



Allentown

435 Hamilton Street
Allentown, Pa. 18101

Minutes - Final

City Council

Wednesday, September 8, 2021

6:30 PM

Council Chambers

Invocation

Pledge to the Flag

Roll Call

Present: 6 - Candida Affa, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Joshua Siegel

Absent: 1 - Cynthia Mota

Courtesy of the Floor

Courtesy and Privilege of the Floor Rules

Mr. Andrew Theyken Bench, 131 N Eighth Street, talked about the quality of life over the last three or four years. He came here in construction and did construction on a house that was a condemned building that he got from the city of Allentown. The permit process was hell. He paid the almost \$10,000 to the city of Allentown and time and time again it was one of the most frustrating and annoying things. He is an attorney and an assistant district attorney and have dealt with every bureaucracy from the local level up to the highest courts in the country and the city of Allentown permitting was horrible. He gave a shoutout to Paul and Dottie are amazing and they should be paid more. He would have gone insane if it was not for those two. He talked about the police quality of life. He had an opportunity to talk to the new Police Chief about the dirt bikes. It is something to be looked at and the double parking issue. He talked about the Allentown Parking Authority and stated that he is a pretty law abiding guy and an assistant district attorney and got four or five street cleaning repeat offender violations. Where he lives just by the flow of traffic, you have to move your car about 16 times a week for street cleaning. That is a lot. Paying attention to it, he gets tickets.

Mr. Julio Guridy thanked Mr. Theyken Bench and stated that there are members of the administration here and he is sure they are taking notes. All your comments will be taken into consideration.

Mr. Thomas Houck, 845 N. Eighth Street, suggested that have City Council put out some type of Resolution or document to the newspaper in recognition and remembrance of September 11th which is coming up this

weekend. It would be very appropriate for this city for the amount of veterans that we have in this city. Veterans are extremely disillusioned on what happened in Afghanistan. He is going to an event on Saturday, September 11th at the South Mountain Grove which is called Brothers to Brothers. Council gives a three minute time limit to individuals and a five minute time limit. Yet under your actual Rules under D. It says Citizens Right to be Heard will be the first order of business and before any vote on City Council, the public will be granted to comment to City Council without time limit except when the Council President poses a reasonable time limitation deemed necessary. The Home Rule Charter may require some updating if it has been changed. It does not look like change have come about on Citizens Rights to be Heard.

Mr. Julio Guridy thanked Mr. Houck and stated that it has been Council Rules for a very long time. It is in writing in the front when you see the Agenda.

Contract Approvals

Minutes of Previous Meeting

[15-4528](#) July 21, 2021 City Council Special Meeting - AHA Presentation Minutes

Attachments: [July 21, 2021 City Council Special Meeting - AHA Presentation Minutes](#)

Yes: 6 - Candida Affa, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Joshua Siegel

Absent: 1 - Cynthia Mota

[15-4524](#) July 28, 2021 City Council Special Meeting - Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Minutes

Attachments: [July 28, 2021 City Council Special Meeting - Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Minutes](#)

Yes: 6 - Candida Affa, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Joshua Siegel

Absent: 1 - Cynthia Mota

[15-4543](#) August 18, 2021 City Council Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [August 18, 2021 City Council Meeting Minutes](#)

Yes: 6 - Candida Affa, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Joshua Siegel

Absent: 1 - Cynthia Mota

Communications

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that he has one letter that came to them by a gentleman Jimi Rose. It went to the Mayor and to City Council regarding Valania Park on Sixth and Union Streets. He is threatening to sue us if we don't do something right away.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that he would not go any further via litigation. He stated that the city got a letter and he has it and Council got a copy. There was another letter that came from another gentleman.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that he just saw it today.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that we will make sure you see Mr. Rose's letter.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any other comments under communications.

Old Business

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that he understands that there is a second revised docket with regards to the Covid Relief Fund money. Do we have a copy of that or are we going to get a copy of that?

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that we are going to talk about it on September 22. We are going to have to move meetings around because we had to cancel last week's meeting.

Mayor Ray O'Connell asked for a clarification and asked is it a revised copy from the administration.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that he does not know where the revised copy is coming from. An example: \$2 million to DaVinci is now not \$2 million. It might be \$500,000.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that is not us. He stated that himself, Mr. Lightner, Mr. O'Neil sent you a draft of the administration's Rescue Plan money. He stated that he has not seen anything other since that.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated to Mr. Zucal that he may be referring to another draft done by Ms. Gerlach and Mr. Siegel. That is out there as well.

Controller Reports

[15-4561](#) Controller's Report

Attachments: [Travel](#)

[Bank Rec - June](#)

[Accounts Payable Review - August](#)

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE (To be Voted On):

[15-4462](#) Bill 74 Budget and Finance, Forwarded Favorably
Amending the 2021 General Fund Budget and the 2021 Equipment Fund Budget to provide for a transfer of Five Thousand Nine Hundred (\$5,900) Dollars for the purchase of a replacement check printer.

Attachments: [Bill 74 Check Printer Transfer](#)
[Ordinance #15742](#)

Mr. Joshua Siegel stated that it was forwarded favorably. It was to purchase a backup check replacement printer in case the first one were to breakdown so that we can continue to print checks.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that it makes sense. Any comments from the administration, the dais, or the public.

Yes: 6 - Candida Affa, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Joshua Siegel

Absent: 1 - Cynthia Mota

Enactment No: 15742

[15-4497](#) Bill 77 Public Safety, this evening
Amending the 2021 General Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Fourteen Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty-Eight Dollars and Sixty-Nine Cents (\$14,728.69) from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Office of The State Fire Commissioner Grant, to the Allentown Fire Department for the purchase of high-quality particulate hoods.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 77 Fire OFSC Grant](#)
[Ordinance #15743](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that two of the three members were present. It was forwarded favorably to the full Council with a favorable recommendation.

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

Yes: 6 - Candida Affa, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Joshua Siegel

Absent: 1 - Cynthia Mota

Enactment No: 15743

[15-4496](#) Bill 78 Public Safety, this evening
Amending the 2021 General Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Twenty-Two Thousand Two Hundred Sixty-Seven (\$22,267.00) Dollars from Highmark to be used to further prepare for medical emergencies and rebuild supplies from COVID-19.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 78 EMS Highmark Contribution](#)
[Ordinance #15744](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated it was a favorable vote, 2 - 0 to full Council.

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

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that Ms. Mota had to leave earlier today. She is the chair of this committee. Mr. Hendricks and Mr. Zucal took care of it.

Yes: 6 - Candida Affa, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Joshua Siegel

Absent: 1 - Cynthia Mota

Enactment No: 15744

[15-4495](#) Bill 79 Public Works, this evening
Amending the 2021 General Fund Budget and the 2021 Capital Fund Budget to provide for a transfer of Thirty Thousand (\$30,000) Dollars for roof repairs on several City buildings.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 79 Roof Repair Transfer](#)
[Ordinance #15745](#)

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that it was sent favorably 3 - 0.

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

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Yes: 6 - Candida Affa, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Joshua Siegel

Absent: 1 - Cynthia Mota

Enactment No: 15745

[15-4503](#) Bill 80 Public Safety Committee, this evening
Amending the 2021 Capital Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand (\$250,000) Dollars as

the result of a grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development (PA DCED) Initiative Program to the Allentown Fire Department to provide funds to be utilized for costs associated with the construction of the Fire Academy Public Safety Training and EOC building, including appliances and furnishings.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 80 Fire Academy Building](#)
[Ordinance #15746](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that it was in his committee and he and Mr. Zucal forwarded with a favorably motion for the full Council.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that he used to be an Sergeant back in the day. He asked if there were any comments from the dais or the public.

Yes: 6 - Candida Affa, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Joshua Siegel

Absent: 1 - Cynthia Mota

Enactment No: 15746

[15-4504](#)

Bill 81 Public Safety, this evening
Amending the Civil Service Board (CSB) Rules for Firefighters that were adopted pursuant to the provisions of Article 155 of the Codified Ordinances by revising the Part V: Rules Governing Appointment of Fire Fighters, the revisions were made to align with the current Rules Governing the Appointment of Police Officers.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 81 Fire Civil Service Rule Changes](#)
[Ordinance #15747](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that it was approved by himself and Mr. Zucal with a favorably recommendation to the full Council. This helps to standardized the process for both police and fire.

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

Yes: 6 - Candida Affa, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Joshua Siegel

Absent: 1 - Cynthia Mota

Enactment No: 15747

CONSENT AGENDA

Does Council or the Public have any comments on these items collectively or would Council like to remove any of the items?

Mr. Julio Guridy asked with the Consent Agenda, do we all approve it or agree to it.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that it does not have where Ms. Pena goes to school. Is it Allen?

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated Innovative Arts Charter School.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that we have to spread it around.

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

Yes: 6 - Candida Affa, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Joshua Siegel

Absent: 1 - Cynthia Mota

[15-4527](#)

R136
Ronald Kromer Sr, Electricians Examining Board, 04-04-2024

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R136 Electricians Examining Board - Ronald Kromer Sr](#)
[Ronald Kromer Sr, Electricians Examining Board, 04-04-2024](#)
[Resolution #30281](#)

Enactment No: 30281

[15-4530](#)

R137
Deborah L. Held, Disruptive Conduct Board of Appeals, 06/01/2024
(reappointment)

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R137 Appointment Disruptive Conduct Board - Deborah L. Held](#)
[Deborah L. Held, Disruptive Conduct Board of Appeals, 06-01-2024](#)
[Resolution #30282](#)

Enactment No: 30282

[15-4531](#)

R138
Aijalynn Lyfe Washington, Council of Youth, 08/20/2022 (Dieruff High School)

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R138 Appointment Council of Youth - Aijalynn Lyfe Washington](#)
[Aijalynn Lyfe Washington, Council of Youth, 08-20-2022](#)
[Resolution #30283](#)

Enactment No: 30283

[15-4534](#) R139
Briana Ortigas Pena, Council of Youth, 08-23-2022

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R139 Appointment Council of Youth - Briana Ortigas Pena](#)
[Briana Ortigas Pena, Council of Youth, 08-23-2022](#)
[Resolution #30284](#)

Enactment No: 30284

[15-4522](#) R140
Certificate of Appropriateness for work in the Historic Districts: 431
Howard Street

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R140 431 Howard Street Certificate of Appropriateness](#)
[431 Howard Street FINAL REVIEW SHEET](#)
[Resolution #30285](#)

Enactment No: 30285

RESOLUTIONS FOR FINAL PASSAGE (To be Voted On):

[15-4537](#) R141
Authorized the Hiring of Police Officer Molinaro

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R141 Police Officer Hire - Molinaro](#)
[Resolution #30286](#)

Captain James Gress stated that the applicant Zach Molinaro is from Sugarloaf, Pennsylvania. He was a policeman in Hazleton City from 2015 until now. He will help the Police Department on their goal of 222 officers. The interesting thing with Mr. Molinaro, we were here a few short months ago with three applicants and he thinks Council made the comment that their names sounded like a law firm. It was Gonzalez, Gonzalez and Bautista. He was Mr. Bautista's partner in Hazleton. Mr. Bautista drafted him to apply here and he went through the process and we are ready to hire him.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if Mr. Molinaro came from Sugarloaf and is a sweet guy, if sounds like.

Captain James Gress stated yes, he is. He is currently relocating to the city.

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

Yes: 4 - Candida Affa, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, and Ed Zucal

No: 2 - Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Joshua Siegel

Absent: 1 - Cynthia Mota

Enactment No: 30286

[15-4538](#)

R142

Authorizes Application to the Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development for a One Million Two Hundred Thirty-Two Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars (\$1,232,800.00) Grant to support traffic signal improvements along Hanover Street in Allentown.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R142 Hanover Light Grant](#)
[Resolution #30287 R142 Hanover Light Grant](#)

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that is a good one. He asked if there are any questions or comments from the dais.

Mr. Ed Zucal asked if this work is already being done.

Mr. Craig Messinger stated that the upgrades that are being taken care of right now in our downtown area to Tilghman Street. They also looking to do the corridor for Hanover Avenue. For the bus rapid transit that takes that corridor along with us doing that process at that time. We will be able to work with LANTA in their project along with that to provide safe routes for them. The work is not being done on Hanover Avenue. This will be to take care the whole length from across Hamilton Street Bridge to Bethlehem at the city line. This also has improvements in the area where Linden and Hanover Avenue had some issues with the safety of people walking across it. There are planned upgrades for that intersection to provide a safer walkway.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that someone called him and said the roads were already torn up. He asked if this is money that the city has already allocated earlier, like for a grant.

Mr. Craig Messinger stated no. This is money for this project.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that this is a new application. He stated that the city is doing a lot of things in that area. He stated that it is Hanover Avenue, not street. He asked if there were any final comments from the dais or the public.

Yes: 6 - Candida Affa, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Joshua Siegel

Absent: 1 - Cynthia Mota

Enactment No: 30287

[15-4521](#)

R143

Approval of Three Requested Transfers: Transfer of \$46,572 in the Police Department to place COVID-19 grant spending into proper accounts pursuant to a previous ordinance passed by City Council; Transfer of \$17,000 into proper accounts in Building Maintenance to purchase a scissor life and complete the boiler installation at the golf course; Transfer of \$13,695 in the Police Department as a result of negative balances in the Police Academy FICA account - transfer restores sufficient funds for the remainder of the year.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R143 Required To Purchase A Scissor Life and To Purchase Equipment For The Completion of the Golf Course Boiler Installation To Purchase A Scissor Lift and to Purchase Equipment for the Completion of the Golf Course Boiler Installation To bring the Police Academy FICA Account to the Positive Plus Enough Funding Until 12-31-21 The Police Department was Approved by the COVID 19 Grant Administrators to Reclassify the COVID 19 Grant Spending Resolution #30288](#)

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that they brought this to Council a couple of months ago. This is to balance the budget and get the money right in the appropriate account. We have the money. It is just taking it from A to B to C.

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

Yes: 6 - Candida Affa, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Joshua Siegel

Absent: 1 - Cynthia Mota

Enactment No: 30288

[15-4546](#)

R144

Recommends Policies Requiring Vaccinations and Masking to Maintain and Add Social and Economic Value to our Community

Sponsors: Affa, Mota and Mr. Siegel

Attachments: [R144 Covid](#)
[Resolution #30289](#)

Mr. Julio Guridy asked Ms. Affa, Ms. Mota and Mr. Siegel if they had any comments. Any comments from the dais?

Mr. Thomas Houck, 845 N. 18th Street, stated that if he understands this Resolution correctly, it is a recommendation. It is nonbinding on our businesses or people in the city. He asked is he mistaken with that.

Mr. Joshua Siegel stated that Resolutions have no legal authority.

Mr. Thomas Houck stated on the Resolution all the way at the bottom, Now, therefore be it resolved. He stated that he has no problem with Number 1. getting the vaccine and masking up. That is a very appropriate recommendation. He has been vaccinated, but his wife on the other hand can't be because she has a very unique medical condition and was told if she wants to get the vaccine, she has to spend 48 hours in the hospital when she receives it. They won't even administer it outside a hospital setting. His discern comes from the other three recommendations. Certain people on Council has voiced their respect if they will for the rights of the citizens and concerns of the citizens. It goes against that. Recommending businesses and local governments considers vaccinations as a requirement of work. Our city already has a time getting people to work in this city right now with everything that has been going on. There are help wanted signs all over the city and passing this Resolution and making that recommendation is counterproductive. If an individual business to want to do that, that is fine. For the city to take the initiative and try to encourage that is extremely counterproductive. The third item is encouraging all businesses to require proof of vaccinations to enter. This has been addressed through the federal levels and state levels. We can argue HIPAA and everything else, but he will not go into a business that is going to ask him about his personal medical record. He stated that the final one is examining or establishing an insurance premium or no sick day policy for non vaccinated individuals. First off, most people have contracts. You are going to violate contracts if you encourage businesses to pursue this. No sick day policy for a non vaccinated individuals if they are sick because of Covid. You are going to deny them the right to use sick days just because the fact that they did not get vaccinated. He stated that is a bit of socialism if you asked him.

Mr. Julio Guridy thanked Mr. Houck and asked if there were any other

questions from the public. He stated that he is a little bit concerned about the last one too. If somebody is sick and establishing an insurance premium or no sick day policy.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that the key word is recommends. There is a difference between recommends and mandates.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that it is, but still.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that a definition of recommends is that he gives Mr. Guridy a recommendation. You don't have to follow it. If he gives him a mandate, you will have to follow it.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that it is a recommendation and he understands that. It is a tough one.

Mr. Thomas Houck stated that he doesn't believe that it is a recommendation that the city should be making.

Ms. Candida Affa asked Mr. Houck if his wife can be vaccinated, but can wear a mask.

Mr. Thomas Houck stated that she cannot be vaccinated unless she does it in a hospital stay. He stated that you do realize that the CDC says the mask does not protect you, it protects him from her.

Ms. Candida Affa stated to Mr. Houck that she does not want to put his wife in jeopardy by not getting vaccinated or wearing a mask.

Mr. Thomas Houck stated that he understands it is a recommendation, but he feels that it is a recommendation that we as a city should not be making.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that for the one encouraging businesses to require proof of vaccination to enter. She remembers speaking to a nonprofit during the peak of all of this. He expressed that he wished the city would require contact tracing and support the businesses and nonprofits to do the contact tracing. If this were to pass, do we have the capacity if we are going to encourage businesses to require proof of vaccinations to help the businesses do that.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that they can mask.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated for Number 3 is a small business to require proof of vaccination to enter. She stated that she heard from people some of their concerns that owns small businesses.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that the city does not have the resources to do that.

Mr. Joshua Siegel stated that he will respond to Ms. Gerlach's point because it is an excellent point and one of his primary concerns for small businesses. The city itself does not have the resources, but he will say that there are a number of Apps that have been invented since Covid Pandemic began which is free to utilize. You take a picture of your vaccination card and you bring it up on your phone. It is a very quick verification process. There are software and systems out there that will enable small businesses to fairly easily comply with this. It is as simple as showing your cell phone with your vaccination card. There are many different resources for small businesses to make that a reality. The city can facilitate by pointing them in the right direction. New York City was the first city to mandate proof of vaccination requirements for entry. Obviously, somebody is going to slip through the cracks. He is one of the sponsors of the Resolution and Mr. Houck is correct, it is a Resolution so at most it is a simple suggested piece of language. It is important and you see many area of businesses and hospital networks in particular begin to mandate vaccinations as a requirement for employment. He stated that he thinks that is the right step to do. There is a lot of miscommunication in this country right now and in the society we make sure we sacrifice and there is a solidarity aspect to living in America and sometimes we do stuff for each other as a sacrifice. We wear masks to protect each other. You get vaccinated to protect each other. He stated that he does believe if you want to participate in society willfully and freely, you should have to get the vaccination to enter a business. If you don't, you are free to live your own life in your own home, but you are not free to threaten the lives of other people. The Delta Variant has shown just how effective the vaccine is in protecting us. he stated that 99.9 percent of all hospitalizations are the result of people not vaccinated. Breakthrough cases are very rare. Individuals who do get Covid that are vaccinated is very light and non threatening. The reality is that we do not have to change the way we live for the unvaccinated. It is the other way around. We will not put people's lives in jeopardy because people refuse to follow the science or refuse to follow the facts and chose to live their lives irresponsibly. Inoculations and mandatory vaccinations are a result of this country itself. George Washington mandated smallpox vaccinations among troops at Valley Forge. He stated that he does not want to hear about your freedoms or your right to live you life as you want. You will not put people's lives in jeopardy. He stated that is why he believes this Resolution is so important. If we want to get his country back opened, back to normalcy, it starts with vaccinations and it starts with shared sacrifice. That is why he believes this Resolution is important and that is why he brought it forward. It is at best a

recommendation. This sends a message in the city. It has a lot of symbolic value and is important. We spent over a year sacrificing in many ways. If you want to get back to business and you are pro small business and pro freedom then you really need to support everybody getting the vaccination so that we can finally open our country back up for good.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that the PPL Center and most football events are now saying you can't get in unless you are vaccinated and you have a card. We in city hall is not a business. If we cannot mandate it for the people that work here every day. She stated that she may go to a meeting and sit in a small room with someone that is not vaccinated and we speak many times, the mask is off. She stated that they are putting her life in jeopardy. We just opened Council up after almost a year and look and look how we have to sit. We are protecting each other by wearing a mask. We are not a small business, but she believes we have to sacrifice and save each other.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that he is going to vote for it and thinks everybody should be vaccinated period. His only concern is it is unenforceable. It is a good recommendation. He asked if there were any further comments from the public.

Mr. Andrew Bench stated that to Mr. Siegel that was the best defense of masks and vaccinations he ever heard. He appreciates someone saying it.

Yes: 4 - Candida Affa, Julio Guridy, Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Joshua Siegel

No: 2 - Daryl Hendricks, and Ed Zucal

Absent: 1 - Cynthia Mota

Enactment No: 30289

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

[15-4533](#)

Bill 82

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

REFERRED TO HUMAN RESOURCES, ADMINISTRATION AND APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

[15-4535](#)

Bill 83

Amending the 2021 General Fund, Liquid Fuels, Trexler, Risk Management, Solid Waste, Stormwater, Golf Course, Rental Unit Licensing and HUD Grants Fund Budgets by transferring funds from existing expenditures to various Permanent Wage (02) accounts to provide for the implementation of the Non-Bargaining and Appointed pay scales as introduced in Bill 82.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 83 Appropriation for Salary Adjustments](#)

[Non-Bargaining steps Council](#)

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

REFERRED TO HUMAN RESOURCES, ADMINISTRATION AND APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

[15-4536](#)

Bill 84

Amending the 2021 General Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Fifty Thousand One Hundred Twenty-Eight Dollars and Thirteen Cents (\$50,128.13) from the Municipal Police Officer's Education and Training Commission (MPOETC) for tuition and salary reimbursement from Act 120 Training to be used to purchase duty weapons and holsters for new hire Patrolmen.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 84 Police MPOETC Funds](#)

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

REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

[15-4539](#)

Bill 85

Amending the 2021 General Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Eight Thousand Ninety-Four Dollars and Twenty Cents (\$8,094.20) from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Office of The State Fire Commissioner Grant, to the Allentown EMS Department to purchase video laryngoscope devices.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 85 OFSC EMS GRANT](#)

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

REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

[15-4540](#)

Bill 86

An Ordinance providing for the expenditure of certain monies received by the City of Allentown under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1976, as amended; The Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act of 2009; and Title II of the National Affordable Housing Act of 1990, as amended; for the purpose of undertaking programs of housing and community development within the City.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 86 CDBG NEW ACCOUNT SETUP](#)

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

REFERRED TO COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

[15-4542](#)

Bill 87

Providing for the vacation of Mason Street from the centerline of South Fourth Street to the centerline of South Jute Street in the Nineteenth Ward of the City of Allentown.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 87 Mason Street from South Fourth Street to South Jute Street](#)

[Mason Street Vacation Staff Report](#)

[Letter from Irene Woodward from Planning Department regarding Mason Street from East Side of S. 4th Street to West Side of Jute Street - Street vacation](#)

[Mason Street Vacation Staff Report](#)

[Mason Street from East Side of S. 4th Street to West Side of Jute Street Picture](#)

[Letter from Mike Hanlon regarding Mason Street from East Side of S. 4th Street to West Side of Jute Street](#)

[Mason Street from the centerline of South Fourth Street to the centerline of South Jute Street Labels](#)

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

REFERRED TO PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

RESOLUTIONS FOR INTRODUCTION (Can be voted on or Referred to Committee):**NONE****NEW BUSINESS: NONE****GOOD AND WELFARE**

Ms. Candida Affa stated that she wants to address everyone out there that are listening or streaming or anyone that is here. As the president noted that she and Mr. Hendricks are on the board of the Parking Authority. She stated that they get monthly reports throughout the meeting. She stated that parking tickets are a necessary evil. She is sure everyone of her colleagues have gotten phone calls that ever they are not double parked, they are not double parking enough, or a citizen was just taking groceries in and they go a ticket for double parking. There was a situation that a person was going into work and they were taking things in and taking things out of the car. Obviously, the person had to be there for a while for the officer to come up, observe the car and give the ticket. It had to be a good five or 10 minutes. She stated that she just got a parking ticket going to Damascus. She got a ticket for street cleaning and had to pay it. This is the last report they got for July and they had 95 double parking tickets on Seventh Street. Total to date on Seventh Street, is 780 parking tickets. That is 140 better than all of 2020. The APD (Allentown Police Department) had 64 tickets. On Seventh Street alone, 95 double parking tickets and 780 up to date. Call for service is 24/7, except Saturdays and Sundays in one year it was 13,000 calls for service. She is here not to just defend the Parking Authority, but to try to understand how difficult it is in the city where 10 years ago or 20 years ago we did not have this major problem. Everybody has three or four cars. If you go down the street any day on Seventh Street or Walnut Street, it is packed. The Allentown Parking Authority is out there doing a job as the Allentown Police Department is also. They get \$13,000 a year for Calls for Service. It could be a call for booting or someone in their driveway. She just got a complaint from a doctor at an alley on 15th Street that he cannot get out because the person across the street constantly parks in front of his garage. He has called the Parking Authority and the Parking Authority has ticketed them and the Parking Authority says that if he tells them he is a doctor and he has an emergency, they will tow it. She stated that she and Mr. Hendricks are there to protect the citizens and to make sure that the Parking Authority is doing the right thing.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that he is one of the people who enacted the double parking tickets back in the day and it is a good deterrence. We have people that just abuse it. He stated that he does not have a problem. Basically, leave it up to the Police Department when they are around to give tickets for double parking. An attorney was complaining on having to pay \$75 to park in a garage for every month. The Parking Authority's

meeting are once a month at 12:00 noon.

Ms. Candida Affa stated yes and you can attend. it is at 12:00 noon, the fourth Wednesday of the month.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that it is on Sixth and Linden Streets.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that the one lady lived at Seventh Street was concerned because her residential parking was being taken away and she was being told she had to pay that \$75 a month to park in the lot. She could not afford that since she is on a fixed income. Do we know if that was resolved or the residential parking is being taken away.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that they have sent letters out. They have been working on that and formulating what the final plan will be. They now have a lot there. The way the law is written is when you have more than 50 percent of a block that is commercial business, residential parking no longer applies. The area on Seventh Street is 90 percent commercial business.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach asked if the Parking Authority working to possibly make it a little more attainable for the residents there.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that there are a lot of residents that live on the second floor.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that most buildings have residents and many who are low income. She asked about communication that some of them were involved. There was a conversation on social media on people who don't pay their parking tickets. Parking tickets that lead to arrests and then lead to incarceration. She knows there is an item number that says that someone can serve 10 days in jail for not paying. If you don't pay your tickets, can you go to jail.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that she spoke to John Morgan. The Parking Authority has no right to arrest anyone. The Allentown Police Department can.

Chief Charles Roca stated yes, but during this time in the pandemic it has been suggested that it would not be a wise idea. It is on the books, but the Police Department will use their discretion.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that she would like to remove that. She does not feel people should be in jail. She does not care if they owe \$1,000. You should not be sitting in jail because you owe parking tickets.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that all the states have it. It is not something new to Allentown. What do you do for a person that owes \$2,000 worth of parking tickets.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that would have to be a conversation that they have. She does not think that people should be sitting in a jail cell for not paying tickets.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were anything under Good and Welfare.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that the administration and City Council gave their deepest condolences of the loss of his mother. He stated that he knew if mother and knows his father. They are great people. He stated that Rhoda was a great educator in Allen High School and his two kids had her and they got good grades from her.

Mr. Julio Guridy thanked Mayor O'Connell for bringing that up. He stated that 911 is coming up and he stated that Council should do a Resolution or Proclamation.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that he agrees with Mr. Houck. He said the military was the primary focus of your talk.

Mr. Thomas Houck stated that there were a lot of veterans in the city and it will be appropriate for City Council.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that he does not disagree with him, but the brunt of the work goes to the first responders, the Police, Fire and paramedics. He stated that his sons was up there doing a job at Merrill Lynch. Our heart goes out. There was a parade in Easton on Saturday, Towers II Tunnel. The first responders were there along with military veterans. In America we have very short memories. We should not just remember on 911, but when we wake up with gratitude for the police, fire, and EMS. We should never forget.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that people are giving their lives here to keep us safe.

ADJOURNED: 7:38 PM

[15-4437](#)

Council Rules
Home Rule Charter
Contract Procedures

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