



Allentown

435 Hamilton Street
Allentown, Pa. 18101

Minutes - Final

City Council

Wednesday, January 4, 2023

5:30 PM

Council Chambers

Special Meeting

Roll Call

Present: 6 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Natalie Santos

Procedures: The applicants listed below that received a vote at the December 19th meeting will be given three minutes to respond to the question. A random order will be generated for the interview. Council will provide for public comment and allow one minute for each individual. After the public comment, Council will vote to fill the vacancy. Each councilperson will fill out and sign an appropriately numbered ballot indicating their choice to fill the position. The ballots will be forwarded to the City Clerk who shall read aloud the name of the candidate selected by each councilperson. The candidate needs four affirmative votes. If a candidate has not been chosen by the 3rd ballot, Council will consider a motion to petition the court to fill the vacancy.

Rodney Bushe II Roger Maclean Santo Napoli Patrick Palmer

Question to be addressed:

For a variety of reasons, the city has not been able to adequately address capital needs. We are in the process of doing a capital assessment plan. Listed below are some current infrastructure needs. To what extent should it be addressed through revenue such as taxation, bonds, or ARPA dollars? In what ways do you think the city should address these issues.

- Central Fire Station
- Fearless Fire Station
- Pools – such as Jordan, and potentially Fountain Park.
- Parks Maintenance Facility
- Police Academy
- Equipment/Vehicles for Fire, EMS, Police
- Maintenance of the city's water and sewer infrastructure – the system needs investments beyond our current standing fiscal capacity that will require taking on debt and higher water rates.
- City Hall updates.

Mr. Michael Hanlon read the following: For a variety of reasons, the city has not been able to adequately address capital needs. We are in the process of doing a capital assessment plan. Listed below are some current infrastructure needs. To what extent should it be addressed through revenue such as taxation, bonds, or ARPA dollars? In what ways do you think the city should address these issues.

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- City Hall updates.

Mr. Roger MacLean stated that on December 19, he stated that the most important thing was the budget. The question that lies before them tonight proves that the most important. The city can't operate without a sound budget. He suggested to assess needs and priorities, cost assessments on the needs, cost assessment, alternatives, and would not be looking for a tax increase. He would look at the ARPA funds first, bonds and grants.

Mr. Santo Napoli thanked Council for having him. He stated that the city is at a disadvantage. The infrastructure is aging. It is an important to come up with a plan and what they can do in the next three to five years. He mentioned the ARPA funds instead of using bonds. He mentioned bonds being a useful tool. The Allentown Parking Authority using from time to time. Taxation is an option and cash reserves. The most important are grant opportunities. City Hall upgrades with security.

Mr. Patrick Palmer stated that he looked at a different way. He stated how the last budget went and the ARPA dollars. That is not something that is permanent. The ARPA dollars should be used for public education and public safety. He went through the process of raising taxes. That is tough. The city needs to take a step back to see what they will do with the taxation. He talked about the city's credit rating a few years ago which was a blight for the city. he talked about bonds and infrastructure.

Mr. Rodney Bushe II stated that it is a great opportunity to be amongst Council. He stated that they all love the city of Allentown. The difference is how they love. He talked about the growth, taxation, and a hub. He stated to create inclusive space. Inequity in our city hurts our economy. He talked

about contracts, bonds, ARPA funds, broadband infrastructure, depression and stress. He talked about figuring out a way to raise property values.

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if there were any public comment.

Mr. Simon, the husband of Sandra Simon who was one of the potential candidates last month talked about City Council bylaws and the voting process. he stated that in hindsight, Ms. Simon questioned if she would even want to be a part of the group.

Mr. Michael Hanlon suggested that Council fill out their ballots right in front of them.

[15-5556](#) Council Applicants

Attachments: [R. Bushe III](#)
[R. Maclean](#)
[S. Napoli](#)
[P. Palmer v2](#)

ADJOURN

15-5598 Ballot Vote Number 1

Ms. Canda Affa - Mr. Napoli

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach - Mr. Bushe

Mr. Daryl Hendricks - Mr. Napoli

Ms. Natalie Santos - Mr. Bushe

Mr. Ed Zucal - Mr. MacLean

Ms. Cynthia Mota - Mr. Napoli

15-5599 Ballot Vote Number 2

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach - Mr. MacLean

Mr. Daryl Hendricks - Mr. Napoli

Ms. Natalie Santos - Mr. Bushe

Mr. Ed Zucal - Mr. MacLean

Ms. Cynthia Mota - Mr. Napoli

Ms. Canda Affa - Mr. Napoli

15-5600

Ballot Vote Number 3

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that this is the last vote. After this last vote, if they do not have four, it will go to court.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks - Mr. Napoli

Ms. Natalie Santos - Mr. MacLean

Mr. Ed Zucal - Mr. MacLean

Ms. Cynthia Mota - Mr. Napoli

Ms. Candida Affa - Mr. Napoli

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach - Mr. MacLean

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach asked for a motion to make one more round of voting.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that as Council President she wants them all to understand that if they don't choose a candidate tonight, it is going to the court. They do not know what the courts are going to do. They have speculations, but the reality is they do not know what they are going to do. They are going to choose for us.

A motion was made by Ce-Ce Gerlach, seconded by Candida Affa, that this Ordinance be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

15-5601

Ballot Vote Number 4

Mr. Michael Hanlon asked if he should give them their ballot three back and you can act on that.

Ms. Candida Affa asked about Ballot 8.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that he they have leftovers from last time.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach asked if they can do voice vote or is that not allowed.

Ms. Cynthia Mota suggested that they write the names like they have been

doing. Let's not change the process.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that he can give them one of the ballots back. Take the one that has your name on it.

Attorney Charles Smith cautioned to Council to write down Round four.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated write down Ballot 4 and who your person is.

Ms. Natalie Santos - Mr. MacLean

Ms. Cynthia Mota - Mr. Napoli

Ms. Candida Affa - Mr. Napoli

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach - Mr. MacLean

Mr. Daryl Hendricks - Mr. Napoli

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that hers is on the back of Ballot 4. She stated that Natalie said hers was on the back of her Ballot and hers was on the back of mine.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that so you guys switched your ballots.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that she wrote her name on top.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that he has for Ms. Santos, Ballot 4 - Mr. MacLean and Ms. Gerlach, Ballot 4 - Mr. Napoli. He has the four votes.

Attorney Charles Smith asked that they clean up the record on that. Read the votes, identify who voted and have them indicate, it was my vote so they have a record of what happened.

Ms. Candida Affa - Mr. Napoli

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach - Mr. Napoli

Mr. Daryl Hendricks - Mr. Napoli

Ms. Natalie Santos - Mr. MacLean

Mr. Ed Zucal - Mr. MacLean

Ms. Cynthia Mota - Mr. Napoli

15-5602

Adjourn