



Allentown

435 Hamilton Street
Allentown, Pa. 18101

Minutes - Final

City Council

Wednesday, April 15, 2026

6:30 PM

Council Chambers

Invocation:

Pledge to the Flag

Roll Call

Present: 7 - Cynthia Mota, Natalie Santos, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Candida Affa, Santo Napoli, Jeremy Binder, and Cristian Pungo

Courtesy of the Floor

Please observe the Rules of Council when given privilege of the floor. A copy of the Council Rules can be found on the council agenda on the website. If you would like to speak, we are asking that you fill out a card – they are on the back table provide them to the clerk before speaking. Include your name and address. When speakers have the privilege of the floor, personal insults, attacks, name calling or other behavior that is inconsistent with the purpose of conducting official business will not be tolerated.

Courtesy of the Floor is meant to provide public comments on items that are not on the agenda. Public comment during consideration of ordinances, resolutions and motions are limited by topic – your comments must be relevant to the subject matter of the proposed legislation. Public comments are taken before council votes on legislation.

You are given the privilege of the floor to provide public comment; it is not a question and answer session. State your position clearly and concisely for consideration. If you speak on behalf of yourself, you have three minutes and if you are speaking on behalf of a group that has several members present, you will be given five minutes in place of everyone coming to the podium. Please address the Council President not individual councilpersons or city staff. Refrain from insulting or defaming staff, officials, and the public; refrain from using offensive language, cursing, and making noises while other people are speaking. Please be aware that comments and/or behavior in violation of these rules will result in a forfeiture of all remaining time and you will be asked to return to your seat.

Mr. Santo Napoli stated that we will start with Courtesy of the Floor, again, this portion is for anything that is not on the agenda this evening. He asked Mr. Hanlon do we have any cards. He asked if you could just provide your

full name, please.

Ms. Denise Houser, 1331 S. 10th Street, stated that she was here probably six weeks ago and spoke to all of them about issues in her neighborhood and she is back because she wanted to thank all of them or this Council stating that Candida helped her a lot guiding her to the right people and got them to respond to the issues that she had. She has the Fire Department she dealt with, the Sweep Department, Officer Conrad took care of four violations in her neighborhood. They came out and cited people that garbage picked up. Trash where they were piling it up that people would go in the backyard and just throw things away. She stated that she got that taken care of. Noise levels are way down and just an overall sense of her neighborhood is getting back to normal. She was also the one that mentioned about the loud motorcycles and the dirt bikes. She stated that they haven't had that yet because the weather hasn't been that warm, but she just wants to let them know and thank all of them. She didn't expect to get this resolved as quickly, but Candida went out of her way stating she came to see her. She took pictures and then the other people that came took pictures. She stated that she is just very thankful that you guys are here and do what you supposed to do. The neighborhood is so thankful for you guys to because they say they kind of know Denise which she thinks is rather funny, but anytime anybody has a problem, she actually got a call the other day because for some reason because the trash people forgot to pick up somebody's trash and it was right there. She doesn't know why they didn't take it. It was nothing wrong and it was bagged properly in a black trash container and they just didn't take it so she called Recycling and at 9:45, they came to pick up. She stated that they literally called her on her phone to get things done so just like she called Candida if she has to and tell her where to go and who can help her. She stated that she wants to thank them all because if it wasn't for them, she would just be just like, screamed and stated so thank you. It really helped her a lot and if she will ever have another issue, this is where she will come because she knows they get things done. Thank you.

Mr. Santo Napoli stated thank you.

Mr. Mark Lima, 523 W Turner Street, stated that he is going to read because he doesn't want to ramble. He stated good evening Councilmembers stating that he is a property owner here in Allentown and live at 523 W Turner Street and here to request an inquiry into the transparency of the property deconversion process and to seek a fair resolution a building dispute. He thanked Mr. Binder for giving him a well thought out answer and also Mr. Napoli for responding. His original and only intent was to resolve a garbage bill for the units that are currently unused at his property. After being denied a reduction by Mark (inaudible)

and asked (inaudible) his concerns to Ms. Kistler, who is the director of Community and Economic Development during the meeting where both Mayor Tuerk and Ms. Kistler was the person he was told. The only option was to pay the fee or to take the risk of going before the Zoning Board to request a variance. He was initially lead to believe that deconversion would be a straight forward path resolving the bill, yet, he later learned this will be permanently strip his properties rental status and require a costly uncertain process in front of the Zoning Board. While he initially signed the paperwork, he since retracted that application and refused to permanently devalue his property or lose its legal status. Just to address the billing issue. He is respectfully asking the Council to authorize a reduction or waiver of the garbage fees for the unused units. It is unjust to force a resident into a \$500 zoning battle or a permanent deconversion just to resolve a bill for services not being used. He stated that he asked for their assistance in finding a common sense solution that protects his property rights. He has lived here in the city for 37 years. Always maintained his rental status, but not rented. Those apartments were 35 of the 37 years. He has been upgrading the property throughout the years. Most recently, in the last five years spending \$35,000 to put 200 AMP services in each of the four apartments in his house because 20 years ago he tried to get the city to talk about deconversion and they refused his request about that. So instead of deconverting at that point, he tried to make this place nice. His taxes has always been paid on time and in his last 35 years, he never had a police car, an ambulance, or fire truck ever at his property. He stated that it is sort of sad in his social security years and now on a fixed income and he is being hammered by a \$3,000 bill from garbage removal. Where he put out about a bag a week and that comes out to be about \$57 per bag that he put out for garbage. It seems a little bit unjust and he was hoping to find some kind of solution to this issue. He stated thank you.

Mr. Santo Napoli stated thank you.

Ms. Regina Padilla, 35 N 18th Street, stated no.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated you are talking about R57 and stated that is all of Courtesy of the Floor.

Contract Approvals

[15-8369](#)

R53

Authorization for a change order in the amount of \$32,549.00 with Maxiom Corp. to provide Annual Support & Maintenance Services for the City of Allentown websites hosted on the open source DNN software platform operated by the City of Allentown. The original contract was for \$80,945.00; the addition would bring the contract to a new total of \$113,494.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R53 - Contract Increase-Maxiom Resolution #31253](#)

Mr. Santo Napoli thanked Mr. Hanlon and asked if there were any questions or comments from the dais or from the public on R53. He stated go ahead, Mr. Binder.

Mr. Jeremy Binder stated that this isn't specific to approving the Contract, but he does think it is worth us looking at it when it becomes Budget time and next time, there has been a lot of funding going to this site and yeah, so.

Mr. Santo Napoli stated ok, it sounds good and noted. He stated that they can call the vote.

Yes: 7 - Cynthia Mota, Natalie Santos, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Candida Affa, Santo Napoli, Jeremy Binder, and Cristian Pungo

Enactment No: 31253

[15-8371](#)

R54

Authorization of Cooperative Contract(s) in an amount greater than \$40,000.00 to provide the City with various goods/services, for Condition One Commercial, Koch 33 Ford Toyota, Kone, SIV Ambulances, Tactical Public Safety LLC & Quality and Assurance Tech.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R54 Council Cooperative Approval - 04.15.2026 Resolution #31254](#)

Mr. Santo Napoli stated ok, any comments from the dais or from the public on R54.

Yes: 7 - Cynthia Mota, Natalie Santos, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Candida Affa, Santo Napoli, Jeremy Binder, and Cristian Pungo

Enactment No: 31254

[15-8372](#)

R55

Authorization for Contract with Baseline Contracting Inc. in the amount of \$286,500.00 to secure a Contractor to construct/reconstruct ADA Ramps in accordance with the Americans with Disability Act and remove and dispose of sidewalk and/or concrete curb, located within the City limits, along with incidental work as may be authorized and required by the Contract Administrator. Three (3) bids were received. Contract shall commence upon full execution and shall cease on December 31, 2026. This contract can be extended for two (2) additional six (6) month terms beyond the contract expiration period at the same annual terms of the initial term as long as the contractor is actively working and does not default on

the contract.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R55 - Baseline Contracting Inc.](#)
[Resolution #31255](#)

Mr. Santo Napoli stated ok, thank you. He asked if there were any questions or comments from the dais or the public on R55.

Yes: 7 - Cynthia Mota, Natalie Santos, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Candida Affa, Santo Napoli, Jeremy Binder, and Cristian Pungo

Enactment No: 31255

[15-8370](#)

R56

Authorization for Contract with Granicus LLC in the amount of \$270,329.42 to manage and support all public meetings conducted by City Council, authorities, boards, and commissions, as well as provide end-to-end meeting management services supported by a robust, fully accessible meeting software platform capable of handling agenda creation, document management, public engagement, and multi-platform live streaming. Three (3) proposals were received. However, one had to be rejected due to making modifications to the terms and conditions. Contract shall be for three (3) years with two (2) additional one (1) year renewals beyond the contract expiration period.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R56 - Granicus](#)
[Resolution #31256](#)

Mr. Santo Napoli asked if there were any questions or comments from the dais or the public.

Yes: 7 - Cynthia Mota, Natalie Santos, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Candida Affa, Santo Napoli, Jeremy Binder, and Cristian Pungo

Enactment No: 31256

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Mr. Santo Napoli stated minutes from previous meetings. We have three.

[15-8375](#)

January 5, 2026 Organizational Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [January 5, 2026 Organizational Meeting Minutes](#)

Yes: 7 - Cynthia Mota, Natalie Santos, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Candida Affa, Santo Napoli, Jeremy Binder, and Cristian Pungo

[15-8359](#)

March 25, 2026 Special Council Meeting - Managing Director Nomination Minutes

Attachments: [March 25, 2026 Special Council Meeting - Managing Director Nomination Minutes](#)

Yes: 7 - Cynthia Mota, Natalie Santos, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Candida Affa, Santo Napoli, Jeremy Binder, and Cristian Pungo

[15-8373](#) April 1, 2026 City Council Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [April 1, 2026 City Council Meeting Minutes](#)

Yes: 7 - Cynthia Mota, Natalie Santos, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Candida Affa, Santo Napoli, Jeremy Binder, and Cristian Pungo

Communications

Mr. Santo Napoli stated that they always want to mention that we encourage our visitors at City Council meetings to park in the government deck next door to City Hall and to see our City Clerk Mr. Hanlon for a Chaser to pay for your parking. He stated thanks and asked is it any Old Business.

Old Business: NONE

REPORTS

President Napoli: City Council will be holding Special Meetings on April 22nd at 6 PM for a discussion with ANIZDA; and on April 29th at 6 PM to discuss the role of AEDC, followed by a review of Bill 21 - Encampment legislation at approximately 6:30 PM.

Budget and Finance: Chair Pungo, Mota, Gerlach
The Committee has not met since the last council meeting; the next meeting is not yet scheduled.

Community and Economic Development: Chair Gerlach, Binder, Napoli
The Committee met this evening; the next meeting is not yet scheduled. This committee meeting we had an update on the Commission on Homelessness, their Annual Report.

Human Resources, Administration and Appointments: Chair Binder, Santos, Affa
The Committee has not met since the last council meeting; there are no future meetings scheduled.

Parks and Recreation: Chair Santos, Pungo, Binder
The Committee met this evening, the next meeting is not yet scheduled.

Public Safety: Chair Affa, Mota, Santos
There are no future meetings scheduled at this time.

Public Works: Chair Mota, Pungo, Affa

The Committee met this evening, the next meeting is scheduled for May 6 - time to be determined.

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

The Committee met on April 8th and forwarded one item on tonight's agenda.

Mr. Santo Napoli stated that it looks like we don't have a Controller's Report or we do.

Mr. Jeffrey Glazier stated that a very brief one this evening sir. This will be February P-Cards. He stated that people were pretty good this month. They had four instances where the wrong account was used and the departments were advised and journal entries were done. There were two instances of the charges lacking documentation. The departments were advised and the documentation was uploaded to the system and there was one instance of sales tax being paid and the department was advised and said that they will seek reimbursement. He stated and that is his Report, sir.

Mr. Santo Napoli stated ok, thank you. He stated that we don't have a submission from the mayor's office, correct. He stated that they are going to keep moving along.

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE (To be Voted On):

[15-8344](#) Bill 26 Rules Committee --- forwarded with amendment to limit the board to only one elected official, the councilperson representative Amending Article VIII, Allentown Parking Authority, by removing the requirement that a member of the Parking Authority must also be a representative of the AEDC, allowing the Mayor to designate and Council to approve any resident of the City of Allentown.

Sponsors: Napoli and Binder

Attachments: [Bill 26 APA Board Membership Ordinance](#)
[Current Code: Allentown Parking Authority](#)
[APA Articles of Incorporation with creating ordinance](#)

Mr. Santo Napoli stated that this was out of his committee and was forwarded favorably, but they are looking for an amendment regarding Councilperson participation.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that she will make the amendment.

Mr. Santo Napoli asked if someone will second it.

Mr. Jeremy Binder seconded it.

Mr. Santo Napoli stated that we have a Motion by Ms. Gerlach and a Second from Mr. Binder. He stated let's take comments or questions from the dais on the amendment. He asked if there were any questions or comments from the public, only on the amendment. He stated that they can vote on the amendment.

Mr. Santo Napoli stated now we have the Bill as amended and asked if there were any questions or comments from the dais on the Bill or from the public on Bill 26.

A motion was made by Ce-Ce Gerlach, seconded by Jeremy Binder, that this Bill changed from a Councilperson to one Councilperson and add that at no time shall there be more than one Councilmember of the city of Allentown on the board.

Yes: 7 - Cynthia Mota, Natalie Santos, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Candida Affa, Santo Napoli, Jeremy Binder, and Cristian Pungo

Enactment No: 16207

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

Yes: 7 - Cynthia Mota, Natalie Santos, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Candida Affa, Santo Napoli, Jeremy Binder, and Cristian Pungo

Enactment No: 16207

[15-8347](#)

Bill 27

Amending the 2026 Capital Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Eight Hundred Thousand (\$800,000.00) Dollars from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) to support construction of the MLK Trail Phase 2.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 27 - MLK Trail DCED MTF Grant](#)
[Ordinance #16208](#)

Mr. Santo Napoli asked if there were any questions and stated that it came out of Chair Santos committee.

Ms. Natalie Santos stated yes, this was forwarded favorably.

Mr. Santo Napoli asked if there were any questions or comments from the dais on Bill 27 or from the public on Bill 27.

Yes: 7 - Cynthia Mota, Natalie Santos, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Candida Affa, Santo Napoli, Jeremy Binder, and Cristian Pungo

Enactment No: 16208

[15-8349](#)

Bill 28

Amending the 2026 General Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Sixteen Thousand (\$16,000) Dollars from Urban Sustainability Director's Network (USDN) to conduct a pilot citizen science project with the City of Easton, Community Bike Works, and Pennsylvania State University.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 28 - USDN Catalyst Fund](#)

[Ordinance #16209](#)

Mr. Santo Napoli stated ok, also came out of Chair Santos committee.

Ms. Natalie Santos stated correct and this was also forwarded favorably in this evenings committee.

Mr. Santo Napoli stated ok, thank you. He asked if there were any questions or comments from the dais or from the public on Bill 28.

Mr. Kyle Ropski, 538 N Berks Street - Chair of Allentown Environmental Advisory Council, stated good evening everybody and stated he will be brief tonight. He stated that he just wants to use this as an example or to illustrate an example of our Sustainability Department and our Sustainability Coordinator and the successes they have been able to bring to the city. They have been very creative in finding new ways to get grant funding for us. Particularly the initiatives they just want to trickle down to our community organizations. This project itself is going to be targeted one of our worst environmental conditions on air quality, and our kids are breathing cancer air and our families are paying unreasonable healthcare costs to deal with it so this project itself is going to lead our city to be more data driven and make educated decisions on these kinds of projects so, he thanked them all for their continued support towards sustainability and the administration continues to support and look forward to continuing to have that continued support as they move forward to major projects here like our client action plan. Thank you.

Mr. Santo Napoli stated ok and asked if there are any other questions or comments on Bill 28.

Yes: 7 - Cynthia Mota, Natalie Santos, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Candida Affa, Santo Napoli, Jeremy Binder, and Cristian Pungo

Enactment No: 16209

[15-8348](#)

Bill 29

Amending the 2026 Capital Fund Budget to provide for an increase of Five Million Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$5,050,000.00) to fund the approved Public Works capital projects as part of the 2026 Capital borrowing.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 29 - Public Works Capital Funding Appropriation](#)
[Ordinance #16210](#)

Mr. Santo Napoli stated ok, this came out of vice president Mota's committee.

Dr. Cynthia Mota stated yes, thank you Mr. president. This was forwarded favorably, 3 - 0 in front of the full Council.

Mr. Santo Napoli asked if there were any questions or comments from the dais on Bill 29 or from the public.

Yes: 7 - Cynthia Mota, Natalie Santos, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Candida Affa, Santo Napoli, Jeremy Binder, and Cristian Pungo

Enactment No: 16210

[15-8353](#)

Bill 30

Amending the 2026 Trexler, General, and Golf Funds to accommodate a change in grade, title, and FCD for the Project Coordinator position in Parks and Recreation to Project Manager to align with job duties and allow for consistent staffing and professional project management in Parks and Recreation. The entirety of this increase will be covered by the Trexler Fund in 2026 and all future years by way of increasing the portion of salary (FCD) paid by Trexler.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 30 - Trexler Parks Project Coordinator Upgrade](#)
[Ordinance #16211](#)

Mr. Santo Napoli stated that this one also came out of chair Santo's Committee.

Ms. Natalie Santos stated yes, this was forwarded favorably.

Mr. Santo Napoli asked if there were any questions or comments from the dais or from the public on Bill 30.

Yes: 7 - Cynthia Mota, Natalie Santos, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Candida Affa, Santo Napoli, Jeremy Binder, and Cristian Pungo

Enactment No: 16211

CONSENT AGENDA: There are no items on the consent agenda.

Mr. Santo Napoli stated that they will go to the Consent Agenda and tonight they don't have any items on that Agenda so they will go along for Resolutions for final passage.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that she would like to make a Motion to Suspend the Rules so that they can introduce and vote on tonight, Resolution 57.

RESOLUTIONS FOR FINAL PASSAGE (To be Voted On): There is a request to suspend the rules to introduce and vote on Resolution.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that R57 on the agenda strongly urges the city and county administration to address the crisis created by the recent posting of the encampment sweep after the closing of the warming shelter. He stated that this is just to Suspend the Rules and place this on the agenda.

A motion was made by Ce-Ce Gerlach, seconded by Cynthia Mota, that this be Suspend The Rules. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Cynthia Mota, Natalie Santos, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Candida Affa, Santo Napoli, Jeremy Binder, and Cristian Pungo

This resolution was submitted after the agenda closed per Council Rules, there is a request from Councilpersons Gerlach and Mota to suspend the rules to introduce and vote on Resolution 57.

[15-8385](#)

R57

Strongly urges the City and County administrations to address the crisis created by the recent posting of encampment sweep after the closing of the Warming Shelter

Sponsors: Gerlach and Mota

Attachments: [R57 Request City County Action on Unhoused Resolution #31257](#)

Mr. Santo Napoli stated that we now have Resolution 57. He stated that he will start by taking comments from the administration on this Resolution and will welcome Mr. Kane.

Mr. Frank Kane asked the text of the Resolution, do you usually put that up on the board and stated that he loved to see it.

Mr. Michael Hanlon asked if he wanted to see if they can read it.

Mr. Frank Kane asked do you mind just because he doesn't have access to it. He stated that he glanced at it earlier today, but he hadn't seen it in full.

He state that anytime you are dealing with people and their living conditions, it is an important matter that has to be taken very seriously. They right now, have a draft policy which he thinks they got if they have received an email with it. Both you and Councilperson Gerlach should have received that by now and really what it looks at is life safety. Life safety of people who are camping is the number one concern in that policy. There is a provision and one of the changes that they made that was unclear in the past was that when they become aware anytime anyone in the city becomes aware of an encampment or an issue with people camping, it will go to the Department of Health, the mayor's office, and Public Works. At which point you will be involved and we will make a determination as to how to move forward. There is some things set for that they can all talk about, but the point is that you guys will have notification to. He stated that they have your document, your document, your Resolution encompasses more than just that. This is more than just that. You know with the closing of the YMCA which happens every year. We were hope that they would extend and unfortunately they weren't able to. He stated that we would have hoped that they would, but we have identified \$50,000 and he thinks they know more than him about the \$50,000 set aside for hotel and improperly housed people. He stated that he thinks they would be able to get that much more quickly than you had anticipated. He is told in the next several weeks, they will be able to do by a grant process rather than an RFP. He stated that they have that coming. The county he is told has identified some land and they are going to work closely with them to possibly find a safe location where people can go and not be bothered. They can provide services and they can be safe and they can be there without some of the dangers to go along with being in floodplains and on the banks of rivers. They did a real estate inventory a year or in the past. They have done a real estate inventory to see if the city had appropriate land. He offered them a chance to talk about that in full. He has been told that they have not and it hasn't been fully vetted and discussed. The determination throughout that policy was that we do not have proper land to provide safe camping environment, but they will like to take another look at that too. He stated that is where they are. He means as he reads this and think these are things that they want to do. They are concerned also about the shelter club, the warming station closing or concerned where people are going to go. It is not ideal to move people one place where they are not able to stay to another place where they are going to have the problem we like to find some permanent solutions and hopes to work with you.

Mr. Santo Napoli stated ok, thank you Mr. Kane. He stated at this juncture, he will take questions or comments from the dais. He stated Ms. Gerlach.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated yes. It is great and stated back in October 2025, when she originally introduced that encampment procedure

legislation, it was always stated from the onset that if the administration had its own policies that perhaps we wouldn't need to do this ordinance because they would have a set of procedures to follow. It is great to see that in April 2026 welcome aboard, Mr. Kane maybe now internally they will have some policies. You may have some questions with serious concerns on these policies. She stated that she has them because she has Outlook on her phone, but hopefully they will all get these. So in terms of the Resolution, it is great to hear that there doesn't seem to be any objection from the administration. The Resolution simply is stating that once again we had an oops. There wasn't any communication. She found out from an unsheltered person on the street that this was happening. She stated that no one here knew that this was happening and so the Resolution is an attempt to rectify that in the future. There will be some future motions made that will further attempt to rectify this regardless who the mayor is. She stated that it is great that this administration is putting forth this policy. She stated that they know policies aren't law. Policies can die with an administration and we are term limited stating that this is the mayor's last term. She stated that with that said though, this Resolution says that we must have a better communication between not only the administration with City Council, but yeah, the administration and the department heads. The folks that are literally doing the work and also that money that was referenced that already had been budgeted and they all proved that should be disbursed and her understanding they are some critically ill/disabled folks who needs a place to go. They very well die and that is not hyperbolic. They may die if they are in a tent. She stated and the third element of the Resolution calls so they need and it is not in the Resolution, but they got to and stated that this situation highlights we got to find a solution. She stated that unless someone is just going to drop down millions of dollars or they are going to reallocate in our budget because you heard us spend \$5 million here on this tonight and you just voted on that right now. Unless we are going to do some reallocation to build housing o5 give money to an organization to build housing, people need a place to go and she is great to hear that potential there is a place or a spot of land, a parking lot something and this Resolution attempts to address that as well that the city and the county they got to find something and she doesn't want to hear about the right tape. She doesn't want to hear about it is zoned industrial. She stated that no one is drinking the water there. She stated find a spot and knowing that that spot might not be permanent. It won't be permanent, but it is something. It is a place for people to go for a temporary amount of time so that they are not pushed around like animals. They are less than animals so that is what this Resolution says. It's a Resolution. It isn't a statement. That is it. She stated that she hopes that she can count on her support of countless support from her colleagues on Council. She stated that she knows all of them have a heart. She thanked those who went down to this encampment today to see in person stating

they are not bothering nobody. They are just living their lives. Like yo, like the fact that we are even here right now again, like, come on. To not get angry. People are just living their lives stating that's it. Most people didn't know this encampment wasn't even there. They didn't even know because they are not bothering nobody. They are just living life and any one of us, unless we are a billionaire up here or maybe a millionaire any one of us could be there. Any one of us. Just takes a couple of little things so just keep that in mind and stated that she will stop talking. Thank you.

Mr. Santo Napoli thanked Ms. Gerlach and stated Ms. Affa, go ahead.

Ms. Candida Affa stated if she recalls when the encampment was torn down in Jordan, Council did not know about it. She stated that they had Council that Wednesday, and they were tearing down, none of us knew it was happening. People were coming up here and talking to us like we had something to do with it and try to explain and believes the same thing is happening this time. She stated that Ms. Gerlach found out about it on the street and she informed them stating they had no idea this was going on stating they had the opportunity today to go to the encampment and she is so right. These people are just living their lives. She stated that she would need a map to find this place to begin with. They are not hurting anybody and stated that she would like to ask the city what are we and stated we own it. What are you going to do with that piece of property. If you don't let those people have their homes there or their little village or whatever you want to call it, what in God's name you are going to do with that piece of property. No one will be there to take care of it. It just amazes me that she as a landlord have to give 30 days notice to her tenants. She stated that she is also a tenant somewhere stating they have to give her 30 days. Why is it that these people get 10. She stated that she doesn't understand that point. They are human beings. They are just like her and nobody else. She stated that if she have to get 30 day notice, how come they don't get 30 days notice. The encampment was nice and it was beautiful there. They are hurting no one and like she said she is going to ask the administration in the city of Allentown to get rid of them, you are causing more homelessness stating they are not homeless there. It is their home. They are going to be homeless and what are you doing with this piece of property. She stated that is what her question is to the city of Allentown. She stated to a male in the audience that he will have time to speak. She stated that they had an opportunity several one of them to go to the encampment and these are people and this is their home and if nothing else they need certainly more than 10 days. Thank you.

Mr. Santo Napoli stated thank you, Ms. Affa and stated vice president Mota.

Mr. Frank Kane stated that he doesn't know at what point he is allowed to speak when Council is speaking here.

Mr. Santo Napoli stated that he will take comments from the dais and then if you have some updates, absolutely.

Mr. Frank Kane stated ok.

Mr. Santo Napoli stated that he will point back to him. He stated vice president Mota.

Dr. Cynthia Mota stated yes, thank you. She stated that she believes it is inhumane. She stated that they went there and spoke to a few of them and it is their home. It is their home and this not the first time that this has happened. She stated we are asking for better communication between the administration and City Council. She stated that she doesn't think it is very hard to do that stating that it looks really bad every time something like this happens and they don't get to know about this ahead of time and then the newspapers, The Morning Call and you name it stating that they call us and they don't know what they are talking about. She stated that it makes us look bad and it also make the administration look bad stating all they need is a better communication. She asked is that so hard to ask for a better communication. She stated that is all we are asking. She stated that she agrees with Ms. Affa 10 days is not enough and they are not bothering anyone. She stated that she's been to that park and never knew that they were there. No one knew that they were there so she thinks that they will have to have a heart and they should not kick them out. It is their home. Thank you.

Mr. Santo Napoli stated Mr. Pungo.

Mr. Cristian Pungo stated that he just wanted to thank Ce Ce for first bringing this to light. He stated he would like to just highlight the fact that Resolution 57 is directly related to this action. They have already on the agenda an opportunity to review potential legislation ordinances to address the same issue at large and this one is more of almost a reactionary to have this breakdown in communication. He stated that he will echo the sentiments of really what is the need and purpose of this now. He stated that again, he understands it seems to be a policy in place and he thinks they really need to look at that and really understands what that is because he doesn't know how well it integrates with the real issue that we are having here. The hard decision isn't to clear the encampment. Their decision is to try to find real answers to it. Folks are struggling right now more than ever and he thinks they need to take action. He would also kind of say what can they do right now so obviously he is very much in support of enhancing

our communication channels, finding solutions and resolutions to the actions. He stated that he thinks the cause of R57 is the clearing and the sweep in general so his concern is that they talked about it to allocate \$50,000. He stated \$50,000 is not that much. He stated we are in April and not even accounting for the winter that is coming this year so to use these resources now when it is going to be a point where it is even more critical. He stated that he is concerned about. He would also like to consider if R57 even necessary if the sweep doesn't even happen. He stated that he would push the administration to reconsider that. Thank you.

Mr. Santo Napoli stated ok and asked if there are any other questions or comments. He stated Mr. Binder go ahead.

Mr. Jeremy Binder stated first of all he doesn't know if he officially welcomed you to being employed for 48 hours with the city of Allentown.

Mr. Frank Kane stated thank you Councilperson Binder.

Mr. Jeremy Binder stated that you are obviously moved from the pleasantries of the nomination process to now you are in the proverbial hot seat so he has questions related to a lot of the communication stuff that is brought up. He stated that first and foremost tonight, he would like to identify to speak to the exact process of the decision making that took place. Who was alerted and what that looks like. He stated that he knows that they are probably are going to say that they can't.

Mr. Frank Kane stated that he can and stated listen he may not have been here, but he know as well as anyone will have or will have appears to have happened. He stated before he answers his question if he doesn't mind he would just like to say when he looks at this Resolution and tell them that they support it and we do. He stated this Resolution says that approximately 100 individuals staying at the warming shelter are left with no viable options. He stated that this talks about the broad themes of finding a safe place and they support all those things. He stated that he doesn't want to mislead anyone. He doesn't want them to think they want to utilize laterally and be able to change what's already in process with the encampment that they visited today. Please don't take his and stated that they talk about it as tomorrow and even tonight. He can't sit here and say that he will be able to change that now. He stated there is a process and there are people involved with that so while he says that they support this and the things in this Resolution, they do. Specific to that encampment, we have to continue to talk in the coming days. It continues to be posted and he just doesn't want to mislead any of them. He stated when they move on to that specific incident, we in the mayor's office was informed and the Health Department were informed that there was a complaint made by someone at the Lehigh

County Authority which is where the property abut's. He stated that someone notified the police and went there and Public Works became involved and they posted the property. He stated that is how it originated.

Mr. Jeremy Binder stated by no approval by anyone else in public other than posting something.

Mr. Frank Kane stated that it is unfortunate, yes. He stated that we have a policy in place to make sure it will never happen again. He stated that your frustration is shared by everyone. He stated that we are at where we are now and that is not what should ever happen again.

Mr. Jeremy Binder stated that he guesses step one in knowing that right now would have been helpful coming to this meeting would have been to say ok, we are going to pause things. We are going to stop and he guesses one of his questions would be why is it occurring. He stated that second you had mentioned your capacity here. He asked in what capacity are you presenting to us. Are you and stated that he noticed that the mayor is not here. He asked is the mayor is in the city right now.

Mr. Frank Kane stated that no, he is not in the city. He is at a conference.

Mr. Jeremy Binder stated that he is on business abroad.

Mr. Frank Kane stated that he is not really abroad. He is just not here.

Mr. Jeremy Binder stated got you. He stated that reason why he is asking, are you acting a Deputy Mayor at this point.

Mr. Frank Kane stated no, no, no and stated that he talked to him this morning and we have been in touch. He could have signed the policy by now. The draft policies he has been involved in all these discussions and as he has been told, the mayor's belief is that if he is able to be in contact and he is in the country, we don't need a Deputy Mayor. It is only when he is out of touch. He is not really ready to speak to that yet. He stated that he means he will know for next time if that is a concern when it needs to be a Deputy Mayor. He stated that he is and his understanding they are active with him as the mayor and stating as the Managing Director.

Mr. Jeremy Binder stated that the reason why he is asking is because they have a policy now that he received on his phone here at 6:41 while he is in a meeting.

Mr. Frank Kane stated that the draft policy.

Mr. Jeremy Binder stated that which now may or may have not already signed, but we don't know.

Mr. Frank Kane stated correct.

Mr. Jeremy Binder stated that they have a room full of people that are frustrated.

Mr. Frank Kane stated that they have a right to be and they will understand.

Mr. Jeremy Binder stated that his question to this is since the last meeting during your confirmation and the meeting noted that they just recently approved a couple of minutes ago, it was noted that the mayor was available 24/7 if he was appointed Deputy Mayor. His question is can we get him on the phone right now to give us the response where this policy is.

Mr. Frank Kane stated that we possibly could after and he has to tell him one of the unfortunate things is that he lost his cell phone while he was at the encampment this afternoon and that is why he did not have the policy. He was trying and didn't want to tell anybody, but that why he can't. He stated that he doesn't think it matters.

Mr. Jeremy Binder stated that it does matter because you are saying the policy.

Mr. Frank Kane stated that is the policy.

Mr. Jeremy Binder stated that is the question stating that he doesn't know whose in charge right now.

Mr. Frank Kane stated unilaterally change. What he meant was perhaps maybe what he should have said more clearly is that he is one part of a couple of decision makers. It is really nobody in the government who can just change.

Mr. Jeremy Binder stated that in the format of the government that we have, there is one person who can make a decision so sorry, that is the.

Mr. Frank Kane stated that he is not sure what you are looking for. He stated that he is in charge of this interaction right now. He stated that you can talk to him about anything and use because he is authorized. It will be the way with all city business when the mayor is not in the meeting stating you can talk to me.

Mr. Jeremy Binder stated to Mr. Kane you said that you can't change

anything, right. He stated that got to vote on some stuff right now and doesn't know if there is an existing policy that is already in place because it changes what we should be doing tonight. It is an important aspect of what is happening.

Mr. Frank Kane stated that the mayor intends to sign this policy stating that they have a draft and his intent is to sign it. Whether or not it is signed after business hours or 7:00 at night on a Wednesday, stating that he is not sure. He stated that he should operate as though this is the policy because it is going to be tomorrow.

Mr. Jeremy Binder stated ok, he guesses it could be helpful for him before they vote to have one minute to read the policy. He stated that he doesn't know where that works in the framework here. It might also be helpful for the public to see the policy because we have to discuss this. He stated that he is not try to hurt the applecort here, but that seems like that is definitely something.

Mr. Frank Kane stated that he hopes that.

Mr. Santo Napoli stated that right now everyone, Mr. Binder has the floor stating that if they could just figure it out. He stated just hold your thoughts until the right opportunity thank you.

Mr. Jeremy Binder stated one of the thing you said early on, you said there will be a notification process with Council and inclusion. He asked what authority will Council have in that process.

Mr. Frank Kane stated that you will have the same authority that you have. You are members of Council. You are not in the operations of the system stating we will notify you and you will be notified and while we are still in the decision making process, you can call the mayor, you can call him, if you have thoughts on what they are going to do. He stated that he, the administration of the government of the city is us. He stated that he would not say a member of City Council will unilaterally change something, but they will certainly take your advice as part of the decision making process. He stated that you called it advice and consent. He stated yes.

Mr. Jeremy Binder stated that he thinks that is all he has, thanks. He would the policy commit just so he can understand the policy, will it commit to bringing it to the attention of anything prior to being posted.

Mr. Santo Napoli stated ok, Ms. Gerlach.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that so and she did share with some of them

prior to this meeting this evening. She stated that it is kind of like a three part situation going on. She stated that we got this Resolution that's talking about we should have communication, we should find a safe place for people to go and we need to allocate this money. The second part, is Mr. Binder is going to make a motion and what is not on the Agenda, she is going to be making a motion that we stop this eviction enclosure. What the administration does with that is on the administration, but she is going to make a motion and they can collectively make a statement what we want to happen just so that everyone knows the third thing. She stated that for this policy, she only skimmed it. She stated that there are some concerns with this policy stating as they noted, it only gives people 10 days to pack up all of their life before in is potentially bulldozed. She stated that as Ms. Affa she believes Mr. Pungo and Dr. Mota had stated, it should be much longer. She stated 30 days she believes they said it is what housed tenants get. She stated that they definitely don't want to be in a situation where they are discriminating against people based on their housing status. She stated that she would say 30 days. She stated that she also has concerns with the language of flood prone areas. She would like to know the difference between flood prone areas versus floodplain areas. If there is a difference. Also, as we noted when we went down to this particular encampment. there is a huge wall, a flood wall, like 10 foot. She stated that the folks who are down there indicated that it had not flooded in that particular section and she has concerns that this high risk location encampment under bridges, flood prone areas, structural hazards is very vague and will be used for every encampment. She stated that is her concern and would like some clear definitions. She would like also that in the policy, it states that this will be like a quarterly kind of Report. She stated that would have to be every single Council meeting. She stated that every Council meeting, they need to get Reports on what's happening because what happens is these encampment closures happens so quickly, if they are just doing it quarterly, they are already had four or five and we know there is going to be more because that seems to be the overall sentiment of this administration is just to knock the encampments down, but they are going to be more stating we need every single meeting to be told what happened, what's going to happen, and part of that needs to be if the justification for closing an encampment is that it is a high risk location encampment, speak to that in great detail because if we keep seeing every single encampment is high risk, something is up with that. She stated something is up. She stated that she has a lot of concerns with this policy and stated what she will do though is she will take her encampment Ordinance and she will make some adjustments to maximize the language of this policy. She is going to keep the 30 days, but some of the actual definitions and what not, trying to work with the administration, but can't wait to the April 29th meeting because she strongly they do need an ordinance since they are term limited with their administration, but in terms of tonight's resolution again, she strongly urged

them to support it and folks who are here don't leave after the resolution because there are going to be two more things that happen so thank you.

Mr. Frank Kane stated if he can respond to that he means you know, sure you, when we have a policy in place and its all, but in place right now. He stated that is the policy and encouraged them to comment and tell them what they want to know and the obvious thing is a clarification of exactly what constitutes as a life safety risk. He stated that he would have done that anyway. That's the obvious thing stating anything that you think you should let them know and they will try to work together.

Mr. Santo Napoli stated Ms. Affa.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that they all have one thing in mind to do something to stop homelessness. She stated that they will love to see it eradicated. Having people removed from their homes is causing homelessness stating people are not homeless. They are in a camp. They are in a village. They are not homeless stating closing this down, they become homeless. She stated let's keep that in mind. Every time they make policies and everything they do, the main idea is to help alleviate homelessness by removing them from their homes, we are creating homelessness.

Mr. Santo Napoli thanked Ms. Affa. He stated that he doesn't think everyone has a copy of this so he knows he doesn't. He asked if vice president Mota had a copy. He stated that they were in a meeting and stated ok stated if you don't mind everyone he is going to take two minutes and he wants to make sure all of them has these exact same documents just so they are all on the same page. He asked the audience to bear with them for a couple of minutes stating unfortunately they got delayed and just want to make sure we are all looking at the same document. He stated give us two minutes, thank you, everyone.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated can someone read it out loud.

Female audience member asked is it possible to make copies so they can see it as well. If you are going to make 10 minutes and then read it, can someone make a copy.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated Point of Order. She stated that she is going to be real for a minute. A lot of people who are here don't have a place to live and they have to get back to the Y and this is their last night here at the Y. She stated that she also wants to and yes, she understands, we need to look at these policy, but what this policy say would change your vote on the Resolution, Yes or No because if it doesn't, perhaps we can review the

policy. She stated that she doesn't know. She just doesn't want to keep people here.

Mr. Santo Napoli stated that if that is ok with his colleagues, that is fair and we will continue with public comment, but before he does that, he asked if there are any other questions or comments from the dais on this Resolution. He stated that he will quickly add, Mr. Binder alluded to the fact that Mr. Kane only has been here for only a couple of days. He is anxious to continue working with his to kind of figure out where the issues are and how they can resolve them going forward, especially regarding communication and making sure that City Council and/or our residents fully are understanding what we are doing at the city of Allentown so that is something that they all have to huddle up and figure out together. He stated with that said, they are going to move to Public Comment stating that this portion of the meeting is for anyone who wants to speak on this Resolution so Resolution 57 regarding the homeless encampment stating this is an opportunity to come to the podium, just please give your full name for the record.

Ms. Vanessa Canere (sp), stated Homestead Sanctuary is her nonprofit. There was a couple of questions she had for the 50,000 for hotels. She asked how many people that is actually going to help and for how long. She stated that a hotel room for a week is \$400 or more.

Mr. Frank Kane stated that he knows that she deserves an answer and know that it is last minute important and stated that he doesn't have the answer and stated if she give him her contact information, you can ask him all the questions that she wants.

Ms. Vanessa Canere stated that she doesn't and also wants to point that she appreciates all that they are doing here, but they are looking at the wrong direction where the issue starts.

Mr. Santo Napoli stated hold on and asked can you hold that thought. He stated everyone listen, Vanessa has the floor right now. Let her have the floor right now. Everyone is going to have an opportunity to speak, but let's do it one at a time, please.

Ms. Vanessa Canere stated she (inaudible) all they are doing to help everybody that is in an unsheltered situation or near unsheltered, but you are looking at the wrong aspect to focus on. She stated that she thinks and stated that she has been doing some research and looking up some data The rental perimeters are boxing people out. Like all over the place. She stated if you are on a fixed income like hers is \$1,400 a month. There is no way that she makes three times right here in the city, any. She stated that

she has to get roommates and that is hard to do. They are not and it is not easy for all of them to live together so that is why they have to have a better solution because you are not putting more housing up when you knock down the buildings that have the affordable housing. Like on 9th Street across from Family Dollar, there is the Plan coming through the Planning Commission. Where they are going to knock down those three buildings and put up a a seven story 48 unit luxury building. She stated that it is not helping anybody in the building having apartments will be in the two buildings that were just approved. She stated that there are so many of them unhoused and there are so many better plans that the just have to get together and work out all the kinks because people are being looked at as criminals/degenerates just because they are unhoused because we assume stuff and it is just so wrong because they have come from families, from jobs, from success from failures from everything from life to this. Situations that life created because they are boxed out of rents. Thank you. Have a good day.

Mr. Santo Napoli thanked Ms. Canera (sp) and stated that.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that he does have a card.

Ms. Regina Padilla, 35 N 18th Street, stated that her name and stated that she is an Allentown resident. She lives on the west end. She stated as a constituent, she doesn't think anything should be voted on if there is policy or there isn't. She stated that it is really that simple. Tomorrow, it could be thrown out and can be useless today. The last time she had the pleasure of standing before them all, she exposed her finances and that was pre-election and she sees new faces. She told everybody that she only made \$15 an hour with \$23 in food stamps all while living in the west end. A place that isn't exactly known for affordable housing. Fortunately, she was able to secure a job that pays her a livable wage, but there was a period in between

Yes: 7 - Cynthia Mota, Natalie Santos, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Candida Affa, Santo Napoli, Jeremy Binder, and Cristian Pungo

Enactment No: 31257

Mr. Santo Napoli stated that they have one Motion on the floor and asked if there were any questions or comments from the dais on that Motion that what Mr. Binder just provided. He stated that he will take public comments and then we will come back for your Motion.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that it might help some of the concern stating so the purpose of this Motion is that we (Council) didn't know anything about what was happening. They never told what was happening. The providers aren't told. No one is told anything so we meet twice a month so the hope is, the thought is that if twice a month they are told what just happened and

what's about to happen that they can hopefully prevent some of these situations where there is like weird closures happening in the place where it shouldn't happen. She stated that is the hope. She asked will it work, she doesn't know, but she thinks it is worth a try. She stated to Mr. Binder that he did not read his name out loud and she is not doing this by herself.

Mr. Jeremy Binder stated since he is helping Jeremy Binder make a Motion.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated ok.

Mr. Santo Napoli stated to Ms. Gerlach just to be clear that we are still speaking about his Motion. There is still another one coming.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated yes.

Mr. Santo Napoli stated perfect. He just wants to be clear. He asked if there were any questions or comments from the public on the Motion by Councilperson Binder. He stated that they will call the vote on that Motion. He stated that he is sorry and they will do votes separately on both Motions, correct.

Mr. Frank Kane asked for the exact wording stating he is sorry.

Mr. Santo Napoli thanked Mr. Hanlon. He stated that Ms. Gerlach has another Motion.

A motion was made by Jeremy Binder, seconded by Ce-Ce Gerlach, to Suspend the Rules and place R57 on the agenda.

Yes: 7 - Cynthia Mota, Natalie Santos, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Candida Affa, Santo Napoli, Jeremy Binder, and Cristian Pungo

Enactment No: 31257

Yes: 7 - Cynthia Mota, Natalie Santos, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Candida Affa, Santo Napoli, Jeremy Binder, and Cristian Pungo

Enactment No: 31257

ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION (To be referred to Committee with public comment prior to referral) : There are no ordinances for introduction.

Mr. Santo Napoli thanked Mr. Hanlon and stated that Council is going to move along folks and next up on the Agenda is ordinances for introduction. He stated that Council actual have none this evening.

RESOLUTIONS FOR INTRODUCTION (Can be voted on or Referred to Committee): There are no resolutions for introduction.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Santo Napoli stated that they covered their upcoming meetings.

GOOD AND WELFARE

Mr. Santo Napoli asked if there were any Good and Welfare from his colleagues.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated yeah, just real quick since we have a room full of people and asked how does she say this. So the fact that you are here right now means Mr. Binder had said this is civic engagement. Any one of you can be sitting up here. Any one of them could be running for this seat and making these decisions. She stated that she knows that it seems a little bit far off on how the heck could that ever happen. It's happened for other people who has been in the same situation of what you are in so just keep that in mind. It could go beyond you just sitting here begging us to do something for you. You could be up here making the decisions for people. She stated that she just wanted to say that since you are here.

Mr. Santo Napoli stated ok stating it take them to and thanked everyone for attending and they are going to adjourn this meeting this evening.

ADJOURNED: 8:07 PM

Note

Mr. Santo Napoli stated that it is anything that is unrelated to our agenda. If you are here to speak to an agenda item whether it is a Resolution, Ordinance or if it is about the homelessness, you will have the opportunity when we get to that point of the agenda, but if there is anything else you want to speak to that is not on the agenda, please make sure you fill out a card with our City Clerk and they will take Courtesy of the Floor at that portion of the meeting so anything that is not on the agenda, you will need to fill out a card. Thank you. He stated ok, are we all set.