



# Allentown

435 Hamilton Street  
Allentown, Pa. 18101

## Minutes - Final

### City Council

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Wednesday, April 19, 2023

6:15 PM

Council Chambers

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#### Public Hearing

#### Roll Call

**Present:** 6 - Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Natalie Santos, and Santo Napoli

**Excused:** 1 - Candida Affa

#### Public Hearing Format, April 19, 6:15 PM to 6:30 PM

The President of Council calls the Public Hearing to order.

Roll Call is taken.

The President of Council explains the purpose of the Public Hearing

The purpose of this meeting is to take public testimony on the possible adoption of an Ordinance amending the Zoning Code of the City of Allentown, Section 660.70.B of the Zoning Ordinance by allowing “entertainment venue signs” for structures within the B-2 Central Business District that primarily provide for live entertainment uses for 500 or more customers at a time, currently allowed on buildings fronting Hamilton Street between 5th Street and 6th Street. The text amendment will expand the allowable locations of “entertainment venue signs” to also be allowable if located fronting on Hamilton Streets between 9th and 10th Streets within the B-2 Central Business District as fully described within the proposed zoning text amendment filed with the city.

City Council’s Community and Economic Development Committee met on Wednesday, March 22, 2023, on the proposal. The petitioner explained the zoning proposal submitted by City Center. City Staff and the Planning Commission supported the proposal with a modification noted below that was advertised. An amendment will need to be made this evening when the bill is under consideration at the full council meeting.

A proposed modification to the petition will be considered that adds a regulation to such signs under the same Section that will read as follows: (d) Such sign may include blinking, flashing, electronically changing or animated displays, that do not shine directly onto existing residential uses and are dimmable in accordance with §660-66.R.6, with such displays not being restricted by § 660-67C.

The Public Hearing was advertised in the Morning Call on April 3 and 10, 2023. Zoning posted the property.

The purpose of the meeting is for comments from the public on the proposal. Members of the public may come up to the podium and give statements in support or opposition to the proposal, please state your name and address.

Take Public Comments:

At the conclusion of the comments provided there are any, the President of City Council states the record is now closed and the matter will be deliberated and voted on at tonight's regularly scheduled City Council Meeting.

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Allentown City Council will consider for possible adoption an Ordinance amending the Zoning Code of the City of Allentown, Section 660.70.B of the Zoning Ordinance by allowing "entertainment venue signs" for structures within the B-2 Central Business District that primarily provide for live entertainment uses for 500 or more customers at a time, currently allowed on buildings fronting Hamilton Street between 5th Street and 6th Street. The text amendment will expand the allowable locations of "entertainment venue signs" to also be allowable if located fronting on Hamilton Streets between 9th and 10th Streets within the B-2 Central Business District as fully described within the proposed zoning text amendment filed with the city. A proposed modification to the petition will be considered that adds a regulation to such signs under the same Section that will read as follows: (d) Such sign may include blinking, flashing, electronically changing or animated displays, that do not shine directly onto existing residential uses and are dimmable in accordance with §660-66.R.6, with such displays not being restricted by § 660-67C.

City Council will consider the foregoing at a Public Hearing on Wednesday, April 19, 2023, at 6:15 PM in Council Chambers, 435 Hamilton Street, Allentown, PA 18101. Copies of the full text of this Ordinance are available on the city website and to any interested party for examination and copying at cost at the City Clerk's Office or for inspection during regular business hours at the offices of this newspaper and the Lehigh County Department of Law. City Council may adopt this amendment to the Zoning Ordinance at the regularly scheduled Council Meeting at 6:30 pm immediately following this Public Hearing.

[15-5552](#)

Bill 1 Community and Economic Development Committee Meeting -

forwarded favorably with a proposed amendment:

Section 660-70.B.5.d to include the following phrase :

“Such sign may include blinking, flashing, electronically changing or animated displays, that do not shine directly onto existing residential uses and are dimmable in accordance with §660-66.R.6.....”

Amending the Zoning Code of the City of Allentown, Section 1319.07.B.5 of the Zoning Ordinance by allowing ‘entertainment venue signs’ for structures that primarily provide for live entertainment uses for 500 or more customers at a time, currently allowed on buildings fronting Hamilton Street between 5th Street and 6th Street to include structures between 9th and 10th Streets.

**Attachments:** [Bill 1 - Entertainment Venue fv](#)  
[Bill 1 - with proposed amendment](#)  
[Staff Report to Council TextAmend EntertainmentVenueSigns  
03.17.23](#)  
[ACPC actions TextAmendEntertainmentSigns 03.14.23](#)  
[LVPC Report Entertainment Venue Signs](#)  
[Bill Entertainment Venue Signs](#)  
[City Center Petition to Amend Zoning Ordinance Entertainment Venue  
Signs \(12-7-2022\)](#)  
[Letter re Petition to Amend Zoning Ordinance \(12-7-2022\)](#)  
[Proposed Petition for Zoning Amendment \(signage\) \(DM 10-13-2022  
Draft\)](#)  
[Letter re Petition to Amend Zoning Ordinance - City Center Investment  
Corporation's Rezoning Request Petition \(12-7-2022\)](#)  
[City Center Petition to Amend Zoning Ordinance \(12-7-2022\)](#)  
[939 W.Hamilton Street - Entertainment Venue](#)  
[County of Lehigh Department of Law Receipt - Bill 1 Entertainment  
Venue Signs](#)  
[Letter from the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission regarding  
Entertainment Venue Signs](#)  
[Entertainment Venue Signs Posting \(900 block of Hamilton St\) I](#)  
[Entertainment Venue Signs Posting \(900 block of Hamilton St\) II](#)  
[Entertainment Venue Signs Posting \(900 block of Hamilton St\) III](#)  
[Entertainment Venue Signs Posting \(900 block of Hamilton St\) IV](#)  
[Entertainment Venue Signs Posting \(900 block of Hamilton St\) V](#)  
[Entertainment Venue Signs Posting \(900 block of Hamilton St\) VI](#)  
[Entertainment Venue Signs Posting \(900 block of Hamilton St\) VII](#)  
[Entertainment Venue Signs Posting \(900 block of Hamilton St\) VIII](#)  
[Entertainment Venue Signs Posting \(900 block of Hamilton St\) VIII](#)  
[Entertainment Venue Signs Posting \(900 block of Hamilton St\) X](#)  
[Entertainment Venue Signs Posting \(900 block of Hamilton St\) XI](#)  
[Entertainment Venue Signs Posting \(900 block of Hamilton St\) XII](#)  
[Entertainment Venue Signs Posting \(900 block of Hamilton St\) XIII](#)  
[Entertainment Venue Signs Posting \(900 block of Hamilton St\) XIII](#)  
[Entertainment Venue Signs Posting \(900 block of Hamilton St\) XV](#)  
[Entertainment Venue Signs Posting \(900 block of Hamilton St\) XVI](#)  
[Entertainment Venue Signs Posting \(900 block of Hamilton St\) XVII](#)  
[Entertainment Venue Signs Posting \(900 block of Hamilton St\) XVIII](#)  
[Entertainment Venue Signs Posting \(900 block of Hamilton St\) XVIII](#)  
[Entertainment Venue Signs Posting \(900 block of Hamilton St\) XX](#)  
[Entertainment Venue Signs Posting \(900 block of Hamilton St\) XXI](#)  
[939 W.Hamilton Street - Entertainment Venue](#)

Attorney Dennis McCarthy, Davison and McCarthy, stated that he is representing City Center. The Petitioner for this Amendment. He does not have much to add by way of background because Mr. Hendricks covered everything. The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission also noted that this amendment is consistent with their future Lehigh Valley Regional Plan. You have city staff, Allentown Planning Commission, and Community and Economic Development and the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission all endorsing this amendment. He is here with Robert DiLorenzo and Jane Heft from City Center. If there are any questions about the Project that is going to happen on the 900 Block of Hamilton Street or answer any questions about the signage. He will leave it at that. If Council has any questions, they are here. If anybody in the public has any questions, they are here to answer. The record is now closed and the matter will be deliberated and voted at tonight's regularly scheduled City Council meeting.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that he appreciates that and he knows that he gave a lengthy Presentation prior to the meeting. Tonight is mainly for the public to express any concerns or comments they wish to make. He asked if there is anybody from the public that wishes to make a statement.

**ADJOURNED: 6:19 PM**