



Allentown

435 Hamilton Street
Allentown, Pa. 18101

Minutes - Final

City Council

Wednesday, January 15, 2020

7:00 PM

Council Chambers

Invocation: Councilperson Affa

Pledge to the Flag

Roll Call: Council President Hendricks

Present: 7 - Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Joshua Siegel, and Candida Affa

Courtesy of the Floor

Courtesy and Privilege of the Floor Rules

Ms. Jan Keim, Emmaus Resident, made a request for someone to call the Wildlands Conservancy about the property at South Mountain.

Ms. Diana Fandl, SW 26th Street, stated that they are residents of South Mountain and concerned about the Barnes Lane Development. She talked about the developer conducting an Environmental Impact Study. She stated that they have a petition of 120 names of people requesting that the city purchase Barnes Lanes Development preserve it as open space.

Mr. Jerome Sefcik, St. John's the Baptist Church, stated that they have had five brake-ins at the church.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that he is not sure what stipulation Mr. Sefcik is talking about, but do you have evidence or surveillance cameras.

Ms. Candida Affa asked if the church has cameras. She suggested getting cameras.

Mr. Jerome Sefcik stated that they have security in the rectory.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that they will look in to it and do a follow up.

Ms. Carol Wagner, 2612 Appel Street, stated that she is here in support of her neighbors in the area around Barnes Lanes. She asked how long the project would take to complete because of the construction vehicle and the equipment that has to be brought through, they expected it would take five years to complete the project. The traffic that would be required for the 43

dwelling that they intend to build on this plot of land. It would be an inconvenience in the neighborhood. It would be such a disruption.

Ms. Ce-Ce Gerlach asked about a development project that is within the current zoning code, we don't see it or vote on it. She asked about the formalized capacity of residents that live around proposed development to have a say. She asked what time does the Planning Commission meet?

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that it goes to the Planning Commission.

Mr. Matt Kloiber stated that it would be at the Planning Commission where they can present their thoughts. That's the best time to do it.

Ms. Carol Wagner stated 12:15 in the afternoon.

Mr. Matt Kloiber stated that the matter is still with the Planning Commission.

Ms. Ce-Ce Gerlach stated that it is problematic.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that she lives on Appel Street. They are her neighbors. They are horrified. The traffic between 4:00 and 6:00 PM takes up to 20 - 30 minutes. The traffic will affect us and the community as a whole. It is going to be a big issue.

Mr. Tom Hahn talked about the rules and regulations on the water, sewer, sidewalk, curbing, the infrastructure on the cable and electricity should be done in a modern setting at no cost to the taxpayers.

Ms. Janet Gehringer, 2524 Barnes Lane, stated that she has to drive through it to get to her property. She is trying to understand why these houses could abut without a variance. If this gentleman sells these houses, he will not sell right away. Someone is going to buy and put townhouses there. She has an issue with the drainage ditch that is behind four of the houses because of 78 and 309.

Mr. Julius Fandl, SW 26th Street, stated that he has been going to the Planning Commission meeting and all this land is owned by the City of Allentown. Emmaus took the initiative and built a park. Why can't the City of Allentown buy this piece of property.

Mr. Collado (sp) stated that he hopes the Controller controls the city. For an emergency it is overwhelming. He had an accident on Walnut and 8th Street and they charged him \$900. They are overwhelming people in Allentown.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that he feels for the folks that came over for the development. He asked if anything they can do as City Council. There were several suggestions that were made and will take them into an account.

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked about a traffic study.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that they did a traffic study already. They have a lot of legitimate issues and the owner of the property owns the property and is able to do what he is trying to do, but City Council represents you.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that it was outdated.

Mayor Ray O'Connell suggested to invite the developer to give testimony to City Council and the administration.

Mr. Matt Kloiber stated that they can certainly ask someone to come in and talk.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that he would be in support of that.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that he would support that as well.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that she would support it. She thanked them for coming and speaking on their concerns. They hear what the residents are saying.

Ms. Ce-Ce Gerlach thanked the residents for showing up and said it points to possible flaws within the system in general how the public gets to say in development issues that are happening in their neighborhood.

Mr. Joshua Siegel echoed the comments from his colleagues. He thanked them for coming tonight. He stated that their concerns have not falling on deaf ears. He stressed the reality of property rights and the reality of developers. The city does run the risk of if they oppose at the highest extent there could be the consequence of lawsuits and legal fees. That is a real concern.

Approval of Minutes:

[15-3347](#)

November 26, 2019 Management and Financial Audit Presentation Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [November 26, 2019 Management and Financial Audit Presentation Meeting Minutes](#)

Yes: 7 - Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Joshua Siegel, and Candida Affa

[15-3348](#) December 4, 2019 City Council Contract Approval Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [December 4, 2019 City Council Contract Approval Meeting Minutes](#)

Yes: 7 - Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Joshua Siegel, and Candida Affa

[15-3385](#) December 4, 2019 City Council Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [December 4, 2019 City Council Meeting Minutes](#)

Yes: 7 - Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Joshua Siegel, and Candida Affa

[15-3388](#) December 17, 2019 City Council Contract Approval Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [December 17, 2019 City Council Contract Approval Meeting Minutes](#)

Yes: 7 - Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Joshua Siegel, and Candida Affa

Old Business

Communications

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that City Council held an Executive Session this evening at approximately 5:30 PM to review the litigation files with the Solicitor's office.

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

The committee has not met since the last council meeting; the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 22nd at 6:30 pm (agenda items include Bill 2, the pass through grant for Promise Neighborhood, financial and capital reports, Novak recommendations relating to finance, and, if time permits, perhaps the transfer and contract process).

CEDC: Chair Guridy, Gerlach, Affa

The committee has not met since the last council meeting; there is nothing scheduled at this time.

The Chair is in the process of setting up a meeting to make some adjustments to the Council of Youth legislation recently passed.

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

The committee has not met since the last council meeting; the next meeting is scheduled for January 22nd at 5:30 (agenda includes discussion of a draft bill establishing a commission on the homeless).

Parks and Recreation: Chair Mota, Gerlach, Siegel

The committee has not met since the last council meeting; there is nothing scheduled at this time.

Public Safety: Chair Affa, Hendricks, Zucal

The committee has not met since the last council meeting; next meeting is scheduled for February 19, time to be determined.

Public Works: Chair Zucal, Affa, Siegel

The committee has not met since the last Council meeting, the next meeting will be on February 5th prior to the council meeting.

Rules, Chambers, Intergovernmental Relations and Strategy: Chair Hendricks, Guridy, Gerlach

The committee has not met since the last council meeting; there is nothing scheduled at this time.

City Controller

Mr. Jeff Glazier stated that for all concerned he tries to give Reports. There are generally three audits the Controller's office do every month: Bank Reconciliation, Accounts Payable Audit, and separate P-Card Review. He reported on two Reports:

Weekly Check Review 11/30 to 12/27 and the second audit Report is looking at the Government Parking Deck.

Mr. Julio Guridy encouraged Mr. Glazier to look at previous years. He stated that the city should get back money for whatever we overpaid. You only did January to September, but how about the previous years.

Mr. Jeff Glazier stated that it is an excellent request. There are other projects that they are working on that are time consuming: The Dependent Audit, Medical Care, the Dependent Audit that Council requested is proving to be exceptionally a time consuming audit. Jacqui created a very good tool for the administration to use going backward if they wish. This was auditing in the past, in 2011.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked the administration to look at it.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that you are making the assumption that we were over-billed in the past years, what if we were under-billed. He stated that they agree with the recommendations.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that there is money left out there. He suggested that they do at least one or two years and see what happens.

Mayor Ray O'Connell asked what if we are under-billed.

Mr. Jeff Glazier stated that Mr. Hanlon distributes this to you in advance of the public report. He encouraged them to read them and if they have any questions, get a hold of him. He stated to the public, they are posted on the Controller's website. He is going to work with Mr. Leibert to make the interface a little bit more easier and public friendly.

Administration

NONE

APPOINTMENTS:

Board of Recreation Appointments from the School Board - Nancy Wilt and Phoebe Harris

[15-3381](#) Appointment Recreation Board - Nancy Wilt, 1/21/2021

Yes: 7 - Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Joshua Siegel, and Candida Affa

Enactment No: 29919

[15-3382](#) Appointment Recreation Board - Phoebe Harris, 1/21/2021

Yes: 7 - Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Joshua Siegel, and Candida Affa

Enactment No: 29920

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE (To be Voted On):

RESOLUTIONS FOR FINAL PASSAGE (To be Voted On):

[15-3380](#)

R3

Appointment of the Director of Planning - Irene Woodward

Attachments: [R3 - Director of Planning Appt.](#)

[Memo from Mayor Ray O'Connell regarding Nomination of Irene C. Woodward - Planning and Zoning Director](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any questions or concerns.

Mayor Ray O'Connell asked Mr. Kloiber why are they here tonight.

Mr. Matt Kloiber stated that the gist is the ongoing efforts to bring the city into compliance with applicable laws that we might not been in compliance with to better fulfill our obligations. There is a piece of state legislation called the Municipalities Planning Code which covers the Planning Commission and Planning. It allows you to have a Planning Commission and also allows you to have a Planning Director and allows you to have both. If you have a Planning Director, it should be an appointed position.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if this appointment is Home Rule Charter.

Mr. Matt Kloiber stated that it is not in the Home Rule Charter. The MPC is a piece of legislation that applies everywhere throughout the Commonwealth.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that it is the Bureau Manager's level. Because it is a Planning and Zoning Director going back to the Municipal Planning Code, Mr. Kloiber suggested that they move it forth for a formal approval.

Mr. Matt Kloiber stated that this could be open to some means of interpretation. They discussed it internally and felt very strongly and this is consistent with the idea of having the Mayor act with Council's approval of the two bodies working together.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that he doesn't have any objections to it, but they sometimes put themselves in too many laws. The same way we need to clarify the issue with the director of Public Works versus an Engineer.

Mr. Matt Kloiber stated that this sort of effort is trying to bring it into greater

compliance and be more consistent with the laws as stated, not necessary how they were carried out.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that Ms. Irene Woodward is here tonight and has been on the job since June. She has been doing an outstanding job. She was selected by various people in the department. The final selection was with Mr. Lightner. She has a great resume and has been a proven leader. He stated that she is an outstanding applicant, outstanding credentials, doing an outstanding job and urged Council to unanimously appointment her.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks opened it up to his colleagues with any questions, comments or concerns.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that he read the resume and thought it was a good resume. It says you are an expert in Community and Economic Development. He welcomed her into the position. As a new chair of Community and Economic Development he would like an opportunity to speak with her to discuss some other things he would like to do and conform with her thoughts.

Mr. Joshua Siegel welcomed Ms. Woodward and thanked her for the work she did so far. He stated that he is extraordinarily impressed with her experience and expertise. The city just finished the Allentown Vision 2030 and there are a number of significant economic development initiatives and the big one is a re-writing of our formal zoning. The intention is to switch to a more form-based Code. He asked Ms. Woodward where does she see herself in that process. He stated that the Vision 2030 also called for an establishment of a Community Land Trust or Land Bank and asked about the implementation.

Ms. Irene Woodward stated that they are in the RFP process. They actually has received proposals that they are reviewing. She worked on developing the RFP to put out there. They can move into that process. She has experience in form-based. They are looking at it if it is hybrid and if they will be using the consultants. They will look at the city and see what is most appropriate in various areas so they can examine works working and what's not working in zoning and how best to serve the residents. Both were in as catalytic projects. They are taking a look at all recommendations, and outlining them and assign people to track the items.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that he read her resume and she seems to be very well qualified. He commended her to be willing to step forward in this position. He asked if there were any public comments or concerns.

Mr. Tom Hahn asked is this appointment going to help or hinder the people who were here tonight asking for help for the city on their new development in the southside of Allentown.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that Irene Woodward is working in the Community and Economic Development Department as the Planning and Zoning Director. She will continue to work their with Mr. Lightner and work with City Council, the administration and the residents to do the right thing for the citizens of Allentown.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any other comments from the public.

Yes: 7 - Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Joshua Siegel, and Candida Affa

Enactment No: 29921

[15-3379](#)

R4

Appointment of Assistant City Solicitor - Jorge M. Pereira

Attachments: [R4 - Assistant City Solicitor](#)

[Cover letter Allentown - Jorge M. Pereira](#)

[Jorge Pereira - Resume](#)

[Memo from Mayor Ray O'Connell regarding Nomination of Jorge M. Pereira - Assistant City Solicitor](#)

Mr. Matt Kloiber asked to be excused from the dais to sit next to the applicant.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that at this time Council sees his selection for the Assistant City Solicitor to replace Mr. Holbert. Jorge gives a long resume with him in civil litigation, personal injury, automobile negligence, labor, consumer advocacy, landlord/tenant, real estate, minor criminal and family law. He stated that the city's law department under the legal and under direction of Mr. Kloiber. Fran Fruhwirth interviewed many applicants and Jorge turned out to be the selection he is bringing forward to City Council tonight.

Mr. Matt Kloiber stated that the Solicitor's office interviewed people and Mr. Pereira had the depths of experience and covered a number of different areas of law. A few months back, the Solicitor's office reached out to departments for a needs assessment and it was a need for court matters. The goal is trying to bring more matters in-house. Mr. Pereira's resume really fits those criterias that we were looking for with experience in courts, business experience with financial matters. He stood out as a candidate that they really look forward to presenting to Council and is pleased and appreciative to the Mayor.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any questions from his colleagues.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that Mr. Kloiber mentioned court matters. Is he considered a litigator.

Mr. Matt Kloiber stated that in the Finance Department there are a number of different cases in the Finance Department brings and Mr. Pereira will be the attorney with Mr. Rosenthal. We have negligence cases against the city. These are ones and in the past went to outside Counsel. Mr. Pereira will be more of a case that the Solicitor's office will rely on him to bring. He is well qualified to handle the cases. He stated that the idea to have Right to Know position in last year's budget. We will take the litigation paralegal to match her with Mr. Pereira with Council's approval to allow her to do the litigation work.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that part of his duties on Council is to do his homework and investigate any applicant to make sure he makes sure that they are qualified for the position. He checked Mr. Pereira's work background. He stated that Mr. Pereira had a number of jobs. He found out that there were issues when he worked for the Law of Business PC. It was a civil suit that you were representing a debt collection service that involved a lady that did not pay her bills. The judgement was issued to the Plaintiff. She in turn filed a federal lawsuit. He asked about the lawsuit. He stated that you did not appeal that.

Mr. Jorge Pereira stated that there was a hearing before the Magistrate. The judgement was entered by default. Nothing was ever decided on its merits. The reason the judgement was entered by default because his client at the time elected not to send out any witnesses or have them travel out to Allegheny County. No decision was ever rendered on its merits.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that he read Mr. Pereira's resume and it looks like he has a lot of experience. He stated that his only comments is on defending UGI.

Mr. Jorge Pereira stated that he currently represents UGI on formal complaints that are made by their customers and he tries to resolve it. He stated that if Council approves his appointment, he will be representing the City of Allentown as an Assistant Solicitor.

Mr. Matt Kloiber stated to Mr. Guridy that this is for the full-time position. We also have a part-time position.

Mr. Joshua Siegel stated if they can speak to the matter Mr. Zucal is

addressing. He asked Mr. Kloiber if the court or the judge decided on the validity of the argument that she brought forward. He asked Mr. Pereira in his opinion does that reflect the fact that she did not continue to go forward with her case reflect the fact that she did not continue forward with her case. The validity or evidentiary standard that was necessary for the court to rule was probably not present and therefore, would not be successful.

Mr. Matt Kloiber stated that is a fair conclusion. With each of the applicants that they had, they looked pretty deeply into the backgrounds and try to find the dirt or try to find the bad things. With this, they were aware of the debt collection cases. This is an attorney representing clients. The concerns as Attorney Pereira had mentioned that the case was withdrawn. If there was merit to the case, it would be presumed that it would have continued.

Mr. Joshua Siegel asked Mr. Kloiber does he believe in his professional experience she was not going to meet the evidentiary standard and therefore there was no reason to continue to pursue the case. He asked three questions regarding the city consistently going out of their legal budget in the last several years and taxed the budget enormously and the city talked a great deal about utilizing Risk Management for a means to assess when it is not in the city's interest to continue a suit. He asked Mr. Pereira in his experience, his expertise would pragmatically and germane assess when it is not in the city's interest to continue to press an issue or it is important to back off and accept to pay.

Mr. Jorge Pereira stated that he has been exposed to a lot of cases and a lot of areas of law and has a lot of experience. He stated that he understands the cost of litigating a case and when it is best to settle a case. It is a balancing act.

Mr. Joshua Siegel stated that the city is getting more aggressive of means of pursuing current tax revenue. The synergy between the budget and the Finance Department and the law office is one that has been extraordinary productive and that the legal department is willing to work in tandem with the budget and finance department to continue to press the case and find ways that you can apply the law and find desperately needed new sources of recurring revenue. He asked Mr. Pereira does he see himself fitting well and work with Budget and Finance. He stated that he is interested in utilizing the law for public good and improve the quality of life for the residents of Allentown.

Mr. Jorge Pereira stated that he always has worked well with other attorneys and people. He stated that he works as a team. He stated that as part of his practice is to try to apply the law where he can. The laws are there for a purpose, but at the same time we are always adapting.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any questions, concerns or comments from the public.

Ms. Helen Hahn stated that about a year ago there was a Solicitor and then through a Councilperson he was dismissed. He passed away. Council voted for him not to represent. She asked if they should table it, wait and get more information.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that he doesn't see the parallels.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that there are no parallels. Mr. Traub was appointed as the City Solicitor and then when the whole Allentown Diocese broke, members of Council kind of rethought the whole situation and voted to dismiss him. Lawyers are lawyers. They have a job to do. It is their job to defend. Jorge is a good man. He is a good lawyer. He was only doing his job. He will be an asset to the Solicitor's office and the city.

Mr. Matt Kloiber stated that as attorneys we have a job to advocate for our clients. It is also important that we do things in the appropriate bounds. In talking with different candidates and talking with Mr. Pereira he was satisfied, Fran was satisfied and the department is satisfied. This is an attorney that will zealously represent the clients, but do it within the appropriate realms of what is ethical and proper.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked Mr. Pereira if he fluently speaks Portuguese. Do you also understand some Spanish.

Mr. Jorge Pereira stated some Spanish. Portuguese is a little bit different from Spanish.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any other comments from the public.

Yes: 6 - Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Joshua Siegel, and Candida Affa

No: 1 - Ed Zucal

Enactment No: 29922

[15-3371](#)

R5

A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Allentown Authorizing the Preparation and Submission of Declarations of Taking and Related Documentation pursuant to the Eminent Domain Code of 1964, as amended, to Acquire Certain Property at 1709 Oxford Drive, Allentown, PA 18103, identified by the Lehigh County Assessment Office as Parcel Number 549555288036

Attachments: [R5 Alton Park ED](#)
[Map AP](#)
[Alton Park Document](#)

Mr. Ryan Griffiths stated that there is a small parcel property adjacent to Percy Ruhe Park that is not technically a part of the Allentown property. It was owned by the Alton Park Homeowners Association and deeded to the Alton Park Youth and since about 2015 they have been defunct and not operating. The property just sits there vacant. The property consists of a small parking lot, grass area, right-away access to PPL Utility and a small building for storage and concession stands. It will be a benefit to have this property and complete the Parks Parcel.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any questions or comments.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked how Allentown gets to acquire the property. Did they just abandon it?

Mr. Ryan Griffiths stated that they were collaborating with the legal department to figure out the process to do this. There are some costs associated with this.

Mr. Matt Kloiber stated looking at the situation and the process the Eminent Domain process seems likely the best way to handle the situation since it is defunct. If Council were to approve it, they will take the necessary steps to make that happen.

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if the city will have to pay for it. She asked if it will be done in-house.

Mr. Ryan Griffiths stated that there are costs associated with Eminent Domain. They can use the concession stand for revenue generated purposes for activities at that park. They identified about \$15,000. It will be an asset for the Parks Department.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that he lived in that area for 30 years, 10 years ago. He and his children have spend many hours there. This will be a big plus for the city. It is unfortunate, but this is one in a number of others across the city that has been abandoned. He asked if there were any other comments from Council or the public.

Mr. Tom Hahn stated that he would be remiss if that one of the failings of the city is the civic organizations that provided sports and activities for the youth over a number of years. He stated that he understands the property. Maybe it will be an issue of the builder. You are not helping the other

playgrounds. There is an underground issue that has to be part of.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that the big issue is volunteers. Too many people no longer volunteer or get involved with their children.

Mr. Jerome Sefcik stated that years ago they had a big church league basketball tournament and the city sponsored it. They used every single gym in Allentown. The reason all this disappeared is because of price, not because of parents or volunteers.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that he would like Ryan to make a comment about the youth organization.

Mr. Ryan Griffiths stated that two members of the Parks and Recreation staff are in National Alliance for Youth Sports - Certified Youth Sports Administrators. That is renewed every two years. That accreditation allows us to have legitimacy in the community in what we do as far as all our programming and interactions. National Alliance for Youth Sports is a governing body about proper use sports coaches, league administration and parent board organization rights.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any other questions.

Yes: 7 - Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Joshua Siegel, and Candida Affa

Enactment No: 29923

[15-3383](#)

R6

Authorizes the Disposition of 2019 Records pursuant to State Law

Attachments: [R6 Records](#)

[Records Retention List](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any questions from his colleagues or the public.

Yes: 7 - Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Joshua Siegel, and Candida Affa

Enactment No: 29924

[15-3387](#)

R7

Supports HB 432, amending the Worker's Compensation Act by providing compensation for Post-Traumatic Stress Injury for First Responders

Sponsors: Mr. Zucal, Affa, Mr. Siegel, Administration and Mota

Attachments: [R7 PTD](#)

[HB432 with amendment](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that this is simply a vote to support a Resolution. He asked if there were any questions, comments or concern.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that he sponsored this bill along with Ms. Affa, Mr. Siegel, Ms. Mota and the administration. This is in addition to the Worker's Compensation Act. If the employee is hurt at work, the employer is liable. For years, our first responders got no attention when it came to post traumatic stress disorder. There are days when you go home, you don't talk about it, but it lives within you long after you retire. He stated that he is proud to sponsor this bill.

Mr. Jeremy Warmkessel stated that it is a simple, and easy to understand bill. First Responders don't meet what the state law deems an abnormal working condition. It has overwhelming bipartisan support. It is not an easy diagnosis. You will need a designation from doctors. They will be taking this Resolution to other municipalities and countywide.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if this type of program is covered by the employee assistance program.

Mr. Jeremy Warmkessel stated to some extent. The problem is that you can be out of a job. There is a stigma to mental health everywhere, but specifically he knows that he will lose his job by reporting it and for seeking treatment.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that he is trying to figure out what the cost is to this. The issue is that he would not like to see abuse to it.

Mr. Jeremy Warmkessel stated that they don't know. In 2013, it was enacted in Minnesota and enacting in the last three or four years. In Minnesota, they had three confirmed. He stated that he doesn't see it would lead to any abuse. It is strictly with a designation of PTSD that you would continue to be treated under Worker's Compensation.

Mr. Joshua Siegel thanked Adam and Jeremy for coming out tonight. He stated that he is proud to sponsor this legislation with his colleagues. He stated that it is patently absurd that they will consider the work of EMT, Firefighters and Police not be adverse as if somebody else in their daily lives would encounter conditions or situations they find themselves in. While we do have a broad discussion on the affects of combat on our military veterans and there is no doubt that that community suffers broadly with 22 suicides a day. We do have an un-diagnosed problem in our Emergency Responders and First Responders Community. The rate of depression is 30 percent for our Emergency Responders and 20 percent for our general population. The reason he is sponsoring this legislation and

this Resolution is that it is the least we can do to uphold and maintain a commitment to our First Responders, our firefighters and our police.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that she understands what Mr. Guridy is saying. At the same time, we have a problem with the mental health system. Not enough Psychiatrists. People have a heavy duty stigma when it comes to acknowledging that they have a mental health diagnosis. The mental health system is broken and they need to do better. She stated that she will support this Resolution.

Ms. Ce-Ce Gerlach stated that she works in the mental health field and everyday she hears people come in to PTSD. She stated that if we have city employees, EMS workers, firefighters, she would think that we would want them to get treatment and get back out there as soon as that can and be made whole and be healed.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that he has to admit that he had some misconception initially. He would far rather have an employee remain employed in city rather than take a retirement and lose that employee forever for that experience.

Ms. Candida Affa echoed all her colleagues. Thank God we live in an era that we understand PTSD. Not to help and pass this law would be ridiculous.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if Mr. Zucal would allow him to put his name as a co-sponsor of it.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any comments, questions or concerns from the public.

Yes: 7 - Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Joshua Siegel, and Candida Affa

Enactment No: 29925

[15-3389](#)

R8

Certificate of Appropriateness for work in the Historic District at 326 N 9th St.

Attachments: [R8 - January 2020 HARB Case](#)
[326 N 9th St final review](#)

Mr. David Kimmerly stated that this is an amendment of a Certificate of Appropriateness that was first issued in 2009. The work was never done. The Redevelopment Authority would like to make some changes to this Certificate of Appropriateness. They want to change the windows, wood aluminium clad windows, asphalt shingles. They would like not quite match

what was there on some porch railing. HARB reviewed that, all meet the standards and guidelines and they are recommending approval.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Mr. Kimmerly and asked any questions, comments, concerns from his colleagues or the public.

Yes: 7 - Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Joshua Siegel, and Candida Affa

Enactment No: 29926

[15-3390](#)

R9

Amending Resolution #29888 which Authorized Submission of an Application to the Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development for a Grant of Two Hundred Forty-Nine Thousand Five Hundred-Fifty Dollars (\$249,550) to support Casa Guadalupe Center in conducting exterior renovations to the Center - this simply increases the grant submission value by \$10,850

Attachments: [R9 CASA Local Share Grant Amendment](#)
[Resolution #29888](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any questions, comments, and concerns from his colleagues.

Mr. Julio Guridy recused himself since he is on the board of Casa Guadalupe.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any questions, comments or concerns from the public.

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

Recused: 1 - Julio Guridy

Enactment No: 29927

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

[15-3375](#)

Bill 1 Public Works, this evening

Providing for the vacation of a portion of Ruhr Street from the centerline of Spring Street to the centerline of vacated Hickory Street in the Eighteenth Ward of the City of Allentown.

Attachments: [Bill 1 Ruhr Street - Vacation](#)[Ruhr Street Staff Report](#)[Letter from Mike Hanlon regarding S. Ruhr Street from Hickory Street to Spring Street - Street Vacation](#)[Letter from Irene Woodward from the Planning Department regarding Vacation of Ruhr Street from Hickory Street to Spring Street](#)[Letter from Michael Donchez from the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission regarding South Ruhr Street from Hickory to Spring Street - Street Vacation](#)[S. Ruhr Street from Hickory Street to Spring Street - Street Vacation Map](#)[S. Ruhr Street from Hickory Street to Spring Street - Street Vacation Documents](#)[Ruhr Street Vacation Labels](#)[Ordinance #15590](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any questions, concerns or comments from his colleagues or the public.

REFERRED TO PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Enactment No: 15590

[15-3372](#)

Bill 2 Budget and Finance, forwarded favorably Amending the 2020 Grant Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of One Hundred Forty-Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Thirty-Six (\$149,836.00) Dollars from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) Gun Violence Reduction Initiative Grant to the City of Allentown as a pass-through grant to Promise Neighborhoods of the Lehigh Valley toward the implementation of Allentown Zero Youth Violence Program.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 2 Zero Youth Violence Grant](#)[Ordinance #15591](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any questions, concerns or comments from his colleagues or the public.

Ms. Ce-Ce Gerlach asked about pass through grants in general. Does the city staff spend time, resources, or money on allowing these grants to pass through. She asked if the city charges the organizations to do this administrative work. She asked if the state holds the organization accountable to make sure they are meeting those metrics.

Mr. Mike Hanlon stated that we would need Bettina here to answer the questions.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that the city does this all the time. It is pass through application and the city has to support the grant to be awarded. Once we get the money, we just disburse it.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that we have a grant writer Bettina McClure. We write the grant and talk to the departments that are involved. We submit the grant and it either gets approved or disapproved. If it is approved, it gets pass through to the organization that we wrote the grant for in conjunction of our department. This would have been in conjunction of Budget and Finance.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that the city write the grants.

Mr. Leonard Lightner stated that it is not a minimum amount of time. It depends on the amount of the grant. It depends on the organization and the amount of the grant. It depends on the duration of the grant. It is after the grant is received is when the work begins. They submit the paperwork to the city in order to draw down the grant. In order to pay them, it is entered into Eden and reviewed by the Controller. If the paperwork is not correct, it comes back to us to go back to them. The state, federal or wherever the grant comes from, we are the ones responsible to make sure that everything is met according to that grant. Even though we are the pass through, they understand what the rules and regulations are, but we have to make sure that we monitor it once it comes in to us. In essence, if the state or federal come back, they are going to be coming to us in order to correct it and we have to go to the organization to get the correct documentation to correct.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any other questions or comments from Council or the public.

REFERRED TO BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Enactment No: 15591

[15-3378](#)

Bill 3 Public Works, this evening
Providing for the vacation of a portion of Lawn Street SW from the centerline of Alton Avenue to the centerline of unopened Ruby Street in the Twelfth Ward of the City of Allentown:

Attachments: [Bill 3 Lawn Street SW](#)
[Allentown Planning Commission Approval - Lawn Street SW](#)
[Report - Lawn Street SW](#)
[Letter from David Kimmerly regarding Vacation of Lawn Street SW from Alton to Ruby - Allentown City Planning Commission Approval Street Vacation](#)
[Letter from Douglas Stewart regarding Vacation of Lawn Street SW from Alton Avenue to Ruby Street](#)
[Lawn Street from Alton Avenue to Ruby Street - Labels](#)

[Letter from the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission regarding Lawn Street SW from Alton Avenue to Ruby Street](#)
[Lawn Street from Alton Avenue to Ruby Street](#)

[Letter from Mike Hanlon regarding Lawn Street from Alton Avenue to Ruby Street](#)
[Ordinance #15592](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any comments, questions or concerns from Council or the public.

REFERRED TO PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Enactment No: 15592

15-3384

Bill 4

Amending the Zoning Map of the City of Allentown by rezoning parcels: 549645774014 (303-319 St. Elmo Street) and 549646507548 (1940 Fairview Street) from P Parks to R-MP Medium Density Residential – Planned District

Attachments: [Bill 4 St. Elmo Street - Rezoning](#)
[St. Elmo Street Map](#)
[Letter from Irene Woodward from the Planning Department regarding Amending Zoning Code for 1940 W. Fairview Street and 303 S. Saint Elmo Street from P to RM](#)
[Letter from Irene Woodward from the Planning Department regarding Rezoning 1940 W. Fairview Street and 303 S. Saint Elmo Street from P to R-M](#)
[Letter from Mike Hanlon regarding Rezoning Request Petition for Parcel 549646507548 and Parcel 549645774014 from P \(Parks District\) to RM \(Medium Density Residential District\)](#)
[St. Elmo Rezoning Labels](#)

[Letter from Mike Hanlon regarding Rezoning St. Elmo Street and Fairview Street from Parks to Medium Density Residential](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any comments, questions or concerns from Council.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that he knows that it is going to the CEDC which is Mr. Gurdy. He asked if they can do a little research on the stormwater run-off because the cement that will be there versus the ground. You have the

school there, what kind of traffic problem it is going to cause.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated sure. Good suggestion.

Mr. Daryl Hendrick asked if there were any other suggestions or concerns from Council or the public.

Mr. Bill Kraus, 1742 W. Union Street, stated that Mr. Zucal mentioned water, schools, traffic and they want an entrance out to Martin Luther King Drive to St. Elmo. You figure 280 houses, 300 + plus between the times the schools are out and the schools are in. What about the water run-off? It used to be absorb into the ground, now it will be into the creeks.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that keep in mind it will go to a committee and you will have a chance to raise concerns.

Ms. Geraldine Troutman, 407 S. 18th Street, stated that she is a 21 year resident. She stated that she is to the east with a half of double home. The neighborhood to the west is single detached single standing homes. The neighborhood from the north and south is Park. She stated that she has been involved since the ongoing discussion on the property. It was a park and a quarry. She stated that she is not sure the environmental impact. The quarry is filled in and now it is becoming usable land. Park is the appropriate zoning for landfills. The exiting and entering of the property is going to be on the west side and be the most impacted. She stated that she would like to see it remain as a park and more comprehensible.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that it came up to Council before.

Mr. Mike Hanlon stated that this is a Petition from Mr. Atiyeh and Mr. Rohrbach to do this.

Ms. Michelle Burickio (sp), 110 St. Elmo Street, stated that she is here to attest to the frequency of flooding in the area. Not only in the parks, but the flooding that requires city personnel to close the streets of Walnut, Union and St. Elmo. She asked that they consider the bridges in the area.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any other comments.

Ms. Ce-Ce Gerlach asked if residents were here tonight, can they get an email invite.

Mr. Mike Hanlon stated typically the Clerk's office would get a mailing list from Planning and they are sent a mailer.

REFERRED TO PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

[15-3370](#)

Bill 5 Public Safety, this evening
Amending the 2020 General Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Fifty-Two Thousand Four Hundred Eighty-Two (\$52,482.00) Dollars from the United States Department of Justice Byrne JAG Grant to the City of Allentown as a pass-through grant to the County of Lehigh toward the Lehigh County Regional Intelligence and Investigation Center (RIIC).

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [RIIC JAG Grant](#)
[Ordinance #15593](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any questions, concerns or comments from his colleagues or the public.

REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Enactment No: 15593

**RESOLUTIONS FOR INTRODUCTION (Can be voted on or Referred to Committee):
NONE**

NEW BUSINESS: NONE

GOOD AND WELFARE

Mr. Julio Guridy welcomed the new Councilmembers and asked if they are enjoying it so far.

ADJOURNED: 9:27 PM