



Allentown

435 Hamilton Street
Allentown, Pa. 18101

Minutes - Final

City Council

Wednesday, December 20, 2023

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, Natalie Santos, and Santo Napoli

Courtesy of the Floor

Courtesy and Privilege of the Floor Rules

Mr. Mark Lima, 523 W. Turner Street, talked about The Morning Call demolition. There are fine particles of silicone dust and extremely toxic materials covering the local vehicles, houses and all of their lungs. The local taxpaying and rent paying people are here and they got no consideration. He made many calls about this dust and he has been carrying a sinus infection since this project started and assumes other people in his neighborhood are also. The smell and taste is present in the air all the time. It took many calls to do anything, even a spray of water. A very inadequate spray on the dust. He asked if the contractor going to pay the cleaning of the houses and the medical bills. The stuff is toxic. He stated that this contractor has unfettered reign over this contract with zero oversight.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Mr. Lima for bringing this to our attention and stated that he is sure the people who will be responsible for any controlling of any of that are here in attendance. He drove by there himself and saw the large mountains of accumulation and it is quite impressive.

Mr. Mark Lima stated that there are no covers on them. Anywhere else that stuff should have a cover on it. If you roll your window down you can taste it. It is just lovely.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Mr. Lima for his comments on that.

Ms. Dawn Godshall, Community Action - Lehigh Valley, 523 525 N. 7th Street, stated that there is not the same crowd that she is used to, but still feels it is important to say. She stated that she promises to keep her

comments under five minutes stating that she is the Executive Director of one of the largest nonprofits in the Lehigh Valley. They have a good relationship with the city of Allentown, the City Councilmembers, and with the citizens of Allentown. She stated that she tries not to take sides, be forthright, and speak truth. She thinks it is why most people trust her. She realizes that she supposed to direct her comments to the Council President, but she is making it to everyone in this room. Her agency relies on support from funders like the city of Allentown, the city's administration, including the mayor has been a good partner to us in many ways. She has had pertinent conversations with City Council members who are friends of Community Action and to her. She stated that they are important to Community Action. They are an organization that serves people. It is in their Mission Statement, fighting for people to have a voice in the decisions that affect their lives. It is what they do. Often people want and even expect Community Action's support. She usually tries to offer bipartisan support. She is sure that they have heard the expression that there are typically three sides to every story. An outside investigation that was requested by a majority vote from City Council members and citizens of this city is still going to take place. She cautioned people not to come to conclusions before that process has taken place. Processes are put in place to create order. It's why there are laws, bylaws, rules and regulations. She asked that everyone in this room let that process take place. It's difficult to wait. As humans we are impatient people. We want justice now and as a woman of faith she is a believer that the truth will always be exposed in the end. She agrees with Mr. Napoli's statement a couple of weeks ago that these meetings have mostly turned into a show. Sometimes even a circus. People talk over people and boo out loud, they gasp, they clap, and they curse. There is no sense of decorum. She stated that she remembers in 2009 Representative Joe Wilson of South Carolina shouted you lie at then President Barack Obama during his address on healthcare to a Joint Session of Congress. In her lifetime she does not ever remember that happening before then. Even when you disagreed, no one had ever dared to be outwardly disrespectful to a sitting President, but things were beginning to change. We had a President who was a man of color and there were people who began to be outwardly disrespectful. She stated that she remembers her heart hurting. How did anyone feel that this was ok? There is a Bible Verse that says When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child, but when I became a man I put childish things away. It means that as we grow up, we learn and we mature. It is really difficult to hold an emotion, especially when emotions are running high. We want to tell people to shut up, especially when they are being rude and disrespectful. We are human. When we haven't had cultural competency training, we say things like you people, because although we may not mean it in that way we don't understand how offensive that might be to people who have been trying to garner respect for decades

and not be stereotyped. It doesn't always come from a place of disrespect, but from more of a lack of knowledge, but that is exactly what the people of this city have been trying to convey. When people don't feel heard, any person its citizens, its Councilmembers, its Mayor, its employees, emotions can run high. She asked everyone in this room to please respect the process. Please respect the rules. Please give respect to one another, even if you don't really respect the person. Please respect the rules and the process. Please hold your groans and sighs. Please allow others to speak for their entire allotted time. Let's wait our turn to speak and hold our comments, even if we don't agree with what is being said. She stated that they can all meet in the hallway afterwards to let it all out and commensurate. In sports, a team wins and a team loses. Sometimes the Ref makes a bad call. We don't always get our way, but there are rules and we need to respect them. Even if we don't like the score at the end. Let's please return these meetings to what they used to be and are supposed to be. A local government meeting in which business is conducted with decorum and respect from all of us. Thank you.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Ms. Godshall.

Mr. Lewis Shupe, 1916 Bryant Street, stated that he changed his mind.

Contract Approvals

[15-6504](#)

R215

Authorization for Contract with Harvey Z. Raad Real Estate in the rate of 3.0% of the sales price for the City to acquire a property if it is on the open market, 4.0% of the sales price for the City to acquire a property if it is NOT on the open market and 5.0% of the sales price for the City to sell a property, they are to assist the City in facilitating the acquisition and sale of residential and commercial properties.

Attachments: [R215 Harvey Z. Raad Real Estate](#)
[Resolution #30763](#)

Ms. Sarrah McNeil stated that this was done as RFP 2023 - 34. It was advertised on September 26, 2023. The public opening was held on October 4, 2023. The city received two responses and one was rejected. The committee reviewed the proposal and is recommending an award to Harvey Z. Raad Real Estate.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Ms. McNeil and asked if he had any questions or comments from his colleagues.

Mr. Ed Zucal asked Ms. McNeil why were the other two rejected.

Ms. Sarrah McNeil stated that there was only one other response and they

were rejected because they did not meet the RFQ's request. They did not fill out a full proposal when submitting.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were anybody else on the dais or comments from the public.

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

Enactment No: 30763

[15-6505](#)

R216

Authorization for Contract with Heritage Conservation Collective, LLC in the amount of \$175,000.00 to provide routine maintenance needs for the City-owned artwork and address any critical maintenance or vandalism issues that arise.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R216 Heritage Conservation Collective, LLC](#)
[Resolution #30764](#)

Ms. Sarrah McNeil stated that this was done as RFP 2023 - 37 and was advertised on September 25, 2023. On October 23, 2023, the public opening was held and the city received three proposals. The evaluation committee held both technical and cost evaluations. The proposals were evaluated on the ability to make the RFP requirements and after all the evaluations were conducted, the committee decided to hold oral interviews. The committee made the recommendation towards based on the firms qualifications and overall score. The committee is recommending an award to Heritage Conservation Collective, LLC.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Ms. McNeil and asked if there were any comments or questions from his colleagues or any comments from the public.

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

Enactment No: 30764

Minutes of Previous Meeting: NONE

Communications: NONE

Old Business: NONE

REPORTS

The next regular council meeting will take place on Tuesday, January 2 at 6:30 PM.

Organizational Meeting: On the first Monday of January in every year following a regular municipal election and on the date of the first regular meeting in all other years, the Members of Council will assemble and organize and elect a President and vice-president of Council from among its members. If the first Monday of January in a year following a municipal election is a legal holiday, the meeting will be held on the first day following. All newly elected members will take the oath of office at the organizational meeting. (27728 12/5/01)

Budget and Finance: Chair Napoli, Hendricks, Gerlach

The Committee has not met since the last council meeting; the next meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 10, time to be determined.

Community and Economic Development: Chair Mota, Napoli, Affa

The committee met on December 12th and forwarded items on this evening's agenda.

Human Resources, Administration and Appointments: Chair Santos, Zucal, Napoli

The Committee has not met since the last Council meeting; there are no future meetings scheduled at this time.

Parks and Recreation: Chair Gerlach, Affa, Mota

The Committee met December 12th and forwarded items on tonight's agenda.

Public Safety: Chair Affa, Hendricks, Zucal

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

Public Works: Chair Zucal, Santos, Hendricks

The Committee met on December 12th at 6:15 PM, there are no future meetings.

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

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

Controller's Report (3 minutes)

Mr. Jeffrey Glazier stated that at the last City Council meeting, there was a question regarding the balances in the General Fund in Account 46s. At that point, in the end of October the balance were approximately \$3.4 million. He took a look at it and sent Council a memo to reiterate to the public the amount of money that was in the General Fund Account 46 at the end of October was very similar to the amount of money in the preceding three years at that same point in time. Some accounts in

years have been a little bit more, some a little bit less. Generally, what is going to happen there is Account 46 is Contracted Services. Contracted Services may go for multiple years. That money that is not expended in one year will be rolled over to the following year. There are other cases where a contract though the money may be appropriated and available in January, the purchasing process may not yield a contract until May, June, July or even August. It takes sometime to draft a contract so that contract may not be signed until October and that will be rolled over because a contract will be performed the following year. Specifically, there were a couple of departments and programs with large amounts of money. Community housing has a million dollars sitting there. That is for the Lead Program. That is a multi-year program. He hopes that they hit their target this year for touching and preparing the amount of homes. It seems to him that he is signing authorizations all the time. That money will be rolled over to next year so they can continue that work of removing lead from homes. Code Enforcement has almost \$400,000 there. They set that money aside if it is a building collapse or something like that. The city has the funds to respond, to demolish, or whatever needs to be done to protect the health of the neighbors. He stated that the city got lucky this year. There were no catastrophes like that so that money will be rolled over and will be available for you next year. That is what generally what happens. He hopes that makes things a little bit clearer and if you have any further questions, please let him know and he will do his best to answer them.

Mayor's Report (3 minutes)

Ms. Bina Patel stated that the Mayor does not have a Report tonight.

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE (To be Voted On):

[15-6469](#)

Bill 104

Providing for the vacation of South Sixth Street from the centerline of Mason Street to the centerline of Dixon Street in the Nineteenth Ward of the City of Allentown:

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 104 South Sixth Street from the centerline of Mason Street](#)

[S 6TH Street Vacation Staff Report](#)

[Staff Report PW Report on Portion of South 6th Street from Mason Street to Dixon Street](#)

[Planning Staff Report - South 6th Street from Mason Street to Dixon Street - Approved](#)

[Staff Report S 6th Street from Mason Street to Dixon Street -](#)

[Vacation Report](#)

[Ordinance #15965](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that this was in your committee Mr. Zucal.

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

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked Mr. Shahda if he had any comments or any other comments. He asked if there were any questions from his colleagues or comments from the public.

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

Enactment No: 15965

[15-6478](#)

Bill 105

Amending the 2023 Capital Fund Budget to provide for a transfer of Twenty Thousand Four Hundred and Ninety-Two Dollars and Twenty-One Cents (\$20,492.21) from Valania Park Capital Project into the Cedar Creek Bridges Capital Project for the repairs of the remaining Cedar Creek Bridges to be completed. These funds would be placed in the Cedar Creek Bridges capital project.

Attachments: [Bill 105 Cedar Bridges Transfer](#)
[Ordinance #15966](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that this was in your committee, Ms. Gerlach.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated yes, it was and it was forwarded favorably.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any comments, questions, from his colleagues. Any comments from the public?

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

Enactment No: 15966

[15-6479](#)

Bill 106

Amending the 2023 Capital Fund Budget to provide for a transfer of Forty-Nine (\$0.49) Cents from City Wide Park & Playground capital project into the WPA Structures Capital to use for repairs of WPA Structures.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 106 City Wide to WPA](#)
[Ordinance #15967](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that this was also in your committee, Ms. Gerlach.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated yes, it was. It was forwarded favorably to full Council.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any comments or questions from his colleagues or comments from the public.

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

Enactment No: 15967

[15-6480](#)

Bill 107

Amending the 2023 Capital Fund Budget to provide for an appropriation of Four Thousand Two Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$4,250.00) from the Trexler operating budget to the D&L Trail capital account to assist in design and construction of the D&L Trail Allentown Segment.

Attachments: [Bill 107 D&L Trail Allocation](#)

[Ordinance #15968](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that this was also in your committee, Ms. Gerlach.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that it was and recommended favorably.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any comments or questions from his colleagues or comments from the public.

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

Enactment No: 15968

[15-6481](#)

Bill 108

Amending the 2023 Capital Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Six Hundred Fourteen Thousand Four Hundred and Seventeen (\$614,417.00) Dollars from the Delaware Lehigh National Heritage Corridor (DLHNC) to support design and construction of the D&L Trail – Allentown Segment as per the agreed Memorandum of Understanding.

Attachments: [Bill 108 D&L Trail DLNHC](#)

[Ordinance #15969](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that this was also in your committee, Ms. Gerlach.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that indeed it was and it was forwarded favorably to full Council.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any questions or comments from his colleagues or comments from the public.

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

Enactment No: 15969

[15-6482](#)

Bill 109

Amending the 2023 General Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Two Thousand (\$2,000.00) Dollars from Keep PA Beautiful in their efforts to support a volunteer event by Giant/Martin Food Stores for supplies to conduct the volunteer event.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 109 Keep PA Beautiful Grant Appropriation](#)
[Ordinance #15970](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Mr. Hanlon and stated that likewise this was also in your committee, Ms. Gerlach.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated yes, this is the last one and it was forwarded favorably.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Ms. Gerlach and asked if there were any comments or questions from his colleagues or any comments from the public.

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

Enactment No: 15970

[15-6483](#)

Bill 110

Amending the 2023 General Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Thirty-Seven Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty-Three Dollars (\$ 37,783.00) from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Community and Economic Development Local Share Account grant for the purchase of a vehicle for Lehigh Valley P4P Boxing.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 110 P4P Appropriation](#)
[Ordinance #15971](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Mr. Hanlon and stated that this was in your committee, Ms. Mota.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated yes, Mr. President and it was recommended favorably in front of full Council.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any questions or comments from his colleagues.

Mr. Santo Napoli stated that he gotten to know the organization and what they are doing is fantastic. They have a bunch of them here tonight and

hope that they can introduce themselves to the public and very quickly know you guys are doing. He asked for them to come to them to come to the podium.

Ms. Karen Nazareth, the Co - Founder, Co - Treasurer and Team mom of the boys. They have a few of the boxers here. They have Leon, Julian, Jay, Chris, Chris, and Juan. She stated that they thanked them so much for their support and welcome to the gym anytime they want to see them work and see their skills. Thank you.

Mr. Santo Napoli thanked Ms. Nazareth.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated thank you and thank you for what you do. Programs like this gives you something to do and something that is admirable. It is a great thing for teaching self respect and all the other accolades that come along with it. He commending them all for participating in that program. Thank you. He asked if there were any other comments from his colleagues or any comments from the public.

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

Enactment No: 15971

[15-6484](#)

Bill 111

Amending the 2023 General Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Fifty-One Thousand Six Hundred and Eighty-Eight Dollars and Eighty Cents (\$51,688.80) from PPL for the completion of Phase 2, 3, and 4 of the LED street light conversion.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 111 PPL Street Light Rebate](#)
[Ordinance #15972](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Mr. Hanlon and stated that it was in Mr. Zucal's committee.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that it was sent favorably to Council. He stated thank you and asked if there were any comments or questions from my colleagues or comments from the public.

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

Enactment No: 15972

[15-6485](#)

Bill 112

Amending the 2023 General Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of One Million Five Hundred Seventy-Four Thousand Eight

Hundred and Fifty-Eight Dollars and Fifty-One Cents (\$1,574,858.51) from UGI for the purpose of constructing ADA handicap ramps and for the milling and paving of streets under the City's Utility Paving Program.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 112 UGI Cost Sharing Program](#)
[Ordinance #15973](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated to Mr. Zucal this likewise was in your committee.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated and was sent favorably.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any comments or questions from his colleagues or any comments from the public.

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

Enactment No: 15973

[15-6499](#)

Bill 113

Repealing Ordinance 15938 passed on August 16, 2023 by administering the grant through the Bureau of Building Standards and Safety and creating proper accounts as required under the grant and The legislation amended the 2023 General Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Two-Million-Dollars (\$2,000,000.00) grant funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to address housing related hazards including radon remediation, asbestos abatement, and electrical and plumbing repairs.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 113 Account Grant Changes](#)
[Ordinance #15974](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that this was in your committee Ms. Mota.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated yes, Mr. President and it was forwarded favorably.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any comments or questions from his colleagues or comments from the public.

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

Enactment No: 15974

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any questions or comments from

his colleagues or comments from the public.

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

[15-6513](#) R217
Erich Hornung, Planning Commission, 12-20-2027

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R217 Erich Hornung, Planning Commission, 12-20-2027](#)

[Memo from Mayor Matt Tuerk regarding Erich Hornung - Planning Commission Resolution #30765](#)

Enactment No: 30765

[15-6515](#) R218
Christian Brown, Shade Tree Commission, 12-20-2028

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R 218 Christian Brown, Shade Tree Commission, 12-20-2028](#)

[Memo from Mayor Matt Tuerk regarding Christian Brown - Shade Tree Commission Christian Brown - Resume Resolution #30766](#)

Enactment No: 30766

[15-6517](#) R219
Certificate of Appropriateness for work in the Historic Districts: 29 N. 12th St.; 248 N. 9th St.; 205 N. 9th St.; 1529 W. Turner St.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R219 HARB](#)

[29 N 12th Street Final Review](#)
[205 N 9th Street Final Review](#)
[248 N 9th St Final Review](#)
[1529 W Turner Street Final Review](#)
[Resolution #30767](#)

Enactment No: 30767

RESOLUTIONS FOR FINAL PASSAGE (To be Voted On):

[15-6472](#) R220
Ashleigh Strange, Human Relations Commission, 12/6/2026

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R220 Ashleigh Strange - Human Relations Commission](#)
[Memo from Mayor Matt Tuerk regarding Ashleigh Strange](#)
[appointment to the Human Relations Commisison \(12-6-2026\)](#)
[Resolution #30768](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Mr. Hanlon and asked if there were any comments or questions from his colleagues.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that she has questions about these committee. She stated that anyone that is on the committees have to be a resident or have a business in the city. There was one from Breinigsville that she had seen. She does not know if living outside the city or having a business in the city. She asked if Attorney Smith had a comment on that.

Attorney Charles Smith stated that he had looked through the ECode which is the city's new online Code and looked at various authorities and boards and there is no across the board rule. Some under each entity you have to see what the membership requirements are. He stated that he does not have his notes in front of him, but he did look at several of them and saw that some of them said that you had to be a resident of this city and others that said you had to be a resident of the city or a significant business or proprietary interest in the city. He believes that the interpretation of that means that you own a business or own real estate. That is how it goes.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that he would say this too on Ashleigh Strange. If they did meet the criterion, they were sent back to the mayor's office and Ashleigh Strange is ok and Ms. Boyer stated that Ms. Strange is living at 624 Front Street. That is her residents.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that is not. Who lives there? She stated that there was someone that lived in Breinigsville. She stated that Council is required to find out if she has a business or lives here. She is not questioning this person. She is questioning in general.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated Ashleigh. That is being vetted.

Attorney Charles Smith stated that they vet that on the front end. if someone doesn't qualify then they send it back for further consideration or clarification. Sometimes it could be a simple further qualification. The fact that it is on the agenda means the person qualifies.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any other comments or questions or comments from the public.

Mr. Ed Zucal asked if they are still on R220.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that they are on the appointment.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated yes, R220.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that he has someone to speak, Carrie Santoro from West Chew Street.

Ms. Carrie Santoro from West Chew Street, stated that she knows that they have a packed agenda and will keep it brief. She is here as a resident of Allentown as a mother raising two children in the city. She voices her support for Dr. Ashleigh Strange to be appointed the the Human Relations Commission. She stated that she has known Dr. Strange for about seven years as a relentless problem solver, a consensus builder, an assessable and thoughtful communicator and someone who is constantly beaming with curiosity and compassion and a sense of service. As someone who had to live their entire life having to negotiate really complicated spaces, she cannot think of someone who would be better suited for this role. She stated that Ashleigh really has an understanding of our city, of municipal government and probably most importantly the nuances and complexities of the human beings that make of these entities. As a single mother Ashleigh has been there for her and her children in more ways than she can possibly recount in these 90 seconds that she has. She knows that her family is not the only one. They love this city and love Allentown residents and ask the nuances and complexities of our people that really have long been avoided continue to bubble over behind closed and in public spaces. She stated that the city is in deep need of Ashleigh's consensus building assessable and thoughtful communication, curiosity, compassion and the love for the city and its residents. She feels that Allentown would be really fortunate to have them serve in this position.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Ms. Santoro and asked anybody else.

Ms. Carrie Santoro from West Chew Street, stated

Mr. Lewis Housman, southside, stated that he is backing up everything Ms. Santoro said and speaking from the Human Relations Standpoint. He is on the Commission as well as Ashleigh even prior to them joining and being appointed having gone to a good handful of meetings, bringing insightful and knowledgeable and useful topics as well as resources to our meetings. This is a commission in the stages of being rebuilt over the past year and it will be a really valuable team member to the commission. He stated thanks for the consideration.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Mr. Housman.

Attorney Charles Smith stated to Mr. Hendricks that he was able to find that section if he would like him to elaborate on the qualifications. He stated that it is Section 27 -7. The Human Relations Commission shall be composed of 13 members who shall by first choice be residents of the city appointed by the mayor subject to the approval and confirmation of City Council. In the event the requirements of the position and the availability of volunteers cannot be found within the city, then the members need not to be residents of the city of Allentown, but must be a city of Allentown taxpayer, maintain a business, be employed or go to school in the city of Allentown. He stated that this is a perfect example of how each entity has its own criteria, but he would submit that Ashleigh Strange meets those criterias or her name would not be in front of you.

Attorney Sarah Rotz stated that she just wants to chime in. The Authorities, Boards and Commissions appointments Section 309 of the Home Rule Charter - Appointment by the Mayor says that all members of Boards, Authority and Commissions over which he, the mayor has the power to appoint and the majority of Council shall be necessary for Confirmation, except where otherwise provided by State Statute. There is also Section 902 of the Home Rule Charter that says as a general rule members of Authorities, Boards and Commissions shall be residents of the city at the discretion of Council. Persons not residents of the city, but who has a significant property or business interest in the city may be selected to serve which is what Solicitor Smith did say earlier along with the information that he just read from the specific Ordinance for the HRC.

Attorney Charles Smith stated that it is the Human Relations Ordinance that he read from. He stated that they work in conjunction. He does not think it would be a conflict.

Attorney Sarah Rotz stated they work in conjunction.

Ms. Candida Affa stated just to clarify, they have to have some interest in the city or residents.

Attorney Charles Smith stated that the Human Relations Commission says to be employed or go to school in the city of Allentown which is actually a lower bar than owning real estate or having a proprietary interest. That is what the Code says.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that it is not pertaining to her. She does not want someone from Stroudsburg and they are going to be on the Human Relations Commission.

Attorney Charles Smith stated that he understands. This is not targeted at

the candidate. You are simply asking for the lay of the land and he understands that.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that they have to have an interest in the city. That is all she needs to know.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked Mr. Zucal.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that he wants to reiterate it that when they are on the agenda now, they have been vetted. He stated that Council has thrown stuff back for legal to review and to Mayor Tuerk for review. When it is here, it is good.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that they vetted it before and this is on the agenda to vote on.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that there are things poking around that you probably saw that aren't here because they are being questioned.

Dr. Ashleigh Strange, S. Front Street, stated that she does live in the city of Allentown and has for the past five years. Council has seen her sitting in here several times before and enjoys attending the Human Relations Commission meeting. The last one is someone came to them with concerns about the Hamilton Business Center. They did not have all the resources that they needed and could give somebody at 6:30 PM on a Monday night. Using their powers combined, they would be able to help them find resources. First thing in the morning, she was right besides that person, knocking on the doors of the Health Department, calling the Mayor's office, calling Joshua Siegel's office, to make sure they had what they needed and the Mayor's office has been more than happy to help the residents of that building workout alternative places to stay. She knows there is a lot more work that needs to be done. The current chair is working on connecting them with the state and giving them a lot of training and really helping it be a productive Human Relations Commission. That could actually help the residents. She stated that she is available to answer any questions, if that is allowed.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that obviously a few years ago, there was an emotional thing that took place which George Floyd and he stated that people can change. He stated that she is listening to her and thinks she has changed. He asked if she can assure him that she has changed.

Dr. Ashleigh Strange asked for Ms. Zucal to clarify, please.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that obviously they know the activity that took place

outside of city hall with the protest and things like that. He stated that she was one of the leaders and there are always leaders when there are protest and things like that. He stated that she has to understand coming from an ex police officer, retired. It kind of hurt. Just like it hurt her on what happened to Mr. Floyd. There may be times as a Human Relations Commission that you may have to deal with police officers. He stated that he will support her, but want to be sure in his heart that she will be objective in those situations.

Dr. Ashleigh Strange stated absolutely, she knows that there are several officers in here now and Chief Roca and she knows that they are a valuable part of making sure that the city keeps functioning. She stated that they live in a representative democracy and proud of what she was doing at that time. She was helping to bring the City Council meetings to the people.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that he can appropriate that.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated just to clarify that was the incident that occurred where there was accusations of a gentleman and a police officer kneeling on his neck in front of the hospital.

Dr. Ashleigh Strange stated no. George Floyd was in Minneapolis and there were several instances that year. There was another instances where the police interacted with someone at the hospital.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that will be his concern too that she will assure him that she will be objective no matter who it is that they are going to be deciding upon.

Dr. Ashleigh Strange stated absolutely. She plans to use all of the resources that the city has to offer in order to help the citizens that come to them. A lot of times, they are coming to them with complaints. Just like they come here. They don't come here when something good is happening. Making sure that they are using all the resources available to the city is really important, including the police.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that he appreciates that.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that she brought up the demonstration. She stated that they had two Council meetings that were absolutely horrible. Dozens and Dozens of people banging on the windows. She asked if she was part of that.

Dr. Ashleigh Strange stated yes, ma'am. She asked Ms. Affa if she had a follow up.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that she just wanted to know.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that it is great to see someone appointed to the Human Relations Commission. When she was on School Board, she was the School Board Rep. and she knows that they do great work. It is a really important Commission. She knows that they have been struggling. There was a staff person, but maybe it is not a staff person. Someone was fire. It has been a mess. If the least that can happen, it is fully staffed or fully filled, that would be a great first step and hopefully anything they could do as a Council to support the Commission and its role in the city, she looks forward to doing that. She loves that they can live in the United States in which they can have their own opinion and can publicly demonstrate. She stated God Bless America.

Dr. Ashleigh Strange stated that they had a couple of youth members join them from Dieruff High School. They are interested in getting more involved in democracy and expanding to the Council of Youth and finding more ways to make their voices heard as well.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that she has heard a lot of positive things about Dr. Strange and stated that she has done a lot of positive things in the community. She stated that she is an Officiant and stated that she enjoys seeing her doing all these positive things. She is hoping that the Councilmembers and all of them can/will vote for her stating that she will be a great asset to the Human Relations Commission. They need good people and you are one of them.

Dr. Ashleigh Strange thanked Ms. Mota and stated that she is an Officiant and if anyone would like to use her services she gets paid in cake.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that she is an Officiant too and they should talk.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were anybody else from the public.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that Ashleigh Strange is from Alaska too. He stated that his daughter lives in Alaska.

Chief Charles Roca stated that Ashleigh Strange will be a good member of the Human Relations Commission. Every time that they spoke, they came together and had communication. That is what they can ask in a civil society is to sit down at the table and communicate. He stated that he supports it.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated thank you very much for that. He asked if there were anybody else. It's the last call.

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

Enactment No: 30768

[15-6509](#)

R221

Authorizes revisions to the Multimodal Transportation Fund DCED Grant Contract to update the signatories to the current Mayor and Finance Director. (PennDOT Contract No. C000076388)

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R221 Mack Blvd Lighting](#)
[Resolution #30769](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any questions or comments from this colleagues or comments from the public.

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

Enactment No: 30769

[15-6510](#)

R222

Authorizes submission of an application to the Keystone Communities Program for a grant of Eighty Thousand (\$80,000) Dollars to support the renovation of the Police Athletic League building.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R222 PAL Keystone Communities Grant](#)
[Resolution #30770](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any questions or comments from his colleagues or comments from the public.

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

Enactment No: 30770

[15-6511](#)

R223

Authorizes the submission of the formal application to the Pennsylvania Office of the Budget for a grant of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) in support of Real Star, LLC.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R223 - Real Star LLC RACP Grant](#)
[Resolution #30771](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Mr. Hanlon and asked what is Real Star LLC. He asked who can answer that?

Ms. Bina Patel stated that they are submitting an application. She stated that that she is drawing a blank.

Ms. Vicky Kistler stated that Real State LLC is a developer who is applying through the city for the grant to develop the old train station.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Ms. Kistler. He asked if there were any questions or comments from his colleagues.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach asked what are they developing there. She stated that she thinks there was an article in the paper.

Mr. Mark Hartney stated that they have not submitted formal plans to the city yet. This will be part of their application. They have to go through land development. This initial million dollars is for the renovation of the train station.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that they won't know until what.

Mr. Mark Hartney stated that this is a pass through grant. It would be a pass through grant. The grant has been earmarked by the state for the this project, but they need a municipality to apply on their behalf.

Mr. Ed Zucal asked what happens if they don't end up getting the grant. He asked is the city out the million dollars.

Ms. Vicky Kistler stated no.

Mr. Mark Hartney stated that there is no liability to the city for the funds.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any other questions or comments from his colleagues.

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked where is the train. What train are we talking about?

Mr. Mark Hartney stated that this is the old Banana Joe's site.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated ok.

Attorney Charles Smith stated that they would still have to go through all land development and obtain any Zoning variances. It requires all of that. This is simply for a grant application and does not constitute a waiver of any of that.

Mr. Mark Hartney stated that this grant application, the city would contract with the state and will have a separate contract with the developer.

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if there are planning to make that a restaurant like it used to be.

Mr. Mark Hartney stated that the preliminary stuff that he has seen is an event center, but he has not seen a ton of details on what they are proposing.

Ms. Vicky Kistler stated that when entities apply for an LSA grant, they simply applies and can use it for demolition, they can use it for renovation. If the state is earmarking that grant, the city simply take that application and enter it into the website and it goes to the state. The state evaluates the project then it comes back. It has to come to all the Zoning and all the approval and all of their plans before they can actually utilize the funds that comes from the state.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that she really would like to see that.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that he would like to make a statement. Anything would be better than a vacant train station.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated yes, she agrees.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that it has been vacant for a long time.

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked how many years are we talking about. She stated over 10, right.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any comments from the public.

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

Enactment No: 30771

[15-6502](#)

R225

Approves seven transfers: (1) \$304,578.50 in Public Safety/Police to correct negative balances for overtime; (2) \$55,000 in Fleet Maintenance to cover invoices for fleet supplies (oil, wipers, etc.) (3) \$23,771 in Fleet Maintenance Operations to correct a negative balance and cost for the remainder of 2023 in the FICA accounts; (4) \$17,548.78 in Recreation (Aquatics) to Correct Negative Balances in the Temporary Wage and FICA Accounts; (5) \$16,000.00 in Recycling & Solid Waste for a Pole Building Will Project (6) \$14,906.50 in Engineering Requiring to place purchase of

Wayfinding Project into the proper account; (7)) \$29,000.00 Information Systems for Tyler Technologies Contracts for Eden and EnerGov Support.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R227 Transfer Funds](#)
[Tyler Technologies Contracts](#)
[Aquatics Program](#)
[Fleet Service & Repair - FICA account](#)
[Recycling Droff Off Center pole building](#)
[Wayfinding Account](#)
[Police Overtime](#)
[Fleet Maintenance Supplies](#)
[Resolution #30772](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Mr. Hanlon and asked if there were any questions or comments from his colleagues or any comments from the public.

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

Enactment No: 30772

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

[15-6506](#) Bill 114 Refer to Public Safety
Amending the 2023 Fire Department budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of One Hundred Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$130,000.00) from Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Community and Economic Development grant for the purchase of new gear and equipment.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 114 Fire Dept Grant Appropriation](#)

REFERRED TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any comments from the public.

Request to vote on this tonight.

[15-6507](#) Bill 115
Amending the 2023 General Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Four Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty (\$4,950) Dollars from DLNHC (Delaware Lehigh National Heritage Corridor) as part of their Trail Amenity Grant for expenses made to enhance the D&L Trail in Canal Park.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 115 D&L Amenity Grant Appropriation](#)
[Ordinance #15975](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any comments from the public.

REFERRED TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Attorney Charles Smith stated that there was a timeliness issue and they want it expedited action on it.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there are any comments or questions from his colleagues or comments from the public.

A motion was made by Cynthia Mota, seconded by Ed Zucal, to Suspend The Rules and vote on Bill 115 tonight.

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

Enactment No: 15975

A motion was made by Daryl Hendricks that this Ordinance be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Santo Napoli

Absent: 1 - Natalie Santos

Enactment No: 15975

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

NEW BUSINESS: NONE

GOOD AND WELFARE: NONE

ADJOURNED: 7:30 PM

[15-5720](#) Council Rules
Procurement Procedures
Code of Ethics

Attachments: [Council Rules 2023](#)
[Contract/Procurement Procedures from the Code](#)
[Ethics Code](#)