



Allentown

435 Hamilton Street
Allentown, Pa. 18101

Minutes - Final

City Council

Wednesday, March 16, 2016

7:00 PM

Council Chambers

Invocation: Councilperson O'Connell

Pledge to the Flag

Rollcall

Present: 7 - Ray O'Connell, Julio Guridy, Daryl Hendricks, Cynthia Mota, Candida Affa, Roger MacLean, and David McGuire

Courtesy of the Floor

Mr. Lou Hershman, 405 N. Gilmore Street, stated that Council should look to see if the City has a valid contract with LCA. Is the city of Allentown loaning employee to LCA when they are short on employees? He asked about the White Paper on the Golf Course.

Mr. Ray O'Connell stated Council will look into that.

Mr. Fran Dougherty stated that we are committed to doing that. He stated that he also saw the article in the Philadelphia Enquirer on the Reverse Options. This is the first time I am hearing about any loaning of personnel. There are MOU's governing what work we do for LCA and vice versa. Cynthia is going to hold a Special Meeting on the Golf Course.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated April 6th.

Ms. Janet Keshl stated that Allentown is really bad with litter. She stated a long time ago the inmates would clean the litter.

Mr. Ray O'Connell stated that Mr. Ringer has brought that up numerous of times. It is a very good idea. It is a county prison.

Mr. Kenneth Heffentrager, 733 N. 11th Street - Allentown Tenant Association, stated 637 W Washington Street is still an unsecured building. Also, 521 W. Washington Street is another blighted property. It is full of garbage. At 105 N. 13th Street, the garage is wide open with garbage. He stated 418 W. Allen started coming down again. Why the sidewalk is not blocked from this property and 336 N. 12th Street is having these issues.

Mr. Dennis Pearson, 942 E. Tilghman Street, stated if you go across the street on S. Penn Street just before the administration building, post office and the hotel you will see a couple of plants there. There is a lot of garbage in that area. It is unsightly.

Mr. Ray O'Connell asked if it is private or public property.

Mr. Don Ringer, 1801 Liberty Street, stated that he wants to bring up the coordination between the city and the gas company and utilities. They decided to put a new gas main on Liberty Street at the busiest time of the year. We have spent over \$4 million in legal fees for the LCA Lease. He doesn't think that it includes the lawyer fees or the finders fees for that particular project. What we have gotten in return is higher water rates in Allentown.

[15-382](#) Council Rules

Attachments: [Council Rules](#)

[15-617](#) Home Rule Charter

Attachments: [HOMERULE 2014](#)

Approval of Minutes:

[15-610](#) February 17, 2016 City Council Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [14 February 17 Council Meeting Minutes](#)

Old Business: NONE

Communications: NONE

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

Contracting Review Special Committee: There will be a special meeting on March 23 at 6:30 PM to review the contract for maintenance of the city's camera system and other items.

Budget and Finance: Chair Guridy, Hendricks, Mota

The Committee has not met since the last council meeting; the next meeting is scheduled for March 23rd at 6 PM to review the monthly finances.

Community and Economic Development: Chair McGuire, Guridy, Mota

The Committee has not met, the next meeting is scheduled on March 23 at 5:30 PM to review two resolutions authorizing the acquiring of property by eminent domain, if necessary, by the Redevelopment Authority – the properties at 621 N. Front Street and 621 W. Gordon Street.

Human Resources, Administration and Appointments: Chair Affa, MacLean, McGuire

The Committee met this evening, a future meeting has not yet been scheduled.

Parks and Recreation: Chair Mota, Affa, O'Connell

The Committee met this evening, a future meeting has not yet been scheduled.

Public Safety: Chair Hendricks, MacLean, Affa

The Committee has not met since the last council meeting. A future meeting has not yet been scheduled.

Public Works: Chair MacLean, McGuire, O'Connell

The Committee met this evening, a future Public Works meeting has not been scheduled but the Water and Sewer Compliance Review Board will meet on May 4th at 5 PM to review the 2015 Annual Report.

Rules, Chambers, Intergovernmental Relations and Strategy: Chair O'Connell, Hendricks, Guridy

The Committee has not met since the last meeting, a future meeting will be scheduled to deal with the two items on tonight's agenda that will be referred to committee.

MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT: 911 Consolidation

Mr. Fran Dougherty thanked Mr. O'Connell and stated we have an extension MD Report tonight. Michael Hilbert and Jonathan Hanson of MCM Consulting and they are here to give an update on the 911 Consolidation Study.

Mr. Michael Hilbert stated that we were legislatively mandated to look at consolidating our 911 facilities either with a consolidated manner with

Lehigh County or a Regional Manner with both Northampton and the City of Bethlehem. The city and the two counties and the City of Bethlehem gauged the service of MCM Consulting to look at the possibilities in this endeavor. The Report has been finalized. This will be a high level executive overview.

Mr. Jonathan Hanson stated that he appreciates the opportunity to speak on the report. The cities were advised unofficially that they would not receive 911 funding when the Chapter 53 of Title 35 sunsets on June 30, 2019. He discussed the Report and developing a project team and establishing definitions. They did a review and analysis. They looked at budgeting and staffing. The call volumes that Allentown takes in comparison to the other three calls and dispatches. Allentown takes more 911 calls than Lehigh County, currently. The current level of service has to maintain or have an improved level. There needs to be cost savings and job security. Would it be consolidation or regionalization? It needs to be a comprehensive plan and a consolidated process. They would see a salary savings of about \$140,000 per year from the 911 fund, not from the city. They don't see any telecommunicators would lose their job if that is the decision that is made. It would be a potential cost savings of their salaries of \$322,000. Equipment cost savings in Allentown if the city would consolidate with the county those costs would be split or borne by the county. The maintenance cost savings could be up to \$135,000 per year. Lehigh County does not have a union representation with their employees. We would expect that there will be some contract negotiations that would be needed there. Lehigh County has the space to take the city, but that is about it. It would be maxed out at that point. Northampton County has room at their facility. They have several hundred acres and has plans to expand their facility. Based on the first quarters payments we would project that you will get about \$2.6 million this year.

Mr. Ray O'Connell stated that we got the best 911 in the state of Pennsylvania. He asked the difference between regionalization and consolidation. What does Easton do? What does it mean for the city employees?

Mr. Jonathon Hanson stated that consolidation will be the cities going together with the counties. He stated that he can't address the city employees. He discussed the oversight board that will have representation from all entities.

Mr. Michael Hilbert stated that Easton is with Northampton County. That would simply be part of the process of the city and the counties.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked about the costs and stated what if there are no

cost savings realized. How would the costs be respected to each municipality.

Mr. Jonathon Hanson stated that he does not know how cost would be increased because you will not be providing the services or the employees. The oversight board would have to work it out with PEMA.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked about the consolidation. Initially, it could be that Allentown consolidates with the Lehigh County. Bethlehem would consolidate with Northampton County. We have three years to do this. He asked what would be the advantage to consolidate with Lehigh County.

Mr. Jonathon Hanson stated that is his understanding unofficially when the funding would stop. We found that you will have the largest cost savings across all four if there is a regionalization. We don't think a regional facility can be built, staffed, and become operational within the three year timeframe.

Mr. Michael Hilbert stated that the Northampton County facility is a separate facility at Gracedale. It is a separate building next to the parking lot at Gracedale. It is simply a point of reference.

Mr. Roger MacLean asked about the \$500,000 that won't be coming out of the General Fund anymore. Did we take into consideration what it is going to maintain this dispatching for streets. He asked about the rationalization of the consolidation and the regionalization.

Mr. Jonathan Hanson stated that we are recommending that all ancillary services continue even at the consolidated structure. No, none that was directly mentioned. He thinks that there is a concern of losing autonomy at the part of the county.

Mr. Michael Hilbert stated that the city is in the process of doing that. When the discussion starts with Lehigh County, we need to know what they are going to take and what they are not going to take.

Mr. Ray O'Connell asked any other comments from my colleagues.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked about the county regionalization. He is concerned about what Mr. O'Connell mentioned on how well we know our streets and our city.

Mr. Jonathon Hanson stated that there are PSAPS in place. In Allegheny County, their dispatchers in the city of Pittsburgh only works in the city of Pittsburgh. They will take calls for the whole county. They have also split

the county into North County and South County.

Mr. Ray O'Connell stated that it started from Alleghany County. We are on first base. Is there anyone in the state on third base? Have they done this already or have they started this already?

Mr. Michael Hilbert stated that Alleghany was probably if you think back when this legislation was started in 1992. There were very few cities that were grandfathered under this. Philadelphia aside, is a city and county region. Pittsburgh was on its own. The City of Allentown and the City of Bethlehem. Pittsburgh merged with Alleghany in 1996 or 1997.

Mr. Jonathon Hanson stated not with MCM. Previously working with MCM, I was Director of the State's 911 Bureau. the contract between Alleghany and Pittsburgh was only put in the Report as a reference source.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked what happens to the city's surveillance cameras. Do they remain in house or fall in the auspicious of the PSAPS?

Mr. Michael Hilbert stated that is one of the questions. The Report recommends that the monitoring of that system be done at the PSAP level.

Mr. Roger MacLean stated that we are going to consolidate with the county and then regionalize. Who pays for all that? Is that coming out of the 911 Funds?

Mr. Jonathon Hanson stated that they have not released the guidance for application and use of those funds. There is a statewide advisory board meeting next week. it is on the agenda to be discussed.

Mr. Michael Hilbert stated that the new legislation has in it that 15 percent of the total revenue all now goes to the state and is earmarked for this interconnectivity and regionalization effort. It is that pool of money is where these efforts would have to come from. The City of Allentown has been in this business since 1973. Twenty years before this legislation was first adopted that funded all of this.

Mr. David McGuire stated that this could be a two step process. Allentown, plus Lehigh County becomes one unit and sometime in the future there is an equivalent of Bethlehem and Northampton.

Mr. Michael Hilbert stated that is the recommendation.

Mr. Ray O'Connell asked any comments or questions from my colleague or the public.

Mr. Danny Warg stated that he is concerned about the level of safety for the police officers and the citizens. The merger of these systems is paramount.

Mr. Ray O'Connell stated that was one of his original questions. He totally agrees.

Mr. Roger MacLean stated that Pittsburgh dispatchers dispatch to Pittsburgh so they can keep their institutional knowledge. How do they do that?

Mr. Jonathan Hanson stated that it is like bringing a new dispatcher here into the city. You train them and they learn over time.

Mr. Michael Hilbert stated that Berks County does a similar operation where traditional in the City of Allentown rotates all positions. We have to know how to do police, fire, ems, cameras, the Parking Authority. In larger centers, you are basically hired as a call taker.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that he would be remised if he did not offer his sincere appreciation to Mike Hilbert. Mike is one of the most valuable and dedicated employees in Allentown. he just completed 35 years of service, and I had the pleasure working with him during the entire period. We are losing an extremely talented and dedicated employee.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that goes from all of us. I worked with you on several occasions, Mike and you were always well-versed on issues.

Mr. Roger MacLean stated that we went through this and back in 2006. I know I spoke to several Chiefs in the state of Pennsylvania who was a part of a consolidated or regional dispatching system, and the last one I spoke to, they wish they could revert it back.

Mr. Ray O'Connell stated to Mr. Hilbert that this is our last City Council meeting.

Mr. Fran Dougherty stated that this is the start of many conversations concerning this consolidation and long-term regionalization, Phase I and Phase II. This comes at a time when we are losing our superstar. This is absolutely critical that it is done right.

[15-615](#)

911 Study

Attachments: [911 Summary Memo](#)
[Lehigh Valley Analysis and Strategic Plan Report](#)
[Lehigh Valley Report Summary Presentation for Allentown](#)

CONTROLLER'S REPORT: NONE

APPOINTMENTS: None

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE (To be Voted On):

[15-547](#) Bill 5 Parks and Rec - Mota
Amending the 2016 Capital Project Fund Budget to provide for a transfer of Twenty Eight Thousand Three Hundred and Fifty One Dollars and Twenty One Cents (\$28,351.21) to complete payment to Langan Engineering for work that has been completed at the Jackson Street Playground.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 5 Jackson Park Transfer](#)
[Jackson St Memo](#)

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that it was forwarded favorably, 3 - 0.

Mr. Ray O'Connell asked any comments from my colleagues or the public.

Yes: 7 - Ray O'Connell, Julio Guridy, Daryl Hendricks, Cynthia Mota, Roger MacLean, David McGuire, and Candida Affa

Enactment No: 15273

[15-551](#) Bill 8 HR, Admin and Appts - Affa
Amending the 2016 General Fund budget by deleting the position of Legal Administrative Assistant (05N) and adding the position of Executive Legal Administrative Assistant (07N).

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 8 Legal Reorg Ordinance](#)
[Legal Reorg Memo](#)

Ms. Candida Affa stated that it was approved.

Mr. Ray O'Connell asked any comments from my colleagues or the public.

Yes: 7 - Ray O'Connell, Julio Guridy, Daryl Hendricks, Cynthia Mota, Roger MacLean, David McGuire, and Candida Affa

Enactment No: 15274

[15-562](#) Bill 9 HR, Admins and Appts - Affa
Minor Amendment - \$43,169 (7N) and new net \$4,853

Amending the 2016 General Fund budget by deleting the position of Executive Secretary to the Managing Director (09N) and adding the position of Administrative Assistant (07N).

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 9 Ordinance for Administrative Assistant Mayor's Office](#)
[Administrative Assistant Memo](#)

Ms. Candida Affa stated that it was forwarded favorably.

Mr. Ray O'Connell asked any comments from my colleagues or the public.

Yes: 7 - Ray O'Connell, Julio Guridy, Daryl Hendricks, Cynthia Mota, Roger MacLean, David McGuire, and Candida Affa

Enactment No: 15275

Yes: 7 - Ray O'Connell, Julio Guridy, Daryl Hendricks, Cynthia Mota, Roger MacLean, David McGuire, and Candida Affa

Enactment No: 15275

[15-576](#)

Bill 11 Public Works - MacLean

Providing for the vacation of a portion of Fairview Street being the Southern thirty (30) feet of Fairview Street starting at the Northeast corner of 1834-1844 Fairview Street and continuing Westerly One hundred and fifty-two and thirty-two one hundredths (152.32) feet to the Western limit of this subject street vacation in the Thirteenth Ward of the City of Allentown: Fairview Street - Street Vacation

Attachments: [Bill 11 Fairview Street - Street Vacation](#)

[Fairview Street Vacation Plan](#)

[fairviewvacation](#)

[fairvvacreport](#)

[Letter from Lehigh Valley Planning Commission A Portion of Fairview Street west of S. Saint George Street - Street Vacation](#)
[LVPC Fairview Street Report](#)

[Allentown City Planning Commission Meeting Minutes 2-9-15 Fairview Street - Street Vacation](#)

Mr. Roger MacLean stated that it was forwarded favorably, 3 - 0.

Mr. Ray O'Connell asked any comments from my colleagues or the public.

Yes: 7 - Ray O'Connell, Julio Guridy, Daryl Hendricks, Cynthia Mota, Roger MacLean, David McGuire, and Candida Affa

Enactment No: 15276

[15-593](#)

Bill 12 Public Works - MacLean

Amends Article 911, Shade Trees to more specifically outline the powers

and duties of the Shade Tree Commission.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 12 Shade Tree Ordinance Revision](#)
[Shade Tree Ordinance Revised](#)

Mr. Roger MacLean stated that it was forwarded favorably, 3 - 0.

Mr. Ray O'Connell asked any comments from my colleagues or the public.

Yes: 7 - Ray O'Connell, Julio Guridy, Daryl Hendricks, Cynthia Mota, Roger MacLean,
David McGuire, and Candida Affa

Enactment No: 15277

[15-605](#)

Bill 13 Public Works - MacLean

Providing for the vacation of a portion of Tilghman Street from the Eastern boundary of the former R.J. Corman Railroad Eastward to the Lehigh River in the Sixth Ward of the City of Allentown

Attachments: [Bill 13 Tilghman Street - Street Vacation](#)
[Tilghman Street - Street Vacation Report](#)
[Tilghman Street Bridge Map](#)
[Letter from Mike Hanlon regarding Street Vacation - Eastern Boundary of the R.J. Corman Railroad Line Eastward Underneath the Tilghman Street Bridge to the Lehigh River](#)
[Tilghman Street Bridge Map](#)
[Tilghman Street - Street Vacation Report](#)
[Letter from the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission regarding Tilghman Street Bridge Street Vacation](#)
[Allentown City Planning Commission Meeting Minutes 3-10-15 Waterfront \(Tilghman Street\)](#)
[Staff Report - Tilghman Street \(Waterfront\)](#)

Mr. Roger MacLean stated it was forwarded favorably, 3 - 0.

Mr. Ray O'Connell asked any comments from my colleagues or the public.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated he doesn't see the main supporter here.

Mr. Ray O'Connell welcomed Mr. Mark Jaendl and thanked him for doing the Project along the waterfront. Any comments from my colleague or the public.

Yes: 7 - Ray O'Connell, Julio Guridy, Daryl Hendricks, Cynthia Mota, Roger MacLean,
David McGuire, and Candida Affa

Enactment No: 15273

RESOLUTIONS FOR FINAL PASSAGE: NONE

ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION: NONE**RESOLUTIONS FOR INTRODUCTION:**[15-616](#)

R47 Rules and Chambers, this evening
Council Rules Amendment: Candidates filling a vacancy in the office of Council, the Controller or the Mayor must be of the same political party as the person who held the position immediately preceding the vacancy for 30 days or more in advance of the appointment. If a person vacating the position has no party affiliation, a person of any party or an independent shall be eligible.

Sponsors: Affa, O'Connell, Hendricks, Guridy, Mota, Mr. McGuire and Mr. MacLean

Attachments: [R47 Council Rules Amendment](#)

Mr. Ray O'Connell asked any comments from my colleagues or the public. This will go to my committee, Rules, Chambers and Intergovernmental Committee. This was an opinion that our Solicitor's office has put down. We spoke to my colleague and thought that it should be put into the Rules.

NEW BUSINESS: NONE**GOOD AND WELFARE:**

Mr. Ray O'Connell thanked his colleagues for supporting this. It is a Proclamation for Allentown DeMolay. He read the following:

Resolved by the Council of the City of Allentown, That

WHEREAS, Allentown DeMolay was formed in 1926 and is located at the Allentown Masonic Temple at 1524 Linden Street in Allentown, PA and is part of the Order of DeMolay which was originally founded in 1919; and

WHEREAS, Allentown DeMolay and Pennsylvania DeMolay will be celebrating DeMolay Month in March as they mark the 97th Anniversary of its founding; and WHEREAS, Allentown DeMolay is an organization dedicated to preparing young men to lead successful, happy, and productive lives; and

WHEREAS, Allentown DeMolay opens doors for young men aged 12 to 21 by developing the civic awareness, personal responsibility and leadership skills so vitally needed in society today; and

WHEREAS, Allentown DeMolay combines this serious mission with a fun approach that builds important bonds of friendship among members through the Order of DeMolay which has more than 1,000 chapters

worldwide; and

NOW, THEREFORE ALLENTOWN CITY COUNCIL does hereby celebrate Allentown DeMolay for investing in its community and for dedicating time and effort to prepare young men to lead productive lives.

Mr. Ed White introduced the staff members: Master Counselor Jack Donnell; Assistant Chapter Advisor, Linda Sheverler; and Scribe and Secretary, Janice Wolfener.

Allentown DeMolay participant stated that they have obligatory day during DeMolay Month. Last week, we went to Zion Church and took a tour and went to the Liberty Bell Museum. We do a lot of things with the community. Last week, we had a highway cleanup on Route 309 and 22. He thanked Council for the Proclamation.

Mr. Ray O'Connell stated you are very welcome. Have a successful month and a successful year.

Mr. Roger MacLean stated that he would like to thank them for everything they do.

Mr. Ed White stated that the reason why the cleanup is at 22 and 309 is because the actual interchange there is kept clean by Jordan Martin Lodge - Number 673 and that meets at the Allentown Masonic Temple. He urged Council if they knew any good, young men between the ages of 12 and 21 with sound moral character and who believes in a supreme being and would like to become leaders in the future send them our way.

ADJOURNED: 8:18 PM