



Minutes - Final

Community and Economic Development Committee

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

Roll Call: Chairperson Guridy, Gerlach, Affa

[15-3406](#)

Bill 6 CEDC, Recommended Favorably
Amending the 2020 General Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Thirty-Nine Thousand Ninety-Six Dollars (\$39,096) from the Pennsylvania Department of Health, Bureau of Public Health Preparedness and Response to expand Opioid awareness and education activities in the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Grant.

Attachments: [Bill 6 Opioid Awareness Grant](#)

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any questions from the dais.

Ms. Vicky Kistler stated that this is a mini grant before the big grant. This is to take the CDC proven heroine and opioid prevention messages to get it out to our media. Hopefully, in the next three months she will be coming back with a much larger grant that delivers education and prevention. Has an opioid review team and has a lot more meat to it. This is a precursor. This money has to be spent by March 31st. They have to move quickly using CDC Ads on billboards, bus trailers, and radio.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if they will do some of the ads in Spanish.

Ms. Vicky Kistler stated that they will try.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any comments from the dais.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if they have a company lined up.

Ms. Vicky Kistler stated that for this the prevention messages are already developed by the CDC. They just have to go to the delivering media outlet: Clear Channel, the city's electronic billboards, in the bus trailers through LANTA. When the next grant arrives they are going to look for a Request for Proposal to do an actual social media campaign.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that this was a very short window.

Ms. Vicky Kistler stated that it is insane. It is the result of the Pennsylvania

Department of Health difficulty in their procurement department rolling out its CDC funding.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any other comments from the dais or the public.

A motion was made by Ce-Ce Gerlach, seconded by Candida Affa, that this Bill be forwarded to the full Council. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Julio Guridy, Ce-Ce Gerlach and Candida Affa

Enactment No: 15594

[15-3407](#)

R17

Property to Be Acquired by Eminent Domain by the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Allentown

Amendment: Remove 1216 Chew, 1250 Gordon and 147 Elsworth from the list.

Attachments: [R17 Blighted Properties](#)

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that there are a lot of properties here.

Mr. Leonard Lightner stated that the Council has the list that was given to them earlier of all the different properties through he Eminent Domain. They had them certified. There are owners of the properties tonight that may want to talk on their behalf. Just because we go through the process doesn't mean we take all the properties. We just done want to stop the process. It's been a year that we get to this point in time. Until we go through the Declaration of Taking, these properties are under review. He stated that they do have the list.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that this is not the first time. Although the list is here, the properties are being considered. If the owner of the property fix the property, the Redevelopment Authority will not take it through Eminent Domain. If they stop correcting the problem, we will pursue Eminent Domain and take the property. As an example, the Americus Hotel, we took that property through Eminent Domain and the owner could not do anything.

Ms. Ce-Ce Gerlach stated that she was over checking the new schools out and noticed that one of the properties, 250 W. Gordon Street there were people living it.

Ms. Kelly McElroy stated that they found out that people are occupying that property. They can't through Eminent Domain process so it is going another route. It is going another route.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if they should take the property out.

Ms. Kelly McElroy stated that there are properties that have been removed. The other one that needs to be removed is 21 Race Street. It has been complied. That one will be removed. 1621 Race Street has been removed, and 1216 Chew Street will be to be removed.

Mr. Leonard Lightner stated that when they start this process, one of the main requirement is that the property is vacant. When they started the process, the property was vacant. They will get to the ninth hour and all of sudden, we have Jim one of our Inspectors that handle the Blight and tries to go out a day before or the day of and you will find some that are occupied.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any comments from the public.

Ms. Jocelyn Glacier (sp), 26 N. 13th Street, stated that she just bought it January 17, 2020. She received a letter from the department and called and spoke with Kelly and informed her the she connected UGI to connect the hearing system and PPL to connect the electricity. The property is clean and ready. Once those connections are completed, they are able to install new carpet and repainted. The roof has been fix and has a few leaks. Everything is in process.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked the administration if they keep the property on the list or something that will be taken out.

Mr. Leonard Lightner stated that one of their stances is that they prefer to keep it on and will work with them through the process. They won't go through with the Declaration of Taking (DOT) process. If they say no and take it off the list, and they walk away from this they have to start all over again. He prefers it stays on. Once the permits are pulled, once the work is done, get a pre-sale inspection then at that point they can step away. He stated that the city does not have a pre-sale inspection on record.

Ms. Jocelyn Glacier stated that when she bought the property it was listed as commercial. For commercial they don't require that. She went to the fourth floor and was told the it is half residential.

Mr. Leonard Lightner stated that when it is completed commercial, but if there is residential there, you need a pre-sale inspection. We will be glad to work with the owner as long as they keep touch with them.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that the goal is once the CO is issued at that point it is not a concern.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked is that next to the church. He asked is it a telephone store.

Ms. Jocelyn Glacier stated yes. Across the street from the church. The person who bought it intended to use it as an office. She stated that she has an office for tax and plans to use it for her tax office. She is getting it ready for next year.

Ms. Jocelyn Glacier stated that she is going to translate for Maria Rodriguez.

Ms. Maria Rodriguez, 116 N. 8th Street, stated that she has a lot of permit for work. Everything is almost clean and finished.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked how many apartments.

Ms. Maria Rodriguez stated that the first floor is the supermarket and there is one apartment. That is not the new condition. They have a window on the second floor.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked Mr. Lightner if he is asked is this someone you are considering to

maintain and see how it goes.

Mr. Leonard Lightner stated as Mr. Hendricks said, until we get a clear Certificate of Occupancy (CO).

Mr. Julio Guridy stated to Ms. Rodriguez if she is working on it and keeping in touch with the Community and Economic Development Department, they are OK. Once you get a Certificate of Occupancy, you will be off the list.

Ms. maria Rodriguez stated OK. Thank you very much.

Mr. Steven Torres, 813 N. Silk Street, stated that he brought a couple of pictures. He will be finished with the jobs next week and will be finished for inspection. He is working on the house.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that you are working on it. He asked anybody else. He asked if there were any comments from the dais.

A motion was made by Ce-Ce Gerlach, seconded by Candida Affa, that this Resolution be forwarded to the full Council. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Julio Guridy, Ce-Ce Gerlach and Candida Affa

Adjourned: 6:17 PM