



Allentown

435 Hamilton Street
Allentown, Pa. 18101

Minutes - Final

City Council

Wednesday, September 20, 2017

7:00 PM

Council Chambers

Invocation: Councilperson Guridy

Pledge to the Flag

Rollcall

Present: 7 - Ray O'Connell, Daryl Hendricks, Candida Affa, Roger MacLean, David McGuire, Julio Guridy, and Cynthia Mota

Courtesy of the Floor

Courtesy and Privilege of the Floor Rules

Mr. Michael Kaminski, 779 Benton Street, stated that he sent an email to Councilmembers Affa, O'Connell, and Hendricks stating that Benton Street Park is being neglected by the city parks workers. He forwarded pictures. They left 10 - 15 foot of grass growing. He asked what the rules are and stated that he has a surveyor from Home Depot. He asked the status of the Redevelopment Authority.

Mr. Ray O'Connell asked Ms. Fruhwirth to answer. Karen Beck-Pooley was in charge of that. At the time when Mr. Snyder was the Solicitor he said they can handle in their office.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated when they were having the committee for the Inclusionary Zoning, Mr. Lightner indicated that the work of the Redevelopment Authority will be taken over by Community and Economic Development department.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that they still meet and if you go to the city's calendar you will see when they meet.

Mr. Ray O'Connell stated that CEDC is taking over their jurisdiction.

Mr. Lou Hershman asked about if the Stormwater charge is a tax or a fee. He talked about the LST tax. Do you know what is going to happen to me or you as homeowner?

Mr. Ray O'Connell stated that it is a fee. It is not going to cost the school district \$500,000. There will be more public meetings about it. He stated

that his understanding is that it will be presented with the budget.

Ms. Amber Clark, 1323 W. Tremont Street, stated that she is a parent and her daughter is attending kindergarten. Her daughter started school on August 28 and every day there are people that disregard the stop arm and flashing red lights. It is in front of Ramos Elementary School. She has taken pictures of countless cars. She is asking Council for better police presence at the schools, try to find stop arm cameras on the buses, and healthier fines and punishments.

Mr. Ray O'Connell stated that student safety is important to us.

Mr. Roger MacLean stated that this is something that has been going on forever. Assistant Chief Struss is sitting over there and I saw her writing it down.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that we don't have anything to do with setting the fines. That is done by the state legislators. It is strict. You don't have to have many violations with a school bus to lose your license.

Mr. Roger MacLean stated that the school district will have to take care of the cameras.

Ms. Amber Clark stated that part of the law in Pennsylvania you have to stop within 10 feet. In many states, it is 25 feet.

Mr. Ray O'Connell stated that Assistant Chief Struss took notes and there is a school board meeting on Thursday. The school district sub-contracts with First Students.

Mr. Roger MacLean stated that he knows George Hogland, and asked if Sergeant McDonald is doing the same thing?

Assistant Chief Gail Struss stated that she doesn't know, but can find out.

Ms. Tinku Khanwalkar, 208 N. Marshall Street - Environmental Advisory Council, stated that she is grateful to the city for involving the Environmental Advisory Council regarding the stormwater fee. If we don't have some kind of program in place to deal with the issues we will continue going deeper into the hole. We still have three vacancies. We desperately request Council to fill at least the Council's position. She thanked Dr. McGuire for attending the meeting and bringing to their attention a property on South Mountain that may be developed as an apartment complex. EAC doesn't believe it is zoned for multi property use. They are requesting City Council to commission a study of the natural resource values. She stated that the

EAC has been looking at the best mechanism for the downtown area to have some Ordinance or Resolution for the Planning Commission to incorporate into their guidelines for bird mitigation measures.

Mr. Ray O'Connell asked for recommendations for the open Council seat.

Ms. Tinku Kahnwalkar stated that people have not submitted their resumes. We desperately need more people.

Mr. Dennis Pearson, 942 E. Tilghman Street - president of the East Allentown Rittersville Association, stated coming here he noticed a beautiful road coming from Tilghman Street to West Bethlehem. He stated that a big hole in the pervious highway. Our friend at LCA is responsible for not replacing a leaking valve. They are tearing up the road in order to replace the valve. He talked about the stormwater fee tax and the city of Allentown has a land value tax and that encourages people with land to put buildings on there in order to reduce their so-called tax. The stormwater tax will counter that.

Mr. David Keshl, Wabash Street, stated that Mountainville 30 had some problems with cars parking on grass and thanked Mr. Hendricks for getting them removed.

Mr. Ray O'Connell thanked Mr. Keshl for saying that.

Mr. John Zutjc, 935 N. 17th Street, asked about his neighbor that lives at 929 N. 17th Street that doesn't care about his bamboo being extremely high. He asked if anybody seen the place in person. It reduces the value of the whole block.

Mr. Ray O'Connell stated that the bamboo issue is Bill 54 tonight and Bill 56 tonight. You can complain about a neighbor that has high weeds and bamboo, but to talk about the Bamboo Ordinance Bill 54 and Bill 56 are on the agenda.

Mr. John Ingram, N. Cedar Crest Boulevard, stated that about a year and a half ago he married into an extended Puerto Rican family and this morning from 4:00 AM to just before coming to the City Council meeting his wife and stepson have been unable to reach their relatives, families or neighbors by phone. Most of Puerto Rico is almost completely devastated. A Category 4 hurricane had a direct hit from the eye wall of Puerto Rico. He stated that the city is 50 percent Hispanic and majority is ethnic Puerto Rican. Keep Puerto Rico in our prayers in thoughts.

Mr. Ray O'Connell asked Mr. Ingram if he was here for the invocation and

stated that Mr. Guridy did a fine job keeping Puerto Rico in our prayers. We will pray for Puerto Rico.

Mr. Ken Laudenslager, 721 W. Cumberland Street, stated that as we are approaching budget season he wants Council to put a moratorium on new park development until we secure preservation on our iconic structures in the park.

Approval of Minutes:

Yes: 7 - Ray O'Connell, Daryl Hendricks, Candida Affa, Roger MacLean, David McGuire, Julio Guridy, and Cynthia Mota

[15-1852](#) September 6, 2017 Approval of Contracts Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [72 September 6, 2017 City Council Approval of Contracts Professional Services Meeting Minutes](#)

[15-1866](#) September 6, 2017 City Council Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [73 September 6, 2017 City Council Meeting Minutes](#)

[15-1876](#) September 13, 2017 City Council Meeting Minutes - Stormwater Management Program

Attachments: [75 September 13, 2017 City Council Meeting Minutes - Stormwater Management Program](#)

Old Business

A motion was made by Roger J. MacLean, seconded by Ray O'Connell, that Council Suspend The Rules, Introduce and Vote on R163. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Ray O'Connell, Daryl Hendricks, Candida Affa, Roger MacLean, David McGuire, Julio Guridy, and Cynthia Mota

[15-1861](#) R163
Police Officer Appointment
Robert Rudolph, II, Easton, PA

Attachments: [R163 Police Officer Appointment](#)

Assistant Chief Gail Struss stated that this is Robert Rudolph. He is 33 years of age from Easton. He has a Bachelor's degree in Arts and Sciences. He is a member of the Pennsylvania National Guard. He will need the Police Academy. He is not Act 120 certified. This will bring us up to 211 officers.

Mr. Ray O'Connell asked if there were any questions regarding hiring another Police Officer. He asked if there were any questions from the public.

Yes: 7 - Ray O'Connell, Daryl Hendricks, Candida Affa, Roger MacLean, David McGuire, Julio Guridy, and Cynthia Mota

Enactment No: 29552

Communications

My Brother's Keeper Update - Commissioner David Jones

Mr. David Jones thanked Council for inviting him. His goal and objective is to give an update on the initiative. This board had passed a Resolution in support of in 2015. In 2014, President Obama launched the My Brother's Keeper Initiative. The purpose was to address the persistent opportunity gap faced by young men of color and depending on what part of the country you are in it would take on many different shapes and hues. Here in Lehigh Valley it is particularly and primarily African American and Hispanic males. The purpose is to ensure that all young people can reach their full potential. He talked about the Mayor asking him to lead this initiative. There are six key objectives and are built upon this particular milestones: that a kid enters school ready to learn, they are able to read by third grade, graduate from high school, and is ready for college and a career, completing secondary education or training, successfully enter the workforce, and reduce violence. They have to follow the yellow brick road. We broken them down in four major blocks. We are focusing on the high school graduation piece and the adult transition. They are looking for community partnerships. He talked about the corporate partners: Air Products, PPL, St. Luke's, and Lehigh Valley Hospital Network. They work with us to create a platform of excellence. He talked about the Youth Career Summit and being students to the urban core and bring them out to the campus of LCCC. We expose them to 15 different career fields and those kids with their guidance counselors and teachers at school, they pick three workshops they will be exposed to and the fourth workshop is to tour the college campus. He stated that they (My Brother's Keeper) were able to do good work. He stated that they were able to assist the Allentown School District with its first ever Equity Conference last year at the PPL Center. He provided the numbers in 2016: The county provided a \$140,000 grant, the city of Allentown put forth \$10,000. The city of Allentown started this initiative and promised of \$75,000. \$75,000 - \$100,000 went to Lehigh County Community Foundation. The total money that went to programs was \$26,000 and we were able to impact 13,080 kids in a positive way. A lot of this was on buses. The balance that we have left over is \$109,000. The goal for us is the county will be making another contribution to the initiative. He asked the city to honor its commitment. He talked about what's coming up next. We tried to figure out the gaps of opportunity to make impact that is doing things that other people are not doing. We need to create sustainable mentoring programs. We want to do a Trade Summit. He talked about a summer academic enrichment program, math and coding camps. We are not just investing in them, we are investing in

our future and our own stability.

Mr. Ray O'Connell stated Mr. Jones it is always a pleasure. I know a little bit about the program because we met several months ago when this whole thing started. He stated that as a former educator in the Allentown School District for 38 years this program is dear to my heart, I always say that the youth is our future. If we don't help the young what are we going to look forward to down the road. He stated 1,380 students comes out to \$53 per student. Money very well spent to invest in a child. This program will take our kids and our school district to bring mentors to them. This will show them the pathways to success. It is time for us to put our money where our mouth is. Let's take action. He stated during budget time he will propose an amendment to the budget to give money and allocate money to the program.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that he will joining Mr. O'Connell on that amendment to the budget to see if we can give a fair amount to this program. This is building security for our children. He stated that he rather invest \$60,000 to 1,380 students.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that being a longtime member of our law enforcement community he heard a statistic that was very troubling. In California, they project how many prison cells they are going to need based on how many third graders that are not reading at grade level for the future. It was very troubling and very eye opening. He stated that he will also commit.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that she agrees with the rest of the Councilmembers. She stated that since the beginning she has been a great supporter of My Brother's Keeper. I tried to be an advocate when it came to funding. It is sad to say that you only got \$10,000. When it comes to budget season, let's see what happens. Keep doing the great job you are doing.

Mr. Roger MacLean stated that I became involved with youth when I was in the Police Department and is a member of Fight Crimes, Invest in Kids for quality pre-school for kids so that they are ready to achieve when they hit school. This is like a graduate program.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that she will also support this program. She stated that she is impressed with the doctor day and the police workshops. She stated that she was impressed to see the difference when the kids come in and when they left. It is wonderful.

Mr. David Jones said someone asked how do you quantify success on a

single day event. It is simple, on that bus ride home if two things happened in a young person's head and heart that says my present does not have to be my future. I know what it is like to live and not have hope. We underestimate the power of hope and dreams.

[15-1881](#) My Brother's Keeper

Attachments: [LVMBK Overview 1](#)

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

Council Rules - Committee Review: In August and September of each year, the Standing committees shall conduct a public meeting where the administration shall review their budget priorities, goals and objectives, successes and failures, capital projects and any personnel or organizational changes being considered for the ensuing fiscal year.

Committee of the Whole

Council met on September 13 at 6 PM and reviewed the creation of storm water management fund and a utility fee.

Budget and Finance: Chair Guridy, Hendricks, Mota

The Committee has not met since the last Council meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for September 27 at 6 PM.

Community and Economic Development: Chair McGuire, Guridy, Mota

The Committee met on September 13 with the Public Works Committee and referred items on tonight's committee; a future meeting is scheduled for October 4 at 5 PM.

Human Resources, Administration and Appointments: Chair Affa, MacLean, McGuire

The Committee has not met since the last council meeting; a future meeting is scheduled for September 27th at 5:30 PM.

Parks and Recreation: Chair Mota, Affa, O'Connell

The Committee met this evening; a future meeting has not yet been scheduled.

Public Safety: Chair Hendricks, MacLean, Affa

The Committee has not met since the last council meeting; a future meeting is scheduled for October 11 at 6 PM.

Public Works: Chair MacLean, McGuire, O'Connell

The Committee met this evening and on September 13 and forwarded items to tonight's agenda; the next meeting is scheduled for October 11 at 5 PM.

Rules, Chambers, Intergovernmental Relations and Strategy: Chair O'Connell, Hendricks, Guridy

The Committee has not met since the last council meeting; a meeting will be scheduled shortly to deal with some pending legislation.

City Controller's Report

NONE

APPOINTMENTS:

<u>15-1858</u>	Name	Authority/Board/Commission	Term to Expire
	David K. Bausch	Health Board	01/08/2023

Attachments: [Heath Board - David K Bausch](#)

Ms. Candida Affa asked if there were any comments from her colleagues.

Mr. Ray O'Connell stated that David Bausch is a well-known figure in the community. He was a Lehigh County Executive and been on the Health Board for many years.

Ms. Candida Affa asked if there were any comments from the public.

Yes: 7 - Ray O'Connell, Daryl Hendricks, Candida Affa, Roger MacLean, David McGuire, Julio Guridy, and Cynthia Mota

Enactment No: 29551

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE (To be Voted On):

<u>15-1836</u>	Bill 53 Public Works, this evening Amending the 2017 Capital Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Two Hundred Thirty-Five Thousand (\$235,000) Dollars as a result of funds received from UGI for road improvements throughout the Little Lehigh Parkway
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Attachments: [Bill 53 UGI Lehigh Parkway Improvements](#)

Mr. Roger MacLean stated that it was recommended favorably to the full Council.

Mr. Ray O'Connell asked any comments from my colleagues or the public.

Yes: 7 - Ray O'Connell, Daryl Hendricks, Candida Affa, Roger MacLean, David McGuire, Julio Guridy, and Cynthia Mota

Enactment No: 15394

<u>15-1841</u>	Bill 55 Public Works, this evening Providing for the vacation of a portion of Klein Street from the centerline of Appel Street to the centerline of 26th Street SW
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Attachments: [Bill 55 Klein Street from Appel Street to 26th Street SW - Street Vacation](#)
[Letter from Mike Hanlon regarding Klein Street from Appel Street to 26th Street - Street Vacation Petition](#)
[Klein Street from Appel Street to 26th Street Labels](#)

[Letter from David Kimmerly, Chief Planner regarding Vacation of Klein Street from Appel Street to 26th Street - Allentown Planning Commission Recommended to City Council for Approval](#)
[Letter from the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission - Street Vacation Request \(Klein Street from Appel Street to 26th Street\)](#)
[Klein Street from Appel Street to 26th Street Map](#)

[Klein Street from Appel Street to 26 Street Map](#)

[Klein Street from Appel Street to 26 Street Staff Report](#)

[Klein Street - Street Vacation Labels](#)

[Allentown Planning Commission Meeting Minutes 8-8-17 - Klein Street Street Vacation](#)

Mr. Roger MacLean stated that it was recommended favorably, unanimously.

Mr. Ray O'Connell asked any comments from my colleagues or the public.

Yes: 7 - Ray O'Connell, Daryl Hendricks, Candida Affa, Roger MacLean, David McGuire, Julio Guridy, and Cynthia Mota

Enactment No: 15395

15-1837

Bill 54 PW/CEDC Forwarded Favorably
Amending Article 720, Neighborhood Improvement Ordinance, by providing for the definition and prohibition of running bamboo.

Sponsors: Affa, Hendricks, O'Connell, McGuire, Guridy, Mota and MacLean

Attachments: [Bill 54 - Bamboo Regs](#)
[Bamboo Info](#)
[Neighborhood Improvement and Abandoned Refrigs](#)

Mr. Ray O'Connell stated that this was at a joint meeting that he was not able to attend. This was in Public Works and Community and Economic Development.

Dr. David McGuire stated that the Bamboo is a neighborhood improvement. You take a problem and get rid of it. It was discussed and forwarded 3 - 0.

Mr. Ray O'Connell stated that this Bill is amended Article 720 for the definition and prohibition of running bamboo. Any comments from my colleagues or the public.

Mr. John Zutjc, 935 N. 17th Street, stated that he has been living there

since January 2014 and have seen that the city of Bethlehem has also dealt with some of the bamboo and enacted resolutions. The only way you can actually see it if you come to see it. It is a bad eyesore between 17th and Whitehall and Livingston Streets.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that he would make a point to stop to see it. It is not too far from where I live. There is a property on 16th Street.

Mr. Roger MacLean stated that he drove past and is voting in favor of the Bill.

Mr. Ray O'Connell asked if anyone else from the public that has a comment.

Yes: 7 - Ray O'Connell, Daryl Hendricks, Candida Affa, Roger MacLean, David McGuire, Julio Guridy, and Cynthia Mota

Enactment No: 15396

[15-1848](#)

Bill 56 PW/CEDC Forwarded Favorably
Amending the Property Rehabilitation and Maintenance Code by prohibiting running bamboo.

Sponsors: Affa, Hendricks, McGuire, O'Connell, Guridy, MacLean and Mota

Attachments: [Bill 56 Bamboo Regs - Property Code](#)

Mr. Roger MacLean stated that it is self-explanatory and recommended favorably by the committee.

Mr. Ray O'Connell asked if there were any comments from the public.

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Yes: 7 - Ray O'Connell, Daryl Hendricks, Candida Affa, Roger MacLean, David McGuire, Julio Guridy, and Cynthia Mota

Enactment No: 15397

RESOLUTIONS FOR FINAL PASSAGE (To be Voted On):

[15-1868](#)

R164
Certificate of Appropriateness for 134 N. 11th Street

Attachments: [R164 HARB Resolution - 134 N. 11th Street](#)
[HARB Cases](#)

Mr. Ray O'Connell stated that this is a HARB issue. Mr. Kimmerly has already checked it out. He asked if there were any other comments from his colleagues or the public.

Yes: 7 - Ray O'Connell, Daryl Hendricks, Candida Affa, Roger MacLean, David McGuire, Julio Guridy, and Cynthia Mota

Enactment No: 29553

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

[15-1867](#)

Bill 57

Amending the 2017 General Fund budget by deleting the position of Electrical Inspector (18N) and Building Inspector [18M] and creating two Combination Inspector positions (19M) in the Bureau of Building Standards and Safety, Department of Community and Economic Development.

Attachments: [Bill 57 Creates Combination Inspectors](#)

[COMBINATION BUILDING INSPECTOR 2017](#)

[PLUMBING-MECHANICAL INSPECTOR \(2\)](#)

[BUILDING INSPECTOR rev 2017](#)

[ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR2](#)

[PLUMBING-MECHANICAL INSPECTOR \(2\)](#)

Mr. Ray O'Connell asked any comments from my colleagues or the public about Bill 57.

REFERRED TO COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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

NEW BUSINESS: NONE

GOOD AND WELFARE: NONE

ADJOURNED: 8:32 PM