



Minutes - Final

Rules, Chambers, Intergovernmental Relations and Strategy

Wednesday, May 20, 2020

6:15 PM

Remote Participation of Councilmembers, City Staff and our Citizens: While the Council and City Hall doors are physically closed to the public, the Council Chambers are open to the public through electronic means. The public, City staff and councilpersons are afforded the opportunity to participate remotely. Councilpersons and city staff participating in chambers will follow CDC guidelines – six-foot separation, separate microphones and wearing masks. These efforts are geared towards minimizing the number of people in the room at the same time to protect against community spread of the virus. Also, to protect against community spread, members of the public are invited to participate in public comment and courtesy of the floor through electronic means. We will be making every effort to create as many opportunities for residents to comment on legislation and bring issues to Courtesy of the Floor.

Encouraging Written Public Comments and Courtesy of the Floor Statements: Public comments will be accepted in writing through an email to the City Clerk at Michael.Hanlon@Allentownpa.gov. Emailed public comment for council meetings must be submitted by 5:00 pm on the day of the meeting to make it available and distribute it. The comments received will be read into the record by the City Clerk. The email must follow the regular format of council meetings – include your name and address on the email. A Courtesy of the Floor section will be created for items not on the agenda. Please forward these requests to the City Clerk's email address above.

Live Comments During the Meeting: Email - Council will be taking live comments during the meeting following the regular protocols using email. Email can be sent to the City Clerk at Michael.Hanlon@Allentownpa.gov. A reminder that comments must be directed to legislation under review except for Courtesy of the Floor.

The meeting is livestreamed and can be found at the city website: <https://www.allentownpa.gov/> under Public Meetings or simply go directly to the link <https://allentownpa.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>. Make sure the drop-down menu references City Council and is on the current month. The complete agenda and legislation are found there. When the meeting starts, it will say Meeting in Progress on the right-hand side. Click that and you will join the meeting. The livestream works best with up to date browsers. After the meeting is over, the video will be uploaded into the file. Should you have any questions on this, call the City Council Office at 610-437-7556.

Record of Meeting: The video and minutes of the meeting will be posted on the City website as soon as possible after the meeting for review.

Roll Call: Chair Hendricks, Guridy, Gerlach

Ce-Ce Gerlach participated remotely using Microsoft Teams

[15-3583](#)

R57

Creating opportunities for residents to obtain information and comment on agenda items prior to meetings

Sponsors: Guridy, Hendricks, Gerlach, Mota and Mr. Siegel

Attachments: [R57 Council Rules Amd](#)
[Resolution #29990](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that he thinks that this has become more effective that they can allow people and certainly them to ask those questions ahead of time. He stated that he thinks it would alleviate a lot of the conflicts while the meeting is going on. It kind of opens everything up and puts it out there in an earlier manner and leads to more effective meeting times spent here. As shown over the last couple of meetings and couple of months that it is much for effective. He asked if there were any comments, suggestions or questions.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that there are no questions.

Mr. Matthew Kloiber stated that it falls under a more category of a stylistic suggestion as opposed to a legal substantive one. It is something that could be rejected, but it is a suggestion to in the second line remove the phrase to the Council. It makes it read a little clearer without that. It would read: Council must provide reasonable opportunity for interested citizens and taxpayers to ask questions and receive information on matters before committee or council prior to the meetings. He stated that it is more of a stylistic sort of suggestion. It doesn't change the substance or the intent behind it. Removing that phrase to the Council might make it a little bit clearer.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if they needed a motion to amend it.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that they can treat it as a typo.

Mr. Matthew Kloiber stated that it would be a suggestion for this committee that will be the change. The amendment gets made before Council.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked Mr. Hanlon if he thought it was a typo.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that he doesn't know if Matt would allow that. He stated that he was just suggesting it.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated to make a motion to amend it and delete it.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that the Resolution will be forwarded to the full Council with the suggested amendment.

Enactment No: 29990

Adjourned: 6:17 PM