



Minutes - Final

City Council

Wednesday, January 15, 2025

6:30 PM

Council Chambers

Invocation:

Dr. Cynthia Mota stated good evening, welcome to the City Council meeting. Our city is hurting and the best way to bring us together is through prayer. She stated that she knows that they asked Pastor Holmes to lead our city in prayer so that we can begin this healing process. She asked Pastor Holmes if she can take the podium. She stated let's all stand, please. Let's bow our heads in prayer.

Pastor Kari Holmes stated Father God, we thank you for your presence in here and in us and with us in our city and our town. She stated that we ask you to rule and reign over our business today. It is your business. It is your earth and we ask you to give us unity among ourselves. Give us camaraderie among ourselves. Give us your mind on the matters that we are meeting with today, in Jesus name, Amen.

Dr. Cynthia Mota thanked Pastor Holmes.

Pledge to the Flag

Dr. Cynthia Mota thanked Mr. Hanlon and stated that they would like to announce on January 13, 2025, City Council held an executive session with Council Solicitor to discuss one Lehigh County Court of Common Pleas Matter, City Council for the City of Allentown v. Mayor Matthew Tuerk, et. al. – Case Number 2024-C-2896; and discussed with Council Solicitor next steps in a law-firm led investigation. On January 15, 2025, City Council held an executive session with APD Chief Roca to provide Council with information on public safety matters, specifically, the incident that occurred in city hall on Friday, January 10th. The Allentown Police Department is working in tandem with the FBI on this incident. Again, the police department is working in tandem with the FBI on this incident.

Mr. Santo Napoli stated for any residents or visitors to City Council meetings, they encourage them to park in the government deck next door and see our Clerk, Mr. Hanlon for a Chaser to pay for your parking for Council meetings.

Dr. Cynthia Mota thanked Mr. Napoli.

Roll Call

Present: 7 - Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Ed Zucal, Natalie Santos, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Candida Affa, and Santo Napoli

Courtesy of the Floor

Courtesy and Privilege of the Floor Rules

Dr. Cynthia Mota stated please observe the Rules of Council when given privilege of the floor. A copy of Council Rules can be found on the council agenda on the website; copies are also on the back desk along with the agenda. When anyone has privilege of the floor, I will not entertain personal insults, attacks, name calling or other behavior that is inconsistent with the purpose of conducting official business. If you would like to speak, we are asking that you fill out a card – they are on the back table - provide them to the clerk before speaking. Include your name and address. Courtesy of the Floor is meant to provide public comment on items that are not on the agenda. Public comment during consideration of ordinances, resolutions and motions is limited by topic – your comments must be relevant to the subject matter of the proposed legislation. Public comments are taken before council votes on items. You are given privilege of the floor to provide public comment, 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 address the Council President not individual councilpersons or city staff. Refrain from insulting or defaming staff, officials, and the public; refrain from using offensive language, cursing, and making noises while other people are speaking. 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. Also, Courtesy of the Floor we have to remember to remove our hats.

Mr. Pas Simpson, 215 N. Ninth Street, recently we have seen an uptick and a disturbance in our city. He stated that he won't victimize the victim again because she asked for them not to ask for certain things. They do want to make sure, they point out that there is a culture somehow of discrimination that is plaguing our city. It has gotten to be so bold that it has really just plagued City Hall. Not, just in these meetings that we have arguments back and forth over policy, but to the point it has affected someone's personal safety. This city has a responsibly to provide safety for its citizens to not just give language about DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion), but to truly include its citizens. You cannot spell community without unity. He stated that they have done very well of dividing each other, pointing fingers, and finding reasons to be more and more hateful. He stated that our city needs to heal. It starts with this administration and each and every one of you behind that desk. He stated that they get to make decisions, policies,

procedures that make people like himself get to go home and feel safe. It would allow the women in our city to not look over their shoulders and wonders who is protecting them. To allow more and more people to feel like this could be home, but how can this be home when we are not welcomed. How can this be home where at any moment anything can change. He stated that they watched policies get passed by this board and sat on for two years. He stated that they don't know what is going to happen next. We do know that we need change. He asked what are they going to do.

Mr. Don Ringer, 1801 Liberty Street, stated thank you and he guesses he does not have to mention his address. He just wants to say and he understands the value of prayer, but somebody has to be held accountable in this city for what the hell is going on right now. It is ridiculous what is going on right now. He asked where is our mayor tonight. This is an important meeting. He asked is the mayor here. Does anybody see the mayor?

Dr. Cynthia Mota stated we have the Chief.

Mr. Don Ringer asked did anybody see the mayor. He doesn't even show up tonight. It is unbelievable. Secondly, he has watched Chief Roca and supported him when he became Chief. He stated that he really did and considers him a friend, but he has failed this city. He stated that they need somebody here to help. Officers are going into 7 Elevens and Wawa's today and being yelled rapists. Is that right for the Allentown Police Department. You know most officers in this city, a lot of officers are great officers. He stated don't get him wrong, but somewhere along the line this is going bad. Very bad. He is calling the removal of Chief Roca from the Allentown Police Department or at least a suspension until this is rectified right now. He said something doesn't make sense to him about the things he was told and the answers they are getting now. He stated something is not right. He can tell them another thing a lot of officers in Allentown, they don't want to work for Chief Roca. They really don't.

Dr. Cynthia Mota stated to Mr. Ringer that it is important not to shame the staff and city employees.

Mr. Don Ringer stated he is sorry Cynthia. He is also getting away from the Police Department. This mayor should be removed too. He is not a leader. He never was a leader. He stated that we need a leader in this city right now. A leader would show up here and defend the city or defend himself. He doesn't even have the guts to show up. He stated that something is wrong in this city and it needs to be addressed very soon.

Mr. Enrique Moreno, 333 N. Franklin Street, stated that he explained to someone and all the situation is not only for him. It is for everyone in the city. He has lived here for almost 28 years. Almost 30 years, but he doesn't know what they needed for Allentown. Everything is changing. For all the years and he doesn't know what sign for residents. Each one is politics. Council President who can work and take care some of the issues. All residents like his person or somebody else. He doesn't say everybody so they can work together. He stated they feel the discrimination with the Parking Authority and the Sweep Cleaner and personnel in Allentown. He stated that they have so many issues. All the people can come in here and if they can get signing for all the residents in his neighborhood. He lives by Wawa. The Parking Authority last year, they agreed they were not going to put tickets at 11:00 at night. People call him to work every night and about time he finishes his work at 2:00 in the morning. He works at the Fire Department in Bethlehem and come over night and he sees enough for him. People they don't find any parking. He can record all the street and you tell him they can't find parking. He stated that he accepted it. You can't find any parking in the town, right. It is not a big deal that people are coming. They pay more taxes. They make a business. They need to take care why these people come and bother when the people are working, living and finding in the morning and you see 12:00 in the afternoon you see a lot of parking. Overnight, it is full. It was not happening in 2003, in 2004, nothing happened like this. He asked how can they fix this. If somebody comes and tells him about his personal helmet and they can go together. They can go together and find out.

Dr. Cynthia Mota suggested to Mr. Moreno that he gives Mr. Hanlon your phone number and also your name. She asked him to write it down and she will be calling him personally.

Mr. Enrique Moreno stated that he doesn't want to bother nobody or keep coming back. He stated that they have to be flexible sometimes because if it something error, it is he accepted it.

Dr. Cynthia Mota stated that you can't find parking in the evening.

Mr. Enrique Moreno stated that the Parking Authority and the Sweep ticket with the city hall is got word back and came to him and talking to him like it's his mother. He told the person working for the city to relax. He stated first of all you have to talk to him nice. He stated that he will leave his information.

Dr. Cynthia Mota stated that she will contact him tomorrow.

Mr. LeRan Odeleye thanked Council for giving him this opportunity to talk

and he is glad she update what happened regarding the incident where somebody put a noose on the table of the worker here in city hall. It is like every time one turns around there is always a case of an African American in the high ranking locator of the city been sacked. He is beginning to wonder is there a problem or a city or something that affects African Americans that are in the ranks of the city. He stated that it is getting very concerning. He is trying to reflect that every time someone turns around a high ranking African American and the member of the city workforce is been sanked. It has been let go. It is beginning to get concerning that someone gets very brazen to walk into a secure building and into a secure office to place a hanging noose on the desk of their coworker. Something just has to be done. He is glad that they mentioned they got the FBI and the local authorities involved. What is the next line of action here? Because we can't afford to let things like this keep happening. He stated threatening the life and the livelihood of an African American in this city.

Pastor Myria Bailey Whitcomb stated good evening and appreciates this opportunity. She stated that she doesn't live in Allentown, but she is a Black woman and there was something very disturbing to hear that a noose was placed on another woman's desk. She stated that what really disturbs her is how is it possible that someone could be that bold and feel that they can actually place a noose on someone's desk and there is no reprimand or they are allowed or excused away. What happens to the woman's feelings of working around her coworkers and not knowing who did what, but still trying to trust people to do her job. Who stands behind her? Who makes sure that she is ok? Who affirms her and other Black women as well? The noose has such a historical reference to it that it goes way back to slavery and then to use those tools in 2025 as though we haven't grown it says to her then there is a problem in this system. And, so, where do we fix the problem in the system. What are the answers? It all can't come from the community. The community complains, but yet, this has been a complaint that has going on for a long time. When do we get to actually moving on the complaints and actually making reform and changes that everybody can live with and that everybody can feel as though they are important in a city. What they see, what they do, how they feel that there are people that are concerned about them. It really makes no sense, honestly that we haven't moved forward and we haven't gone further than this. This is 2025, really? And, this isn't the first time we heard of this. If leadership is going to be on boards. Leadership is going to be recognized, and then leadership is going to have to be responsible to at least try to come up with a document that looks like you are working on it. That may have suggestions and as community members who live it, what should be on there. It can't come from the leadership because you are too high up, but it needs to be spoken about from the people who are experiencing it every day. There are experiences that we don't get to hear

of because they are not the type of folk that are able to come and speak for themselves. She stated that she just came to mention that and to say that. The women, especially, the Black women need to be protected.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that he believes the rest are here to speak on Bill 4. He stated that Ms. Blanco is going to have to tell him that is the case. Ms. Elizabeth Polanco will speak on the Trust Act. He asked is that the Immigration Legislation.

Dr. Cynthia Mota stated to Ms. Blanco, Mr. Hanlon is asking if you are speaking on the Immigration.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that the Rules are that under Courtesy of the Floor, you can speak to items that aren't on the agenda and since the Immigration Bill is on the agenda, that is Bill #4, you will have to wait until that time to speak.

Dr. Cynthia Mota spoke in Spanish to explain the process to Ms. Elizabeth Blanco. She stated next.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that he doesn't have anybody else.

Dr. Cynthia Mota stated that now they are going to have the election of President and Vice President. She asked if there were any nominations for President.

Election of President and Vice President

Dr. Cynthia Mota asked if there were any other nominations for President and stated none.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that at this time he will accept nominations for Vice President of City Council.

A motion was made by Ed Zucal to nominate Daryl Hendricks as Council President

Yes: 5 - Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Ed Zucal, Candida Affa, and Santo Napoli

No: 2 - Natalie Santos, and Ce-Ce Gerlach

Election of President and Vice President

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that Ms. Affa nominates Cynthia Mota and asked if he has any other nominations for Vice President for Council. He stated seeing known. He stated that they are now going to move to Contract Approvals.

A motion was made by Candida Affa to nominate Cynthia Mota as Council Vice President

Yes: 7 - Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Ed Zucal, Natalie Santos, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Candida Affa, and Santo Napoli

Contract Approvals

[15-7441](#)

R1

Authorization of Cooperative Contract(s) in an amount greater than \$40,000.00 to provide the City with various goods/services, for H.T. Lyons, Inc.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R1 Council Cooperative Approval - 1.15](#)

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that the first Contract was pulled. They are at R2.

Resolution Pulled

[15-7440](#)

R2

Authorization for a Contract with TCW Building Maintenance, LLC in the estimated budgeted sum of \$85,000 per contract year for on-call, on-site Overhead Door replacement, repair, inspection and maintenance, at various City owned and/or operated facilities. One (1) bid was received, contract shall be for one (1) with four (4) additional one (1) year renewals beyond the contract expiration period.

Attachments: [R2 - TWC](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Mr. Hanlon. He stated Mr. Roca.

Chief Charles Roca stated that he believes Sarrah is on Teams.

Ms. Sarrah McNeil stated that this was done as Bid #2024-54. It was advertised on November 14, 2024. The public opening was held on December 16, 2024. The city received one proposal. After the department reviewed the proposal, they are recommending an award to the Sole Bidder, TCW Building Maintenance, LLC.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Ms. McNeil. He asked if he has any questions or comments from his colleagues.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated just one quick question, he thought they already had in place a contract with Overhead Doors.

Ms. Sarrah McNeil stated that contract is set to expire and they didn't want to renew. They did have a contract that was active, but they did not want to renew that.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated ok and stated thank you.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked is there anybody else on the dais. He asked if there were any comments or questions from the public.

Yes: 7 - Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Ed Zucal, Natalie Santos, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Candida Affa, and Santo Napoli

Enactment No: 30996

Minutes of Previous Meeting

[15-7448](#) December 4, 2024 City Council Meeting Minutes

Sponsors: System

Attachments: [December 4, 2024 City Council Meeting Minutes](#)

Yes: 7 - Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Ed Zucal, Natalie Santos, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Candida Affa, and Santo Napoli

Communications

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if they had any communications.

Old Business

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated you received nothing for Old Business Mr. Hanlon.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated no.

REPORTS

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES: (Note future meetings will be established after committee assignments are made.)

Budget and Finance: Chair Napoli, Hendricks, Gerlach
The Committee has not met since the last Council meeting, there are no future meetings scheduled.

Community and Economic Development, Chair Hendricks, Mota, Napoli
The Committee has not met since the last Council meeting, there are no future meetings scheduled.

Human Resources, Administration and Appointments: Chair Affa, Napoli, Santos
The Committee met this evening, there are no future meetings scheduled.

Parks and Recreation: Chair Santos, Affa, Gerlach
The Committee met this evening, there are no future meetings scheduled.

Public Safety: Chair Zucal, Hendricks, Mota

The Committee met this evening; there is one item on the regular Agenda concerning the Fire Department. There are no future meetings scheduled at this time.

Public Works: Chair Gerlach, Affa, Zucal

The Committee met this evening, there are no future meetings scheduled.

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. Hendricks and stated congratulations on your election. He stated that he has this evening a brief Report on the P-Card Review for the month of August of 2024. You might say, gosh, it's January and you are just getting to August. He stated that he agrees with them. The number of P Card Statements reviewed for this period was 69. The number of documents in that review was 644. The total dollar amount was \$252,591. Over a year ago, the city brought the city garage back in-house and it that resulted in a significant increase in the number of documents reviewed in P-Cards every month. Prior to the garage being in-house, they might do 400 invoices in a P-Card Statement. This P-Card Statement had 644 so you can see the amount of work on the accounting side that bringing the garage back in-house has created. It probably keeps the Clerks in the garage very, very, very busy. The garage is working towards finding more efficient ways of paying their bills. Maybe getting the vendors to send a monthly statement, individual invoices attached. He stated that they can pay them on the normal check run and that takes the pressure off P-Cards. There will be fewer invoices here. His office will still deal with the same amount of invoices. The garage will still deal with the same amount of invoices, but will be able to pay in a more timely manner and they have the chances of holding this report as the volume will be decreased. He stated that he hopes that will be fully implemented this calendar year. All P-Card invoices are supposed to be entered in a three day which is the close of the period that unfortunately doesn't happen. Once again, evidence of the fact that they just completed the August Report. He stated that September will be done shortly, by the way. There were 46 entries that was entered after 10 days. There were 30 invoices that was less than 30 days. Between 31 and 60 days, there were 14 invoices outstanding and over 60 days, there were two invoices outstanding. While they made some improvement there, once again, things that are over 31

days slows this process down. Really anything over 10 days slows this process slows it down. Sometimes, there are reasons. There are problems that need to be worked out, but not in all these cases. Beyond that, they had one finding within an inadequate segregation of duties. Somebody who expended the money was also part of the approval process. They advised the administration of the issue and going forward the responses going forward, the employees banner signatures will be required on those receipts. The signature on the receipt would provide the approval of the P-Card transaction itself and that information will be attached to Eden. They had one invoice where freight was paid twice. The department was advised and seeking a refund from the vendor. There were some travel invoices that had tax, that the tip was paid in a percentage greater than 20 percent. The department was involved and they calculated the tip on the amount including the tax when the well accepted custom is to tip on the pre-tax amount. There were 24 invoices where the wrong expense account was used. The departments were advised and journal entries were created to correct those issues. One of the problems, that they are going to run into reviewing these statements so late is that the year closes at the end of February. He stated when they do the December Statement, on February 26th, and people need to make journal entries, they may not be money in the accounts where they need to make them to. They will still note it and expect it and a performance will significantly improve for next year. Another issue they have occasionally is credit card fees. If you come to the city you want to pay your bill, the city will charge a convenience fee. other vendors do that as well. Currently, that is against city regulations. They don't want to pay credit card fees. If you run into that situation and really what the department needs to do is get a Requisition and put out a PO. He stated sometimes you can do that. Sometimes you can't. Sometimes companies change their policies and decide, oh, now we are going to charge a credit card fee where they have not done so in the past. These fees do not get refunded. The city points them out. He stated that he is not honestly sure what the solution is Mr. President, you need to just be accepting these things or departments need to create a list of vendors that charge fees so that the departments are aware in advance and can use Purchase Orders. He stated that is his Report this evening.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Mr. Glazier.

The mayor has not submitted anything for the agenda.

[15-7449](#)

Controller PCard Review

Attachments: [Controller PCard Review.pdf](#)

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE (To be Voted On):

[15-7406](#)

Bill 118

Amending the 2024 Capital Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Seven Hundred Thirty-Seven Thousand Two Hundred Nineteen Dollars and Forty-Three Cents (\$737,219.43) from LCA for the purpose of construction ADA handicap ramps and for the milling and paving of streets under the City's Utility Paving Program.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 118 LCA Cost Share Agreement](#)
[Ordinance #16090](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Mr. Hanlon. He stated that this was in your committee, Ms. Gerlach.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated yes, it was and it was forwarded favorably to tonight's Council meeting.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any comments from the dais or comments or questions from the public.

Yes: 7 - Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Ed Zucal, Natalie Santos, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Candida Affa, and Santo Napoli

Enactment No: 16090

[15-7407](#)

Bill 119

Amending the 2024 Capital Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) from the Ferber Company for traffic signal improvements.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 119 Traffic Signal Contribution](#)
[Ordinance #16091](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated to Ms. Gerlach that this was also in your committee.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that it is for a project over at the southside. It is coming from a developer and it was forwarded favorably.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any comments, questions from the dais or any questions or comments from the public.

Yes: 7 - Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Ed Zucal, Natalie Santos, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Candida Affa, and Santo Napoli

Enactment No: 16091

[15-7412](#)

Bill 120

Amending Part I Administrative Legislation, Chapter 80 Personnel Policies, Section 13 Holidays and Leave Time, Subsection A Holidays by updating the list of paid holidays for full-time non-bargaining employees to include Juneteenth National Independence Day.

Sponsors: Administration, Mota, Napoli, Affa, Gerlach and Santos

Attachments: [Bill 120 - Paid Holiday Amendment.docx](#)
[Ordinance #16092](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that this was in your committee this evening, Mr. Napoli.

Mr. Santo Napoli stated that this was forwarded favorably out of the Human Resources committee.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any comments or questions.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated in light of everything that is going on, she definitely want to recognize and acknowledge Dr. Mota and asked who initiated this.

Dr. Cynthia Mota stated that she signed off on it, but it was not her initiation.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated whoever did, she is glad that this is happening. She also do think it is important because Juneteenth does recognize the official end of enslavement of humans in America. It also recognizes that while it is important and needs to be acknowledged, slavery still exists for punishment of crimes. She knows that there are some members of Congress who are working to change that. She also thinks it is important, especially with everything going on, sometimes people can feel like oh, you are just doing that to look a certain way and be symbolic and meanwhile you got all this other stuff happening and she hopes that isn't the case. Isn't it weird to honor Juneteenth and then have a culture within a building that doesn't exactly mesh.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Ms. Gerlach and asked if there were any other comments. He echoed what Ms. Gerlach said. He also signed on to this to move this forward and hopefully things will change. He asked if there were any comments from the public.

Yes: 7 - Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Ed Zucal, Natalie Santos, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Candida Affa, and Santo Napoli

Enactment No: 16092

[15-7421](#)

Bill 121

Amending the 2024 Fire Department budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Forty-One Thousand Two Hundred Forty-Two Dollars and

Fifty-Seven Cents (\$41,242.57) from Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Community and Economic Development grant. These funds will be utilized to support the Bomb Squad and ensure disposal of fireworks.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 121 - Fire DCED Grant Appropriation.docx](#)
[Ordinance #16093](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Mr. Hanlon and stated that this was in your committee, Mr. Zucal.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that it was and it was sent favorably to regular Council.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Mr. Zucal and asked if there were any other comments or questions from his colleagues. He asked if there were any comments or questions from the public.

Yes: 7 - Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Ed Zucal, Natalie Santos, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Candida Affa, and Santo Napoli

Enactment No: 16093

CONSENT AGENDA

RESOLUTIONS FOR FINAL PASSAGE (To be Voted On):

[15-7429](#)

R3

City Council hereby authorizes the additional expenditure of \$50,000 and authorizes the transfer of \$50,000 in City Council Budget for Payment for Legal Services for Brown Nimeroff LLC for expenses related to the 'investigation' from Account #000-01-0101-0001-46 to Account #000-01-0101-0001-44.

Sponsors: System

Attachments: [R3 Transfer Funds](#)
[Payment for Legal Services from Account 46 to Account 44 \(City Council\)](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any questions, comments from the dais.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that when this initially started, this investigation, the part that started when Council sued the mayor, they approved a \$20,000 allowance for that part of that investigation lawsuit. Now, because they are planning to go a different route, some say that this is going to be more cost effective. He stated that they are now increasing this already at \$30,000. More money to the taxpayers and they have not even begun to

start Plan B. He stated that he will not be voting for this.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Mr. Zucal and asked if there were any other questions or comments.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that on the off chance that this did not pass, this is essentially paying Ms. Brown for her services. She asked is she correct.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated correct and can he say this, he doesn't have the bills in front of him. Most of this bill is up to the litigation. A little part of it is the post litigation discussion. He stated if that makes sense to you.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that it was pre-litigation.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that previously, they do not have enough money, Mr. Zucal when they were involved stating you know what I mean. There are additional funds for the work that Ms. Brown did with Ms. Montero to work with the Solicitor's office.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that they don't know how much is post litigation.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that he sent Jeffrey the bill.

Mr. Jeffrey Glazier thanked President Hendricks and Mr. Zucal and stated from what he can determine with Mr. Hanlon's help and Ms. Whitehead's help and Ms. Montero's assistance, the total cost of your Counsel so far is over \$65,000. There may be some smaller bills coming to represent the time after the court date where she has worked with Council on in working with the administration. Those bills have not been sent yet nor to the best of his knowledge that firm giving any idea what those bills will amount to. He stated really, as Michael said the transfer is really recognizing that you need money to pay for bills that you already incurred to this point in time.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Mr. Glazier.

Mr. Ed Zucal asked if he could just follow up on that. He stated it is definitely more than \$65,000 because the investigator's bill alone is more than that. He stated as far as for the attorney, she has to be paid for what she did. That is his issue here. He doesn't know how much or they don't have a factual number on how much post litigation it is.

Mr. Jeffrey Glazier stated that he is going to ask Council's Solicitor.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that Ms. Montero sent them that.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated you asked for them to respond.

Mr. Jeffrey Glazier stated that he will ask the Solicitor to weigh in if she thinks he is misspeaking at all. That is to be determined. He would expect the rate of increase would be significantly less than preparing for litigation as she counsels and advises your guys. He stated that they won't know until they know.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that they already asking for \$50,000.

Mr. Jeffrey Glazier stated \$50,000 plus \$20,000, takes you to \$70,000. You have a little bit of a cushion there and yes, conceivably you are going to need a little bit more money to make her whole.

Mr. Ed Zucal thanked Mr. Glazier.

Mr. Michael Hanlon asked if everyone is good with that answer.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated boy does she have questions and concerns when it comes to the investigation and the new route that some folks on Council would like to go down. She stated similar to Mr. Zucal, if someone is doing work, they need to get paid. She stated it's like Mr. Curtis needs to get paid. This attorney needs to get paid since she did work. It is not her fault that there was a shift amongst some folks on Council. She stated that she will be voting yes.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Ms. Gerlach. He asked if there were any questions or comments from the public.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that if he must say before she speaks, no disrespect, he will vote yes because up until this point they need to pay her and also negotiate after that.

Ms. Karen Ocasio, South Allentown, asked has this already been said that you guys decided to move to a law firm to do the investigation or are you guys still debating on.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that is still under consideration. That has still not been decided as of yet.

Ms. Karen Ocasio stated that her question is how is this being voted on because she thinks it is unethical and it should really be illegal that people who are being investigated are even voting on this investigation that are on the Council. You guys should really excuse yourselves from here and let the people who are not being investigated do the decision. It is a complete

conflict of interest. The ones who are being investigated should really excuse yourselves from voting on this.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Ms. Ocasio. He asked anybody else from the public.

Yes: 7 - Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Ed Zucal, Natalie Santos, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Candida Affa, and Santo Napoli

Enactment No: 30997

[15-7450](#)

R4

Approves the following transfers: Fire - \$207,269.86; EMS - \$139,929.12; Public Works - \$18,669.15; Mayor's Office - \$18,491.69

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R4 Transfer of Funds.doc](#)

[Fire Transfer.pdf](#)

[Mayor's Office Transfer.pdf](#)

[EMS Transfer.pdf](#)

[01.10.25 PW Budget Transfer .pdf](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there are any questions or comments from his colleagues or any questions or comments from the public.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated R5.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated he guesses.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that she intended to introduce a Resolution calling on the police and the DA to work with the FBI concerning the noose hate crime. What she defines as a hate crime and the FBI defines as a hate crime, but Council learned since that the FBI is already working with the APD. She stated that she hopes that they can continue to have a level of transparent communication so they all know what's going on.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Ms. Gerlach.

Yes: 7 - Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Ed Zucal, Natalie Santos, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Candida Affa, and Santo Napoli

Enactment No: 30998

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

[15-7437](#)

Bill 1

Amending the 2024 Liquid Fuels Fund Budget to provide for a transfer of Five Hundred Sixty-Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty-One Dollars and

Thirty-One Cents (\$567,951.31) from the unappropriated balance of the General Fund. The reason for this transfer is due to an audit that was conducted on the Liquid Fuels funding from 2016-2020. During that audit, a finding was presented that paving of more than one inch had to get prior approval from the Department of Transportation, and that was not done. This was not found in previous audits and corrected once we were made aware.

Attachments: [Bill 1 Liquid Fuels Transfer](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Mr. Hanlon and asked if there were any comments or questions from the public.

REFERRED TO THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

[15-7438](#)

Bill 2

Establishing a Latino Advisory Council to advise the Mayor and Council on issues relating to Latino affairs.

Sponsors: Mota, Affa, Hendricks and Gerlach

Attachments: [Bill 2 Latino Advisory Council](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Mr. Hanlon and asked if there were any comments or questions from the public.

REFERRED TO THE HUMAN RESOURCES, ADMINISTRATION AND APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

[15-7439](#)

Bill 3

Establishing a African-American Advisory Council is to advise the Mayor and Council on any relating to African-American issues.

Sponsors: Mota, Affa, Gerlach and Hendricks

Attachments: [Bill 3 African-American Affairs Advisory Council.docx](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Mr. Hanlon and asked if there were any comments or questions from the public.

Rev. Kari Holmes stated good evening and speaking on behalf of the organization the Rising Sun Initiative which has its headquarters here in the beautiful city of Allentown. She stated good evening and thank you for the time to speak before you this evening. She stated that they trust that they will be able to move forward with this particular initiative and Bill in a way that it is a positive solutions oriented group of individuals that can get ahead of concerns. One of the biggest things that everyone can agree on from every background and every ethnicity and race is that communication beats noncommunication and prior solutions coming forward from the community that it closest to the concerns is certainly something that they all

agree on. She thanked City Council and thanked Mr. Hendricks as the newly installed president before them again for taking the time to look at this Bill as a solutions oriented, community oriented, option that gives them an opportunity to get back to communication and as they are looking forward to celebrating Dr. King very shortly in just a couple of days. He talked about the beloved community. The urgency of now. It is certainly something they need to embrace at this time more than ever. She stated whatever our thoughts, whatever our transgressions, missteps, or misspeakings might have been, we are taking another breathe today. She stated that as a woman of faith, she believes that indeed like Dr. King said that we will get to that mountaintop, but we have to talk to one another, grow together, provide solutions, we have to forgive and be strong and even when it is time, we need to make our demands, but hope that this resolution will find both a place in your hearts, and a place in the dais that it is something that will go forward to be the best for our entire community. She stated Happy New Year and thank you once again Councilmembers and the President of City Council.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Pastor Holmes. He mirrored what her comments were. He stated that he knows himself and other members of this Council feels very strongly the very same way and look forward to working with you.

REFERRED TO THE HUMAN RESOURCES, ADMINISTRATION AND
APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

[15-7422](#)

Bill 4

An ordinance of the Council of the City of Allentown Pennsylvania requiring the city to obtain and maintain a welcoming city rating and work towards a score of no less than three stars from welcoming America; codifying the city's practices related to the provision of city services without regard to refugee or immigration status and requiring city council to advocate for the adoption of similar practices and policies by other municipalities; providing for the repeal of inconsistent ordinances; providing for the severability of the ordinance; and providing that the ordinance shall take effect in accordance with Pennsylvania law.

Sponsors: Gerlach and Santos

Attachments: [Bill 4 New Immigrants and Refugees](#)
[R17 Welcomingdraft](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Mr. Hanlon.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that you had some folks that signed up to speak to this.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were comments or questions from the public.

Ms. Elizabeth Polanco stated thank you for the opportunity and gave her name. She stated that she is a United States citizen and also an immigrant from the Dominican Republic. She stated that she believes this law and act must pass so that immigrants are protected and they feel confident in life, safely in the city. That they feel safe going to the hospital, school, and the police department. This city must not share the immigration status of the people. This is accordance with laws that already sit such as when with a judge. She stated thank you so much and thank you for the opportunity. She spoke in Spanish stating she has people speaking Spanish too.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Ms. Polonko.

Mr. Josie Lopez state hey City Council and this is her first time doing this. This is specifically about this Welcoming Policy. She stated that we need to be able to keep families together in Allentown. If we believe in that, then they need to codify a policy that says that. There has been a lot of reason why public trust has been eroded within city hall, specifically with this Council. Words are simple not enough. She stated that we need to have codified policies to keep federal agencies working with themselves and keep tax dollars in the city away from them. Something she realized this week is the saying that there ain't power like the power of the people because the power of the people don't stop. A lot of things happen this week and a lot of people are in this room because they showed up because they believe in things. A lot of other things move forward perhaps in other areas because the power of the people decided to pick up their phones and notify things and agitate in the right places. Hopefully, you will hear enough from the citizens. You will know that Allentown is a majority minority city. A large portion of our citizens don't even speak English. She stated that we need to protect them. ICE is not welcomed here. Allentown should be a welcoming city. Not a city that endorses hate in any of its forms and through any federal agency that breaks apart families and encourages hate. She said let's be a welcoming city, right and stated we want that. She stated that we want to welcome and be supportive in paper, not just by language. She would say that she would happily be more interested in supporting someone vocally for mayor of City Council that would be vocally supportive on codified paper supporting immigrants in this city.

Mr. Jon Irons, resident of Bethlehem and a Lehigh County Commissioner, stated that he is here to speak in favor of Bill 4. The Welcoming City Policy codification. He thanked Councilwomen Gerlach for introducing this legislation and bringing this conversation to the floor. He stated that he is

also an immigrant. He stated that he was born in Ecuador and moved here when he was an infant. There is a couple of things he wants to address with this Bill, one, is that this is an opportunity for this body to be proactive. To get ahead of issues that likely is going to be coming down the pike, given the rhetoric and the plans of the incoming presidential administration. Currently, he has seen this Council working reactively. You have lawsuits, you are suing the mayor, you are dealing with Equal Opportunity Complaints, you dealing with Whistleblower cases. He stated that 10 years ago, they had a Galarza Case that a man was unjustly confined in Lehigh County jail at an Immigration Detainer and in response to all of those things, it is unfortunately that our bodies act reactively. We wait until there are cases. We wait until there is pain. We wait until there are complaints. We wait until there is a room full of people asking for desperate changes rather than being proactive. In this moment, they have an opportunity to codify some policies to make some very targeted structural changes to how data is managed in the city that would get ahead of complaints, and pain and potential liability for the city and the county in the next incoming next four or five or 10 years or how long we are going to be dealing with this type of anti-immigrant sentiment in our federal government. It is not unique to republicans. The other thing this Bill does, it addresses an issue with data management. In his professional capacity, he is a data manager. He thinks about this in his capacity as the County Commissioner and the fact that municipal governments are vulnerable to hacking. Municipal governments also hold a great deal of sensitive on or residents in our database. He stated that they share that information with law enforcement, we share it with third party providers and contractors at different times and decisions about very sensitive information and talking about information on national origin, language and you could include information on sexual identity and gender identity. These pieces of information are very important. He stated that the city should do everything it can to protect that information from possibly being leaked. One way to proactively do this is to codify policies that they are not going to share this information except for legally necessary and have some sort of impact on offering city services that provide support to people. He stated that he really wants to think about these two things, being proactive and protecting or data. The last thing this ordinance does is provide a sense of security for himself and other immigrants who are going to be potentially talking about this. He stated that they need to see their bodies working together. He stated that they need to see governments across Lehigh Valley coming together to protect our valuable and cherished immigrant community. This will give you the opportunity to be the first municipal body to take real action on this in the Lehigh Valley and be a leader on this. He stated that if they do, he will absolutely follow them. They already working at the county to work on similar things. This will not happen in a vacuum.

Ms. Sharon Finnegan, Shantz Road, stated that she was looking earlier today and Lancaster, Pennsylvania did this already. They prevent local police and any city officials from inquiring a person's immigration status, unless it is required by state or federal law or court order or reasonably necessary in a criminal investigation. The importance of that is that people have to feel safe. She stated that we have seen the ugliness that happens. It is important that people: immigrants, asylum seekers, refugees can feel comfortable seeking city services. Reporting crimes if anything happens. She urged Council to pass this.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that is it.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked is there anybody else that wishes to speak on this topic.

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach asked what date is that.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated January 29th.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated no, we were looking at February 5th at 6:00 PM. He stated that is Wednesday, right.

[15-7442](#)

Bill 5

Amending the 2024 Trexler Fund by authorizing a supplemental appropriation from the unappropriated balance of the Trexler Fund in the amount of Eighty-Five Thousand Four Hundred Sixteen Dollars and One Cent (\$85,416.01) to the Jordan Skatepark capital budget of the Parks and Recreation Department. These funds will complete the construction of Phase 2 of the skatepark and is part of the 2024-25 Trexler Capital Project allocation.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 5 - Capital 2024 Skatepark Allocation](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Mr. Hanlon and asked if there were any comments, questions from the public.

Mr. Dan Blount stated that he has been here for over 50 years and stated that this is his home. He loves it and wants a lot of things done that are not being done, especially the nonsense that is going on upstairs. It's crazy. Racism has no place in Allentown. If anybody that is a racist in this time of living is crazy to him.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated to Mr. Blount he understands.

Mr. Dan Blount stated that he wants to ask some questions pertaining to the parks. He asked how is this money divided or is it

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that you know what, this is going to be discussed at detail at a future meeting. He said if Mr. Blount would like to be here, he doesn't know and asked Ms. Tolino could she.

Ms. Mandy Tolino stated good evening and for the Trexler money, most of the money goes towards operating to funds some salaries and things like mulch and what not, but for the capital money that we are going to get, there is a certain percentage every year. In this instance, this is a project that is already happening and we had a deficit. They know in order to complete a project, they had to use some of that money. In this intent, this is how we made that decision. For some other parks, how they make the decision on where to spend the money. Right now, they are working on a Parks Comprehensive Plan and it includes many public meetings and a survey. She stated that she is hopeful that they are going to have some really good results from that and use that as a guide really based on community feedback and how they spend their capital money and where they spend their attention.

Mr. Dan Blount asked when is this meeting that you are talking about. He asked when is it going to come to fruition.

Ms. Mandy Tolino stated the comments and plan meeting. The next one is in February. She stated that she can send the whole list. There are multiple opportunities to get involved over the next year.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked Mr. Blount if the city had his address.

Mr. Dan Blount stated yes.

Ms. Mandy Tolino stated yes, she has it.

Mr. Dan Blount stated that the community wants to honor a few people from our part of the city.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that this isn't the time to bring that up.

Mr. Dan Blount stated that he thought it was about Parks with the Department of Parks and Recreation Committee.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that it is about this Bill.

Mr. Dan Blount stated oh, just the Bill.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that he would be glad to speak to him after the meeting if you wish.

Mr. Dan Blount asked who is the head Parks.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that that this is just an introduction to the Bill.

Mr. Dan Blount stated ok.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that he will give Mr. Blount a call to speak to him about that. He stated thank you and does anybody else have any questions or comments on this Bill.

REFERRED TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

[15-7444](#)

Bill 6

Amending the 2024 Capital Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Ninety Thousand (\$90,000.00) Dollars from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) to support improvements to upgrade the final pavilion at Rose Garden #1.

Attachments: [Bill 6 - Rose Garden Grant](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Mr. Hanlon and asked if there were any questions or comments from the public.

REFERRED TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

[15-7443](#)

Bill 7

Amending the 2024 Capital Fund Budget to provide for a transfer of Twenty-Four Thousand Four Hundred Seventeen Dollars and Six Cents (\$24,417.06) from Irving Pool Improvements capital project into Jordan Skatepark for construction of Phase 2.

Attachments: [Bill 7 - Parks Skatepark Transfer](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Mr. Hanlon and asked if there were any questions or comments from on Bill 7.

REFERRED TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

[15-7445](#)

Bill 8

Amending the 2024 Capital Fund Budget to provide for an increase of Three Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$325,000) to the newly created capital account for the design of the traffic signal upgrades at 17th and Linden Street, 17th and Turner Street, 17th and Chew Street, and 17th

and Walnut Street intersections. This project is part of the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant (MTF-DCED) that the City was awarded. This will fund the design for upgrades to the four intersections on 17th Street. The City was awarded \$250,000 as part of the MTF-DCED grant that is reimbursable, and the \$75,000 is considered the City's match that is required per the grant agreement.

Attachments: [Bill 8 - MTF-DCED 17th Street](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Mr. Hanlon and asked if there were any questions or comments from the public.

REFERRED TO THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

[15-7446](#)

Bill 9

Amending the 2025 General Fund budget by transferring \$150,000.00 from the Health Bureau, Administration program to a new Health Bureau, Unsheltered Coordination Services program to fund the Unsheltered Services Coordinator position (11N), with a total annual salary of \$68,987.

Attachments: [Bill 9 Unsheltered Services Coordinator.doc](#)
[Unhoused Services Coordinator Job Description_FT.docx](#)
[Homeless Services Coordinator Job Description.pdf](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked and asked if there were any questions or comments from the public.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that there is somebody here to speak to that.

Ms. Jennifer Swann stated that she lives in Allentown, 19th and Congress. She stated that she appreciates that very much needed position is being considered. Her only comment is that the salary seems a bit low. She stated that she has given Michael Hanlon, the City Clerk documents that she had with a similar position and the range of funding in that position. She realizes that the city's money is important, but she would like them to get someone who is qualified and willing to stay. She state that if we pay people a low salary or offer them a low salary, there are chances that they won't get the kind of person they want and the other side of that is if they have continuous turnaround with this position as people come in and move to a better paying position, they may end up fulfilling the goal of this which is to have a talented person work with the homeless and continue to do so until the homeless are no more. She stated apologized and said unsheltered s the proper word. She stated that she has given them and appreciates Council's time. She has given them just one sample of a range of salaries for a similar position. She wants to take that into consideration. Here other comment is that she appreciates the benefits,

but benefits are usually not more than half of the salary. She wondered if considering those positions, some of that money might be transferred into the salary to make it more in that range. She thanked Council for their time.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks suggested that she attends the meeting in the future when they discuss in more detail.

Ms. Jennifer Swann stated that she does not know when that will be, but she is sure.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that it will be in February. He stated that he does not know the date yet.

Ms. Jennifer Swann thanked Council for their consideration.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if anybody else on this Bill.

Ms. Karen Ocasio stated that the city had a Homeless Coordinator before in the CED department. She asked would this person be doing the same thing that person used to do. She stated no, yes oh, you are going to have a meeting in February and that's when all the questions will be answered.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that there will be more details at that time.

Ms. Karen Ocasio stated that she is just wondering because she said that the cost of this position and that position and stated that she just wanted to know and just look at both job descriptions to see why the huge jump from what that person got paid to this one. She asked how do we find out the date of that meeting.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that it is online. If you go online under Allentown City Council. It is always listed, the meeting dates.

Ms. Karen Ocasio stated that it is on the same website, ok. She stated alright. Thank you.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Ms. Ocasio and asked anybody else.

REFERRED TO THE COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

[15-7451](#)

Bill 10

Authorizing an investigation by an outside agency under Section 210, Investigations, of the Home Rule Charter: :Allentown City Council hereby approves the engagement of Duane Morris to conduct such investigation and make such recommendations set forth and that City Council's Solicitor

work with the solicitor's office to take all necessary action to implement this ordinance.

Sponsors: Affa, Hendricks, Mota and Napoli

Attachments: [Bill 10 Investigation.doc](#)

[Ordinance #16094](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that this meeting will take place on January 29th at 6:00 PM.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that Council needs to take comments before the referral.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any comments from the public.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that he has a comment from the dais. He stated dais first. He stated that maybe this is a question that the Solicitor has to answer. He asked if he is allowed to make a motion at this time since it hasn't be voted on yet to go to committee. Just the Rules has been Suspended at this time or must he wait until the meeting on the 29th.

Attorney Maria Montero stated to Mr. Zucal right now, it is just referring it to the committee so there is no official action taken yet. Procedurally, because it wasn't on the agenda eight days before, there was a Motion made to Suspend those Rules. Right now, it is being referred and on January 29th, that's when you can make any official action.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated ok, thanks for the clarity.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated Ms. Gerlach.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that she also has a clarifying question. She stated that she does understand that they will have an at length conversation on the 29th and she understands that at length conversation will be about Duane Morris, a law firm. She stated that she needs clarification if they are all in agreement that this is the direction that they want to go. Not necessarily Duane Morris, but hiring a law firm with the cost associated with that or if they are still open to hiring possibly an investigator, if not the same, but another investigator who has a different skill than an attorney. Does having this meeting on the 29th that is specifically on Duane Morris Law Firm does that pigeon hole us to only going down that route. She would like an answer if anybody could answer. She stated that she doesn't know. Maybe the attorney or the president of Council or someone. She stated that she is not set on this.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that he would think that anything could happen

on the 29th, but perhaps our Solicitor could weigh in on this.

Attorney Maria Montero stated that as with all the other Bills that were introduced, it is still information and things can change before the final vote and so on January 29th, it is the opportunity to see if it is the Bill you would like to move forward and vote on to talk about the details, especially moving forward in the investigation if that is what Council wants to use a law firm or other methods and if it does after the comment period through and it's on before Council and the majority of Council voting for that, four individuals.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach asked on the 29th, are we expected to make a final vote that evening to either hire or not hire Duane Morris or amendments or motions. She asked is that the be all to end all on the 29th.

Attorney Maria Montero stated to her understanding the way you are putting forward ordinances is that you are required to give two weeks notice and she believes that is the goal of the individuals who put this forward.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach thanked Attorney Montero for those answers.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated ok, anybody else.

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ON JANUARY 29TH
AT 6:00 PM

Ms. Barbara Redmond asked what happened to the old investigation. She stated that you s, then we are going to get someone new on top of that to come in. She stated that she doesn't understand what they are doing.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that they hope to do that. They hope to come to a resolution.

Ms. Barbara Redmond stated that the money coming from the citizens don't have money to be spending and wasting money. She asked what did he do or what's wrong and why can't he be the person that does the investigation. She stated that they all agreed with it in the beginning. She asked what happened. Is it because the fact that you all are mentioned in the lawsuit. The new lawsuit that is out. What is going on? What happened that you changed your mind?

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that what happened is that they got tied up in the courts and they would be spending a lot more money and a longer time to get a resolution. That is part of the problem.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated point of order. She stated that she believes Council doesn't do a dialogue with members of the public.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated ok.

Ms. Barbara Redmond stated ok. She stated that she doesn't understand.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that this is not a question and answer session. She stated that is what Dr. Mota always says. She stated just a point of order if she is wrong.

Ms. Barbara Redmond stated that her point is that she does not understand. She stated that you get a law firm and the law firm has Rules and Regulations. When you hire a law firm, a law firm is for the person who is hiring them. She stated that you will be hiring that person. That person is going to be bias to whatever you all want to hear. When you have a law firm, a law comes in and talk to the employees. It is confidential between the lawyer and the person. If the mayor decides that he does not want to release that information, the lawyer is going to be bias. Why can't a consultant company come in and do a thorough investigation. Why do you need a lawyer? Is anyone friends with this company? Does anyone knows this company? She stated and another thing, the people who were included in these lawsuits are you all going to be eliminated from voting because she feels like there is a conflict of interest to pick another law company when people are involved in it. The people who are involved in lawsuits should not be a part of the lawsuit and a rephrased stating picking and choosing what firm you are going to have. You are talking about this one firm. What other firms were mentioned? What other firms are mentioned?

Mr. Daryl Hendricks suggested to attend the meeting on the 29th. You can ask those questions or make those statements.

Ms. Barbara Redmond stated that she will, but hope that they are not going to have one law firm that you wanted or already selected. It is not fair to the community. She stated that she will definitely be in that meeting.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked is there anybody else.

Ms. Kari Holmes stated to Mr. Hendricks that she wanted to ask if there is a feasibility to offer a community dialogue of invited the community back maybe prior to the meeting that is scheduled or for instance, if the and she wants to make the suggestion because there is a lot of speculation around this and she believes they are not making the distinction as clear as it needs to be to the community that these are different lawsuits and different

pieces of litigation in addition to what City Council has adopted and agreed to address with the mayor. That is something separate and different than the other concerns that have been presented regarding City Council members. That does not mean that the concerns of your constituents you heard them this evening regarding reusing yourself and so on should not be considered. She stated that it would be helpful to either have a meeting prior to the one you are going to have on the 29th or possibly a half hour of explanation. Maybe at that time, you don't take comments from the community, but you explain some of the nuances. Obviously, a lot of this stuff is discussed on Facebook, there are round about conversations on social media, but you also have your constituents quite honestly may not know when the meetings are. They may not be understanding the rhetoric or the rhetoric itself may not be clear as to what the particular litigations are, who are involved in them and who will be adopting them to move them forward. For instance, again, she would just offer that as a suggestion as a way of communicating if the meeting is at 7:00 then invite the public to a listening session at 6:30 PM or maybe you will have comments at 6:00 PM. She stated then you will explain what exactly is about to take place at 7:00 PM so they have an opportunity to clearly understand. She stated that she is sure Council can hear this evening while people have heightened concerns, there are also a number of concerns as issues that are very and said she does not what to say convoluted because they are connected, but Council can give some clarity for them as constituents as to what is happening where and if indeed, anyone should not be recusing themselves then they would be able to give a solid basis as to why. Again, creating that place of dialogue and understanding with your constituents and stated that she hopes they will consider that.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that they will certainly meet on the 29th and those questions will be raised and stated that the mayor had absolutely nothing to do with Council's decision about whether they are moving forward or how they are moving forward. It is done by Council and Council alone.

Ms. Kari Holmes stated that she understands that, but does believe that Councilwoman Ce Ce Gerlach, your peer made a good point that it is here tonight may not avail them with the opportunity to hear from you as president of City Council or your peers as to what has been done in a positive direction. She stated that she believes the community is saying we want to hear what you have done so far and she believes they are in a position to share that with them, but tonight at the City Council meeting may not be the place to do that. On the 29th, you have to move things forward a well. She stated that it might be a need for and she knows that City Council works hard and you have your own families.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that on the 29th, they can discuss it in full length.

Ms. Kari Holmes thanked Mr. Hendricks and stated that is helpful.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that it is appreciated.

Ms. Karen Ocasio asked was there an RFP for this. How was Duane Morris chosen so quickly. She asked was there an actual RFP done. Because wasn't there a concern with what was his name, Scott Curtis. How quickly things moved. She stated, oh, we are not answering. That's right. She stated that was her questions because she doesn't remember seeing an RFP and how they got chosen so quickly. She stated that she just wants to know how that process went. She stated that if they can get the clarification on that as well.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Ms. Ocasio. He asked if there were anybody else. He stated again, this will be referred to the Committee of the Whole on January 29th at 6:00 PM.

**A motion was made by Santo Napoli that this Ordinance be Suspend The Rules.
The motion carried by the following vote:**

Yes: 4 - Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Candida Affa, and Santo Napoli

No: 3 - Ed Zucal, Natalie Santos, and Ce-Ce Gerlach

Enactment No: 16094

Enactment No: 16094

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

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that she has a thing because she is already sensing what is going to happen over this next year. She stated that the reason she did the Point of Order is because we have got some tough conversations to have in the next year, especially the next couple of months. It is tense. People are afraid and the reason she did the Point of Order again, is because when that is what Council decided hat they are not going to do a Q & A and not going to turn it into a debate and the power dynamic comes into play and tone of voice. She just wanted to point that out that if they are going to because there are plenty of times came up there and she wanted to respond, but if they are going to respond then let' switch up the Rules. If they are not, if they can just do that. Just not

respond. She stated that it stinks for the person that's up there asking the question and they are just staring at them, but if that is what they are going to do the she would just encourage all of them to do that.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Ms. Gerlach.

GOOD AND WELFARE

Dr. Cynthia Mota stated yes and stated thank you so much to all the pastors that came here at 6:00 PM and stood outside praying for the city. She stated that it was beautiful. She thanked Pastor Kari Holmes for doing this. She stated that she knows that Pastor Holmes called a lot of pastors here in the community. She stated that it was great because she saw many, many pastors such as Constantino. He was here. She stated so many. She stated she just wants to say thank you so much for praying for the city of Allentown. She stated that she really believes that they are going towards the right direction this time around and stated thank you.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Ms. Mota.

Ms. Candida Affa stated Mr. President.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated Ms. Gerlach and stated he is sorry, Ms. Affa.

Ms. Candida Affa stated yeah, let's not get us confused. She took the time to thank Ms. Mota for our two years and your work as president. She stated that she knows how hard and people don't see the back of what they all do. The conversations with Mike ad the day in and day out. She stated how much time Ms. Mota has spent leading them and she did one hell of a job. She stated that she is great with the community and give them information and call them and let them know what is happening. She stated that Ms. Mota is making all the right decisions and thanked her. She stated that it is hard work being president of Council. She wished Mr. Hendricks a lot of luck.

Dr. Cynthia Mota thanked Ms. Affa.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Ms. Affa and stated he too commend Ms. Mota for the great job she did this year and stated that he is looking for to this year and working with her.

Dr. Cynthia Mota stated definitely they are going to work together.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated thank you. He stated thanks for all you do.

ADJOURNED: 7:58 PM

[15-6577](#)

Reference Materials:
Council Rules
Procurement Code
Ethics Code

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