



Allentown

435 Hamilton Street
Allentown, Pa. 18101

Minutes - Final

City Council

Wednesday, April 4, 2018

7:00 PM

Council Chambers

Invocation: President MacLean

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

Pledge to the Flag

Roll Call

Courtesy of the Floor

Courtesy and Privilege of the Floor Rules

Mr. Lou Hershman thanked the Mayor for being at the Council meeting. He asked for the Five Year Financial Plan.

Mr. Roger MacLean stated that he has an email from Mr. Hartzell that he has it done.

Mr. Brent Hartzell stated that he notified Mayor O'Connell of his desire to speak to about that. He is still getting settled. It is on the top of my list to talk to him about.

Mr. Lou Hershman asked about the city paying its stormwater fee. He asked about the credits for the rain water tax. He asked Council to appoint a committee to present great ideas to the City of Allentown.

Mr. Brent Hartzell stated that we have been having discussions in the Finance Department on how we are going to do that. That will be brought forward in a matter of weeks.

Mr. Craig Messinger stated that the approval for the Contracts was last week. We are working on it now. It will be here by the end of the month or the beginning of next month. The credit start in 2019. It is implemented in 2019.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that he could not agree with Mr. Hershman more. We have seen a pool of great candidates. We have seen some very interesting residents who will be very good. We have too many authorities, boards and commissions slots that are open. He have to tap

the people that showed up and shown an interest in Allentown. He stated that he would work with Council on that.

Mr. Ed White stated that he attended by the panel discussion at the Allentown Public Library and the topic was Hip Hop and the community. What a great coming together with a variety of different people from the diverse city that we live in. He commended APD Captain Glen Granitz who represented the Center City in dealing with what could have been very explosive and tense situation in which he defused. He stated that he wants to be the change that people want to see.

Mr. Joe Hoffman, 334 N. 13th Street, stated that he serves on the city's Environmental Advisory Council. We submitted two names for appointment to the EAC. Dr. Swann and Elizabeth Hunt and was wondering if they were approved or are they still waiting to be approved. The EAC supposed to have seven members. Right now we have two. he stated that he knows that they were submitted to Council. If you approve them, please let me know.

Mr. Roger MacLean stated that they are not on the agenda for tonight, but he sees the Mayor and Ms. Affa taking notes.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that there are a lot of appointments that we have not addressed yet. We have a new Mayor. We will be addressing that and try to get them out as soon as possible.

Mr. Jeff Reiddy, 905 Seventh Avenue in Bethlehem, stated that he stands before them as the Executive Director of the Lehigh Valley Chapter of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws. He talked about awareness. In April 2016, Pennsylvania passed a Medical Marijuana Act. The program currently includes 17 ailments from autism to cancer. In February of this year, the first state regulated dispensary began dispensing cannabis derived products to qualified patients from recommendations from certified physicians. One of the dispensaries will be on Emmaus Avenue in Allentown. He stated that awareness and sensitivity can rule the day. As a long-time advocate for marijuana's legalization, I have fought against public stigma and for this reform. He wants Allentown to step up for exemplary preparedness and stand as an example for other communities. He stated that himself and Lehigh Valley Norml are willing to work with the Mayor's office, City Council, Allentown Police and any other offices that might be affected by this new law.

Mr. Mike Kaminski, 779 Bennett Street, stated that it has been a long, grueling 30 plus months since we had the ordeal. That put a stigma to our city and given us a very bad name. He stated that he doesn't know if it

worked out for everyone in the City of Allentown on how they wanted it. If it was me, we would have buried this back in the May primary and the general election back in November. I want the city, the Council and Mayor O'Connell what is in the past, is in the past. Let's bury the past and move forward in the city. Let's do what is best, and seek to understand the people of the city and then act and do what is best for the City of Allentown.

Mr. James Whitney, Allentown, stated that Benjamin Franklin said the first responsibility of every citizen is to question authority. He encouraged Council and the new Mayor that when the citizens questions your motives they are doing their duty as citizens. I want to encourage you to look at that as an opportunity to celebrate the engagement and make your own stances on the issues more transparent, clear and understood. We are all in this together even if we question your motives that's not to create discourse or combative us versus them. It is really for understanding. We can do a better job in defusing that tension.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks commended Mr. Whitney for being here tonight. You were very frustrated at the last meeting and made a comment that you would probably never return. I am glad you are here tonight.

Mr. Norberto Dominguez, 415 Allen Street, stated that he has been a resident since 1974, a graduate of Allen High School, and has seen the city change and a lot of people come through City Council. He thanked Cynthia Mota for standing up and standing your ground. It is unfair what I read in The Morning Call. A lot of people in the community supports you. He stated that Council is a team and he is behind them. They are his team.

Ms. Lauren Golden, Allentown Preservation League, stated that Old Allentown happens to have their board meeting tonight. She thanked Council for tabling 348 N. 8th Street. The building was stabilized from the time the Certificate of Appropriateness was issued until now. It sort of changes the nature of how the building gets approached.

Mr. Roger MacLean asked if there were any other comments from the public.

Approval of Minutes: NONE

Old Business

Mr. Courtney Robinson asked Mayor O'Connell if he has a Resolution to hire two new paramedics in the EMS department in the budget.

Mr. Brent Hartzell stated that in early March the previous Mayor did sign off on open up to hiring of the 25th and 26th paramedic positions. Mr. Gratz is probably looking right now who will be best to fit those position, but those

two positions were approved for consideration to hire.

Mr. Roger MacLean stated that in the world wind transition, that came across when I was warming the seat for the Mayor and getting it prepared. There were four part-time paramedics that will be moved up to two full-time paramedics.

Communications: NONE

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

Budget and Finance: Chair Guridy, Hendricks, Mota

The Committee has not met since the last council meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for April 18th at 5 PM.

Community and Economic Development: Chair Robinson, Guridy, Affa

The Committee met this evening; the next meeting is scheduled for May 9th at 6 PM; the committee will be taking a tour of Casa Guadalupe at 218 N 2nd St, Allentown, on April 12th at 4 PM.

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

The Committee has not met since the last council meeting; a future meeting has been scheduled for May 2 prior to council meeting to review two bills and receive an update on the personnel study.

Parks and Recreation: Chair Mota, Robinson, MacLean

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

Public Safety: Chair Hendricks, Affa, Zucal

The Committee has not met since the last council meeting; 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 is scheduled for April 18th at 6:45 PM.

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

The Committee has not met since the last council meeting; there are no future meetings scheduled.

City Controller's Report

Mr. Jeff Glazier stated that he has an Accounts Payable Weekly Check Review Report from the month of March. They reviewed 414 checks for the

total of \$5 million, 13 wires for \$2 million. There were a number of findings: inaccurate shoe allowance payment. One invoice with a weak payment document. The invoice description was service school for Chuck. There were four checks that had late fees attached to them. We had 10 checks where departments used an incorrect expense account to pay invoices. Those numbers should be as accurate as possible. There were a number of invoices that were paid late, 12 in total.

Appointments:

Nuisance Abatement Board of Appeals

- Paul Renaut - 4/3/2020 (alternate private citizen)

- Candida Affa - Council Representatives -12/31/2018

-Courtney Robinson - Alternate Council Representative - 12/31/2018

Phoebe Harris
Fred Banuelos

Human Relations Commission
Civil Service Board

12/31/2019
01/21/2021

15-2322

Nuisance Abatement Board of Appeals
Paul Renaut - Alternate Private Citizen - 4/3/2020
Candida Affa - Council Representatives -12/31/2018
Courtney Robinson - Alternate Council Representative - 12/31/2018

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that Ms. Affa spent a lot of time with the initiation board and has been an integral part of it. I don't know a better person for this appointment.

Ms. Candida Affa asked if there were any comments from my colleagues or the public.

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

15-2323

Phoebe Harris, Human Relations Commission- 12/31/2019

Ms. Candida Affa asked if she has any comments on the appointment of Phoebe Harris.

Mr. Courtney Robinson stated that this is a recommendation from the School Board similar to the Recreation Board of Ms. Gerlach and Mr. Smith.

Mr. Ray O'Connell stated that Allentown School Board has two appointments to the Recreation Board and one to the Human Relations Commission. Ms. Harris is that appointment and is a fine selection.

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

15-2324 Fred Banuelos, Civil Service Board- 01/21/2021

Ms. Candida Affa asked if there were any comments from my colleagues.

Mr. Roger MacLean stated that he was on.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that it is a reappointment. She asked if there were any comments.

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

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE (To be Voted On):

[15-2167](#)

Bill 8

Amending the 2018 General Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Twenty-Five Thousand (\$25,000) Dollars. This was a result of a mitigation fee contribution from City Center toward the cost of a study to survey the historic buildings along Hamilton Street from American Parkway to 12th Street as required by the Zoning Hearing Board.

Attachments: [Bill 8 Historical Survey Contribution](#)

[Background Information](#)

[Ordinance #15435](#)

This Ordinance was tabled.

Enactment No: 15435

RESOLUTIONS FOR FINAL PASSAGE (To be Voted On):

[15-2211](#)

R48

Certificates of Appropriateness for work in the Historic District:
348 N. 8th Street, 620 Park Street, 946 North Street

Attachments: [R48 HARB Certificates of Appropriateness - 348 N. 8th Street, 620](#)

[Park Street, 946 North Street](#)

[348 N 8th St](#)

[620 Park St](#)

[946 North St](#)

[Resolution #29628](#)

Mr. Courtney Robinson stated that Mr. Kimmerly is not here. He stated 348 N. 8th Street is a very complicated issue. This is a demolition certificate. The city consultant has stated that the property is sound and there has been work on the property. He asked for Council to table this Resolution.

Mr. Roger MacLean asked if the administration was ready to proceed.

Mr. Mike Hanlon stated that from a history standpoint, typically with Certificate of Appropriateness were on a Consent Agenda and you would approve them without anybody from the administration being here. He stated that Council should pull the demolition and approving the other two because they were approve unanimously by the HARB Board. This was held up on the last agenda.

Mr. Courtney Robinson stated that he would be fine making a motion to remove 348 N. 8th and move forward 620 Park and 946 North Street.

A motion was made by Courtney Robinson, seconded by Cynthia Mota, that this Resolution be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Enactment No: 29628

[15-2164](#)

R49

Authorizes Submission of an Application to the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for a Grant of Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000) for a Skate Park.

Attachments: [R49 DCNR Skate Park Grant](#)
[Resolution #29629](#)

Mr. Roger MacLean asked if there was anything from the administration.

Ms. Lindsay Taylor stated that they are submitting a grant application for \$300,000 towards construction of a skate park at Jordan Park. This project has been in the capital improvement program for several years. We are in the midst of the design project that had a very robust public participation process. We are very please with the turnout that we received for this and the design project. We are going to move to the next step and seek the funding that we need to build the first phase of the Skate Park.

Mr. Roger MacLean asked what is the total cost will be for this.

Ms. Lindsay Taylor

Ms. Lindsay Taylor stated that she would like Council's authorization to receive an grant application for \$300,000 towards construction of a skate park at Jordan Park. This project has been in the Capital Improvement Program (CPI) or several years. We are in the midst of the design process. This year had a very robust participation process. We are very pleased with the turnout that we received for this and the design process. We want to move to the next step and seek the funding that we need to build the first Phase of this skate park.

Mr. Roger MacLean stated \$300,000 doesn't get us the whole skate park.

Ms. Lindsay Taylor stated that the first Phase is approximately \$650,000. It is a 50/50 match that would be required. We will seek additional funding to round out the first Phase. The second Phase is even a tougher challenge. It is approximately \$800,000 we would have to raise.

Mr. Roger MacLean asked what is the total cost will be for this.

Ms. Lindsay Taylor stated approximately \$1.4 million.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if the city has a rendering or design. He asked if the rendering was on the website.

Ms. Lindsay Taylor stated that are finishing the design and is nearing completion. She stated that she believes they are available on the website. She can send to everybody. Ms.

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked Ms. Taylor to share how many public meetings they had concerning Jordan Park.

Ms. Lindsay Taylor stated that there were two public meetings that were very well attended. Approximately 50 attended the first meeting and 30 - 40 attended to second meeting. The consultant team was out of Seattle, Washington.

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked once the Skate Park plans are done, are you going to have another meeting?

Ms. Lindsay Taylor stated that they will bring it forward to Council when it is done. We would need permission to go out to bid, but once we have funding together to only seek additional grant funding. It is an expensive project and we will have to do some fundraising.

Mr. Courtney Robinson asked about the grant. He stated that since this is a match grant do you know what the life of the grant is and how long do we have to achieve the matching funds if we are awarded the grant.

Ms. Lindsay Taylor stated that there is a three deadline, but you have two opportunities to extend it. We have up to five years.

Mr. Courtney Robinson asked about the design. The tennis court at Jordan it was discussed that this is where this is going to be placed. Since those courts were named after someone there was a legacy that was left to the

city for the care of those courts. What type of legal issues that we will run into if there is a legacy for that and we get rid of the courts.

Ms. Lindsay Taylor stated that she has yet able to find anything.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if the skate park will be in where the tennis courts are. Is that set in stone?

Ms. Lindsay Taylor stated that this has been discussed for the past couple of years. That is the location that meets the criteria for the location for a public skate park. We have looked at other parks.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that he would hate to get rid of the tennis courts to replace it with a skate park.

Ms. Lindsay Taylor stated that these are former clay courts. They have not been used as tennis courts for several years.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that probably because we don't have a program for them.

Ms. Lindsay Taylor stated that there has been no demand for it. We have turned tennis courts into basketball courts because of the interest in basketball. They are sitting there unused.

Mr. Ray O'Connell stated that there are a lot more kids skating then playing tennis. He stated that he would rather have them skating at a skate park rather than skating at a dangerous situation. At one time we had 14 to 16 students and he doesn't negate the fact to give opportunities for tennis and for golf. They were very enthusiastic with that.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that he is not saying not to put a skate park, but to put it somewhere else. We need as much support for our youth.

Ms. Lindsay Taylor stated that she would glad to talk to her staff to see if there is interest for tennis at the other tennis courts.

Ms. Candida Affa asked if Ms. Taylor brought architectural plans a year ago and all Council saw it at that time. We do have other tennis courts and she is assuming that in order to have top quality skate park, it has to be large. It can't be small. She stated that she is in favor of it. She talked about pickleball.

Ms. Lindsay Taylor stated that she will make sure that they are on the city's website.

Ms. Milagros "Millie" Canales stated that Mr. Guridy was there at the second community meeting. She stated that she has been asking for this since 2014. She has in her possession a small skate park that she takes around the city and open up for the youth. We have helmets. The reason why it is costing this much is because we it is at Jordan Park. There was an issue about drainage. She stated that she wants them to get out some of their energy from 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM. This can change a kid's life.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that she does agree with Millie. This has been a long time and we to have this happen. We need to get the money. We need to write grants or find the money one way or another.

Mr. Roger MacLean stated that with the financing it will be three years, with two year extensions. Are we going to be budgeting money for that.

Ms. Lindsay Taylor stated that the design is two phases. The grant is for the first phase. We have to start fundraising for the second phase. The design is for both phases.

Mr. Courtney Robinson stated that as part of this, Sumner Avenue has become a dangerous road. It has become more dangerous as a conduit with the Tilghman Street Bridge being closed. Is there any type of pedestrian safety being considered. Obviously, putting the skate park there will increase the usage of the park. He asked about the desire to improve that intersection ahead of the Greenway Trail.

Ms. Lindsay Taylor stated that they did not look at the intersection. They are in the process of designing Jordan Creek Greenway Trail. She stated that she will work with Public Works on that.

Mr. Roger MacLean asked if there were any other questions.

Mr. Matt Pepe, Bethlehem, stated that he has been a long-time skateboarder for 15 years. The City of Bethlehem has an amazing skate park. The worked 10 - 12 years to get it built. This skate park at Jordan Park will be a great addition to the City of Allentown.

Mr. Mike Kaminski, 779 Bennett Street, stated that he did not expect to get a pickleball dissertation tonight. He stated that Ms. Affa has educated him and he appreciates that very much. He stated that \$1.4 million seems like a steep cost. What is that entailing? What are will talking with square footage area?

Ms. Lindsay Taylor stated that the park is almost all concrete so there is a

lot of bowls, hills and features that are included. It is a regional size skatepark. It is a large skate park. She stated that it is the size of four tennis courts. She stated that it is the clay park area.

Mr. Mike Kaminski asked if they are aware that there is another skate park in the city. What are the maintenance costs of maintaining the skate park at Keck Park.

Ms. Lindsay Taylor stated that the maintenance at Keck Park has been small. It is a small skate park. It has been small repairs, graffiti, trash and glass collection.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that the one in Bethlehem they did through phases. It cost that amount of money. The initial amount was very little, but the second phase was a lot more.

Mr. G. stated that he grew up by the skate park in Bethlehem. Once that skate park opened it pretty much changed. He stated that right now he is working with the skate shop and they are doing an afterschool program trying to build a skate park after school for the little kids. We just started. There is also a skate park being built in Quakertown that is also receiving funding.

Ms. Candida Affa asked about statewide tournaments.

Mr. G stated not really. Some companies come into town and they do their own contests. Not really anything organized. Every year we do a contest that is linked with the skate shop.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that he has three sons and the skate. He stated that he spent a lot of money of skateboards and equipment. He stated that one received endorsements from the shops. That helped them with some of the clothing and expenses.

Mr. G stated that it is pretty hard since it is that one skate park. We don't have the resources to practice or improve.

Mr. Joseph Hoffman, 334 N. 13th Street, stated that he wanted to address Mr. Guridy's question. He stated that he fortunately was on the Steering Committee and thought it was a wonderful series of presentations and he thinks that they are getting a great skate park. How do we decide on where to put things and how do we decide what to sacrifice to put these things. You are going to face that question again, and again, and again. In this 100 hundred you grew into a system of well of 2,000 acres and three dozen sites and a radical change in the population in the City of Allentown.

There are not 2,000 acres to add. You have to change your parks. They are sitting empty. He stated that pickleball is a serious thing and there are other activities that need to be provided to this city.

Mr. Ken Laudenslager, 721 W. Cumberland Street, stated that the cost of the park or the projected cost concerns me. We should look at a private/public partnership on this. Over a million dollars, you can practically get a new pool for that price. We have to think of different ways on funding this. He stated that his other concern he wants to know if it will be an all concrete park or the base of it. What is going to be the liabilities of people getting hurt? That needs to be looked at.

Mr. James Whitney, Allentown, stated that he is super excited about this project. This is a really great opportunity for us as Allentown to have a world-class facility that is on par with Pittsburgh and Philadelphia. We talk about how we are the third biggest city in Pennsylvania and sometimes you look around and see that we have a little more in common with the bottom seven then the top two. This is a great opportunity for us to put ourselves on the map of those major cities that have world class skate parks. You will never find skate parks where skateboarders are not sweeping them every day. Skateboarders spend a ton of money. Skate culture is driving our fashion in this country right now. It is a multi-billion dollar industry. It brings people in regionally that bring lots and lots of money.

Mr. Jeff Reidy stated that having grown up in the City of Allentown in the 60s and 70s we were not given a lot of opportunities like this great skate park. We were chased out of cemeteries and City Hall steps with our steel wheel skateboards and skates. We were banned and eventually kids stopped skateboarding. He stated that he is glad to see the revitalization of skateboarding. It is a real important thing for the area. As far as the drawings, there are some drawings at the Cigar Factory. He stated that he watched the skate park develop in Bethlehem and watched the young men with the proposal for a skate park and a small skate shop. He great into a community leader. He has a skateboard shop in Bethlehem and Easton and he is growing that community. Young kids have a place to go. They are not getting in trouble. I do recommend the city recommend this proposal. The money is well spent.

Mr. Lorenzo Sanders, Allentown, stated that he has been skating from the 80s, 90s, and up to now. There is no place to go. We have everything else in parks for the kids, except the skate park. He state get right. We need this.

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

Enactment No: 29629

[15-2215](#)

R50

Thank You FBI and Federal Prosecutors

Sponsors: Mr. Zucal, Hendricks and Mota

Attachments: [R50 Thank You FBI and Federal Prosecutors](#)

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

[15-2226](#)

Bill 14

Amending the 2018 General Fund Budget by transferring Five Hundred Twenty-One Thousand Seven Hundred Twelve (\$521,712) Dollars from the Unappropriated Balance. Three Hundred Sixty-Four Thousand Four Hundred Twenty-Eight (364,428) Dollars from various accounts within the General Fund and Seventy-Five Thousand (\$75,000) from the Solid Waste Fund to provide Nine Hundred Sixty-One Thousand One Hundred Forty (\$961,140) Dollars for the services provided by an outside vendor for the Malware remediation.

Attachments: [Bill 14 Malware Funding](#)
[Ordinance #15439](#)

Mr. Roger MacLean asked if there were any public comments.

Enactment No: 15439

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

NEW BUSINESS: NONE

GOOD AND WELFARE

Mr. Daryl Hendricks reminded the public that on Thursday, the 12th at 6:00 PM in Council Chambers there will be a meeting held with our Police Department announcing the new pawnshop rules and regulations.

Mayor Ray O'Connell thanked Council for electing him to serve as Interim Mayor of the City of Allentown. It is a tremendous honor and privilege. He pledged to work with all of Council individually and collectively. What we need to do now, is work together to restore and rebuild the city's government reputation. The entities that do business with the city has to know that they are getting a fair shake. The residents of the city has to know that we are doing these jobs for the them and not for our own personal benefit. The Mayor and members of Council may not always agree on the best course forward, but we have to be mutually respectful of one another. My pledge to you is to run the executive branch of this city with openness and transparency. It simply means that openness and

transparency is very simply to tell the truth and be honest. He stated that he will always tell the truth and always be honest. He stated that he already learned a lot about the different responsibilities between the executive branch and the legislative branch of city government in just the past three days. I am interested in the opinions of all stakeholders holders, listen to all sides of the issue the best way we can move forward. I look forward to solving the city's problem with you and all the residents of the City of Allentown. I have pledged to attend Council meetings and want you to know that my doors is always open, not only to City Councilmembers, but all stakeholders and residents in the City of Allentown. I went looking for a simple quote to end my remarks this evening and I got one from a gentleman named Matthew Lesko who does infomercials on how to get grant money from the federal government. Matthew said good government only happens when the people working in it to do their jobs and they do them well. Together, let's make good government for Allentown. He thanked Council and stated that he enjoyed his first meeting as the Mayor of the City of Allentown.

Mr. Roger MacLean thanked Mayor O'Connell and stated that you have an agreement on Council. As you said, we are not always going to agree, but let's take the honeymoon while we've got it and we will go from there. These are the people out there that will keep our hands to the fire.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that they need to do that and we will be there for them as well as I will be there for you.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated there is an email from Mr. Kimmerly stating by not approving the Resolution tonight for the HARB Denial, the Resolution is tabled for the Carriage House, 75 day limit may expire on the application to demo and the demolition will be approved.

Mr. Courtney Robinson stated that again, this is why I think it is a little frustrating that we did not have anyone from the department here tonight to discuss this.

Mr. Roger MacLean stated that he kind of agree.

Mr. Courtney Robinson stated that this is a significant problem for me. As stated, we are looking at the possibility of having speculative demolition on this which is a huge problem for the city. I have a problem that no one was here to speak on this. This is not a new issue. This has been something that he has been involved with trying to fix this along with Allentown Preservation League, OAPA and the city staff. He stated that he is a little frustration that no one is here to speak on this if we are running up against the clock on this.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that Mr. Kimmerly is saying by not approving this, it might run up against the 75 day limit and once you hit the 75 days it automatically becomes an approval.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that the Resolution is to approve a demolition anyway.

Mr. Courtney Robinson stated that the problem is that it was classified as a demolition, but when you read the backup documentation and this is a very complicated case. There is work being done with the property owners to try to avoid demolition. To the city's credit, to Mr. Lightner's credit, Mr. Kimmerly's credit they are doing everything humanely possible to not demolish this property. They are going above and beyond to try and save this property. In the way this certificate is written, it is classified as a certificate for demolition. HARB gave was demolition was put in there as a if a structural engineer says that it is structurally deficient we can demolish it. However, there are other guidelines that is listed in the documentation. His concern is that it needs to be adjusted. It is not for demolition. That is one option in the toolbox. It is not the primary. It is not everything that needs to be done. He stated that's why he wanted to have a conversation with Mr. Kimmerly. If we could amend it. I don't know if we can. He stated that to his understanding the 75 day timeline started in March, but if it started earlier than that then we could have an issue.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked Mr. Robinson if he would entertain a motion to approve it with a caveat that if it is deemed to be demolished, it has to come before Council before it does.

Mr. Roger MacLean asked Mr. Hanlon do we know when the 75 days is up.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that he could not figure it out. All he knows is that the HARB Secretary says that by not approving the Resolution tonight, the Resolution is tabled for the Carriage House. The 75 day time limit may expire on the application to demo and the demolition will be approved.

Mr. Courtney Robinson stated that his concern is to Mr. Guridy's point I don't know if we can amend it.

Mr. Roger MacLean stated that if we knew when the 75 days was up. His suggestion is that we set up a special meeting and just deal with this.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that Mr. Kimmerly is stating that if you don't act you are going to by default possibly approve the demolition, but if you do act you are not going to approve the demolition.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that they have the date.

Mr. Brent Hartzell stated March 9. He stated that it will take them through the middle of May to reach the 75 days. March 9th was the date according to the records.

Mr. Craig Messinger stated that they are looking at Eden at the permit.

Mr. Courtney Robinson asked the Solicitor is that an accurate assumption.

Mr. Matt Kloibert stated that yes, it is.

ADJOURNED: 8:22 PM

[15-382](#)

Council Rules and HR Charter

Attachments: [HOMERULE March 2018](#)

[Council Rules April 2018](#)