



Allentown

435 Hamilton Street
Allentown, Pa. 18101

Meeting Agenda - Final City Council

Wednesday, November 16, 2022

6:30 PM

Council Chambers

Invocation:

Pledge to the Flag

Roll Call

Courtesy of the Floor

Courtesy and Privilege of the Floor Rules

Please observe the Rules of Council when addressing the body. A full copy of Council Rules can be found on the city website or by email if you contact Council office.

There are multiple opportunities to address Council. Individuals can speak during Courtesy of the Floor (addressing items not on the agenda) and during Bills and Resolutions on Final Passage and Introduction. When given the Floor, please go to the podium and state your name and address. All remarks must be directed towards the presiding officer or council as a body; not a particular Council member or elected official, the audience or city staff. Unless otherwise determined, individuals shall have three minutes to address council and individuals representing a bona-fide group shall have five minutes. Privilege of the Floor will not be extended for personal insults or personal attacks on any individual, name calling or other behavior that is inconsistent with the purpose and intent of conducting official business. Please address council as a body. 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.

(Council Speaking Rules: Members and others given the privilege of the floor will address the Presiding Officer. The Presiding Officer will extend the courtesy to the Councilperson(s) responsible for introducing legislation the opportunity to speak first. Each member will have the right to speak twice on any subject. No Member will be allowed to speak more than twice on any subject without permission of the Presiding Officer. No Member will speak more than three (3) times on the question without the unanimous consent of all the Members present.

Contract Approvals: There are no contracts for approval.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

November 2, 2022 Special Council Meeting - Community and Economic Development
Budget Review Minutes

Attachments: [November 2, 2022 Special Council Meeting - Community and Economic Develo](#)

November 2, 2022 City Council Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [November 2, 2022 City Council Meeting Minutes](#)

**Communications
Disclosure**

Old Business

REPORTS

Special Budget Meetings: President Mota - Our next meeting is scheduled for November 30 at 6:30 PM to review the non-departmental budgets, consider additional information request council might have and to vote on the Administration's budget memos.

Budget and Finance: Chair Siegel, Hendricks, Santos

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

Community and Economic Development: Chair Gerlach, Siegel, Mota

The Committee met on November 14th; the next meeting is scheduled November 30th, at 6:00 PM.

Human Resources, Administration and Appointments: Chair Santos, Hendricks, Siegel

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

Parks and Recreation: Chair Affa, Gerlach, Santos

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

Public Safety: Chair Hendricks, Zucal, Affa

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

Public Works: Chair Zucal, Affa, Hendricks

The Committee has not met since the last council meeting; the next meeting is scheduled for November 30th at 6:00 PM.

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

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

Controller's Report (3 minutes)

Mr. Jeffrey Glazier stated that he will save his Report for the beginning of December.

Mayor's Report (3 minutes)

Mr. Seth O'Neill stated that he does have something to share. The Communications Manager Genesis Ortega this evening sent out a Press Release regarding the city's

Bond Rating with Standard and Poors S&P Global Ratings. The city has its General Obligation Bonds rated by two agencies: S&P and Moody's. We approached S&P a little earlier in the year. We had many talks with the analyst that is in charge of our account. They have upgraded or revised the city's General Obligations Bond Ratings from A negative to A Stable. The city has a better bond rating today than it did fir its General Obligation. Some of the things that the analysts noted were very strong General Fund surpluses. Now, again, this person is only analyzing the 2020 and the graft 2021 financial statements. Not even analyzing where we are at as of now noted very strong General Fund surpluses in the face of a looming recession, if there is one. He stated that is their take on it, not his. Financial Management was upgraded from Standard to Good. Very strong liquidity and strong economic base in education, healthcare, government, transportation and logistics in the city. Generally, good news for the city's finances. Just for a quick history lesson, throughout all of the 1990s which is about as far back as he thinks it is worth going, the city's General Obligation Bonds were rated AA. That was downgraded in 2005 to BBB+ which is a pretty substantial downgrade. they noted ongoing weakness is financial operations. When the city did the Water Lease, they got back up to an A+ and then in 2018, after S&P noted a reliance on cash reserves to balance budgets, we were downgraded to A negative which the city has been there ever since. Technically, the first upgrade that the city's had for its bond rating since 2014. The analyst noted that there are some financial headwinds which means some difficulties that we have to overcome. Some uphill things, including high fixed costs: Debt: Pension and OPEB Liabilities and in general the risk to the city's ongoing Pension Liabilities. Nevertheless, this is really good news in a tricky economic environment and the Mayor and himself are very pleased that Allentown is being looked upon by its Bond Rating Agencies as a moderate success story in recent years.

Ms. Cynthia Mota thanked Mr. O'Neill and stated that is great news.

Controller Reports

Attachments: [APayable](#)
 [Bank Rec](#)
 [Medical Coverage](#)

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE (To be Voted On):

Bill 84

Amending Part I Administrative Legislation, Authorities, Boards and Commissions, Article XIV Commission on Homelessness by updating the language in Sections 12-75 through 12-77.

Attachments: [Bill 84 - Amending Commission on Homelessness](#)
 [Ordinance #15851](#)

Bill 85

Amending the 2022 Capital Fund Budget to provide for a transfer of Fifty Thousand (\$50,000.00) Dollars from the General Fund – Swimming Pools into the Irving Pool Improvement Capital Project for the use of construction of the Irving Pool Project.

Attachments: [Bill 85 - Aquatics Transfer](#)
 [Ordinance #15852](#)

Bill 86

Amending the 2022 Capital Fund Budget to provide for a transfer of Fifty Thousand (\$50,000.00) Dollars from General Fund – CED into the Parks Master Plan Capital Project that was allocated for the grant match for this project. These funds would be placed in the Parks Master Plan Capital Project.

Attachments: [Bill 86 - CED Parks Grant Match](#)
 [Ordinance #15853](#)

Bill 87

Amending the 2022 Capital Fund Budget to provide for a transfer of Eleven Thousand Two Hundred and Seventy Five (\$11,275.00) Dollars from WPA Structures Capital Project into the Valania Park Improvement Capital Project to use for construction of the Valania Park.

Attachments: [Bill 87 - WPA to Valania Transfer](#)
 [Ordinance #15854](#)

Bill 88

Amending the Codified Ordinance, Part Two: General Legislation, Chapter 163: Animals, Article I: Animal Control to include the prohibition of the declawing of cats in the City of Allentown unless the procedure is necessary for a therapeutic purpose.

Attachments: [Bill 88 - Declaw](#)
 [FURR Support](#)
 [HSUS Support Declaw Ban](#)
 [Best Friends support of declaw](#)
 [Ordinance #15855](#)

CONSENT AGENDA

R166

Zaleeae Sierra as Chairperson - Council of Youth

Attachments: [R166 Chairperson Appointment for the Council of Youth - Zaleeae Sierra](#)
 [Memo from Mayor Matt Tuerk Appointing Zaleeae Sierra as Chairperson - Cour](#)
 [Resolution #30526](#)

RESOLUTIONS FOR FINAL PASSAGE (To be Voted On):

R167

Pursuant to the Municipal Planning Code, City Council does hereby give advice and

consent to the following appointment as Director of Planning at an annual amount of \$95,696 (Ninety-five Thousand Six Hundred and Ninety-Six) Dollars: Jennifer Gomez

Sponsors: Affa, Hendricks, Gerlach, Mota, Santos, Mr. Siegel and Mr. Zucal

Attachments: [R167 Planning Director](#)
[Mayor Nomination Letter](#)
[Resume](#)
[Resolution #30527](#)

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

Bill 89 Refer to Public Works Committee
Providing for the vacation of N. Egge Street from the centerline of Turner Street to its Southern Terminus in the Seventh Ward of the City of Allentown:

Attachments: [Bill 89 Egge St. Vacation](#)
[N Egge St Vacation Report](#)
[Letter from Mike Hanlon regarding Egge Street from W. Turner Street to Lot 3 \(r](#)
[Letter from Mark Hartney regarding Allentown Planning Commission decision or](#)
[North Egge Street Mailing Labels](#)
[Letter from Lehigh Valley Planning Commission - Southern portion of N. Egge S](#)

RESOLUTIONS FOR INTRODUCTION (Can be voted on or Referred to Committee):

R168
Certificate of Appropriateness – 621 W. Liberty Street

Attachments: [R168 Certificate of Appropriateness - 621 W Liberty St](#)
[621 W Liberty St Final Review](#)
[Resolution #30528](#)

NEW BUSINESS: NONE

GOOD AND WELFARE

ADJOURNED: 7:02 PM

Council meetings are held on the first and third Wednesday of each month beginning at 6:30 pm in Council Chambers. For copies of the agenda or meeting announcements, please visit our website at www.allentownpa.gov or contact the Clerk at Michael.Hanlon@allentownpa.gov to receive an email notice of the meetings.

Council Rules
Home Rule Charter
Contract Procedures

Attachments:

[HOMERULE June 2021](#)

[Council Rules March 2021 Edition](#)

[Contracts \(4\)](#)

[Ethics, Code of \(7\)](#)