



Allentown

435 Hamilton Street
Allentown, Pa. 18101

Minutes - Final

City Council

Wednesday, October 7, 2020

7:00 PM

Council Chambers

Public Comment provisions during Covid: The meeting will be live streamed. The link to the meeting can be found on the city website with the agenda and legislation at <https://www.allentownpa.gov>. Council will receive comments on the legislation prior to the meeting and will consider all comments from city residents. All comments must include your name and address, including your city, and be emailed to Michael.Hanlon@AllentownPa.gov by 2 PM on the date of the meeting. Comments can also be registered using the ecomment provision on each agenda item found on the city website. Comments received from city residents by that deadline will be forwarded to the Mayor and Council members prior to the meeting and will also be noted at Courtesy of the Floor or Public Comment periods of the meeting. These timely received comments will also be posted on the City's webpage as a supporting document to the meeting. Any comments received on the meeting day, after the 2:00 pm deadline, will be forwarded to the Mayor and Council as soon as practicable. In addition, if you would like to speak during the meeting, please send your name, address, including municipality, and telephone number to the email address above indicating what issue you would like to speak on or call the office at 610.437.7555 and do the same, and you will be called during the meeting.

Invocation

Pledge to the Flag

Roll Call

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

Courtesy of the Floor

Courtesy and Privilege of the Floor Rules

Approval of Minutes:

[15-3797](#) August 5, 2020 City Council Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [August 5, 2020 City Council Meeting Minutes](#)

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

Old Business

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that as the mayor is aware, Council received an email this week with regard to abiding by the Charter section that has to do with properly filling departmental head spots. There have been some questions and a couple individuals that are going to be approaching the one year mark this month. There have been questions from some of the union members that have contacted and other members of the public or city workforce. He stated that it has come to his attention that there are current department heads that are using relatives addresses in order to satisfy that requirement. At least it has been his understanding, it is where do you get your mail, is your address. With that said, he asked the Mayor to please follow the Charter with Mr. Messinger and Fire Chief Wehr.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated yes, he will.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any other Old Business.

Ms. CeCe Gerlach asked about a timeline with the city, school district and county for an official intergovernmental meeting. They talked about meeting with the county in regards to social services and talked about meeting with the school district in terms of a number of issues from the new school and what will happen with McKinley.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that they talked about it, but did not set anything up yet. He has been in touch with the administration. He wants to certainly talk to them about social services and Council's concerns with that.

Ms. CeCe Gerlach asked if that can be a priority. As they enter the budget season as the county enters into their budget season and as they explore alternative ways of approaching crucial issues. This will seem the utmost importance.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that he agrees.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that with the county there are some issues they want to talk about with social services that they can help us with. The second he would like to hear from any Councilmember. He stated that he has some issues with the school district, but wants to hear what are the important issues or priority issues that they would talk with the school district. The city does have some issues that they would like to talk to them about such as: crossing guards and SRO's.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated for Council to send emails to him and get some thoughts.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that he will get something out to the directors and department heads to see if they have any concerns. He stated that they did talk about meeting with Mr. Armstrong and Frank Kane at the county. The most immediate thing is how can they help us with something in the budget that will be helping our police department with social services. You will hear when we do the Police budget, but want the county the county to step up too.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that Council has the same thoughts on that.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated he agrees and to set a priority to meet with them in the next week or so because the city has been talking about this for a while and haven't really done it. Because of the budget season they should know exactly what they are going to get, what is going on and how we are going to distribute it. In regards to the county, he definitely knows the social services housing issues.

Communications

[15-3796](#)

Pursuant to Act 205 Council received the MMOs for the City's Pension plans which were made part of this agenda for public notification.

Attachments: [MMOs](#)

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that he doesn't see anything on the Agenda about the Controller's Report or the Administration's Report.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that the Controller's actions are on there. He has seven reports on there.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that he only needs a minute. He stated that hopefully Council read the paper on Allentown receiving two state awards. There are eight state awards given out by the state of Pennsylvania. The city of Allentown received two. The city's Vision 230 - the Comprehensive Plan was to best amplify the innovative plan and sound land use practices for CED. He thanked Mr. Hendricks for the success of this program over the year. The city's healthy kids, healthy Allentown anti-hunger effort best exemplify the theme of health and wellness initiatives. Working together, partnering organizations throughout the City of Allentown provided meals for approximately 100 locations during the summer of 2019, serving 69,300 meals per youth. A 23 percent increase from summer 2008. They were all invited to go out on April 8 to the Governor's Mansion to receive these awards and COVID 19 hit. It does not lessen the impact of what CED has done and the Health Bureau. When you get two out of eight, you are getting 25 percent of the awards in the state of Pennsylvania and he congratulated everyone involved in earning those two awards.

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if they were allowed to clap.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that it was very gratifying to be a part of that. It is continuing and needed more so now especially with the children at home. They just recently started Firehouse Fridays again at the Hibernia Fire Station. That is important to note and the children can come by to get enough food for the weekend.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that Mr. Hendricks was right and was very actively involved in that. Kudos to the school district even though the kids aren't in school. They are getting meals. He stated that Mr. Zucal is directly involved. They are getting three times a day they can pick up a meal.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated yes, three times a day from 7:30 - 9:00 AM, from 10:30 - 1:30 PM, and 3:15 - 6:15 PM.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that being involved in the school system and city government for many years, he gets his backbone up when the city gets a bad rap and the school district gets a bad rap. To his dying breath he will support the City of Allentown and the Allentown School District under really, really tough conditions.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:**Public Hearing, October 21**

Council will hold a Public Hearing on Bill 32, a petition to rezone various tracts of land in and around the Front Street - 51-97, 113, 115 and 210-221 North Front Street from B5 - Urban Commercial to B/LI Business Light Industrial on October 21 at 6:30 PM. The proposal will be on the agenda of the council meeting that follows.

Budget and Finance: Chair Siegel, Guridy, Mota

The committee met on September 23 and forwarded items on tonight's agenda; the next meeting is scheduled for October 28th.

CEDC: Chair Guridy, Gerlach, Affa

The committee met on September 23 and forwarded items on tonight's agenda; the next meeting has been scheduled for October 14 at 6:15 PM to review legislation being introduced this evening and a Bill of Rights for people that do not have a home.

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

The committee has not met since the last council meeting' the next meeting has not yet been scheduled.

Parks and Recreation: Chair Mota, Gerlach, Siegel

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

Public Safety: Chair Affa, Hendricks, Zucal

The committee has not met since the last council meeting, the meeting originally scheduled for this evening is being rescheduled for the first meeting in November.

Public Works: Chair Zucal, Affa, Siegel

The committee has not met since the last council meeting; the next meeting will be scheduled prior the council meeting on October 21st.

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

The committee met last week; the next meeting is scheduled for October 14th at 5:30 PM to review legislation that will be introduced this evening.

Mr. Jeffrey Glazier stated that there are a number of Reports in Granicus. He asked Council to open them up and read them. They are working on the August Bank Reconciliation now. Finance and Treasury are making good progress and will get them quickly as they can. Over the last two or three weeks, the Controller's office has been going to various departments and counting their cash drawers. The good

news is everyone pretty much has the money they suppose to have. They might be off by one or two cents. The take away from this is with the advent of the P-Cards that the city has, they don't have a requirement to have the department have some much cash on hand. That has been a recommendation that the cash can be eliminated or reduced. If you eliminate cash, you eliminate risk. He went over the Payables Report for Accounts Payable for 8/29 - 10/02. The date of the Report is the 5th of October. During this time period, they looked at 336 checks for about \$3.7 million. They did one manual check for \$100. They reviewed 11 wires for about \$1.5 million. They had two invoices with an incorrect expense account was used. The department was advised and the journal entries were completed to get the money to come out of the proper account. They had one purchase that was made using a spouse's credit card. It happened in the midst of COVID when people were largely working from home. The department was advised on the issue and they will begin reviewing the correct purchasing practices with employees of the department. They had six invoices that were not attached in Eden. The department was advised and the invoices were attached and his office was able to complete its review. There were a number of invoices with untimely payments. The department advised the Controller's office for the reason for that. Some of which may have been that the vendor did not send an invoice in a timely manner or the vendor invoice at the time of the order, but not when the goods were received and all the checks were released.

[15-3813](#) Controller Action

Attachments: [Accounts Payable 8-29 to 10-2](#)
[Bank Rec 6-30](#)
[PCard Review - July](#)
[Petty Cash - Fire](#)
[Petty Cash - Health](#)
[Petty Cash - Public Works](#)
[Petty Cash - Rec Solid Waste](#)

[15-3815](#) Draft - Homeless Bill of Rights

Attachments: [Draft - HBR V1](#)
[Homeless Bill of Rights \(1\)](#)
[Homeless Info](#)
[CDG19 BRIEF Amazon HHS V](#)
[Loitering, Panhandling](#)

APPOINTMENTS:

[15-3787](#) Linda Vega, Human Relations Commission, 12/31/2020

Attachments: [Linda Vega - Human Relations Commission Resolution #30054](#)

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that he knows that Council will vote on each one of them separately, but he would like to make a comment about both of them. He stated that Linda Vega presently serves on the Allentown School Board. He has known Linda for a year and a half or two years. She is very involved in the community and will be a great addition to the Allentown Human Relations Commission.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that she also knows Linda Vega. She is really active in the community. She is on the school board and she has an after school program at Casa Guadalupe. She is well known and active with the youth in our community.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated same issue in regards to Linda Vega. He fully support her. He asked why is it less than three months.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that Linda Vega is a school district representative to the Human Relations Commission. They reorganize every December. That is probably why it is October, November, and December. Maybe they will pick someone else to be their representative to the HRC.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that she thinks that Mayor O'Connell is right. Prior to Linda, it was Phoebe Harris from the Allentown School District.

Ms. CeCe Gerlach stated so essentially there was a different board representative to the commission for whatever reason is no longer the board representative and Linda will take her place.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that he thought Ms. Phoebe was still on the Human Relations Board.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that the school district gets one rep on the HRC. It was Ms. Harris. Before that, it was Cheryl Johnson Watts and now, it is obviously Linda Vega.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated let's find out to be sure.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that it says in the correspondence that she was appointed by the School Board on December 19, 2019.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that it makes sense.

Ms. CeCe Gerlach stated that she was appointed by the school board, but

we did not quite confirm her.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that is what he is guessing.

Mr. Leonard Lightner stated that it was Cheryl Johnson Watts and Ms. Watts stepped down and Linda Vega replaced Cheryl. He stated that they submitted this through and she will fulfill the rest of the term. In December, if they reappoint her to be the representative then they will go from there.

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

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

[15-3786](#)

William A. Seng, Human Relations Commission, 01/01/2023

Attachments: [William A. Seng - Human Relations Commission](#)
[Resolution #30055](#)

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that he knows the whole family for over 40 years. He works for the school district and is in charge of Alternative Education. He is a really good guy that is involved in the community. He is an Allen graduate, stayed here and works in Allentown School District.

Ms. CeCe Gerlach stated that he got a promotion.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that he knows Willy Seng. He is a very reputable. He would agree with Mayor O'Connell. He stated that he knows Mr. Seng. He went to school with his son and has contributed greatly to the Allentown School District. He went from student to Administrator. He asked if there were any other comments.

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

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE (To be Voted On):

[15-3751](#)

Bill 60 Budget and Finance, Forwarded Favorably
Correcting Ordinance 15607, Section One, by appropriating the correct total of Two Hundred Forty-Eight Thousand Five Hundred Sixty-Six Dollars and Forty-Six Cents (\$248,566.46) to the 2020 Stormwater Fund from the 2019 Purchase Order Rollovers of rather than Four Hundred Seventy Thousand Six Hundred Sixty-Two Dollars and Thirty-Six Cents (\$470,662.36) which was previously approved.

Attachments: [Bill 60 Corrects 15607](#)
[Ordinance #15607](#)
[Ordinance #15641](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if anyone from the administration wants to comment on this.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated no. It is corrected.

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

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that this was in Budget and Finance and they forward it favorably.

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

[15-3756](#)

Bill 62 Budget and Finance, Forwarded Favorably
Amending the 2020 General Fund budget to add the position of Finance Deputy Director Finance Deputy Director (18N) at annual salary of Ninety-Five Thousand (\$95,000) Dollars.as recommended in the City's Early Intervention Plan.

Attachments: [Bill 62 Creates Deputy Director in Finance Department](#)
[Ordinance #15642](#)

Mr. Joshua Siegel stated that it was moved forward favorably.

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

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated no.

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

[15-3770](#)

Bill 64
Amending the 2020 General Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of One Hundred Fifty Thousand One Hundred Forty-Nine (\$150,149) Dollars from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, Bureau of Public Health Preparedness and Response to the City of Allentown for COVID-19 related expenses.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 64 Health Covid Grant](#)
[Ordinance #15643](#)

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that it was forwarded favorably to full Council.

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

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

[15-3671](#) Bill 47 Rules, Chambers, IGR and Strategy, Forwarded Favorably Amending Article 125.01(d) of the Administrative Code by modifying a provision requiring the Solicitor's Office to sign off on all bills and resolutions in regard to form, substance and compliance with the charter, administrative code and other relevant statutes, prior to the legislation being placed on council agenda for introduction.

Attachments: [Bill 47 Solicitor Approval](#)
[Ordinance #15644](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that was something agreed upon by all that it should be done prior to them voting on. He asked if there were any questions, concerns or comments from his colleagues or the public.

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

RESOLUTIONS FOR FINAL PASSAGE (To be Voted On):

[15-3780](#) R112 CEDC, Recommended Favorably, HARB Secretary to work with applicant
Denial of a Certificate of Appropriateness – 1444 W. Linden Street

Attachments: [R112 Denial - 1444 W Linden St](#)
[Final Review 1444 W Linden Denied](#)
[Resolution #30056](#)

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that it was in his committee and they forwarded favorably to full Council with the a strong recommendation for the HARB Board and petitioner or owner to correct the mishap in the property.

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

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

[15-3784](#) R118 Public Hearing, this evening
A RESOLUTION OF CITY OF ALLENTOWN, COUNTY OF LEHIGH, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, APPROVING THE TRANSFER OF RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE NO. E4301 INTO CITY OF ALLENTOWN FROM WHITEHALL

Attachments: [R118 Liquor License Transfer Jay Ambe Food Mart, Inc.](#)
[Letter from Mike Hanlon regarding Liquor License Transfer Request - Jay Ambe Food Mart, Inc.](#)
[3026 Moravian Ave Labels](#)
[The Morning Call Ad 6773159](#)
[Liquor License Transfer Jay Ambe Food Mart, Inc. Posting I](#)
[Liquor License Transfer Jay Ambe Food Mart, Inc. Posting II](#)
[Liquor License Transfer Jay Ambe Food Mart, Inc. Posting III](#)
[Liquor License Transfer Jay Ambe Food Mart, Inc. Posting IV](#)
[Liquor License Transfer Jay Ambe Food Mart, Inc. Posting V](#)
[Liquor License Transfer Jay Ambe Food Mart, Inc. Posting VI](#)
[LCB Municipality Hearing Exhibits](#)
[Resolution #30057](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Mr. Hanlon and stated that it was part of a special meeting before this meeting. It was agreed upon. He asked the Solicitor if Council could make certain that the application that does go forth to the LCE does contain the stipulation whereby he agrees that it will only be beer sales from this location.

Ms. Frances Fruhwirth stated that if you amend that Resolution to require that stipulation, you can vote on it in that regard.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that he will make such a motion at this time.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that when he talked about it and asked for the stipulation of the wine, he was not concerned about selling wine, but the liquor yes. The stipulation will be on the liquor itself and not necessary on the wine. Most buy wine and take it out. He does not think there will be any problems with that. He stated that he wants to make it easy and do the stipulation on the alcohol. Not serving or consuming alcohol there.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that he is sure that could be considered. That is exactly what the wording is that they will be forwarding to the LCE.

Mr. Michael Hanlon asked if Council wants the stipulation that he should sell beer and the license should sell beer only.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated not to be consumed on the premises.

Ms. Candida Affa stated no sell of liquor.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated no sell of liquor because he doesn't think it is a major issue. It is not in the middle of a residential area either.

Mayor Ray O'Connell asked Ms. Fruhwirth and what Council is doing is correct, but if they should change their mind down the road, do they come back to Council or LCE.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated LCE.

Ms. Frances Fruhwirth stated that they don't have to come back to the city. They don't have to come back to Council. It is part of the package. The Resolution that Council is considering now is part of the application process to transfer to the LCB. Whatever conditions you want to put on and in the testimony, the applicant agreed to the stipulation of beer sales only. That will be part of your amendment. You will not see this before you anymore. This is going to be part of the package, filed with the LCB.

Ms. Candida Affa stated to Ms. Fruhwirth you are saying that this stipulation is then in control of the Liquor Control Board, not Council. We are making an amendment here for a stipulation. In other words, they never have to come back to us for this and we are making this stipulation. This is the reason we are voting on this. She stated that she may be voting yes on this because of the stipulation, but we have no control over the stipulation.

Ms. Frances Fruhwirth stated that they reason why they come before City Council or the governing body of any municipality or the receiving municipality is to see if it would be a detriment of the peace and well being of the community. They have to have an approval of a Resolution to attach to their package with the LCB or they don't anywhere with the LCB. The foot in the door kind of thing that they have this approval of Resolution by the governing body of the receiving municipality. That is the only involvement that the Liquor Code gives the local governing body. You have to have at least one public hearing. Now, if you are considering approving the stipulation and with the stipulation that the applicant agreed to then she stated that she would amend the Resolution and that amended Resolution in writing will be given to the LCB and they can read it for themselves that this was a conditional approval of beer sales only. It is not that the City Council doesn't have any control or any input after this. Council does when it passes its Resolution and whatever content it has because the LCB will be reviewing that.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that is what he thought they did. That is exactly what the wording is that they will be forwarding to the LCB.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that the language that they will be adding that let it be further resolved upon its approval the stipulation that sales be limited to beer and wine only.

A motion was made by Daryl Hendricks, seconded by Candida Affa, that this Resolution be amended to reflect that the owner agrees that the establishment

will only sell beer at this location.

Be It Further Resolved, upon its approval, the stipulation that sales be limited to beer and wine only.

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

Resolution be approved as amended.

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

15-3775

R120

Approval of Transfers: \$251,500 in Recycling & Solid Waste as a result of an increase in residential trash and recycling collections; \$136,496.28 and \$36,451.60 in Public Works, Traffic Planning for consolidation of the LED program; \$94,000 in Streets to Complete 2020 Storm Water Lining Program; \$80,000 in Recreation to purchase the land the basketball courts at Bucky Boyle; \$31,800 in CED for Project Management Certification Training; \$7,445.22 in CED to replace the bows and \$5,000 in City Council for legal ads for the remainder of the year.

Attachments: [R120 Approval of a Transfers - To Complete 2020 Stormwater Lining Program and Pay for Repairs to the Traffic Signals at Intersection of Lehigh and Glenwood](#)
[To Completed 2020 Stormwater Lining Program - Funds Originally Budgeted Were Used To Complete Emergency Repairs at the Canal To Pay For Repairs To The Traffic Signal At The Intersection of Lehigh and Glenwood Due to a Vehicle Accident from a Third Party](#)
[Funds Are Necessary To Purchase The Land The Basketball Courts at Bucky Boyle](#)
[The City is Planning To Combine Citywide LED Conversion Project Phases 2-3-4 Together](#)
[The City is Planning To Combine Citywide LED Conversion Project Phases 2-3-4 Together - Approximately 4300 LED fixtures](#)
[The Lights and Bows for the Holiday Wreaths To Be Displayed on Hamilton Street Are Over 16 Years Old and Are in Need of Replacement](#)
[For Project Management Certification Training for Staff in Parks, Public Works and CED](#)
[Due to the COVID 19 stay at home order the city and Waste Managment Significant Increase in Residential Trash and Recycling Collections](#)
[Need additional funds for Legal Ads for the remainder of 2020](#)
[Resolution #30058](#)

Mr. Julio Guridy asked about the Bucky Boyle Court. He stated that he thought that the city owned the land. Who owns it?

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated ACIDA.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated ok. So we will just pay ACIDA.

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if someone can explain to her what they mean when they say replace all the bows.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that the bows on the wreaths used to decorate it along Hamilton Street for the Christmas Season.

Ms. Candida Affa stated she was going to ask that too.

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

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

[15-3807](#)

R121

Hiring of Police Officers

Attachments: [R121 Hiring Police Officers](#)
[Hiring - 11 Officers - 9-28-20](#)
[Resolution #30059](#)

Assistant Chief Bill Lake thanked the Human Resources Director, Meloney who is in the back of the room. If it wasn't for hard work and effort on the part of her and her team, the Police Department would not be in this position right now. A lot of work went in this on the front end on recruiting. They have a very diverse group they put together here. Many of these applicants on the Bill 66 list that was passed earlier this year which allowed the Police Department to hire people and get them on the streets more quickly. They will continue to look for gender, qualified minority candidates. Chief Granitz is not here. He had a little surgery, but is recovering well. Assistant Chief Lake did a great job and Captain Gress has done a great job.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated you are welcome and thanked his colleagues.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked Assistant Chief Lake where is the city in terms of officers. He stated that he thinks that are budgeted for 226. How many do we have right now?

Assistant Chief Bill Lake stated that they are budgeted for 222. He stated they have 214.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if it will bring them to the full amount.

Assistant Chief Bill Lake stated that this list will allow the Police Department to come to full complement of what they are budgeted for and

will help them plan for the a number of retirements that are pending. There are right now without counting people that can retire early or retire with military time. There are 30 officers that could retire with a pension with 20 years or more in December. That does not count officers that may want to leave early or with military time. The Police Department is trying to prepare for that and could be a very large retirement as well.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked is the Police Department still in recruiting mode or you waiting a certain amount of time.

Assistant Chief Bill Lake stated that they are always in recruiting mode, but they are hiring off of the Bill 66 list in particular because that includes candidates that already have police training and they recently created a competitive list as well. The Police Department has two list that they can hire from.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that he is hoping there are people from Allentown, Pennsylvania.

Assistant Chief Bill Lake stated there is and of the other applicants, there are many others during the Chief interviews that expressed a lot of interest in moving here. There heard a lot about Allentown and excited about moving here and to become part of our city.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that is wonderful to hear and thanked Assistant Chief Bill Lake.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that obviously as people retire, you have to replace. In November, when there are some retirements coming up. He stated that the city is ahead of the game with HR and the Police Department. When he was on Council, they always asked the same question, any minority. He stated yes. There are four women. One who speaks Spanish. One has Sign Language experience. The recruiting effort by HR and the Police Department is beginning to answer what they asked for years: gender and minority. He stated that they are answering Council's comments and listening to their concerns. This is a great class. Six of them, Bill 66 hits the streets immediately with no training and no academy.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated yes. That is great.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that he spoke to the Chief about this because he saw it was coming. He stated that Mayor O'Connell that the Chief basically ratified exactly what you are saying. He is really happy about that and would like to give kudos Chief Granitz and the esteemed Human

Resources Director.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that he knows that there are 30 officers as Assistant Chief Bill Lake spoke of. This is great and the first time in a long time that they will be up to full complement. He could say this factually, come the end of the year they will be losing that many officers and will be right back where they started. With the atmosphere in this country, and the negativity towards police. Many people said to him that they don't understand why people want to be a police officer anymore. Fortunately, many men and women in the ranks across the country feel that way and the first opportunity they get to retire, they are doing so. As much as it is a great thing, he knows the reality of what they are facing in the not so distant future. He commended them on the great job they are doing and you are going to have to keep doing it and do the same thing with the recruiting because they will be right back trying to fill these ranks again.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that in the past HR wasn't as involved. She asked if they could bring Meloney up here to explain. The public should know about it. HR is so greatly involved in the vetting and the hiring.

Ms. Meloney Sallie-Dosunmu stated that she speaks to other Human Resources at other municipalities and what she find is a very commonly Human Resources are not involved. They are involved with finding candidates, but then it ends. The Police Department here in Allentown invites HR in. They are partners. They want to know if she has concerns or does HR have concerns about candidates. They get the full packet of information that the Solicitor and the Mayor get. HR does the initial vetting with the physical test and the written test. They do that part of it and in most municipalities that is where the Human Resources involved ends, but not in Allentown. They are invited in. Once the Police does the full background investigation and polygraph testing and all of that, Human Resources is invited back into the process. The Police Department wants to know if she sees red flags or are there any issues here. That is unheard of. She stated that as she speaks to other HR people, it is unheard of. She stated that she is excited with this slate. Some are degreed, a lot of police experience and law enforcement experience, correctional officers, and sheriff department. They are looking at some very solid candidates. The Human Resources Department has been part of the process from start to finish. It is really unheard of in municipalities.

Ms. Candida Affa thanked Ms. Sallie-Dosunmu and stated that with the climate here today with police officers and enforcement that we here in Allentown and people will say well the Chief picked them, the Mayor said ok and Council said yes. We have HR now vetting them and HR is really in there with hiring. Like she said, who knows we will be one of the first. It is

great to see Allentown moving forward in different areas like that. The way that the climate is in the country today, it is important and she is very excited. She thanked Ms. Sallie-Dosunmu and thanked Assistant Chief Bill Lake for combining the two and working together.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that he concurs.

Ms. CeCe Gerlach stated that they have a list of the Police Officers or potential Police Officers names and their municipalities. Of the Police Officers that were currently or are currently serving somewhere else was that were they were serving as a Police Officer or were they reside.

Assistant Chief Bill Lake stated that is where they reside.

Ms. CeCe Gerlach stated that she thinks that the Mayor said there were four people of color and one Spanish speaker. Is he or she a person of color? Back in June or July on the state level, they passed the Bill that would create a database in which Police Departments would have to utilize to see if there were any misconduct or attendance issues or things that could be red flags. Is that up and going?

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated four women.

Assistant Chief Bill Lake stated yes, the person that speaks Spanish is a person of color. It is not yet. It has not gone into effect yet. However, that is part of their vetting process when an applicant comes from another agency. We vet that person very carefully. There are a lot of applicants on the Bill 66 list that were passed over. They were either disqualified or withdrew from the process.

Ms. CeCe Gerlach stated that she heard about and wish she could speak to the exact type of investigation. She heard that there is some type of inquiry to see if a potential officer is on any kind of hate groups. Is there a specific way to see that.

Assistant Chief Bill Lake stated that there are a number of ways to see that. They extensively look at their social media footprint. He was involved with a rather awkward Chief interview many years ago when Chief Fitzgerald was here as Chief and they eliminated a person who during the Chief's interview it came to light that he had some ideologies that may have been associated with such a group. We do look at that very closely. Social Media is one way and the Police Department requires that each applicant take and pass a polygraph examination. They really dig deep into these applicants backgrounds regardless if they are already a police officer or not.

Ms. CeCe Gerlach stated that it is great to hear that it is a diverse background. Are any of these folks coming into this with experience outside of law enforcement? Former teachers, former social service and have a different perspective or they are from some sort of law enforcement background.

Assistant Chief Bill Lake stated that six of them are on the Bill 66 list and already police officers. There is a seventh one here as well that just happens to be a police officer in an area or agency. He was on the old competitive list. He would suggest to all these folks before becoming a police officer had other jobs and experiences in life. Some of these applicants are middle aged people too that have chosen to come here now. Two are in there 40s. They bring with them not only other experiences, but a higher level of maturity.

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

Mr. Julio Guridy stated no. Great job.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks commended the Police Department and said he knows they did a lot of work with this. Unfortunately, he knows just as much as Assistant Chief Lake's does that they will be doing this again very shortly. It is the reality of what they are facing now.

Yes: 5 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, and Ed Zucal

No: 2 - Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Joshua Siegel

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

[15-3799](#)

Bill 67 Parks and Rec, this evening
Amending the 2020 Capital Fund Budget and the 2020 General Fund by transferring Thirty-One Thousand (\$31,000) Dollars from the Aquatics program in the Department of Parks and Recreation, of the General Fund to Capital Project 2214 – Cedar Creek Bridges. The original budgeted funds are available for reappropriating due to the cancellation of all recreational activities due to COVID-19. The Parks department was not able to use the funds for the original intended purpose.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 67 CEDAR CREEK BRIDGE TRANSFER](#)

[Ordinance #15646](#)

REFERRED TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

[15-3798](#) Bill 68 Parks and Rec, this evening
Amending the 2020 Capital Fund Budget and the 2020 General Fund by transferring Twenty-Five Thousand (\$25,000) Dollars from the Aquatics program in the Department of Parks and Recreation, of the General Fund to Capital Project 2200 – Percy Ruhe Park. The original budgeted funds are available for reappropriating due to the cancellation of all recreational activities due to COVID-19. The Parks Department was not able to use the funds for the original intended purpose.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 68 PERCY RUHE PARK TRANSFER](#)
[Ordinance #15647](#)

REFERRED TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

[15-3800](#) Bill 69 CEDC, forwarded favorably
An Ordinance providing for the expenditure of certain monies received by the City of Allentown under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1976, as amended; The Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act of 2009; and Title II of the National Affordable Housing Act of 1990, as amended; for the purpose of undertaking programs of housing and community development within the City.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 69 CDBG CARES ACT PHASE 3](#)
[Ordinance #15648](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any comments.

REFERRED TO THE COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

[15-3802](#) Bill 70 Public Works, this evening
Amending the 2020 Stormwater Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Eleven Thousand Nine Hundred Ten dollars (\$11,910.00) from the Owner of 526 S. Aubrey Street, Vendetta Hines, Owner, Burnt Offerings, LLC. The Bureau of Engineering is supervising and monitoring the funds.

Attachments: [Bill 70 Aubrey Stormsewer Lining](#)
[Ordinance #15649](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any comments.

REFERRED TO THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

[15-3808](#) Bill 71 Public Works, this evening
Amending Article 507 (Traffic control Maps) of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Allentown. The request is from the Administration. The Administration is authorized to establish and evaluate traffic regulations for a temporary period not to exceed 90 days. This legislation makes the temporary changes permanent.

Attachments: [Bill 71 Traffic Control Maps](#)
[Traffic Regulations 10-5-20](#)
[Ordinance #15650](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any comments.

REFERRED TO THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

[15-3809](#) Bill 72
Amends the Ethics Code by adding the following provision: No compensated appointed official or employee of the City, excluding those in elected offices of the city, shall be a candidate for nomination or election to a city public office unless the employee shall have first resigned from employment with the city. The City employee must resign prior to the candidate's filing of the nominating petitions.

Sponsors: Mr. Zucal

Attachments: [Bill 72 Ethics Code Amd](#)
[2020 LSR 105 - Running for Office](#)

REFERRED TO THE RULES, CHAMBERS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL
RELATIONS AND STRATEGY COMMITTEE

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

[15-3801](#) R119 CEDC, forwarded favorably
Approves the Submission of the Action Plan to the United States
Department of Housing and Urban Development

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R119 CDBG COVID Care Phase 3](#)
[Resolution #30061](#)

REFERRED TO THE COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE

[15-3804](#) R122 Rules, forwarded favorably
Prohibits electronic (including cell phone) communications during public
meetings

I. Use of Electronic Communication Devices During City Council Meetings

Councilmember's use of electronic communication devices (including cell phones), other than for the purpose of accessing agenda materials that are on a Councilmember's I-pad/tablet device or lap top computer, is prohibited during Council meetings.

Council members should not be sending or receiving email, or texting or receiving texts during the meeting.

This policy does not prohibit using an electronic communications device in the event of an urgent family matter.

Should council inadvertently receive such messaging it shall be immediately shared with the council and the public during the meeting.

Sponsors: Affa, Hendricks, Guridy and Mr. Zucal

Attachments: [R122 Cell Phones](#)
[Cell Phone Article](#)
[Resolution #30062](#)

REFERRED TO THE RULES, CHAMBERS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS AND STRATEGY COMMITTEE

Mayor Ray O'Connell asked for a definition of electronic communications.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated cell phones.

Mayor Ray O'Connell asked only cell phones.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated no. Anything other.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that the point is that it will prohibit any type of electronic communication because it is a violation of the Sunshine Law anyway.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated during a Council meeting.

Mayor Ray O'Connell asked about the iPad. He stated that he is asking and not questioning.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated these iPads, yes.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated for those Councilmembers that have babies at home, are you providing a home number that they can be reached in case of an emergency.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that a lot of stuff is covered in that Resolution that will be discussed at committee

Mr. Joshua Siegel stated that omission is in the Resolution. It specifically says with the exception of a family emergency. If you get a call if your house is on fire, you can.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that you can pick it up and listen.

NEW BUSINESS: NONE

GOOD AND WELFARE

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that you will receive the Budget Book Monday, October 19. He will give the preventative of the budget on Wednesday, October 21 before the regular City Council meeting. it is going to go to print Friday or Monday. It will be for Mr. Siegel and Ms. Gerlach first budget.

ADJOURNED: 7:59 PM