. She stated that their Spanish speakers are especially fortunate for the work you have done in bringing the news and highlighting the achievements of our community. She stated that she knows a lot of them won and she is so proud. She stated that she knows that and the reason they decided to do this that she knows that a few of you guys are immigrants and said one of them just came back from the Dominican Republic not too long ago, right. She stated three years ago and won two Emmy Awards. She stated that she wants to give him an applause for that. She stated that is really

amazing. She stated that they have a list of people that won: Jaccii Farris, Chris Lundberg, Stephen Dean, Perla Lopez Baray, Leslie Lopez, Paloma Freundt, Isaias Alberto, and Jenny McCain. She stated that the awards cover a variety of categories from Crime, Justice to Societal concerns. She stated that they thank them for their work and for making our community a better place. She thanked them in Spanish. She stated let's give them a round of applause. She asked Perla if she mind speaking and telling Council a little bit about this award and stated love it. Love it.

Ms. Perla Lopez Baray thanked Council.

Dr. Cynthia Mota stated that this is a big thing, you know. She stated that she is really proud.

Ms. Perla Lopez stated that she is going to give the mic back to them and asked is it ok.

Dr. Cynthia Mota stated it is ok. She asked state your name so that we can put it in the record.

Ms. Perla Lopez stated her name and stated that she is the news anchor and executive producer of 69 News in Spanish. She stated that this is part of her team and named them: Isaias Alberto, photo journalist and editor; Leslie Lopez and Paloma are reporters. She stated that they are bilingual reporters in English and Spanish and they won these awards on September 20th in Philadelphia and stated that they are very proud to be here. Thank you so much. She thanked all the members of City Council, the Mayor, the city of Allentown and our community of course. She stated it is such an honor to be here, especially during Hispanic Heritage Month and also this is a team effort. She stated that this is a team effort and this is not only one person. She stated that they got these awards because they worked together and that is what they do every single day. She stated Isaias, Leslie Lopez and Paloma all collaborate and serve the community with a lot of passion. She stated ever since they were little kids they wanted to be journalist because they want to serve their community and that's what we do. She stated that is why they are here to serve their community. She stated thank you so much members of Council and stated to our community here, thank you guys so much. It is because of stories that you show with us that we are here. She stated that this is what we share with you guys are well. Because it is not like what she said just them or Perla, Leslie or Isaias alone. She stated it is a team and stated thank you. She stated that they appreciate them very much and appreciate your time. She stated thank you for waiting because they came just from work.

Dr. Cynthia Mota stated she knows they did.

Ms. Perla Lopez stated thank you mayor. Thank you.

Dr. Cynthia Mota asked if they want to say a few words. She asked any of them.

Mr. Isaias Alberto stated yes, he wrote his speech.

Dr. Cynthia Mota stated that she loves it and this is your show Isaias. Go ahead.

Mr. Isaias Alberto stated ladies first. Ladies first.

Ms. Leslie Lopez stated that she is very grateful and honored to be a part of this community and be able to tell the community stories without the community they would not be 69 News in Spanish. She stated thank you.

Ms. Paloma Freundt stated the same as Leslie stating that they are so grateful that you guys trust us and let us be your voice on television. Sharing your stories. She stated that they would not even have jobs if it weren't for you guys. She stated thank you very much. She stated that it is her biggest honor. She stated that to her means more than any award can ever mean. The fact that you guys trust us every single day. She stated thank you so much and thank you for the recognition.

Dr. Cynthia Mota stated well deserved. She stated Isaias, now it is you.

Mr. Isaias Alberto stated that he practiced his speech. He stated that he has two years here and learning English. Her stated that it is a challenge. He stated that he tries his best everyday. He stated that he is honored to receive this Proclamation from the City Council. He stated that they do their best to inform the community about both the good and the bad news with true commitment. He stated as a Dominican, he is proud that his country has received this award as if it was its own. He stated thank you from the bottom of his heart for appreciating their work. He stated God Bless us. Thank you so much.

Dr. Cynthia Mota stated that is beautiful stating that was well said. She asked if anybody wants to say anything from Council.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that he sounds like Mota.

Dr. Cynthia Mota stated yeah, Dominicans.

Mr Daryl Hendricks stated that he would like to add one of the most

important components of a free and democratic society is to be able to report freely. He stated that you have done an excellent job in doing that, especially serving the Latino community and stated that he thank them so much for that. He stated that they as a body encourages that and continue to do the great work you do. He stated much appreciated. Thank you.

Dr. Cynthia Mota stated thank you. She asked anybody else. Anybody else from the dais.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated that Mike already cut his mic and stated that these folks already heard it before. He stated that he is so proud of 69 News in Spanish, especially since you heard their accent. Their beautiful accent. He stated that the reporters report in English and in Spanish. They speak beautiful Spanish and beautiful English stating that he just wants to encourage and he is so glad that everybody here can understand what they said and can hear their words said so beautifully. He stated that he wants to continue to encourage people across the Lehigh Valley who are making decisions about who to hire in key positions like these to understand that we speak more than Spanish and speak English too. He stated that you can report the news as well as in Spanish as well as you do in English. He wants to encourage everyone making decisions about how we report the news to give people a chance to tell their stories.

Dr. Cynthia Mota stated exactly.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated that every way they communicate the stories of our neighborhoods are beautiful and give them a chance to do that. He stated thank you again for always for your accents.

Dr. Cynthia Mota stated definitely. She stated you know what, they are breaking barriers. Just because you have an accent, some people believe that you are less smarter. The reality is they won awards and just because you have an accent stating there are plenty of us with Doctor degrees and in reality an accent doesn't really show the person's intelligence. She stated when you have an accent, that means you speak multiple languages. She stated that she is so proud. She really am because you know what not anybody can win an Emmy and you guys did. She stated so you guys, it is time for pictures. She stated come on. She stated president, adjourn the meeting and let's take pictures.

ADJOURNED: 7:03 PM