



Allentown

435 Hamilton Street
Allentown, Pa. 18101

Minutes - Final

City Council

Wednesday, December 1, 2021

6:30 PM

Council Chambers

Invocation

Pledge to the Flag

Roll Call

Present: 7 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Joshua Siegel

Courtesy of the Floor

Courtesy and Privilege of the Floor Rules

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any emails.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that you have said that we are not taking comments or phone calls. Council did receive an email and he forwarded to them.

Contract Approvals

[15-4747](#)

R198

Authorization for Contract with multiple vendors: Ferguson Waterworks, Neenah Foundry Company LB Water Service for an estimated sum of \$1,058,202.05 for storm sewer fittings and other items; multiple bidders on different units in the bid specs, awarded per the results of the bid tabulation.

Attachments: [R198 Storm Sewer Fittings-BID No. 2020-29](#)
[Resolution #30342](#)

Mr. Sarrah McNeil stated that this is done as Bid 2021 - 29. It was advertised on Public Purchase and accessed by 24 vendors and three proposals were received. The department is recommending an award to all three bidders. Storm Sewer Fittings should be purchased on as needed basis at the unit price of the supply. The city has allocated \$143,050 in funds to cover the costs throughout the year. The city has successfully done business with these vendor before.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any comments from the dais or the public.

Yes: 7 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Joshua Siegel

Enactment No: 30342

[15-4744](#)

R199

Authorization for Contract with Lehigh Valley Municipal Services, LLC., for the estimated budgeted sum of \$100,000 to provide inspection services and plan review assistance for code compliance on an as needed basis, competitively bid, single proposal, one year contract with option to renew two additional one years.

Attachments: [R199 Lehigh Valley Municipal Services LLC](#)

[Resolution #30343](#)

Ms. Sarrah McNeil stated that it was done as Bid 2021 - 17. It was advertised on Public Purchase and it was accessed by 42 vendors. One proposal was received. The department was recommending to award to the full bidder Lehigh Valley Municipal Services LLC. The estimated budgeted sum for each renewal year is \$100,000.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any comments from the dais. He stated that this one you have an opportunity to do it again. It is a one year proposal.

Ms. Sarrah McNeil stated that it is a one year term and the Purchasing Department can renew it for two additional years. At one year terms each.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any comments from the public.

Yes: 7 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Joshua Siegel

Enactment No: 30343

[15-4745](#)

R200

Authorization for Contract with Kerestes-Martin Associates, Inc. for \$46,850 for consulting work to support the development of a city-wide Wayfinding Master Plan, multiple bidders, one year contract.

Attachments: [R200 Kerestes-Martin Associates Inc.](#)

[Resolution #30344](#)

Ms. Sarrah McNeil stated that this was done as RFP 2021-31. It was advertised on Public Purchase and it was accessed by 61 vendors. Four responses were received. The proposal was submitted by Overunder and Guide Studio were disqualified to due containing cost information in their technical proposal. An evaluation committee of four people evaluated the remaining two proposals and was scored based on the RFP requirement.

After all evaluations computed, the committee recommending an award to Kerestes-Martin Associates. the cost of the contract is \$46,850.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any comments from the dais.

Mr. Ed Zucal asked what is the Wayfinding Program.

Ms. Sarrah McNeil stated that this is to basically help people come into the city know what they are looking at and looking for. It would basically connect them to the city's prime locations.

Mr. Leonard Lightner stated that is exactly what it is. The signs directs people from different locations. The signage in proper locations. The city has signs that are faded.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any further comments form the dais or the public.

Yes: 7 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Joshua Siegel

Enactment No: 30344

[15-4743](#)

R201

Authorization for Contract with multiple vendors: Andre & Sons, Fisher and Son Co., Inc., Hodges Rash Company, Site One Landscape Supply, Synatek LP and Genesis Turfgrass, Inc., at the unit prices identified in the bid, in the estimated amount of \$129,150 for agricultural chemicals, multiple bids, one year contract with option to continue for three additional months.

Attachments: [R201 Turf Chemicals](#)
[Resolution #30345](#)

Ms. Sarrah McNeil stated that this was done as Bid 2021 - 30. It was advertised on Public Purchase and accessed by 27 vendors and six proposals were received. The department is recommending the award to all six by line item. The city has allocated \$29,150 in the budget to cover the cost of the chemicals. They have successfully done business with these vendors before.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any comments from the dais or the public.

Yes: 7 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Joshua Siegel

Enactment No: 30345

[15-4746](#)

R202

Authorization for Contract with Solution Services, Inc. for \$49,500.00, to coordinate the Allentown Mentoring Enrichment Network (AMEN Initiative), which administers the Midnight Basketball Program in Allentown, competitively bid, one response, one year contract.

Attachments: [R202 Solution Services Inc](#)
[Resolution #30346](#)

Ms. Sarah McNeil stated that Contract C28-000049 is a Sole Source Contract that administers the Midnight Basketball Program. The cost of the contract is \$49,500. The city has successfully done business with this vendor before.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any comments from the dais.

Mr. Ed Zucal asked who is Solutions Services. Who represents them?

Ms. Karen El-Chaar asked Ryan Griffiths to comment on that. It is an organization that we have done business with in the past for several years.

Mr. Ryan Griffiths stated that Solutions Services is off of Hanover Avenue. It is Pastor Charles Omeda and his staff including Mike Comick who administer the Allentown site for the AMEN Initiative.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any further comments from the public.

Yes: 7 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Joshua Siegel

Enactment No: 30346

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Communications:

Dr. John D. Stanford, Allentown Superintendent

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that there have been several people that are asking about the ARPA funding. The city is looking into this and see when they will actually bring to Council. He stated that he has spoken with Mr. Lightner and he will be bringing something at the next meeting. Hopefully, before the end of the year they will be discussing some of the ARPA funding and see what the administration is willing to provide and what Council is willing to approve. That will be coming hopefully before the end of the year. He stated that they are dealing with the budget process as well. Today, was the actual budget process for the city. Today, was the last one we had scheduled with the Public Works committee.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated the sooner the better. The end of the year is going to come really quick. We already allocated some funds for

infrastructure. it is now time and hopefully, we will approve the budget. You are going to do the amendments next Thursday. Hopefully, adopt the budget on the 15th. The sooner, the better. We might have a meeting about the ARPA funds and people might have proposals.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that they will be scheduling some of the meetings. He stated that Council is honored tonight to have a gentleman that is going to be new to our community, but has heard great things about him so far. He stated that he has invited him over to speak to Council today. He stated that is Dr. John D. Stanford who is the new Superintendent of the Allentown School District.

Dr. John Stanford thanked Mr. Guridy and said good evening Mr. President, members of Council, Mr. Mayor and Mr. Controller. On behalf of the board of directors and the entire Allentown School District team, thank you for your partnership over the years and for this opportunity to share some information about himself and the district's current status. If they were wondering, he was born in Tuskegee, Alabama. He was raised in Muskegon, Michigan and Cleveland, Ohio. Please don't throw anything. He was raised by two working class parents to follow the values of hard work, honesty, integrity, the value of education, to be transformative in your life, getting better each and every day, and treating others the way you would want to be treated. He stated that he has used these values during his 25 years of experience in higher education, K - 12 education, nonprofit organization work, and public policy and government. He has spent 15 of those 25 years working in Ohio's largest school district and Columbus city schools. Through a variety of different leadership roles, they were able to make improvements in the district and to serve our community. Most recently, he served as the Chief Officer for Strategic Performance. He stated that he is honored to be with them this evening and it is a privilege to be the Superintendent of the Allentown School District. He stated that their board of directors, teachers, support staff, building administrators and central office administrators, as you know have been working extremely hard during this pandemic to go above and beyond the call of duty to provide services to our students and their families. He stated that he especially want to thank the teachers, support staff, and building administrators for dealing with the daily challenges of educating, feeding, transporting, tutoring and supporting our students and their families. He stated that many of them know during the early phases of the pandemic, the district's food service team was providing meals to students all across this city whether they attended Allentown city schools or not. If they lived in Allentown, we provided them a meal. The district returned to full-time in-person status, this September. They are also offering a full-time virtual learning opportunity for students that really don't want to come back just yet. Despite the challenges, our families continue to put their faith in us to

educate their babies. We are extremely, extremely grateful that they put that type of trust and faith in our ability to educate. The school district's enrollment stands at about 16,500 students and that is during this pandemic which he thinks is pretty good. To ensure their safety and health, we continue to follow all Covid mitigation measures outlined in our health and safety plan. This plan was originally passed in July of 2021 and the board recently voted to update the plan. This plan requires our staff and students to continue to wear a mask in our buildings through the end of the second quarter of the school year. If you want to follow our progress, and the Covid data in the district, please visit our Covid dashboard that is publicly available on our website. This pandemic has caused a lot of strife and caused a lot of challenges. In one of the ways we have been able to successfully be able to managed the challenges is that we have received additional funding from the city, the state, and the federal government. The school district is extremely grateful for the generosity of this community, the state and the federal government in providing the additional resources. They received roughly \$131 million in American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds from the bill. They developed an extensive plan on how the district intends to allocate those funds to serve our students. The plan is publicly available on our website. He strongly encouraged them to look at it and provide additional feedback if they see something. They developed the plan based on three guiding principles: 1) meeting the short-term and long-term needs of our students, families, and the district. 2) providing opportunities for consultations from stakeholder groups and 3) using evidence based interventions in order to guide our decisions. Funds can be allocated in several different ways under the bill: 1) save in-person learning and continuity of services. 2) upgrading facilities and grounds. 3) providing social and emotional learning, trauma sensitive school health and wellness programming. 4) providing staff recruitment, support and retention. 5) using the dollars to provide academic recovery and acceleration services. 6) ensuring systemic equity throughout the district. and last but, not least providing family and community partnership programs. He stated that the district priorities within these categories include: additional support with special education students, additional support for English language learners, additional support for literacy instructions, a re-investment in the arts with an intentional emphasis on our athletic programs and addressing learning loss caused by the pandemic which is very, very important priority. In these next 90 days during his initial start here in the district, he is focused on what it will take to move this district forward. This first 90 days will take him through the middle of February. His goal of this entry period is to listen, observe and learn as much as he can about the culture, the people, and the programming in Allentown School District, but also learn about the people and the culture from the city of Allentown. This opportunity to listen, learn and observe will help him identify with the board of education and his

administration team the priorities that they need to focus on for the remaining of this school year and to prepare ourselves in the creation of a long-term strategic plan that will guide the district into the future. Another goal of his during this 90 day period is to build trust and relationships with our students, their families, our team members and the community to learn from their experiences and their knowledge. He has spent time so far in his first week and a half meeting with leadership within the school district, conducting extensive reviews of documents and policies and a recent audit that has been conducted in the school district, specifically in the Curriculum Audit which is a very important report that is not your typical report. It is a report that really pulls back all the layers of the district and provides the honest unvarnished truth about what we need to do in order to move this school district. The school district also had fiscal audits completed. He has been reviewing those fiscal audits because we have to provide a way for this school district to have fiscal stability in order to achieve academic acceleration and academic excellence. While visiting secondary buildings at the newcomer academies last month, he was thoroughly impressed with the dedication of the staff he met in those buildings. He has seen a small example of how fortunate this district is to have a team of dedicated educators and support staff that is truly hardworking and believe in making a difference in the lives of our students and family each and every day. Partnerships are an important part in any successful district and he believes that they all play a critical roles in providing a better life for our young people and this community. His goal is to leverage the partnerships with this City Council, with the Mayor's office, with the Controller and with other elected officials, community members and local community organizations to help bring forth change and transformation to the Allentown School District. it is a new day in Allentown and he is ready to start this journey partnering with you to make it a better place and a better community. He stated let him say this and leave this with them that in order for them to do this collectively, we have to believe in our students. We have to believe in their ability to achieve. We have to believe in their ability to be successful in life. When we look at a Colin Powell or Barack Obama, at one time they were four and five years old and someone looked at them and believed in them and their ability to achieve great things. Those individuals that mentored, educated them, and supported them are nameless, but that is ok because they know what they did in order to see those individuals become who they are. He stated that he is ready to start this partnership with City Council, the Mayor and the Controller's office and let's get to work and get this journey started. He thanked Council for the opportunity.

Mr. Julio Guridy thanked Mr. Stanford for coming and stated that he knows he is a busy man and taking time to be with them today. The mayor would like to say something.

Mayor Ray O'Connell asked if he is State fan or Michigan fan.

Mr. John Stanford stated a State fan. The odds were against us. He stated that they won the game 18 times out of the last 20 years. It was about time. He stated that they will be ready next year.

Mr. Julio Guridy thanked Mr. Stanford for coming. He stated that he looks forward to working with him in one way or another throughout the years.

Mr. John Stanford stated same here. Thank you very much.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that Council has an executive session this evening regarding a Civil Rights Lawsuit. There was a special meeting scheduled for December 9th to act on the proposed amendments to the budget. We have a Public Hearing and Council will consider possibility of adopting an ordinance amending the City of Allentown Zoning Map. Rezoning a Parcel at 837 W. Linden Street from R-M to B3. Council will have a Public Hearing on Wednesday, December 15, 2021 at 6:00 PM in Council Chambers. They will adopt the amendment to the Zoning Ordinance at the regularly scheduled at 6:30 PM, immediately after the Public Hearing. There are many legislative items that they will deal with for the year and the number of meetings will be adopted and scheduled. Some of them will be what they spoke about before regarding the ARPA funding. He stated that they will have a busy month regardless of the holidays.

Old Business: NONE

REPORTS**REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:****Special Council Meeting:**

The next Special Meeting is scheduled for December 9th to act on proposed amendments to the budget.

Public Hearing

City Council will consider for possible adoption an Ordinance amending the City of Allentown Zoning Map by rezoning a parcel at 1837 W Linden Street from R-M (Medium Density Residential District) to B-3 (Highway Business District.) Council will have a Public Hearing on Wednesday, December 15, 2021 at 6:00 PM in Council Chambers and may adopt this amendment to the Zoning Ordinance at the regularly scheduled Council Meeting at 6:30 pm immediately following this Public Hearing.

Note that there are many legislative items that should be dealt with before the new year, a number of meetings will need to be scheduled.

Budget and Finance: Chair Siegel, Hendricks, Mota

The committee has not meet since the last council meeting. There are no future meetings scheduled at this time.

CEDC: Chair, Gerlach, Guridy, Affa

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

Human Resources, Administration and Appointments: Chair Affa, Mota, Zucal

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

Parks and Recreation: Chair Hendricks, Gerlach, Siegel

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

Public Safety: Chair Mota, Hendricks, Zucal

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

Public Works: Chair Zucal, Affa, Siegel

The committee has not met since the last council meeting; a meeting will be scheduled prior to the December 15th council meeting to deal with multiple items that have been referred to the committee. .

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

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

Controllers Report

NONE

Administration Report

Mayor Ray O'Connell yielded his time to Mr. O'Neill and Ms. Baraket.

Mr. Seth O'Neill thanked Mayor O'Connell and Mr. Guridy. He intended to do this at a convenient Budget and Finance Committee meeting, but he thinks he would be remised if he did not mention it at some point in front of this body. He feels that it is very important to recognize that the city is losing an extremely valuable human asset this week. It is Tricia Dickert's last week with the city. As you know, she has been our Chief Revenue Collector for many years. She ran our tax office. She is going to be leaving for a promotion at South Whitehall Township that is very appropriate for her level of knowledge and skill set. He stated that he thinks there are very few people here who could understand since 2015 the level of efficiency and automation she has brought to the city's tax office. She is truly brought it in the 21 Century. It used to be a very convoluted process to get all our interim billings and all of our audits done in an efficient and automated process. She literally built the system that we use now. If he can give some of them remember paying property taxes in installments. Before 2016, before Tricia introduced something that he thinks is truly improved the quality of life for the taxpayers of the city by eliminating the penalties on the late installments. Even when the payment was made before the due date. The state law provided for this penalty that you can pay installments late before the taxes are even due. Creating that uniform due date was a monumental step forward for customer service for taxpayers. You all heard recently what she has done with tax certs. He feels that after 21 years with the city and moving on to a well deserved promotion, they are all going to miss her and he wanted to recognize her this evening in some way for her long history of extremely excellent service and leadership in this department. He stated that he hopes they all wish her well.

Mr. Julio Guridy thanked Ms. O'Neill and stated very nice.

Ms. Tricia Dickert stated that in July of 2000 she started with the city of Allentown as an entry level clerk in the Department of Finance and never looked back. For those of you that don't know, that department is usually a foot in the door department and people usually don't stay. Usually, when you think of your local government and what it provides you think of things like public safety, the quality of your roads, the beauty of your parks, your local health services, the development inside the community. If the existence of the tax office crosses your mind, it usually does not come with

a warm and fuzzy feeling. Let's face it, we really does hate taxes, but it is our reality and an important piece of local government so that the other wheels can continue to turn. If you have never had to interact with our office, she hopes they are proud that there is a bureau dedicated to make sure your neighboring homes and businesses are held accountable right along side you. if you had to interact with our department, she hopes they were shown the level of empathy, grace and customer service you all deserve. it is of paramount importance since the people on both sides of that conversation most times are just trying to navigate what is likely a difficult conversation during what is usually a difficult time. It has been a pretty turbulent 21.5 years, but in the end all she can do is hope that Allentown taxpayers know that she did her very best to do right by them everyday and build a team that will continue to do that when she is gone. She stated that to her that really means something. She stated that she would like to thank her colleagues for their dedication to the city and all the great relationships that they developed over the years. Finally, to her team - you are truly amazing. She will miss seeing them everyday, but their relationship won't end. They will just look a little different. It was amazing to work along side of you for a portion of her first 14 years and truly an honor to lead them through the last seven. Thank you.

Mr. Julio Guridy thanked Ms. Dickert and asked if the mayor wanted to say something.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that she is a fantastic lady. He stated again, South Whitehall Township poaching another one. They take the best.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that they take good people from us. On behalf of Council and he is sure that everyone from Council will say the same thing. We always appreciate your work and the work of all the staff. People who have been there and have been leaders of our community and of our city, we truly appreciate it. Like the Mayor said, you can go anywhere you want to and you choose to stay here in our city and work with us. It is not the easiest city to work with because it is a large city and a lot of diversity. He stated that personally he can tell Ms. Dickert that every time that he went to her department, they treated him with respect and was helpful and he felt that it was something that he personally could not do without her. Thank you very much. Best of luck in your next endeavors.

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE (To be Voted On):

[15-4533](#)

Bill 82 Referred with the following amendment: Steps will be adopted as part of the budget, establishment of a reclassification committee, reclassifications shall only go up one step, performance evaluations shall be required the last quarter of every year.

Amending the Article 140, Personnel Code of the Codified Ordinances (Also referred to as the Personnel Policy); Part One Administrative Code - General and Administrative Provision by adding Sections H and I under 140.05 Hours of Work and Compensation to adopt the pay grade and step system for Non-Bargaining and Appointed employees. Also amends Article 140.07 – Promotions and Transfers.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 82 Creates Steps for Non-Bargaining Unit Step Presentation](#)

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that this was sponsored by the administration. He asked if there were any comments from the dais or the administration.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that this was referred with an amendment.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any comments from the public.

A motion was made by Ed Zucal, seconded by Daryl Hendricks, that this Bill be amended to change Section 1 to read that the Steps have been adopted and are part of the budget ordinance. It is a note that the Steps are proposed to you and have been placed in the proposed Budget Memo 5 as the Steps as an Appendix to the proposed budget which is similarly a treatment of the bargaining units that have Steps and mirrors the process the city had used prior to getting rid of the Steps. In regards to procedures, that is the second section in that ordinance. Add the following as #5 Reclassification Committee will be established as part of this Bill, consisting of the Finance Director as the Chair and the President of Council or he/her designee, the Mayor or his/her designee, the City Clerk as secretary of the board. The committee will hear all cases for reclassifications and forward the recommendations to City Council for adoption by ordinance. Reclassifications relate to position changes only and not to particular personnel or hiring. The HR Director shall facilitate the process and develop procedures working with council that will be adopted later Section Six: A formal evaluation process should be established no later than 6 months after passage of this legislation and be completed in the last quarter of the calendar year for each employee.

Yes: 7 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Joshua Siegel

Enactment No: 15766

Yes: 7 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Joshua Siegel

Enactment No: 15766

[15-4633](#)

Bill 99 HR, Admin and Appts: Forwarded favorable with the amendment that the bill goes into effect January 1, 2022.

AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE, ADOPT AND ENACT AN ORDINANCE CODIFICATION FOR THE CITY OF ALLENTOWN, COUNTY OF LEHIGH, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA; TO PROVIDE FOR THE

REPEAL OF CERTAIN LEGISLATION NOT INCLUDED THEREIN; TO SAVE FROM REPEAL CERTAIN OTHER LEGISLATION NOT INCLUDED THEREIN; AND TO PROVIDE PENALTIES FOR TAMPERING WITH THE CODE.

Sponsors: Mr. Zucal, Guridy and Administration

Attachments: [Bill 99 APPROVE, ADOPT AND ENACT AN ORDINANCE CODIFICATION](#)
[Letter on Code Adoption](#)
[GENERAL CODE, INC. 10-24-2019 C01-000004 \(1\)](#)
[Legal Ad](#)

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that basically it is what they spoke about before with the whole codification that we had. We spent money for the organization that helped us to restructure it. It makes it now much more simpler user-friendly. It is well worth it.

Mr. Julio Guridy thanked Mr. Zucal and stated that it was forwarded favorably.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated yes.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any comments from the dais or the public.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any comments from the dais or the public.

A motion was made by Daryl Hendricks, seconded by Ed Zucal, that this Bill be amended to add an effective date of January 1, 2022.

Yes: 7 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Joshua Siegel

Enactment No: 15767

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any comments from the dais or the public.

Yes: 7 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Joshua Siegel

Enactment No: 15767

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any comments to take them out. He asked if there were any comments from the public.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that Daniel Blount will be a great addition to the Civil Service Board. He is a very active member of the community and

spends a lot of time in Valania Park. He is a good guy. He will be a good member. He stated that they all know him, he is sure.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that they all know Mr. Blount.

Yes: 7 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Joshua Siegel

[15-4756](#)

R203

Approves Certificates of Appropriateness for work in the Historic Districts:
28 N 11th and 301 N 9th Street

Attachments: [R203 November HARB Resolution](#)

[Final Review 28 N 11th](#)

[Final Review 301 N 9th](#)

[Resolution #30347](#)

Enactment No: 30347

[15-4741](#)

R204

Appointment of Daniel D. Blount (fulfilling the unexpired term of Janet Keshl) - Alternate
Term Expiration: 01/21/2023

Attachments: [R204 Daniel D. Blount, Civil Service Board, 01-21-2023](#)

[Memo regarding Daniel D. Blount, Civil Service Board, 01-21-2023](#)

[Resolution #30348](#)

Enactment No: 30348

RESOLUTIONS FOR FINAL PASSAGE (To be Voted On):

[15-4754](#)

R205

Adopts Procedures to Govern the Procurement of Professional Services Contracts Regarding the City of Allentown's Pension Plans

Attachments: [R205 Pension Plan Procurement Procedures](#)

[Resolution #30349](#)

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any comments from the dais or the public.

Mr. John Stribula, 2629 Chew Street and member of the Allentown Firemen's Pension Board and the Aggregate Pension Fund, asked to get a briefing from the administration regarding the history of this Resolution. He stated that he can give a briefing and sees where the administration disagrees with him.

Mr. Seth O'Neill stated that the genesis of this is essentially is to comply

with already existing state statute regarding the procurement of professional services as it regards to Pension Funds. The impetus of this is that the city was engaged this year in a bi-annual Pension Audit by the Inspector General's office and they had made note that the city did not have this. It is almost a recognition of our intent to comply with state statutes and it regards the procurement of professional services for the Pension Fund and having been notified that the city should make recognition, they advanced this initiative for Council's approval.

Mr. John Stribula stated to save everyone's time. He does not know if it is permissible to take this to a committee meeting to give an overview as he sees it. Mr. O'Neill is correct. Act 44 was put into place in 2009. In 2019, the bi-annual Auditor General's Report came out for calendar year 2017 and 2018 which noted that in the previous report, they had told the city that they had to comply in a manner almost consistent with what is before them tonight. We are in four years past of not complying. This year, under RFP 2020-22 which in January 20th, you passed Resolutions that contained expenses and contract services which they should go in more details at a committee meeting. If they are not willing to do that, he is willing to speak more at length as to what is the responsibility of the city is as regards to municipal pensions plans and what the responsibility of the Pension Board is as regards to municipal pension plans.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated as they know he was the chair of the Firemen's Pension.

Mr. John Stribula stated that he is was the president elected in 1997 as the local and then he was appointed to the pension board in 1998 and held that position since then.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if it is any harm in delaying a vote on this tonight.

Mr. Seth O'Neill stated that the harm would be incurring an audit finding from the state Pension Auditor. This is something they thought could remedy prior to the final report. Whether or not they feel that is a substantial harm, he will leave up to them, but it would be a continued finding of something they felt that the city was to some degree deficit.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked what are you looking for.

Mr. John Stribula stated the language identifies and he apologizes that he only got notice less than an hour before this meeting. The language identifies the city of Allentown where under Act 44, it makes some minor changes and says each municipal pension system sets the standards.

Admittedly, the language as it continues is pretty constant with what he expected the Pension board would set. They are 12 years past the legislation being enacted. It almost coming up on six years after they have made two recommendations. He knows that the auditors are essentially here now. He stated that he thinks if they could straighten the language out. His real problem is the expenses under the firemen's pension system are borne by the board. This body brought legislation with a \$206,000 Contract inappropriately. He has been on the board since 1998. Any contracts for consulting services are approved by the Pension Board and considered by the Pension Board, not just approved. He stated that he thinks they did something wrong and jump the gun in January and he wants to correct it before they go forward with this legislation to make sure they are not jumping the gun again.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked is there any harm or does anybody has an exception.

Mr. Seth O'Neill stated that you can amend that now.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that he does not know what to amend. He asked Mr. O'Neill to tell him.

Mr. Seth O'Neill stated that he does not know what language he will take exception with or add to.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked does Mr. Stribula know what language he wants to get.

Mr. John Stribula stated that as he indicated previously he just saw this two hours ago. After being notified for six years they were not. If you want to approve it, approve it. They will take other measures. One way or another.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there was a reason why they had to approve this now.

Mr. Seth O'Neill stated that he is sorry. He was not intimately involved in how this was crafted, but from his understanding actually the auditor from the Inspector General's office is the one who recommended this language.

Ms. Jessica Baraket stated that the language came from the auditor. Specifically to include all pension funds. That is the language that came from the auditor. To amend it now, she does not know if the auditor going to be satisfied with the language if they would have amended it. The language which is in there now is already approved and our Solicitor's

office was satisfied. if we made the amendment now, she does not know if the auditor would be satisfied with that language or the Solicitor's office would be satisfied with that language. It might be a repeat finding anyway. Just so that everybody is aware and ok with the finding, the auditor exit interview is scheduled for December 8th. That is why we were looking at having it approved tonight so if you are aware or ok with it being a repeat finding. If it doesn't get approved tonight, it will be a repeat finding on this audit coming up. She would not necessarily recommend amending it tonight because she does not know the language that they would amend tonight would be approved by the audit or the Solicitor's office.

Mr. Ed Zucal suggested for Council to table it for now until these folks can get together to come up with an amicable decision on what the language should be. He stated that he understands Mr. Stribula's point actually. It is naming the city, when in fact it should be naming the Pension System.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that Mr. Kloiber would like to speak. He stated that Julio will be at that Exit Interview.

Mr. Matthew Kloiber stated that the Resolution from the auditor's office and is the language that they proposed to get the modification to make it Allentown. The Resolution only says that the city will abide by the law. It is an over-simplification of it, but this law is not a new law. It has been out there for 13 plus years at this point. This Resolution is to comply with what is the auditor's request. It would comply with the law. There are some points that need to be fleshed out a bit. This is just to comply with the auditor. The auditor said that yes, this will be sufficient language to remove this finding from the auditor's report. Essentially, it is saying that the city will comply with the law. It is a long time coming and it should have been done a long time ago. It brings this issue out for discussion.

Mr. Julio Guridy thanked Mr. Kloiber. He asked what does Council prefer to do now. Approve it.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that makes sense and if there are any amendments going down the road it can come to the Pension Board.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated approve it.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that all they are doing is complying with the law.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any further comments from the floor.

Yes: 7 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Joshua Siegel

Enactment No: 30349

[15-4739](#)

R206

Approves two transfers, placing funds in appropriate accounts: (1) \$55,000 in CED to implement a new traffic plan for Lights in the Parkway; (2) \$7,500 in Information Systems for additional software licenses.

Attachments: [R206 Transfer Funds](#)

[Due To Last Years Lights In The Parkway Traffic Issues - New Traffic Plan Implemented](#)

[Due To Last Years Lights In The Parkway Traffic Issues - New Traffic Plan Implemented](#)

[Resolution #30350](#)

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any comments from the dais or the public.

Yes: 7 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Joshua Siegel

Enactment No: 30350

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

[15-4752](#)

Bill 118 Refer to Public Works

Providing for the vacation of East Turner Street from the centerline of North Floyd Street to the centerline of North Halstead Street in the Fourteenth Ward of the City of Allentown, East Newton Street from the centerline of North Glynn Street to the centerline of North Grape Street in the Fourteenth Ward of the City of Allentown, East Webster Street from the centerline of North Glynn Street to the centerline of North Hart Street in the Fourteenth Ward of the City of Allentown, East Linden Street from the centerline of North Floyd Street to the centerline of North Hart Street in the Fourteenth Ward of the City of Allentown, East Linden Street from the centerline of North Hart Street to the centerline of North Irving Street in the Fourteenth Ward of the City of Allentown, East Court Street from the centerline of North Folk Street to the centerline of North Hart Street in the Fourteenth Ward of the City of Allentown, North Fenwick Street from the centerline of East Turner Street to the centerline of East Linden Street in the Fourteenth Ward of the City of Allentown, North Folk Street from the centerline of East Turner Street to the centerline of East Court Street in the Fourteenth Ward of the City of Allentown, North Gilmore Street from the centerline of East Turner Street to the centerline of East Court Street in the Fourteenth Ward of the City of Allentown, North Glynn Street from the centerline of East Turner Street to the centerline of East Court Street in the Fourteenth Ward of the City of Allentown, North Grape Street from the centerline of East Turner Street to the centerline of East Webster Street in the Fourteenth Ward of the City of Allentown, North Grape Street from the centerline of East Linden Street to the centerline of East Court Street in the Fourteenth Ward of the

City of Allentown, North Halstead Street from the centerline of East Turner Street to the centerline of East Webster Street in the Fourteenth Ward of the City of Allentown, North Hancock Street from the centerline of East Court Street to the North property line of 113-123 North Hancock Street in the Fourteenth Ward of the City of Allentown, and North Hart Street from the centerline of East Court Street to the North property line of 113-123 North Hancock Street in the Fourteenth Ward of the City of Allentown:

Attachments: [Bill 118 Common Ridge](#)
[Common Ridge Staff Report](#)
[Common Ridge Location Maps](#)
[Staff Report Vacation Common Ridge](#)
[ACPC Action - Common Ridge Streets](#)
[Letter from Lehigh Valley Planning Commission regarding Common Ridge Streets Vacation petition Review LVPC 10292021](#)
[Letter from Mike Hanlon regarding Common Ridge - Street Vacation](#)
[Common Ridge - Street Vacation Labels](#)

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any comments from the dais or the public.

REFERRED TO THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

[15-4748](#) Bill 119 Refer to Public Works
Providing for the vacation of Chestnut Street from the centerline of North Race Street to the West right of way line of the American Parkway in the First Ward of the City of Allentown:

Attachments: [Bill 119 Chestnut Street - Street Vacation](#)
[Chestnut Staff Report](#)
[Planning Staff Report Vacation Chestnut Street from American Parkway to Race Street](#)
[ACPC Action - Chestnut Street from American Parkway to Race Street](#)
[Letter from Lehigh Valley Planning Commission regarding Chestnut Street Vacation petition Review LVPC 10292021](#)
[Letter from Mike Hanlon regarding Chestnut Street from American Parkway to Race Street](#)
[Chestnut Street - Street Vacation Labels](#)

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any comments from the dais or the public.

REFERRED TO THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

[15-4742](#) Bill 120 Refer to Public Works
Amending the Article 531.11, Parking Prohibited at Handicapped Area, by creating a provision that at e request of any handicapped person or

severely disabled veteran for whom a handicap sign has been erected pursuant to this ordinance, the Allentown Parking Authority may issue to that person a numbered handicap permit and the handicap sign shall be numbered to correspond with the permit. The numbered space may only be occupied by the vehicle bearing the corresponding numbered permit. The Allentown Parking Authority shall erect a sign on or near the handicap sign indicating the restricted nature of the handicap parking space and providing for a penalty for unauthorized parking at a marked handicapped spot.

Sponsors: Affa, Gerlach, Mr. Zucal and Gurdy

Attachments: [Bill 120 Handicap Spot](#)

Mr. Julio Gurdy asked if there were any comments from the dais or the public. He asked for Mr. Hanlon to put his name on it as well. He stated that he got a couple of calls in regards to things like this.

REFERRED TO THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

[15-4753](#)

Bill 121 Refer to HR, Admin and Appts.
Amending the Article 140, Personnel Code of the Codified Ordinances (Also referred to as the Personnel Policy); Part One Administrative Code - General and Administrative Provision by adding Section H to Article 143. 13 Holidays and Leave Time, entitled Paid Parental Leave of Absence (Non-Union).

Sponsors: Mr. Siegel and Gerlach

Attachments: [Bill 121 Parental Leave](#)
[Pitt Paid Leave](#)

Mr. Julio Gurdy asked if there were any comments from the dais or the public.

REFERRED TO THE HUMAN RESOURCES, ADMINISTRATION AND APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

[15-4755](#)

Bill 122 Refer to Public Works, noting the plan is to take testimony on this issue at the committee level and work on various alternatives to this issue.
Amending the Article 532.04, Exceptions related to Double Parking, by clarifying the exceptions to the regulations.

Sponsors: Mr. Zucal, Gurdy, Gerlach and Mota

Attachments: [Bill 122 Double Parking](#)

Mr. Julio Gurdy asked if there were any comments from the dais or the public.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach asked for her name to be added to the legislation.

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked for her name to be added as well.

REFERRED TO THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

[15-4757](#)

Bill 123 Refer to Public Works
Amending Article 121.05 City Registered Vehicles, by changing the word sedan to the word vehicles in two places, providing for 17 rather than 13 take-home vehicles, and assigning the 17 vehicles to the following positions: Chief of Police, Assistant Chief of Police (2); Police Captain On Call; K-9 Unit (4); Fire Chief; Assistant Fire Chief (2); EMS Coordinator; Public Works Director; Streets Department Superintendent; Facilities Manager; Managing Director; Mayor. The K-9 Unit vehicles are limited to a ten-mile radius from the boundaries of the City. (The Criminal Investigation Division are not part of the original limitation of 17 – so there are an additional 3 take home vehicles.)

Sponsors: Guridy and Mr. Zucal

Attachments: [Bill 123 Take Home Vehicle Policy](#)

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any comments from the dais or the public.

REFERRED TO THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

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

NEW BUSINESS: NONE

GOOD AND WELFARE: NONE

ADJOURNED: 7:37 PM

[15-4437](#)

Council Rules
Home Rule Charter
Contract Procedures

Attachments: [HOMERULE June 2021](#)
[Council Rules March 2021 Edition](#)
[Contract Procedures](#)