



Allentown

435 Hamilton Street
Allentown, Pa. 18101

Minutes - Final

City Council

Wednesday, February 7, 2024

6:30 PM

Council Chambers

15-6675

Bill and Donna Strauss and the Parkettes National Gymnastics Training Center; - 50th Annual Parkettes Invitational Proclamation

Mr. Bill Strauss stated that he would like to thank Council for recognizing the Parkettes and thanked the city of Allentown for putting up with them for all these years. He knows that when they first started as Mr. Hendricks was saying that he was a Central Junior High School at that time. That's when they had their first competition/expedition. The team was named after Carol Parks who was a Principal at Central Junior High School. He thanked the city of Allentown for helping them get the facilities where they built it on Martin Luther King Drive. He wants to say so much, but doesn't have the words to speak. Thank you very much.

Invocation:

Pledge to the Flag

Roll Call

Present: 6 - Daryl Hendricks, Ed Zucal, Natalie Santos, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Candida Affa, and Santo Napoli

Excused: 1 - Cynthia Mota

Courtesy of the Floor

Courtesy and Privilege of the Floor Rules

Ms. Sharon Finnegan, Schantz Road, stated that she did Courtesy of the Floor on January 17th and the question at that time was what was the written protocol or written policy for Police response for a peaceful protest. That was a response to something that happened on Lehigh Street. It was a tactical response. It only been a few weeks and she came here really tonight to resubmit her information in case it was not legible because her handwriting is not always great. She also read in the meantime, NYU Law School has a Policing Project and it is to help use Policy Leaders themselves to help identify best practices so it is possible that there is no written policy at this time. If that is the case, the policy in training are to create a make public written policy that describes how the agency would respond to demonstrations. Avoid a unnecessarily militarize presence or aggressive response. They use a tiered response. Go soft to begin with

police in the crowd. The response could then be escalated, if necessary. Deploy officers in hard riot gear as a last resort and only when necessary to protect the public or officers in violence or serious injury. Tactical units may be staged near by, but out of sight to keep it calm and relaxed. She stated that she just wanted to throw that out there because again, the right to engage in peaceful demonstration is a cornerstone of our democracy.

Mr. Santo Napoli thanked Ms. Finnegan.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that he does not have anybody else.

Mr. Santo Napoli stated that it is for the Public Safety Presentation.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that he thought Mr. Napoli wanted the Muhlenberg Presentation.

Mr. Santo Napoli stated that he is sorry for the misunderstanding. This is for the Public Safety Presentation that Chief Roca is going to present in lieu of the Mayor's Report.

Chief Charles Roca stated good evening Council and thank you for having us on the Agenda at this time. As Chief of Police, one of the things that he came in here was to talk about investments infrastructure in the Police Department. Both in personnel, equipment, training, but importantly too infrastructure. They collaborated through a successful RFP with Alloy5 to conduct a Feasibility Study of the Police Station/Police Headquarters here at 425 Hamilton Street and that also had listening sessions with our officers to provide feedback. They had various meetings throughout the months that they were meeting and came up with a Plan of what they want. They identified what important criteria they had to look at and they made decisions based off of that. As they will hear tonight, you will hear about the needs of the infrastructure for the Police Headquarters. He stated that they will hear about the feedback that was provided by officers and they will see a vision that he fully stand behind and support so that Allentown can be on the forefront of modernization to provide effective and constitutional service to our citizens. He stated with that, he wants to introduce the Alloy5 Team that can come up and introduce themselves to Council.

Mr. Randy Galiotto, Architect and Principal - Alloy5, stated the team tonight is going to present the conclusion of the Feasibility Study. They had a great several months of collaboration with the city and the department. He stated that they are very happy to be here tonight. He stated that he is going to turn it over to Bekah.

Ms. Bekah Rusnock, Director of Development, Alloy5, provided a quick

overview of the Feasibility Study process looks like. They ran on about a six month timeline that started in July of 2023. There are three steps. They do a data collection and analysis and an evaluation. They also evaluate the building which includes a complete survey of the building. They did not have floor plans to work off of the buildings and Michelle will talk a little bit about that. They did survey and draw ups which means that they brought in a laser measure and documented everything and drew up floor plans of the existing conditions of the building. They moved into a Concept Design Phase which means that they discussed solutions and then propose those solutions as a concept and they will show those to Council tonight. They want to acknowledge all the people that they worked with. They had a great working relationship with the Police Department. They also worked with several departments in city hall. They worked with people from Public Works and were a huge help in learning the history of the building and some of the structure and knowledge of the building. They worked with people in Community and Economic Development when they looked for potential sites. The mayor himself participated and several people from his office as well. Standing here with Randy and Michelle, they also represent a few more people at their office back in Bethlehem and acknowledged the Engineering Consultant D'Huy Engineering which is a minority owned Engineering Firm located in Bethlehem. They do a lot of work with them and have a great partnership with them. They rely on them for all the MEP and systems engineering information. They started working at the existing properties with the police department. One of the things that they found through the evaluations was there is some population in Allentown doesn't even know where the Police Station is located. They started at 426 Hamilton Street and looked at the other sites that the police also operates out of. They took a look at 10th and Hamilton which they found a lot of people in the city thinks that is the actual police headquarters building. They don't know the police headquarters is the building right behind them. They went to the Comm. Center building where some people are stationed at on Fairview Street and looked at the Public Works building where there is some storage and some officers working out of the 10th Street location and will not bore them with a history lesson, but am a little bit of a nerd when it comes to architectural history. From a little bit of a romantic perspective, the building is beautiful and people that work here everyday might not notice the brutalism and that architectural style is executed at a high level here. There are mid century modern finishes which she and Michelle talks about how beautiful they are. They are not really functional for a modern Police Department. This building is 70 years old and constructed in 1963. The entire city hall complex was actually constructed at one time. City hall itself and the Police building that you see. The image in the lower left-hand corner there was a postcard that they found. They think it is a watercolor painting of some sort, but it really showcasing how that style of architecture at the time was about civic pride, connections to

community, a water feature planned and a lot of trees and bright plantings. That changed drastically when the parking garage was built next door to the Police Station. The bridge connection has really blocked where the Police Station sits per your visuals. Part of the reason people don't know where the Police Station is located is because when you walk down Hamilton Street you are really met with this huge retaining wall, this big bridge in front of you and you don't really see the signage of the Police Department. Also, interesting to note when that building was designed there was a central courtroom in that space that is currently unused. There is basically a thousand square foot two story space that is like a hole in the building. Some of that space has been adapted over the years for use, but it is still quite vacant. That is some interesting notes on the history there. Currently, you have 212 officers and are authorized for 232 officers. In discussions with the Police Department and other officials at city hall, they talked about an appropriate number of officers for a city of this size is closer to that 250 number.

Ms. Michelle Mazingo, Senior Designer - Alloy5, stated that she is a proud Allentown resident. They began to look at that 212 officers. They comprised of the following departments here and as the Chief mentioned, they sat down and conducted meetings with individuals from each of the departments to start to get a better understanding of what the deficiencies of their spaces in terms of functionality. They are architects can do a really good job of evaluating that building and they will talk about that in a moment, but it is really important how that building is functioning for the officers and the public citizens that also work in the building as well. They did also look at the building in the efficiency category here. They looked at the site here and have a little bit of a visual for you guys. The site that you are looking at here is 4th Street to Penn Street and from Hamilton Street here. Really taking city hall and the parking garage and bookending the Allentown Police Department here. You will notice there are a lot of deficiencies in the site itself. Hamilton Street as they know is a pretty steep hill and with the retaining wall that goes in front of the Police Department as well as the parking garage and pedestrian bridge it really blocks the visual of the building since it is so set back there. They did look at the building from black top to roof top and looked at the site architecture, mechanical, electrical and plumbing and a unique category that they dedicated to police support. How the rooms in the building were functioning for the police officers. That is from a safety perspective. That is from a functionality perspective, and they want to make sure they are looking at modern facilities for our officers. They took those four categories and broke it down a little further and created a little report card here. This report card here. This report card is a snapshot in time from the month of July of this past year. They look at this from a color coded rating system. So a dark green color is considered excellent and then they have all the way down to orange

and yellow of average and red and critical. They really don't use the word critical lightly. So when they see this here on this report card, it does provide a sense of urgency. In this snapshot of time, you will see there are certain items that already changes, particularly the HVAC system. They know it was down for several weeks for the Allentown Police Department recently. That just goes to show how unpredictable that this outdates and old infrastructure systems really are. When they look at this the exterior walls are in green. It is great to seen, but there are a lot of work that can be done to this existing building.

Ms. Bekah Rusnock stated that typically when they work with public safety buildings, they want to see them operating in all green. These are 24/7 operations. There are no day off for these since you are dealing with emergency situations. Should there ever be a disaster in the city of Allentown you want a quick response and an immediate response and what they found was the department is spending a lot of time and resources, energy and funds to work out of a building that is not working for them.

Ms. Michelle Mazingo stated that the next step they started to look at is what are some of the proposed solutions. They read that report card and understood that there is a sense of urgency to address the existing facility that the Allentown Police Department is working in. They came up with a location criteria themselves and the design team, including some of the Allentown Police Department's staff and the location criteria that they looked at included maintaining all the staff under one roof. She stated as Bekah mentioned right now, the Allentown Police Department is functioning out of two buildings and then two other support buildings on top of that. She mentioned one of those buildings a lot of the citizens considered the main building for the Allentown Police Department. She admitted that she was one of them before they started this project. They want to make sure they are addressing that. Adjacent to the government quarter, they already right here next to the Lehigh County Prison, the courthouse, city hall. They want to stay in that space. In the heart of the city, it is so important. The Allentown Police Department is a integral part of the community. They want to make sure that they are a part of the city. Ample parking for personal vehicles as well as patrol vehicles that ample parking should also be safe and secure for officers to get in and out the building during the start of their shift and at the end of their shift and during their shift. A city owner property is ideal where saving money, time and resources in that way by working with something that the city already owns and don't have to acquire. They looked at a few sites. The first site that they looked at is the site right here at 4th and Hamilton. They broke that option into two options. One was just a renovation. Another was looking at renovation and additions. They looked at a few other sites. This was just a list of options that they looked

at. If they look at the next slide here, they will see that the proposed solution of 1 B with a renovation to the building checked all of those boxes. It allows an expansion to the existing 29,000 square feet to get all the staff under one roof, if they can't fit under one roof with the existing square footage. They stay adjacent to the government quarters in the heart of the city. They do have solutions to create ample parking and already working with a city owner property. With that option 1B, Bekah has another little gift for you guys to look at here. They want to show Council what that model would look like, if they actually put an addition that on that building. They will start to see they want to engage in the existing plaza outside of the Allentown Police Department and look at removing that earth and putting another addition on, making it 2,500 square feet, just shy of double the square footage of the building, to about 50,500 square feet. That will be able to fit that future goal of 250 officers which is something they like to make sure they are managing when they look at this option. This option also proposes creating a new pedestrian bridge that would get from the parking garage to the city hall plaza as well as a new Allentown Police Department Plaza that will be handicap accessible. That would also get everyone from off of the street which is that steep hill there. They do also look at creating a back bridge there. That would be for officers only. They are proposing some of that Allentown Parking Authority garage could be dedicated solely to the patrol vehicles and personal vehicles. They already know that the Allentown Police Department already has a relationship with the Parking Authority that uses some of those spaces right now. They would like to create secure entrance and egress for the officers to get into their spaces as well. This is what they call an exterior elevation. This would give everyone a sense of how they start to look when they tie into the rest of the city block. They can see the Allentown City Hall to the left of the Plan and then the existing bridge that connects them right outside here. The new facade of the Allentown Police Department and how up the building goes right now. As you can see, as you pass around the model, you will see that addition is one story higher they have that new connection of the bridge over College Street. She stated that this was just a material study that they did. They wanted to take into consideration as Bekah mentioned that these buildings are beautiful and very recognized in the city of Allentown. They want to honor that. They would like to engage with using limestone cladding, the slate that they have wrapped around the base of city hall right now. It is so beautiful, they really would like to see that engaged as well. They want to take safety into consideration so bulletproof and bullet stick proof glass would be a must. They would also look at having some fins on the building so that you will see those vertical fins on the building on the facade of the building. That would allow the light to get into the building, but also reflect off of the building a bit for some privacy. She stated here is an example of what that building could look like. Here they can see on the front facade, they engaged all of

those materials that they just looked at. You get a sense of how that new bridge connects over College Street. She stated that she really likes the view because it shows how the new facade really marries everything else architecturally that is happening on Hamilton Street. They have a very modern building in the Lehigh County Courthouse and as Bekah mentioned the brutalist mid century modern city hall building and the style of the building is really marrying those two styles together. The glass facade allows natural light in for the police officers, but also reflects light so they can have privacy and security. When they are looking at the pedestrian bridge, you will see those kind of blue abstract artwork in there. They were thinking that would be a really great opportunity to create community art murals so that they can actually physically see the connection of the community to the Allentown Police Department. She stated that they will also notice that the mural kind of goes into the building. That's because that pedestrian bridge really cuts through the Police Department building. She wants to stress that connection would not actually connect to the building. they will be talking about bullet proof ballistic proof walls right there, but that would allow for the community to get through the building in a covered space and then there will be a stair tower and an elevator on either side that would get them to City Hall Plaza or down to the Allentown Police Plaza as well.

Ms. Bekah Rusnock stated that one of the big goals of the project and one of the things that they talked about with the police department was in bringing the building forward to touch Hamilton Street, they are creating a better physical connection between the police and the community. They felt that was a good representation of what the police goal is to better work with the citizens of Allentown. She stated that you can see and she would just reference that opportunity for public art and actually in the next rendering you can see how it actually would exist on that plaza area that separates the police station and city hall. That is not a fully designed model. They talked about a potential to put it out to the community and engage some students in the work. It was just to show where that opportunity for public art could exist.

Ms. Michelle Mazingo stated absolutely. They really wanted to highlight as Bekah mentioned that when you saw the existing building in the 3D model and you experience it when you are walking down the street. She knows when she be taking her meetings at the Allentown Police Department, she would park on that hill and you are met with that tall, brick retaining wall. It is really important to know and they kind of glossed over this Report Card that getting into the building only has one handicapped accessible entrance. the main entrance of this building is not handicapped accessible. She stated that she cannot stress that enough. They want to make sure that their community is using this space. It is inclusive to this space. Anyone

will have the ability to get into this building as needed. This front entrance here will be well lit. There is bus stops right there on the other side of Hamilton Street. There is paid parking out front and then the connection to their garage. They would have an ADA accessible ramp to get up to the building. It will be well lit and would have one main entrance for everyone to come into. Right now, the patrol entrance is not accessible outside of the courtyard and then on College Street, there is the Traffic and Records Entrance that is considered ADA accessible, but if there is an emergency, someone would have to go into that entrance and that entrance does not take emergencies. They wanted to show a night rendering here because as they mentioned, the Police Department is online 24/7. At 3:00 AM, this is something people will be walking up to. If someone needs to go through the pedestrian bridge at that time of night, it is going to be well lit. It is going to be visible from the street and it is going to be safe. They also really enjoyed how you can actually see the community opportunity for art. They are glowing at night on Hamilton Street which is one of the most prominent streets in the city of Allentown. They also made sure to include the badge on the front and then have well-lit space in the main lobby as well. To look at the probable cost of this project here, it is right now considered a Study. They do offer a range. Looking at that range right now, it is about \$28.3 to just shy of \$37 million right now. They do want to highlight that as the years go on, money gets more expensive unfortunately. They did provide escalation of about five percent over the future years and they associate that with the high range of that budget. You can get a sense of the longer that this sits and waits, not only that Report Card going to get worse of that existing building, but to do something about it and take action is going to become more expensive. If they were to take action right now, they are right here presenting to City Council and they just wrapped up redesign and their Feasibility Study. To move forward for design and approvals would be about 10 months and then the Phase Construction to make sure that the building is accessible and online for the officers and the public would be about 12 - 18 months and then the officers will be able to take occupancy and the city would be able to enjoy a brand new facility. She actually received this quote when she was conducting one of her end user meetings with one of the great Sergeants here at the Allentown Police Department. She stated that she is paraphrasing here, but he did say that he wants this building to showcase Allentown Police Department pride. They engage in the community. They build trust and they work together. She stated as a citizen of Allentown she experienced that personally and was wholeheartedly in agreement with that quote so she wanted to put it up there for the Council and the public to see as well. She thanked Council for their time and stated that they are here to take any questions.

Mr. Santo Napoli thanked Alloy5 for the presentation. He stated that he wanted to start first with the Chair of Public Safety. He asked Mr. Zucal if

there were any comments or questions.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that they mentioned about the second crosswalk as well. He stated that he doesn't see them on any of these Plans at all.

Ms. Michelle Mazingo stated that it would technically be behind to connect to the exiting building. As it stands right now that will be solely for the officers to use. They would be able to park their personal vehicle, get out and get into the building safely and securely. They will be able to at the end of their shifts take that bridge as well and when they need to pick up their patrol vehicle, they would be able to use it as well. She does want to not that they also be looking at incorporating a new sally port off of College Street because the current one they have now does not meet standards or safety.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that another question he had was probably for the Chief. There are two questions. Number 1, while this is being built obviously, most of the officers or a good percentage of the officers are on 10th Street now. He asked where the city be putting them.

Chief Charles Roca stated that currently through their Transition Plan, they are going to come up with an Ops Plan to make sure that the officers are housed appropriately. They are going to use space at 425 Hamilton Street currently and also utilize the Communications Center for some overflow.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that the last thing obviously to pay for this. What is the plan? He stated that he got an email today that kind of asked him to ask the Chief that. What is the Plan and where to do plan to get the money.

Chief Charles Roca stated that is a very good question. In his view is to work closely with the Finance Director, Bina Patel, other city agencies and look at want other investments they can make to make that happen. As he advocated for when he became Chief was that they make investments into infrastructure. It is something important that as they consider the things that have already happened in the station that they take this very seriously and look to make sure that funds are made available through the investments that they have.

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

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that she is not sure who this will be for and asked how does substations factor into this. Like the one at Rite Aid and

10th and Hamilton and Hyman has a substation. Chief Charles Roca stated that substations are something that they work in collaboration with the location that would want to have a substation and space a location where that District Officer can go to, to maybe use the bathroom, do a Report, and something of that nature. It is a partnership in a way to collaborate with the business owner or the location they go at such as: 17th and Chew at the hospital there - Lehigh Valley.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that she Googled what a Sally Port is and doesn't need to ask that. She asked in terms of the Phasing in, a Sally Port is kind of a narrow entrance, like the military uses them.

Chief Charles Roca stated that Sally Ports are basically an entryway to where they would bring individuals into the station.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated like a protected entryway though.

Chief Charles Roca stated that is right.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that when it comes to the Phasing of the construction of this, what could that look like. She sees some things that are red and some things that are orange. She asked if there is a way to like kind of repair before build new.

Chief Charles Roca deferred to the architects and the specialists on that. For them, they want to make sure that the environments that they occupy and utilize as far as a station if they need to look at the city inventory in buildings they can make changes. He stated that he doesn't want to see any other things happen where a giant system such as HVAC System breaks down. They want to make sure they are doing it appropriately. They will work with the Public Works team through Mark Shahda, the Public Works Director to ensure that they have spaces to work out of. The Plan temporarily, if this does happen is what the next Phase is the competitive bid that they would put forward an RFP so they can go forth and they can plan together on how that Phasing will look like.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that she remembers on the School Board, she forgets what school it was. Maybe McKinley, they were used to dealing with old buildings and then things would break down and it was like the kids are still there. It seems like the bones of the building are the most important.

Mr. Randy Galiotto stated that for this project they would be looking at awarding a contract to a contractor. Likely building the addition first, but having those contractors responsible for the existing building and

maintaining it and keeping it up to par. Then moving it to the addition and then doing the renovations. He stated if that sort of makes sense.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated an addition, maintain and then upgrade.

Mr. Randy Galiotto stated correct. He is really shortening it. It is a lot more to it, but essentially that would be the concept. There will be contractors here on-site every day making sure that building stays up and running.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach asked about the 10th and Hamilton as was stated a lot of people think that is where the office is. What is going to happen to that once this is constructed and everything is up and going to become a parking lot for development.

Chief Charles Roca stated that he does not know what will happen with that right now. All he knows is that they are working to move out of that and when they have a solidified plan to move forward that would be for other departments in the city to answer that specific question.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach asked if the city would sell it.

Chief Charles Roca stated that he would imagine that something would happen along those lines.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that the other questions is something that she would talk to Chief Charles Roca individually about.

Mr. Santo Napoli stated thank you and asked if there were any other questions or comments.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated great job and commended Chief Roca on this. It is really great. His one concern is this, he started on the Police Department almost 50 years ago, in 1978. At that time, they had a department size of 163 officers. They are almost 100 over at this time. What is going to happen 50 years from now and will this be sufficient? Lehigh Valley is a growing community and they are seeing the need now for an increase in the department. If they have the same need 5 years from now, this won't be enough. He asked if that the maximum, the number you have there 250 that would be sufficient for that? He stated that it may be a hard question to answer.

Chief Charles Roca stated answering from a Police Chief perspective. He stated that he thinks he testified in front of Council previously that the number that the FBI would go to classify for Allentown just based on solely population is about 300 officers. He stated that he is not advocating for

that, though. What he is advocating for is what can they as a city can afford and how does it look like in the future. It is pretty difficult to predict what tomorrow will look like, but he thinks they can make some smart, intelligent choices of where they go from here. He thinks that they way that the design of the building would be will lend itself to that increase in growth of officers so they can serve so that future Police Chiefs can take a look and see their space in and assess it properly. Because the building in its current form, that courtroom that they are talking about is the space that used to be the old courthouse or the old courtroom magistrate's office. That is now the ID section. They have a void in the wall there that is about 1,000 square feet that they can't utilize. They can't build within that section there if you are placing it there. He stated for him, he believes in this Plan because it sets it up for the future and when you join the department, it was sufficient at that time for that build. They are bursting at the seams and they are going to make sure to modernize the department to best serve the officers. Ultimately, serving the citizens.

Mr. Santo Napoli stated thank you and asked if there were any other questions or comments.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked with this new Plan now, would that utilize that void in the building.

Ms. Michelle Mazingo stated yes.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that you would be using that now.

Mr. Randy Galiotto stated that they wouldn't put a Plan together to build from that they wouldn't have a Plan for growth in the future. He stated that he can't tell them what those details would be at this moment, but they will make sure that they have a path for growth in the future. Whether it is 50 officers or 100, they will show them how to do it on the site.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated thank you.

Ms. Candida Affa asked about the growth problem. She stated that they always can go up if architecturally they needed to expand.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated also to follow up and is a question she was going to email the Chief about, but since they are on it. She stated that she remembers in the past they had a conversation about how the full complement is determined. She knows that the International Association for Police Chiefs recommend not using a per capita model. They

recommend using more of a performance based model. She asked what are they using? She stated it sounds like per capita.

Chief Charles Roca stated so in population and also what the workload is because it is important to

A motion was made by Santo Napoli, seconded by Ed Zucal, to Suspend The Rules for a Presentation that involve some outside architects and folks. He stated that he thinks that they can move the presentation forward in the meeting for their Public Safety Presentation.

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

Absent: 1 - Cynthia Mota

Please observe the Rules of Council when addressing the body. A full copy of Council Rules can be found on the city website at the bottom of the council agenda. The city website also includes all the meetings and material for the agenda; videos of previous meetings, and livestreams the council meetings in real time.

If you would like to speak this evening, we are asking that you fill out a card – they are on the back table - and provide them to the clerk before speaking. Please address the Council President. You are given privilege of the floor to provide public comment. This is a time to present comments, it is not a question-and-answer session. If you are speaking 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. Please be sure to state your name and address for the record and fill out a card.

Courtesy of the Floor is meant to provide public comment on items that are not on the agenda; Council will take all comments under advisement and have the appropriate officials get back to you if necessary. If you have materials for Council, please distribute the material to the Clerk.

Public comment during consideration of ordinances, resolutions and motions is limited by topic – your comments must be relevant. Public comments are taken before council votes on items. Council will not entertain personal insults or attacks, name calling or other behavior that is inconsistent with the purpose of conducting official business. Please address the Council President. Refrain from using offensive language, cursing, and making noises while other people are speaking. Act with decorum. Remove your hat and turn cell phones off. 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.

Contract Approvals

[15-6609](#)

R13

Authorization for Contract increase to the estimated yearly sum to be

\$45,000 that was previously Bid and Awarded under City Policies, with Edwards Business Systems for maintenance services for the City printers. The Agreement and will automatically renew for consecutive periods of one year unless either party notifies the other of cancellation, in writing.

Attachments: [R13 - Contract Increase - Edwards Business Systems](#)
[Resolution #30784](#)

Ms. Sarrah McNeil stated that Edwards Business Systems is a previously awarded contract that is requesting an increase to the contract yearly estimated sum of \$45,000. The charges associated with the maintenance agreement are based on our usage. Due to the cost of the Change Order being over 10 percent of the contract amount is being presented here before Council.

Mr. Santo Napoli thanked Ms. McNeil and asked if there were any comments from the dais or the public.

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

Absent: 1 - Cynthia Mota

Enactment No: 30784

[15-6610](#)

R14

Authorization for a contract increase in the amount of \$30,000; an increase from \$10,000.00 per year to \$40,000.00 per year, for a contract previously bid and awarded to Ross Body and Frame Work, Inc. (d/b/a A-1 Towing) to provide towing services for city vehicles. This is due to bringing the garage in house and not knowing exactly how much we would spend on towing of City fleet vehicles. The City has 620 vehicles and equipment and continues to grow. The contract will expire March 13, 2024. It has been requested to utilized the first of four (4) renewal terms and extend the contract to March 13, 2025. Upon written notification, this contract can be extended for an additional four (4) one (1) year terms beyond the contract expiration period.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R14 - Contract Increase - Ross Body](#)
[Resolution #30785](#)

Ms. Sarrah McNeil stated that Ross Body and Frame Work, Inc. is a previously awarded contract that is requesting to increase the contract yearly estimated sum of \$10,000 to \$40,000. They are submitting this change to reflect a more accurate estimate cost now that they have had the contract for a year. They now have a better understanding of the number of tows that they can potentially do in a year. The charges associated with the agreement are based on usage and can spend less than the requested

amount. Due to the cost of the Change Order being over 10 percent, the Contract amount is being presented to Council.

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

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that he has a question. He stated that he would assume that they are doing satisfactory work at least or they would not be recommended. He figured that was the case, but wanted to make sure.

Mr. Santo Napoli thanked Mr. Hendricks and asked if there were any comments from the public.

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

Absent: 1 - Cynthia Mota

Enactment No: 30785

[15-6611](#)

R15

Authorization for Contract price increase with Alliance Hall of Allentown, Inc. in the amount of \$359,088.78 for the lease of Alliance Hall. The initial contract Sum was for \$246,316.08, the increase of \$359,088.78 brings it to a total of \$605,404.86. This is due to the increase of space being rented which in return has increased the rent from the original amount written into the original agreement and to cover the rent for the five-year extension term.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R15 - Contract Increase - Alliance Hall](#)
[Resolution #30786](#)

Ms. Sarrah McNeil stated that Alliance Hall is an existing Contract that is requesting to increase the contract sum in the amount of \$359,088.78. This is due to the increase of space being rented and to cover the next five year extension term of the contract. Due to the cost of the Change Order being over 10 percent of the Contract, the amount is being presented before Council.

Mr. Santo Napoli thanked Ms. McNeil and asked if there any comments or questions from the dais.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if he should understand that this is for the full five years.

Ms. Sarrah McNeil stated that is correct. This will cover that five year extension term.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if they pay that in a lump sum rather than yearly. Broken-down to a yearly amount.

Ms. Sarrah McNeil stated no. They make payments. It is not given all in one year.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Ms. McNeil.

Ms. Sarrah McNeil stated you are welcome.

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

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

Absent: 1 - Cynthia Mota

Enactment No: 30786

Minutes of Previous Meeting

[15-6593](#) December 6, 2023 City Council Public Hearing Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [December 6, 2023 City Council Public Hearing Meeting Minutes](#)

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

Absent: 1 - Cynthia Mota

[15-6581](#) December 6, 2023 City Council Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [December 6, 2023 City Council Meeting Minutes](#)

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

Absent: 1 - Cynthia Mota

[15-6599](#) December 12, 2023 City Council Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [December 12, 2023 City Council Meeting Minutes](#)

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

Absent: 1 - Cynthia Mota

[15-6582](#) January 10, 2024 Special Council Meeting Minutes (Organizational Meeting)

Attachments: [January 10, 2024 Special Council Meeting Minutes \(Organizational Meeting\)](#)

[15-6591](#) January 17, 2024 City Council Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [January 17, 2024 City Council Meeting Minutes](#)

Mr. Santo Napoli stated that he has a January 10th and asked is that a misprint.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated yep.

Mr. Santo Napoli stated ok.

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

Absent: 1 - Cynthia Mota

Communications

City Council received a petition from 19 individuals urging council to enforce quality of life issues; making arrests for vandalism, littering, loitering, vagrancy, and public intoxication. The petition was forwarded to all City Council members and the mayor.

Chasers: If you parked in the City lot next to City Hall, please see the City Clerk for a voucher.

Old Business: NONE

REPORTS**Budget and Finance: Chair Napoli, Hendricks, Gerlach**

The Committee met on January 31st at 5:30 PM to review December finances and committee and administration priorities for 2024; the next meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 28th, time to be determined.

Community and Economic Development: Chair Hendricks, Mota, Napoli

The committee met on January 31st at 6:30 PM to review committee and administration's priorities for 2024; the next meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 28th, time to be determined.

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

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

Parks and Recreation: Chair Santos, Affa, Gerlach

The Committee has not met since the last Council meeting; the next meeting is scheduled for February 21st at 6 PM.

Public Safety: Chair Zucal, Hendricks, Mota

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

Public Works: Chair Gerlach, Affa, Zucal

The Committee has not met since the last Council meeting; the next meeting is scheduled for February 21st at 5:45 PM.

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

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

Controller's Report

Mr. Jeffrey Glazier thanked Mr. Napoli. He stated that as Council has noted from the Agenda there are some Accounts Receivable Audits there. There will be some more forthcoming and when they are all out, they will talk about them briefly. One of the interesting things about the audits is that they have done them previously and this is an update to see what kind of progress the city made on managing the accounts. He stated finally he likes to congratulate Ms. Patel and Council for allowing a fourth Analyst in her department whose responsibility or a large part of their responsibility would be managing these accounts and riding herd on them. A well managed organization does that.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated to Mr. Glazier if you could please. He stated that he was contacted by a city employee today and asked if it is possible for him to do or provide to Council at the next meeting from September 1st to the end of the year a Report on the gift cards that were handed out. He stated like to who, what for and what amounts.

Mr. Jeffrey Glazier stated that it is a gift card audit in process. He doesn't think the timing goes to the end of the year. One of the things that covers through the end of the year is Lights in the Parkway. There will be some time before they can get to that. He can tell them compared to prior years, all the departments have made good progress in following process and procedure. He stated he will get Council and the public what they have for the current timeframe as soon as he can.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that would be an example of say you are working in Public Works and you showed up every day and he gives you a gift card or something for \$50. He asked would that type of thing be included.

Mr. Jeffrey Glazier stated that if the department has gift cards and they have a program, the city has an Employee Recognition Program that would certainly be covered.

Mayor's Report - Chief Roca on Public Safety Project

[15-6654](#) Public Safety Feasibility Study
Media Kit

Attachments: [Allentown Police City Council Presentation](#)
[2024 APD Media Kit](#)

[15-6653](#) Controller Reports

Attachments: [AR CED](#)
[AR PW](#)
[Bank Rec](#)
[Gift Cards](#)

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE (To be Voted On): There are no ordinances for final passage.

CONSENT AGENDA: The Consent Agenda is for items that are considered 'no brainers' – the objective is to vote on all the resolutions at one time if there are no issues. The President asks if there is any request to remove any item from the Consent Agenda. If not, the clerk will read the resolutions. After public comments, Council will vote on items.

:

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

Absent: 1 - Cynthia Mota

[15-6606](#)

R16

Arundhati (Tinku) Khanwalkar, Environmental Advisory Council (EAC)
Reappointment, 01/04/2027

Attachments: [R16 Environmental Advisory Council - Arundhati \(Tinku\) Khanwalkar](#)

[Memo from Mayor Matt Tuerk regarding the reappointment of
Arundhati Khanwalkar to the EAC \(Environmental Advisory Council\)
Arundhati \(Tinku\) Khanwalkar Resume](#)

[Resolution #30787](#)

Enactment No: 30787

[15-6607](#)

R17

Tim M. O'Brien, Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) Appointment,
01/04/2027

Attachments: [R 17 Environmental Advisory Council - Tim M. O'Brien](#)

[Memo from Mayor Matt Tuerk regarding the appointment of Tim M.
O'Brien to the EAC \(Environmental Advisory Council\)
Tim OBrien Resume](#)

[Resolution #30788](#)

Enactment No: 30788

[15-6600](#)

R18

Authorizes the disposition of certain records within Public Works.

Attachments: [R18 - Records for Destruction Public Works](#)

[Resolution #30789](#)

Enactment No: 30789

[15-6592](#)

R19

Certificate of Appropriateness for work in the Historic Districts: 327 N.
Nagle St.; 146 W. Turner St. and 515 Park St.

Attachments: [R19 HARB Resolution](#)

[515 N Park Street Final Review](#)

[1146 W Turner Street Final Review](#)

[327-N-Nagle-St Final-Review](#)

[Resolution #30790](#)

Enactment No: 30790

RESOLUTIONS FOR FINAL PASSAGE (To be Voted On): Public comments will be taken prior to the final vote.[15-6608](#)

R20

Authorizes lease agreement with Muhlenberg College for Bicentennial Park Stadium located at 1126 Lehigh Street, Allentown, PA 18103.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R20 - Muhlenberg College](#)

[Muhlenberg College - Preliminary Bicentennial Park Renderings](#)

[Lease](#)

[Resolution #30791](#)

Ms. Mandy Tolino stated that they have a proposal to enter into a Lease Agreement with Muhlenberg College for Bicentennial Park Stadium. The process they have gone through so far is that they sent letters out the surrounding and had a public meeting at a City Hall at the Table. They had a good turnout and very positive feedback for this location. It would be a really good benefit for the city. In the aspect that they are going to be collecting rent as well as facilitating investment into this park that is currently not usage whatsoever. She stated that the city can't use it because it needs significant improvements. This is a way to fund those improvements and bring this stadium up to usable form. In the agreement and working with Muhlenberg College which has been fairly easy and to agreement to at least 20 dates per year that the City Parks Department and the A-Youth organization or any youth organizations would be able to use it as long as it is an agreed upon date as well as a week long camp for Allentown youth that is low cost or free which Muhlenberg has agreed to include in the lease. Overall she thinks it is a really good proposal and there are some representatives from Muhlenberg here, if there are additional questions on the Concept Design.

Mr. Santo Napoli thanked Ms. Tolino and asked if there were any comments or questions from the dais.

Mr. Ed Zucal asked if the high school teams be able to use that use of 20 dates. Would they be able to use that during their season.

Ms. Mandy Tolino asked if he means for the entire season.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that he doesn't know how many games they play so he doesn't know.

Ms. Mandy Tolino stated that it would probably not be for an entire season, but 20 days they can build in camps and things. It may not be for the entire

season. They will be able to accommodate youth.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated but they will be able to use it on occasion.

Ms. Mandy Tolino stated that is correct.

Attorney Charles Smith asked can any of the days designated by the city be adjacent. In other words, a lot of youth tournaments will be over several days. Would it be possible to have two days next to each other?

Ms. Mandy Tolino stated that it is written in a way that it is a conversation between the city Parks Department and Muhlenberg College based on their schedule and what the desire of with the Parks Department or the youth organization. She is sure that they will be open to having two dates in a row as long as it doesn't interfere with collegiate baseball.

Mr. Santo Napoli asked if Mr. Hanlon can advance the slides for the public so they can see the current condition and the renderings. He asked how long has it been vacant, Bicentennial.

Ms. Mandy Tolino stated that she believes that the previous Lease was with another baseball organization and that ended in 2018. It has been vacant for quite a few years now and it is not safe to use. They have an assessment of existing conditions that there is significant investment needed to be able to use it. It hasn't been used since 2018.

Mr. Santo Napoli asked if all the improvements being funded by Muhlenberg College.

Ms. Mandy Tolino stated yes. Improvements as well as they have agreed to pay an annual rent and they are taking over responsibility for utilities. It doesn't cost the city anything in this Lease.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that he lived over there for quite a period of time. He knows what has happened to the park since then. He wants to say that he wholeheartedly in favor of this. This is going to be a great improvement and a great benefit to the city as well as to Muhlenberg College. It is a win/win for the entire community and urged his colleagues to vote for it. It is a great thing for the city.

Mr. Santo Napoli asked if there are any other comments or questions or comments from the public.

Mr. Glenn Hunsicker, Allentown Patriots, stated that in 1975 and 1976 is when they did this. Now, he read the Lease and they are 100 percent

behind this. They want it to be used as a recreation facility. Talking with Muhlenberg at Jefferson School and everybody that was there. The Patriots were the major advocates of building this park in 195 and 1976. He stated support this Lease. He stated that there are a couple of things here back on one of the pages and one of the things that they wanted was to save the name of the park, Hunsicker Bicentennial Park. In addition to that they want them to save and make sure in the Lease that they won't remove the plaques. The plaques designate the volunteers, the contributors, and are about four to five of them there. He thinks they will agree to that. That is nothing. Just so that it is in the Lease and they can't just destroy them and take them apart. The other thing reading the Lease is they are going to give \$15,000 which is not a lot of money for rental for the park, but he questions why they didn't get a CPI Number of that. Some kind of component over the years because this is long-term and somewhere they should include a CPI Number and maybe this agreement is basically in three parts. One year, 10 years and nine years. The \$15,000 per year at the end of this term is going to be worth \$10,000. Who know what the cost of living is going to be. Either to an MOU and maybe pick it up somewhere. He thinks the body (Council) should look at that. He stated you people have to make that decision, but in all aspects, they should approve this to go through. That is the main thing.

Mr. Santo Napoli asked Ms. Tolino if it is something that she can work with Muhlenberg on the plaques.

Ms. Mandy Tolino stated yes, absolutely. That is no issue.

Mr. Glenn Hunsicker stated that he doesn't think that is a big issue.

Mr. Santo Napoli stated that he wants to make sure that is is communicated and it doesn't fall through the cracks. Regarding your other point, Muhlenberg is investing a significant amount of money to the rehabilitation. He thinks that is something that they should factor in. He asked if there was any background on the terms of the Lease regarding CPI.

Ms. Mandy Tolino stated that she did consult with Bina Patel about the rate and she may be able to speak more in particular about that. She did an analysis to come up with that number based on previous renters and also taking into consideration the amount of money being invested.

Mr. Glenn Hunsicker stated that financial agreements like this normally for this length of time it is not like it is a one or two year deal. You normally have to factor something in there. The way he would probably approach this in the Lease or somewhere is to open up an MOU after the first and

second year when the Lease comes back up where they can address that. If you don't want to do that now and say hey, put in a CPI Number. He stated we did it with the water and sewer. If we get five percent of that CPI. This is not a lot of money, but still whoever wrote this Lease up should have taken that in and negotiated with them right off the bat. He stated that is his take, but they didn't. To him, it is not a game changer. It should be looked at eventually. He stated that they should not be going 25 years without an increase there of some sort. When you do it, you guys make a decision.

Mr. Santo Napoli stated ok. They will definitely revisit it. He asked Ms. Patel.

Ms. Bina Patel stated that she will take that under advisement and entertain an MOU. She stated what he is presenting, she is taking it under advisement.

Mr. Glenn stated maybe in a year or so or every time you open up you have a Memorandum of Understanding and say we can talk about it and see what we can get. He stated that Muhlenberg will be understanding to that.

Mr. Santo Napoli thanked Mr. Hunsicker. He asked if there were any other comments from the public or questions.

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

Absent: 1 - Cynthia Mota

Enactment No: 30791

Enactment No: 30791

[15-6588](#)

R21

Approves six transfers: (1) \$78,879.35 to cover negative balances in premium pay in EMS; (2) \$63,341.05 in Fire to cover year-end negative balances for premium pay, holiday and shift differential; (3) \$56,252.77 in Public Safety – Police for overtime pay and health insurance opt out; (4) \$53,000.00 in Public Safety/Police for 2023 Mark 43 records management annual maintenance; (5) \$20,000 in Fire to move funds to correct budget account for expenditures; (6) \$13,859.00 in Parks and Recreation for pool equipment.

Attachments: [R21 Transfer Funds](#)[Pool](#)[2023 Mark 43 Annual Maintenance](#)[Fire](#)[Fire - Negative Balance](#)[Staffing Needs At The End of the Year Led To An Increased OT Needs in 2023](#)[To Cover Year End Negative Budget Account Balances - EMS](#)[Resolution #30792](#)

Mr. Santo Napoli asked if they have anybody from the administration for background. He asked Ms. Ortega.

Ms. Genesis Ortega asked if Ms. McNeil is on the line.

Mr. Santo Napoli stated that they will do comments or questions from the dais, but at least you can answer if there are any. He asked Council if there were any comments or questions.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated on the police thing, two weeks ago Council approved a \$304,000 in overtime for the 2023 budget and now they are being ask to include another \$56,000 for police overtime. On the next page, the \$53,000 for the records management system. Why wasn't that particular \$53,000 put in the 2023 budget?

Ms. Bina Patel stated that the final payroll for 2023 happens in 2024. She stated that when they brought that to Council, the transfer at that time, they were in the need of those funds. They did not realize until the final payroll was conducted in 2024 that again, they had gone over the budget. She stated that they did not have the numbers at that time.

Mr. Ed Zucal asked is it any way that they are regulating spending money before it's allotted.

Ms. Bina Patel stated that Police and Fire, Public Safety overtime are providing the safety to our residents. When they provide the services, they have a budget that they bring to Council and you approve that and they are providing the services if they go over, the city is obligated to pay them. She stated we don't know until the payroll goes through that they are exceeding the budgeted amount.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that is not the answer he is looking for.

Ms. Candida Affa asked if there were any other questions or comments from the dais or questions and comments from the public.

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

Absent: 1 - Cynthia Mota

Enactment No: 30792

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

[15-6602](#)

Bill 2

Amending the 2024 Capital Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of One Thousand Six Hundred Dollars (\$1,600) from the Hispanic American Organization, Inc. to support the mini-pitch system at Jordan Meadows.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 2 Hispanic American Organization Donation](#)

Mr. Santo Napoli asked if there are any comments from the public.

REFERRED TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

[15-6601](#)

Bill 3

Amending the 2024 Capital Fund Budget to correct a previous ordinance number 15951. This will appropriate the funds of Six Hundred Fifty Thousand (\$650,000) Dollars from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) to support design and construction of the D&L Trail – Allentown Segment to the proper accounts.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 3 D&L Trail DCNR Grant Correction](#)

Mr. Santo Napoli asked if there are any comments from the public.

Mr. Mike Drabenstott stated that he is the Chair of the Delaware and Lehigh Heritage Corridor. He thanked Council and the administration for moving on connecting the D&L Trail through Allentown. This is going to be a real asset for the residents of Allentown when they get it done on both sides. Moreover, for everyone in the Lehigh Valley and on top of that it is going to be a boom for economic development. As soon as you connect this trail, and you get 100 continuous miles which we don't have right now, but will be when it is connected through the Valley, Allentown is going to see triple or quadruple the number of people staying over night as people do multi-day trips on this trail. From Jim Thorpe to Allentown, this is the only place to stay. So as people start coming down this trail and do

weekend trips, they are going to be staying in Allentown. It is going to be huge for economic development and for travel and tourism here. He really appreciates this move right here for the application of this section of the trail. He urged Council and the administration to expedite this as quickly as possible. He knows other municipalities are doing the same thing as the Lehigh Valley.

REFERRED TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

[15-6603](#)

Bill 4

Amending the 2024 Trexler Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Two Thousand (\$2,000.00) Dollars from the Trexler Trust to support the Romper Day Program.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 4 Romper Day Appropriation](#)

Mr. Santo Napoli asked if there are any comments from the public.

REFERRED TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

[15-6604](#)

Bill 5

Amending Part I Administrative Legislation, Chapter 5 Administration of Government, Article IV Financial Procedures, Section 21 Contracts by updating the language in Part A.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 5 Section 5-21 Contracts Amendment](#)

Mr. Santo Napoli asked if there are any comments from the public.

REFERRED TO THE BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

[15-6605](#)

Bill 6

Amending the 2024 Capital Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Sixteen Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety-Six Dollars and Thirty-Six Cents (\$16,896.36). This was the result of payment in lieu of tree plantings from Tilghman Street Dental LLC, City Center Development Corporation, Housing Development Corporation, Devon Self Storage Holdings, Lehigh River Development Corp 3, 1134 Hanover Ave LLC, and Stratagem Allentown LLC. Funds will be used for the purchase of new street trees.

Attachments: [Bill 6 Shade Tree Funds](#)

Mr. Santo Napoli asked if there are any comments from the public.

REFERRED TO THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

[15-6614](#)

Bill 7 Refer to the Public Safety Committee
Amending Article III, Retail Pet Shops, by prohibiting the sale of guinea pigs by pet shops.

Sponsors: Gerlach and Mr. Zucal

Attachments: [Bill 7 Guinea Pigs](#)

Mr. Santo Napoli asked if there are any comments from the public.

REFERRED TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

RESOLUTIONS FOR INTRODUCTION (Can be voted on or Referred to Committee):
Public Comment it taken prior to referral.

[15-6619](#)

R22

Authorizes the Administration to enter into a cooperation agreement with the Allentown Parknership, to utilize the organization's fundraising and planning capabilities to raise money to finance and manage capital improvement projects, manage construction, provide enhanced maintenance, provide programs and special events, coordinate volunteer activity, and to pursue such other authorized opportunities and address recognized needs, for the betterment of the city's parks.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R22 Authorizes Cooperation Agreement](#)
[Parknership Cooperation Agreement](#)
[Park Res Amended](#)

Mr. Santo Napoli asked Mr. Hanlon if they take comments from Ms. Tolino.

Ms. Mandy Tolino stated that this is an exciting opportunity for the Parks Department. They have been working on this for the past year and people started it even before she was at the city. It has been a long time in the works. Basically, what it is is a new nonprofit in the city of Allentown that is going to be focused on making improvements to parks. This is an agreement between the city of Allentown and this new organization that is a conservancy, calling itself the Parknership . Partnership with park in it which is going to be a good branding opportunity for the organization. Pretty much what this agreement does is that it outlines what they agree to cooperate with them in sharing information, sharing the plans, and they agree to fundraise for capital projects, and events and recreation as well as everything that they propose to do within the park limits. It will be owned by the city and remain a park and everything that they propose to do has to be approved by the Parks Department as well as a proposal to City Council

for input in buying into any projects they are going to do as well. It is going to be a benefit for the Parks Department as well as bringing marketing for some of the things they are already doing. It is going to highlight some of the amazing things that the department is doing, but also add some more layers and levels of both funding and information to the city's Parks Department.

Mr. Santo Napoli thanked Ms. Tolino for that background. He asked if there were any questions or comments from the dais, his colleagues or any comments or questions from the public.

REFERRED TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

NEW BUSINESS: NONE

GOOD AND WELFARE: NONE

ADJOURNED: 7:53 PM

[15-6577](#)

Reference Materials:
Council Rules
Procurement Code
Ethics Code

Attachments: [Council Rules](#)
[Procurement Code](#)
[Ethics Code](#)