



Allentown

435 Hamilton Street
Allentown, Pa. 18101

Minutes - Final

City Council

Wednesday, July 21, 2021

6:30 PM

Council Chambers

City Council

Minutes - Final

July 21, 2021

Invocation:

Pledge to the Flag

Roll Call

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

Courtesy of the Floor

Courtesy and Privilege of the Floor Rules

Mr. David Keshl, Southside of Allentown and the President of Mountainville 30 Crime Watch. Daryl used to be their PSA officer. He talked about the Flyby Night Garages. These people do no taxes. Cars are brought in by auctions. These are strictly quality of life issues. He spoke about the new homes built on Brookdale. Some young lady was out soliciting voters and at the center building a guy was working on a car and it fell on him and caught on fire. He taught about triple and double parking on Seventh Street.

Mr. Julio Guridy thanked Mr. Keshl for his comments. There are comments Council heard before and should act on it.

Mr. Don Ringer stated that it is a pleasure to see most of Council again. When a police officer is accused of a crime, they are put on an administrative leave. Is that correct? Why can we have people sitting up here on Council that has been accused of facilitating a rape of a 16 year old boy sitting on City Council. How can that be? Why can't you as a group call for her to be removed. She is a disgrace to the City of Allentown.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that if you look at the Home Rule Charter until the person is adjudicating and convicted they cannot do anything.

Mr. Don Ringer stated that the Allentown Police Department he respects. They have to change the way they do policing. They have to use different

approaches. The quality of life has gone down to zero. We don't have no quality of life. He just got a call from his business at Ringer's and they drove by with the pellet gun and hit his people. Two biggest problems are motorcycles and bikes. West Park is a beautiful park with the band that play there. The benches are a disgrace. There should be police officers are there.

Ms. Christina Glates (sp), 642 N. Eighth Street, talked about the dirt bike issues. It has gone too far. The city went downhill. What is going to be done about the dirt bike and three-wheelers. You are talking 50 to 100 every Friday, Thursday night. They meet at the gas station at Seventh and Tilghman Streets. She started a Petition. She is done with it.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that the Mayor and Chief of Police are here. They are here and listening to you. Give your phone number to Mr. Hanlon.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that they can talk.

Ms. Janet Keshl, Wabash Street, thanks for being open to the public. She thanked the Police Chief and the officers and there are a lot of dirt bikes off the streets. People here were not standing for the Pledge to the Flag. Shame on you. What are you doing here?

Ms. Diane Gibson, 444 N. Seventh Street, stated that she and her husband are taxpayers on the 400 block of Seventh Street. They have lived and paid taxes for over 40 years. She asked to rescind the decision of taking the Residential Parking Zone and asked for the honor status of Residential Parking Permits to include these three blocks. She talked about unlawful bikers and three-wheelers and drugs being sold around them and gangs. The residents need to be near their vehicles. They are being asked to pay \$240 per car the first year, \$360 per car the second year and \$480 per car the third year followed by the market rate. This is a lot of money to add to seniors, disabled, taxpayers and low income families that live in the area.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that Council will take under advisement and the Mayor is here and taking notes. He stated that Council has two members of the Parking Authority. He stated that it was a well read letter and her issues were very valid.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that he got it, but she has to go to the Allentown Parking Authority.

Mr. David Melman stated that he is here in his capacity as Vice Chairperson of the Environmental Advisory Council. He made a formal request for a budget and add an amendment that \$1,000 be added to the

EAC. He asked if Council can have one member as an official liaison to the EAC. Joshua Siegel has been fantastic, but they never has an official status.

Mr. Julio Guridy thanked Mr. Melman and stated that Councilman Siegel has been attending. Council will take that under advisement.

Ms. Yamilett Gomez, 164 W Gordon Street, stated that the citizens of Allentown request the city investigate the increased truck traffic occurring in the vicinity of the First Ward at Pump Plaza. There are Amazon trucks going down the street and at Bucky Boyle Park. They are causing chaos in the neighborhood.

Ms. Linda Vega, 314 N. Front Street, stated that her car has been hit on Front Street. She refuses to park off street. She has the luxury of having a small city-owned parking space at the park going down Bucky Boyle. The traffic congestion is inconvenient and dangerous. She stated that the city streets are not built to handle 18 wheelers. In the long0-run if it is not addressed it is something that will affect your budget and quality of life. The Allentown A's Football League works down there. She proposed that this item be added to the Agenda to further discuss and possibly find a resolution.

Ms. Yamilett Gomez stated so far they have 110 written signatures and online they have a different Petition going. They have the same concerns they have with this Amazon traffic.

Mr. Julio Guridy thanked them for coming and stated that Council is well aware of what is going on. Ms. Mota has taking charge to interview you. He and most of Council have driven there.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that they are right. It is a nightmare. They are working with CEDC, Zoning, Tom Williams and Amazon and the owner of the building. Someone is going to get really seriously hurt. He prays it is not a child. They talked to the Regional Managers. They did this at the Airport.

Mr. Tom Williams stated that they did speak to with the regional manager. They are looking for a new site. They are hauling trailers. They are trying to find a new location that is amenable and better routing to get there. The drivers are not supposed to be using Front Street or Second Street. The only way to the lot is to come down American Parkway to Gordon which send you directly to Pump Place. They are in contact with Amazon on a daily and/or two day basis.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that Amazon is very cooperative.

Ms. Yamilett Gomez asked if it could be added to the Agenda. They want it on record and asked if Council would like the Petition.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that everything you are speaking is on record.

Mr. Tom Williams stated that they did speak to with the regional manager. They are looking for a new site. They are hauling trailers. They are trying to find a new location that is amenable.

Ms. Cynthia Mota thanked Ms. Vega and Ms. Gomez. They have been working very closely with Ms. Gomez. It is affecting the quality of life of the businesses and the residents. Ms. Gomez was on Facebook and it is creating such a problem in the community. She stated that channel 10 interviewed them. This is a great example when the community get together and the leadership.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated as the mayor has said, he is already looking into it and working on it. It will be taken care of.

Mr. Joshua Siegel thanked Ms. Gomez for coming out. This can be uncomfortable organizing your community. Your voice has an impact and you do matter. We are listening and the community is responding. Thank you for collecting 110 signatures. We all know how hard that is and pain-staking. He asked Mr. Williams if it is just a truck terminal and they are storing the rigs that go in the back of the trucks there. If the city can find a lot for them to store their trucks.

Mr. Tom Williams stated that the agreement is that they are not storing product in that building. They are just dropping trailers and storing trailers. They are looking for a longer term site. They will take a look at the options.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that Amazon themselves have been put on notice. They are well aware of it. They do want to get this resolved.

Mr. Joshua Siegel asked the administration to look into it.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that they will.

Mr. Tom Williams stated that his understanding is that they have another location to finalizing those agreements.

Ms. Yamilett Gomez thanked the Mayor and Zoning. She is concerned that something like this can sneak up on them in the future. She asked if they

could settle the matter.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that they need to write legislation to regulate trucks on our city streets.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that they are zoned not to do it. It is not a permitted usage. They are violating it now.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that is the problem.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated if there is an issue, you are working with them already. If they need to be fined, he does not have a problem with that either.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach asked about the request to have this as an Agenda item depending of what happens in the next week or so, she would like to have it as an Agenda item to ensure there is the proper protocol and follow-up. We can't always trust corporations to do the right thing. She wants a follow up CED meeting.

Mr. Tom Hahn, E. Highland Street, stated that the problem was solved with parking on Sherman Street. The number one reason was no tractor trailers for local deliveries. You don't need extra meetings. Do what you have to do. On police, he would like Candida to come up with a plan on how we are going to solve the problem next year if they go to 30 or 40 people. Where we are going to get the trained people?

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that everything Mr. Hahn said was right and they have gone through this before. They have to look closer at the police issue.

Mr. Lewis Shupe, 1101 Hamilton Street, stated that there are a lot of parking at Mack Boulevard and S. 12th Street. Couldn't the trailers park there? There is a lot of unused parking spaces that have not been used for at least 10, 15 or 20 years.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated right behind there are buildings going on. There are housing buildings.

Mr. Lewis Shupe stated that there is plenty of space there.

Mr. James Spang, 435 Ridge Avenue - President of the Riverfront Civic Association, stated that he is speaking about two problems. One is on the way to being solved. He thanked Mr. Hendricks on working on the Amazon truck issue for over two weeks. He has stepped up within city hall. He stated that Matt Tuerk has stepped up and several other members of

Council. One of the large problems they face as a city is the transfer of the Communication Center to the county. The city has a police force that is severely understaffed. One of the areas they are lacking, there is no backup support to the police force. We have cameras all over town. These officers respond to calls and the cameras do no good unless there is a body on the street. He stated that the city has \$58 million and asked if the Public Safety Committee appoint a subcommittee with some of the Crime Watch people and look over actually establishing a fully functional 311.

Mr. Julio Guridy thanked Mr. Spang and stated Ms. Mota is the Chair of the Public Safety Committee and is taking notes.

Mr. Patrick Palmer, 617 Allen Street, stated that Mr. Spang was saying do a CAHOOTS. That is what it sounds like to him.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that you already spoke about that.

Mr. Patrick Palmer stated that they did not speak about that at Council. He asked what is going on with the Council of Youth. He stated that they had a meeting and the city already selected. He stated that he did not know that was happening. He stated that he did not get selected. What happened there?

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that the candidates that sent in there applications were sent to the Mayor. The Mayor reviews them and recommends the people that were chosen. We had one meeting and something on the Agenda about it. They have five people, but extend to eight adults. There are no Hispanics on the Council.

Mr. Patrick Palmer asked who was selected.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated three African Americans.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated three African Americans, one white, and Latinos. You are going from five adults to eight adults.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated Fred Montgomery.

Mayor O'Connell stated Fred Montgomery, Knoxley Samms, Ed White, Phoebe Harris and one on the Agenda tonight.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that there is actually a Bill on the Agenda to change to include more people.

Mr. Patrick Palmer asked is there a criteria that was met and what is the

median age.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that the youth are not appointed yet. That is what they discussed at the last meeting.

Mr. Joshua Siegel stated to Mr. Guridy that Patrick Palmer was integral in the formation of the Youth Council. He helped lead the charge and worked with you. Mr. Palmer's reputation speaks for itself. He helped found Inside Allentown and you know how valuable that has been for kids in Allentown have a firsthand look on how government works. If we are going to expand it to eight adults, he would like to see Mr. Palmer as one of the appointees. It would not exist without his leadership.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that he would not go that far. He stated that he does not think Mr. Palmer spearheaded it. He is here and did participate and gave a lot of information.

Mr. Patrick Palmer stated earlier they had Mr. Ringer up here. What is the limits on attacks? You cared more about someone who had a hat on then what was being said about another Councilmember. Especially, when there is some things that could have been considered slander. You did not really shut him down. You just answered his questions.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that he has a right to speak. He stated that Mr. Palmer does not have to remember everything, but you can look at the video.

Mr. Patrick Palmer stated that he understands it is Mr. Guridy's meeting, but he can tone down the sarcasm a little.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked what is he sarcastic about.

Mr. Patrick Palmer stated that you are sarcastic and you sound like you are in a hurry.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that he is in a hurry because people are waiting for things. Just like you are.

Mr. Patrick Palmer stated you were elected, right. You ran five times. What happened to term limits?

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that now you are getting personal. That is your opinion and you are entitled to your opinion.

Mr. Patrick Palmer stated that we can look back at the video.

Ms. Gerri Copman (sp), 407 S. 18th Street, asked about guidance, person or department about rooming or boarding houses. A house been transitioned to housing house, drug and alcohol. They are very polite. She does not have an issue with the housing itself. She stated that they have to submit a written narrative and there have to be so many unrelated people that can't be of excess of four.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked Mr. Copman to give her phone number to Mr. Williams and hopefully they will be able to help her.

Mr. Glenn Nelson stated that he is in support of CAHOOTS. He is a resident with mental health issues. There need to be a intermediary between having no service and the police. No service between he needs hospitalization or talk him through he process. It would be mutually beneficial.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that he agrees with him. We need to do more and hopefully they can work with the county as a Crisis Intervention Program.

Mr. Glenn Nelson stated that he is on a lot of wait list.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that it is something that is very much needed. He has friends and family members that are going through it.

Mr. Karen Law (sp), 500 block of Cleveland Street, stated that she has been a long-time resident, born and raised in the city. Moved away and back at the same location. The reason she is here this evening is that the part-time Animal Control Officer, Brittany was fired last Thursday. A resident of our city had trapped a cat that they did not want hanging around the property. The neighbor saw that the air had been tempt which is a sign that this cat had been spayed and neutered and had received its vaccines. The city policy is that the cat was to be taken over to the Lehigh County Human Society to be euthanized. In good conscious, she released the cat back into the neighborhood because there was no reason to euthanize a healthy feral cat. Cats are everywhere in the city of Allentown. There were 12 - 18 cats in one year that increased in a neighborhood because of one un-spayed female. The City of Allentown is the largest municipality in this region that does not implement a trap, neuter and return program. They were met with TNR does not work. She asked Council to approve a TNR Program as the best cat control method.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that she would definitely want to know what the city's policy is with that. It seems ludacris if that is our policy.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked Mayor Ray O'Connell to please find out.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that he will talk to Craig Messinger in Public Works and Ann Saurman. He cannot comment on the other issue because it is a personnel issue.

Ms. Cindy Morganelo (sp), long time resident of the city, a taxpayer and a trapper for 17 years for feral, stated that over the years she has been involved in the cat rescues and trapping many community cats. She stated that she paid for surgery fees out of her pocket or bought low cost vouchers from local groups that made them available. The average fee is \$40. For many years they tried to get the city to get a trap, neuter and return program. The only cat control method employed by the city is catch and kill. The cities of Bethlehem and Easton have been using these methods for three years. Many Lehigh and Northampton County have been using TNR for many years also. She asked them to stop allowing people or Animal Control Officers to trap feral cats and take them to Lehigh County Humane Society to be killed. She asked that Animal Control no longer loans out traps unless it is to be used for TNR and not to be used to be taking cats to be killed. The Lehigh County Human Society has a very lucrative contract with the city. She asked that the Public Works Management Team makes these changes and makes sure your budget in 2022 with the Lehigh County Humane Society includes money to fix feral cats.

Mr. Thomas Slanette (sp), 2700 of Fairview Street, talked about the TNR Program. He is a cat owner, lover and foster. In doing so he learned so much about these animals. He learned TNR (trap, neuter and release). If a cat should be trapped, neutered and released and was euthanized, that should not happen. Animal Control and Recycling does not seem like a great fit. Trap, neuter and return is a humane, effective approach for strays and ferals. TNR stops the breeding cycle and improves their lives while preventing reproduction. Taxpayers, city officials, shelters and a little money will work.

Mr. Hal Warner, CEO - Lehigh County Humane Society, stated that it is his pleasure to be here tonight to clear up some misconceptions with the city and what we are doing with feral cats out there. He stated that they have a great relationship with the City of Allentown. They have TNR over 500 cats at no charge to the City of Allentown. They have reduced the euthanization of their feral rates by 100 of percentage points. They were forced to euthanize 27 cats and a lot of those were because of health reasons. They provide \$150,000 a year in financial assistance for medical services to members of the Lehigh Valley. These services include spayed, neuter, lumpectomies, biopsies, microchipping and all sorts of services they provide to their clinic. That is real savings for Allentown residents from the

Lehigh County Humane Society.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that it is a good idea to talk to the people that are here today.

Mr. Hal Warner stated that the Lehigh County Humane Society tried to talk to them.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that it is a good idea to get the right information from each side.

Mr. Tom Houck, 845 N. 18th Street, stated his hat is off to Council. For \$6,300 a year, you definitely put in your time. He was here to observe and not politicize. He asked about a policy through Code Enforcement when someone makes a complaint, the Code Enforcement calls them back in about two weeks and tells them the status of a complaint of quality of life issue. He has a home in his neighborhood at 902 N. 18th Street. It has been abandoned for 25 years. The garage has collapsed, the front porch and the back porch are about to collapse. The roof looks like it is going along with the chimney. There have been Code Enforcement signs and abandoned signs and unfit for human habitation signs in front of this house so much you can use it as wall paper in the city. It still exists and is still abandoned. There is something that needs to be done with Code Enforcement. He asked if Council can talk to the Parking Authority to agree on committing a patrol to monitor Seventh Street. It is one lane traffic. He talked about dirt bikes and three-wheelers popping wheelies all over the city. With James Spang saying about 311 and the camera system is a really good system. You can't chase them or corral them.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that she is on the Blighted Property Committee. Is that 902 N. 18th Street on the Blighted Property. She stated that she and Mr. Hendricks are on the Parking Authority Board. Every two or three months the board gets how many tickets and it is amazing how many tickets the Parking Authority get. She advised him to call the Parking Authority get.

Mr. Tom Williams stated that he is not sure. There are about 150 properties on that list. He will check it out tomorrow.

Mr. Jeffrey Glazier stated that he serves on the Planning Commission and the Redevelopment Development Authority brought that property at their last two meetings. Through the Redevelopment Authority that property will be taken and redeveloped into a habitable property that will not be an eye sore to the neighborhood. We all need to appreciate this is a long process. He commends the city and the Redevelopment Authority for

being persistent. They have it and is well within the process.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that it will go back to Mr. Williams to see how they will resolve this issue.

Ms. Ashley Strange stated that there were a lot of people in the overflow and Ms. Affa expressed concerns that Covid is not over. In here, we have to stay separate, but the peasants that get here late have to get corralled in. One of the things asked is can't people attend from home. Is there a way to still comment virtually if someone emails you. Previously for Courtesy of the Floor, it was in the Rules.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated sure.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that it is actually an e-comments provision. He stated that link he sent there is an e-comment provision that goes out when the Agenda goes out. If you go to the website and the e-comment is there.

Ms. Ashley Strange stated as a motorcycle rider, she rejects the notion that they are track by drones and corralled like animals.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that he was talking about illegal motorcycles, not legal motorcycles.

Mr. Tom Houck stated that he is not talking about legal. We are talking about illegal.

Ms. Ashley Strange stated that we still don't go corralling our community members like animals. She stated as a motorcycle rider that is really terrifying.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that he would love to work with her on how they can fix the issue of having motorcycles that are illegally riding with no license plates.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that if you don't have a license plate then you don't get gas.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that if they can find a solution, it would be great.

Ms. Enid Santiago, 1243 S. Jefferson Street, stated that whether somebody has a illegal or an legal motorcycle. We don't corral them. We don't hurt them. We don't run them off the road. We don't put a police vehicle in front of them so they can crash in front of it and get possibly killed. You just don't do that. It is inhumane. It is unacceptable.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that it is quite evident. Our police department does not corral, stand in their way or chase them. That is not something in the 36 years that he was on and not something they would do. Those comments should not be made.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated only one time. He stated let me explain the Rules. You have one chance under Courtesy of the Floor.

Mr. Tom Houck stated that Council gave them the floor twice. He is talking about something different. He stated that he knows the Rules and Mr. Guridy did not even ask him why he came up. He stated that he never said herding anybody. His personal integrity has been hurt by their accusations which were false. He stated that he never said anything about drones. He said corral. He meant you could ahead of them. He did not run them off the road. He said it is tempting to.

Contract Approvals

[15-4433](#)

R94

Authorization for Contract with Penmar Services, Inc. for an estimated sum of \$90,000 for emergency work related to building demolition and remediation work, bid, one response.

Attachments: [R94 Penmar](#)
[Resolution #30238](#)

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that Jessica is on vacation. Someone is one.

Mr. Seth O'Neill stated that the details of the contract we are asking for any department heads to speak on any questions you may have.

Mr. Tom Williams stated that the Demolition Contract the successful bidder was Penmar Services. It is a contract for \$90,000. per year, estimated. It depends on what demolition services are needed. It is a one year term with two additional one year term, if so chosen. The contract will begin on August 24.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that it looks like we do a contract and then add more time to it. It is something that they have to think about as Council. What is the rationale for it?

Mr. Tom Williams stated that the rationale is a one year agreement with extensions. If the relationship continues to be favorable then the extensions could be exercised. If Council prefers longer term agreements, he guesses they could look at that as well. It is going through the process for one year to rebid is time consuming.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that it cost money to rebid. He asked if there were any comments from the dais.

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

Enactment No: 30238

[15-4434](#)

R95

Authorization for Contract with Pennoni Associates, Inc. for the estimated sum of \$25,000 to perform structural evaluations for Emergency and non-Emergency call outs as needed, competitively bid, multiple response.

Attachments: [R95 Pennoni](#)
[Resolution #30239](#)

Mr. Tom Williams stated that there were four bidders for this proposal. After the scoring effort, Pennoni Associates was selected. It is for emergency and nonemergency Engineering Services and Structural Evaluations. If a car hits a building and we need to evaluate if it needs to can remain. We have to call in a demolition contractor from a prior contract. It is a one year term with two additional options for extensions. It is based on the amount of work. The budget amount is \$25,000.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked \$25,000 in total. Not per incident.

Mr. Tom Williams stated that it is based on the hours that the services are needed.

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

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

Enactment No: 30239

[15-4439](#)

R96

Authorization for Contract with Overhead Door Company for \$49,005 per contract year, for on call and on-site services related to garage door replacement, repair, inspection and maintenance, at various City owned and operated facilities, competitively bid, two proposals.

Attachments: [R96 Overhead Doors](#)
[Resolution #30240](#)

Mr. Julio Guridy asked how many garage doors we actually are talking about.

Mr. Craig Messinger stated that he is talking about all garage doors throughout the city. We are talking City Hall, all the fire stations, over at Bridgeworks and the city garage. This is to encompass all the garage doors throughout the city. Now, realize the contract is estimated at \$49,000, but that is dependent on how much work is needed. They are not saying it will be that much, but we have to put an estimate out there what we feel it could be throughout the year. It is only for services they can provide.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if that includes materials, if needed. What is the average cost for a garage door?

Mr. Craig Messinger stated that this is for all the garage work. It all depends. They are going to give us the cost of the materials. This is for maintenance of it. He stated that sometimes it is \$200 for a repair or \$600 for a repair. It all depends on what it is.

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

Mr. Kevin Easterling, 1124 Hamilton Street, asked how many contractors bid on that project.

Mr. Craig Messinger stated two.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated two proposals.

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

Enactment No: 30240

[15-4375](#) May 5, 2021 City Council Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [May 5, 2021 City Council Meeting Minutes](#)

[15-4376](#) May 19, 2021 City Council Contract Approval Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [May 19, 2021 City Council Contract Approval Meeting Minutes](#)

[15-4384](#) May 19, 2021 City Council Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [May 19, 2021 City Council Meeting Minutes](#)

[15-4385](#) June 2, 2021 City Council Contract Approval Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [June 2, 2021 City Council Contract Approval Meeting Minutes](#)

[15-4403](#) June 2, 2021 City Council Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [June 2, 2021 City Council Meeting Minutes](#)

[15-4404](#) June 16, 2021 City Council Contract Approval Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [June 16, 2021 City Council Contract Approval Meeting Minutes](#)

[15-4408](#) June 16, 2021 Bill 31 Public Hearing Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [June 16, 2021 Bill 31 Public Hearing Meeting Minutes](#)

[15-4446](#) June 16, 2021 City Council Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [June 16, 2021 City Council Meeting Minutes](#)

Minutes

A motion was made by Daryl Hendricks, seconded by Candida Affa, to vote on the minutes. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Minutes

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

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

Communications

City Council held an executive session on July 14 to discuss the hiring of a city council solicitor.

Multiple calls have been received in regard to the truck traffic at Pump Place, all of this issues are currently under review by the Administration.

Old Business: NONE

Controllers Report

Mr. Jeffrey Glazier stated that he has two Reports. The P-Card Review released on the 24th of June for the month of April. They are working on the May P-Card Report. There were 61 statements reviewed for \$160,000. He went over the findings. The Accounts Payable Report from May 29 until July 3 just was released on the 14th of July. They reviewed for 457 checks in the amount of a little bit over \$5 million. They reviewed 24 manual checks for \$287,000 and eight wires for \$1.5 million. He went over the findings.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any comments for Mr. Glazier.

Mr. Mike Hanlon stated that he missed something under Courtesy of the Floor. He told Daryl about it and he will call him. It is from Tyler Fatzinger Fairview cemetery update it has now been three months, since I and concerned citizens of Allentown have contacted sweep regarding the condition of Fairview cemetery. I am still denied doing volunteer work at the cemetery for free combined with cleaning graves stones at the cemetery. Most of you (city council) and mayor have received countless messages by other Allentown citizens or my self regarding Fairview cemetery for the past three years. The cemetery is still a mess even by going the route suggested to me which was sweep. It is unfortunate that the city can take swift action against so many other things in the city yet this has been allowed to go on for 26 years. I unfortunately could not make today's meeting and thank you for your time. Sincerely a determined and unrelentless individual.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked Mr. Hendricks if he was going to call Mr. Fatzinger later. He knows Mr. Zucal was also working on that.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated yes. He stated that Mr. Boyko is out of the country right now. He stated that they are going to try to get something done.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that he is probably in Brazil.

Mr. Joshua Siegel asked if it was private property and he owns it as an association. We addressed this at least a dozen times.

Administration Report

NONE

Committee Reports:**REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:****SPECIAL MEETINGS**

Council will have a special meeting on July 28 at 6 PM to review regulations and procedures relating to federal Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds,

Budget and Finance: Chair Siegel, Hendricks, Mota

The committee has not met since the last council meeting; the next meeting is scheduled for July 28th at 5:30 PM.

CEDC: Chair, Gerlach, Guridy, Affa

The committee met prior to this meeting; the next meeting is not yet scheduled. .

Human Resources, Administration and Appointments: Chair Affa, Mota, Zucal

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

Parks and Recreation: Chair Hendricks, Gerlach, Siegel

The committee met on July 14; the next meeting is not yet scheduled.

Public Safety: Chair Mota, Hendricks, Zucal

The committee has not met since the last council meeting; the next meeting is not yet scheduled.

Public Works: Chair Zucal, Affa, Siegel

The committee has not met since the last council meeting; the next meeting is not yet scheduled.

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

The committee has not met since the last council meeting; the next meeting is not yet scheduled.

Mr. Joshua Siegel asked Mr. Guridy if he mentioned the Special July 28 meeting.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated yes. Thank you.

**Mr. Daryl Hendricks made a recommendation since the Chief has been here all night.
1:53:14**

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE (To be Voted On):

[15-4356](#)

Bill 59

Amending the 2021 Capital Projects Fund and the 2021 Trexler Fund to provide for a transfer of Three Hundred Ninety-Nine Thousand Three Hundred Twelve Dollars and Thirty Cents (\$399,312.30) from the Trexler Fund Capital Contribution Account to Capital Project 2213 (Valania Park

Renovations) and Capital Project 2206 (Jordan Creek Greenway Trail).

Attachments: [Bill 59 Trexler Transfer](#)
[Ordinance #15728](#)

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

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that it was forwarded favorably. Ms. El-Chaar already spoke to this.

Ms. Karen El-Chaar stated thank you.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated thank you. Anything else you want to say Ms. El-Chaar.

Ms. Karen El-Chaar stated no. That is fine from her standpoint.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any comments from the floor.

Mr. Kevin Easterling, 1124 Hamilton Street, asked about the Capital Project allocation. How much is for Valania Park and Jordan Greenway.

Ms. Karen El-Chaar stated that Jordan Greenway Trail is \$300,000 and Valania Park is \$99,312.30.

Mr. Kevin Easterlin stated that he was under assumption that there were more funds allocated for Valania Park.

Mr. Daryl Hedricks stated that he thinks there are two more.

Ms. Karen El-Chaar stated that Parks has another item coming forward this evening for \$130,000 additional going into Valania Park.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any other comments from the floor.

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

Enactment No: 15728

[15-4362](#)

Bill 60

Amending the 2021 General Fund budget to create one (1) Project Manager position at a Paygrade 14N at an annual salary of Sixty-Nine Thousand Two Hundred Dollars (\$69,200) to assist the Department of Community and Economic Development as well as other departments with implementation, oversight and management of city-wide projects.

Attachments: [Bill 60 CD Project Manager](#)
[CED Project Manager - 2021 Job Description](#)
[Ordinance #15729](#)

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that it was in your committee Ms. Gerlach and forwarded with no recommendation.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that she would like to heard from her fellow Councilmembers. If there is no desire and she does not want to make a motion to table because then they can't discuss. If there is a desire, she would be amenable to that. There were some concerns.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if anybody wants to make a motion to table.

Mr. Joshua Siegel stated that they can have a discussion. If anybody has a last second comment. There was some reservations. He stated that it should be put up for a vote.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that the Chairwoman asked if there is a motion to table it.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that if anybody wanted to because there were reservations. She is fine with it and plan to vote for it.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that they did not talk about tabling it. They talked about having conversations with the rest of Council. She is not in favor of tabling.

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

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked what is the reservation.

Mr. Joshua Siegel stated that some Councilmembers expressed reservations about the necessity about the position. There was a sense that it was not needed and perhaps the responsibility could be absorbed by the departments. It is his feeling that when they consider the \$57 million and funded the backlog and NIZ projects as well as some ongoing city revitalization projects. The Allentown State Hospital will be an extensive undertaken. He can imagine DCED would need some help to oversee the part parcel of that property and numerous zonings that will create and all the projects associated with that, including infrastructure. He thinks it is value to consider all those tasks and making sure we execute on that right. That was the reservation.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that was part of the reservation. The other part is that it seems like we continue to increase management and the Project

Manager for this position is \$69,200.

Mr. Joshua Siegel stated he understands that. The city is growing. The population is increases, therefore the demand on city services is increasing. We used to have 1,100 employees.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that the city is growing but what he suggested in some instances. This is a Project Manager for specific projects. We were talking about projects that have to do with funding. There are other things that they are going to do. It has to be a position that is permanent for a long time. He will consider that.

Mr. Joshua Siegel stated maybe it is the way that the conversation went or some miss communication, misunderstanding or focused the topic of discuss of the ARPA funding. He does not believe that DCED is requesting this position for any number of specific projects. They using it as an example to justify it. Mr. Williams used the example of the back log of NIZ projects to demonstrate and clarify the need for this position. We don't what the future holds.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that the city has been without for many, many years. He stated that he can tell Mr. Siegel and he is new here and don't see a lot of things that happened in the past. This has been going on. Having Project Manager and hire people is something new. If we continue to spend money on every little thing. He stated to Mr. Zucal that in the beginning he had some comments or reservations on it and he would like to hear it.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that we don't need the position. Have people set up a little bit and do the work. Do more with less. We always hear this crying and complaining. People are poor and taxes are going up and yet we keep spending more money. Just like they needed all the Deputy Directors.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that he thought some of the Deputy Directors would be able to assist some of these things.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that this is \$57 million that a lot of people are going to be wanting more and more. She agrees with Mr. Guridy on what is going to happen five years from now, six years from now. What we really need to do is spend money on infrastructure and making sure in years to come. She stated to Mayor O'Connell is that the whole point is that if they do all the things they need for infrastructure so that the next generation. In 10 years, 20 years or 30 years from now, people's taxes aren't raised. After five or six years and after we are stable. She stated that the city has

been on the brink of bankruptcy since she has been on Council. Probably much before that. Now, we have an opportunity to come out of that and infrastructure in her opinion is the main thing. Save taxpayers money and then after we have done infrastructure and we know our pools, parks, sewer lines and everything is in place then we can shore up our Police Department. We need to shore up things like this, but we need to spend the money and be careful how we spend it. She stated that she wants a bang for her buck.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that is what the inspectors are for to check on things like this.

Ms. Candida Affa stated once our taxes are stable and people are not paying high taxes and then we could raise a little bit here and there to shore up different things.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that he agrees with her, but this is tied to various projects and infrastructure is important for the rescue money. The Project Manager can be involved in all that stuff. We are not on the brink of bankruptcy. That is why he had to raise taxes 1.5 mills, 27 percent. We are far, far from the brink of bankruptcy.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated well, now we are not. We have \$57 million out there.

Mayor Ray O'Connell state what, I am not even counting the \$57 million. Sit down with Seth O'Neill the Director of Finance.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that we just hired one for him too to help us look into it.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that he agrees with Ms. Affa, but knows the projects that are coming up, not only here, but with Parks and Recreation. He thinks there are a total of 12 of them coming up. For a Bureau Director to be able to oversee all of those, it could be very difficult. The same thing is going to happen with the spending of this money. We are short of inspectors as it is. We don't have the people right now to do this. As much as he does not want to add personnel, that this time it is almost incumbent for us to do so. To be able to follow these projects and what we are going to be spending money on this infrastructure.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked don't you think that the departments are following the budgets. Each department has its own people that follow those projects.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks no. Some of them do not.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated yes, they do and they also have Community and Economic Development. He stated he knows that Mr. Hendricks is thinking that, but that is not the truth. They have people that do the projects. They will do it with another person there or not. We have tons of projects that department wants to put on. They did not know we were going to put on another Project Manager. Now, the Project Manager is going to be in every single department and look at every single project.

Mr. Joshua Siegel stated that they are going to oversee somethings.

Ms. Candida Affa asked the Mayor if that is what he is saying.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated no. It is a Project Manager for Community and Economic Development.

Mr. Tom Williams stated that it is going to manage the departments that originate and run by CED, but those projects require interaction throughout the city. It is a lot of coordination to take place. He gave two examples of projects that are sitting there: \$4 million of projects that are sitting there and allocated. He talked about the Center Square Project approved four years ago. The Streetscape Project on Hamilton was approved two years ago. He stated that there are his projects and he can't do them. He can't follow it all the way through because he and Leonard are managing a department with a 100 people with nine different segment.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked Mr. Williams if he is saying Streetscape Projects are going to be overseen by this individual.

Mr. Tom Williams stated because it originates with NIZ and the way that this project is run. it is different then the curb and sidewalk and the other things that they do.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that the way he looks at it is the Streetscapes Projects or anything that has to do with streets is the Public Works Department.

Mr. Tom Williams stated that they tried that with the Streetscape Project.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated until now, Council has not heard anything like that.

Mr. Tom Williams stated that they are trying to operate differently. They are trying to elevate abilities and what they can accomplish here. The process as a municipality from bidding and procurement and the things that they have to do is onerous. They take longer than it does in the private sector. He stated that he is embarrassed that Center Square is not close to

construction.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked is it because you don't have a Project Manager.

Mr. Tom Williams stated that he can't do it.

Mr. Craig Messinger stated that he can tell Council, they are full. They are sitting on 20 projects. They are overwhelmed on what they have. Some of the projects were sitting because there were no way they can do them. Tom is telling Council the truth. It makes sense that the Project Manager be in that department. He has to support Tom on what he has to do for his department.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that he feels that because we have the money out there, you are bringing all these things at once. He stated more inspectors he would go for. He asked if there were any comments from the floor.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated let's say we vote yes for this Project Management position. She would like an update. How many projects going on? If we have a few projects, what will be the timeframe that this Project Manager will make these projects completed without us losing those grants.

Mr. Tom Williams stated that it he does not know how long projects will take because they are all different.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that he mentioned that there was a timeframe or they will lose it. We will lose those grants. Didn't you mention that before? She asked if he gets the votes, will they give regular updates on what are the projects and how effective this Project Manager is.

Mr. Tom Williams stated that ARP money, yes, we do have a timeframe. With the NIZ money, if it does not get moving there going to figure out a way. They are figuring out a way to get the projects moving. it is incredible difficult to do that right now. They are taking on bigger things. He stated sure. Through the CED Committee, absolutely.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated from what they are saying, we are approving too many contracts. If they can't keep up wit them.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that they are approving a lot of contracts. He heard 14 and then 9 in Parks and Recreation, Public Works, and Community Department. He is thinking that they should have two Project Managers now. With all the projects. They have nine or 12. This is the first time he heard that they needed a Project Manager. Every department should and have always managed their own departments.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that Mr. Guridy heard them himself. You have been on for 20 years and it only has been 10 years that we had the NIZ money and there still money to be expended. Part of that is what he is speaking of.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that we have done a lot of projects in 12 years and we have hired a lot of people. The one that we are probably short on is inspectors.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that is the life of a city.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that we are talking about how many projects we have. These projects of nine or 12 or whatever we are having. She asked if it is part of the infrastructure that she is talking about. If we spend the money now for all these projects, is this going to be something that is advantageous to the city. is it something that is shoring us up or that is going to stick around for 30 or 40 years.

Mr. Tom Williams stated yes, these are all long-lasting important projects for our residents, business community and taxpayers.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that he would like to see the list of the projects. He stated that Mr. Williams said it will only see the Community and Economic Development projects. Then you through in the Streetscape.

Mr. Joshua Siegel stated with all due respect.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated to Mr. Siegel, please you have already spoken twice on this issue.

Mr. Joshua Siegel stated so have you.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that he is the president so he can do that.

Mr. Joshua Siegel stated God help us all.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked Mr. Williams if they will only need one person to overlook these projects or is it just going to be the Community and Economic Development Projects.

Mr. Tom Williams stated projects that originate with the NIZ and Public Works. NIZ Public Improvement Projects will be managed by Community and Economic Development. There are many different aspects of them. He is talking about the Streetscape on Hamilton, largely. There are many

ones that are focused in the Community and Economic Development Department. Façade Improvement Program, Smart City Initiatives coming up, our Weigh Finding Plan that they will be implementing in the coming months. Our Hazard Projects and yes, the NIZ Public Improvement Projects. The NIZ provides us with the opportunity of a few million dollars a year of public improvement projects. If we can get it going, manage and move them along. We can't right now. We are missing opportunities.

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

Ms. Candida Affa stated that she is going to trust the Director and Mr. Williams. They are the experts and she is not.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated yes, because they are going to give feedback and a Report.

Yes: 5 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Joshua Siegel

No: 2 - Julio Guridy, and Ed Zucal

Enactment No: 15729

[15-4355](#)

Bill 61

Amending the 2021 General Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Ten Thousand (\$10,000.00) Dollars from Stonyfield Organic for the purchase of Foamstream Equipment as part of the Non-Toxic Neighborhoods Initiative.

Attachments: [Bill 61 STONYFIELD ORGANIC DONATION](#)

[Ordinance #15730](#)

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

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that this is from Parks and Recreation to spray the playgrounds and to safeguard the children. It is nontoxic.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that he remembers that. He asked if there were any further comments from the dais or the floor.

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

Enactment No: 15730

[15-4367](#)

Bill 62

Amending the 2021 General Fund budget to create One (1) additional position of Community Health Nurse (11N) in the Allentown Health Bureau (AHB). This position and related expenses will be covered by a One Hundred Thousand (\$100,000) Dollar donation from St. Luke's Physician

Group, Inc. to assist the Allentown School District in becoming a Vaccines for Children Provider (VFC).

Attachments: [Bill 62 ST LUKE'S PHYSICIAN GROUP DONATION - VFC](#)
[Ordinance #15731](#)

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that it was in Ms. Gerlach's committee.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that they discussed it tonight and voted favorably to tonight's Agenda. This will help the Allentown School District vaccinate kids.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that Ms. Kistler spoke about it lengthy and it is a good program. He asked if there were any comments from the floor.

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

Enactment No: 15731

CONSENT AGENDA:

Ms. Sarah Rotz stated that questions of procedure lies with you, but the suggested procedure for the Consent Agenda is to read the full list with the Agenda, the Resolution Number, and title then open for comments from Council then open for comments from the public then ask if a Councilperson wants an item removed which they can do by stating they, themselves. It does not have to be a motion or a second. She stated and then do the full Roll Call.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if they have to ask each time the Resolution is read.

Ms. Sarah Rotz stated to read through the full list and then ask for comments.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any comments or anybody wants to remove anything. He asked if there were any comments from the public.

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

[15-4420](#)

R97

Jennifer Miklus, Commission on Homeless, 07/15/2025 (reappointment)

Attachments: [R97 Reappointment Commission on Homeless - Jennifer Miklus](#)
[Jennifer Miklus, Commission on Homeless, 07-15-2025](#)
[Resolution #30241](#)

Enactment No: 30241

[15-4421](#) R98
Hope Sabbagh, Commission on Homeless, 07/15/2025 (reappointment)

Attachments: [R98 Reappointment Commission on Homeless - Hope Sabbagh](#)
[Hope Sabbagh, Commission on Homeless, 07-15-2025](#)
[Resolution #30242](#)

Enactment No: 30242

[15-4423](#) R99
Craig Messinger, Disruptive Conduct Board of Appeals, 06/01/2024

Attachments: [R99 Reappointment Disruptive Conduct Board of Appeals - Craig Messinger](#)
[Craig Messinger, Disruptive Conduct Board of Appeals, 06-01-2024](#)
[Resolution #30243](#)

Enactment No: 30243

[15-4424](#) R100
Charles Roca, Disruptive Conduct Board of Appeals, 06/01/2024
(replacing Chief Granitz)

Attachments: [R100 Appointment Disruptive Conduct Board of Appeals - Charles Roca](#)
[Charles Roca, Disruptive Conduct Board of Appeals, 06-01-2024](#)
[Resolution #30244](#)

Enactment No: 30244

[15-4425](#) R101
Leonard Lightner, Disruptive Conduct Board of Appeals, 06/01/2024

Attachments: [R101 Reappointment Disruptive Conduct Board of Appeals - Leonard Lightner](#)
[Leonard Lightner, Disruptive Conduct Board of Appeals, 06-01-2024](#)
[Resolution #30245](#)

Enactment No: 30245

[15-4426](#) R102
Linda Vega, Human Relations Commission, 12/31/2021 (reappointment)

Attachments: [R102 Reappointment Human Relations Commission - Linda Vega](#)
[Linda Vega, Human Relations Commission, 12-31-2021](#)
[Resolution #30246](#)

Enactment No: 30246

[15-4427](#) R103
Nancy Wilt, Recreation Commission, 12/31/2021 (reappointment)

Attachments: [R103 Reappointment Recreation Commission - Nancy Wilt](#)
[Nancy Wilt, Recreation Commission, 12-31-2021](#)
[Resolution #30247](#)

Enactment No: 30247

[15-4428](#)

R104

Phoebe Harris, Recreation Commission, 12/31/2021 (reappointment)

Attachments: [R104 Reappointment Recreation Commission - Phoebe Harris](#)
[Phoebe Harris, Recreation Commission, 12-31-2021](#)
[Resolution #30248](#)

Enactment No: 30248

[15-4417](#)

R105

640 Dixon Street - Sewer Planning Module

Attachments: [R105 Lehigh County Humane Society Building Expansion - Sewage](#)
[Planning Module](#)
[640 Dixon Street - Sewer Planning Module](#)
[Resolution #30249](#)

Enactment No: 30249

RESOLUTIONS FOR FINAL PASSAGE (To be Voted On):

[15-4409](#)

R106

Appoints Police Officer Appointment

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R106 Police Officer Appointment](#)
[Resolution #30250](#)

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

Chief Charles Roca stated that Samantha Carman is the new hire to bring before you. She is 26 years of age. She grew up in New York and has a background in security. She was a Public Safety Officer in Long Island and she came over here. In the packet, it says that she lives in New York, but she lives in Pennsylvania. She is in the area. She can respond to work and she will begin her initial training at the Police Academy.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any comments or questions for the Chief. He asked if there were any comments from the floor.

A motion was made by Daryl Hendricks, seconded by Julio Guridy, that this Resolution be Suspend The Rules on Vote on R106. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Enactment No: 30250

Yes: 5 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, and Ed Zucal

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

Enactment No: 30250

[15-4411](#)

R107

Approves the Submission of an Amendment to the PA DCED Emergency Solutions Grant Application

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R107 PA DCED Emergency Solutions Grant Amendment](#)
[Resolution #30251](#)

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

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated no comments.

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

Audience Member stated that R108 is for PennDot and R107 is for an Emergency Solutions Grant.

Mr. Mike Hanlon stated that R107 approves the submission of an amendment to the PA DCED Emergency Solutions Grant application.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any comments including the public.

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

Enactment No: 30251

[15-4419](#)

R108

Authorizes Electronic Access to PennDOT Systems

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R108 Electronic Access to PennDOT Systems](#)
[Resolution #30252](#)

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

Mr. Ed Zucal asked what are we talking about here. Are we talking about

the Police access to PennDot or what.

Mr. Craig Messinger stated the state is now requiring an agreement to be executed between us and the city of Allentown. It gives our employees electronic access to their grant system and the online reporting for liquid fuels. It was something sent before otherwise we would have to send reports in and do different things. Now, they are doing everything online.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that they are specific people, correct.

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

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

Enactment No: 30252

[15-4443](#)

R109

\$200,000.00 in Risk Management for Excess Insurance Premiums Have Increased in 2021 and Exceeded the Amount Originally Appropriated; \$18,199.74 in Human Resources for Account Not Changed to Deduct from Permanent Wages when HR Clerk Confidential Position Changed to Full Time; \$8,730.59 in Finance for Existing Vehicle Dual Facing Dash Cameras Are In Need of Replacement in the EMS Vehicles.

Attachments: [R109 Account was not Changed to Deduct from Permanent Wages and Existing Vehicle Dual Facing Dash Cameras Need Replacement](#)
[Existing Vehicle Dual Facing Dash Cameras Are In Need of Replacement in the EMS Vehicles](#)
[Account Was Not Changed To Deduct From Permanent Wages](#)
[City Excess Insurance Premiums Have Increased in 2021 and Exceeded the Amount Originally Appropriated](#)
[Resolution #30253](#)

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that was not in any committee.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that these are transfers for Risk and Mr. Ferry, Ms. Mel and Mr. Eric Gratz might still be awake. They are just transfers. Insurance Premiums went up.

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

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

Enactment No: 30253

[15-4441](#)

R110 Needs an amendment to increase the request to \$291,500 as a result of a recent analysis
Authorizes Submission of a Formal Application to the Pennsylvania

Department of Community & Economic Development for a Grant of Two Hundred Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$275,000.00) to support renovation of four city bridges, three over Cedar Creek and one on Dixon Street.

Attachments: [R110 Bill CEDAR CREEK & DIXON BRIDGES GRANT](#)
[Resolution #30254](#)

Ms. Karen El-Chaar stated that a brief explanation of \$275,000. This is for DCED and we are putting in an application for Pennsylvania DCED as a multi-module grant. We have three bridges in Cedar Creek Parkway which we talked about two years ago. We have an issue with a pedestrian bridge over at Dixon Street. It is part of Trout Creek Parkway. They estimated the cost for construction and the creation of the design and Construction Documents of \$275,000. What they found out they need to provide an actual cost estimate from an Engineering Firm and they got the actual cost estimate this morning and the cost estimate is \$291,500. they are asking for Council's consideration to add \$16,500 to their grant application to come up to the \$291,500. There is no match requirement.

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

A motion was made by Daryl Hendricks, seconded by Joshua Siegel, to Amend R110 to increase the request to \$291,500.. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Enactment No: 30254

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

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

Enactment No: 30254

[15-4413](#)

R111
SUPPORTS OPPOSITION TO SENATE BILL 597

Attachments: [R111 OPPOSITION TO SB 597](#)
[Resolution #30255](#)

Ms. Jennifer McKenna stated that they are asking for a Resolution to oppose the legislation that is working its way through the Senate. The Senate right now is on recess and will pick it back up in September. This bill is written by the Private Water Companies to take over all the systems. They shifted and duplicated oversight to the PUC and asked for a budget increase for the management. This will mean an additional cost to the city ratepayers. It would be confusing oversight between the DEP and the PUC

and the Authority Boards. Mayor O'Connell has wrote a letter to Senator Browne in opposition of this as well.

Mr. Julio Guridy thanked Ms. McKenna and stated that Council has a lot of information and have it in their system. It is the right thing to do. Thank you for bringing it up and bringing it to our attention as well. He asked if there were any comments from the dais or the public.

Ms. Jenna McKenna stated that they are asking for a Resolution to oppose a Resolution that is working its way from the Senate. This is written by the Private Water Companies to take over the system.

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

Enactment No: 30255

[15-4389](#)

R112

Tiffany Polek, Allentown Neighborhood Improvement Zone Development Authority (NIZ), 01/01/2026 (Reappointment)

Attachments: [R112 Reappointment Allentown Neighborhood Improvement Zone Development Authority \(NIZ\) - Tiffany Polek](#)
[Tiffany Polek, Allentown Neighborhood Improvement Zone Development Authority \(NIZ\)](#)
[Resolution #30256](#)

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any comments.

Ms. Candida Affa asked if this is a reappointment. Is she a school teacher or principal.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that she is an administrator over at the school district. This is Mr. Schweyer's appointment.

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

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

Enactment No: 30256

[15-4422](#)

R113

Oscar F. Ortiz, Council of Youth, 07/01/2023

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R113 Appointment Council of Youth - Oscar F. Ortiz](#)
[Oscar F. Ortiz, Council of Youth, 07-01-2023](#)
[Resolution #30257](#)

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that this one Council was thinking about tabling it because we want to increase the amount of people to the Council of Youth and then take them from there.

Ms. Cynthia Mota states that she would.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that he strongly object to that. He it his appointee and nominee to be on the Youth Commission. There is no reason to table it. If you are going from five to eight then we can add more. Give me a reason to table it. He stated that he strongly object to it.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that is ok. You can. One thing that we agreed upon is to move it from five to eight and get more Hispanics onboard.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that the gentleman is Hispanic. He is Latino. You have three Black people and one White person. We need to reach the Latino community. This is the first step.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that you only have one white.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated so far.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that Ms. Mota also has a right for a table if she wants to.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated before that motion is made, why do we need to table it.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that we are going to add more people to the committee. Some of the Rules are going to change.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that her disconnect is if we are going to appoint Mr. Ortiz would that then not allow us to increase the number of people.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated not necessarily. There are some other reservations to it.

Mr. Joshua Siegel stated which are.

Mr. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that it is not about increasing to eight.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that they were going to move it from five to eight.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that the gentleman is Hispanic. He is Latino. You have three Black people and one White person. We need to reach the

Latino community. This is the first step to reach the Latino community and get this person on the Youth Commission.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that there is only one White.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated so far.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that Ms. Mota also has a right to table if she wants to.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that is fine.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated before that Motion is made, can we discuss why we need to table it.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that we are going to add more people to the committee. Some of the Rules are going to change.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that her disconnect is if we were going to appoint Mr. Ortiz would that then not allow Council to increase the number of people. Does one discount the other.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated not necessarily. He thinks there are some other reservations to it as well.

Mr. Joshua Siegel asked which are.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that it is not about increasing to eight. It is some other reservations.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that they were going to move it up to eight. He stated that he and the Mayor talked about that. To move it from five to eight.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated adults.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that there are other residents that submitted their applications and we are bringing them on today.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that he cannot bring them on today because you have four. Right now, you have five adults. This is the fifth one. When you get to the other part of the Agenda, you are going to increase the adult from five to eight. We are reviewing those applications and he will discuss those applications with you.

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked what power does Council have. If we have some kind of reservation when it comes to a person that you want to appoint. Don't we have the right to wait.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated it is called your vote.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach referenced the old ANIZDA conversation when some of us had concerns about the ANIZDA Board and the whole process. She stated that she just voted no. These are the Mayor's appointees. We can vote yes or no.

Ms. Candida Affa asked didn't we in the past get applications at one time.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that the applications were sent.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that you still do. It is online.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that the applications are online.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that the applications are online and so are the resumes.

Mr. Mike Hanlon stated that they were forwarded to Council with the applications. There were no concerns from anyone except from a Councilperson and it was sent back to the Mayor and the Mayor disregarded it and put it on the Agenda.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated correct. That is how the process works.

Mr. Joshua Siegel stated that is our role on Council. The legislative oversight. You can always make a motion to table and we can vote on the motion to table.

A motion was made by Cynthia Mota, seconded by Julio Guridy, that R113 be tabled. The motion failed by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, and Julio Guridy

No: 4 - Daryl Hendricks, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Joshua Siegel

Enactment No: 30257

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

No: 1 - Cynthia Mota

Enactment No: 30257

[15-4342](#)

R114

Appoints Joseph McMahon, Water and Sewer (Lease and Operations) Compliance Review Board, 01/01/2023 - Replaces John J. Bartol

Attachments: [R114 Appointment Water and Sewer \(Lease and Operations\) Compliance Review Board - Joseph McMahon Resolution #30258](#)

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

- Yes:** 6 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Joshua Siegel
- No:** 1 - Daryl Hendricks

Enactment No: 30258

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

[15-4435](#) Bill 64 Budget and Finance, forwarded favorably - the administration is proposing this amendment to purchase more PPE.

Amends Section One as follows:

Removes:

Emergency Medical Services

000-05-0605-0003-68	Operating Materials and Supplies
-0- (was \$11,608.11)	

Human Resources

000-06-0603-0001-34	Training and Professional Development
-0- (was \$11,495)	

Adds:

Risk Management

081-02-8001-0001-68	Operating Materials and Supplies
\$23,103.11	

Amending the 2021 General Fund budget by transferring Four Hundred Forty-Six Thousand Four Hundred Seventy Dollars and Ninety Cents (\$446,470.90) from the unappropriated balance of the General Fund to the Fire, EMS and Human Resource Departments for related COVID-19 expenses. In 2020 the City was awarded a COVID-19 grant from the County of Lehigh in the amount of \$1.9M. The original deadline to spend this grant was December 2020; however, the County has since amended the deadline to allow for spending through 2021. A total of \$446,470.90 of the \$1.9M remains to be spent.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 64 2020 LC Covid Grant](#)

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any public comment.

REFERRED TO BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Enactment No: 15732

[15-4436](#)

Bill 65 Public Works, this evening
Amending the 2021 General Fund by eliminating two (2) Part-Time positions in Building Maintenance and creating one (1) Full-Time position which will allow the Bureau of Building Maintenance to operate more efficiently.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 65 Building Maintenance Reorg](#)

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any public comment.

REFERRED TO PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Enactment No: 15733

[15-4412](#)

Bill 66 Parks and Recreation, this evening
Amending the 2021 Capital Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of One Hundred Thirty Thousand (\$130,000) Dollars from the NRPA and Niagara Bottling Company to support the renovations at Valania Park.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 66 NIAGRA - VALANIA PARK GRANT](#)

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any public comment.

REFERRED TO PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Enactment No: 15734

[15-4429](#)

Bill 67 Parks and Recreation, this evening
Amending the 2021 Golf Fund budget by transferring Seventy-Three Thousand Six Hundred Thirty-Two Dollars and Fifty-Two Cents (\$73,632.52) from the unappropriated balance of the Golf Fund to the Equipment Account for the purchase of a new rough mower.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 67 Golf Course Mower](#)

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

REFERRED TO PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Enactment No: 15735

[15-4438](#)

Bill 68

Amending Article 180B, Council of Youth, by modifying the composition of the board by changing the provision that five members shall be adults and be representative of youth organizations, interests or advocacy to eight and that the Department of Police designate a non-voting designee to the Council.

Sponsors: Guridy, Hendricks, Mota, Administration, Mr. Zucal and Affa

Attachments: [Bill 68 Council of Youth Amendment](#)

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that the Mayor was speaking about it earlier and asked if there were any comments.

Mr. Ed Zucal asked for his name be added to the legislation.

Ms. Candida Affa asked the same question.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that she does not want her name added.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated he knows and neither does Mr. Siegel.

Ms. Ashley Strange, 815 S. Front Street, stated that she spoke about this when they met about the Council of Youth last week. There are 13 members that are supposed to be on there. Six of them are to be youth and seven of them are to be adults. One from the county and one from Council. She believes by changing it from five members to eight members you are going to be outnumbering the youth on the Council of Youth. It is not really necessary. She stated to Mayor O'Connell why he saw the need to add more members or propose they need more members.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that he did not know that he did.

Ms. Ashley Strange stated that Mr. Hanlon read an email that you sent.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that he and Mr. Guridy talked about that. Mr. Julio Guridy stated that they agreed to do it because they needed more representation.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated a broader representation.

Ms. Ashley Strange stated that there are ways to make that happen without outnumbering the youth and by adding three more people will delay the start of the Council of Youth because you will have to add more adult members.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that initially they were going to have more than five and somehow through the process, it just got to five. As you know, the largest community in Allentown is Hispanic and we have no Hispanic.

Ms. Ashley Strange stated that you do now because Mr. Ortiz is in.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that the idea is to increase more Hispanics, if they can. They want to include an Arab into this Council as well. We do have a large Arab community.

Ms. Ashley Strange asked is there a way to do that by changing out the people that are already on there rather than adding more.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that what tends to happen is that everybody comes to the committee meeting. It is better to get more representation. Some people recommended 15 people and some people recommended more and we decided let's keep it short.

REFERRED TO PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

[15-4390](#) Bill 69 Public Works, this evening
Amendment to the Traffic Control Maps

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 69 Traffic Control Maps](#)
[Temporary Traffic Regulations Memo](#)

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

Mr. REFERRED TO PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Enactment No: 15736

[15-4440](#) Bill 70 Parks and Recreation, this evening
Amending the 2021 Capital Fund Budget to provide for a transfer of Nine Thousand Three Hundred Fifteen Dollars and Fifty Cents (\$9,315.50) as a transfer of funds from Capital Project 2024 – 15th Street Traffic Signal Improvements to Capital Project 1663 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Trail to provide for additional lighting.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 70 CAPITAL PROJECT 1663 TRANSFER](#)

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

REFERRED TO PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Enactment No: 15737

[15-4442](#)

Bill 71 Public Safety, this evening
Amending the 2021 General Fund by funding the Public Safety Analyst position currently budgeted for One (\$1) Dollar in the Police Department budget.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 71 Public Safety Analyst Funding](#)

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

REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Enactment No: 15738

[15-4432](#)

Bill 72
Contract Preferences for Identified Business Enterprises

Sponsors: Gerlach, Guridy, Mota and Mr. Siegel

Attachments: [Bill 72 Identified Business Enterprises](#)
[Contracting Barriers: A Review of Existing Disparity Studies](#)
[MWOB](#)
[MOB Proposal Notes](#)

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

Mr. Kevin Easterling stated he is representing the Black Heritage Association of the Lehigh Valley. He is pretty sure that everyone here received his public comments. He did want to point out the major concerns. He thanked Ms. Gerlach for presenting this legislation. What we are talking about here is pure equity. He listened to the meeting and there were a few people who articulated that it need to be an MBE/DBE Certification requirement for any contractor that went through this process. His written comments are there. This will go to committee. He asked if Mr. Messinger is still on the line. They discussed R96 and he asked a question on how many people bid on the contract and he said to. He does not know their ethnicity. If they are white individuals, are they required to go get certified that they are white.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that if they are a small business, they have to be certified as a small business.

Mr. Kevin Easterling stated that there is another requirement, a S-3 which is a HUD requirement that all authorities and municipalities are required to have contractors register as a S-3 contractor. The city of Allentown has a S-3 requirements. He is not sure if the city is compliant with the S-3. His organization actually does compliance for the Allentown Housing Authority. His role is to make sure that the Allentown Housing Authority is in compliance. Ten percent of their contracts have to go to S-3 contractors. He implored City Council to review this and make sure you include S-3 into this legislation.

Mr. Julio Guridy thanked Mr. Kevin Easterling for answering the email that he sent to him this morning. Any further comments from the public.

REFERRED TO COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE

[15-4430](#)

Bill 73 Public Safety, this evening
Amending the 2021 General Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Eight Thousand Seventy-Five Dollars and Twenty-Nine Cents (\$8,075.29) from the EMS Council State EMSOF Funds to be used to further prepare for medical emergencies and rebuild supplies from COVID-19.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 73 EMS Council Contribution](#)

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

REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Enactment No: 15739

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

NEW BUSINESS: NONE

GOOD AND WELFARE: NONE

ADJOURNED: 9:39 PM

[15-4437](#)

Council Rules
Home Rule Charter
Contract Procedures

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