



Allentown

435 Hamilton Street
Allentown, Pa. 18101

Minutes - Final

City Council

Tuesday, January 2, 2024

6:30 PM

Council Chambers

Invocation

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated welcome to City Council's organizational meeting. The purpose of the meeting tonight is to have our newly elected City Councilpersons and City Controller take the Oath of Office. We will begin with the Councilpersons and Controller and these will be done one at a time in the order of the highest vote getter. He stated tonight they have both Mr. Michael D'Amore, District Judge and 31- 105 from Union Boulevard. He stated that Michael has been a former esteemed member of this body for many years and also Mark McCants, newly elected District Judge for 31- 109. his areas includes the boundaries to include the areas of the Lehigh River on the east and Seventh Street on the west and Gordon Street on the south to the northern city limits. He welcomed both of them and thanked them so much for taking the time to join them this evening. He stated that they will begin with the Swearing In of Mr. Santo Napoli. That will be done by the Honorable Mark McCants.

Pledge to the Flag

Swearing In of Councilpersons and Controller:

Santo Napoli - Honorable Mark McCants

Ce-Ce Gerlach - Honorable Mark McCants

Candida Affa - Honorable Michael D'Amore

Jeff Glazier - Honorable Michael D'Amore

[15-6532](#)

Oaths

Attachments: [Oath of Office - Candida Affa](#)

[Oath of Office - Cecilia Ce-Ce Gerlach](#)

[Oath of Office - Jeff Glazier](#)

[Oath of Office - Santo Napoli](#)

Remarks by Councilpersons Napoli, Gerlach, Affa and Controller Glazier

Mr. Santo Napoli stated that he will be brief and would like to thank the Allentown residents for the honor of serving his community and looking forward to bringing all the experience he has gathered over the years running successful small businesses and using that experience to help

move the city forward in a positive direction. He stated thanks again to all the residents and he appreciates it.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Mr. Napoli and stated Ms. Gerlach.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that she would not only like to thank the voters who again showed their faith in her leadership for another four years, but she sees a lot of people that are out there now who have been with her since 2011 when she was a little kid and running for School Board. She thanked them for sticking with her through thick and thin and ugly. She stated thank you for being here tonight. Thank you. She stated that her mom is here and she did not want her to call her out. She wishes there were words that could really convey and she doesn't want to cry. She stated thank you mom.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Ms. Gerlach and stated Ms. Affa.

Ms. Candida Affa thanked Mr. Hendricks. She thanked all that voted for her for her third term. Allentown has a population of 125,000 people. The third largest in the city and they certainly have their share of problems. She stated that they have to remember that City Council is a Legislative Branch of the city and they create the laws and pass the laws to protect all of the citizens. She stated that this is their job up here and she is proud that this is her third term serving. She asked have she made mistakes in the past, yes and will apologize for those, but she will also work and try to do better with honesty and integrity for the benefit for all citizens.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Ms. Affa and stated Mr. Glazier.

Mr. Jeffrey Glazier stated contrary with what you guys think he is really not a numbers person, but on the way down here today a couple of numbers popped in his head. This is the beginning of his 24th year of public service and has been an interesting ride over those 24 years. This is also the 10th Swearing In that he had and each one was very special because it reminds him of the faith that the people of Allentown has put in him and the expectations that they had for him both as a School Board member, as a City Councilperson and as Controller. Everyday he comes to work and do his best to meet those expectations and move his office forward and help to move this city forward whether it would be by responding to a citizen's question, whether it would be in supporting a Councilperson's question, or whether it would be working with the administration to do the right thing and make Allentown a better place. He stated that they don't serve in a vacuum and although his family is not here tonight he appreciates the forbearance of his wife, his kids, his dog, his Campaign Finance Chairman who has been with him for a long time. He stated that he greatly appreciates it. He

is going to do his best to make these next four years his best years of public service and service to the city of Allentown. He thanked Mr. Hendricks.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated to Mr. Hanlon if he would.

Mr. Michael Hanlon gave the Roll Call.

Roll Call

Present: 5 - Daryl Hendricks, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Natalie Santos, and Santo Napoli

Excused: 1 - Cynthia Mota

Courtesy of the Floor

Courtesy and Privilege of the Floor Rules

Dr. Ashleigh Strange, Front Street, stated that she is here in her official capacity as an Allentown First Vice Chair of the Democratic Committee. She thanked the voters and the newly re-elected Council people. She stated that they know they will continue to do the good work to bring democracy and knows that Jeff Glazier was over at the School Board getting them sworn in a couple of weeks ago. You can watch the beard grow on him throughout all the School Board photos and stated that it is the hope they get to see a whole lot of them. Thank you.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated thank you.

Mr. James Spang stated that he apologized that he did not fill out a card because he was told they were not doing Courtesy of the Floor tonight because of the Swearing Ins, but first of all, thank all of them for taking these positions and helping with our city. He stated that they do have a problem and need to address it on all levels. He represents part of the 1st and 6th wards. He lived their all his life and frankly he thinks that they really need to sit down with the city Solicitors and staff and get the politics out of Police work. Police Officers, Parking Enforcement Officers, Code Inspectors, Fire Inspectors, Health Inspectors are all part of the Law Enforcement Network. He stated when they politicize their jobs what they do is destroy the Rule of Law. A city cannot survive if they play politics. If someone parks illegal, they get a ticket. If they don't think that the ticket is proper, they go to a Magistrate. He stated that they have two in the back of the room that are qualified and take a hearing. The Magistrate opens up the PA Crimes Code and the city ordinances in the City of Allentown Ordinance Book and determines right or wrong. It should not be done on a political agenda. He stated that they see what happens when this happens. They destroy the enforcement capabilities of the municipality. He stated that they start out with illegal parking, and loitering, garbage on the street, and frankly this is broken windows 101. He stated that they saw what

happened in the late 70s and early 80s. Somebody wrote a book about it. That man was not a stupid man. He was a well seasoned Law Enforcement Officer and with the help of very qualified Law Enforcement people, they brought New York back to a livable city. Frankly, this is where the pendulum is going to go in the next six months. He thinks really for the sake of the city, the Solicitor staff needs to run Saturday morning classes for all of our appointed and elected board members to just understand civics. Thank you so much and God speed.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there is anybody else. At this time, he would like to make a Motion to forgo this evenings reorganization for Officers of the Council as they do not have all Councilmembers present. One of the members is ill. So in fairness to all members he would like to make this postponed until next Wednesday night, January 10th.

Attorney Charles Smith stated that if he may just to put something on the record in terms of what just happened. Under the Home Rule Charter, Section 201, there shall be seven members of Council elected at large and the president of Council shall be nominated and elected by the Council members. There is a Rule of Council that the president and vice president, Rule 1B are to be selected on the first Monday in January, unless that falls on a holiday as it did this year. That is why we are meeting tonight. He stated that he feels that is under Council Rules and that Council can take appropriate actions to move this out, especially in light of the fact that vice president Mota is ill and he doesn't think it is a good idea for her to be here. He stated that he just wants to put some of that on the record as a back drop.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that will be postponed until January the 10th which is next Wednesday at 6:30 PM. He stated that is all they have on the agenda this evening. He thanked everybody and congratulated his colleagues who he looks forward to working with.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that usually they have Council's Remarks and the Mayor's Remarks at the end, if you want to do that.

Organization of Council:

Election of Council President

Election of Council Vice-President

A motion was made by Daryl Hendricks, seconded by Ed Zucal, to Motion to forgo this evenings reorganization for Officers of the Council as they do not have all Council members present and to postpone until next Wednesday night, January 10th.

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

Excused: 1 - Cynthia Mota

Council Remarks**Mayor's Remark**

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated that unless they want, but he plans on attending on the 10th and will hold his remarks when it is appropriate during new leadership on Council. He is happy to hold his remarks until after the reorg meeting.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that she forget to and started to get emotional and about to cry when she was talking about her mom. She forgot to acknowledge her God kids and their family. She stated thank you for being here, especially the little ones and Mary in the back. She stated that she just wanted to say that. Thank you.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there was anybody else. He stated that concludes the meeting tonight. Thank you all for attending. Best wishes to all and Happy New Year.

ADJOURNED: 6:50 PM[15-5720](#)

Council Rules
Procurement Procedures
Code of Ethics

Attachments: [Council Rules 2023](#)
[Contract/Procurement Procedures from the Code](#)
[Ethics Code](#)