



**Allentown**

435 Hamilton Street  
Allentown, Pa. 18101

## **Meeting Agenda**

### **Rules, Chambers, Intergovernmental Relations and Strategy**

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Thursday, March 5, 2026

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

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**Workshop with Lehigh County Commissioners**

**Roll Call: Chair Napoli, Gerlach, Mota**

## Facilitated Conversation with County Commissioners

### 1. Welcome & Purpose (6:00 – 6:10 PM)

#### Chair Napoli

- Welcome and introductions
- Recognition of elected officials and department leadership
- Statement of purpose: This workshop is designed to identify specific areas of City–County cooperation and leave with defined action items for follow-up.

#### Format overview:

- Focused issue blocks
- 2-minute talkers
- Identify 1–2 action items per category
- Assign follow-up responsibility

### Understanding City & County Roles

Objective: Ensure clarity on responsibilities and areas of overlap.

- Chair Napoli – 3-minute overview of City responsibilities and Council functions
- Commissioner Brace – 3-minute overview of County responsibilities

### Issue #1: Housing Development (6:20 – 6:35 PM)

Objective: Identify specific coordination tools to increase housing access/development

#### Topics:

- Welcome Home Plan
- County tax sales/land banks
- Use of publicly controlled land for housing

#### Discussion Prompt:

What is one achievable coordination improvement we can commit to in 2026 to better align our housing-related work?

#### Future Action:

- Confirm and/or establish designated housing liaisons and quarterly coordination meetings
- Set timeline for follow-up discussion

### Issue #2: Homelessness & Weather Response Coordination (6:35 – 6:50 PM)

Objective: Improve City–County coordination on unsheltered residents and emergency response.

#### Topics:

- Encampment coordination ahead of summer
- Warming/cooling centers
- Weather emergency protocols
- Dedicated County homeless services coordination

**Discussion Prompt:**

**What immediate actions and/or improvement can be implemented before Summer 2026?**

**Future Action:**

- Identify coordination protocol gaps
- Confirm and/or establish whether City and County coordination

**Issue #3: Public Safety & Public Health Collaboration (6:50 – 7:05 PM)**

**Objective:**

**Clarify how City and County systems can better integrate mental health, crisis response, and health services.**

**Key Focus Areas:**

- CIS program coordination and expansion
- Mental health staffing support
- 988 access and service gaps
- First responder mental health resilience programming
- Emergency preparedness training alignment
- Community gardens

**Discussion Prompt:**

**Where are we duplicating efforts — and where are we leaving gaps?**

**Future Action:**

- Confirm and/or establish joint public health coordination meeting
- Evaluate feasibility of shared resilience initiative

**Issue #4: Youth Engagement (7:05 – 7:15 PM)**

**Objective: Explore collaborative pathways to engage youth in public service and workforce development.**

**Focus Areas:**

- Cross-government exposure opportunities
- Internships and student placements

**Discussion Prompt:**

**Is there any potential for the City and County to collaborate on youth engagement initiatives?**

**Future Action:**

- Identify organizations working in this area
- Confirm and/or explore joint internship pipeline

**Issue #5: Constituent Services & Communications Alignment (7:15 – 7:20 PM)**

**Objective:**

**Improve resident experience accessing City and County services.**

**Key Focus Areas:**

- **Snow emergency and overall streamlined communications**
- **Unified messaging during emergencies**

**Discussion Prompt:**

**What is one tangible improvement residents would notice within 12 months?**

**Future Action:**

- **Identify communications liaison structure**
- **Confirm and/or establish quarterly communications coordination call**

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**4. Action Summary & Next Steps (7:25 – 7:30 PM)**

**Chair Napoli**

- **Distribute note cards to folks. Based on this conversation, what are the topics that interest you in pursuing for collaboration between the two legislative bodies?**
- **Give the floor to Mayor Tuerk and Executive Siegel for closing remarks (2 minutes)**
- **Public Comment (7:25 – 7:30 PM)**

**Adjournment**