



Allentown

435 Hamilton Street
Allentown, Pa. 18101

Minutes - Final

City Council

Wednesday, January 17, 2018

7:00 PM

Council Chambers

Invocation: Candida Affa

Pledge to the Flag

Roll Call

Present: 7 - Candida Affa, Roger MacLean, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Cynthia Mota, and Courtney Robinson

Courtesy of the Floor

Courtesy and Privilege of the Floor Rules

Ms. Janet Keshl stated that she questioned the ordinance about addresses being visible on homes and apartment buildings. Are they doing anything about that?

Mr. Roger MacLean stated that he is not aware of anything, but they will find out.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that it is an ordinance.

Mr. Roger MacLean asked Mr. Hanlon to look at the ordinance.

Ms. Amber Clark stated that she was here in September about school bus safety. She was told by the Council President that there is nothing that could be done by City Council. She has spoken with the State Department of Transportation heads for Alabama, Connecticut, Illinois, Iowa, Maryland, Rhodes Island, Virginia, Washington and Ohio. She spoke to the Allentown School District's head of transportation, State Representative Peter Schweyer, and Chief Dorney over the phone. She had meetings with the Allentown School Board. The Chief of Staff of Lisa Boscola's office, Phil Armstrong, Mark Pinsly, State Representative Mike Schlossberg and Senator Pat Browne. She found a no-cost solution to the entire state. Right now, Senator Pat Browne and Mike Schlossberg are co-sponsoring a bill and it is called an Enabling Legislation. She provided Council with a hand out. Fifteen other states have this legislation. She stated that hopefully Council will be behind this Safety Initiative to keep our students and pedestrians safe.

Mr. Roger MacLean asked Ms. Clark if she said that the state legislator is passing this law.

Ms. Amber Clark stated yes. They are currently writing a co-sponsor memo that they will be sending out to the Senators and State Representatives.

Mr. Ed Zucal asked if civilians will be issuing these tickets and asked what type of training will they have.

Ms. Amber Clark stated a civilian camera company. They don't issue a violation unless law enforcement determines that it is a violation.

Mr. Courtney Robinson thanked Ms. Clark on the work she did on this. He stated having been involved with citizen issues in the past and the level of research you are doing is quite high. He stated that he has spoken to Representatives Schlossberg and Schweyer. Once a bill has been created, you can come back and see about Resolutions of support. He stated that he would be happy to sponsor one.

Mr. Lou Hershman, 405 N. Gilmore Street, asked about the stormwater fee. He asked Council to look at the tax and said disabled veterans should not pay the tax. It should draw an exemption. He asked when will the city of Allentown transfer that \$500,000 on the rainwater tax. He stated that he does not know when they will get the money. The chair of the Budget and Finance Committee has not called a meeting in two months and the Monthly Financial Report is late. The November Report has not been made public.

Mr. Roger MacLean stated that he doesn't know if Mr. Hartzell wants to tackle that right now.

Mr. Brent Hartzell stated that we are aware that we need to do that. The total amount he is talking about is a little over \$250,000. The city will be paying that and will bring an amendment to the budget.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that Mr. Hartzell was not here at the time. We postponed the meeting. We will have a meeting on Wednesday.

Mr. Brent Hartzell stated that December 15th was his last day in the office. To get it out on the day of his departure and they were in the portion of the year where absents and it happened during the holiday. There were portions of the data that needed to be checked.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated to Mr. Hershman you will get it tomorrow.

Mr. Roger MacLean stated that there is a Budget and Finance meeting on the 24th.

Mr. Glenn Keller, 2726 Fernor Street, stated that he would like to close the loop on the discussion he had back in December on the Right to Know request where the city was billing him \$892.25 to review the City Budget and Comprehensive Financial Reports. He received a call from the Solicitor's office the next day and after discussions about the claims his request was burdensome and they would begin to gather the data. He made clear what the scope of his request was and within 2 1/2 hours he was at City Hall at a table with the documents. He thanked the Solicitor's office for being able to provide the documents. He stated that he has all his documents and did not have to pay any fees.

Ms. Kari Holmes stated that she is the chair of the Rising Sun Initiative and wanted to thank City Council for their long-time support of the Black History Month Celebration that happens here at City Hall. She extended a personal invitation to all of Council to the 4th Annual Black History Month Celebration. She stated that they will have names and bios of the African American community and asked that you would provide them with a Proclamation and allow the city to honor them. She stated that they look forward to seeing Council on February 2, 2018 at 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM.

Mr. Roger MacLean thanked Ms. Kari Holmes.

Mr. Ken Laudenslager, 721 W. Cumberland Street, stated that since they are going into winter season and going into street plowing, they get streets that don't get plowed in a timely manner. The walking path at Trexler Park at the Rose Garden are plowed before city streets. The priority is backwards.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that he is in charge of the Public Works Committee and will talk to Mr. Messinger about that.

Mr. Glenn Hunsicker, 844 S. 11th Street, welcomed all the new members. He talked about the Financial Report. We have to do a better job on the timeliness and the transparency of the reports. The CAFR Report has to be done in a timely manner. It supposed to be done on the 30th of June. We don't audit the Capital Projects. Council has to work through the Committee and through Mr. Hartzell and do what they can to get these reports in a timely manner.

Mr. Don Ringer, 1801 Liberty Street, stated that he saw in the newspaper today where the Mayor is trying to bring in Mr. Muller as a Head of the city.

He stated that he has nothing against Mr. Muller, but can't believe that you will let Edwin bring someone into the city when he is facing 54 counts of misconduct. This should be done after his trial at the earliest.

Approval of Minutes:

Yes: 7 - Candida Affa, Roger MacLean, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Cynthia Mota, and Courtney Robinson

[15-2053](#)

November 6, 2017 City Council Budget Session Meeting - Finance Minutes (Revised)

Attachments: [94 November 6, 2017 City Council Budget Session Meeting - Finance Minutes](#)

Old Business:

In the future we will compile a list of questions raised at council meetings and/or other forums and provide answers and address the issue at the next council meeting under Old Business.

Mr. Courtney Robinson asked for a status update on hiring the two new paramedics that were in the budget.

Mr. Brent Hartzell stated that he was speaking to Mr. Gratz today that the request to hire/fill he has completed. He stated that he does not know where they are in the process, but he has completed that process.

Communications: NONE

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:**Budget and Finance: Chair Guridy, Hendricks, Mota**

The Committee has not met since the last council meeting; a future meeting is scheduled for January 24th at 6:00 PM – we will review the monthly finances and items referred from tonight's agenda. The committee will continue to have regularly scheduled meetings on the 4th Wednesday of the month provided there are agenda items.

Community and Economic Development: Chair Robinson, Guridy, Affa

The Committee has not met since the last Council meeting; the next meeting is scheduled for February 14th at 6 PM, an agenda will follow. The committee will continue to have regularly scheduled meetings on the 2nd Wednesday of the month provided there are agenda items.

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

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

Parks and Recreation: Chair Mota, Robinson, MacLean

The Committee has not met since the last council meeting; the next meeting is scheduled for February 7th, time to be determined.

Public Safety: Chair Hendricks, Affa, Zucal

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

Public Works: Chair Zucal, Hendricks, Robinson

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

Rules, Chambers, Intergovernmental Relations and Strategy: Chair MacLean, Affa, , Guridy

The Committee has not met since the last meeting; a meeting is scheduled for January 24 at 5 PM to review an amendment to council rules being introduced this evening.

City Controller's Report

Mr. Jeff Glazier stated that he has two reports. The Controller's Reports are available on the website. He talked about the Accounts Payable Weekly Check Review for December 2 - 22, 2017. They reviewed 487 checks with the total dollar amount of the checks less than \$2.5 million. There were 12 wires with a value of about \$1.3 million. There were two major issues. There were 21 instances that they felt was an incorrect expense account used. The departments were advised and all the journal entries were done. There will be some advice going forward. He will be

meeting with Mr. Harzell and Ms. Bowman tomorrow to discuss this. Hopefully, they will make changes for the 2019 budget. The other major issues are untimely payments of invoices. There were 20 instances. Some were caused by vendor issues and some by the departments. He talked about the Contract Revenue Receivable Reports. A partial report was issued. There are still a number of contracts that the administration has not been able to provide for and two that we did get contracts for. He stated that with regard to the bus station, we know that rent was not paid in compliance with the Lease Agreement. The administration stated that they will review the Rental Lease Agreement and based on the CPI calculate the incremental rent. There is a lack of standard interest and penalties rate guidelines. He stated that the original Lease Agreement of the Parking Authority could not be located. The Finance Director will contact the Allentown Parking Authority immediately to secure a copy of the original lease document.

Mr. Roger MacLean asked if there were any questions from Council.

Mr. Brent Hartzell thanked Mr. Glazier for the work that he and his team are doing. He keeps my department very busy on a regular basis. All of this is very important. He stated that he takes exception with the statement that what we are doing at the end of the year is to raid other accounts deliberately to try to pay off some things. There are certain expenses that are likely to come in greater than what we budgeted or some that come in less. We do try to budget accurately.

Mr. Jeff Glazier stated that Mr. Hartzell has been a good partner in the Controller's office and we look forward to going forward. As far as the things at the end of the year, I may have overstated. With a little bit of foresight Transfers can be made in a timely manner.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that he been asked by members of the audience if we can put Transfers in the financial report. He stated that they have been asking for transparency and it should behoove us to make sure we do that.

Mr. Brent Hartzell stated that he is amendable on ways to make that clearer.

APPOINTMENTS:

Rebecca Kiss Recreation Board 1/3/2021

Ms. Candida Affa stated that it is for the Recreation Board, Rebecca Kiss appointed to 1/3/2021. She asked if there were any comments from her colleagues.

Mr. Courtney Robinson stated that he has no direct issue with Ms. Kiss. He applauded her for her willingness to serve. He stated that he has a large

concern about Mr. Malozi that is being replaced was a resident on the Eastside and Ms. Kiss is a resident of the deep west end. This will give us six members from the west end. His concern is that they will make a massive change at Andre Reed Park with no recommendation on the eastside. He wants to know the reasoning. He asked for an effort to make a better geographic balance.

Mr. Brent Hartzell stated that he will convey that message to the Mayor.

Mr. Roger MacLean stated that the meetings that you are having for Andre Reed Park, are they going to be open to the public.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated hopefully, yes.

Ms. Candida Affa asked if there were any other questions or comments from her colleagues. She agreed with Mr. Robinson. She stated that it seems a little lop-sided. The eastsiders are active in politics and active in their community. To have one representing is a little lop-sided. She asked if there were any comments from the public.

Ms. Kari Holmes, eastside Resident, thanked Council for the work that has already been done by this group. She stated that she would like to volunteer and submit as an event planner and as a pastor in the Center City area and an eastside resident. She stated that she would love to serve and make herself available to whatever extent. She stated that she knows three others that live on the eastside that would be interested.

Ms. Candida Affa thanked Ms. Holmes and asked if there were any other comments from the public.

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked what is the procedure if a person is interested in being part of this board.

Mr. Brent Hartzell stated that as Finance Director it is not something that he is engaged in closely. He stated that he will get the information from the Mayor of what they proper procedures are.

Ms. Candida Affa thanked Ms. Mota and asked if there were any other comments.

Ms. Rebecca Kiss stated that she moved to Allentown last year. She is frequently in the parks and hopes that she can make them better.

Mr. Roger MacLean thanked Ms. Kiss and stated that hopefully you will get some input from residents on the eastside.

Ms. Rebecca Kiss stated that she did apply by submitting her resume and met with the Mayor.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that she believes that is all that is required.

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Yes: 7 - Candida Affa, Roger MacLean, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Cynthia Mota, and Courtney Robinson

[15-2072](#) Appointment to the Recreation Board - Rebecca Kiss

Attachments: [Recreation Board Appointment - Rebecca Kiss](#)

Enactment No: 29591

RESOLUTIONS FOR FINAL PASSAGE (To be Voted On): NONE

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

Bills are referred to committees based on the departmental source of the legislation.

[15-2078](#) Bill 1
Amending the 2018 Capital Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of One Hundred Three Thousand Five Hundred (\$103,500) Dollars as a result of grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development to assist in the creation of Martin Luther King Jr. Trail.

Attachments: [Bill 1 MLK Trail Grant](#)

REFERRED TO PARKS AND RECREATION

[15-2079](#) Bill 2
Amending the 2018 Grant Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of One Million Five Hundred Thousand (\$1,500,000.00) Dollars as a result of a pass through grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Office of the Budget, Redevelopment Capital Assistance Project to Americus Investors, LP for renovations and rehabilitation of the Americus Hotel on Hamilton Street.

Attachments: [Bill 2 RACP Pass Through Grant for Americus Hotel](#)

REFERRED TO BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

[15-2080](#) Bill 3

Amending the 2017 General and Equipment Fund Budgets by transferring Twenty-Two Thousand Three Hundred Thirty-Eight Dollars and Sixty-Two Cents (\$22,338.62) from the General to the Equipment Fund to cover the final lease/purchase payment for a 2013 snow blower purchase.

Attachments: [Bill 3 Transfer for Snow Blower Lease/Purchase](#)

REFERRED TO BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

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

[15-2087](#)

R6

Amends Council rules on the filling of vacancies by requiring the person filling the vacancy to be of the same political party as the person vacating the seat at least 30 days prior to the vacancy

Attachments: [R6 Amends Council Rules on Vacancies](#)

REFERRED TO RULES, CHAMBERS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL
RELATIONS AND STRATEGY COMMITTEE

NEW BUSINESS: NONE

GOOD AND WELFARE

Mr. Roger MacLean welcomed Mr. Robinson and Mr. Zucal to Council. He thanked Mr. O'Connell for his leadership that he has shown at the time I was here and his service. He thanked Mr. McGuire for his insight.

ADJOURNED: 7:52 PM

[15-382](#)

Council Rules and HR Charter

Attachments: [Council Rules](#)
[Home Rule Charter](#)