



Allentown

435 Hamilton Street
Allentown, Pa. 18101

Minutes - Final

City Council

Wednesday, November 3, 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. James Whitney, Walnut Street, stated the conversation around serving our bilingual residents has been coming up on a more frequent basis. He stated that they were just talking about HARB notifications going out and potentially Spanish speaking people not knowing how to translate the document. He personally aired on the side that Spanish speaking people in our city are extremely intelligent and the majority of them can figure it out. We shouldn't depend on that because there are so many people that do not have the big social families and social networks that people like him has and people like you have and find someone to translate for them. They need to commit as a city (the biggest no brainer ever) to in the footer of every piece of mail that goes out from our city to any resident with instruction on what to do and what number to dial if you don't speak English. A message in Spanish which says Spanish speaking residents for assistance with translation use this document or for assistance in communication with the city dial this number and here is the resource.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that he agrees.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that is a great suggestion Mr. Whitney and asked the administration install that as soon as possible. He stated that they probably can do the same thing in every department, including City Council.

Mr. James Whitney stated that every piece of mail the city sends out has a header and a footer so we can add to the footer a message to our Spanish speaking citizens with a small instruction of what to do if you can't translate that document or you need assistance with translation.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated on the website it is translated to Spanish as well and any other language.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that we have to make sure that if they call that number they will have some that will be responsible to get back to them in their own language.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that the number that would be put there will be somebody that speaks Spanish, obviously.

Mr. James Whitney asked do we not have a person at the city whose job it is to translate.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that he does not think that they do.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated no, we don't.

Mr. James Whitney stated let's hire that person.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that for a while we had Arcelay and he is no longer working in the city.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that the city has a bilingual person at the front desk, Kenneth Cruz.

Mr. James Whitney asked if the front desk person is bilingual.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated definitely.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that she has been asking for things to be translated.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any other comments under Courtesy of the Floor.

Contract Approvals

[15-4698](#)

R185

Authorizes contract with ARM Group, LLC. for \$7,650 for Phase II Geotechnical and Environmental Site Assessment for the Fire Academy.

Attachments: [R185 ARM Group](#)

[Resolution #30328](#)

Ms. Sarrah McNeil stated that this was done as a quote and the city received four quotes and the department is recommending an award to the ARM Group, LLC. The cost of the contract is \$7,650.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if it is a new contract.

Ms. Sarrah McNeil stated yes, this is for Phase II.

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: 30328

[15-4697](#)

R186

Change Order Authorization: Buell Kratzer Powell, LTD, in the amount of \$9,877.50 for Consulting and Engineering Design Services for Irving Pool.

Attachments: [R186 BKP Change Order](#)

[Resolution #30329](#)

Ms. Sarrah McNeil stated that Contract C27-00079 was approved for \$82,928. They had the first amendment of \$5,500 which did not need to go to Council as it was less than 10 percent. At this time, the Contract sum needs to be increased by \$9,887.50 due to additional work and needing to obtain a demolition permit for the LCCD. This work was not anticipated for this project.

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

Mr. James Whitney asked what work wasn't anticipated.

Ms. Sarrah McNeil stated that she believes they were not anticipating the additional work the contractor had to do to get the demolition permit.

Mr. James Whitney stated that this project has gone up more than 15 percent. The original was \$88,000 and there was a \$5,000 and now almost a \$10,000 increase. That is a huge percent. Why was that anticipated and why wasn't that in the contract?

Mr. Rick Holtzman stated that when the project started they did not know exactly where the new pool was going to go. They were hopeful to reuse the building and the pool structure in its place and build inside of it. During the course of the design process, they found that it was way too costly or cost too much to utilize the pool building. They could not make that ADA compliant. That building is now coming down and the footprint of the pool is now being moved to the parking lot. It was not in the original cost because they did not know the design was at that time.

Mr. James Whitney stated that it seems as though it is additional work.

Mr. Rick Holtzman stated that it is additional work. They did not have the demo in because they were planning on to reuse the pool house and pool shelter built inside of it. Through the design process, they realized that they were going to move the pool to make the park flow better. It is going to be moved into the parking lot area now. That is why they are demoing that now and redoing that location. Part of it is also a geotechnical part of it that they had to do on the parking lot to make sure that area was suitable for a pool.

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

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

Enactment No: 30329

[15-4696](#)

R187

Change Order Approval: Michael Baker International for \$29,315.50 for consulting, planning and design services for the proposed MLK trail extension project.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R187 Change Order Michael Baker](#)
[Resolution #30330](#)

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that these two are ones that he was going to inquire, but now they set the segway.

Ms. Sarrah McNeil stated that this Contract was done as C27-00081. It was approved for \$125,826. At this time, the Contract sum needs to be increased by \$29,315.50. The reason for this increase is that the city is requesting to add pedestrian scale lighting to the full length of the MLK trail as well as making improvement in lighting at two parking areas adjacent to the trail for the safety of the patrons using the trail. This was not originally included in the original RFP. At the time, the city did not anticipate the lighting of the trail. This is because the city has become aware that AEDC is working on re-instituting the railroad line next to portion of this trail and was decided for safety and security reasons to add lighting to this trail throughout this trail. Mr. Julio Guridy stated that was his question. Why didn't they know this? Why didn't we know this? Why don't we coordinate with other agencies that are doing the job?

Ms. Karen El-Chaar stated that at first they did not anticipate putting lighting on the trail because they did not think it would be necessary, but when they found out that a railroad was coming through and a potential re-institution of the railroad because AEDC wants to provide more

business opportunities downtown. We decided because the trail is right next to the railroad. It will be right next to the rail-line for safety and security reasons for the people that are using the trail. There really ought to be lights now.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if that trail going to continue across basin street or are you going to stop there.

Ms. Karen El-Chaar stated that this particular length of the trail is from the Fountain Pool area and go over to basically where the new construction is where the surface construction at Lehigh Parkway at Schreiber's Bridge area. It is going across over in that direction.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that it will be west of 15th Street.

Mr. Leonard Lightner stated that it is not solidified yet, but going back to your question, they are being more intentional to work with every department and also our outside agencies. With AEDC, that is a conversation. He stated that he and Scott meet weekly or biweekly. They are starting to coordinate these efforts. The rail was not a big issue and the two light manufacturers started to come back up. Now, that manufacturing is part of the bigger conversation, they need to provide that. There was coordination, but sometime the timing is a little bit off. They are being more intentional about that. All of them in the future will see more coordinated efforts.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that it is necessary right now because it is a lot of development. There is development at the riverfront and development over there which is good. He stated that the Project Manager that they talked about may be able to help a little bit as well. He asked if there were any further comments from the dais or the public.

Mr. James Whitney stated that \$29,000 for consulting, planning and design services. He asked if that means that the \$29,000 to install lights along this trail or the \$29,000 is to just consult, plan and design where the lights are going to go. Based on the working here, they are paying \$29,000 for somebody to add these lights to an existing plan or sketch. Is this to buy the lights and install the lights?

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that it is for design the way he read it.

Ms. Karen El-Chaar stated that it is only for the design stage and a matter of taking a look at where we are going to place the lighting so it is entirely architectural.

Mr. James Whitney stated that \$29,000 seems like a lot of money. If we have a design of a trail that already been paid for and you go to the person. Hypothetically, you have a plan for a trail. The trail has a plan and you go to the person and say that you will actually like to add a light. It costs \$29,000 to add a light?

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that it is not one light. It is trail lights.

Mr. James Whitney asked if \$29,000 seems like an extreme amount of money. You had a huge fight over the Halloween parade over a similar amount of money.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that he feels the same way, but would like Ms. El-Chaar to explain it.

Ms. Karen El-Chaar stated that they would have to place electricity and everything else. Everything has to be hooked up. First, you are starting from scratch along the trail bed or rail bed entirely. Framing out where we are going to hook up electricity at this point, if we can do electricity or do solar if that is an option.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that \$29,000 just to amend the design that is already done.

Ms. Karen El-Chaar stated that there is no design done yet. It is almost complete. They are almost in the permitting process.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked is the total cost of the project.

Ms. Karen El-Chaar stated not for the whole project. They don't know what it is going to be for construction. Right now, what you see for the contract is it for the design.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that usually it is an engineer that would determine how much the whole project is going to cost. Usually less than 25 percent of that would be for engineering. The engineering design is asking for an extra \$30,000. It would be \$1.55 million and that is not unusual. This Martin Luther King Project is one mile.

Ms. Candida Affa asked if an RFP went out for this.

Ms. Karen El-Chaar stated that an RFP. Yes, Michael Baker has been under contract for the design. You approved that.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that this is in addition to the contract.

Ms. Karen El-Chaar stated that they are adding the lighting.

Mr. James Whitney asked if this person an engineer.

Ms. Karen El-Chaar stated yes.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that Michael Baker International is an international engineering company. It is actually a very big engineering company. They are the ones that designed the 15th Street Bridge. He asked if there were any further comments.

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

Enactment No: 30330

[15-4695](#)

R188

Authorizes a Contract with NW Financial Group, LLC for \$189,000.00 for consulting services to establish short-term and long-term financial and managerial objectives that strengthen the fiscal capacity of Allentown's government to administer essential public services.

Attachments: [R188 - NW Financial](#)

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

Ms. Sarrah McNeil stated that this was done as RFP2021 - 28. It was advertised on Public Purchase and accessed by 29 vendors and only one response was received. An evaluation committee made up of three people evaluated the proposals on the firm's ability to meet the RFP requirement. After all the evaluations were computed, the committee is recommending an award to NW Financial Group, LLC. The city has successfully done business with this vendor before. The total of the contract is \$189,000.

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

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that he would like to talk about something since they are on the contract portion of their meeting. There was an article in the paper on Friday with regards to the city reaching out for broadband. He spoke to a couple of people on Council about this that had some legitimate concerns. It was established way in the beginning when they got the ARPA money that Council would decide on how that money is spent. Part of that money was for broadband and that came out of the second tranche. Not the first. First, he feels that they are jumping the gun here on the broadband part. This is an issue that they face. He stated that he was not or if any other Councilmembers were contacted. He knows for a fact that it

was not brought up in a meeting about proceeding with the broadband. He stated that he thinks there are a couple of issues going on here. He thinks there is a contract violation because in the newspaper article it says that the city chose Iota Communications instead of Service Electric because Iota showed a commitment to the underserved when it comes to broadband. There is an issue right there. He stated that he thinks that there is an implied contract when the fact that there was an article published a business contracted, a conversation with that business. He asked Ms. McNeil was there any RFP activity.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated to Mr. Zucal that he directs the question to him and he will have his department answer that.

Mr. Ed Zucal asked if there an RFP involved with this since we are talking to businesses.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that they have no contract. Contracts go through legal. They send it to him and he signs off on it. It is a Feasibility Study that they are paying for. The city is paying zero.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that they are paying for something that we chose for them to do. As for as he is concerned, you start rising to the level of quid pro quo. They are agreeing to pay something for the city that they were contacted to do and no other business was contacted to do that.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that quid pro quo are strong terms. He stated that you better have information to back it up.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that the article is in the newspaper.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that is a pretty strong accusation.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that this is what we are going to do. One speaks and the other one listens. Let's not talk over each other.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that they are doing that.

Mr. Leonard Lightner stated that when you read the article in the paper. It is a feasibility study. We are not engage and we did not engage them. You accusation of a contract or a quid pro quo and you stating that you are aware of a Memorandum of Agreement. They decided to do the feasibility study in conjunction with the private/public partnership meaning that we all understand what the feasibility study is all about. There is no transaction monetarily wise or agreement that we have with them. Whatever you are reading and interpreting this, your accusations are incorrect. We don't

have an agreement with them. They agreed to do a feasibility study alone, by themselves paying for it themselves. We and PPL, ADP and other organizations that Mr. DeFranco who is the CEO of Iota agreed and reached out to these other organizations that they agreed that they will do the feasibility study to understand what the needs are in the city. That is what they are doing and we in the city are in agreement that we need a feasibility study done and in order for us to move forward to even think about how much it is going to take us to even do broadband, the feasibility study needs to be done first. If a public/private partnership that we do all the time is allotted and we are allowed to do that there is nothing wrong with that. They agreed to do it and yes, we are partnering with them because we understand what they are doing.

Mr. Ed Zucal asked did you contact them to do it.

Mr. Leonard Lightner stated no, we did not.

Mr. Ed Zucal asked how did you find out about that company.

Mr. Leonard Lightner stated that they came to us. There is no contract. There is no agreement. They agreed to do a feasibility study and they are working with the other private/public partners out there.

Mr. Ed Zucal asked about Service Electric. How do you know they are not capable of doing this? That is the quote in the paper.

Mr. Leonard Lightner stated that he did not quote that.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that someone quoted it. It is your article. You are the guy that originated this study.

Mr. Leonard Lightner stated that he did not originate the study. Stop saying that.

Mr. Ed Zucal asked who from the city did it then.

Mr. Leonard Lightner stated that we are not doing the study.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that the city is responsible through ARPA to present this broadband.

Mr. Leonard Lightner stated that you are talking about two different things.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that he is talking about broadband. That is what the newspaper article was about.

Mr. Leonard Lightner stated that there is no broadband contract. There is no broadband agreement. There is no conversation with any other organization at all about broadband. The only thing that is being done is a feasibility study. Broadband came up because, yes Chattanooga, Tennessee is the leading city that has implemented broadband. Before you can even move to broadband you have to have a feasibility study to understand what the needs are in the city. He stated that they are not doing anything. They have not contracted. They have not spent any money. We did not reach out to anyone. He stated that yes, he did talk to Chattanooga, Tennessee and that is no different than anything else you guys always ask us to do. What is Bethlehem doing? What is Easton doing? What is Pittsburgh doing? Yes, we did that and we talked to them to see what they are doing. Other than that, there is no contract. Your accusations are incorrect.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked Mr. Lightner if he spoke to Philadelphia as well. He knows that they were doing some work and they ended. He stated that he read both of the articles. The one that he is discussing and there was a dropdown that you could read another article in Philadelphia.

Mr. Leonard Lightner stated that when he was talking with the individuals from Chattanooga, Tennessee they did give him the contact from Philadelphia to talk to them because they also implemented something and it seems to be working out for them as well. He has not reached out to Philadelphia yet to do that, but that is on his list to do. He stated that the city has not done anything with broadband.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that you did not sign an agreement with anybody.

Mr. Leonard Lightner stated that there is no commitment to anyone. It is a feasibility study.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that we will bring it forth for broadband, you have to approve it. Just like the Capital Projects. this is done all the time, the feasibility study.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked Mr. Zucal if there are any further comments.

Mr. Ed Zucal asked if the Finance Department can weigh in on this and if it is a violation of the RFP process.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated how about the legal department. Forget the Finance Department. Let the Legal Department weigh in on it. He stated the Mr. Kloiber is upstairs and Ms. Rotz is here. We did nothing illegal.

Mr. Matt Kloiber stated that there was a mention and was already mentioned. There was an MOU that was submitted in Eden. There was a contract review process. The Solicitor's office is in the process of reviewing that. This sort of area of work is highly technical and highly regulated with broadband and with internet. He reached out to a firm that they had prior work with on this sort of area that the municipal league goes to firms with this sort of thing just to get their thoughts. We are talking further about that and about this particular sort of thing. He stated that they are in the process of reviewing this and will have those comments and will discuss eternally with the administration and DCED. Because it is highly technical and regulated and all sorts of rules and from that we will get the appropriate guidance that we need to make sure that they aren't with this particular feasibility study and what will potentially come down from that they have experience with this sort of thing and make sure the appropriate steps are taken and the stated goal can be pursued timely without any setbacks. He stated that they are in the process of reviewing it and getting some input on that to make sure all the appropriate steps are taken. Using Eden, it is still in our queue. They are still reviewing that. Part of that is reaching out internally to other departments for their input to these sort of things. Legal is currently reviewing that. He reached out to Counsel that is very familiar and deals with this highly technical sort of area just to make sure we are covering all the steps.

Mr. Charles Smith asked Mr. Kloiber that he be included in those conversation as well on behalf of Council.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked Mr. Kloiber if he heard that.

Mr. Matt Kloiber stated that he heard that and will talk to Solicitor Smith.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that if both of them can talk about get back to Council, especially Mr. Zucal since he brought it up.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that he is satisfied with that answer.

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

Enactment No: 30331

Minutes of Previous Meeting

[15-4669](#) October 6, 2021 City Council Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [October 6, 2021 City Council Meeting Minutes](#)

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

[15-4671](#) September 8, 2021 Confirmation Hearing Meeting Minutes - Roca

Attachments: [September 8, 2021 Confirmation Hearing Meeting Minutes - Roca](#)

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

[15-4672](#) October 20, 2021 City Council Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [October 20, 2021 City Council Meeting Minutes](#)

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

[15-4674](#) October 20, 2021 City Council Special Meeting - Budget Overview Minutes

Attachments: [October 20, 2021 City Council Special Meeting - Budget Overview Minutes](#)

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

Communications: NONE

Old Business: NONE

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:**Special Council Meeting:**

There will be a Special Meeting on November 10 at 5:30 PM to review the Community and Economic Development Budget.

Budget and Finance: Chair Siegel, Hendricks, Mota

The committee met last week. There are not future meetings scheduled at this time.

CEDC: Chair, Gerlach, Guridy, Affa

The committee met on October 27th and this evening, there are not future meetings scheduled at this time.

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

The committee has not met since the last council meeting; there is a meeting scheduled for November 10 at 5:15 PM to discuss the bill that adopts the new proposed code.

Parks and Recreation: Chair Hendricks, Gerlach, Siegel

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

Public Safety: Chair Mota, Hendricks, Zucal

The committee has not met since the last council meeting; 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.

Controllers Report

Mr. Jeffrey Glazier stated that he has two Accounts Payable Reports. The first one is from 8/28 to 10/01. This Report was released on the 22nd of October. Within that period we reviewed 430 checks for \$5.5 million, 37 manual checks for \$850,000, seven wires for \$993,000. Some of the finding were: lack of a stop-loss payment. Per the stop-loss vendor, a stop-loss insurance on our medical insurance. The city has stop-loss insurance if we incur expenses over \$250,000 for incidence. It is kind of like catastrophic loss. The city pays \$100,000 a month for this coverage. In years

past, these policies have paid us \$1 million, \$1.5 million to \$2 million in the past because we had people that were covered that were very ill. This helped mitigate the loss of the city's self-insured fund. This year, we happen to have very good experience. We probably got less than \$100,000 back from this policy. People seem to be healthier this year. It is important that we pay this premium every month because if we were to become delinquent and get canceled we would be at the extreme risk of loss if someone did have catastrophically sick. During, the Controller's review, they noticed a payment had been submitted for October 20, 2021, but there was no record of a September payment. After numerous requests, the department forwarded a copy of the September invoice for \$104,488.74 which as of 10/5/2021 had not yet been paid. Additionally, invoices must be entered in Eden and go through the Eden approval queue and finalize in Eden for the expense to be posted in the General Ledger. For invoices paid by check, the payment is not made to the process is finalized in Eden and a check is generated. Once finalized, the expense is automatically posted to the General Ledger. Although, there is no city standard for the invoice approval queue, the Controller's office use a three week measure to flag any open invoices and this is one of the invoices that was flagged. Additionally, there is another invoice for \$105,675.42 that was in return status. That means that someone in the queue had returned it to a prior approval to correct a defect in it. Wires Issues: invoices paid by wire. A payment is automatically taken from our bank account. However, the invoice must still be entered into Eden and go through the approval queue and finalized in Eden before our cash balance recognizes the expense. In September, there were four wires totaling \$9,789.07 that were returned. One had the wrong service dates in the description. Two wires were mislabeled as for what they were paying for and one wire for claims was also mislabeled. It is important because you need to have an audit trail to be able to accurately and clearly identify what the invoices are paying for. The issues have been addressed several times and issue was reported and no further action was taken. We had an invoice paid for an incorrect amount. Travel advances are limited to 80 percent of the eligible travel expenses. An advance was cut for 100 percent of the travel. The resolution was that the check was voided and reissued for the proper 80 percent amount and then the 20 percent amount gets paid when the person returns from the trip they submit the final list of expenses and the balance whatever it may be is paid. They identified one invoices posted to a vendor that address did not agree with the invoice. Although the invoices were affiliated, the addresses were different. The check was voided and reissued to the vendor address. They had 10 invoices where incorrect expense accounts were used and journal entries will be submitted to ensure that it gets to the proper account. The reason the Controller's office monitors this is, untimely payments can result in missed discounts, vendor imposed late fees, the possibility the city's account can be placed on hold, and an additional workload for the vendors accounts receivable and the city's accounts payable departments. There were 37 invoices that were greater than 60 days. All the bureaus were advised and the checks were released. There were

one or two where the sales tax were paid. The departments were advised and refunds were sought. There was another one where a payment was made for \$90. There is a check that was already paid as a p-card transaction and the check was voided and the expense was paid with a p-card. In October, 378 checks were reviewed for a hair over \$13 million. There were 31 manual checks for \$431,000. The manual checks tend to be from DCED for the Lead Program. There were two wires posted for a little bit under \$12,000. He went over the findings. The departments were advised and actions were taken to move them through the queue. There was one monthly invoice for the September rental payment for the garage that was late. The invoice was not attached to Eden. The invoice has been paid. There were 29 invoices that were beyond 60 days. The departments responded with a reason they were beyond 60 days. Police, we have a towing contract and the towing company provides services for the Police Department for towing or for custody. Somehow a bill spilled through that we paid an invoice. The department was advised and they are currently seeking a refund from the towing company.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that one of the accounts that you asked numerous times for the Report and eventually you got it. If there is an issue, we should try to work together with different departments. He stated that he does not know why Mr. Glazier had to ask numerous times before it was given to him. We should furnish the information.

Mr. Jeffrey Glazier stated that it is a fair question. He thinks sometimes departments get really busy. We are not executing programs. The Controller's office recognizes that it is not always at the top of the everybody to do list and they send out gentle reminders.

Administration Report NONE

[15-4711](#) Controller Reports

Attachments: [Accts Payable Oct 22 Report](#)
[Accts Payable - Nov 2 Report](#)
[P Card Oct 6 Report](#)
[P Card Nov 2nd Report](#)

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE (To be Voted On):

[15-4662](#) Bill 103 Parks and Recreation, this evening
Amending the 2021 Capital Fund Budget to provide for a transfer of Fourteen Thousand Six Hundred Ninety-Four Dollars (\$14,694) as a transfer of funds from Capital Project 2024 – 15th Street Traffic Signal Improvements to Capital Project 2202 – Jordan Creek Greenway Trail to

provide pavement markings on the Meadow Street portion of the trail.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 103 CAPITAL PROJECT 2206 TRANSFER](#)

[Ordinance #15760](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that it was voted on 3 - 0 with a favorable recommendation for the full Council to vote on.

Mr. Julio Guridy 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: 15760

[15-4667](#)

Bill 104 Public Safety, forwarded favorably Amending the 2021 General Fund budget to create six (6) new Patrolman positions. This will allow the City to submit for reimbursement of salaries under the 2017 Department of Justice COPS Hiring Grant.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 104 2017 COPS HIRING GRANT](#)

[Ordinance #15761](#)

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that it was voted on 3 - 0 with a favorable recommendation.

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

Mr. Daryl Hendricks encouraged his colleagues to support the hiring of these officers to enhance the department's ability to expand our Community Policing Program. In addition to this initiative these hires can help to minimize any loss of officers due to retirements. This is also a great opportunity to diversify our department to more closely reflect the makeup of the community.

Mr. Julio Guridy thanked Mr. Hendricks well said. He asked if there were any further comments from the public.

Mr. James Whitney stated please vote for this. These officers will diversify our department. We are constantly talking about the importance of bilingual in our city. If we want to implement a program like the one that we talked about last week where police officers are partnering with people to provide services. We have to have a fully staffed police department for that. If the police department is understaffed and we don't have a full complement of officers and they can't do their jobs as is, we can't add a

program to them. We need these officers. If you want to implement these other programs, we have the Police Department that has the capacity to take that kind of thing on. Please just vote to hire these officers. We are going to hire them because we have people on this board that care about our community. If you really believe in the CAHOOTS Program then hire these officers so that we will have a Police Department that will have the capability to discuss bringing on a new program into their purview. Just vote yes.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated it was well said. She would like to let everyone know that ever since she started on Council she has been pushing for more diversity in the Police Department and also females. This is a great opportunity for all of us to vote yes. This is going to be great for our city.

Ms. Candida Affa asked out of these six new hires, how many are women, how many are bilingual.

Chief Charles Roca stated that out of the last 20 or so that we hired have been diversified and several speak Spanish. Just recently, we have two that started that are of Dominican descent. Both are fluent in Spanish and it is a good mixture of individuals that we are adding to our Police Department. We are going to continue to expand and he will support and stand behind initiatives that are going to bring police to the forefront and in partnership with whatever alternative programs we are also going to do. We are also taking steps to get there. It might not be as quick as some might want, but we have to do things right by Allentown and the stats and the data are going to show that.

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked how many Allentonians.

Chief Charles Roca stated that at this point, out of the two that were hired. One is an Allentonian and the other one is from Reading and they are planning on moving into the area, possibly Allentown.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that she does appreciate the fact that Chief Roca is trying to recruit more diverse women and not to leave anybody out. We need every officer we can that is qualified to be an officer. She stated that she thinks of the Police Department, you really do vet them to the point that they are qualified to be a Police officer. She thanked Chief Roca for researching and being aware of the diversity. Make sure they are qualified officers and well trained.

Chief Charles Roca stated that you hit the nail on the head. We have a very good Police Academy that does take the time to train the officers, develop them from the ground up and make sure they understand the dynamic that

is Allentown. One thing that you will hear when you interview these potential police officers is that they don't talk about equipment, they don't talk about the utility belt, the uniform or the badge. What they talk about is the community and embracing our community. It is something that is special even with that being said you have officers from other departments that want to come work for the Allentown Police Department. They want to be a part of the good things that are happening in this city with the people and the communities seeing us engaging with individuals. To be honest with you, it is about developing those relationships. That is the foundation. A good foundation across the board. We work with our city partners and working with our public safety partners: the fire department, EMS and that is something that the city of Allentown can hang its hat on and say that we have a very good public safety department here in the city of Allentown.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that she went through the Citizens Academy twice. We now have a Spanish Academy. Anyone that is listening out there, it is so informative from top to bottom. You will really understand that jobs and what we do and how we do it. It is the greatest program and so interesting that she went through it twice.

Chief Charles Roca gave credit where credit is due. Captain Gress has been very instrumental of the formation of our Citizens Police Academy. He thanked Ms. Mota for also working on the Citizens Police Academy in Spanish because it was well received. Just looking at the post surveys of who went through, they really learned a lot. They had one opinion in the beginning and they were able to see again building bridges, communication and breaking down those barriers. Communication is so very important.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that she was hoping since this was discussed the same night as some of the other items that aren't on the agenda. On November 17, she will have some time to ask her question through email since it is on the agenda tonight there wasn't much time. Once of her questions and concerns were over the full complement. Do we have a better picture of where that 222 number came from.

Chief Charles Roca stated that we received Cops grants in the past and in receiving those different amounts he does not have the exact number but each time the city received more that complement was raised up depending on the grant that we received. Those officers were utilized to grow our Police Department to deliver services across the board.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that the numbers were raised based on grants coming in and available. A lot of the conversations from the Public Safety meeting was from a per capita approach. The more people you have, the

more police officers you need. She thinks Assistant Chief Lake stated that it was also a formula that is used. Her concern is that part of the reason why every single month when an officer comes up and she does not know the officer from anyone. She votes no because she does not understand what the 222 came from. Even at the Public Safety meeting she did not get a clear answer and there are studies that show that there is not a correlation between hiring more cops and having less crime. There are always different studies out there. It would be nice to see some of the data that shows in the past when Allentown has had a lot of police that Part I, Part II, and Part III crimes went down to show that hiring more police officers make our community safer. We also know that public safety is much more than police. It is housing. It is parks and recreation. It is access to mental health. You have limited funds so you have to invest in public safety and that encompasses more than police. That is always her reservations.

Chief Charles Roca thanked Ms. Gerlach for her comments and questions. The 222 number which will be their full complement, if you look at the full ratio comparing police to citizens compared to other states, towns, and cities. You will notice that we are very low in the ratio of officer and citizen. That directly relates to as other has said in providing personnel to different programs. The mental health, the social services, we will very much accept help from our county friends which is where social services stems from. In collaboration we have a very good partnership. Can we do more, absolutely. We do more inter-direction where you want to talk about a co-responder. It is very strongly possible. We have to make sure from a public safety standpoint in the city of Allentown that we make that investment and allocate the resources. His message is that it does impact the ability for the Chief of Police to staff his personnel because you want to talk about having the officers fresh and being able to do the job and the studies that you quote is cites from Chief Lake are all valid northwestern studies or staff studies that can be done. It is no secret how the formula is and then you can plug in population or per capita is one way of figuring out. It is not the only way. You have to take a look at call volume. The time of day so you can allocate your manpower properly. You have to look at the non-call time of the officer. It will be safer for the officers, better for the community and respective response and we will be able to initiate good connections with our community members: business, citizens, unsheltered communities, and people that are mental health consumers. It all plays a part and interrelated. He offered any Councilmember wants to come out and see what they do to give them an understanding and appreciation. He offered his department to have a ride-along with each of them.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that at the last week, Mr. Guridy mentioned that in 2002 we had 242 officers. He stated that he was a part of the it and it was called (SOG) Special Operations Group. They worked strictly at night from 7:00

PM - 3:00 AM. We were able to do things that would take a load off the patrol officers. They could sit in plain clothes and watch that rather than having a car tied up there. It is not so much the number of officers. It has to do more with being proactive and being able to deter the crime and at the same time being able to allow the patrol officers to interact with the citizens. He stated that he gave them that opportunity.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that she thinks Council should do the ride-along.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that she appreciates Mr. Zucal's comments. She is of the mindset that the police can't be everywhere all the time and be everything to everyone. There are some things that other folks need to respond to and she worries about with limited funds and once the grant are over with and these positions fall to the General Fund. Does that mean we don't do something else or what do we sacrifice because public safety is inclusive. Does that mean we don't do an anti-violence program.

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

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

No: 1 - Ce-Ce Gerlach

Enactment No: 15761

[15-4664](#)

Bill 105 Parks and Recreation, this evening
Amending the 2021 Capital Projects Fund and the 2021 Trexler Fund to provide for a transfer of Ninety-Four Thousand One Hundred One Dollars and Seventy-Five Cents (\$94,101.75) from the Trexler Fund Unappropriated Balance to Capital Project 2207 – Bogert's Bridge.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 105 Bogert Bridget Transfer](#)
[Ordinance #15762](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that it was passed favorably, 3 - 0 by the full committee to the full Council for a favorable recommendation.

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

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

Enactment No: 15762

[15-4663](#)

Bill 106 Parks and Recreation, this evening
Amending the 2021 Capital Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental

appropriation of Four Hundred Eighty-Six Thousand Two Hundred Seventy-Three (\$486,273) Dollars from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation TASA funds for the construction of the Jordan Creek Greenway Trail.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 106 Jordan Greenway Trail](#)
[Ordinance #15763](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that it was a 3 - 0 vote by the committee with a favorable recommendation to the full Council.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were and 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: 15763

[15-4575](#)

Bill 89 Proposed Amendment to approve the capital project provisions of the proposed budget given the increasing costs and competition in this space, leave remainder in unrestricted balance
Establishing the 2021 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Fund budget in the amount of Twenty-Eight Million Five Hundred Seventy-Four Thousand Two Hundred Forty Dollars (\$28,574,240). This amount represents the first distribution from United States Federal Government. The total to be received by the City of Allentown is Fifty-Seven Million Four Hundred Sixty-Three Thousand Five Hundred Fifty-Seven Dollars and Seventeen Cents (\$57,463,557.17).

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 89 ARPA FUND](#)
[SLFRF Admin Proposed Budget as of 09142021](#)
[SLFRF Admin Proposed Budget V2 Oct 14](#)
[Amendments ARPA](#)
[Ordinance #15764](#)
[Ordinance #15764](#)

Mr. Zucal asked to make an amendment.

Mr. Michael Hanlon read the following:

The rationale for acting on the capital projects is inclusive of the following issues is keep section 4 intact for revenue replacement, changing the dollar amount to \$1.6 Million. Remove Section 3, Change Section 5 to reflect a supplemental appropriation into capital, \$15,810,000 (includes

increased amount for fire academy), Ambulances at \$400,000, Backup Data Center at \$1,500,000, Cyber Security Roof Replacements at \$800,000, Irving Park at \$400,000, Building Fire Academy at \$2,360,000, Storm Sewer Improvements at \$2,000,000, Sewer Lining (AO Cost Relief) at \$2,000,000, 3 Miles Water Main Replacement at \$4,200,000, Water Filters @ Distribution Plant at \$2,550,000.

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

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that amendment is on the website too.

Mr. Ed Zucal asked if Council had to approve the amendments first.

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

A motion was made by Ed Zucal, seconded by Candida Affa, that this Bill be amended by providing expenditures for the following capital and other projects noted in the first tranche, leave the remaining funds in the unrestricted ARPA assets, and authorize the administration to make the adjustments to the account allocations to reflect the approved expenditures.

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

Enactment No: 15764

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any comments on the Bill itself.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that the last four of that Section are the most important. That is going to help save the taxpayers down the road for structural repairs.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that the Lease Agreement that we have requires that if we do any improvement with the water and sewer, the ratepayers will be paying for those improvements. It will increase the fees that we get from water and sewer to pay for those improvements. In this case, it will eliminate that and we won't have to pay the almost \$4 million just on the improvement of the water and sewer. That is not taking one community group over another. It is good for all the people that live in Allentown and use the water and sewer.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that it is important to note here that the timeliness here. It is important for us to get this moving because already some of these projects are going up and increases in prices and this is happening throughout the country. The sooner we do this, the better. It benefits the citizens and saving them tax dollars down the road.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there was any other comments from the dais, the

administration.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that it is a fair compromise. Brick and mortar and a few things on hold, but don't put them on hold too long. You want to get certain things done by the end of the year.

Mr. Julio Guridy 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: 15764

CONSENT AGENDA

RESOLUTIONS FOR FINAL PASSAGE (To be Voted On):

[15-4666](#)

R183

Denial of a Certificate of Appropriateness –1503 W Chew Street

Attachments: [R183 Resolution HARB Denied](#)

[1503 Chew Final Review](#)

[Resolution #30332](#)

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that it was discussed this evening. That is where the conversation about communication between the residents and HARB in the city was discussed in multiple languages.

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: 30332

[15-4709](#)

R189

Authorizes Submission of a Formal Application to the Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development for a Grant of TEN THOUSAND Dollars (\$10,000.00) to support Project Lifesaver equipment and supplies for the Police Department

Attachments: [R189 PROJECT LIFESAVER GRANT](#)

[Resolution #30333](#)

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

Captain James Gress stated that they touched on Project Lifesaver on

Monday and the importance of Project Lifesaver. In the current funding, they have 40 individuals right now that have the equipment that they need so if they wander, the Police can track their location. This is through Senator Pat Browne's office that is a DCED grant in the amount of \$10,000. It would allow about 20 more people as well as a purchase of an infrared camera that if it is nighttime or dark we can track individuals. There is no match, but the Police Department needs Council's authorization to apply.

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

Ms. Cynthia Mota encouraged her fellow Councilmembers to vote for this. It really saves lives. We know the tragedy that happened in the previous years. It will prevent people with a disability, mental issues and autism. She stated that she hopes that everyone vote yes for R189.

Mr. Ed Zucal asked if the infrared on the bracelet and also has a connection to that or no.

Captain James Gress stated no. It is not connected to the bracelet. It is just an infrared that would be able to see. We may have an idea where an individual may be. We have the drone use now.

Ms. Candida Affa stated being a super senior, she loves the idea. She stated that it won't be long before she will have one of those things on her arm.

Captain James Gress stated that they will be seeing her at the Senior Citizens Academy that the Police Department ran in 2019.

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: 30333

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

[15-4700](#)

Bill 114 CEDC, Forwarded Favorbaly

An Ordinance providing for the expenditure of Three Hundred Thousand, Eight Hundred and Seventy-five (\$300,875.00) dollars in DCED Emergency Solutions Grants Program (ESG) funds for the Lehigh Valley Regional Homeless Advisory Board, as appropriate by Federal Law and United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regulations; these are certain monies received by the City of Allentown

under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1976, as amended; The Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act of 2009; and Title II of the National Affordable Housing Act of 1990, as amended; for the purpose of undertaking programs of housing and community development within the City.

Attachments: [Bill 114 CDBG NEW ACCOUNT SETUP - LV HOMELESS ADVISORY BD](#)

Mr. Julio Guridy asked if there were any comments before he refers it. Any comments from the dais or the public.

REFERRED TO COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

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

[15-4699](#)

R190

Adoption of the Capital Improvement Program

Attachments: [R190 Capital Plan Resolution](#)
[Capital Improvement Plan 2022-2026](#)

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

REFERRED TO SPECIAL COMMITTEES DURING THE BUDGET MEETING

NEW BUSINESS: NONE

GOOD AND WELFARE

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that when he was at the polls yesterday he met a young lady that is sitting in the back there. He stated that he did invite her and she is here at City Council. He is happy that she is showing interest. He stated that her name is Jenny. He stated that the only reason why he remembers because he was going to say something to her about 867-5309.

Mayor Ray O'Connell congratulated Ms. Mota, Mr. Hendricks, and Mr. Zucal on your re-election and to Natalie Santos on her election. Congratulations to Matt Tuerk, the Mayor - elect. It was a good election and he is happy that the three have been retained and happy that the city has a newcomer coming onboard.

Mr. Julio Guridy congratulated to his fellow Councilmembers. We are going to have a new mayor next year. He stated that the mayor and himself will be out of here. There is a new Councilmembers as well so someone else will be sitting here. He stated that he will miss this little thing here, but

who knows. Time will tell. He stated that he is sure that the mayor is not going to miss it. He will be traveling all over.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated sure. He is a homebody.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that he too want to congratulated his colleagues Mr. Zucal and Ms. Mota for the hard job they did. He saw them many times whether putting signs up, knocking on doors or speaking with people. Their hard work surely paid off and he appreciates them.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that it will be strange not to see Mayor O'Connell and Mr. Guridy's faces.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that they are not out the door yet.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated save it for January.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that they have a good budget, and have ARPA. They did a good job tonight. Let's continue.

Mr. James Whitney stated that he always says it to the amazing Police Department, but he doesn't get a chance often to say it to you guys. He said thank you for your service.

ADJOURNED: 7:49 PM

[15-4437](#)

Council Rules
Home Rule Charter
Contract Procedures

Attachments: [HOMERULE June 2021](#)

[Council Rules March 2021 Edition](#)

[Contract Procedures](#)