

**Roger MacLean, Councilperson
Allentown City Council**

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COMMITTEES

Public Works, Chair
Human Resources, Administration
and Appointments
Public Safety

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council

FROM: Roger MacLean, Councilperson

DATE: December 26, 2017

RE: Council President

Pursuant to Council Rule VI, this memo restates my intention to seek the Office of President and lays out goals and a vision for the ensuing year, past achievements and other information I wish you to consider in your vote for the office.

First off, I as council president, plan to act as a conduit to work with each of you on areas you find important. I understand Ms. Affa wants to work on the Nuisance Abatement Board, the Disruptive Conduct Board and the Blighted Property Review Board. Ms. Mota is exploring creating a community center and working on engaging the Latino community. Mr. Robinson has suggested exploring ways to create a smoother budget process and a review of council rules. Mr. Zucal is interested in taking a look at our vehicle policy and interim director process. Mr. Guridy is interested in reviewing the charter. Mr. Hendricks retains his interest in making our community safe and our government as transparent as possible. I will work with each of you to facilitate your goals.

There are several goals that I would like us to pursue together:

Action Items: Citizens raise concerns and have questions at our council and committee meetings. We need to formalize a procedure to make sure these questions and concerns are answered in a satisfactory and timely manner. I suggest we amend council rules and make Action Items a formal part of our council and committee agenda. If we listen to a Controller's report about reconciliation of checks, we can certainly create the opportunity for responses to citizens.

Proactive Committees: I would like to see the committee meetings be a little more interactive with the public and address concerns that are expressed by citizens which will hopefully reduce some of the questions at the full council meetings. Efficiently using our committee system, we will accomplish more as a group and offer more avenues for our citizens concerns.

Roundtable Discussions: Perhaps we could have an open forum meeting where we seek input from citizens and create a priority list. We could have a more open "round table" type discussion where citizens' concerns about the topic at hand can be discussed and addressed.

Budget Timetable: Council needs more time to address and digest the budget. Many of you agree with this. We need to quickly review the budget procedures and act on them in a timely fashion in regards to anything that might require a charter change such as moving up the date to submit the budget. It might also be wise to review the process and the budget presentation – upon being appointed the Finance Director noted he was interested in returning to a program budget. Perhaps this could be an item taken up by the Budget and Finance Committee.

Charter Review: In addition to examining the budget process, I would like to see council review the charter and consider the need for changes inclusive of establishing a commission and look at the big-ticket items like modifying the form of government or consider election by district.

I think we need to take a look at best practices out there – and will direct Tawanna and Michael to collect some best practices that might be useful and circulate them to council.