



Allentown

435 Hamilton Street
Allentown, Pa. 18101

Minutes - Final

City Council

Monday, January 6, 2020

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

Organizational Meeting

Call to Order: Council President MacLean

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

Excused: 1 - Julio Guridy

Invocation: Mayor Ray O'Connell

Pledge to the Flag

Remarks by Outgoing Councilpersons

Roger MacLean

Courtney Robinson

Mr. Roger MacLean stated to the Mayor, Council, the Controller and the employees it has been an honor and he will miss the comradery. He stated that it has been a fantastic experience for him. When he decided to run for City Council he felt that he had more to give to the city and is not ruling anything out in the future.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that it has been a pleasure serving with you and stated that his record working with city government speaks for itself. He stated that he has a tremendous amount of respect for him. He stated that he is a man of honesty, integrity and true grit. He will miss the leadership and wit.

Mr. Roger MacLean congratulated the newly elected Councilmembers and wished them all the best.

Mr. Courtney Robinson thanked Mr. MacLean for his leadership. He had the unique distinction on Council that serving for two years, under only one president and three mayors. He stated that Mr. MacLean's leadership under some turbulent times was appreciated also for his 40 years of service for the citizens of Allentown. He thanked his colleagues for their help and wisdom. It has been an enjoyable experience. He thanked Mayor O'Connell for his work. He look forward to the new plans and new ideas. He thanked the city employees. He thanked Mr. Glazier and stated that he

will miss that. He will miss the work of Mr. Hanlon and Ms. Whitehead. He was reminded of Voltaire's quote judge a man on the questions he asks and not the answers he gives. His goal was to understand every issue to its last detail. He stated that the last two years have been fulfilling and very rewarding to him. He stated to Ms. Gerlach, Mr. Siegel and his colleagues the city has many structural changes and asked to work to try to find those. He read Tennyson, we are not now that strength that moved earth and heaven in old days; that which we are we are; one equal part tempered of heroic hearts, made weak by time and fate, but strong in will To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that he made comments on the outgoing members. One way to describe you is thoroughness. Great care and attention to detail. You were always prepared at committee meetings and Council meetings at the dismay of your colleagues. He stated that he always spoke his mind with conviction to the issue. You took some shots from your colleagues or the public, but you were always grateful. He wished him the best.

Mr. Roger MacLean stated that Mr. Robinson mentioned Mr. Hanlon and Ms. Whitehead. This Council would not be able to function without them.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that he and president MacLean known each other for about 27 years. For the 25 years he spent on the Police Department and he was his boss for 21 of those years. Mr. MacLean got to witness the births of some of his children, watch them grow and considers their friendship very valuable. He stated that Mr. MacLean has been an awesome leader for the city. He thanked Mr. MacLean for the service of the city and friendship to him. He stated to Mr. Robinson he admired his integrity and desire to bring to light the whole program. He enjoyed the battle of the wit. It was a pleasure serving with him.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that Mr. MacLean was an outstanding officer, outstanding Chief of Police, president of Council. She stated that he has served our city with dignity and integrity. She stated Mr. Robinson, you know how I feel about you. She was on Council for four years and he was on two. He is brilliant and was her mentor.

Ms. Cynthia Mota thanked Mr. MacLean for his leadership. She stated that she will miss him and hopes to see him again at the different fairs. She stated that she will miss him. She thanked Mr. Robinson for his leadership, serving and challenging Council in many different ways. It was a challenge, but we learned a lot. You will be missed.

Swearing In

Ce-Ce Gerlach	Honorable Rashid Santiago
Joshua Siegel	Honorable Michael D'Amore
Candida Affa	Honorable Patricia M. Engler
Jeff Glazier	Honorable Michael D'Amore
Ray O'Connell	Honorable Rashid Santiago

Present: 8 - Candida Affa, Roger J. MacLean, Cynthia Mota, Courtney Robinson, Daryl Hendricks, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Joshua Siegel

Excused: 1- Julio Guridy

Remarks:

City Controller, Jeff Glazier
Councilperson Candida Affa
Councilperson Ce-Ce Gerlach
Councilperson Joshua Siegel
Mayor Ray O'Connell

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that at this time we are going to have remarks by the newly sworn-in candidates and Controller.

Mr. Jeff Glazier stated that in his 21 years of public service, this is his ninth Oath of Office. He stated that he is just as humbled now as he was on his first Oath to be given the opportunity, the honor and the privilege to serve the people of Allentown. He pledged to continue to provide the best oversight of the city's finances as his office can give the limitations of money and personnel. He thanked the folks that work for him and also his family for allowing him the opportunity to serve.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that he has known Mr. Glazier for many, many years when he worked on the school district. You were on the school board as president. He is a fine man as a colleague of City Council and current position as Controller. He congratulated Mr. Glazier.

Ms. Candida Affa thanked everyone that voted for her and gave her their full support. She stated that four years ago she promised to work hard, with honesty and integrity. She promised the same in the next four years. This past decade was turbulent, but we accomplished so much by rebuilding our downtown. We were once again nominated as an All American City, but did not win. The citizens of Allentown are resilient, proud people, good, hardworking people. Michael Surreal ran into a burning building to save a young girl and breathed life back into her. We have always welcomed people from other countries. She stated that her friend Dominique who was born a Canadian and became a citizen shortly before the primary called so excited that she was an American and was going to be able to cast her first vote for me. We have an Advisory Committee spearheaded by Mr. Guridy and she supports it 100 percent. She stated that a young

man stood beside her today and the moment she met him she was fascinated with him. This young man has so many questions and wise questions. He was interested in how the city was run. She and his dad brought him up to meet the Mayor. He is a straight A student and plays the Sax. What we need to recognize is the individual children. We need to listen to them individually to cultivate what they are interested in. It starts with parenting and caring about them one by one. She applauded his father and mother because he is going to be the face of Allentown. She stated that tonight she invited a gentleman whose great great great grandfather brought the Liberty Bell to Allentown. That is the history of our city. The face of Allentown is wonderful people. The Hs and Ken Heffentrager cares about Allentown. She is going to steal a slogan from Mr. Hoffman's campaign. Here comes the roaring 20s. Let's roar and make Allentown the best it can be.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that he has one word for Ms. Affa, tenacious. When you believe in something you see it through to determination. He stated to Ms. Affa that she is a strong individual who cares deeply about all the residents of the city.

Ms. Ce-Ce Gerlach thanked everyone for coming to Chambers tonight. It is a surreal moment. She thanked her crew, her volunteers: Linda, Kathy, Debbie, Carol, Bruce and other people. She thanked Ms. Affa for focusing on the youth of Allentown. Our kids are strong, smart and intelligent and they get a bad rap. She looks forward to having some uncomfortable conversations. We got to talk about homelessness, affordable housing, and ensure that the development that is happening stretches out to the communities. The residents are strong and our neighborhoods are our strength. She stated that it is a true honor and she is beyond grateful for the opportunity.

Mr. Joshua Siegel stated that he is humbled and truly just grateful and the trust that they vested in him, Ce-Ce and Candida in electing them to hold these positions. The opportunity and privilege with this Council is to continue to right that ship. He thanked Courtney for his service. He thanked Roger for his four years of service and 40 years on the police force. The story of Allentown is the duality that it faces. It is a city that has great promise and potential, but simultaneously faces great parallels ahead. We have opportunities, but also obstacles. We are poised for tremendous success, but there are no doubts that there are struggles ahead. He stated that he knows that the future of the city is making sure that every child in the city has the richness of opportunity that they are invested in. They feel valued and they are given a sense of purpose, but that only comes if we all believe in them, and that we all invest in them. We can be by far the best city and we can set that example. That is what an All

American City is. He thanked everyone that gotten him to Council. All of his mentors, his father who helped raise him who shared everything with him and knocked on doors. He thanked the members of organized labor. We all had a part to play in that victory and that shared vision.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated what a difference a few years make. He stated that when he ran for Mayor in 2017, he and Ce-Ce met in his dining room. He stated that she was the backbone of his campaign. They came up a little short, but he is here and she is there. He stated that Joshua ran against him in 2017 and thank God he came up a little short, but he is here and and you are here. You both bring youth and enthusiasm. There will be many new initiatives coming our way. The two will be extremely conscious and dedicated in your new roles. He advised them to listen for a few months to their colleagues to get a better understanding of how the dynamics of City Council works. He wished them both success and you will make the citizens of Allentown proud. He thanked everyone for attending the ceremony. He stated that tonight he starts his 49 year as a public servant of Allentown. He stated 38 years with the Allentown School District, eight years in City Council, two years as Interim Mayor. He stated that he is honored and humbled to have been elected in November to serve the remaining two years of the term as the Mayor of Allentown. The city he loves, cares deeply about and cares deeply about its residents. On his first day in office he stated that he will run City Hall with consensus, compromise and collaboration. He stated that the city needs to gather information from the department directors, bureau managers, and front line supervisors and workforce to focus on three things: where we were in the past, where we are in the present and where we need to go in the future. He stated that he will be fully accessible to all the residents. He stated that he has been blessed with an outstanding staff: Joe McMahon, Managing Director; Mike Moore, Communications Director; and Karen Lore, Executive Secretary who is the soul and heart of the administration. He thanked his outstanding Department Directors and Bureau Managers and to all supervisors who work in the city. He thanked all the employees of the City of Allentown and City Council for their support. They have to have open dialogue and agree to disagree with civility, honesty and respect. We as a team, will face many challenges. We will meet these challenges head on and take them as an opportunity to make Allentown a more stronger and vibrant city. He thanked his family. The most important people in his life and the love of his life for 46 years, Mary Beth. He stated that she is the rock of the family. She is a fantastic wife, mother, and grandmother. She has been through some tough times over the last 18 months with severe health issues. However, she has met every health challenge with courage and toughness nothing, but remarkable. He stated to his son Brendan, and his daughter Gabriella (Gi-Gi), daughter Kaitlin and her daughter Kennedy. He is truly blessed to have MaryBeth, Brendan, Kaitlin, Gi-Gi and Kennedy in his life.

When he started his teaches career in 1972 at Mosser Elementary School, he fell in love with the kids in this city and the City of Allentown. His love for the city continued to grow and strengthen. He vowed to bring hope to all the residents, families and strives to make Allentown a great, thriving, and caring city.

Roll Call

Present: 6 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Joshua Siegel

Excused: 1- Julio Guridy

Courtesy of the Floor

Courtesy and Privilege of the Floor Rules

Mr. Michael Surreal, 2718 Hamilton Boulevard, stated that he listened and heard everything. He remembers when most were running. He stated that the little boy right there was watching too. Don't think you are not making a difference in a lot of children's lives. He stated that his son wants to be right here. He stated that he loves Allentown. The people that make Allentown has so much love and compassion. He stated that he came to Allentown with nothing and lived in a place that was killing him because the conditions were bad. He stated that he had no help, no money, just him, his wife and kids. The members of Allentown stood up. He commended all of them.

Mr. Fred Montgomery, 1426 W. Liberty Street, congratulated all the newly elected Council and the people that maintained their seats and Mayor O'Connell. He stated that the city is on the brink of winning the torch, receiving the torch and passing it to our youth. He congratulated all the newly elected Council and the people that maintained their seats and Mayor O'Connell. He stated that the city is on the brink of winning the torch, receiving the torch and passing it to our youth. The youth in this new decade is very important. Their interests and concerns and they are watching us. Now, we have to put our listening ears on. It is time to roll up our sleeves, own civility and exercise it and put these ideas around the table in motion to benefit the greater good of the people. Allentown is a thriving city. This is a thriving county and this is a thriving great Commonwealth.

Mr. Knoxley Samms congratulated everyone and stated that he looks forward to fresh hope and a new beginning. He is hoping with this new journey that they will also have a fresh commitment to support each other. He stated that he is looking forward for them to be all inclusive to work together. He will make himself available and also ensure that this journey in Allentown continues.

Mr. Roger MacLean stated good luck to both of you. Ce-Ce, Josh and everyone, I will see you all.

Organization of New Council:**Election of President****Election of Vice President**[15-3355](#)

Council President Memo - Daryl Hendricks 2020

Council Vice President Memo - Julio A. Guridy 2020

Attachments: [Council President Memo - Daryl Hendricks 2020](#)[Council Vice President Memo - Julio A. Guridy 2020](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked his colleagues on Council for their input and cooperation throughout the past year. He offered his sincere appreciation to Roger and Courtney as they have both contributed greatly to all that they have accomplished over the past couple of years. He thanked them both and wished them the best in the future. He congratulated Candida on her re-election. He stated that they have had their differences, however, they both came to realize that their cooperation and working to improve the city is most important. He complemented Candida on her tireless efforts. He welcomed the newest members Ce-Ce and Joshua. He stated that he looks forward to working with them both and stated that they have big shoes to fill. Knowing you both he has no doubt that they will be up for the tasks. He most sincerely offered thanks and appreciation to his wife, his family and the citizens of the this great city. He stated that he considers himself a public servant, not a politician. This is the only vocation he has ever known over the last 44 years. He extended his appreciation to the city's workforce, the Mayor and the administration who diligent served the citizens of the city and continue to serve with a high level of professionalism and of course, he would be remiss not to add a special thanks to his brothers and sisters in blue, both police and fire for the great job they do on a daily basis protecting us all. He stated as a new year and a new decade have arrived new challenges have emerged. We must continue a path of open, honest and transparent governance through our legislative responsibilities while providing oversight through our system of checks and balances. He stated that throughout his term on Council he will continue to perform his duties with honor, integrity, and unquestionable resolve while they continue to restore Allentown to its destiny of the Crown Jewel of the Lehigh Valley. May you all experience a great 2020.

Council President Memo - Daryl Hendricks 2020

Yes: 6 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Ed Zucal, Josh Siegel, and Cecilia 'Ce-Ce' Gerlach

Excused: 1 - Julio Guridy

Council Vice President Memo - Julio A. Guridy 2020

Yes: 6 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Ed Zucal, Joshu Siegel, and Cecilia 'Ce-Ce' Gerlach

Absent: 1 - Julio Guridy

Remarks by Council

Mr. Ed Zucal wished everyone a happy new year. He stated that there are exciting times ahead. He is very excited to serve with Joshua and Ce-Ce. They are very dedicated to the citizens of this community and he knows that they are going to do a good job and to continue to serve with his fellow colleagues as he did in the past two years.

Ms. Cynthia Mota welcomed everyone and stated that she can't wait to start. We do have a lot of work.

Mr. Jeff Glazier pledged to keep his reports interesting and have them be the high point of Council meetings.

ADJOURNED: 7:11 PM