



Allentown

435 Hamilton Street
Allentown, Pa. 18101

Minutes - Final

City Council

Wednesday, June 2, 2021

6:45 PM

Council Chambers

Contract Approval

Public Comment Provisions during COVID-19: The meeting will be live streamed. The link to the meeting can be found on the city website with the agenda and legislation at <https://www.allentownpa.gov>. Council will receive comments on the legislation prior to the meeting and will consider all comments from city residents. All comments must include your name and address, including your city, and be emailed to Michael.Hanlon@AllentownPa.gov by 2 PM on the date of the meeting. Comments can also be registered using the ecomment provision on each agenda item found on the city website. Comments received from city residents by that deadline will be forwarded to the Mayor and Council members prior to the meeting and will also be noted at Courtesy of the Floor or Public Comment periods of the meeting. These timely received comments will also be posted on the City's webpage as a supporting document to the meeting. Any comments received on the meeting day, after the 2:00 pm deadline, will be forwarded to the Mayor and Council as soon as practicable. In addition, if you would like to speak during the meeting, please send your name, address, including municipality, and telephone number to the email address above indicating what issue you would like to speak on or call the office at 610.437.7555 and do the same, and you will be called during the meeting.

Roll Call: Council President Guridy

Present: 7 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Joshua Siegel

RESOLUTIONS FOR FINAL PASSAGE (To be Voted On):

[15-4323](#)

R71

Authorizes Contract with Preferred EAP for \$12,000 to provide an Employee Assistance Program allowing up to five 50 minute in-person contacts for eligible employees for brief counseling or referral to appropriate treatment/service resource; three informal quotes; one year contract starting July 1, 2021 with the option to renew for an additional 24 months under the same terms and conditions.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R71 Preferred EAP](#)
[Resolution #30208](#)

Ms. Jessica Baraket stated that three informal quotes were obtained and evaluated for this. Preferred EAP was determined to provide the greatest value to the city. This vendor has been providing this service successfully to the city for the past few years.

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

Mr. Ed Zucal asked do they know what the service is and he thought it was under the assumption that this was a volunteer program for employees.

Ms. Meloney Sallie - Dosunmu stated that the service is actually offered through Lehigh Valley Hospital Network. They are the contractor that the city has been using for a while. They did take this out for bid. This is a voluntary program. It is available to people and they do use it voluntarily. They do use additional services. They do come and do webinars and group counseling at times. The city recently had an employee pass away and it was tumultuous time for employees. They actually had a group counseling session. They do some additional work for the city as well. It is voluntary and available to employees. They can use it voluntarily. There are times that the city will use the service as a mandatory service. The city's policy on drug and alcohol is that if someone gets a positive drug test then the person gets a mandatory suspension and during that time they get mandatory drug and alcohol counseling through EAP. Other than that, it is a voluntary program.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there a limit on how many employees they will do this for.

Ms. Meloney Sallie-Dosunmu stated that it is available for every employee and family members can actually take advantage of it as well. The city only pays the fee based on the number of employees that they have. Dependents are eligible to use the service as well. The city does pay per employee. The city pays a fee. This \$12,000 that is in this budget and this contract is based on a rate of \$2.20 per eligible employee per month. They also gives the city a financial subsidy to keep our cost down.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that he is sure that this would not happen, but if every employee took advantage of it, it would be covered under the contract.

Ms. Meloney Sallie-Dosunmu stated absolutely it would. Every employee can take advantage of it. They get five visits as part of the package. If they seek more than five visits, then they get a referral and then they have to use the medical benefit.

Ms. Candida Affa asked does this apply to Council also. She stated that they certainly can use it at times.

Mr. Ed Zucal asked if Ms. Sallie-Dosunmu saying that it is five visits per employee or five visits a period.

Ms. Meloney Sallie - Dosunmu stated five visits per employee.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated five 50 minute in person contact.

Ms. Meloney Sallie - Dosunmu stated yes.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that it is a good program. He asked if there were any comments from the public.

Yes: 7 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Joshua Siegel

Enactment No: 30208

[15-4324](#)

R72

Authorizes Contract with Construction Masters Services, LLC for \$557,630.00 to construct/reconstruct ADA Ramps per the Americans with Disability Act, along with incidental work as may be authorized by the Contract Manager; four bids; work to be completed within 270 days with option of three-month extension.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R72 Construction Masters Services](#)
[Resolution #30210](#)

Ms. Jessica Baraket stated that this was done as Bid #2021-09. It was advertised on Public Purchase. It was accessed by 19 vendors and four responses were received. An award is being recommended to the lowest bidder and we have done business with them before.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked how do we determine which properties get this reconstruction and which one don't. He gets a lot of people calling him that the city is obligating them to get their sidewalk ADA assessable and reconstruct their sidewalk then some people down the street don't get them. How does that work?

Mr. Craig Messinger stated that the streets that on our street paving program is the city of Allentown Streets. Not the Utility Paving Program. They are required to put the handicap ramp in if their corner ins in deplorable condition. If the corner has a previous ramp or the corner is in good condition, meaning that the curbing there and the sidewalk is in good

condition then the city of Allentown's CDBG money pays for it. It all depends on if there is one there and the area is in good condition. That's how it gets evaluated. The Utility Program that the city has been working with UGI and with LCA this year, the city was capable instead of them having to pay for it. Ninety percent is getting done under the Utility Program. It is all in the Ordinance and everything is done per the city's ordinance.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that he and Mr. Messinger spoke about a lady who called in about three or four months ago and she was complaining about it. She lives on the west end and she believes the city requires it and should be paying for it. He stated that he got a lot of calls from people that were charged \$800.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that the city met with the lady, her husband and the neighbors.

Mr. Craig Messinger stated that they are talking about the property on Highland Street. The city met with them and they understood the situation after it was explained to them. He stated that he does not believe they understood that most of them actually were from South Whitehall. The city has 16 feet of ride-away onto their property. The permits were pulled by their contractors and they are doing the work.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that part of that conversation was whether or not there was funding available from the federal government since it is a mandated requirements from the Americans with Disabilities Act. What has been done to inquire about what is available.

Mr. Craig Messinger stated that is something that will be under Community and Economic Development and there are times when people do have an issue with it we forward them that way. Obviously, they are income limits and also if they have funding available for it. He has not heard back if they would receive it. The people on Highland Street he can take a pretty good guess that they would not meet the income and asset requirements necessary to get paid for it.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated what you were saying about the upkeep of it. He stated that he can buy a house tomorrow somewhere in the city and the ramp is in poor condition, but it was that way when he bought the house.

Mr. Craig Messinger stated that he understands that.

qMr. Julio Guridy stated that he is with Craig. He is more concerned with the people that have very low income. He has a case that he helped and

what he did basically was actually asked them to make a loan and put a lien on the person's property for \$10,000 to \$12,000. He has to pay when he sells the house. It was on Tilghman and Lumber Street.

Mr. Craig Messinger stated that he understands that. To all of them on Council, just a few years ago 100 percent of the properties would have either replaced it or if it would have been in good condition, the city would have replaced it. Just in those few years now, they have it now where 90 percent of them at least are getting paid for it through the Utility Company. He can tell them that they are going to continue to work that way and the goal is to make it so that all of them would be funded that way. Again, when the city has roads out there in deplorable conditions, he still has to do the roadway and as always the Ordinances that are put in place are office makes sure they are followed and treated equally.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked how many miles and roads the city has to do with the ADA ramp.

Mr. Craig Messinger stated at this point in time if you would give him probably \$60 - \$70 million, he could get the rest of them done.

Mr. Matthew Kloiber stated that his office has been tasked into looking in to this and provided with some authority from another jurisdiction that dealt with a similar sort of issue. With their research into that authority and doing their own research and what they found that the way that the city is handling this is consistent with the applicable law. The way that Mr. Messinger describes it is correct and the Solicitor's office is handling in the way that is consistent with the law that applies here.

Mr. Julio Guridy thanked Mr. Kloiber and stated that he always enjoyed speaking to Mr. Messinger on things like this because he always gives them the right answer. He asked if there were any further comments from the dais or the public.

Yes: 7 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Joshua Siegel

Enactment No: 30210

ADJOURNED: 7:02 PM