



Allentown

435 Hamilton Street
Allentown, Pa. 18101

Minutes - Final

City Council

Wednesday, August 4, 2021

6:30 PM

Council Chambers

City Council

Minutes - Final

August 4, 2021

Invocation:

Pledge to the Flag

Roll Call

Present: 7 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Joshua Siegel

Courtesy of the Floor

Courtesy and Privilege of the Floor Rules

Ms. Jessica Ortiz, 523 Tilghman Street, stated that she is very excited. Chief Roca is here and doing amazing things for the community and connecting. As someone who works with youth, gang members and drug addiction he has been an asset. Is he being considered for a permanent position. How long will his interim position will be and was this a conversation willing to have? She stated that she lives in a very bad neighborhood and Chief Roca's leadership has tickled down into her community.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that he will take it into consideration and will let her know soon.

Mr. Thomas Houck, 845 N. 18th Street, stated that the city had a chief that they brought in from the outside at one time in the past and we made him sign a contract with us. Other departments do this in every department so we don't have rotating chief. Have we considered having a contract with the chief that would obligate him for a certain amount of time with a penalty involved.

Mr. Julio Guridy thanked Mr. Houck and stated certainly some of them have talked about something like that. It could certainly something that could be considered in the future.

Contract Approvals

[15-4473](#)

R115

Authorization for Contract over \$40,000 with All City Management Services in the amount of \$592,207.00. The City seeks to obtain proposals from qualified firms to establish and operate a multi-year contract for Crossing Guard Services, as needed by the City of Allentown.

Attachments: [R115 All City Mgmt](#)

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that Assistant Chief Lake is here to explain the contract with the school district and Council's approval.

Assistant Chief Lake thanked the Mayor and Council and stated that this proposed contract with All City Management for crossing guards services for school children going from home to school then back again at the end of the day. As you know, we did staff crossing guards this past spring. This particular vendor did provide some of the services as well. We also used this vendor. The city used this vendor over the past year.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any comments from the dais.

Mr. Ed Zucal asked if the school district contributing to any of this cost. Do we have a guarantee from the Crossing Guard Company that they are going to supply the people. As you know, over the years we had to take officers off the street to do crossing guard duties.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that they have been, but the administration feels that they have not given a large enough percentage to off balance the cost of the crossing guards. Our legal team and the administration will be meeting with their administration and their legal team. We do have a recommendation from the legal department with other third class cities do. We will pursue that and this year we will pursue it hard. It is a big amount of money.

Assistant Chief Lake stated that the city has worked with this vendor in the past. Most recently in the spring, when ASD went back to "normal" schooling for about seven weeks and they did an excellent job. They found people overnight. Once we learned ASD was going back that left them in a position that we had to scramble and a local agency had to assist. He had to cross children and the police had to command the post.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that their fill rate is really good. We scrambled at the last minute and got them all there and we did go to an outside agency to fill the gaps. Some community members stepped up with their organizations and it worked out well. We were really proactive.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated along those lines we all know that right now

employers are increasing its wages. Do we know if this employer has increased its wages so that we can remain competitive for the folks that are paying \$22 per hour. She stated to ensure that the fill rate can be done.

Assistant Chief Lake stated that he does not know what they pay. He stated that is a great question and a fair question. He can't comment on what this agency pays their employees. They were the lowest bidder. When the bids first came back, one was over \$1 million. He stated that he thinks this is very fair.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach asked about entering the meeting with ASD. Crossing Guards not only cross the kids/students, they cross the citizens as well. How do you balance that? Is that in their contracts?

Assistant Chief Lake stated that is a crossing guard being kind. From a crossing guard perspective when he filled in at Sixth and Linden other people came by and he crossed them. This is designed to cross school children.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that she feels it is very competitive for a couple of hours and crossing kids, but no she is not sure. It may not be competitive anymore which means they will have a harder time filling.

Assistant Chief Lake stated that he does not know what their hourly rate is, but in the spring he was told that they were paid not only for the two hours they were there, but a third hour to sweeten the pot.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that the city has not used them only for a brief period in the spring. They are out in California.

Assistant Chief Lake stated that the city used them this past spring, but we had also used them previously over the last several years. He stated that is where the company is based in with local representatives. Using this past spring as an example, once we had contact with the company in California they reached out to their local representative here who found people overnight. He was amazed. He did not think they would get enough crossing guards to do what we needed them to do. They did a good job.

Mr. Julio Guridy thanked Mr. Hendricks and asked if there were any other comments from his colleagues or the floor.

Yes: 7 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Joshua Siegel

Enactment No: 30260

Minutes of Previous Meeting: NONE

Communications:

Council President Guridy: City Council held an executive session on July 28 relating to hiring a solicitor.

Old Business: NONE

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:**SPECIAL MEETING: Council President Guridy**

Council had a special meeting on July 28 at 6 PM to review regulations and procedures relating to federal Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, we are working on establishing another one soon.

Budget and Finance: Chair Siegel, Hendricks, Mota

The committee met on July 28th and referred some items on tonight's agenda. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for August 25th.

CEDC: Chair, Gerlach, Guridy, Affa

The committee has not met since the last council meeting; the next meeting is scheduled for August 11 at 5:30 PM and the agenda items will include the legislation on contracts, a proposal relating to providing employment opportunities for city residents, discussion of inspections legislation as it relates to a pointing system along with the resolution being introduced this evening. .

Human Resources, Administration and Appointments: Chair Affa, Mota, Zucal

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

Parks and Recreation: Chair Hendricks, Gerlach, Siegel

The committee met this evening; the next meeting is not yet scheduled.

Public Safety: Chair Mota, Hendricks, Zucal

The committee met this evening; the next meeting is not yet scheduled.

Public Works: Chair Zucal, Affa, Siegel

The committee met this evening as did the Water and Sewer Compliance Committee; the next meeting is not yet scheduled.

Rules, Chambers, Intergovernmental Relations and Strategy: Chair Guridy, Mota, Hendricks

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

Controllers Report

Mr. Jeffrey Glazier stated that he has a Weekly Payables Report covers the period from the 4th of July through the 30th of July. It is hot off the press. It was just released today. Highlights: reviewed 431 checks for smidge under \$6 million, reviewed 21 manual \$350,000 and there were no wires posted in this period. There were notable findings: incorrect invoice entry, lack of budget transfer approval,

invoices paid for the incorrect amounts, 24 invoices were paid after 60 days.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that it was a very condensed report. Thank you very much. What do we do? Do we just let that go on the \$27,000 transfer? Do they bring it back to Council.

Mr. Jeffrey Glazier stated that is a fair question. It could be a discussion with the department head or the legal department.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated Mr. Glazier does a fine job. Corrective action has taken place. His recommendations are find and we abide by his recommendations.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated it just does not look good. To make it clean, bring it back and that way we can move forward.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that the administration will bring it back.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated to the Mayor you may have talked to Mr. Siegel, but he did not know about it.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that it will be taken care of.

Administration Report

NONE

[15-4488](#) Controller Report

Attachments: [Bank Rec - issued August 4](#)
[AP - August 4](#)

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE (To be Voted On):

[15-4435](#) Bill 64 Budget and Finance, forwarded favorably - the administration is proposing this amendment to purchase more PPE.

Amends Section One as follows:

Removes:

Emergency Medical Services

000-05-0605-0003-68

-0- (was \$11,608.11)

Human Resources

000-06-0603-0001-34

-0- (was \$11,495)

Operating Materials and Supplies

Training and Professional Development

Adds:

Risk Management

081-02-8001-0001-68

\$23,103.11

Operating Materials and Supplies

Amending the 2021 General Fund budget by transferring Four Hundred Forty-Six Thousand Four Hundred Seventy Dollars and Ninety Cents (\$446,470.90) from the unappropriated balance of the General Fund to the Fire, EMS and Human Resource Departments for related COVID-19 expenses. In 2020 the City was awarded a COVID-19 grant from the County of Lehigh in the amount of \$1.9M. The original deadline to spend this grant was December 2020; however, the County has since amended the deadline to allow for spending through 2021. A total of \$446,470.90 of the \$1.9M remains to be spent.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 64 2020 LC Covid Grant](#)

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any comments from the administration.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that it was in Mr. Siegel's committee and they have to talk about the amendment.

Mr. Joshua Siegel stated that it was in his Budget and Finance Committee meeting. It was explained the this money is from the initial Cares Act and this money has to be spent on Care Act related spending, Covid related expenses. We do need to amend the initial legislation by deducting two lines items. One is Operating Materials and Supplies for \$11,608.11 as well as Training and Professional Development at \$11,495. They will switch it to Risk Management with a grand total of \$23,103.11.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any comments.

A motion was made by Joshua Siegel, seconded by Daryl Hendricks, that this Bill be Amended and

Removes:**Emergency Medical Services****000-05-0605-0003-68****Operating Materials and Supplies \$11,608.11****Human Resources****000-06-0603-0001-34****Training and Professional Development \$11,495****Adds:****Risk Management****081-02-8001-0001-68****\$23,103.11****Operating Materials and Supplies**

Yes: 7 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Joshua Siegel

Enactment No: 15732

Yes: 7 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Joshua Siegel

Enactment No: 15732

[15-4436](#)

Bill 65 Public Works, this evening
Amending the 2021 General Fund by eliminating two (2) Part-Time positions in Building Maintenance and creating one (1) Full-Time position which will allow the Bureau of Building Maintenance to operate more efficiently.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 65 Building Maintenance Reorg](#)

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that it was before the Public Works Committee tonight. It was sent favorably to City Council.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any comments from the dais or the public.

Yes: 7 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Joshua Siegel

Enactment No: 15733

[15-4412](#)

Bill 66 Parks and Recreation, this evening
Amending the 2021 Capital Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of One Hundred Thirty Thousand (\$130,000) Dollars from the NRPA and Niagara Bottling Company to support the renovations at Valania Park.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 66 NIAGRA - VALANIA PARK GRANT](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that it was moved favorably to the full Council 3 - 0.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any comments from the dais or the public.

Yes: 7 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Joshua Siegel

Enactment No: 15734

[15-4429](#)

Bill 67 Parks and Recreation, this evening
Amending the 2021 Golf Fund budget by transferring Seventy-Three

Thousand Six Hundred Thirty-Two Dollars and Fifty-Two Cents (\$73,632.52) from the unappropriated balance of the Golf Fund to the Equipment Account for the purchase of a new rough mower.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 67 Golf Course Mower](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that it was moved favorably by a vote of 3 - 0.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any further comments from the dais or the public.

Yes: 7 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Joshua Siegel

Enactment No: 15735

[15-4438](#)

Bill 68 Parks and Recreation, this evening
Amending Article 180B, Council of Youth, by modifying the composition of the board by changing the provision that five members shall be adults and be representative of youth organizations, interests or advocacy to eight and that the Department of Police designate a non-voting designee to the Council.

Sponsors: Guridy, Hendricks, Mota, Administration, Mr. Zucal and Affa

Attachments: [Bill 68 Council of Youth Amendment](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that it was forwarded favorably 3 - 0.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any further comments from the dais or the public.

Ms. Angelyn Washington (sp), 713 N. Nelson Street, stated that making it eight adult over youth seems that they are overshadowing them. Putting more of the other people instead of them it does not help showing you how we are. It is belittling them. It is the youth that is dealing with the violence in the schools and in our families.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated thank you for coming over and speaking. They certainly discussed that and will take it into consideration. The idea is hopefully they get enough youth to come over to join the Council and hopefully they can reverse that. It is something that they discussed very seriously during the preparation.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that he is hearing her say there should be more youth instead of adults. Are going to make that commitment?

Mr. Julio Guridy stated no. At this time we are going to move forward and

as we move forward and get more youths. Hopefully, there will be more meetings soon. When the chair sets the meeting, he would suggest that they look into that as well.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that for the adults members that are currently on the Youth Commission. How long is their terms? She asked if they could make the adults one year terms since that is the intent is to eventually decrease the amount of the adults and increase the amount of youth. Could we make the adult positions a one year term.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that there are staggering terms. He stated that he would rather go what they have right now. It is a good suggestion. We can have the Board change the bylaws. Today's Resolution is to increase the amount of people on the board.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that she played zero role in forming this Commission. Would it be possible to wait a little minute until some more youth are on the Commission? Right now, this decision to make the Commission more adult, has been made by adults.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that he rather not. They have been trying to get this board formed. It is on the Agenda today. He does not want to keep holding it.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that they are appointed by him. Anyone on Councilperson or any public person can nominated. All five are not one year and goodbye. They are rotating.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that is what he said. They are staggering terms.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that can be a concern if the youth are showing up and active and involved. Meantime, we have an adult with a three year term. Can we delay until after the board meeting and then we as a Council can vote on it. You formed a Youth Commission and it kind of went away.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that the problem is that we have been waiting and waiting and waiting. He stated that he knows where she is going, but he thinks that they should approve the three adults and have the board suggestions.

Mr. Joshua Siegel agreed with Ms. Gerlach. It feels like they are opposing the decision on the Council of Youth. He is hearing a lot of I, I, I and We, We, We and Me, Me, Me. The reality is this is a body that supposed to be a voice for this city. The most apropos thing to do is table this until we can fill the body with at least six youth. Let them work together with the five

adults that are already there. If they come to the conclusion that they think they want more adults representatives there, it should be their decision. We are not sending a good example of youth we are trying to empower.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that they have been working on this for several years now. Some people in Council feels that it is wrong. There are people that worked really hard to put together this board and people were invited. Everybody was invited on Council and the public and they did not come.

Mayor Ray O'Connell asked how many meetings had been held in a formal discussion.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that there were five or six meetings were held they had a meeting for the initial board which were only five people. We were trying to get people involved on this Council. He submitted several names. Let's move forward and we can always change anything.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that he appreciates if he stops making eyes and making motion to the Mayor and other people when he is speaking. Thank you very much.

Mayor Ray O'Connell asked who is making eyes at me.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that he saw him and he saw Mr. Siegel and it is very disrespectful. He stated to Mayor O'Connell, please respect me as he respects him.

A motion was made by Cynthia Mota, seconded by Joshua Siegel, that this Bill is tabled.

Yes: 6 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Joshua Siegel

No: 1 - Julio Guridy

[15-4390](#) Bill 69 Public Works, this evening
Amendment to the Traffic Control Maps

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 69 Traffic Control Maps](#)
[Temporary Traffic Regulations Memo](#)

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that it is a requirement and a no brainer. It was sent favorably.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any further comments from the dais or the public.

Yes: 7 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Joshua Siegel

Enactment No: 15736

[15-4440](#)

Bill 70 Parks and Recreation, this evening
Amending the 2021 Capital Fund Budget to provide for a transfer of Nine Thousand Three Hundred Fifteen Dollars and Fifty Cents (\$9,315.50) as a transfer of funds from Capital Project 2024 – 15th Street Traffic Signal Improvements to Capital Project 1663 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Trail to provide for additional lighting.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 70 CAPITAL PROJECT 1663 TRANSFER](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that the committee voted 3 - 0 favorably to move this to full Council for approval.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any further comments from the dais or the public.

Yes: 7 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Joshua Siegel

Enactment No: 15737

[15-4442](#)

Bill 71 Public Safety, this evening
Amending the 2021 General Fund by funding the Public Safety Analyst position currently budgeted for One (\$1) Dollar in the Police Department budget.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 71 Public Safety Analyst Funding](#)

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that it passed favorably 3 - 0 to full Council.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any further comments from the dais or the public.

Yes: 7 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Joshua Siegel

Enactment No: 15738

[15-4430](#)

Bill 73 Public Safety, this evening
Amending the 2021 General Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Eight Thousand Seventy-Five Dollars and Twenty-Nine Cents (\$8,075.29) from the EMS Council State EMSOF Funds to be used to further prepare for medical emergencies and rebuild supplies from COVID-19.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 73 EMS Council Contribution](#)

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that Bill 73 was passed favorably 3 - 0.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any further comments from the dais or the public.

Yes: 7 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Joshua Siegel

Enactment No: 15739

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any comments on any of these.

Ms. Sarah Rotz stated to Mr. Guridy that he could just ask if Council had any comments on them collectively. If the public had any comments on them collectively. Ask if any Councilperson wants to remove an item and then call the Roll Call Vote.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if anybody from the dais has any comments or want to remove anything. He asked if there were any comments from the public.

Yes: 7 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Joshua Siegel

[15-4450](#)

R116

Diane D. Donaher, Arts Commission, 01-06-2022 (fulfilling the unexpired term of Sharon Glassman)

Attachments: [R116 Appointment Arts Commission - Diane D. Donaher](#)
[Diane D. Donaher, Arts Commission, 01-06-2022](#)

Enactment No: 30261

[15-4463](#)

R117

Deyona Robert, Council of Youth, 08-04-2022

Attachments: [R 117 Appointment Council of Youth - Deyona Robert](#)
[Deyona Robert, Council of Youth, 08-04-2022](#)

Enactment No: 30262

[15-4485](#)

R118

Certificate of Appropriateness for work in the Historic Districts: 1601 Chew Street

Attachments: [R 1601 Chew Street - HARB](#)
[1601 Chew Street Final Review](#)

Enactment No: 30263

[15-4460](#)

R119

Sewage Planning Module at Mother Baby Pavilion

Attachments: [R119 Mother Baby Pavilion - Sewage Planning Module](#)
[Mother Baby Planning Module](#)

Enactment No: 30264

[15-4459](#)

R120

Sewage Planning Module at Walnut View

Attachments: [R120 Walnut View - Sewage Planning Module](#)
[Walnut View Planning Module](#)

Enactment No: 30265

RESOLUTIONS FOR FINAL PASSAGE (To be Voted On):

[15-4471](#)

R121

Authorizes Electronic Access to PennDOT Systems

Attachments: [R121 PenDOT Access Revised](#)

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if anybody wanted to talk about it.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that the last time, we included the wrong people on it.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that there are two names on it. It is formality.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any further comments from the dais or the public.

Yes: 7 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Joshua Siegel

Enactment No: 30266

[15-4486](#)

R122

Requests the Council of the City of Allentown to authorize the City Solicitor's Office to file a petition with the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board to exempt a specific area of the City of Allentown, described herein, from the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Boards regulations regarding amplified music being heard off the licensed premises in favor of enforcing the City's own previously adopted Noise Ordinance, Article 710, of the City of Allentown's Codified Ordinances for five years following the date of approval of this petition.

Attachments: [R122 - Renewal](#)

[Attachment A - Article 710 - Noise Control](#)

[Attachment B - Proposed Exempted Area](#)

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any comments from the dais.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that this Ordinance is important because we have an entertainment area now. In the past year, and correct her if she is wrong Chief, we have not had any problems with noise and disturbance.

Chief Charles Roca stated no, not in that area.

Ms. Candida Affa started that it is great for the City of Allentown. She has passed it many times through the summer and the spring. We have the Shanty, and we have Ringer's. People are outside and they are singing. They are having a good time. We have it contained. She knows for a fact what it is like to deal with the Liquor Control Board as opposed to our city officials who will speak to the owners and correct the situation a lot easier than LCB. She encouraged her colleagues to vote for this. She stated having to do this every year is a pain. She stated that they will ask the Solicitor if they can do this every five years.

Ms. Sarah Rotz stated to Mr. Guridy and Ms. Affa that this permits the Solicitor's office to file an application and in the application if this Resolution is passed we ask for the five years, but then the Liquor Control Board still hold their own Hearing and determine the length of time.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any further comments from the dais or the public.

Yes: 7 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Joshua Siegel

Enactment No: 30259

[15-4458](#)

R123

Transfer Approval: \$15,015.70 in Public Safety/Police for grant funds were appropriated to several accounts and the funds to purchase furniture needs to be taken from the Equipment (01-72) account; \$10,000 in Risk Management since Risk has taken over the Service Plan Management for the 11 Public Access AED Location from EMS; \$10,000 in Golf Course since the Pro Shop is almost sold out of certain items due to increase of play at the course; \$7,500 in Building Standards & Safety for the façade collapse at 613 N. New Street – scaffolding was erected around the building to prevent further bricks from falling to the sidewalk.

Attachments: [R123 \\$10,000 in Risk Management since Risk has taken over the Service Plan Management for the 11 Public Access AED Location from EMS](#)
[Risk has taken over the Service Plan Management for the 11 Public Access AED Location from EMS](#)
[Grants Funds were Appropriated to Several Accounts and the Funds to Purchase Furniture Needs to be Taken from the Equipment Account](#)
[The Pro Shop is Almost Sold Out of Certain Items Due to Increase of Play at the Course](#)
[Facade Collapse at 613 N New Street](#)

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any comments from the dais or the public.

Yes: 7 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Joshua Siegel

Enactment No: 30267

[15-4476](#)

R124

Authorizes and Approves the Engagement of Charles Smith, Esq., to Provide Legal Services to Allentown City Council Pursuant to the Allentown Home Rule Charter and Administrative Code.

Attachments: [R124 Solicitor](#)

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that obviously we all voted on it a while ago and some of us had an opportunity to meet with Mr. Smith. He is here. He asked if Council had any further comments about it before they vote on it. He asked if anybody from the public had a comment. He stated that this is a Resolution, but the contract will be drawn up by the Legal Department. He stated that he is assuming that some of them had input and everything will be done ok.

Mr. Charles Smith introduced himself. He has an office at 448 W. Walnut Street and has been practicing law in Pennsylvania since 1988. It has been 33 years. He appreciates the opportunity to represent City Council in what is a new position. He very much looks forward to working with the Law Department and advocating the interest of City Council. He thanked them for this opportunity and stated that he appreciates it.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated thank you. He personally knows Chuck, Attorney Smith for a long time. He has always been an excellent individual in our community and has an office right down the street from here. He is delighted to have him accept this position. We will work on the contract and hopefully get things rolling.

Yes: 7 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Joshua Siegel

Enactment No: 30268

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

[15-4462](#) Bill 74 Refer to Budget and Finance
Amending the 2021 General Fund Budget and the 2021 Equipment Fund Budget to provide for a transfer of Five Thousand Nine Hundred (\$5,900) Dollars for the purchase of a replacement check printer.

Attachments: [Bill 74 Check Printer Transfer](#)

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any comments from the dais or the public.

REFERRED TO BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

[15-4474](#) Bill 75
Providing for the vacation of Sycamore Street from the centerline of North Brick Street to its East limit in the Sixth Ward of the City of Allentown

Attachments: [Bill Sycamore Street from the centerline of North Brick Street](#)
[Letter from Mike Hanlon regarding West Sycamore Street from North Brick Street to 1 West Allen Street](#)
[Letter from Irene Woodward from Planning Department regarding regarding W. Sycamore Street](#)
[Letter from Lehigh Valley Planning Commission regarding Street Vacation - West Sycamore Street](#)
[Staff Report - Sycamore Street from N Brick Street to its East limit](#)
[Sycamore Street Mailing Labels](#)

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any comments from the dais or the public.

REFERRED TO PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

[15-4475](#) Bill 76
Providing for the vacation of Dale Street from the centerline of Catasauqua Avenue to the centerline of North Brick Street in the Sixth Ward of the City of Allentown

Attachments: [Bill Dale Street from the centerline of Catasauqua Avenue to the centerline of North Brick Street](#)
[Letter from Mike Hanlon regarding Unopened part of Dale St from Catasauqua Ave to N Brick Street Street Vacation](#)
[Dale and Brick Streets - Street Vacation Staff Report](#)
[Letter from Irene Woodward regarding Dale Street from Catasauqua Ave to N. Brick - Street Vacation](#)
[Letter from the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission regarding Unopened Part of Dale St from Catasauqua Ave to N Brick St and Unopened part of N Brick St](#)
[Dale Street Mailing Labels](#)

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any comments from the dais or the public.

REFERRED TO PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

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

[15-4470](#)

R124

Approving The Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice And Authorizing The Filing of The Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice With The U.S. Department Of Housing And Urban Development (HUD)

Attachments: [R124 HUD Fair Housing](#)
[Allentown AI Presentation](#)

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that there will be a presentation at Ms. Gerlach's Committee meeting.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated thank you.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any comments from the dais or the public.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that they had the last Council meeting and that was a bit interesting. It is really important as Councilmembers we have a certain level of decorum that we are not chastising members of the public or gas lighting them. That we are not doing that to one another, publicly. If we have an issue with one another, some of us had issues with me, but you have taken them up with me. You told me how you feel about me and stated that she has listened. We agree to disagree and we won't go to each others cookouts and that's ok. We sit up here and work with one another. It is really important that as we want respect from the public, that we amongst ourselves also continue to respect each other as colleagues on Council because when the public sees us disrespecting each other, it makes it a little easier for them to come up and also and maybe throw some dabs at some of us. She stated that if anybody has issues with her and she is looking at the wrong person, please call her and they can work that out.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if that is something that has to do with R124.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that she skipped ahead. She stated that she is very passionate.

REFERRED TO COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that was her New Business. That was her comment.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that he received a phone call yesterday as well as a copy of a letter from an employee that retired from the city of Allentown with 40 years of service with no blemishes on his record. He has been paying and retired three years and he has been paying a bi-weekly payment taken out by the insurance company. He received a letter on Monday stating that as of July 31, he no longer has coverage for him or his family. The letter went on to say that he has not paid his premium for 18 months which now he owes approximately \$18,000. Luckily, he has been saving that money and he has got the money to pay it. He stated that is a concern to him that the insurance company and this city can manage to allow or foresee that someone has not paid their insurance for 18 months and yet they had the coverage for 18 months up until the end of July. If this poor guy did not have the \$18,000 to pay we would be screwed. His wife has some medical issues and stated that he knows he has some medical issues. This is unforgivable. Discipline should be handing out to somebody.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated let's look at the facts.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that he will see that the person calls him and gives him the facts.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated absolutely. Retired how long ago.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that he thinks he has retired two or three years from the Comm. Center with 40 years of service with the city.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that he wishes that he would have heard it before the meeting which would have been common courtesy.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that the person states that he made attempts to contact HR with no success.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that he is not bragging, but the buck stops with him and the Controller. He asked Mr. Glazier has he called him.

Mr. Jeffrey Glazier stated that he has not called him.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that there was a similar instance with this with some tax issues. He stated to Mr. Zucal that his phone and door are always open and would have loved to heard it from him because HR or any department he is in charge of the departments and in charge with the

cabinets and all directors.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that the constituents come to Councilmembers.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that it almost feels like you are trying to embarrass me.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that the embarrassment from your own department.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that if it is true.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that it is true. He got the letter.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated ok, he will check the letter. It would have been a nice heads up phone call from him. Did he try to contact me?

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that he does not know that.

Mr. Jeffrey Glazier stated that the Controller's office looked over Account Receivables over \$10,000 and broke those invoices down into a number of categories. One had to do with the Police Department. That audit will be released tomorrow. Some of the accounts over \$10,000 have to do with liens on properties whether it be for sidewalks or demolition. He stated that the Controller's office is working with those departments on those audits. They will be released sometime in the future. The last part of the audit had to do with retiree medical and there were a couple of accounts over \$10,00 where people owed. We had met with HR on this and Finance on the Audit Report and have a number of days to respond to this before we put it out to the public. The Personnel Code which we live and die states that you have to pay by the 8th of the month or your benefits are terminated. He can't tell them what led to a person not paying for 18 months. He will certainly reserve his judgment and comments until a later time. We look at the Account Receivable Reports and go from there. We are also looking at Accounts Receivable under \$10,000. That Report will come out in some time in the future.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that when this meeting is over, he will have the gentleman call the Mayor.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated thank you.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that she agrees with Mr. Zucal that they come to Council. They come to Council. They call and email us. She does agree and is sure the other colleagues do as well go through the source: The Controller, the Public Works Director or the Police Department. Our job is

not to put it out there. She will do this and a lot of her colleagues will go to the source. It is not necessary to come up here on Council and want solutions without going to the departments for the solutions. Tonight has been a really like a weird circus. A lot of things are being said and a lot of hotheads. We need to calm down and as Council people we can do our job without bringing it here every Council meeting. We can go directly to and now we have a Solicitor too. We have to watch our behaviors sometimes. She agreed with Ms. Gerlach on that.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that we have to respect each other and that is what Ms. Gerlach said. If we have a decorum on respecting each other, we should be ok.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that she agrees with Ms. Gerlach and Ms. Affa. The reality is that the culture has to change. It is a lack of respect. You go to the source. You tell them what is going on, but the reality is when you go to those people, they embarrass you in front of everyone and in front of the media. And, God forbid if you say something out of character. You can get sued. The lack of respect has to stop. It is a lack of caring going on. There was an incident that happened. As you know, two days ago it was a murder, a 27 year old man was murdered on the east side. She stated that she called Chief Roca and he was great. She stated that he called her back and the reason why she called him is because she went to the scene with Promise Neighborhoods and saw there was a pile of blood. We took Clorox and tried to clean it. The reality is that it has to do with the quality of life. The lady that held the victim in her arms it was very traumatizing and seeing the blood there a day later is very traumatizing. Chief Roca called the Fire Department and they came and when they came, they saw us cleaning, but we were using a hose that was not strong enough so the blood was still there. They really didn't acknowledge us,. They just drove away. Chief Agosto was also wonderful. He apologized and said that he will send them back. They came back and one of the firefighters treated me so poorly and yelled at her that is not to clean the blood there. She called Chief Agosto and he fixed the situation. We have to fix the culture. We have to be in the same cage. When there is an accident, who cleans it. How long it takes to clean it and do you clean it the right way. Imagine that woman what she was going through, traumatized. Holding that person in her arms. And, that man took his last breath. She has to witness the blood everyday. Come on. You have to be inhumane not to do something about it.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that was her New Business. That was her comment.

Ms. Sherea Wiles, 304 N. 8th Street, stated that one of the things they

should do is try to get the requirements for felons to be able to come back into the homes for HUD housing. They are not able to apply for HUD Housing and Section 8. We have to take that requirement off.

GOOD AND WELFARE

Mr. Daryl Hendricks commended the Fire Department for two weeks ago the fire that occurred at one of our schools at Union Terrace at a very hot day. One of the firefighters were overcome with the smoke and ended up in the hospital. He commended them and said it is important because they did a great job that day and probably saved the school building. We lost some mobile homes outside the building.

Mr. Julio Guridy thanked Mr. Hendricks and stated that he thinks that the majority of the city's staff and the administration do a wonderful job. Nobody is perfect. The majority of the staff in the city does a great job and works hard and really care. There maybe one or two that sometimes you encounter everywhere. He does not want people in the city are misbehaving and doing the wrong thing. The majority of them do a wonderful job. Thank you for all you do and let's keep working.

ADJOURNED: 7:48 PM