



Minutes - Final

Parks and Recreation Committee

Wednesday, January 2, 2019

6:30 PM

Council Chambers

Roll Call: Chairperson Mota, Robinson, MacLean

[15-2683](#)

Bill 88

Amending the 2018 Capital Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Eighty Thousand (\$80,000) Dollars from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission to the City of Allentown toward the preservation of Bogert's Covered Bridge

Attachments: [Bill 88 Bogerts Bridge](#)

[Ordinance #15506](#)

Mr. Robert Rhoads stated that they are receiving a grant from PHMC for \$80,000. There is a match. It doesn't have to be cash. It could be labor, volunteer hours and possible Trexler Trust Funds in the future. This money would be the first step to start a process to finally repair the Bogerts Bridge.

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked about the history of the bridge and what is going on with this bridge and when was the last time it was repaired.

Mr. Robert Rhoads stated that the bridge was built between 1841 and 1842. It was designated as a historical landmark in 1980. It is on the registry. The last time any repairs were made was 20 plus years ago with paint and minor roof repairs. No major structural repairs have been made to the bridge in quite some time. There is a little bit of sagging when you look at it. It is not in any imminent danger. It is still safe for pedestrians.

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked about the Study being done.

Mr. Robert Rhoads stated that there was an original study done in 2015. They gave a couple options to make maintenance repairs. He stated that Butz is donating his time and his labor. The bridge used to be in his family so he has a personal connection to the bridge. For basic maintenance of the bridge, it was south of \$200,000 and for a complete overhaul is \$1.5 million. That was a little steep. There is some damage to the roof, paint, beams are rotting and deterioration.

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked about time frame. When are you planning for this

project to happen.

Mr. Robert Rhoads stated that they would like to move in 2020. This will not be for this year. We don't have enough funding right now. It is part of our goals. They will try to find different grants, community support from businesses and supplement some of the matching funds needed for this grant.

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked what are they planning on doing with the \$80,000 again.

Mr. Robert Rhoads stated that there is nothing immediate that they are going to do with it right now. This is basically so that we can have funding moving forward. It is a start. This is the first step in doing that. It will go into Capital Fund under Capital Projects. The Trexler Fund is doing a study on their on and will investigate options. It totaled about \$25,000 worth of work that he is doing for us.

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if there were any questions from the dais.

Mr. Courtney Robinson asked about the life of the grant and how long they have it to utilize. The goal is to start in 2020.

Mr. Robert Rhoads stated two years. They have it until 2021.

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if there were any questions from the public.

Mr. Tom Hahn stated that because of the historic nature and the way it was built. Were there any records on inspections on why did it got to this point? How many times it was inspected?

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated to Mr. Hahn that they are valid and really good questions, and she would like to know the answer. It boils down to money. She asked for an answer from the administration.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that they will get the answers for Mr. Hahn.

Mr. Glenn Hunsicker stated that he heard what was said previously. Lee Butz was going to help you out. He asked for an itinerary on how this is going to be projected out as far as the architectural and have a meeting in six months of where we will go.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that the questions are being asked and the administration will get the answers.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that this is the first step.

Mr. Glenn Hunsicker stated that in the Five Year Plan in 2020 the city has \$50,000 projected.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that this is a Capital Project and the projection will be the Year 2020.

Mr. Glenn Hunsicker stated that along this lines and in the next quarter somewhere we should see an update on the Capital Projects in this particular area.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that they will let him know.

Mr. Don Ringer asked if they thought of bringing the Lehigh County Vocational and Technical kids in this.

Mr. Robert Rhoads stated that they were there last year to do some work on the inside walls and minor repairs to try to keep it in shape.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that with the new Parks Director, Karen El-Chaar she has vast knowledge about this bridge. With her contacts with Friends of the Allentown Parks, he is sure she will be able to find out a lot of these answers and the most expeditious way to work on it.

Ms. Kathy Wolford asked about the beautiful bridge. He asked where is Bogert's. Over by South Whitehall Wehr's Dam is in beautiful shape. She stated that she doesn't know how high the taxes are. She asked what ever happened to Work Release prisoners helping.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that you are talking a different skill level here.

Ms. Kathy Wolford stated that how do you know they did not have that skill prior to going in there. Vocational and Technical students are allowed.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated we are talking about architectural engineers. He stated that he doesn't think they have the skills either. We can look at all options.

Mr. Robert Rhoads stated that Butz is providing the professional labor. He is not doing the actual work. He is coming up with the construction documents, the plans and oversee the bids and engineering.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that is his business.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that they looked into prisoners and it is the county. The county won't allow us to release prisoners. It cost too much money for protection for the police officers or officers.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that the liability was too high.

Ms. Kathy Wolford asked about Lehigh Valley Manpower. Where she took nontraditional trades for women. She asked for bids put in for people who need the work, who could roll up their sleeves, and get in there and do it for minimal costs.

Ms. Candida Affa thanked Ms. Wolford.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated thank you. Good suggestion.

A motion was made by Courtney Robinson, seconded by Cynthia Mota, that this Bill be forwarded to Council favorably. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 2 - Cynthia Mota and Courtney Robinson

Absent: 1 - Roger MacLean

Enactment No: 15506

Adjourned: 6:46 PM