



# Allentown

435 Hamilton Street  
Allentown, Pa. 18101

## Minutes - Final

### City Council

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Wednesday, July 17, 2019

7:00 PM

Council Chambers

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**This meeting is being live streamed and recorded. The video will be posted on the city website. Remember your manners, exhibit good behavior and smile.**

**Invocation: Councilperson Affa**

**Pledge to the Flag**

**Roll Call**

**Present:** 7 - Candida Affa, Roger MacLean, Courtney Robinson, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, and Ed Zucal

**Courtesy of the Floor**

**Courtesy and Privilege of the Floor Rules**

Mr. Lou Hershman, 405 N. Gilmore Street, talked about the current fireworks ordinance and making it more stronger. He spoke about the shooting in the city scaring people. He asked the former police officers to form a committee and sit down with leaders of the community to solve this problem. He stated that Council took a 30 day leave. He stated that the Council is the lawmakers. He stated that they should have called a meeting.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated he will hold a Public Safety Committee to see what the statistics are and past years. It is important to note. One shooting happens to be 10 people that tend to skew it. The public will be invited.

Mr. Joe Hoffman, 761 Saint John Street, stated that he is sad and devastated by everything that has happened. It is not his nature to rant and rave. He asked is there any current mechanism in the city to raise funds outside of the General Fund for police, vehicles and equipment. He stated that if there is something he can do to help he will. Is there any thought on law enforcement level to dry up the gang sources and methods of their revenue.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that he chairs the Budget and Finance Committee. He stated that the city does get funds and grants from many areas including the federal government, state and individuals. They contribute to K-9 units and Parks and Recreation.

Mr. Roger MacLean stated they are working on the issues on a daily basis with the Police Department, the District Attorney's office, the Gang Taskforce, Attorney General's office and the State Police.

Mr. Jim Spang, 435 Ridge Avenue - president Riverfront Civic Association, stated that they compiled some notes. They don't want to put it on the administration to come to Council regarding the ideas. He stated that they are in a residential area and are different from the Center City area. They will not accept the part-time Parking Authority sending parking complaints to voicemail. He stated that they expect city officials to bring out the police department's number to the proper number for a city our size. He stated that it should be 258 - 300 is the proper size for a department. They want the return of a neighborhood police with backup from Sweep, Code, Fire, and Health to get to the decline of the neighborhood. When a major occurs, the city should put a Press Release out to gather information to give to the police. The police can't do it themselves. There is a war against lawlessness. We need less studies and more enforcement of the laws on the books (i.e. Noise Ordinance with motorcycle and fireworks complaints) There are cameras all over the city. Who is responsible to watch them and do they. There needs to be a combined effort for Code, Licensing and Sweep. Petition the Governor of Pennsylvania to direct the State Police for assistance to Allentown Police Department until they are at full compliment.

Mr. Courtney Robinson stated that he talked to the Mayor in regards to this and the Community and Economic Development Committee meeting neighborhood will hold a Summit and it will be open to the public to solve some of these problems and to provide better information to the Police Department, Code, and Sweep.

Mr. Roger MacLean asked Mr. Alsleben what is the budgeted strength right now. He stated that the city has a grant funding, what do we need to get the grant. He asked about on long-term injury or sick at this point.

Chief Tony Alsleben stated 228. He stated 12 more officers. He stated approximately 19, including military.

Ms. Sharon Billington, 1509 Chew Street, asked about the area of Allentown that seems to be forgotten. She stated that they have had numerous problems that have been brushed aside. They have no recourse on cars. Now, you call and they said the police can't come out, you have to call the Parking Authority. She stated that she values the Police Department. She thinks they are fantastic and the city needs more of them. She stated that it is about Quality of Life. It is the same addresses and

same individuals. She asked if the Parking Authority can be taken out this so they can have police cars.

Mr. Roger MacLean stated that he will work on that answer. He stated that he does not know what the agreement was when it went to the county.

Ms. Candida Affa asked Ms. Billington is she familiar with a DCR. She stated to be persistent.

Ms. Sharon Billington stated yes, the police will tell them to turn it down. When the officer arrives, they will turn it down.

Dr. David McGuire, 1500 Hamilton Street, welcomed the new Solicitor. He gave appreciation to the Public Works Department and the Report on Storm Drainage. He stated that it is picnic and summer season and in West Park the park is still there. In the center of the park there is a beautiful fountain. He asked why it can't have a nice spray. It is like a leaky bottle. He talked about an environmental problem, a parks, a wastewater problem, Lake Muhlenberg is almost as bad as he has seen in 20 years.

Mr. Don Ringer, 1801 Liberty Street, talked about the West Park, seeing the Allentown Band and how the trash container was overfilled with trash laying around it. The benches are deplorable. He asked if they can buy new benches for the park. He stated that Lake Muhlenberg needs to be cleaned out. He stated that the city needs new leadership in the Allentown Police Department. The Allentown Police Department is deplorable and they don't want to work with the leadership of the Police Department.

Mr. Roger MacLean stated as a former Chief, you can't keep everybody happy and you are not going to. If you try, you are going to fail.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that the events of the past seven weeks have been both disturbing and frustrating to him, City Councilmembers, and the residents of Allentown. He stated that he fully understands the anxiousness of the residents in the neighborhoods. Please know that we have been and will continue to commit all necessary resources to bring these senseless acts of violence to an end. We have more manpower on the streets now then we had in many years and continue to work with various intelligence networks. We are making every effort to solve these crimes and bring the perpetrators to justice. We do need the public's help. We need your eyes and ears to help the department. Your neighborhood's best defense, like the Department of Homeland Security advise repeatedly to our public transportation centers if you see or hear something, say something. There are a number of methods available to get anonymous tips to the police department. Please do not hesitate to take advantage of that.

Mr. Julio Guridy commended the Mayor for the comment. He stated that the community has been waiting to hear a comment like this. He stated that the Mayor that he can do it more often to the community when people are still wondering what happened. We are still not giving them a response. What we see everyday, unfortunately in the last couple of days, another shooting. That is what they talk about. They come to me. They call me and ask what is the city doing and what are you doing as Council. Obviously, we can only do a certain amount of things. We have the Police Department to do it. He stated that last week the city had about 1,500 people come from ADP. That beautiful new building on 8th and Hamilton Streets. He stated that we owe it to not only them, but every resident in the city. When something like this happens, we have a Press Conference and tell them where we are. He stated that people don't know where we are and people don't know what's happening with the two people who were wearing masks and shooting an AR-15 outside a local nightclub. They need to know that the people are working. He stated that the Mayor's comments need to be expounded throughout the city.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated as a former Chief, and officer Zucal and Hendricks as Captain, you know there is a fine line what you can tell the public so much, but you don't want to deter an investigation. He stated that he, the Chief of Police and Captains have been in constant contact throughout the whole thing. City Council needs to know exactly what has happened. He stated that he re-instituted the dispatch on shootings or anything you will get that immediately right now. We are taking proactive step with the public and started that walks with the Police, Fire and all departments. He stated that the city needs with community to help us. The residents are not speaking. People that are experiencing acts of violence are not speaking. It is a two-way street.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated let's be honest, this is unprecedented. What's going on in the city in regards to crime and regards to shootings we have never seen in before. He stated that he has been in the city for 40 years. Since it is unprecedented we need to go out there and say we are doing something.

Ms. Candida Affa stated in the defense of the Mayor, she knew he was going to be on Channel 69 News and was going to make a statement. Basically, what he made here along with the Chief. She stated that she tuned into Channel 69 News and they gave him 30 seconds. He didn't have a chance to say anything. She stated that she was very disappointed. She asked the media to give the Mayor and the Chief of Police exposure.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated when the city had the shooting at Deja Vu,

Police Alsleben and himself had a Press Conference immediately the next morning.

Mr. Roger MacLean stated right here when it was the hiring of the new officers. He stated that he stood here and it wasn't just the local media, it was Philadelphia. As a former Chief there is a very fine line giving out information that you can give out and you can't have a Press Conference for everything, but there is something you can do.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that he is not saying say things you can not say thing you cannot say, but say something. He stated that he used to listen to Jim Martin when it was a raid or something, he would have a Press Conference. This is unprecedented.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that they had a Press Conference the next morning about the meeting at Deja Vu. We are not running away. It is an issue we have to face. It is a fine line what the public needs to know and what they cannot know. We have to do investigations.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that the Mayor is saying that they want the community to speak out, but who is going to truly listen. There is a trust issue going on in the city. You want the community to speak out, they have to trust people, the Police Department and the leaders in the Police Department.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that he disagrees with that. When you have a loved one who has been shot and you might possibly know someone who has done it or information of the circle of friends that might have done it. It is your responsibility as a parent, as a brother, as a sister, as a mother and a father to give the information to the Police Department whether you have complete trust or not.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that she is relating to what the community says. She stated that she is out there, daily. She stated that she knows her community and there is a trust issue.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that the statement the Mayor made on 69 news although he applauds his courage. It is little late. It took 20 shootings for that to occur. The statement you made told the community that we are failing.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that he said the same thing he said to Jamie Stover that it is very frustrating, and disturbing time.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that the city is failing the citizens. How many shootings

will it take until the problem is fixed. If we need outside assistance, like Mr. Spang said it is nothing embarrassing about getting that. We concentrated on one shooting that involved 10 people. Let's get rid of those 10 people. There were still 11 other people that got shot.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated it is 15. There were 25 as of today.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that the number continue to go up.

Mr. Courtney Robinson stated that his bigger concern is to making sure that they have things in place in order to communicate. He stated that the list of Community Groups are outdated. The last time it was updated was in 2015. We did not have a staff person. He asked if they can actively update the list and easily assessable.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that the Mayor's office has it and they will get that out to Council ASAP. He stated that Karen has it. He stated that there are many Crime Watches and Block Watches that's no longer in existence.

Mr. Roger MacLean stated that he has faith in the Police Department and the leadership. Keep up the good work. It is one of the bad times you have to go through. It is as simple as that.

Mr. Julio Guridy suggested working with other law enforcement agencies. It is a breaking point

Mr. Roger MacLean stated to Mr. Guridy that the city is still is working with other agencies. He stated that they never stopped. There are cycles. They go up and they go down.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated in 43 years that he has been in this Valley there has never been 25 shooting in less than a month.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated they will get Mr. Guridy the numbers. In 2017, the same numbers 28.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that everybody is saying more police. The issue is speaking to the community. We need to find out what we are going to do with our youth.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that he agrees with Ms. Mota and as the Chair of Parks and Recreation he will be more than willing to sit down with her and staff to create a list with him and his staff.

Mr. Roger MacLean stated that maybe we can reach out to the State

Police and have some walking patrols. That is no guarantee.

Chief Tony Alsleben stated that it is already scheduled.

Mr. James Whitney stated that there is a perception that people's concern is not being respected. Ms. Mota is in the community and hears concerns. He stated that she is hearing from them that her concerns are unfounded. There is a historical context to their fears and a historical context to their mistrust. He asked about where the Police Department is on overtime and staffing issues. He stated that people like Cynthia Mota bring concerns, we need to know that the concerns are valid.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that every concern is bounded in logic. He stated that he has been in Allentown his entire adult life and served this community. He stated that he listens to people and respects Cynthia Mota. He stated that he knows what Promise Neighborhoods is doing with the grant to Cure Violence. He stated that he never said differently.

Mr. Roger MacLean asked Chief Alsleben when there is an opening and we have 19 people out long-term sick, injured or deployed. He talked about openings or shortages on a shifts and if the supervisors have the opportunity to hire for overtime to fill those slots. When would you think or expect them to hire more, on Friday night from 3:00 PM to 11:00 PM or Sunday morning day shift.

Chief Tony Alsleben stated yes, during the busiest time.

Mr. James Whitney stated that he is concerned that officers are reaching out to Don Ringer and WFMZ and they have concerns. He understands that their concerns are complicated. If their concerns are complicated then say that. If their concerns are important and will get your consideration then say that.

Mr. Roger MacLean stated that they have a union representative that they can go through and can tell them. He stated that right now any Chief from this day going back to when he first got on the department who did not have somebody on the department calling media or reaching out to other people to voice displeasure.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that maybe they are afraid of losing their jobs or retaliation.

Mr. Roger MacLean stated that they are Civil Service. They are not going to get fired because they voiced their concern.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that she takes offense that he would look at the board and tell them that they know, but rather not talk about it. That is not fair and it is not true. Two cops called Ringer and we have 222. What Mr. MacLean is eluding to is that nobody is happy all the time. She was displeased that Mr. Whitney would make a statement that they all know.

Mr. James Whitney stated that they all know. He asked if she knew about the Sexual Harrassment Investigation. When this guy took a picture of you in a compromising position.

Mr. Roger MacLean stated to Mr. Whitney stop yelling. She is responding to you.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that things have to change and that is the reality.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

[15-3044](#) June 5, 2019 City Council Meeting Minutes

**Attachments:** [June 5, 2019 City Council Meeting Minutes](#)

**Yes:** 7 - Candida Affa, Roger MacLean, Courtney Robinson, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, and Ed Zucal

[15-3057](#) June 19, 2019 City Council Contract Approval Meeting Minutes

**Attachments:** [June 19, 2019 City Council Contract Approval Meeting Minutes](#)

**Yes:** 7 - Candida Affa, Roger MacLean, Courtney Robinson, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, and Ed Zucal

[15-3066](#) June 19, 2019 Special Meeting - Solicitor Nomination (Matthew Kloiber)

**Attachments:** [June 19, 2019 Special Meeting - Solicitor Nomination \(Matthew Kloiber\)](#)

**Yes:** 7 - Candida Affa, Roger MacLean, Courtney Robinson, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, and Ed Zucal

**Old Business: NONE**

**Communications: NONE**



**REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:**

**Budget and Finance: Chair Guridy, Hendricks, Mota**

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

**Community and Economic Development: Chair Robinson, Guridy, Affa**

The Committee has not met since last Council meeting; a future meeting is in the process of being scheduled – possibly next Wednesday.

**Human Resources, Administration and Appointments: Chair Affa, Zucal, Mota**

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

**Parks and Recreation: Chair Mota, Robinson, MacLean**

The Committee has not met since the last council meeting; the next meeting is not yet scheduled.

**Public Safety: Chair Hendricks, Affa, Zucal**

The Committee has not met since the last council meeting; the next meeting is not yet scheduled.

**Public Works: Chair Zucal, Hendricks, Robinson**

The Committee met this evening; there are no future meetings scheduled at this time. We are looking at a Water & Sewer Compliance Review Board meeting on August 5th prior to the council meeting to discuss the 2018 Annual Report.

**Rules, Chambers, Intergovernmental Relations and Strategy: Chair MacLean, Affa, Guridy**

The Committee has not met since the last council meeting; there are no future meetings scheduled.

**Controller's Report**

Mr. Jeff Glazier stated that he has a Report on the Pension Fund for the first quarter of 2019. The market has been strong recently and we almost made up for the end 2018 when the market took a downturn. We are doing well so far. He will report again in September, after the August 21st meeting. The MMO payments for Police, Fire, and O&E were made on July 1st. The Bank Reconciliation review for the month of April was finished on July 10th. They looked at 24 Bank Reconciliation and the total amount were \$69,279.54. The Auditors note was about the timeliness of the Bank Reconciliation. It was an unreconciled difference of \$136.86. It may have been due to timing. It is a timing issue with payroll liabilities. He went over the Accounts Payable Weekly Check Review for the month of June. The dollar amounts in checks are done and the number of checks are down. That's because they do a P-Card review where they are shifting more of the spending for P-Cards. That review and that report was separate. He stated that the Controller's office give it the same level

of scrutiny and checks. There were a number of findings. He stated that the city has Teledoc. Retired city employees were using. It is not clear to the city if it should be a benefit for them. They noted that the city has 182 retirees, but were getting billed for 205. He stated that HR said that Teledoc mistakenly charge members that should not have charge and they will issue a credit for the billing. They did an audit of the vision benefits and the report will be out in August. There was one invoice where an incorrect expense account was used. There were 11 invoices that were paid late. All the departments were advised and responded to the nature of the reason. The amount of findings are seriously decreasing.

Mr. Ed Zucal asked how much are we spending on Teledoc. He stated because now whether you go to St. Luke's or Lehigh Valley, they have My Chart.

Mr. Jeff Glazier stated that he does not have the dollar amount. It is a \$2.25 charge per subscriber, active and retired. He stated that HR likes it because if you are going through Teledoc then the charges to Account 37 are less.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked about how much they were overcharging the retirees. He asked about the different of payroll liability. He asked how much was that?

Mr. Jeff Glazier stated that they were not overcharging the retirees. They were overcharging the city. He stated that he believes the charge \$2.25 a month. It adds up and the finding is that we have an eligibility file and periodically HR needs to look at the bill and see if it matches. He stated that the difference for the payroll liability was \$136.86. In Bank Reconciliation, one of the challenges could be timing of various transactions.

#### **Administration Report**

**NONE**

Mr. Joe McMahon stated that even tough it is worth \$57 a month, he appreciates that the Mr. Glazier is looking at the process. As we clean up processes, we can put those processes in place where it is more effective. He stated to Mr. Zucal there is some confusion with Advantage Health online. You can look up your own information. Teledoc is where you actually instead of going to the doctor's office you could call in through a phone or skype the doctor online. This is very cheap.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that it is minimal.

Mr. Roger MacLean stated a simple solution is to look at the ages of the retirees. He stated that he has been getting mail for two years.

Mr. Jeff Glazier stated that there are process issues that need to be dealt with. He stated that they are in the beginning of that with the Vision audit.

**APPOINTMENTS:**

[15-3028](#) Christian J. Brown, Shade Tree Commission, 04/26/2023

**Sponsors:** Administration

**Attachments:** [Shade Tree Commission - Christian J. Brown](#)

Ms. Candida Affa asked if there were any comments.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that he knows Christian Brown and he is a very ethical person. He has been on the Shade Tree Commission for many terms.

Ms. Candida Affa asked if there were any comments from the public.

**Yes:** 7 - Candida Affa, Roger MacLean, Courtney Robinson, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, and Ed Zucal

Enactment No: 29833

[15-3039](#) William Harvey, Property Rehabilitation and Maintenance Code Board of Appeals, 08/05/2021

**Attachments:** [Property Rehabilitation and Maintenance Code Board of Appeals - Harvey and Smith](#)

Ms. Candida Affa stated that William Harvey appointment expires in 2021. She asked if there were any comments from her colleagues or the public.

**Yes:** 7 - Candida Affa, Roger MacLean, Courtney Robinson, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, and Ed Zucal

Enactment No: 29834

[15-3040](#) Scotty G. Smith, Property Rehabilitation and Maintenance Code Board of Appeals, 08/05/2021

**Attachments:** [Property Rehabilitation and Maintenance Code Board of Appeals - Harvey and Smith](#)

Ms. Candida Affa stated that his term expires in 2021. She asked if there were any comments from her colleagues.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that he is a good guy. He is a retired city worker.

Ms. Candida Affa asked if there were any comments from the public.

**Yes:** 7 - Candida Affa, Roger MacLean, Courtney Robinson, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, and Ed Zucal

Enactment No: 29835

[15-3062](#) Arundhati Khanwalkar, Water and Sewer Compliance Board, 05/01/2023

**Attachments:** [Memo from Mayor Ray O'Connell regarding Water and Sewer Compliance Board - Arundhati Khanwalkar](#)

Ms. Candida Affa stated that Khanwalkar term expires 2023. She asked if there were any comments from her colleagues.

Mr. Courtney Robinson stated that Ms. Khanwalkar is great for this board. She is the chair of the Environmental Advisory Council and she has reinvigorated that board and brought a lot of good projects forward. It has been a joy to work with her and stated that it is a perfect fit.

Ms. Candida Affa asked if there were any comments from the public.

Ms. Arundhati Khanwalkar thanked Courtney Robinson and the Mayor for recommending her reappointment. She stated that as chair of the Allentown Environmental Advisory Council, it is helpful to be on the Water and Sewer Compliance Review Board to make sure we are coordinated in the understanding of the importance of Water and Sewer Compliance issues.

**Yes:** 7 - Candida Affa, Roger MacLean, Courtney Robinson, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, and Ed Zucal

Enactment No: 29836

## **ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE (To be Voted On):**

[15-3001](#)

Bill 40

Provides for the vacation of Howe Street from centerline of North Church Street to the centerline of North Emery Street and the vacation of North Emery Street from the centerline of Howe Street to the centerline of Court Street in the Fifth Ward of the City of Allentown.

**Attachments:** [Bill 40 Howe Street from centerline of North Church Street to the centerline of North Emery Street](#)  
[Letter from Lehigh Valley Planning Commission regarding North Emery Street and West Howe Street - Street Vacation](#)  
[Pocket Park Access Agreement \(FULLY EXECUTED\) 05.30.2019 - Howe](#)  
[Pocket Park - Street Vacation Petition 04.25.2019 \(FULLY EXECUTED\) - Howe](#)  
[Emery and Howe Street Vacation Labels](#)  
  
[Letter from David Kimmerly from Planning Department regarding Planning Commission Approving Vacation of N. Emery St from Court St to W. Howe Street](#)  
[Letter from Lehigh Valley Planning Commission regarding North Emery Street and West Howe Street - Street Vacation](#)  
[Letter from Mike Hanlon regarding N Emery St from W Court St to W Howe and W Howe St from N Church Street N Emery - Street Vacation](#)  
[Ordinance #15548](#)  
  
[Ad #6380430 - Howe Street](#)

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that it was forwarded favorably to the full Council.

Mr. Roger MacLean asked if there were any comments from his colleagues or the public.

**Yes:** 7 - Candida Affa, Roger MacLean, Courtney Robinson, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, and Ed Zucal

Enactment No: 15548

### 15-2989

#### Bill 38

Amending the 2019 Risk Fund Budget by transferring One Million Five Hundred Thousand (\$1,500,000) Dollars from the unappropriated balance of the Risk Fund for Employee Health Benefits.

**Attachments:** [Bill 38 Risk Transfer for Health Insurance](#)  
[Ordinance #15549](#)

Ms. Candida Affa stated that it was forwarded favorably.

Mr. Roger MacLean asked if there were any comments.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that Mr. Glazier further clarified it. We have the money.

Mr. Jeff Glazier stated that Mr. Zucal pretty much got it. The Risk Fund is a separate fund. It is separate from the General Fund. He stated that the city has Stop-Loss coverage and we got a large payment at the beginning of the year. That check was deposited into the Risk Fund into the Reimbursements Line, on the Revenue side. The administration is asking to balance it out on the Risk side from Revenue to the Expense.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that she is being sensitive to people's illnesses.

Mr. Roger MacLean stated that \$1.5 million and Mr. Zucal is acting like he is your Campaign Manager.

Mr. Courtney Robinson apologized to the administration and to his colleagues that he did not attend the Human Resources meeting. He asked Mr. Hartzell what is the unappropriated balance before \$1.5 million and after the \$1.5 million. He asked for ways that the city can be better at replenishing the Risk Fund. A structural deficit is not going to contain just operational funding, and specific healthcare cost, but it will contain money that will be shifted into the unappropriated balance. He stated that \$17 million is the best practice for the General Fund unencumbered balance. What will be the preferred number and the number you will be comfortable with? He asked if Mr. Hartzell is comfortable with the trends that the city won't see a large spike. He asked is it being taken into account with the studies with the Novak Group for better ways to forecast Risk and Healthcare costs moving forward. He stated in the Five Year Financial Plan, the city treats Capital Projects as its own separate idea. He asked to look at healthcare costs in a completely separate way so that the city is separating it out.

Mr. Brent Hartzell stated that it is funded by a General Fund transfer. Healthcare is moved from the General Fund to cover it. Replenishing the General Fund is going to have similar impact to the Risk Fund. Containing costs will be the best way to do that. He stated that the city needs a solid reserve. The Risk Fund doesn't just include the health insurance cost, it includes other liabilities, property and casualty, legal expenses that are tied to litigation going on in the city. Two months reserves on that will be \$4.5 million. The goal of the amendment is to appropriate significantly funds through the year and not have to go through that path. He stated that Novak was interviewing his staff, Risk, HR and the Controller. Health benefits are the fastest, growing part.

Mr. Courtney Robinson stated that the caliber of his work and the staff work is always exemplary.

Mr. Kloiber stated that last year they dealt with issues with the previous administration under budgeting significantly for legal cost. For this year, they did not drastically increase the number because they were dealing with a significant situation of not having an active City Solicitor leading the department.

Mr. Courtney Robinson stated since the Fund Balance will be so low, do you feel confident that the money you have allocated would get you through

the year or will it be a situation you will need to ask for an appropriation.

Mr. Matt Kloiber stated that they were not real numbers. Last year was the status quo. We have been working with Jeff Nelson and have weekly meetings on these issues. We are mindful of the costs. He stated that they went back to the budget from 2006 or 2007. He stated that he will have a better sense of it at the next Council meeting. The Solicitor's office is taking a look at the budgetary issues.

Mr. Roger MacLean asked any comments from the public.

**Yes:** 7 - Candida Affa, Roger MacLean, Courtney Robinson, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, and Ed Zucal

Enactment No: 15549

[15-3006](#)

Bill 42

Amending the 2019 Capital Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Three Hundred Thirty-Three (\$333.00) Dollars. This was a result of payment in lieu of tree plantings from Elias Market, Inc. for the Elias Market Parking Extension Project. Funds will be used for the purchase of new street trees.

**Attachments:** [Bill 42 Elias Trees](#)

[Ordinance #15550](#)

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that it is a citizen that is willing to pay the city \$333 in exchange to have a tree placed on their property.

Mr. Roger McLean asked any comments from Council or the public.

**Yes:** 7 - Candida Affa, Roger MacLean, Courtney Robinson, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, and Ed Zucal

Enactment No: 15550

**RESOLUTIONS FOR FINAL PASSAGE (To be Voted On):**

[15-3055](#)

R59

Authorizes the Execution of the Certification Agreement Between the City of Allentown and Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office

**Sponsors:** Administration

**Attachments:** [R59 Certified Local Government Program](#)

[CLG\\_CertificationAgreement\\_Allentown](#)

Mr. David Kimmerly stated this Resolution will authorize the Mayor to execute a Certified Local Government agreement with the Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission the city has been a CLG for 10 years. Every once in a while the Pennsylvania Historic Preservation office will ask

the CLGs to re-up and recommit their commitment to historic preservation in the city. This will extend the CLG commitment for the next 10 years. It gives the city access to grants, approximately \$25,000 in grants that have to be cash matched.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that it is really good for the city. It would help to get more funding in the historic area.

Mr. Roger MacLean asked if there were any other questions from Council or the public.

Ms. Lauren Golden, Allentown Preservation League, reiterated what Mr. Guridy said. This is a program that the city has been active in for 10 years. The Allentown Preservation League supports the renewal of this certification. You get technical services and expertise.

Dr. David McGuire stated that he supports this and for the past 20 years he has been interested in the historical things including a large number that have not been enacted by the City of Allentown. The city has resources to see if this is of value. By having this certification/agreement you can seek money and get support from the state government and other entities.

Ms. Ellen Roberts, 29 N. Fulton Street - West Park Representative to HARB - stated that she hopes Council supports this. It is a matter of historic preservation to the neighborhood and the commitment to our community and preservation to property values.

**Yes:** 7 - Candida Affa, Roger MacLean, Courtney Robinson, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, and Ed Zucal

Enactment No: 29837

[15-3063](#)

R60

City Council and the Administration support repealing the firework provisions of Act 43, giving local municipalities agency to develop regulations relating to fireworks and asks the solicitor's office to investigate all legal remedies to deal with public safety and quality of life issues because of the state allowing the expanded sale and use of fireworks.

**Sponsors:** Hendricks, Mr. Zucal, Affa, Mr. Robinson, Administration and MacLean

**Attachments:** [R60 Repealing the Fireworks Provision](#)

Mr. Roger MacLean stated that is pretty well agreed by everyone here and asked if there were any comments from his colleagues.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that it is unfortunate that Mr. Hershman is not here. We cannot have a law in conflict with the state. That seems to be the



problem. He encouraged the local elected officials to jump on this bandwagon and do what they can in Harrisburg to get support to repeal this.

Mr. Roger MacLean stated that he agrees and there was some talk to allow municipalities to that. It is just passing the buck.

Mr. Courtney Robinson stated that State Senator Schwank who covers most of Berks County and the City of Reading announced today that she will be introducing a Bill because she does not believe a full ban will have the likelihood to pass the legislator because the revenue that is being generated. She is introducing a Bill to give local municipalities at all levels the ability to add additional penalties in certain areas and at certain times. A full ban would be best.

Mr. Roger MacLean stated that it is passing the buck. The problem is catching people doing it. He asked if there were any other questions from Council or the public.

Mr. Edward John White, 1922 W Highland Street, stated that he is here to support Council to change state law. This will be an uphill battle. This was a bad idea. It helped the Commonwealth generate over \$11 million in revenue. Fireworks are for professionals. The Commonwealth did a horrible job explaining this law and the city needs to inform its residents over and over again. He asked that Council pass this Resolution to encourage the state representatives to change the law back to the way it was.

Ms. Sharon Billington, 1509 Chew Street, stated that she did not see police patrol the street on the 1500 Block of Chew Street. People were setting fireworks off on 15th and Fulton Streets. Yes, we have certain restrictions 150 feet, after 10:00 PM is enforceable. The Streets department spent three hours cleaning the back alley and took pictures. This Resolution needs to be passed. This is dangerous. This is something that should not be allowed at all. It brings you back to Quality of Life and trust.

Mr. Roger MacLean asked if there were any other comments from the public.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that the \$11 million got her. How much has it cost the city for extra help. Do we get any of that \$11 million dollars? She suggested to legalize marijuana and the state would make more money than the \$11 million.

Mr. Roger MacLean stated that he was beginning to agree with Ms. Affa

until she came up with that.

Mr. Courtney Robinson asked if he could make a small amendment.

Mr. Roger MacLean asked if there were any comments from Council or the public.

**Courtney Robinson made a motion to amend R60, seconded by Julio Guridy that at the very end where it says Be It Resolved That A Copy Of This Resolution Will Be Sent To Local State Representatives, the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, State Attorney General, Pennsylvania Municipal League, the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania School Board Association.**

**Yes:** 7 - Candida Affa, Roger MacLean, Courtney Robinson, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, and Ed Zucal

Enactment No: 29838

**Yes:** 7 - Candida Affa, Roger MacLean, Courtney Robinson, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, and Ed Zucal

Enactment No: 29838

[15-3064](#)

R61

Sewage Planning Module for Medical Building at 1417 Hanover Avenue - certifies capacity

**Attachments:** [R61 Medical Building Hanover St \(CSL Shell\) - Sewage Planning Module](#)  
[Medical Building Hanover St \(CSL Shell\) - Sewage Planning Module Documents](#)

Mr. Roger MacLean asked if there were any comments from Council or the public.

Mr. Courtney Robinson asked Mr. Messinger if there is a large tract of land with not a lot of infrastructure except on the two sides. What is the process for the stormwater system that they would have to install?

Mr. Craig Messinger stated that they would need to go to the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission and get approval. They are working on infiltration. They have to have an MPDS Permit. They met all the city's requirements. The city looks for infiltration on site.

Mr. Roger MacLean asked if there were any other comments.

**Yes:** 7 - Candida Affa, Roger MacLean, Courtney Robinson, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, and Ed Zucal

Enactment No: 29839

[15-3065](#)

R62

Certificates of Appropriateness for work in the Historic Districts:

209 N 10th St., 219 N 10th St., 222 N 10th St. 244 N 10th St., and 537 Liberty St.

**Attachments:** [R62 July 2019 HARB Cases](#)

[209 N 10th St. Final Review](#)

[222 N 10th St. Final Review](#)

[244 N 10th St. Final Review](#)

[219 N 10th St. Final Review](#)

[537 Liberty St. Final Review](#)

Mr. David Kimmerly stated that these are for Certificates of Appropriateness for five properties. 537 W. Liberty Street was a denial and now reversed and we have an approval. The project once approved will be on its way. He stated that 209 N 10th St., 219 N 10th St., 222 N 10th St. and 244 N 10th St. are projects that were funded by Upside Allentown for facade improvements.

Mr. Roger MacLean asked if there were any comments from his colleagues or the public.

**Yes:** 7 - Candida Affa, Roger MacLean, Courtney Robinson, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, and Ed Zucal

Enactment No: 29840

[15-3067](#)

R63

Sewage Planning Module for Habitat for Humanity of the Lehigh Valley, Semi-Detached Home Development at 640 N. Tacoma Street

**Attachments:** [R63 Habitat for Humanity of the Lehigh Valley, Semi-Detached Home Development at 640 N. Tacoma Street - Sewage Planning Module](#)  
[Sewage Planning Module - Habitat for Humanity of the Lehigh Valley Documents](#)  
[Sewage Planning Module - Habitat for Humanity of the Lehigh Valley Map](#)

Mr. Roger MacLean stated that the city has the capacity and asked if there were any comments from his colleagues or the public.

**Yes:** 7 - Candida Affa, Roger MacLean, Courtney Robinson, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, and Ed Zucal

Enactment No: 29841

[15-3072](#)

R66

Creates a Special Ad Hoc Committee to review youth programs and courses of action City might take related to youth issues.

**Sponsors:** Guridy, Mr. Robinson and Hendricks

**Attachments:** [R66 Special Ad Hoc Committee Resolution #29846](#)

Enactment No: 29846

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

[15-3053](#)

Bill 43

Amending Article 507 (Traffic control Maps) of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Allentown. 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.

**Sponsors:** Administration

**Attachments:** [Bill 43 Traffic Control Maps](#)  
[Ordinance #15551](#)

Mr. Roger MacLean asked if there were any comments from his colleagues or the public.

REFERRED TO PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Enactment No: 15551

[15-3048](#)

Bill 44

Amending the 2019 General Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000) from Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) to hire a professional historic preservation consultant to complete a historic preservation plan. This is an increase to the original grant amount of Twenty-Two Thousand (\$22,000) Dollars.

**Attachments:** [Bill 44 PHMC GRANT INCREASE - HARB](#)  
[PHMC HARB GRANT INCREASE LETTER](#)  
[Ordinance #15552](#)

Mr. Roger MacLean asked if there were any comments from his colleagues or the public.

Mr. Jim Spang asked the Mayor to acquiesce that the appointment of the commission to look into this and for Community Crime Watch Group representation. You need the input from the Neighborhood organizations.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that Jimmy has a good point and they are tying some of that in also.

REFERRED TO COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
COMMITTEE

Enactment No: 15552

[15-3049](#)

Bill 45

Amending the 2019 General Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Fifty-Seven Thousand Three Hundred Ninety-Eight (\$57,398) Dollars from the Pennsylvania Department of Justice grant to the City of Allentown for the purchase of InTime scheduling software (\$39,420) and Lehigh County's portion to purchase a drone to document crime scenes and accidents from an aerial point of view (\$17,987).

**Sponsors:** Administration

**Attachments:** [Bill 45 Police JAG Grant](#)

[Ordinance #15553](#)

Mr. Roger MacLean asked if there were any comments from his colleagues or the public.

REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Enactment No: 15553

[15-3050](#)

Bill 46

Amending the 2019 Capital Fund Budget and the 2019 General Fund by transferring One Hundred Thousand (\$100,000) Dollars from Capital Project 2400 – Blight Removal and Remediation to the 2019 General Fund, Community and Economic Development Department for preparation of the 2020 Census.

**Sponsors:** Administration

**Attachments:** [Bill 46 Transfer for Census Prep](#)

[Ordinance #15554](#)

Mr. Roger MacLean asked if there were any comments from his colleagues or the public.

Ms. Sharon Billinton asked about the Census and if we know the cost to the city. Most of the city's expenses would be for advertising. She is concerned about taking money from Blight Removal. The money would be better spent there.

Mr. Roger MacLean stated that is a question better asked at the committee meeting, unless someone has an answer right now.

Mr. Courtney Robinson stated that it will be addressed at the committee

meeting. Mr. Leonard Lightner will have a presentation on how the money will be spent. That is \$2,000 per uncounted resident, per year. He stated that the city would absolutely make back \$100,000 in more than 10 years. It is correlated to funding. He asked Mr. Lightner is he going to discuss where the city is in the blight remediation process.

Mr. Joseph McMahon stated that the city will get the money back with five extra people counted. Leaders throughout the Lehigh Valley are looking into this. Everyone believes that this investment is worthwhile.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that there was 30 percent uncounted in 2010.

Mr. Leonard Lightner stated that he will discuss it next week. He will have a full breakdown.

Ms. Sharon Billinton stated that is part of her concern. She is concerned about the fiscal responsibility. Every little thing helps. How much did we spend before?

Mr. Roger MacLean stated that he would not be able to make the committee hearing because he will be out of town. We knew the Census was coming. He asked why didn't we budget for it, initially.

Mr. Roger MacLean asked if there were any comments from the public.

#### REFERRED TO COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Enactment No: 15554

#### [15-3054](#)

##### Bill 47

Amending the 2019 Capital Fund Budget and the 2019 General Fund by transferring Sixty Thousand (\$60,000) Dollars from Capital Project 2400 – Blight Removal and Remediation and One Thousand Two Hundred Seventy-Six Dollars and Seventh-Five Cents (\$1,276.75) from Capital Project 2203 – Lights In The Parkway Improvements to the 2019 General Fund, Community and Economic Development Department, Lights In The Parkway Program for the expansion of the event to include a walk-through display around Bogert's Bridge and the Gift Barn.

**Sponsors:** Administration

**Attachments:** [Bill 47 LIGHTS IN THE PARKWAY TRANSFER](#)

Mr. Roger MacLean stated that there will be interesting questions at the committee meeting and asked if there were any comments from his colleagues or the public.

Ms. Tinku Khanwalkar, 208 N Marshall Street, stated that she cannot attend the meeting. Blight is not a direct EAC issue, but there are certain environmental aspects. There is already \$100,000 taken out from the Census and \$60,000 from Lights in the Parkway.

Mr. Roger MacLean asked if there were any comments from his colleagues or the public.

REFERRED TO COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
COMMITTEE

[15-3061](#)

Bill 48

Amending the Zoning Code, Article 1327 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Allentown, Re: Additional Requirements for Specific Uses by reducing the amount of storage required in new multi-family dwelling units.

**Attachments:** [Bill 48 Storage Space Ordinance](#)

[Letter from Irene Woodward from Planning Department regarding  
Amending the Zoning Code - Storage Area](#)

[Referral Letter from Mike Hanlon regarding Bill 48 Amending the  
Zoning Code Additional Requirements for Specific Uses by reducing  
the amount of storage required](#)

[Letter from Mike Hanlon regarding Rezoning on Multi-Family Dwellings  
Storage Space](#)

[Letter from Irene Woodward from the Planning Department Storage  
Area Contained Inside Multi Family Business Dwelling Units](#)

Mr. Roger MacLean asked if there were any comments from his colleagues or the public.

REFERRED TO COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
COMMITTEE

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

**NEW BUSINESS: NONE**

**GOOD AND WELFARE**

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that he is a firm believer in giving credit when credit is due. He worked on this since 2001 when he was first in traffic. His intersection at 16th and Tilghman Streets has an extremely high amount of accidents. In the last couple of weeks, Craig Messinger, Nelson and Mark made improvements to this site alignments, painted and extended the yellow areas. He extended congratulations to Officer Holveck and his wife on their future family member to arrive.

**ADJOURNED: 8:59 PM**

