



Allentown

435 Hamilton Street
Allentown, Pa. 18101

Minutes - Final

City Council

Wednesday, October 2, 2019

7:00 PM

Council Chambers

Invocation: Councilperson Mota

Pledge to the Flag

Roll Call

Present: 6 - Candida Affa, Courtney Robinson, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, and Ed Zucal

Excused: 1 - Roger MacLean

Courtesy of the Floor

Courtesy and Privilege of the Floor Rules

Mr. Kenneth Heffentrager, Pennsylvania Street - Allentown Tenant Association, stated that he took a tour and the Blocks were 800 Block of Linden, 100 Block of 10th Street, 1000 - 1100 Block of Chestnut, 100 and 200 Block of 12th Street, 1100 Block of Chew Street, and the 300 Block of N. 12th Street. Five years ago, there were 17 blighted properties, two tagged under Sheriff and one tagged under the Court. Today, there is one blighted property currently being worked on and one shutdown by order of the court. He is trying to get people to come out and tell Council. He stated that Leonard Lightner is fantastic. The Blighted Property Review Board is continuously looking at places. The Planning Commission passed these things through and get it taken care of. There were 17 properties and now they are down to one in five years. He stated with Inclusionary Zoning, just don't look at reports. Is it not an overwhelming success. Inclusionary Zoning stops blight remediation.

Ms. Julie Thomases, 824 N. Broad Street - Promise Neighborhoods, and Inside Allentown, spoke about Inside Allentown program is a unique opportunity for residents to gain insight into how city government works. This is the third program and thanked everyone in the city for helping them understand the decision-making process that affects our lives and empower us as citizens.

Jaycee Marlo (sp), 1906 Alberto Drive - Whitehall, stated that she works in Allentown. She stated that she is an organizer in Allentown and has conversations with constituents and built relationships with folks who are affected by poverty, discrimination, segregation, oppression throughout

history. She talked about Inclusionary Zoning and the successes throughout the nation. One place in particular is Washington, DC. They are living in integrated spaces and learning how to be a neighbor and part of a community. What is City Council doing regarding Inclusionary Zoning and affordable housing in order to build opportunities instead of people living pay check to pay check.

Ms. Connie Santos, 827 S. Jefferson Street, stated that prior to moving to Allen Gardens four years ago she lived at 521 Greenleaf Street. The number one reason she moved was the parking wars. Single family homes are converted into multi-family units. She suggested to paint parking lines on the streets that do not have meters to guide the residents on where and how to park. Roberto Clemente is now on that corner and they took the parking lot and converted it into a play area for the kids. The teachers take all the spaces on the block.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that Roberto Clemente is no longer with us. She is referring to Roberto Clemente Charter School.

Ms. Yamelisa Taveras, 1932 Virginia Street, echoed Connie Santos stating it is a great idea. She asked about private companies and reporting public infractions within them. She talked about First Students on service to the schools, private events, and city events. She posted the issues on the Allentown City Discussions and Issues and received 40 comments on her post. Two weeks ago, a day before her sons six birthday, she was across the street. He was left behind another bus on the opposite side of the road. Two people were passing by asked where he was going and he stated he is going to the park to wait for his mom. He knew her phone number and was able to provide his name and her name and she got the call. It was the scariest three seconds of her life. She asked is there a way for City Council to require something more to be publicized or transparent for private businesses.

Mr. Ed Zucal asked Ms. Taveras if she contacted First Students. First Student is controlled by the Allentown School District.

Ms. Yamelisa Taveras stated yes. She was on the phone with them. The bus wasn't there and she got a call from a unknown number saying they found her child. She asked to file a complaint and they said it goes into the employee file. They handed her an incident report.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that it is controlled by the Allentown School District.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that Mr. Zucal is right. He suggest that Ms. Taveras

go to the School Board meeting.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated to Ms. Taveras if she gives her name to Mr. Hanlon and a brief incident, he will email the Superintendent tomorrow morning.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that Mr. Messinger is here in terms of the suggestion on putting lines on the parking spaces.

Ms. Jahida Washington, 713 N. Nelson Street, stated that she is a mother of five children and an advocate for the kids in the district. She asked why the city did not get a stop light or stop sign put in at the intersection of Overlook park. There is approximately 18,000 people on the eastside and 600 students at Mosser, 1900 at Dieruff and 800 at Harrison-Morton. They are a walking district. She stated as a grown woman and a mother of five she is not comfortable crossing there let alone her children. There have been a number of pedestrian and vehicle accidents in that area. What do they have to do to get one installed?

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that the question was asked last week. He stated that it was going to be a project taking place on New England Avenue. They were going to do the whole intersection. That hasn't happened. The Mayor is here and Public Works is here.

Ms. Jean Garcia, 208 S. 13th Street, asked about the increase in violence within the city. Has there been any talk or program for a Crisis Outreach Liaison or Violence Interpreters. She stated that she was at the scene of the shooting on August 1st with Andre Leach that was shot by the Allentown Police Department. There was not a Crisis Liaison for people who witnessed body laying on the floor, but there was a Crisis Team there for the Allentown Police Department. The next day, the Red Cross was incorporated to meet at a park on 5th and Allen to set up a Crisis there. She stated that she is the mother of a murdered 17 year old son in the City of Allentown. She was never contacted by anyone in the city for crisis or outreach. She stated that during her court process she was offered it.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that the county has a department called Crisis Intervention which is part of the Human Services Department. We don't have anything in the city for the citizens.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that the District Attorney has a Crime Victims Council. He asked if she was at Steven's Playground the Saturday when the city did send people.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that he will be willing to look at it.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that the city used to have a person and they are bringing that back up. He wrote something about that on Facebook.

Ms. Jean Garcia stated that she would like to sit down and discuss the responsibilities of the person in that department. She suggested a Program Manager, Violence Interpreter and Outreach Crisis Liaison.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked Ms. Garcia to give her information to the City Clerk, Mike Hanlon.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that it will be a few initiatives happening that will deal with crisis. The reality is our community is hurting and we need a lot of healing.

Ms. Destiny Fisher, 215 W. Gordon Street, stated that she works at Resurrected Life Community Church and works at the Children's Academy doing social media. She stated that she has an issue with prostitution. She stated that with sex trafficking being so high currently and consuming a lot of kids. She asked if something can be done. There are condoms by the Daycare Center and in between the church. We have kids that attend the daycare and come from their homes.

Mr. Courtney Robinson stated that he lived at P&P Mills for seven years and that part of the city has the most under-reported crime levels in the city because people are not informing that there is an issue there. Whenever you see something or whenever someone sees something tell them to call the Comm Center. Because we have very limited resources, we are 30 - 40 officers down of where we should be for a city our size. If there is a public complaint about something, there is a far stronger case against someone if they catch them, then a police officer that witnesses something. He stated that he will have a conversation with Chief Granitz. The Mayor will as well.

Ms. Destiny Fisher stated that it was brought to her attention from the owner that they did complain about the prostitution in the area.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated to Ms. Fisher that she also got solicited three months ago. She stated that she was so angry that she took a picture and called the police. Something needs to be done as soon as possible.

Ms. Betty Collier, 2212 W. Tilghman Street, talked about parking fines that they are getting. She never received a ticket for parking on her own apron at her own garage behind her house. Since August 20th, all of them are getting tickets. There are no, no parking signs near the garages or on the

half block. Utica Street is not a thru street. There are no facing homes, just garages.

Ms. Bernadette Taylor, 2224 W. Tilghman Street, read the blocking the garage entrance ordinance, Section 531.04, in Article V.

(Name not provided) stated that she parked behind her property. She can't park on the street most of the time. The property next to her is now a rental property. It has a parking lot for seven cars and it is never utilized. Everyone parks on Allen Street. She stated that they shovel everyone out. There are students there and they have properties that should only have two unrelated people as tenants that have more than that and bringing another car on the street.

Ms. Betty Collier stated that the way it is worded, it says that the street must be 20 feet wide or more. The said vehicle can park on an apron to a garage and be able to be 50 percent off the roadway.

Ms. Bernadette Taylor stated this should be re-worded or re-worked somehow. It states that no person shall park a vehicle at any time in front of, opposite to, or in such a position as to block the entrance to or exit by a vehicle from a garage or driveway. The only exception to this is on streets with widths.

Ms. Betty Collier stated that it doesn't include the homeowner. You can't legally block your own garage.

Mr. Courtney Robinson asked about measuring from the edge of your apron to the other side of the street. How many feet was that?

(Name not provided) stated that she did not take a measuring tape, but can. There was a city dump truck that drove right through. Our Hummer, which is a big vehicle does not take up the road at all.

Mr. Courtney Robinson stated that he understands what they are saying, but what matters is what is written in the Ordinance. If the street is not wider than 20 feet then this is an issue. He stated that yes, you can block your own driveway. He suggested that the Public Works department and the Street Department get a legal width of the street, where the property ends, where your apron would end and where the street would actually begin so we know what that is based off of.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that this is not posted.

Ms. Betty Collier stated that there are no. No Parking signs. The two and a

half blocks on either side has no, no parking signs.

Ms. Bernadette Taylor stated that she talked to the Enforcement Officer as they are ticketing and everyone tells us a different reason.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked them to give their information to Mr. Hanlon.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that she got several complaints. She referred it to Mr. Glazer and if he didn't she apologize. She suggested that they take it to court and fight the tickets. In the meantime keep fighting it and they will work on it.

Ms. Betty Collier stated that she did and got hers reduced to a warning because they put the wrong address on the ticket.

Mr. Sean Albert Henry, 1928 Hamilton Street, stated that he is a business owner and operator in Allentown. He is here with the Spirit of Learning More. He asked about the tax base. It seems as though we are taking care of the people at the lowest part of the scale and we have people at the top with tax incentives. We are talking about tax increases that is primarily hitting people in the middle. What are we doing to help people in the middle to be able to pay those taxes. As a business owner he and his clients have a hard time finding enough people qualified to do the jobs we can pay money for. He asked if Council is addressing issues to get qualified people that they could pay and can pay the taxes. Outside of hitting the people over and over again, what is your strategy to increase Allentown's tax base without tapping that well again. It seems as though the city has a cash flow problem.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that the Budget is coming up really soon. He suggested that Mr. Henry come and see what the city is doing at that time. In the meantime, the city works with CareerLink and there is much development in the Business District in downtown Allentown.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that would be done through the Budget process.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that the Budget process is the most important to see what is the administration doing right now to make sure they fulfill the concerns that you have.

Mr. Sean Albert Henry asked if they allocate the funds or make sure it is the executed.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that in that meeting they discuss the allocation of each line item and what they are going to do throughout the year.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that the 2019 budget is now. There is no follow up on saying how much bang did they get for their buck. The 2020 budget is coming up which will be very soon. He suggested Mr. Henry come to the department meetings.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that the Mayor does a State of the City report and at that time he would tell you that the city hired so many police officers and took care of this.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that he will let Mr. Henry know when the State of the City will be held.

Mr. Courtney Robinson stated that Mayor O'Connell eluded to this, but once the Budget itself is presented they will have meetings scheduled throughout the month of November. Each individual meeting throughout the year and you can get that picture. It is a commitment and we are trying to find a way to make it a lot easier for citizens to access that information.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that the public that this group (Inside Allentown) was here earlier and Council did an educational talk.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that if the public comes to a City Council meeting, the more they will know.

Mr. Glenn Keller, 2726 Fernor Street, stated that the last he heard in the previous month they were looking at the end of September for the Early Intervention Program to be wrapped up. He asked for a status for the Early Intervention Program. He asked for an ETA.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that at the last meeting, Council said it has been pushed back.

Mr. Mike Hanlon stated that Novak got the last of the information. They are reading the Organizational Assessment right now. The financial plan is done.

Mr. Brent Hartzell stated that the Financial Plan is ready to go.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that it was an issue with the Police Department. Did they get the information from the Police Department? He stated that he does not have an ETA. It should be in the next couple of days.

Mr. Mike Hanlon stated yes. He stated that he will follow up tomorrow.

Mr. Whitney Kemmerer, S. 8th Street, stated that there is a bridge on Second Street between Brookdale and Wabash that is under construction. He asked if it will be two lanes. He stated that the street east of Martin Luther King, if you are heading west, you need a green arrow.

Mr. Craig Messinger stated that it will be one lane. It is a little wider then the original one.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that Mr. Messinger heard you loud and clear.

Mr. Craig Messinger stated that the city is petitioning the state to put that in.

Approval of Minutes:

[15-3164](#) September 18, 2019 City Council Public Hearing Bill 48 (Storage Space) Minutes

Attachments: [September 18, 2019 City Council Public Hearing Bill 48 \(Storage Space\) Minutes](#)

Yes: 6 - Candida Affa, Courtney Robinson, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, and Ed Zucal

Absent: 1 - Roger MacLean

[15-3165](#) September 18, 2019 City Council Public Hearing Bill 41 (Basin St and MLK Blvd from BLI to I3) Minutes

Attachments: [September 18, 2019 City Council Public Hearing Bill 41 \(Basin St and MLK Blvd from BLI to I3\) Minutes](#)

Yes: 6 - Candida Affa, Courtney Robinson, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, and Ed Zucal

Absent: 1 - Roger MacLean

[15-3170](#) September 18, 2019 City Council Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [September 18, 2019 City Council Meeting Minutes](#)

Yes: 6 - Candida Affa, Courtney Robinson, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, and Ed Zucal

Absent: 1 - Roger MacLean

Old Business: NONE

Communications

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that it is Mr. Dan Diaz' birthday.

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

The Committee met last Wednesday; the next meeting is not yet scheduled - we plan on taking another look at the single audit report at that meeting.

Community and Economic Development: Chair Robinson, Guridy, Affa

The Committee has not met since the last meeting; the next meeting is not yet scheduled.

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

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

Parks and Recreation: Chair Mota, Robinson, MacLean

The Committee has not met since the last meeting; the next meeting is not scheduled.

Public Safety: Chair Hendricks, Affa, Zucal

The Committee met this evening; the next meeting is not yet scheduled

Public Works: Chair Zucal, Hendricks, Robinson

The Committee has not met since the last meeting; there are no future meetings scheduled at this time

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.

Controllers Report

Mr. Jeff Glazier stated that he has two Reports this evening. He stated that the first is on Accounts Payable Weekly Check Review for the month of August. We reviewed 430 checks for a little bit less than \$2.4 million. They reviewed eight wires for about \$1.1 million. They have one wire that was rejected because the account transaction sheet was submitted as documentation of the payment and it was the same one that processed another wire in June 2019. The wire was entered into the Eden queue more than 60 days after the scheduled payment date. The department was notified of the issues and the proper documentation was submitted and the wire was paid. There were some invoices not attached in Eden. The Bureaus were notified and scanned into Eden and the checks were not delayed. There was one invoice for continuing service where the Controller's office did not have a contract and a Letter of Engagement on file. The department has not complied at this point.

There were a number of invoices charged to Risk and did not have a Claim number. The invoices were not processed through the Risk Approval queue. There were a couple of instances where the incorrect Expense Accounts were used. The department was advised and the correction was made. There were four checks that incurred late fees. The Bureau was advised and the checks were released and their explanations were forthcoming. There were 13 invoices that were paid late. The departments were advised and they all responded to give the reasons for late payments. The Controller's office looked at Teledoc. Anyone that gets health coverage from the city can utilize and call them and Skype with them as opposed to going to the doctor. The city pays a certain dollar per employee for this service. Hopefully, it would save the city some money. The Controller's office did a desk audit and pulled all the invoices back from 2017, matched them up to the contract. There was a contract amendment. There was an incorrect fee charge for PEPM (Per Employee Per Month). Effective, February 2018, Teledoc contract fee was reduced to \$2.25 from \$2.75. Teledoc continued to invoice the city at the \$2.75 rate and the city paid the amount that was invoiced. In total, the city overpaid \$4,599.50. Refunds of the over-payments should be requested. The wrong number of active employees were charged. The city was billed from 643 - 711 active employees each month. Using the maximum employees eligible for coverage of 484 and the contracted rate of \$2.25. The city was over-billed a minimum \$3,080.25. HR is working with Teledoc to re-audit and reconcile the account with city enrollment records. He recommended that these numbers should be checked monthly. He stated that his recommendation to Council is when HR is done with the process, they should request a full and complete copy of the findings.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked Mr. Glazier besides him, is anyone else auditing the charges.

Mr. Jeff Glazier stated that when any department receives their invoices there are certain steps that they should take to make sure that they are billed a proper amount. He stated that Capital Blue Cross may offer a similar program for free. It may just be a phone service as opposed to this service where you can Skype. The third finding was the question on retirement billing. He stated that he is not 100 percent satisfied with, but the amount that the city is billed is within a range that would not make him question it that much more.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any comments or questions.

Administration Report

None

APPOINTMENTS:

[15-3159](#)

Lyn L. Langkamer, Civil Service Board, 01/21/2023

Attachments: [Lyn L. Langkamer Appt.](#)
[Resolution #29859](#)

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

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that Lyn has served as an alternate for the Civil Service Board. He is an outstanding gentleman and does a fine job. With the sad passing of David Howells, they are taking Lyn from an alternate to the full membership for the Civil Service Board.

Ms. Candida Affa asked if there were any other comments.

Rev. Lyn Langkamer thanked Council for the vote and the confidence and if they had any questions of him he would answer.

Mr. Ed Zucal asked for Rev. Langkamer's contact information.

Rev. Lyn Langkamer stated that he stood in front of them about a year ago and Council approved him as an alternate. He enjoys attending the meetings and still on a learning curve with the committee, but it is important as they relate to the personnel of the police and fire department. The residents of downtown Allentown and really important people who serve us and it has a lot to do with the quality of life. He stated that he appreciates Council's vote.

Yes: 6 - Candida Affa, Courtney Robinson, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, and Ed Zucal

Absent: 1 - Roger MacLean

Enactment No: 29859

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE (To be Voted On):

[15-3115](#)

Bill 53

Amending Part Three, Business Regulation and Taxation Code, Title Nine – Fees, Article 391, City Billing for Emergency Medical Services by updating Section 391.04, Sub-Section D and E to better clarify when a patient is responsible for the ambulance ride bill.

Attachments: [Bill 53 EMS Billing](#)
[Ordinance #15566](#)

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any comments from the administration.

Mr. Courtney Robinson stated during the Public Safety Committee meeting there was a discussion concerning additional changes to the language in this bill. In Section 391.04 Section D. the first sentence reads that City

residents shall not be held responsible for any balance due for medically necessary transport that is not paid by an insurance carrier with the exception of the deductible as long as said resident complies within 30 days of the encounter with any and all requests for insurance information or verification of insurance (or lack thereof) from the EMS billing department. He stated that there was a discussion with Mr. Gratz and the Mayor concerning that while there has been great strides made with EMS billing, taking it to a 90 day window to about a 20 day window. The language as it is written in the bill by stating the date of encounter would imply the date of service. Where the administration is agreeable to making an amendment that he would like to make.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any comments from Council or the public.

A motion was made by Courtney Robinson, seconded by Ed Zucal, that this Bill be amended to strike the words 30 days of the date of encounter and add the words within 30 business days of the date of billing. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Candida Affa, Courtney Robinson, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, and Ed Zucal

Absent: 1 - Roger MacLean

Enactment No: 15566

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that as Chair of the committee, the committee did vote on this unanimously in favor to the full Council.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any comments from the public.

Yes: 6 - Candida Affa, Courtney Robinson, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, and Ed Zucal

Absent: 1 - Roger MacLean

Enactment No: 15566

RESOLUTIONS FOR FINAL PASSAGE (To be Voted On):

[15-3178](#)

R75

Sewage Planning Module for a Proposed Industrial Development, 120 – 160 Union Street, LLC at 120 West Union Street

Attachments: [R75 Proposed Industrial Development at 120 - 160 Union Street LLC - Sewage Planning Module](#)
[Proposed Industrial Development at 120 - 160 Union Street LLC - Sewage Planning Module Documents](#)
[Resolution #29860](#)

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that it was recommended favorably to full Council.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any comments from the dais, administration or the public.

Yes: 6 - Candida Affa, Courtney Robinson, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, and Ed Zucal

Absent: 1 - Roger MacLean

Enactment No: 29860

[15-3191](#)

R76

Approval of Transfers: \$12,000 in Streets to purchase storm grates; \$6,000 in Police to upgrade audio system; \$20,000 in Building Maintenance for overtime; \$20,864.70 in Streets for an environmental consultant to deal with issues relating to a storage tank removal at streets facility.

Attachments: [R76 Approval of Transfers](#)

[R76 Transfers](#)

[Resolution #29861](#)

Mr. Courtney Robinson stated that this is a brand new Resolution and asked for the Mayor to give a quick rundown.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that there are new Resolutions coming to Council for the first time. Normally, when you get a Transfer, you get an envelope or folder, sign it, check it off and approve. After talking to the Solicitor's office, as far as more transparency and openness, it is going to be voted on in public and will have comments from the public and the dais. We have been doing it wrong for 25 years. We are correcting the process.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if R77 is the same.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated no. It is the same in process, but not really the same.

Mr. Courtney Robinson stated for him it would be useful. Most of us have an understanding of what we are talking about here, but the public does not.

Mr. Brent Hartzell deferred on the three of the four items that are Public Works to Mr. Messinger.

Mr. Craig Messinger talked about the Safety Grates for the Streets Department. Every once in a while they get damaged by different debris that come down on those Safety Gates. They are necessary to have there so that kids don't go into those large pipes and play around with the large debris, it doesn't get lounged in the pipes when we have heavy storms.

With the Safety Grates there were two locations where we had damage to them. Trotter is a firm that makes these Safety Grates for the city by the design of what is necessary. We had them made by them and placed in two different areas. The Public Works department did not plan on having them replaced, but due to the damage, we had to so we had to transfer the money for it.

Mr. Courtney Robinson asked if this will potentially going to prevent the city from having another gentleman spend six days underground weaving his way through the stormwater system.

Mr. Craig Messinger stated that no one is going to get through the Safety Grates. He stated for overtime, they have a new Building Maintenance Manager, Ted and there are a lot of projects and that's the reason why they were on hold for a while. They had a lot of H-VAC replacements. They replaced the water valves to the building. This year, they had extended leave for some employees in that department. The work did not stop so they had people on overtime to take care of those issues and the winter season is coming. They took care of the needs they had, plus made sure there is enough in there for the rest of the year.

Mr. Courtney Robinson stated that the Public Works ones are self-explanatory.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that the Police one is for \$6,000 for equipment for the Police to upgrade the current Police Academy Classroom Audio Visual Equipment. This is needed for both the Act 121 Classroom, plus the larger classroom which is used for training and also used for outside agencies. This equipment has not been upgraded since 2012. We need to upgrade the AV equipment.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated \$6,000.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated \$6,000, yes. That is all four of them. The Resolution says \$12,000.

Mr. Courtney Robinson stated that on the actually Resolution it says \$12,700.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any questions from the dais or the public.

Yes: 6 - Candida Affa, Courtney Robinson, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, and Ed Zucal

Absent: 1 - Roger MacLean

Enactment No: 29861

[15-3190](#)

R77

Transfers One Hundred Thousand (\$100,000) Dollars for an RFP to contract with a Public Art and Activation Project Management Team to support the mission of the Arts Commission

Attachments: [R77](#)

[Public Art and Activation Project Management](#)

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that this is also a new one. He asked the administration to speak on it.

Mr. Dan Diaz stated that they are requesting that the two \$50,000 be designated for art space for Economic Development be transferred to the designated 46 - other contract services account. We need to contract with a firm to manage the public art and activation program that was developed by the Allentown Arts Commission in collaboration with Community and Economic Development. As you are aware, the Arts Commission is a volunteer group and doesn't have the capacity to oversee these type of demanding projects. Hence, they are working with contracting a third party to oversee this. He stated that he likes to note and they have seen the RFP, but within the RFP scope of work they ensure that the art organization that will serve as the public art and activation program and a manager will oversee these projects from beginning to end. That also includes obtaining public input from community participation activities per installation to help facilitate community support. The Vision 2030 Comprehensive Plan has gotten a significant amount of input and one of the findings was of course from the community to elevate the art within our neighborhoods. He stated that they believe that this program can do that. The manager will also be handling artists calls to solicit proposals, managing the installation through development of work plans to stay on budget, permit approvals, managing the actual installations by the artists, ensuring maintenance after the piece is completed. Have the experience with the documentation, contracts to ensure the longevity of the public installation because these are a public piece. Moving forward, Community and Economic Development will work with the Arts Commission, the Public Art Committee and other departments ensuring that we are identifying the condition of our pieces. Ensuring there maintenance through public and private contributions, and presenting annually to Council on the status of the public art inventory through the city.

Mr. Julio Guridy thanked Mr. Diaz and asked if the \$100,000 would be the only \$100,000 and if they need more money in the future.

Mr. Dan Diaz stated that this \$100,000 is designated for this program that could continue to 20/20. We don't foresee any change orders in that nature. Some of the murals within the Arts Park that are \$20,000 and

some we should mention that our office worked with the cultural coalition for the mural that cost about \$5,000 over at Union Terrace Elementary School. He stated that Council was there to dedicate that and the mural is there. We have experience in working with a vendor to make sure that we are staying within budget for these.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that he is a big proponent of art and thinks the city is doing a great job in the city with art. We just opened the Arts Walk. There was a ribbon cutting ceremony and he could not be there. He stated that he came in a little later and it was fantastic with the corridor and the food market. He stated that he remembers seeing the rendering for that way back three or four years ago. He stated that he was thinking that it will be real nice. It actually came to fruition and is just amazing. He stated that he had an opportunity to talk to Dan, Mr. Lightner and other members about it. He stated that it is something that he fully supports and stated that they need to do it as soon as possible so that they can continue the momentum that they already started.

Mr. Courtney Robinson stated that this was not brought up at the last meeting because this was being done as a transfer which as stated by the Mayor we previously just signed these as a piece of paper delivered to us as opposed debate and vote on them at a public meeting. This is the very first time at all that this is being brought forth in a public setting for the public as well to have the opportunity to refer this. He stated to Mr. Hanlon that they have the RFP final in Council's documentation, but as of 2:00 PM this afternoon, the only thing on the website was the actual language of R77 which only stipulates that we will be moving money in \$50,000 increments out of two separate art expense accounts and into other contract services for \$100,000. He asked if the RFP was put on the website this afternoon.

Mr. Mike Hanlon stated that he put it up whenever Dan sent it to him. He stated that it should have been there.

Mr. Courtney Robinson stated that he will be making a motion instead of voting on this evening, send to the Community and Economic Development Committee which they will have a meeting next Wednesday, October 9th because \$100,000 even if they have a guarantee that this is only what it is going to be spent in time, it is still a radical change in how we deal with public art. If in no other way, then if we look at point 10 of the RFP in which it says Maintenance. The Public Art and Activation Project Management firm will be responsible for drafting all documentation, and contracts to ensure the maintenance and longevity for the public installation, to protect the City. He stated that the city has somewhere in the neighborhood of 80 public art projects that the city is responsible for and that is of concern.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any discussions.

Mr. Courtney Robinson stated that this is an extensive change in the scope of how Council deals with these things. He agreed with Mr. Guridy and stated that this is a good plan. He stated that he thinks it will survive public scrutiny and giving that public scrutiny will not cause any damage to be able to do this. He stated that there was some concern when this was done as a transfer as opposed to be done as part of the budget itself. He asked if the Controller had anything to say on it and once the Mayor and members of Council speak if the Controller can weigh in on it.

Mr. Jeff Glazier stated that this Transfer is originally from \$120,000 and then it was originally from one of the 41 Accounts and a 40 account. It was an error in drafting.

Mr. Dan Diaz stated that it was a clerical error.

Mr. Jeff Glazier stated that he is not blaming anybody, but to him it was a significant amount of money to transfer and a big programmatic change. He thought the change of that magnitude really couldn't be dealt with by signing a transfer. It needed to be referred to a committee to have a full discussion of it. He stated that he used to sign off on Transfers and doing it that way he will not be signing off on them anymore. He stated that it took him awhile to say or he couldn't say no to it. He gave his opinion and fully informed Council about what he thought was probably a better way to go. The Resolution is for a small amount of money. Only \$100,000 and it takes it out of two different 41 Accounts. One is the General/Civic area and the other from Community and Economic Development. Between the time, he has been Controller and been on Council that money has been appropriated for most of those years. He can say to the best of his knowledge it has never been used for its intended purpose. Certain things came up, like Malware and that sucked some of it up. He stated that he doesn't call in discussions with the past administration that it was intended to hire a contractor to deal with this. Mr. Robinson makes a pretty reasonable request. We have to be careful with the way we spend the public's money. It is a change and a lot of money. It will certainly hold up to the scrutiny.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that he is personally ready to vote for this. He stated that he wants to see it working. He asked to hear from Mr. Diaz on why he rather do it today, rather waiting the next two weeks.

Mr. Dan Diaz stated that Community and Economic Development stated that they did put out an RFP for management. In terms of the timing, they want to get a contract in line before the end of this fiscal year. That way

they can have the projects ironed out and started through early 2020 during the spring period. He stated that he doesn't see an issue with the approval. Within the Arts Commission meetings, those are public meetings. There has been opportunities for public input and they encouraged it. Just like City Council, they have the opportunity to hear from the public at the beginning of the meetings as well. It was pretty transparent as to what is the scope of work that they will be obtaining with as much of community input per each one of the projects. He doesn't think these projects will be in the central business district within the NIZ. This is supposed to be community oriented. The quicker they can move on it, the quicker they can hit the ground running in getting these projects ironed out and started.

Ms. Candida Affa stated waiting two weeks is not going to make as much of a difference to make sure we got this right and get public opinion on this.

Mr. Courtney Robinson stated to Mr. Diaz he is correct. The Arts Commission and the Public Arts Committee meetings are public, but to his knowledge they have no ability to allocate and distribution funds which is exactly what you are asking here. The RFP is not public because it was just posted on the city website yesterday and at 2:00 PM this afternoon was not a public document. Even if it was, it only gives 24 hours for a significant program change. He stated that this doesn't get a vote to go to committee, he will be a no vote on it. As Mr. Glazier said we have a responsibility to make sure the public has every opportunity to weigh in on program changes. He asked Mr. Hartzell to weigh in on this. Is it not language in every one of our RFPs that states that the contract is null and void if the money is not allocated.

Mr. Brent hartzell stated that he believes so.

Mr. Courtney Robinson stated that they are not risking to sign a contract and we are on the hook for by just waiting two weeks. He asked his colleagues to vote to send this to committee so they can have a full hearing on it and have the Community and Economic Development department make a full presentation as to what their plans are and get the Arts Commission and the Public Arts Committee to have the opportunity to also come and speak in favor of this. He asked his colleagues to vote in favor of sending this to committee.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any other questions from the dais or the public.

Mr. Joseph Hoffman, 761 Saint John Street, stated that not only does he agree with Mr. Glazier, Mr. Robinson and Ms. Affa. He is concerned about this. You are about to spend \$100,000 on a critically important Arts Plan

that will govern the city for the next decade. Art is going to be a vital part of Allentown continued resurgence. It is so important to Allentown's future, Council has to take the extra time, especially if it only two weeks. What would matter is if you finish with a good document and have nobody to back it up because they didn't know enough.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that he understanding that the Art Committees have been part of this development for a while.

Mr. Dan Diaz stated that is accurate. He stated we had the Arts Ovation Awards last week with 150 - 200 people. Our arts community is a part of the conversation. When the artist calls go out for the project, it goes out to as many artists as we can find, using the avenues of the Cultural Coalition, the Alternative Gallery, the Arts Commission, and the Baum School. All of those organization and we do the best that we can to get the word out on the opportunities and this is not a closed conversation. This is open to the public.

Mr. Joseph Hoffman stated that the arts that he is thinking of is not the artist that you may capture by traditional groups. He stated that he knows groups exists and knows a lot of people that belong to it.

Mr. Dan Diaz stated that they welcome Mr. Hoffman getting involved in the Arts Commission. He stated that those are public meetings. We have been more aggressive and transparent in the communications.

Mr. Courtney Robinson asked Mr. Diaz when is the qualifications open and when is the cost proposals opening scheduled.

Mr. Dan Diaz stated that the end date is October 17th for the Public Art and Activation Project Management. The Cost Proposals are due 10 days after that.

Mr. Courtney Robinson stated that the RFPs aren't going to be opened until the day after the next Council meeting. He stated that he is committed that Council will have a meeting in one week. Yes, while the Arts Commission and the Pubic Art Committee is public and represent the art committee well, the Art Community is not the only taxpayer putting money into this project. The rest of us have the opportunity, the right and the duty to be able to discuss how our money is spent on any project or plan.

Mr. Kenneth Hefentrager, Pennsylvania Street, stated that he hears Mr. Robinson. He stated that he doesn't see any reason since something was not posted as of 2:00 PM today. It is not fair to the general public.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any other comments from the public.

Mr. Dan Diaz stated that he understands what the positions are on this and if they want to move it for discussion, he will adhere to that.

A motion was made by Courtney Robinson, seconded by Candida Affa, that this Resolution be Referred to the Community and Economic Development Committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Candida Affa, Courtney Robinson, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, and Ed Zucal

Absent: 1 - Roger MacLean

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

[15-3175](#)

Bill 60

Amending the 2019 General Fund budget by deleting one (1) Patrolman position (2P) in the Police Department and creating one (1) Sergeant position (5P) as required by the Body Worn Camera Grant and transfers funds within the Bureau for the additional salary that will be needed until the end of 2019.

Attachments: [Bill 60 Digital Evidence Sgt.](#)

REFERRED TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any comments from the public.

[15-3137](#)

Bill 61 Refer to Budget and Finance

Amending the 2019 Capital Fund Budget and the 2019 General Fund by transferring One Hundred Forty-One Thousand (\$141,000) Dollars from the unappropriated balance of the General Fund to Capital Project 2400 – Blight Removal and Remediation to return funds that were transferred from the Capital Fund to the General Fund in 2017 and not used for their original intended purpose.

Attachments: [Bill 61 Blight Funds Returned](#)

REFERRED TO THE BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any comments from the public.

Mr. Kenneth Heffentrager asked about having \$141,000 left over from the blight remediation.

Mr. Courtney Robinson stated that there was \$600,000 set aside from the Water and Sewer Lease for Blight Remediation. IT had not been utilized. The exact areas of where the money had been moved, the administration can answer. Two years ago, the money was taken out for different projects

that were associated with blight. This is an attempt to clean up the books because when they were looking at the Lights in the Parkway and Census data it was an original idea of taking money from this grant and showed Council that the money was taken and never spent.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any further comments.

[15-3176](#)

Bill 62

Amending the 2019 General Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Forty-Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Nine Dollars and Sixty-Five Cents (\$48,709.65) from the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission (MPOETC) to be used at the Allentown Police Academy for training and operating expenses related to Act 120 classes.

Attachments: [Bill 62 Police Training](#)

REFERRED TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any comments from the public.

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

NEW BUSINESS: NONE

GOOD AND WELFARE: NONE

ADJOURNED: 8:57 PM