



Allentown

435 Hamilton Street
Allentown, Pa. 18101

Minutes - Final

City Council

Thursday, November 2, 2017

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

Budget Session - General Business

Call to Order: Council President O'Connell

Present: 7 - Ray O'Connell, Daryl Hendricks, Candida Affa, Roger MacLean, David McGuire, Julio Guridy, and Cynthia Mota

Budget Presentation and Discussion

Mr. Ray O'Connell stated that City Council was given the Budget books around 5:00 PM this evening. We were upstairs and we cannot go through too much in a half an hour. He stated that at this time I do not see anyone from the administration. I do not see the Mayor, Mr. Hartzell, or anyone from the administration to present the budget to us this evening. He asked Councilmembers that are chairs of particular departments to review their particular area. Mr. MacLean is Public Works, Mr. Guridy is Budget and Finance, Mr. Hendricks is Public Safety, Dr. McGuire is Community and Economic Development, and Ms. Affa is Human Resources, Administration and Appointments. We will have our first Budget Hearing on Monday, November 6 at 6:00 PM. He asked Mr. Hanlon if Council had a response from the administration on who will be attending that meeting.

Mr. Mike Hanlon stated that Mr. Hartzell will be there.

Mr. Ray O'Connell asked if Council heard from the Mayor and if he will attend. He asked if the Press received their budget book. He asked if the Budget Schedule is online.

Mr. Mike Hanlon stated yes, but he doesn't know if the budget is there yet.

Mr. Ray O'Connell stated that included in this Budget should be a Five Year Plan and we did not receive the Five Year Plan. The Mayor is changing the terminology from a Managing Director to Chief of Staff. A Chief of Staff could be named by the Mayor without us approving the appointment. A Managing Director would have to be nominated by the Mayor and come in front of City Council. There is a 3.5 percent increase for non-bargaining members. When we leased the Water and Sewer for about \$212 million we put about \$30 million aside to pay down the MMO over the course of

years. I observed right now the money from the Obligation Bonds, we took \$3 million plus to balance this budget.

Mr. Jeff Glazier stated that it is his understanding that the Five Year Plan will be made available by the end of the year. He stated that regarding the POB money the previous budgets had the infusion of the POB in the budget that it does now. Except it was \$2.5 million as opposed to \$3.9 million. The question is the MMO, one of the things that the Aggregate Board did was lower the interest rate which was a good thing to do and a change to the mortality table. He stated that he doesn't think that the increase in the MMO was baked into the Five Year Plan last year.

Mr. Ray O'Connell thanked Mr. Glazier and asked if there were any other comments from Councilmembers or the public.

Mr. Lou Hershman, 405 N. Gilmore Street, stated that this is the first time in Government he has ever seen a Mayor avoid Council like this Mayor has. I think he owes you guys an apology. This is not the way to treat Council. Mr. Hartzell should have been here. The Mayor is going to put a Chief of Staff there instead of a Managing Director. You can amend the Budget by changing the title.

Mr. Ray O'Connell stated that the Mayor has been invited tonight and Monday night.

Mr. Lou Hershman asked when will the Budget books be available to the public. Mr. Glazier was kind enough to give it to me for 30 seconds. When will they be made available to the public?

Mr. Ray O'Connell asked Mr. Hanlon when should it be made available to the public as of tomorrow, based on past practice.

Mr. Mike Hanlon stated that is what he assumes, but he is not quite sure.

Mr. Lou Hershman stated that the Five Year Plan supposed to be ready by October 1st. Isn't that in the Charter. You should start preparing subpoenas to make the Mayor appear. This is unheard of what is happening in Allentown.

Mr. Ray O'Connell thanked Mr. Hershman for his comments and asked any other comments from the public.

Mr. Lou Shupe, 625 N. Sixth Street, asked will this full sized Budget be released online. He asked for a timetable.

Mr. Ray O'Connell stated that his assumption would be yes. He asked Mr. Hanlon to get an answer for Mr. Shupe. Give him a call or email him.

Mr. Mike Hanlon stated yes. He stated that Mr. Shupe can look, it might be there now.

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

ADJOURNED: 6:10 PM