



Allentown

435 Hamilton Street
Allentown, Pa. 18101

Minutes - Final

City Council

Wednesday, September 15, 2021

6:30 PM

Council Chambers

Invocation:

Pledge to the Flag

Roll Call

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

Courtesy of the Floor

Courtesy and Privilege of the Floor Rules

Mr. Hal Thomas, Ceren Delivery Inc. and Orion Delivery Inc. - Subtractor for FedEx, stated that they are two companies that deliver products for the city of Allentown to both cities and residential. They are receiving an untold number of double parking tickets in the City of Allentown. It is severely impacting the ability to pay for these tickets. To do the delivery service to the city of Allentown just is deserve. They are looking for an interpretation from the City Council on the exemption. The different Magistrates are interpreting exemptions in a different fashion. The fines are excessive. A double parking ticket that may have parked three separate times, the fines are up to \$350 a piece and if they go to appeal the fines, the fine goes up to \$430+. It is impacting them tremendously from a business point of view. They are looking for due consideration from City Council.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated thank you.

Ms. Candida Affa asked what exactly do you deliver.

Mr. Hal Thomas stated that they deliver virtually anything that anyone can order online.

Ms. Candida Affa asked if he is like an Amazon.

Mr. Hal Thomas stated that they are like an Amazon or UPS. They work as a subcontractor for FedEx. Every FedEx truck that you see in the city that are making deliveries are subcontractors to FedEx. They are not drivers employed by FedEx. They are separate contractors.

Ms. Candida Affa stated obviously they are trucks. Do you have signage on your trucks?

Mr. Hal Thomas stated yes, absolutely. It has become such a problem for them that the Allentown Parking Authority is filing their trucks. FedEx is on a seven day cycle. As soon as reaches a third ticket, it automatically reached \$350. They are spending thousand of dollars on tickets in the city.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that the Mayor is here and Mr. Thomas can talk to. Ms. Affa and Mr. Hendricks are both in the Parking Authority Board.

Mayor Ray O'Connell state that the City of Allentown and the Allentown Parking Authority are separate Authorities. That has to be taken up by the board with Mr. Morgan, Mr. Haney, and the five members that are on the Parking Authority Board. He stated that he does support the gentleman's concern.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that the only reason he said that is because the Police is under the city may be involved in some cases of double parking issues.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that they will look at it.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked Mr. Thomas if he approached the Parking Authority about this and who did you speak to.

Mr. Hal Thomas stated yes, they have. They reached out to the Parking Authority a number of times both from an appeal process as well as attempting to get meetings with them. Every appeal process has been denied. So far, they have been to five different magistrates and each of the magistrates appear to be interpreting the city ordinance in a different fashion. Some of them tell us we have a legitimate point and we have an exemption under 53204. Others referred to Section 531. As a business, he stated that they are completely confused. He stated that they would like an interpretation from the city on the ordinance whether it does or does not exempt. He stated that obviously, they are after the exemption because they deliver every day. The volume that they deliver is enormous.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that he remembers when Council did the double parking Bill. His recollection of this is the delivery trucks were exempt from that. He was one of the people who sponsored that.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated rather than belabor the issue, he suggested that Mr. Thomas gives his information to the City Clerk and Council will look into it. He and Ms. Affa will talk to the Parking Authority. Perhaps a meeting

will be best.

Mr. Hal Thomas stated please bear in mind that they have been told by each of the Magistrates whether they win in a particular ticket case or not. Every ticket that the Parking Authority gives to them, they must fight before the Magistrate. The time and the manpower to fight each of the tickets and time taken up by doing that is impacting their business tremendously.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that is something they can take up in a meeting.

Ms. Candida Affa stated on September 22 which is a Wednesday and an open meeting. You know where the Parking Authority is and it is at noon. She suggested the Mr. Thomas comes to that meeting. Especially, if you could make it on the 22nd. The rest of the board members need to hear this.

Mr. Hal Thomas stated that if she sets the timeframe, he will guarantee they will be there.

Ms. Candida Affa stated September 22 at noon. It is every fourth Wednesday of each month.

Mr. Ed Zucal asked if they cited him on the city's ordinance or the state section. He believes 100 percent that there is an exemption. Also, under the state 3353B Section there is also an exemption for loading and unloading.

Mr. Hal Thomas stated the city's ordinance. He has a copy of the city's ordinance.

Mr. Charles Smith asked the name of the company. He asked are they both vehicles.

Mr. Hal Thomas stated Ceren Delivery Inc and Orion Delivery Inc. The subcontractors are listed on the side of the vehicles. FedEx is large on all sides of the vehicle. The name of the company is above the DOT license is on each side of the vehicle.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if he only experiencing that in Allentown or other municipalities.

Mr. Hal Thomas stated that they are only experiencing that in Allentown. They deliver in Bethlehem, exclusively under FedEx.

Ms. Diane Gibson, 444 N. Seventh Street, stated that she is here on behalf

of the residents living in the 400, 500 and 600 Block of N Seventh Street who has been impacted with the revision and on behalf of some of the merchants. They want to formally and jointly voice their descent to the Allentown Parking Authority revision to Zone 2 which is scheduled to take effect October 1st. As you know, we are able to currently park on our street for an annual renewal fee of \$20 a year. The revision will allow us to park on the other rezone two blocks, but just not on the street we live on. The other alternative is to park on the newly developed block on the 500 Block for a monthly, not annual fee of \$20 seem to increase yearly. She stated that their descent is two-fold on fairness and hardship. Other business districts are not being held to the same restrictions such as 19th and Linden, Walnut, the 400 Block of Linden and Eighth Street. Granted, Seventh Street is the main corridor to the city and by far the busiest. Not to mention, it shares some authority with PennDot. Nonetheless, Allentown Parking Authority is still accountable to this board and this administration. North Seventh Street has always enjoyed mixed uses of zoning. There was a time when many of the storefronts were closed. Thanks to economic urban development, one by one they began to get occupied until they were all occupied. Then it was determined to convert first floor homes into commercial spaces and thus we now have more businesses at street level than non business. For the economic urban development to accomplish its goals, the parking mandates for businesses were waived. She stated that they submit that the plan scheduled to be implemented made in a vacuum with no resident input in total disregard with the Impact Plan. We have other residents who have sustained N. Seventh Street through good and bad times. She stated take her for an example. She lived at this address for 46 years. She raised her family there and recently retired from the Allentown School District. Her husband is self-employed and is slowing down. He needs his car to work and she needs her car to get to doctors appointments. She stated that she walks with a cane. To get to her parks car on Seventh Street can be a journey. As it is, it is a challenge to find parking in our own block. The suggestion that they find parking on other zone 2 blocks is truly unrealistic. Hence, compelling us to park in other designated lot is a financial hardship. Financially, her household is a semi-fixed income. Soon to be a fixed income and we are not the only ones on Seventh Street with limited income and/or with health issues. The plan to free up the street parking will be to accommodate others that do not live on these blocks. Again, for the benefit of businesses. We respectfully request, that the plan to implement the revision be delayed for one year to allow community participation and to explore creative alternatives such as: park and shop. The residents are asked simply to be able to park on the street they live in at an affordable fee.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that any information you have, you may give it to the City Clerk, Mike Hanlon. He asked if Ms. Gibson has parking in back of

her home through the alley.

Ms. Diane Gibson stated no, she does not.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach thanked Ms. Gibson for coming. Last Council meeting we discussed this. She stated that she forgets who it was that said something about and someone else was talking about how the cost of the parking lots is not realistic for the average Allentown resident. Someone here said that the Parking Authority is working on that financial burden for Seventh Street. She does not know if the \$20 bucks a month is them working on it or is it something further being done to decrease that \$20 a month even more. Do we know if that is the resolution. The \$20 a month.

Ms. Diane Gibson stated that right now, it is \$20 a year. They want to do \$20 a month. That will be \$240 a year and \$360 the next year and \$480 the next year for one car. She stated that her family has two cars. Now, it comes up to \$960 in three years. It is outrageous.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that it is. It is ridiculous. As you heard the Mayor say, the Parking Authority is a different entity. Speaking for herself, that is ridiculous. Time and time we hear from people in the community coming up with concerns with the Parking Authority. She happens to live in a neighborhood that also has concerns with residential parking and the lack thereof and was told the same thing. Go a couple block away and park in nonexistent parking.

Ms. Diane Gibson stated that those streets are already parked full even if she could get to them.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that she is not on the Authority Board so all she can offer is that she is sorry. She stated that she feels her and actually understand what she is going through and so sorry she has to go through that.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that they all understand Ms. Gibson and suggested that she goes to the Parking Authority Board meeting on the 22nd at noon and voice your sentiment about this. Advise them that you have been here twice already. He stated that Council feels the same way that she feels.

Mr. Tom Gibson stated that basically when he came in tonight, he saw the neighborhood planning for the first and sixth wards and they want his input on what should go on down there. Not only his, but he is a visitor to Allentown, they want his input. If I am just traveling through, they want my input. Somehow this input of what is going on with parking in front of his house or in his block, nobody wanted his input. He is reading through the

mission statement of the Allentown City Council is to provide democratic and transparent manner efficient and effective services which will make the city of Allentown a better place in which to live, work, and play. he likes that. He thinks the transparent part got missed with them because all they got was a notice that this was all changing and they are going to have to park blocks away from their house. He is talking two, three and up to four blocks away where they can park. It would be nice on a nice spring day or fall day, but when it comes to winter, snow and ice just traveling the sidewalks is a hassle. He is thinking they would like to push this thing off and get the input from the people of Allentown who actually live here, not the people that are passing through or are visitors like this other one wants.

Mr. Julio Guridy thanked Mr. Gibson and stated that as he told Ms. Gibson to go to the Parking Authority. We are not doing the survey that Mr. Gibson is talking about. It is not the city that is doing it. It is the Parking Authority.

Mr. Leonard Lightner stated that the first and sixth wards survey is from Planning and they are getting community input. We have been down the first and sixth wards several times. We want to get everyone's input so that is out there, absolutely.

Mr. Tom Gibson stated that on the back on what his wife gave is four pages of signed signatures and addresses of people that live on the 400, 500 and 600 Block that does not include some of the merchants.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that he agrees with him. He has a business on Seventh Street and it is hard for people to park.

Mr. Tom Gibson stated the 22nd Parking Authority meeting at noon.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach asked if they vote on rate increases. This is a rate increase for the residents that live there. She asked will they be taking action on this at any point.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that it would have to be brought to us by the Parking Authority. We don't initialized that. They do.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach asked if the Parking Authority will be bringing it to them since it is a rate change.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that if it is a rate increase, they should bring it to us. He stated that he knows they vote on the rates for the meters, but he is not sure they vote on the rates of the parking lots and the parking garages.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that he does not believes Council does.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that they will find out.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that if we do, we will see this.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that the Allentown Parking Authority comes to the city when they want a rate change, but anytime the city of Allentown, the President of City Council and members of City Council who calls upon them to come and answer questions be it from them or the public. That is the way he read it.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that he is pretty sure that Council is not voting on the parking lot or parking garages rates. We vote on the parking meters rate. Remember, when they raised the rates recently. They were dealing with the business district when there was an event. We voted on the meters, but they set their own rates for the parking garages.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that he understands that, but City Council can call a public meeting because not everybody can make the fourth Wednesday at noon time. All it is taking testimony.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that Council can invite any Authority. They have done that in the past.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that she agrees with him, but the difference is to be able to have the board listen to this. The entire board is not going to be here. Mr. Morgan will be here or someone in the Authority. She looks forward to here because they are the ones that vote.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that he understands, but they have three members of the board. Mr. O'Neill is a member of the board as the Finance Director of the City of Allentown. You have Mr. Zeller and Mr. Santos Napoli. it could come through the Public Safety Meeting on the Committee of the Whole.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that it is a great idea to have community input. She has been getting a lot of phone calls on Seventh Street, including businesses. They also have great concern. We all know our community is poor and believe it or not \$20 a week can make a big difference. It is important to have community input. Jus for the community to come and talk about this is going to affect them.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that State Representative Peter Schweyer has spoken to her about this. There is concern as far as the state level. She stated that he spoke to her again and there are many people and officials.

It is important that they have the community.

Mr. Tom Gibson stated that the thought they has was to push it off for a year and get everybody involved in talking bout it going on because the residents feels like they really been left out of this.

Mr. Julio Guridy thanked the Gibson's for doing this and getting those signatures and translating it to Spanish as well. Obviously, the community in that area is Hispanic/Latino. He stated that he is glad that they did it in English and Spanish.

Mr. Tom Gibson stated your welcome.

Ms. Bridgette Parks, 437 N. Seventh Street, stated her neighbor, Diane Gibson already explained how it is affecting us. She lives as a homeowner on Seventh Street since 1993. Prior to that her late husband had a business dating back to 1945. She wants Council to know that parking has always been an issue for businesses on Seventh Street. It wasn't easier for us when we had our business, but we had to do as a business had to go and find parking and rent parking for our customers. What's going on right now with this proposed is going to be such a hardship for residents, people that rent as well as the homeowners. She thanked Council for considering it and valuing their input.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that they spoke before.

Ms. Bridgette Parks stated yes, they met.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that Rand Parks Seafood for many, many years was one of the best seafood restaurants in the city of Allentown. He stated that they used to go there a lot. We go way back.

Ms. Bridgette Parks stated yes, way back when. You had my children. She stated that she does not have a business anymore. The Parks Seafood Family ceased to continue to do business, but what she is, is a homeowner living on Seventh Street. She is liking Seventh Street and liking also the activity on Seventh Street. She likes her neighbors and all the businesses. But, you cannot turn every house into a business. Parking should not be our greatest concern.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated yes, I had you children in school.

[15-4574](#)

Diane Gibson - Courtesy of the Floor discussion on Permit Parking Costs

Attachments: [Diane Gibson - Courtesy of the Floor discussion on Permit Parking Costs](#)

Contract Approvals[15-4566](#)

R145

Authorization for Contract with J. Smucker Contracting, LLC for \$278,050 for roof repairs on Hibernia Fire Station, Mack South Fire Station and the City of Allentown Garage, competitively bid, two bids.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R145 - J Smucker](#)

[Resolution #30290](#)

Ms. Sarrah McNeil stated that this was done as Bid 2021-18. It was advertised on Public Purchase and it was accessed by 29 vendors and two proposals were received. The department is recommending an award to J. Smucker Contracting, LLC as they were the lowest bidder. The cost of the contract was \$278,050. The city has successfully done business with this vendor before.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any 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: 30290

[15-4567](#)

R146

Authorization for Contract with G&B Construction Group, Inc. in the amount of \$573,170 to remove and dispose of sidewalk and/or concrete curb, construct/reconstruct curb and sidewalk, in conjunction with the 2021 streets improvements program, competitively bid, 2 bids.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R146 G&B Construction](#)

[Resolution #30291](#)

Ms. Sarrah McNeil stated that this bid was done as Bid #2021-21 and advertised on Public Purchase. It was accessed by 24 vendors and two responses were received. After the review of both submissions, the department would like to award the lowest bidder, G&B Construction. The cost of the contract is \$573,170. The city has successfully done business with this vendor before. Some people if they have a tripping hazard or their sidewalks are falling apart. We give them a notice for them to have a contractor take care of it.

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

Mr. Ed Zucal asked why are we not making the people that are doing the sidewalks remove it.

Ms. Sarrah McNeil stated that she would have to put that to Kyle, the Contract Administrator.

Mayor Ray O'Connell asked if Kyle or Mr. Messinger are on the call.

Mr. Craig Messinger stated that they do actually when the letters go out, request that they do it themselves. To get their own contractor just for the fact that they are going to save a lot of money instead of paying the prevailing wage rate which the city has to put out with this contract. A lot of people want to do it themselves and get their own contractors, but some people would rather have the city take care of it. They don't want to deal with the contractors. They don't want to deal with the permits and everything so they end up having the city do it. He tries to stress to them that it is going to be a lot more expensive if they do it this way, but some people want it that way.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that the city is paying for it, not the contractor.

Mr. Craig Messinger stated that there are a list of rates that have to go with it. Along with the contract there is a list of rates if they need a certain amount of curbing put in or they need a certain amount of sidewalk. They can take care of it themselves, however, some ignore it, some people just want the city to do it, and we have to provide a contractor to take care of this work and they end up getting billed for it.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that he understands, but this is contracted work that is already been agreed to as far as the replacement of the curb. If they need it to be removed then they should be paying for it, not the city.

Mr. Craig Messinger stated that they are. We pay the contractor then bill the homeowner. They end up paying for it. The process is if we take care of the work, we have to pay the contractor because they are contracted to us. We then bill the homeowner for the work that was completed.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked Mr. Messinger how then do we come up with the amount then. He stated that he is a little confused. How do we know how many homeowners are going to wish to do it on their own that we end of paying for it and then we reimburse the city. How do we come up with that number.

Mr. Craig Messinger stated that they already gave the homeowners 120 days to come in and get the contractor to come in and pull the permit. These are houses that did not come in and pull the permit. We know which houses we are going to take care of.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that we are not estimating what is going to happen in the future. We are billing for what we are going to be doing from past notices that are going out and unfilled them.

Mr. Craig Messinger stated correct.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that will be a lot of money for the homeowners. If they do it themselves. He stated that if he has a home and they sent him a notice that he needs to do the sidewalk. That is the way it works. If he doesn't do it and they send him another notice or send a couple of notices, if he doesn't do it. What they are doing is they are going to hire someone to do it for you. Whatever is hired, that is what he is going to be paying. Now, they are saying instead of hiring one person. They are hiring two people. One to do the work and the other to remove the thing. That sounds pretty weird. It obviously depends on how big the sidewalk is too.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that it is no different then when you put a roof on your house. The guy that puts the roof off and takes the shingles off got to remove the shingles.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated exactly. They usually would do it. He does not know what happened here. Where did the system break? He thought that is the way it was. You hire a person and that contractor will do the work and throw away the debris material.

Mr. Craig Messinger stated that some people need a curb installed. Some people don't have curbing depending on where they live. If they just need to get a curbing installed, they don't have to pay to get it removed. If someone has something existing, they have to pay to get it removed and installed. This is the same contractor. They take care of everything.

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

Yes: 5 - Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Joshua Siegel

No: 1 - Ed Zucal

Absent: 1 - Candida Affa

Enactment No: 30291

[15-4562](#)

R147

Authorization for Engagement of Professional Services with Materials Conservation in the amount of \$3,975 for consulting and construction administrative services, including but not limited to, providing the construction documents for masonry repair for next phase of WPA wall at Park Drive project, single quote.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R147 Materials Conservation](#)
[Resolution #30292](#)

Ms. Sarrah McNeil stated that this was WPA Phase 3 wall at Park Drive. The quote provided by Materials Conservation is below the Purchasing threshold requirements and only one quote is needed. The cost of this contract is \$3,975 and we have successfully done business with this vendor before.

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

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that this is Ms. McNeil first meeting for City Council talking about the contracts. How did she do, A+?

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that he sees. She did excellent job. Ms. Baraket used to do a good job as well.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that Ms. Baraket trained her well.

Mr. Joshua Siegel stated that she has to understand that Mr. Zucal is a tough questioner.

Mr. Julio Guridy stat that he and Mr. Zucal both ask a lot of financial questions.

A motion was made by Julio Guridy that this Resolution be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Joshua Siegel

Absent: 1 - Candida Affa

Enactment No: 30292

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Communications

Old Business

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:**Committee of the Whole:**

There will be a **Special Meeting** on September 22 at 6:30 PM to introduce legislation relating to the American Rescue Plan and to hear a presentation from the Administration on their proposed allocation. This will be the first meeting in a series of meetings.

Budget and Finance: Chair Siegel, Hendricks, Mota

The committee met last week. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 29 at 5:30 PM.

CEDC: Chair, Gerlach, Guridy, Affa

The committee has not met since the last council meeting; the next meeting is scheduled for September 22 at 5 PM.

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

The committee has not met since the last council meeting; the next meeting is scheduled for September 29 at 6 PM.

Parks and Recreation: Chair Hendricks, Gerlach, Siegel

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

Public Safety: Chair Mota, Hendricks, Zucal

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

Public Works: Chair Zucal, Affa, Siegel

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

Rules, Chambers, Intergovernmental Relations and Strategy: Chair Guridy, Mota, Hendricks

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

Administration Report

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE (To be Voted On): None

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if anybody had any objection to the Consent Agenda or wants to take something out.

[15-4500](#)

R148

Janet Keshl, Civil Service Board, 01-21-2025 (Reappointment from Alternate to Member - Replacing Fred Banuelos)

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R148 Civil Service Board - Janet Keshl \(Reappointment\)](#)

[Janet Keshl, Civil Service Board, 01-21-2025](#)

[Resolution #30293](#)

Yes: 6 - Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Joshua Siegel

Absent: 1 - Candida Affa

Enactment No: 30293

RESOLUTIONS FOR FINAL PASSAGE (To be Voted On):

[15-4560](#)

R149

Transfer Approval: \$10,000 in Health to cover an increase in rent building maintenance; \$10,000.00 in Parks and Recreation to complete the Trexler Park Stone bridge repair; \$5,990.51 in Streets/Stormwater to correct negative balances.

Attachments: [R149 Transfer](#)

[Increase Covers The Increased Cost of Rent Building Maintenance for the Remainder of the Year](#)

[To Complete the Trexler Park Stone Bridge Repair](#)

[To Correct Negative Balances - Streets Stormwater](#)

[Resolution #30294](#)

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that Council has to approve the Transfers. Years ago, you just signed them. It has to be public to be transparent. It is about \$26,000 to balance the books from the account where it should not be to the account where it should be.

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

Yes: 6 - Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Julio Guridy, Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Joshua Siegel

Absent: 1 - Candida Affa

Enactment No: 30294

ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION (To be referred to Committee with public comment prior to referral): NONE

RESOLUTIONS FOR INTRODUCTION (Can be voted on or Referred to Committee): NONE

NEW BUSINESS: NONE**GOOD AND WELFARE**

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that this Sunday is the Allentown Car Show. It will start at America on Wheels Museum and along Hamilton Street. A short time after that there is an escort out to the Ritz.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if they get Chief Spang escorting everybody.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated no, that will be Chief Roca. He asked if there was anything else under Good and Welfare.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that there are a lot of events this weekend. Mr. Zucal talked about the Classic Car Show. The West End Food Festival from 11:30 AM to 11:00 PM. The International Cultural Festival at the Arts Park from 11:00 AM - 6:00 PM. The PAL Softball Tournament over at Allen Park. Hopefully, there is good weather. Our Special Events Coordinator, under the direction of Mr. Lightner Lucinda. He stated that they are swamped. Everybody wants something in September. It goes September, October to Lights in the Parkway. He stated that they are swamped and Lucinda is doing one heck of a job.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that he could tell. He stated that he saw her at a Festival this weekend at Bucky Boyle Park and she was busy there. He stated to Chief Roca that he does not know what happened there, but he walked by with Mr. Babayan and he did not like what he saw in some areas. Not the Festival itself.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that they totally agree. It is a combination of what they should be doing in the park and we get too much of what they should not be doing in the park. We end up with vandalism. It is not acceptable.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that the Festival itself had a lot of security. He is not speaking about the Festival itself. He is speaking of what happened on the side.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that he totally agrees. Again, it is not acceptable at all. It is going to be dealt with.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that he got a phone call this morning and was asked to participate in the donut eating contest. He rejected it because he has something else scheduled. He understands that Mr. Hendricks is going to be participating in the cake eating contest.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that he won't be eating cake, only announcing.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that she was going to say the same thing that the Mayor said that Lucinda is doing such a great job. The people in the department and Parks and Recreation. She sees them everywhere. Every time there is a Special Event, she sees Lucinda in the group. She commended her for the job that she is doing.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that Lucinda works for Mr. Lightner in CED, but it is a joint effort with Parks and Recreation, CED and Streets. The West End Food Festival is always a big one and very well attended.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that Council got an award from the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission and it is the Future of Lehigh Regional Plan.

Ms. Karen El Chaar, Director of Allentown Parks and Recreation, thanked City Council and Mayor O'Connell regarding Bucky Boyle. The Parks Department is working very diligently and we do appreciate also what Lucinda has been doing. She stated that she met Lucinda on Monday at Bucky Boyle and we had a very good conversation and things will get ironed out. She does appreciate all the comments she has heard. She would also like to mention the West Park Civic Association will have Art in the Park this coming Saturday.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that he is glad Mr. Messinger is still on the phone. He stated that Mr. Messinger and Ms. El Chaar have to come to some sort of an agreement on what will happen to some of our creeks and Trexler Park lake. He walks through there and a lot of people do. It is a beautiful lake, but something happened this year that it looks like an extension of the grass into the lake. The algae there is just horrendous. He stated that he does not know what happened. Something needs to be done with that lake. He thought it would be done this year. He said something needs to be done. That lake looks terrible.

Mayor Ray O'Connell asked Mr. Guridy if he was talking about around the lake.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated inside. The ducks don't even want to go in there anymore.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that stuff on top happens every summer. It happened last summer.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that was some of the things that was presented to full Council in regards to some of the Cares money to try to alleviate that

throughout the lakes. It is a problem. It needs to be dredged.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that it is a beautiful lake and a beautiful park and we talk about dredging it before. He saw some people doing engineering or geological work. He thought they were going to get it fixed at the beginning of the year. It wasn't fixed. He stated to Mr. Messinger to please do something and fix it.

Ms. Karen El Chaar stated that the city had one pond that was dredged. However, the main pond that you are talking about has not been dredged. She stated that they will work on that.

ADJOURNED: 7:23 PM