



Allentown

435 Hamilton Street
Allentown, Pa. 18101

Minutes - Final

City Council

Wednesday, October 18, 2017

7:00 PM

Council Chambers

Invocation: Councilperson Daryl Hendricks

Pledge to the Flag

Roll Call

Present: 6 - Ray O'Connell, Daryl Hendricks, Candida Affa, David McGuire, Julio Guridy, and Cynthia Mota

Excused: 1 - Roger MacLean

Courtesy of the Floor

Courtesy and Privilege of the Floor Rules

Mr. Julian Kern, 252 E. Walnut Street - Allentown Tenant Association, stated that they filed a few Right to Knows, received some back and still waiting for another one. The amount of issued inspections have declined in the last five years. This is unacceptable for a city that is 56 percent rental. We have 37,000 rental units in the city of Allentown. The department needs more inspectors. There are 11 inspectors. You can imagine how many properties that need to be inspected. We did research and Allentown is the only city that we can find that has a five year inspection cycle. You need to go to a point system or some other kind of system.

Dr. David McGuire asked if Mr. Kern has the information with him. There should be more inspectors.

Mr. Julian Kern stated that he has it.

Mr. Kenneth Heffentrager, 214 N. St. Cloud Street, stated that years ago they railed against why the Redevelopment Authority was inactive and doing nothing. They started being reactive again when Shannon Calluori was there. Then we lost Shannon Calluori and we lost the Blighted Property Review Board and the Redevelopment Authority. The Blighted Property Review Board last met on December 6, 2016. He went over the board listing. They should be meeting. Why are these now defunct? One of these days something is going to happen to one of these homes that was not inspected.

Mr. Lou Hershman, 405 N. Gilmore Street, stated that he is up here for

clarification. He asked about pay to play and no information on the RFP. Is there a different ruling for an RFP then a contract?

Ms. Susan Ellis Wild deferred to Ms. Strohl.

Mr. Ray O'Connell stated that is a good proposal. We will look into that. He asked if there was anyone else with a comment under Courtesy of the Floor.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Ray O'Connell, seconded by David McGuire, that this be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Ray O'Connell, Daryl Hendricks, Candida Affa, David McGuire, Julio Guridy, and Cynthia Mota

[15-1909](#) September 20, 2017 City Council Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [79 September 20, 2017 City Council Meeting Minutes](#)

[15-1913](#) October 4, 2017 City Council Approval if Contracts Professional Services Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [81 October 4, 2017 City Council Approval of Contracts Professional Services Meeting Minutes](#)

[15-1915](#) October 4, 2017 City Council Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [82 October 4, 2017 City Council Meeting Minutes](#)

Old Business: NONE

Communications: NONE

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

Budget Schedule – The budget schedule has been finalized; the first meeting is scheduled for November 6 at 6 PM. The items include the Mayor's presentation, the 5 Year Plan, Revenue and Expenditure Estimates, Finance, Debt Service Fund - Equipment and Capital Projects Fund if applicable.

Budget and Finance: Chair Guridy, Hendricks, Mota

The Committee has not met since the last council meeting; the next meeting is scheduled for November 6th.

Community and Economic Development: Chair McGuire, Guridy, Mota

The Committee met this evening; there are no future meetings scheduled at this time.

Human Resources, Administration and Appointments: Chair Affa, MacLean, McGuire

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

Parks and Recreation: Chair Mota, Affa, O'Connell

The Committee met this evening; a future meeting has not been scheduled.

Public Safety: Chair Hendricks, MacLean, Affa

The Committee met October 11; a future meeting has not been scheduled.

Public Works: Chair MacLean, McGuire, O'Connell

The Committee met on October 11; a future meeting has not been scheduled.

Rules, Chambers, Intergovernmental Relations and Strategy: Chair O'Connell, Hendricks, Guridy

The Committee has not met since the last council meeting; a future meeting has not been scheduled.

City Controller's Report

Mr. Jeff Glazier stated that he has an Accounts Payable Weekly Check Review. The check period is the 2nd of September through the 29th of September. The Controller's office reviewed 399 checks for \$2.8 million, nine wires for \$800,000, and some of our findings were mileage reimbursement accounts not used in compliance with the AIM. They identified two Petty Cash Reimbursements for an employees mileage. Community and Economic Development and Finance were advised of the misclassifications. There were wires that were not posted to Eden in a timely manner. There were late fees and untimely payment of invoices spread amongst departments. This report marks a milestone from the Controller's office and the city. The simplest thing to do was to create a

PDF report that is not searchable, but it is there. It is now a 25 page report.

Mr. Ray O'Connell asked if he hearing that it won't be online.

Mr. Jeff Glazier stated that it is online, but the checks are not searchable. It is just a list.

Mr. Ray O'Connell stated that we are moving in the right direction.

[15-1931](#) Budget Schedule

Attachments: [Budget Schedule](#)

APPOINTMENTS:

[15-1914](#) Sean King Arts Commission 01/03/2021

Attachments: [Sean King - Arts Commission](#)
[Resolution #29567](#)

Mr. Ray O'Connell stated that there is an appointment this evening for Sean King for the Arts Commission. His term will expire January 3, 2021. He asked any comments from his colleagues or the public.

Yes: 6 - Ray O'Connell, Daryl Hendricks, Candida Affa, David McGuire, Julio Guridy, and Cynthia Mota

Enactment No: 29567

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE (To be Voted On):

[15-1867](#) Bill 57 CEDC, tonight
Amending the 2017 General Fund budget by deleting the position of Electrical Inspector (18N) and Building Inspector [18M] and creating two Combination Inspector positions (19M) in the Bureau of Building Standards and Safety, Department of Community and Economic Development.

Attachments: [Bill 57 Creates Combination Inspectors](#)
[COMBINATION BUILDING INSPECTOR 2017](#)
[PLUMBING-MECHANICAL INSPECTOR \(2\)](#)
[BUILDING INSPECTOR rev 2017](#)
[ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR2](#)
[PLUMBING-MECHANICAL INSPECTOR \(2\)](#)

Mr. Mike Hanlon stated that Bill 57 was tabled.

Mr. Ray O'Connell stated that Bill 57 was tabled, therefore, there will be no vote on Bill 57 tonight.

[15-1899](#)

Bill 58 Public Safety, Recommended Favorably
Amending the 2017 E-911 Fund Budget by transferring One Million (\$1,000,000) Dollars from the unappropriated balance of the E-911 Fund for the down payment on the radio system upgrade. The 2017 financial impact is the \$1,000,000 down payment to Harris. PEMA is allowing the use of \$1,200,000 of 911 funds toward the purchase of this equipment. \$1,000,000 will be used as the down payment to the vendor, Harris, and the remaining \$200,000 will be paid in 2018 toward the debt service of the loan. Starting in 2019 there will be an annual payment of \$535,308 divided among the 4 funds that use the radio system for the next 5 years.

Attachments: [Bill 58 Radio System Upgrade](#)
[Ordinance #15398](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that it would allow the change of the radios from the ones we currently have to a new model and version that would last a lot longer. It was recommended favorably to the full Council.

Mr. Ray O'Connell stated that Mr. Wetherhold was here last week, is here tonight, and thanked him. He asked if there were any comments from his colleagues or the public.

Mr. Glenn Hunsicker asked for a clarification. Is this for radios?

Mr. Ray O'Connell stated that it is for radios and asked Mr. Wetherhold to come up.

Mr. Dennis Wetherhold stated that the \$1.2 million out of the 911 fund is for the tower sites. The project in itself, the \$3.5 million project that does replace radios in the city as well.

Mr. Ray O'Connell asked if there were any other comments from the public on Bill 58.

Yes: 6 - Ray O'Connell, Daryl Hendricks, Candida Affa, David McGuire, Julio Guridy, and Cynthia Mota

Enactment No: 15398

[15-1888](#)

Bill 59 Parks and Recreation, tonight
Amending the 2017 Capital Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) from the Pet Safe Bark for Your Park Project to the City of Allentown to assist with the construction of a dog park.

Attachments: [Bill 59 Pet Safe Grant](#)
[Pet Safe Letter](#)
[Ordinance #15399](#)

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated it is amending the 2017 Capital Fund budget to provide \$25,000 for the construction of the park. It was forwarded favorably, 3 - 0.

Mr. Ray O'Connell asked if there were any comments from his colleagues or the public.

Yes: 6 - Ray O'Connell, Daryl Hendricks, Candida Affa, David McGuire, Julio Guridy, and Cynthia Mota

Yes: 6 - Ray O'Connell, Daryl Hendricks, Candida Affa, David McGuire, Julio Guridy, and Cynthia Mota

Enactment No: 15399

[15-1891](#) Bill 60 Committee of the Whole, tonight
Amending the 2017 Risk Management Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of One Hundred Fifty-Six Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty-Eight Dollars and Forty-Nine Cents (\$156,858.49) from the CNA Insurance Company for reimbursement of damage at City Hall as a result of a water leak.

Attachments: [Bill 60 Insurance Reimbursement](#)
[INSURANCE REIMBURSEMENT ITEMIZED LIST.docx.pdf](#)
[Ordinance #15400](#)

Mr. Ray O'Connell stated that was explained well by Mr. Nelson from Risk Management. He asked if there were any comments from my colleagues or the public on Bill 60.

Yes: 6 - Ray O'Connell, Daryl Hendricks, Candida Affa, David McGuire, Julio Guridy, and Cynthia Mota

Enactment No: 15400

[15-1900](#) Bill 61 Human Resources, tonight
Amending the 2017 General Fund budget by deleting the position of Legal Administrative Manager (09N) and adding the position of Legal Administrative Assistant (07N) and one Assistant City Solicitor (17N).

Attachments: [Bill 61 Law Reorg](#)
[Ordinance #15401](#)

Ms. Candida Affa stated that it was passed favorably.

Mr. Ray O'Connell stated that the city Solicitor explained eloquently on what it is going to be used for. It was a good discussion and forwarded

favorably, 2 - 0. He asked if there were any comments from his colleagues or the public.

Yes: 6 - Ray O'Connell, Daryl Hendricks, Candida Affa, David McGuire, Julio Guridy, and Cynthia Mota

Enactment No: 15401

RESOLUTIONS FOR FINAL PASSAGE (To be Voted On):

15-1917

R178

Sewage Planning Module - Allentown Commerce Park - at 950 Mack Boulevard, 1401 and 1601 S. 12th Street

Attachments: [R178 Sewage Planning Module - Allentown Commerce Park](#)
[Sewage Planning Module - Allentown Commerce Park Map](#)
[Sewage Planning Module - Allentown Commerce Park](#)
[Resolution #29568](#)

Mr. Craig Messinger stated that they are asking for 8,000 gallons a day. A change on what it is and we have plenty of capacity.

Mr. Ray O'Connell asked if there were any comments from my colleagues or the public.

Yes: 6 - Ray O'Connell, Daryl Hendricks, Candida Affa, David McGuire, Julio Guridy, and Cynthia Mota

Enactment No: 29568

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

15-1918

Bill 62

Amending the 2017 Capital Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of One Hundred Thirty-Five Thousand (\$135,000) Dollars from the PennDOT TAP Grant for Safe Routes to School. The project includes pedestrian safety improvements to create a safer route for the students, the public, and motorists at Trexler and Raub.

Attachments: [BILL 62 Safe Routes to School Grant](#)

Mr. Ray O'Connell asked if there were any comments from his colleagues or the public about Bill 62.

REFERRED TO PUBLIC WORKS

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

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that a short time ago he received information regarding mailers that were printed in our print shop and they were referred to as Campaign Mailers. He stated that he did some research on his own and did determine that there are a number of these mailed out from our print shop over several dates and various locations throughout the city announcing coming to your neighborhood Mobile City Hall Sessions for the Spring. One was Wednesday, August 16, another one was Wednesday, September 27 of this year, and they were held at various schools within the city. My understanding is that there was another one and many more have been mailed out. He asked that the Controller look into these mailings and answer questions on the costs of these. Being that they were mailed out so close to an election and that they were never invited nor were they brought to their attention. He stated that he got one in the mail and spoke to people. There is a cost to these and he understands one mailing of 2,800 pieces went out which was the latest one at Muhlenberg Elementary School on Wednesday, September 27. He stated that he found out these were printed in-house, utilizing city personnel at a cost that he would like to know if it was through the printer when we exceed a certain number there is a certain cost to it. It is on very heavily stocked paper and stated that everyone is welcomed to look at them. There is a cost related to having the schools open and a security officer. He stated that it was 33,000 of these slated to go out. He asked Mr. Glazier to look into this and asked Council to look at legislation prohibiting such mailings in an election year. He stated that he did have an opportunity to attend the one meeting about 2,800 invites went out and a total of five people attended that one. Previous ones at Trexler Middle School and five people showed up. This is a total waste of taxpayer dollars and has to be looked into. He stated that he wants to find out what the total cost was for these mailers and the dates of any other future mailings that would go out. He wants to know who ordered these to be printed and the authorization.

Ms. Candida Affa thanked Mr. Messenger on last week when Council asked him a direct question and he gave them a direct answer. She stated that was very refreshing for Council to get a direct answer. She stated that she found it disturbing that he got admonished for it. She thanked him for giving Council an answer.

Mr. Ray O'Connell thanked Ms. Affa for bringing that up. He stated that Mr. Messenger is a straight-shooter and Council asked him that question. As a matter of fact, he stated that he asked him that question and we woke up the next morning and Mayor Pawlowski said that was not under Mr. Messenger's purview. Anybody that works in city government has the right to speak on whatever they know about. He commended Mr. Messenger for bringing that up. This is what we face on a daily basis from

this current Mayor. We cannot call Directors, we cannot call Bureau Managers. We are stonewalled and it has to end.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks commended Mr. Messinger and his staff. He stated he called about potholes and they were taken care of very quickly, very promptly.

GOOD AND WELFARE

Mr. Ray O'Connell stated that Allentown should be very honored that on October 27 - 29 Allentown will be hosting the State Conference of the NAACP. He asked Mr. Perry to come up and tell them a little bit about it.

Mr. Hollis Perry stated that it is October 26 - 29. It is this month at the Renaissance Hotel and we will be selling tickets to the Gala. He asked people to log on to the local NAACP's Facebook site at AllentownNAACP. This is the first time in history that Allentown is able to host this event. It will benefit the city and we welcome everybody to join. He stated that he is available if Council needs tickets.

Mr. Ray O'Connell asked if Mr. Perry knew how many people will be attending this event.

Mr. Hollis Perry stated 300 NAACP members will be in attendance. Everyone will send their delegates. Of course, the public is invited.

Mr. Ray O'Connell stated that it is a great honor for the NAACP local chapter. We wish you well and wish you success.

ADJOURNED: 7:32 PM