

ORDINANCE NO.

FILE OF CITY COUNCIL

BILL NO. 11 - 2020

FEBRUARY 19, 2020

AN ORDINANCE

Amending the 2020 General Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Twenty-Two Thousand Dollars (\$22,000) from Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) to hire a professional historic preservation consultant to prepare a complete revision of the City's design guidelines for the Historic Districts.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ALLENTOWN:

SECTION ONE: That City Council authorizes an increase to the unappropriated balance of the 2020 General Fund in the amount of Twenty-Two Thousand Dollars (\$22,000) reflecting receipt of monies from PHMC to hire a professional historic preservation consultant.

000-5240	Other Grants and Miscellaneous	\$ 22,000
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SECTION TWO: That City Council authorizes a supplemental appropriation from the unappropriated balance of the General Fund as follows:

Department of Community and Economic Development
Bureau of Planning
Historical and Architectural Preservation

000-09-0902-0004-46	Other Contract Services	\$ 22,000
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SECTION THREE: That this Ordinance will take effect ten (10) days after final passage.

SECTION FOUR: That all Ordinances inconsistent with the above provisions are repealed to the extent of their inconsistency.

LEGISLATIVE TEMPLATE

- **What Department or bureau is Bill originating from? Where did the initiative for the bill originate?**

Planning and Zoning.

- **Summary and Facts of the Bill**

This is a request for a resolution to accept a grant in the amount of \$22,000 from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission / Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office (PA SHPO) to hire a professional historic preservation consultant to do a complete revision of the City's Design Guidelines for Historic Districts. The award letter is attached. Design Guidelines for Historic Districts is intended to "...provide instructions and guidance to help property owners understand their responsibilities and the Historic Architectural Review Board (HARB) process as well as guidance to City staff and members of HARB." The current Design Guidelines can be found at:

https://www.allentownpa.gov/Portals/0/files/Planning_Zoning/HISTORIC%20PRESERVATION/HARB-Desing-Guidelines-2012-web.pdf

- **Purpose – Please include the following in your explanation:**
 - **What does the Bill do – what are the specific goals/tasks the bill seek to accomplish**
 - **What are the Benefits of doing this/Down-side of doing this**
 - **How does this Bill related to the City's Vision/Mission/Priorities**

This bill allows the City to accept the CLG grant from the Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Office in the amount of \$22,000 to hire a historic preservation consultant to review the City's existing Design Guidelines for Historic Districts and to do a major revision of the document. The City has been a Certified Local Government (CLG) for many years, which is a state and federal program that recognizes the value of the historic preservation program in the City of Allentown. The goal of the revision of the Design Guidelines is to create a more user friendly document that is well illustrated, concise, in plain language, and is translated to Spanish and possibly other languages. The goals are to illustrate that historic preservation projects can be affordable, and to increase compliance with the Historic District Ordinance. The scope of work for the project includes public outreach with property owners, neighborhood groups, contractors, staff, and the HARB. This project dovetails with the recently approved Allentown Vision 2030 Comprehensive and Economic Development Plan which recognizes historic preservation as tool for economic development and for enhancing Allentown's legacy housing. In addition, the goals of making a more user friendly Design Guidelines is in line with the Comprehensive Plan's over-arching goal of making Allentown a welcoming City and a City for all.

- **Financial Impact – Please include the following in your explanation:**
 - **Cost (Initial and ongoing)**
 - **Benefits (initial and ongoing)**

This grant requires a 10% cash match (\$2,200) which the City has agreed to match with funds already in the budget. Some ongoing expenses, which should be minor, include printing copies of the document as needed. Benefits will be a more user friendly publication and ongoing better understanding of treatment of Allentown's legacy housing.

- **Funding Sources – Please include the following in your explanation:**
 - If transferring funds, please make sure bill gives specific accounts; if appropriating funds from a grant list the agency awarding the grant.

Funding is from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission / Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office.

- **Priority status/Deadlines, if any**

As soon as possible, the grant will be awarded on May 1, 2020.

- **Why should Council unanimously support this bill?**

This bill will assist with the continued and ongoing efforts to preserve the unique characteristics of the architecture in the historic districts in the City of Allentown.