



Allentown

435 Hamilton Street
Allentown, Pa. 18101

Minutes - Final

City Council

Wednesday, March 16, 2022

6:30 PM

Council Chambers

Invocation

Pledge to the Flag

Roll Call

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

Courtesy of the Floor

Courtesy and Privilege of the Floor Rules

Mr. Michael Kaminski, 779 Benton Street, stated that his speech tonight is seven or eight years in the making. This governing body approved a lease for the water for the city of Allentown in 2014 or 2015. He has in front of him every water bill since the change over in 2015. He read the dates and amounts of his water bills. He stated that he is a single person living by himself and could only imagine what a family is paying. He stated that in his opinion that Council has a fiduciary responsibility to its taxpayers. A short-sided decision was made.

Ms. Renee Velasquez, 1649 Seidersville Road, Bethlehem, PA, stated that she is here today to beg Council. She belongs to a group called Mothers that Lost Their Child. She lost her son that was 29 years old was killed here in Allentown. She came down to Allentown all the time. She told the police numerous of times where the drug dealers are and where they needed to go and nothing was done about her son's murder. It was done at the LANTA Bus Station and you guys are building apartments that people can't afford. We need to look into saving people, not drug dealers, drug addicts. Build a building that they can go into and bring them back to life. She said her did not die of a drug overdose. He was an ex heroin user so we are going to judge him. They need help.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that she is sorry to hear about her son. Council will take that under consideration.

Ms. Renee Velazquez stated that she will be talking to the governor.

Ms. Katherine Hoffman, 1649 W. Linden Street, stated that she lived in

Allentown since 1987. She stated that her background is relevant. She has worked for nonprofits. She ran a program for the Conference of Churches and Emergency Services Clearing House. She worked for Head Start with parents on employability. She is currently working for Second Harvest Food Bank doing food stamp applications for people in our six county service area. She is not representing her current employment. She is just telling Council her background. She is representing herself and a group. Since they moved here which is in 1987, the situation for affordable housing has gotten worse and the homeless population has not been well served. She is here to talk about the incredible rents that people are having to pay. When she applied for the food stamp program, she noticed in the last year or two are paying \$1,000 a month and some families are paying \$1,700 or \$1,800 a month without utilities. That is crazy. People that make \$10 or \$12 an hour can't afford that. She sent letters to Mayor Tuerk and some of you on City Council about it. She stated that she has not gotten any responses. She stated that she left messages in their voicemail. Most of the voicemails were full and she spoke to Tawanna about that and she stated that she would notify you. She stated that she is very concern and she knows a lot of people and some of Council may remember Rooster Valentini. He was a wonderful person that worked with homeless people and working people that could not afford rents and other things. He is retired now. There is a lot of people that are working with low income people and workers in Allentown that need to be able to afford rent. It can't just be for banks and hospitals workers and high-rises. She is glad that Allentown has seen a renaissance, but that does not help working people in need of a place that is affordable. She stated that she knows that Ms. Affa is really concerned about slum landlords and so is she. She heard that some of them, for example: Joe Clark, she applied for food stamps for a family that was booted out of a house that the city had shutdown because it was not up to code so they were homeless. What she is asking for in general and stated that she knows that Allentown got \$39 million from the CARES Act and she is hoping that they can set aside a good stream of that money to pair with property developers or the Housing Authority to make to expand affordable housing. The number and affordability.

Mr. Dan Blount stated that he is a co-pastor at Ripple. He stated that his park is Valania. We talked about it for the last five or six years. We got money allocated to the park. He stated that he has not seen a shovel yet, but we have money. We have a much as \$1.8 million. If that is the case, someone has to be willing to do the job. His question is, what is happening with it because he gets tired of talking about Valania, Valania. He likes to be with the sister who just left talking about the homeless and their plights of not being able to live in a comfortable place.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that Council is going to be voting on a contract

to begin construction of the park tonight. It is on the agenda.

Mr. Brian Sling, Ironton Telephone and Keystone Metro Fiber, stated that they have read through the Allentown Vision 2030 Plan and they think they could be of assistance. If not just with advisement of or moving the needle as far as getting more connectivity for the kids in school, get home from school, and overall bandwidth throughput for the area of Allentown. Their plan is to blanket the city of Allentown with connectivity for both wire and wireless. They are building this network and they would like to partner with Allentown. That does not require anything from Allentown except for some conversations for them to work together. The new fiberoptic cable will be placed in the center city Allentown and would enable the schools, the businesses and everyone to have better broadband networking. Their plan is to work with municipalities. They have the technology to put together some private networks for the police and firemen, for the schools, where you can limit the connectivity for everybody to what the schools wanted them to see. They have the CBRS Network which is a newer technology as Citizen Band Network. It has been around forever. The US government just allowed them to buy pieces of that network and deploy it in different regions. Ironton Telephone has a portion of that CBRS Network that they would like to deploy in Allentown to enable the connectivity throughout downtown Allentown also for local businesses to make sure they can move forward. They have good IP connectivity. It has a Point of Sales Systems. They can advertise and have their systems running in a better format. They can connect IOB Devices for the city via cameras, the parking meters, and all sorts of autonomous vehicles and/or robots. They are speaking about putting kiosks locations that would have advertising or potentially free Wi-Fi for the people of Allentown. They are here to inform people and let them know what they are doing. They would like to potentially reach out to individual Councilperson that are interested in moving forward with any of these programs.

Ms. Dawn Godshall, 231 Tomahawk Trail - Northampton, PA - Executive Director of Community Action Lehigh Valley, stated that she is here today to put in a request to see some of the CARES or ARPA funding that they would like as an agency that serves the entire Lehigh Valley would like to see some of the funding go towards a state of the art youth center in Allentown. She did email Councilperson Hendricks, but did not get a response from him. She does not know if he ever got that. This state of the art youth center is not for Community Action. It is for the children of the city of Allentown. They know that most children get in trouble from the hours of 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM as they wait for their parents to get home. They wanted to propose a safe place for them to go and have fun. This center we would proposed to not only have basketball, but it would also have tutoring, homework help. They have to get their homework done before they can

receive any of the fun things that go along with it. It would be a place where they would learn how to play music. A place where they would be able to dance in hip-hop, ballet or any form of dance that they are interested in. A place to do art. A place to play soccer. She is a former producer for ABC news and so one of her favorite parts of this building is a place to do TV production. She stated that they would love to be able to teach them that. She grew up in foster homes and had a center like this one that she was able to go to and do her homework and have fund after school as well. She stated that she ended up graduating Manga Cum Laude and now run one of the largest nonprofits in the Lehigh Valley and as a person of color she is very proud of that. It made her who she is and she wants this able to be offered to the children of Allentown. It is not, again, for Community Action. It is for the kids that live here. They did a study about a year ago and the parents in the community said this is what out of all of the programs were most important and they wanted to see happen. She wanted to implore them as they are deciding to distribute the funding that they see that this is important for the kids in the city.

Ms. Candida Affa asked Ms. Godshall if she has a place in mind.

Ms. Dawn Godshall stated that they have been trying to get one of the schools from the Allentown School District being either McKinley or Cleveland. They did a feasibility study and said that they will get back to us after the feasibility study which has been done quite some time. She stated that she knows that Dr. Stanford needed some time to get his bearings and make some decisions and learn about the city and all the various schools. He said that he is still making his decision, but we are certainly interested in one of those two schools to purchase to make the community center.

Ms. Candida Affa asked if Ms. Godshall is talking about outside activity like softball.

Ms. Dawn Godshall stated that this will all be indoor.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that it is a great idea.

Mr. Edward John White, 1922 W. Highland Street, stated that he is not here as a member of the city of Allentown Council of Youth, but to state that Ms. Godshall made a very compelling presentation to the Allentown Council of Youth a week or two ago about this proposal. He encouraged her to present to City Council and he is here to support it as a member of the Allentown Citywide Initiative for Youth. This is the type of proposal that the Allentown Council of Youth mentioned in the report he gave about an hour ago for a Youth Center in the underserved community in downtown

Allentown. He encouraged them to take a serious look at it. It is involved in the Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley when they do something. They do their homework. They make a good presentation and he thinks it is compelling and the city should engage in serious conversations with the Allentown School District to encourage a partnership between the city, the school district and CACLV and any nonprofit organizations that wish to engage to make this a reality as the first of five new youth centers in the city of Allentown.

Jeani Garcia, 208 S. 13th Street, stated that she would like to follow with Ms. Godshall and Mr. White. She stated that she wrote this speech one year ago on February 21, 2021 in regards to the Community Center. She stated that she would like to wrap up today's press release by offering a personal thank you to the entire team who have made all of this possible. To the leadership who answered this call to action and to the community who would support this amazing coalition, you are a true meaning of it takes a village. Let's change the all to familiar status quo. The planning, the long hours, the numerous Zoom meetings that made all of this possible cannot go unnoticed or recognized. This community center is going to change the lives of many children who have access to programs created for them and with them in mind and heart. It would provide a safe place to be creative, build character, social skills that our community is hungry for. It is long overdue and is already see the powerful impact that it would make in our community in the lives of our children. Thriving, building and growing is not a privilege. It is a basic human right and our children deserves the opportunity to thrive in their community. Building impactful relationships with peers and mentors will pave the way of becoming successful adults who love their community and take a special pride of where they grew up. A safe place where they would remember in years to come. Most importantly, we are saving the lives that would continue to shape our neighborhoods and fill many leadership roles even some that are here today. Lives that can otherwise end in violence, addiction or prison. She stated that they are breaking generational curses and creating new norms. She stated that she knows her son Kareem, many other children and young adults who have lost to gun, gang violence, drug overdose, or the prison or to the school to prison pipeline system would benefit from this community center. This is prevention. Our children will be their own storytellers by changing the narrative into their words filled with creativity and security within themselves. She stated that she is super excited to be a part of this journey and can't wait to get us back to the basics of what community really means. Unity, it takes a village and she is so proud of hers.

Contract Approvals

[15-4962](#)

R36

Authorization for Contract with Asphalt Maintenance Solutions, Chemung

Supply Corp, ABE Materials, New Enterprise Stone & Lime Co., CrafcO, Inc. at the unit prices identified in the bid, for a total estimated budgeted sum of \$1,851.547.00 for road materials, multiple bids, awarded on unit prices.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R36 Road Materials](#)
[Resolution #30393](#)

Ms. Sarrah McNeil stated that this was done as Bid 2022 - 01. It was advertised on Public Purchase and accessed by 32 vendors. Seven proposals were received. The department is recommending an award to Asphalt Maintenance, Chemung Supply Corp, ABE Materials, New Enterprise Stone & Lime, CrafcO Co., Inc. The materials are estimated quantities based off of 2021. As such the cost of materials may vary throughout the year based on the department needs. The city has allocated \$1,851,547.00 in funds to cover the cost of the materials. We have successfully done business with these vendors before.

Ms. Cynthia Mota thanked Ms. McNeil and asked if there were any questions from the dais.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that he said he has seen these words estimated budget before. When is this project going to start?

Ms. Sarrah McNeil stated that she is not sure when exactly when it is going to start.

Mr. Leonard Lightner stated that this is not an actual project. This is actually the cost of materials. When Public Works is actually starting to do its street repairs and maintenance, this is where they are getting the materials from. The projects is going to start when spring happens, but there are several projects throughout the year. This is strictly nothing but material costs.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that the time they actually would start these projects, we could be looking at another half of million dollars.

Mr. Leonard Lightner stated no, that is our set price.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated it says estimated budget.

Mr. Leonard Lightner stated that it says estimated budget of what we are estimating of what we are going to do with the 100 projects that we have. That is the cost of just the materials and again where we are at right now with the materials we are going to do as much as we can with that amount of money. Now, it depends on how fast we do the projects and it also

depends on if anything else comes up. Could it be something that comes down in the future. With all the projects that we have lines up, this is going to be sufficient.

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

Enactment No: 30393

[15-4965](#)

R37

Authorization for a Contract with J. Smucker Contracting for \$845,968.00 to repair three (3) roofs for City of Allentown Buildings: Bridgeworks, City Hall and the City Garage, 2 bids.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R37 Repairs- J Smucker](#)

[Resolution #30394](#)

Ms. Sarrah McNeil stated that this was done as Bid 2022 - 02. It was advertised on Public Purchase and accessed by 26 vendors and two proposals were received. The department is recommending an award to J. Smucker Contracting as they were the lowest bidder. The cost of the contract was \$845,968.00. The city has successfully done business with this vendor before.

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if there were any questions from the dais.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated just a comment. This amount of money was already preapproved when we did the infrastructure with the ARPA money, correct.

Mr. Leonard Lightner said correct.

Ms. Sarrah McNeil stated that is correct.

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

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

Enactment No: 30394

[15-4963](#)

R38

Authorization for Contract with Flyway Excavating, Inc. in the amount of \$1,798,365.00 for the Valania Park, two bids.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R38 Flyway](#)

[Resolution #30395](#)

Ms. Sarrah McNeil stated that this was done as Bid 2022 - 04. It was advertised on Public Purchase and accessed by 46 vendors and two proposals were received. The department is recommended an award to Flyway Excavating. The cost of the contract is \$1,798,365.00 for the improvements at Valania Park.

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if there were any questions from Council or the public.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that this is well overdue and finally it is going to happen.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked for it to be put on record how many times it was put out to bid and the problems we went through in getting bids on this and received a lot of criticism for this. It was in no lack of trying. He apologized to the community that we could not get it done sooner. Unfortunately, the pandemic and the difficulty because no one would bid on it.

Ms. Sarrah McNeil stated that this is the third time that it was put out. Unfortunately, contractors could not receive product in enough time to fulfill this project or they just did not have enough crew to get out to do this massive project. They are very thankful that their third try got them with some contractors beforehand. They really tried to get it out there. This is the third try that we actually got response.

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked when do you foresee this starting.

Mr. Leonard Lightner stated where they are right now. He explained to Council and to the community. They are in the final stages of the approval of the land development. They are just waiting for that final piece. Once that goes through, permits will be issued. They are in conversation right now with the contractor to find out again, staffing wise, what they are prepared for and the materials that would give an actual start date. Their plan is to start this once they have a commitment from them which will be hopefully early spring or mid spring. Once they get that going we are waiting to get from them the exact amount of time it is going to take. He stated that his plan to get it pushed through and started by early spring. As soon as they get an exact start date, they will notify them all and notify the community to let them know when it is starting and the timeline for completion.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated to Mr. Blount that she will personally let him know when they are going to do the ribbon cutting, you will be a part of that because you have been a great advocate. She asked if there were any other questions from the dais or the public.

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

Enactment No: 30395

[15-4964](#)

R39

Authorization for Contract with Buckman's, Inc. for various pool chemicals for an estimated budget of \$30,000.00, competitively, two bidders.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R39 Buckman's](#)
[Resolution #30396](#)

Ms. Sarrah McNeil stated that this was done as Bid 2022 - 08. It was advertised on Public Purchase and accessed by 21 vendors. Two proposals were received. The department is recommending an award to Buckman's, Inc. The city has allocated \$30,000 to cover the cost of pool chemicals for 2022. The city has successfully done business with this vendor before.

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

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

Enactment No: 30396

[15-4966](#)

R40

Authorization for Contracted price increase with Edwards Business Systems for \$25,792.05, previously bid for maintenance services for the City printers, increase based on usage.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R40 Edwards C22-000015](#)
[Resolution #30397](#)

Ms. Sarrah McNeil stated that the recommendation is for a contract consideration and increase of 10 percent or more on an existing contractual sum. The request in estimated sum increases to \$25,792.05 are various printers throughout the city for their maintenance agreement. This is an annual automatic renewal and based solely on our usage.

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if there were any questions from the dais.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that if he recalls in the budget process, it was roughly this amount in the budget for the initial contract for 2022. He stated now, he is seeing the city is basically doubling it.

Ms. Sarrah McNeil stated that no, the city budgeted for this. It threw the contract over 10 percent in our system so the Purchasing Department has to bring it to Council for approval.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated OK. So it is 10 percent we had in the budget.

Mr. Leonard Lightner stated no, the city had that budgeted.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that he knows and that is what he is saying. Why are we discussing it again if we already had it budgeted and we passed the budget.

Ms. Sarrah McNeil stated that the city still has to approve it because it is still in our contracts system. In the Contracts Module, it is throwing that Contract over 10 percent. We still have to bring it to Council for approval.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that they are sort of treating it as a Change Order.

Mr. Leonard Lightner stated like a Change Order, but it is budgeted for that amount. Just for clarification, it is in our contract that 10 percent increase each year. That is what they are doing letting Council know that it is in the contract, but we just have to go through this process.

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

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

Enactment No: 30397

Minutes of Previous Meeting

[15-4961](#) February 2, 2022 City Council Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [February 2, 2022 City Council Meeting Minutes](#)

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

[15-4969](#) March 2, 2022 City Council Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [March 2, 2022 City Council Meeting Minutes](#)

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

Communications: NONE

Old Business: NONE

REPORTS**Special Council Meeting: Council President Mota**

Council will have a special meeting to review Bill 16 being introduced this evening on March 23 at 6 PM in Council Chambers.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that she had a planned vacation since January and won't be here. She requested them to push it. She will be back on the 30th.

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked Mr. Hanlon if that is ok.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that they will schedule it for after that or before that.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated after. Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that they can do it on the 22nd.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that they have a lot of meetings.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that this is for the 23rd and she will not be here.

Mr. Michael Hanlon asked if they wanted to do it on the 31st.

Budget and Finance: Chair Siegel, Hendricks, Santos

The Committee has not met since the last council meeting. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 31st at 5:30 PM.

Community and Economic Development: Chair Gerlach, Siegel, Mota

The Committee has not met last Wednesday; the next meeting has not been scheduled.

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

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

Parks and Recreation: Chair Affa, Gerlach, Santos

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

Public Safety: Chair Hendricks, Zucal, Affa

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

Public Works: Chair Zucal, Affa, Hendricks

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

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

The Committee met this evening, the next meeting is scheduled for April 6 at 6 PM to review the Arts Commission annual report.

Controller's Report (3 minutes)

Mr. Jeffrey Glazier stated that he will touch base on the January P-Card Report. The February P-Card Report was released today and sent to Mr. Hanlon and the administration. He stated that Council got a copy and advised them to at their leisure go peruse it. They reviewed 57 statements for a total of \$158,000. Of the 57 statements, they were made up of 309 invoices. There are a lot of invoices that they review on these statements. The Controller's office had questions and concerns on 10 of them.

Mayor's Report (3 minutes)

Mr. Leonard Lightner stated that on behalf of the Mayor they want to bring up a few items. Last week they had a Swearing In Ceremony for 21 officers. They extended a thank you to Council Vice President Zucal and Mr. Hendricks for being a part of that and spearheaded that and making sure that comes to fruition. There is another swearing ceremony coming up in June and they will make sure everyone is notified and would love for Council to be a part of that and participate. Tomorrow, March 17 at 11:45 AM, there is an Irish Flag Raising Ceremony outside of city hall. On March 24, at 6:00 PM for the first and sixth wards at the America on Wheels venue, the city is having an open house. It is a community neighborhood planning for the first and sixth wards. The community was a part of their planning efforts for their neighborhood. There is an invitation for you to be there. On March 31st at 11:30 AM for the first time that we are aware of, there will be a Trans Flag Raising Ceremony here at city hall. The mayor is extending that invitation for the community and for you guys to be there as well. Last week, the mayor also had a meeting with the eastside. This week, he is meeting with members of the Latino Community to talk about a Latino Advisory Committee and next week he will also be meeting with members of the African American Community to talk about an African American Advisory Committee. There will be an invitation for Council if they want to participate in that or have questions or concerns reach out to the Mayor's office. The community was a part of their planning efforts for their neighborhood. There is an invitation for you to be there. On March 31st at 11:30 AM for the first time that we are aware of, there will be a Trans Flag Raising Ceremony here at city hall. The mayor is extending that invitation for the community and for you guys to be there as

well. Last week, the mayor also had a meeting with the eastside. This week, he is meeting with members of the Latino Community to talk about a Latino Advisory Committee and next week he will also be meeting with members of the African American Community to talk about an African American Advisory Committee. There will be an invitation for Council if they want to participate in that or have questions or concerns reach out to the Mayor's office.

[15-4975](#) Controller Reports

Attachments: [PCard Review - Dec 2021](#)

[PCard Review - Jan 2022](#)

[Bank Rec Nov 2021](#)

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE (To be Voted On):

[15-4941](#) Bill 14
Amends Chapter 19, Civil Service Board, of the Codified Ordinances. The Ordinance incorporates Internal Operating Rules of the City of Allentown Civil Service Board

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 14 Civil Service Board Operational Rules](#)

[Amended Bill 14](#)

[Civil Service Rules](#)

[Ordinance #15797](#)

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked the Committee Chair to speak in regards to this.

Ms. Natalie Santos stated that this bill was forwarded favorably.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that it was forwarded favorably with a suggested amendment.

SECTION ONE: City Council hereby adopts the attached Internal Operating Rules of the City of Allentown Civil Service Board: SECTION TWO: Severability. If any specific provision of this ordinance is found to be invalid, and the remaining portions of this shall remain in full force and effect. SECTION 3: Enactment and Effective Date. This Ordinance shall become effective 10 days after final passage

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

Mr. Leonard Lightner stated no comments.

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

A motion was made by Joshua Siegel, seconded by Daryl Hendricks, that this Bill be amended to change SECTION ONE: City Council hereby adopts the attached Internal Operating Rules of the City of Allentown Civil Service Board: SECTION TWO: Severability. If any specific provision of this ordinance is found to be invalid, and the remaining portions of this shall remain in full force and effect. SECTION 3: Enactment and Effective Date. This Ordinance shall become effective 10 days after final passage. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Enactment No: 15797

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

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

Enactment No: 15797

CONSENT AGENDA

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

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

[15-4951](#)

R41

Sewage Planning Module for the 414 South Carlisle Street

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R41 414 South Carlisle Street - Sewage Planning Module](#)

[414 Carlisle Planning Module Resolution Request](#)

[Resolution #30398](#)

[Signed Sewage Planning Documents for 414 S. Carlisle Street - Resolution #30398](#)

Enactment No: 30398

[15-4958](#)

R42

Sewage Planning Module for the 1003 N. Tacoma Street

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R42 1003 N. Tacoma Street - Sewage Planning Module](#)

[Sewer Planning Module - 1003 N. Tacoma](#)

[Resolution #30399](#)

[Signed Sewage Planning Documents for 1003 N. Tacoma - Resolution #30399](#)

Enactment No: 30399

RESOLUTIONS FOR FINAL PASSAGE (To be Voted On):[15-4950](#)

R43

Approves four transfers: (1) \$100,000 in Community and Economic Development for funds needed for the Covid Positive Placement; (2) \$36,603.17 in Fire Administration for Year End Negative Balance in Fire Pension Due to an Adjustment posted on 2/4/2022; (3) \$26,846.00 in Community and Economic Development for a 30 Foot Christmas Tree Replacement; (4) \$8,074.50 – Office of the Mayor to Create a (72) Account within the Mayor's Budget to allow for the Purchase of Furniture for the Mayor's Suite.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R43 Transfer Funds](#)

[Year End Negative Balance in Fire Pension Due To An Adjustment Posted on 2-4-2022](#)
[30 Foot Christmas Tree Replacement](#)
[Create a 72 Account Within the Mayor's Budget To Purchase Furniture for the Mayor's Suite](#)
[Funds Needed For The Covid Positive Placement](#)
[Resolution #30400](#)

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

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

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

Enactment No: 30400

[15-4967](#)

R44

Designates the Mayor and Finance Director as approved official(s) to execute all documents pertaining to PennDOT Multimodal Grant Award of Eight Hundred Thirty Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty (\$830,750) to Support the 15th Street Corridor Traffic Signal Upgrade Project

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R44 15TH Street Traffic Authorization](#)

[Resolution #30401](#)

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

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

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

Enactment No: 30401

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

[15-4968](#)

Bill 16

Amending Chapter 5, Administration of Government, Article 1, Administration Generally, § 5-21 Contracts, by adding certain qualification and performance standards contractors bidding on certain city projects must meet, in a new Section entitled: I. Requirements for Construction Contracts. The requirements provide that all contractors and subcontractors that perform work valued at over \$200,000 on a City of Allentown construction project shall meet certain certification requirements inclusive of issues related to bonding, void of any tax delinquencies or failures on past projects, no past wage or labor violations, OSHA training, a Class A Apprenticeship Program, subcontractor responsibilities, Lehigh Valley labor requirements; and the legislation also includes provisions related to waivers of such requirements.

Sponsors: Gerlach, Mr. Siegel, Mr. Zucal and Santos

Attachments: [Bill 16 Contractor Requirements](#)

[Councilperson Zucal's Proposal](#)

[City Data](#)

[Contracts Procedures](#)

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

Mr. Dennis Campbell, ABC Building Contractors, 895 Marcon Boulevard, stated that the language that was just read off for the new proposed with some of the items are fine. If you have the bonding capabilities, the insurance capabilities and you can show that you performed work and meet all that criteria, you don't need a contractor proposal in here to have a Class A apprenticeship. You covered all of that. The city of Allentown has met their fiduciary responsibility. Your contracting division has done excellent work over the years. He stated that he worked here a lot of decades and they always have done a tremendous job. The set of those proposals all cover what you need to protect yourselves. You do not need a Class A Apprenticeship Program. When you look at the two groups that are going back and forth, they are know who the elephant that is in the room. We are all vying for the same thing, people. He knows that ABC has reached out. He knows himself. There has been radio silence. He never got a response back saying go away Mr. Campbell. We don't want to talk to you. We are vying for the same group. ABC Amerishop Contractors

represents 85 percent of the construction workforce. We are just asking for you to bring us in. Let's sit down. We are both going for the same goal. We all need people. We want them to work safely. They are making a great living, especially on the rated projects. It is just not necessary. It is leaving them out. He thinks back on the Covid era and we are going through this and sitting around talking about this. How about a new roof. A new hot water heater. New generator. New HVAC. Competitive bids from contractors in my area. He did not require one of those guys to be a part of an apprenticeship program and they did a heck of a job. He stated that everything in his house is working and working just fine. He stated that the point that all the work that they do on the highest asset that we own which is our home, our residence. We all strive for that. We work for that. That is going to be a means of retirement. We are not going to take a chance on somebody doing shoddy work, especially at today's prices. He did not have anybody there with an approved apprenticeship program and everything worked out fine. We ask for inclusion and we are delaying it a bit. We would love to talk to you about the language to be a part of it.

Mr. Nick Pasek (sp), 2132 S. 12th Street, stated that he is also against this. Council mentioned earlier how hard it was to find contractors for the projects that you were speaking of. When you pass this, it will eliminate a large majority of contractors that could do work around here. Safety is paramount among all the ABC members as well. For decades, people are doing really safe, responsible good work on time, under budget and safe in the city of Allentown. This will pretty much eliminate good people. Taxpayers in the city from working here. He stated that he just doesn't think it is fair.

Mr. John Schlenner (sp) stated that he represents a small business that has successfully supplied, delivered, and installed products within buildings all along Hamilton Street itself, including the Lehigh County Courthouse and other buildings on Hamilton Street. Voting for this Bill will adversely affect his organization. It is a 15 person organization that has been around for over 35 years. We train our staff. They are factory authorized installers. Some of these folks have been around in our company for 10, 30 plus years. He described the number of installations along with 45 counties in Pennsylvania. By passing this bill, your city is the only one that is not going to take advantage of our expertise, ability to deliver on time and on budget.

Mr. Terry Crouthamel, Asphalt Maintenance Solutions, stated that he was here before and spoke. At the beginning of the meeting you voted unanimously to award contract to them, but if they decide to pass this RCO, there is a potential that he would not be able to do business with them again. The comment that was made is that the city has successfully done business with this vendor in the past. He stated that he is just hoping that

they take that under consideration. Just because we don't have an apprenticeship program doesn't mean they are not a good contractor. Doesn't mean they don't take good care of their people. Doesn't mean our people don't make good money. It just means that you are going to limit the pool of potential bidders. He agrees with the other speaker. There were some other points that he was going to make is that this ordinance that you want to pass. Would you consider doing that with your own funds. If you were a citizen of the city of Allentown and you were going to go and have your driveway paved would you put the same restriction on contractors that were going to go do work for you. If the answer is no, why would you do it with public funds. You guys are supposed to be good stewards of everybody's money. It doesn't mean when you are soliciting for contractors. You want a quality contractor. You want somebody who has a good reputation. You want somebody that does good work, but you don't want somebody to take advantage of you and charge you more than what you should be paying. That is what is going to happen here, if you pass this. You are just going to limit the pool of people that can bid and you are going to throw out a lot of the vendors that have been doing business in the past. He hopes that they consider that here and do the right thing for everybody.

Mr. James Whitney asked why is the Allentown Parking Authority and the Allentown Housing Authority exempt from this Bill.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that the Solicitor should answer that question.

Mr. Matthew Kloiber stated under the authority of the Charter and the applicable laws that the city does not have the authority to impose that on those authorities because they are created by the state and they are agents of the state.

Mr. James Whitney stated that the Parking Authority came to the city of Allentown and told the city of Allentown that with this ordinance in place that future projects would be almost impossible to build. Is that true? They come to the city with concerns over ballooning costs.

Mr. Leonard Lightner stated that from an administration standpoint he cannot answer that. He has not spoken with them. He does not know the answer to that.

Mr. James Whitney stated that it was in the newspaper that they did. We have two members that are a part of the Allentown Parking Authority here on Council. Why did the Allentown Parking Authority ask to be exempted from this Bill?

Ms. Candida Affa stated that she and Mr. Hendricks were at the meeting

and they panicked actually that they would have to disregard so many contractors. The spiral deck needs a lot of work. During the meeting, they literally panicked. She stated that Mr. Whitney is on the right track with this. They don't want this to happen because it is going to cost them a lot more money.

Mr. James Whitney stated that the gentleman before him stated that if they would implement a Bill like this in their own household then why implement it from the city of Allentown. If this isn't a good Bill for the Housing Authority then why is it a good Bill for the rest of Allentown. If it is not a good Bill for the Parking Authority, why would it be a good Bill for the rest of Allentown. He thinks the answer is that it is not. When contracts come up for approval, there is nobody taking a closer look at those and being a better advocate for the taxpayer than Ed Zucal. He encourage them to be an advocate for the taxpayer now before we start seeing these contracts come back with one bid or no bids. He stated that he is sure that they have the best intentions for why they are doing this. It seems as though some people have motives connected to Campaign Financing perhaps. He thinks that some people have motives related to things far beyond contract safety. If you took this passion that you are attacking this issue with and applied that passion and voracity toward public safety or any of the things that are actually hurting Allentonians we could do a lot of good and hopefully prevent the tragedy this summer. This is not the thing to be focusing on. It is ridiculous.

Mr. Justin Grimshaw, Lehigh Valley Building Trades, stated that he was not going to speak this evening. They heard it all before. We sat in this room for two and a half hours. He had to come up and speak. It reminds him when he sits at home and watch Fox News with the fear factor that is going on. That is what it reminds him of. It is a guy getting work on his house and apparently he has a very big house because it was over \$200,000. He stated that he does not want to say much tonight. He will be back on the 31st.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that is the great thing about Courtesy of the Floor, right. It is an opportunity for people to speak on what they feel that is important. Bill 16 will be a Special Meeting on March 31st. She stated that she would like to refer it to a Special Council Meeting. The Committee of the Whole.

REFERRED TO A SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING - COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

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

NEW BUSINESS: NONE**GOOD AND WELFARE**

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that she would like to say that she had an opportunity to do a Ride Along last week with our Police Department. She encouraged other City Council members to do so. She congratulated the Police Department for doing such an amazing job. She got inside one of the cars and it was just amazing. Many phone calls. We went to the southside and right away it was a three car accident. We were there in a matter of minutes. They received another call about a child that was wondering around Center City. The officer that she was with did an amazing job. He had all these amazing gadgets for children. He even put Sponge Bob when they found the little kid. They were there almost for two hours to knock on people's doors and trying to make sure that the child was not scared. It was just amazing. It was just amazing. They got another call about a people that had some mental health issues. The level of calls were constant. It was so cool that she got to see that. It was a lot of work. A lot of energy. A lot of compassion from the officer. It was just amazing and would like to see other Councilmembers take advantage and be able to experience what she experienced that night. She went home exhausted. She just wanted to go to bed. It was just amazing.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that she actually has done three ride alongs and nothing has changed since she did it 10 years ago until now. It is responding and responding and responding. There is not much patrolling because we just have to keep responding. To patrol the neighborhood and get to know the neighborhood is almost totally impossible. That is why we are going to try to get at least 10 more officers by the end of this year. She stated to Ms. Mota, as you notice it is the calls.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that it was nonstop. One thing after another. One other thing she would like everyone to know is that the car that she was in with the officer had duct tape. That really shows that we need to invest. We need to do better. She has pictures to proof that it was duct tape.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that she needs to explain that it wasn't because they could not repair it. They could not get the part.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that is why she wants him to explain why it was duct taped.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that they sent out for a part that was not available. Until it arrived, they had to use duct tape for the part.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that was not the only car. It is time to invest.

Ms. Candida Affa stated what is happening here even for ourselves, you try to get a part for your car, forget about it. You won't get it until June. We are also having the same problems. She stated that she has a friends that can't have her car fixed for six months. It is the time we live in right now. Try to get your car fixed.

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if there were any other questions for the dais.

ADJOURNED: 7:43 PM

[15-4437](#) Council Rules
Home Rule Charter
Contract Procedures

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