



Allentown

435 Hamilton Street
Allentown, Pa. 18101

Minutes - Final

City Council

Wednesday, June 24, 2026

5:45 PM

Council Chambers

Special Meeting introducing Bill 52 - amendments to Zoning Code Section 660-38.H DATA CENTER USE

Roll Call

Ms. Genesis Ortega stated that Ms. Affa is calling in on the phone. She stated that we are all here.

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

ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION - To be referred to Allentown and Lehigh Valley Planning Commissions, and the Community and Economic Development Committee - public comment prior to referral.

Mr. Santo Napoli stated that the purpose of this meeting is and want to start by saying that he called the Special Meeting to Introduce Bill 52 which are amendments created to strengthen Section 660 - 38.8 of the city's Zoning Ordinance governing Data Center use. He asked Ms. Ortega can she please read the Bill.

Ms. Genesis Ortega stated amending Part II General Legislation, Chapter 660 Zoning, Article 5 Uses, Table 660-4 Use Table and Section 660-38 Manufacturing & Industry Group, adding public notice requirements and amending the use category Data Center Use.

Mr. Santo Napoli stated ok, thank you. He stated that he is going to take a moment to at least talk about where they been, where we are and where we are going. Just give an overview of the process. The administration created the first Data Center regulations and Bill 20 was introduced at the March 4th Council meeting and referred to the Allentown Planning Commission and the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission. After those extensive reviews, it came back to our CED which is our Community and Economic Development Committee meeting on May 14th. During that CED meeting, a few committee members, including himself voiced opinions that the Bill should be strengthened, but they learned that amending that Bill at that time would send it back to the starting process and the city would go approximately another 90 days with no regulations in place governing Data Centers. He stated that their first Council meeting to act on the Bill would be June 4th. The Bill was tabled so Council could

conduct an Executive Session to obtain legal opinions and better understand our options going forward. He stated that our second Council meeting to act on the Bill was on June 17th. The Bill passed by a 4 to 2 vote to place Data Center regulations in the city Code. He stated during that meeting, he agreed amendments were necessary and assured his colleagues he will place an urgency on that process. He stated so here we are. As long as we get the appropriate approvals, this is a timeline he is looking at going forward. Bill 52 will be referred to our CED Committee meeting which takes place immediately after this Special meeting in Chair Gerlach's committee. There will be discussion on the amendments and an opportunity for members of the public to participate via Courtesy of the Floor. The reviews will be send to the Allentown Planning Commission again and the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission for reviews, but the difference is that both have assured that a speedy process will happen to maintain our timeline. The first legal ad will be posted on July 7th for a Public Hearing to be held on August 5th. This is important since pending Ordinance status will begin on that date, July 7th. He stated that means from June 18th to July 7th is a total of 20 days will be between the passage on Bill 20 and our amendments. He stated that a lot of them have been discussing Noise over the last couple of months. He stated that will be introduced at our July 15th Council meeting and referred to a committee on July 22nd. The Plan is to bring that back in front of Council August 5th at the same time. He stated so we will have the amendments for Bill 52 and our Noise Amendments, both in front of us on August 5th. He stated that they will have their Public Hearing and Council meeting and we will act on Bill 52 and again the Noise Ordinance. Both will address Data Center controls and regulations. He stated that he just wants to let everyone know what the Plan is, the dates, what we are looking at, but we are targeting August 5th as an opportunity to wrap the amendment process up and listen, the one thing that they can be assure of, there will be more. This use continues to evolve and continues to change in a very rapid pace. He stated that their job and the administration's job who has been very supportive of us with the amendments is continuing to work and find ways to improve our regulations because as you know, they cannot exclude Data Centers from the city of Allentown. It is just something that goes against state law and the best they can do is to regulate them and control them to protect our residents and the community so there will be constant changes and constant amendments. He stated that this is the first batch and he is really proud of the administration and his colleagues for getting this Batch to the starting point so quickly since our last meeting so with that said, but first any comments from the public before they move to their CED meeting. It would be an opportunity there to do public comment so ok and what he is going to do is refer this to Chair Gerlach's committee, CED which is immediately after this meeting. He also going to refer this to the Allentown Planning Commission and going to refer it to the Lehigh Valley Planning

Commission so they can get their reviews back in time by our August 5th meeting. He stated so with that said, he is going to adjourn this meeting and Council's next meeting is CED which begins in five minutes so thank you everyone.

[15-8508](#)

Bill 52

Amending Part II General Legislation, Chapter 660 Zoning, Article 5 Uses, Table 660-4 Use Table and Section 660-38 Manufacturing & Industry Group, adding public notice requirements and amending the use category Data Center Use.

Sponsors: Napoli, Binder and Gerlach

Attachments: [Bill 52 Ordinance - Zoning Data Center Use - Amendments](#)

[Exhibit A - Table 660-4 Use Table](#)

[260622 EAC REC DataCenterAmendments2](#)

[ACPC Action 2026-07-14](#)

[LVPC Review Bill 52 Data Center Amendments](#)

[Staff Report Data Center Amendment](#)

[07 July 14 Minutes Draft 2026](#)

ADJOURNED: 5:51 PM