



Allentown

435 Hamilton Street
Allentown, Pa. 18101

Minutes - Final

City Council

Wednesday, September 7, 2022

6:30 PM

Council Chambers

Invocation: Council President Mota

Pledge to the Flag

Roll Call

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

Courtesy of the Floor

Courtesy and Privilege of the Floor Rules

Mr. John Rowley, 2949 Parkway Boulevard, stated that he wants to bring Council up to date on the seven year history of the Rose Garden Association has had with the three mayors and several public officials. The first meeting was in October of 2016 and was very productive. The Rose Garden Association met with representatives of traffic safety. Three things occurred: three crosswalks were put in, battery operated speed signs were put in, and timing lines were marked on the street to see the speed of people going by. A year and a half after that, a letter was sent to Mayor Pawlowski indicating that battery signs are not consistent. Right now, there are four signs and three of them do not work at all. The batteries run out and needs to be replaced frequently. The fourth one is just flashing. From 2018 - 2020 motorcycle policemen were watching the speeding on Parkway Boulevard using those timing lines. The solar powered speed signs that were requested was installed on Chew Street, not on Parkway Boulevard. In March 2021, Mayor O'Connell had the electronic speed flashing installation would take place by the end of the summer with PennDot approval. They heard from Michael Becker that time and equipment was used and it was a very complicated setup in a measure period of space and they can tell the speed. On March 11, several citations and warnings were issued. Now, the equipment is broken and it has to be repaired. He is not sure how it is setup or if it is even practical. He wrote to Mayor Tuerk and suggested using the timing lines and explained that the solar speed signs should get installed on Parkway Boulevard. That is after five years. On February 2022, Mr. Varughese said that a technician is checking battery operated signs weekly. He will also put signs in the middle of the road at crosswalks saying yield to pedestrians. The signs are still not working and he does not think they are

practical. On June of this year, Michael Boyer stated that they have all the necessary parts and temporary permits from PennDot to install the temporary radar speed board within a week. He stated that he is not sure what a temporary speed board is. That is not nearly what was requested seven years ago. They also suggested that they will install pedestrian flashes at the crosswalk. The request was either for a solar power or hardwire signs that work.

Mr. Joshua Siegel is now present at the meeting.

Mr. Ed Zucal asked Mr. Rowley to give his name to Mr. Hanlon and have Mr. Shahda check into that. A lot of those things do depend on PennDot's approval. Since they are there already, it might be a matter of getting them updated.

Mr. John Rowley stated that he believes that in 2017, Mayor Pawlowski got the approval. Otherwise how would they end up on Chew Street instead of Parkway Boulevard.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated good argument.

Mr. John Rowley stated that he does understand that.

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked Mayor Matt Tuerk if he had something to say.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated that he prefers that Mr. Rowley let his administration check it out. He asked him to provide his contact information.

Contract Approvals: NONE

Minutes of Previous Meeting

[15-5286](#) August 17, 2022 City Council Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [August 17, 2022 City Council Meeting Minutes](#)

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if there were any comments from Council on the minutes. Any comments from the public?

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

Communications: Suicide Awareness and Prevention Month Proclamation

Old Business

Councilperson Siegel will be making a motion to remove Bill 39, ARPA funding for the Da Vinci Center and Bill 40, ARPA funding for Coca Cola Park, from the Special Committee and place them on the agenda of his Budget and Finance Committee meeting on September 28th.

Bill 40

Mr. Joshua Siegel stated that he would like to make a Motion to remove Bill 40 from the Special Committee and place it on the Agenda of the Budget and Finance Committee meeting on September 28th.

A motion was made by Joshua Siegel, seconded by Candida Affa, to remove Bill 40 from the Special Committee and place it on the Agenda of the Budget and Finance Committee meeting on September 28th.

Yes: 4 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, and Joshua Siegel

No: 3 - Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Natalie Santos

[15-5102](#)

Bill 40

Amending the 2022 ARPA Fund Budget to provide for a transfer of One Million Five Hundred Thousand (\$1,500,000) Dollars to Coca Cola Park for COVID-19 Safety Improvements.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 40 \\$1.5 M ARPA - COCA COLA PARK](#)

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that these are being asked to be referred to Committee to expedite the issues. He asked what happened to the process.

Ms. Candida Affa stated as they know originally she understood the process and jumping ahead of the line. In the situation with Coca Cola Park and the IronPigs, and after listening to Mr. Cunningham speak about branding in Allentown and how important the IronPigs are to us. They are the only ones that have a deadline. They have to have this approved and done and start work already in April. Because of that she believes personally as a Councilwoman does not want to be the Councilperson that saw Coca Cola Park and the IronPigs leave the city of Allentown. It is very important and in the beginning she agreed with both of them. Now, she thinks they have a time limit on this. It is not Coca Cola Park. It is not the Pigs. It is Major League Baseball that is holding us hostage here in which she is very upset about. In the long run she does not want to take the chance that they lose the Pigs out of Allentown.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated to follow up on that it is his understanding that they want

the money because of Covid loss. It went from improvements being demanded by the Major League Baseball Association to Covid loss. Which is it?

Mr. Joshua Siegel stated with all due respect Mr. Zucal, they did lose money during Covid. They were shutdown for two years as a result of the pandemic which cost them money as it relates to ticket sales. It is a justifiable expense under the Guidelines and Provisions of the federal legislation. It is obviously also a result of the Major League Baseball's standards being imposed on teams across the country. They imposed it on the Trenton Yankees as well. That team did not make the investment and Trenton has lost the Minor League Baseball Team as a direct result of that. He echoes the concerns and he and Ms. Affa spoke about this earlier. It is a time constraint thing. He stated that he respects the process and they had many public hearings, but this one giving the nature of potentially losing a tremendous economic and cultural asset is a worthwhile investment and people are welcome to vote against it. He stated that is why he is bringing it forward.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that she echoes the confusion because her understanding was not only would there be a public process in which people would come forth and provide public testimony. Mike Hanlon called us all up and asked what our priorities were. Some people said immigration, some people said cops, some people said homelessness. What was the purpose of all that? It seems as though we are right back to where we were. We had experts from the community come in. We had the Chief testify. We had all these people testify. For what? to be right back to where we were. We learned from the community that homelessness is a huge issue. We learned from the community that public safety is a huge issue. Rather that is cops. Rather that is Credible Messengers. Either way, public safety. We learned from the community that having something for the youth to do are a huge issues. Yet, here we are once again with these two items that would come before us and they were going to be before us tonight. She doesn't for the life of her understand why these two items out of all the money that is left from ARPA that these are the first two items that we decide to allocate funds to. Not the unsheltered, not gun violence prevention, not affordable housing, not a youth center. Why these two items? It is a county owned stadium. County owned. The county's fund balance is much larger than ours. She believes that the threat of them leaving is being made so that we rush and allocate this money. They are not going to leave. The county is going to make sure they don't leave. The county is not going to allow the IronPigs to leave. It is that simple. In terms of DaVinci, she was impressed by the fact that Lin came and had a response to some of the concerns that she had and people in the community has had. To even forward these to a committee now without and again she will

say if we have \$28 million left and she knows that the city has spent \$25 million on gun violence prevention, homelessness, broadband and all the things that are affected people's day to day lives and we happen to have an extra \$3 million then sure, let's go for it. We can't say that right now. She stated that she feels that it is not in the best interest of the community for them to do this. She stated that she does not understand why they are right back to where they started. Why did we go through everything thing. It was pointless. It put people through the ringer once again.

Attorney Charles Smith stated that Council is taking them one at a time. This is on Bill 40 on Coca Cola Park. Just try to keep it somewhat organized.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that she understands and they are all in agreement with all the things that they are going to spend the money on. It is not to say they are going to take money from gun violence or from a shelter or for any of those things. Like the Solicitor said, this is one of the first. She stated that she does not want to roll the dice and say, oh, they are bluffing. Do you want to be the Councilperson that lost it. She stated that she is sure the mayor doesn't want to be the mayor that lost the Pigs here in Allentown. She stated that they don't want to lose them. She is not willing to roll the dice. One million dollars to the Pigs is only a part of the money they are going to spend on homelessness and a youth center. She stated that she is all for it, but she also thing that they can spend \$1 million on this only because Major League Baseball is holding them hostage. She doesn't want to roll the dice and lose something that they worked so hard for through these years with the representatives that worked so hard to get them here. They will leave. They left Trenton. It is not something she wants to roll the dice on. We are going to address all of those. It is just that they have a timeline here and whether we give them the money at the end or give them the money at the beginning. She does not want to take the chance. We can give them it in the beginning and address all the other things.

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if there were any other comments.

Mr. Joshua Siegel stated that they should be clear that public policy should not become a zero sum gain. He agrees with Ms. Affa that there are a number of priorities that we are going to address and we are going to address them. He also want to make sure that they invest in anti-violence programs, Credible Messengers, and violence prevention. It is a worthwhile investment and they should have that discussion. Allocating this money does not come at the expense of that investment or that priority. To be clear, the IronPigs is more than just a stadium. They spent \$3.78 million on youth and recreation programs. They are heavily invested in making

sure our kids in the city get access to youth sports programs, get to play on the field. They are not some Insolated team or Insolated entity that doesn't do anything for the community. They spend considerable money here in the city that generates additional tax revenue and generates employment. It would be a tremendous loss to lose them as an asset and a cultural amenity. We do not need to shape the discussion as an either or. There is \$18 million left in ARPA funds. This minor allocation leaves a significant pot of funds left for them to discuss as a community. There is a lot of consensus for once on Council about where a lot of that money should go in terms of investing in youth and anti-violence and public safety. We are going to be able to spend a lot of that money and come to a strong consensus. He stated that he thinks that this is a worthwhile investment. People are certainly welcome to feel otherwise. We are a deliberative body and we will deliberate. There is a sense of urgency with this. The shovel ready project in that sense and that is why we should move. People are welcome to disagree. He makes this fully known that he is a public official subjected to scrutiny and judgment. He welcomes both comments and critiques. He stated that he believes firmly in this.

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if there were any other questions.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that as much as some folks might not want to sleep and are afraid that the stadium might shutter. As much as this is a belief that this is urgent and must be done immediately. So is the unsheltered community. That is urgent as well. She does not want to know that they could have houses a 100 more people or 50 more people if we would have had 1.5 million extra dollars. If this passes through committee then that is what happens, but for her she just when they pass the regular budget, we have these thick books with tabs and a comprehensive overview on how our money is being spent or what the proposal is for spending our money. We know how everything links together. We don't. We can hope that we spend money on these other items. We don't know that we are. She feels that it is in poor judgment to even talk about spending \$1.5 million and for the next item another \$1.5 million when we don't know the full picture.

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if there are any other comments from the dais or the public.

Bill 39

A motion was made by Joshua Siegel, seconded by Candida Affa, to remove Bill 39 from the Special Committee and place it on the Agenda of the Budget and Finance Committee on September 28th.

Yes: 4 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, and Joshua Siegel

No: 3 - Ed Zucal, Ce-Ce Gerlach, and Natalie Santos

[15-5103](#)

Bill 39

Amending the 2022 ARPA Fund Budget to provide for a transfer of One Million Five Hundred Thousand (\$1,500,000) Dollars to Da Vinci Science City, LLC.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 39 \\$1.5m ARPA to Da Vinci](#)

Mr. Joshua Siegel stated that he would argue the same sentiment that these are shovel ready projects with tremendous economic and social value. DaVinci in particular, we heard a lot of testimony about both their commitment to racial equity in their hiring, educational exposure and 50 percent of our youth lives in a one mile walking radius of this facility. In terms of investment, this one absolutely meets all of the standards we care about whether it is economic development, cultural competency, equity in the way that we reach out to our community, job creation for working class folks and citizens. It hits all the metrics and exceeds them. Bringing this one again, DaVinci is a shovel ready project. We all have been to the groundbreaking and we know that it is right around the corner and they need additional assistance to keep that project in a timely manner.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that she would like to keep in mind this \$1.5 million and \$1.5 million does not necessary say we are going to ok \$1.5 million and \$1.5 million. It may be a \$1 million to the Pigs and \$500,000 here. It is going to depend on us as a body how much we are going to give. Right now, it is a discussion and she is not committed to \$3 million and split it. She wants them to know that they are stepping in front of the line because it is important that they keep the Pigs here in Allentown. She stated that what they decide to give them is just the committee. Keep that in mind because a lot of people are saying, oh my. It may not be \$3 million. There is some discussion, but important to know that she truly believes they need DaVinci and the Pigs and a lot of the things that we have like Mr. Cunningham said. We need branding. Easton has Crayola and there are so many different places. Bethlehem has Musikfest and they have the casino. We have the DaVinci Center and a AAA team. One of the biggest stars in Phillies players were just here last week and a lot of people went just to see him. It is really important for our tourism and our entertainment. It is one of the categories that we spoke about. It is one of the five. The reason for it is that they need the money to start the projects in April. Be aware that it might not be \$3 million.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that he would like to comment that the city is already giving to DaVinci. He believes it was \$5.6 million back in the beginning.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated that the city is an applicant for a HUD Loan that DaVinci. The city is simply a pass through for a loan that DaVinci received from the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked Mayor Tuerk if it was a loan. The city did not give them any money.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated that it is a loan from HUD.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that he would have to asked the other former Mayor to come back.

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if there were any other comments from the dais.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that she is going to vote no, but she does appreciate the fact that when Ms. Erickson came here there was at least some attempt to answer some of the questions about hiring Allentown residents. She hopes by the time the 28th rolls around and we have a more in-depth conversation and the people are actually allowed to speak and give their input that she might be able to then also have some metrics, goals on how will this happen. How will we ensure that most people working there are Allentown residents. What relationships are being established right now between DaVinci and LCTI and which ever entity that would ensure that our people are ready, not just to serve popcorn, but actually have the good paying sustainable jobs. Those are the questions that she has, but very detailed. Not just we are going to try the PPL Center. Everyone says they are going to try. It would be great to have tangibles.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that she agrees. She asked if there are any other questions or comments from the dais.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that he thinks both of these projects will enrich the educational environment for our youth and keep them off the streets. For that matter and those reasons he thinks they are both important projects. They both being shovel ready. He thinks it is time to move these up and take action on them. Whether that be positive or negative. That will be for debate on the 28th.

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if there were any other comments from the dais or the public.

REPORTS:

Special Committee Meeting (Mota, Hendricks, Siegel): Chairperson Mota - Council had a Special Meeting on August 24 at 6 PM. Those bills are tentatively scheduled for a vote in October, most likely the October 19th council meeting.

Budget and Finance: Chair Siegel, Hendricks, Santos
The Committee met on August 24 and forwarded some items on this evening's agenda. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 28.

Community and Economic Development: Chair Gerlach, Siegel, Mota
The Committee has not met since the last council meeting; the next meeting is scheduled for September 21 at 5 PM.

Human Resources, Administration and Appointments: Chair Santos, Hendricks, Siegel
The Committee has not met since the last council meeting; there are no future meetings scheduled at this time.

Parks and Recreation: Chair Affa, Gerlach, Santos
The Committee has not met since the last council meeting; the next meeting is scheduled for September 21 5:30 PM.

Public Safety: Chair Hendricks, Zucal, Affa
The Committee has not meet since the last council meeting; the next meeting is scheduled for September 21 at 5:50 PM.

Public Works: Chair Zucal, Affa, Hendricks
The Committee met this evening; the next meeting is scheduled for September 21 at 6:10 PM.

Rules, Chambers, Intergovernmental Relations and Strategy: Chair Mota, Zucal, Gerlach
The Committee has not met since the last council meeting; there are no future meetings scheduled.

Controller's Report (3 minutes)
Mr. Jeffrey Glazier stated that he will give the first of the interns audit reports. This one has to do with starting a business in the city of Allentown. They worked with Revenue and Audit, Zoning, Building Standards and Safety, Health, Recycling and Solid Waste and Fire. He commended the staff of all the departments for being helpful and supportive and really helping the interns turn out a good product that they are proud of doing and also something that will benefit the city of Allentown and

the people that are starting businesses going forward. He went over the highlights that is loaded in Granicus. He stated that they use a Teams spreadsheet, but once they start using Intergov, he is not sure they will continue to use the Teams spreadsheet. Until they do, it is a commitment to make it a better tool. He will report on the other audits when they become available.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated that Dieruff went down from a team from Stroudsburg. The next day Central Catholic gutted out a victory. The best part of all those things is seeing a huge number of people out engaging with each other in the city of Allentown and building community and engaging with both their cities and their neighbors. He would like to focus on the recent announcement of a grant to the city of Allentown for parks planning by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and funds for our Phase II of our Jordan Skate Park that is going to allow us to begin construction on that project. He stated that today he had to speak at a Press Conference in front of Dieruff High School on the death of a member of the Dieruff Community, a member of our Syrian American Community, and a member of the Eastside Community due to a fatal automobile accident. A pedestrian was struck on Irving and for him for a week in which they hosted the Great Allentown Fair and saw thousands of people from across the Lehigh Valley come to the City of Allentown and enjoy each others company. It had him thinking about the awful things that happened in this city over the past week. That includes losing a life. A man was shot dead on the southside last Thursday night. There was another near fatal shooting at Fifth and Cedar. On Monday, on Labor Day, the city responded to a fire on Mohawk Street on the Southside that left 15 people without shelter. He thanked God for the Red Cross coming to help them. He stated that they responded to that fire with fewer firefighters than they should have. In order to respond to a fire like that you would want to see much more firefighters. We just don't have the same firefighter force presence in the city of Allentown to respond to these types of challenges. Thankfully the city's firefighters are imminently capable and well trained and was able to knocked down that fire with no loss of life. The effort to slow traffic down in the city of Allentown that would result in fewer deaths of pedestrians is going to be possible by investing further in our police department who is responsible for enforcement. One thing that they heard overwhelming over the past couple of days has been the need to further enforce traffic laws in the city of Allentown to make sure our streets are safe. We can't do that. We are trying other things. We are pushing for legislation at the state level that would allow for local use of radar that would improve our ability to enforce traffic regulations. They are investigating investments like Mr. Reilly spoke about on Parkway Boulevard to create speed timing indication just to let people know how fast they are going. They are investigating the installation of red light traffic cameras to cite people who run red lights. More than anything else, man power is at the core of it. He knows that they had an ongoing discussion here at City Council about the need to continue to invest in manpower. There are a few things on the agenda tonight that address the need to hire more

police officers to serve the needs of our community. He stated that his heart is heavy today in Allentown as we see this continued decline in public safety in our city. He took a minute to speak, not just to Council. He hopes that they will speak to members of our community, but to two members of our community. He encouraged everybody to just slow down. There is nothing so important that you have to speed down Irving Street and take a life. Respect the traffic signals. Respect the speed limit. Come to a complete stop at Stop Signs and be aware of pedestrians and cyclist in the streets. It is just not worth it.

[15-5287](#) Controller's Report

Attachments: [2nd QUARTER 2022 SUMMARY OF PENSION CASH FLOWS](#)

[Starting a Business](#)

[CL - SAB](#)

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE (To be Voted On):

[15-5214](#) Bill 57 Public Works
Providing for the vacation of North Lumber Street from the centerline of Clay Street to the centerline of Whitehall Street in the Eighth Ward of the City of Allentown:

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 57 North Lumber Street from the centerline of Clay Street to the centerline of Whitehall Street](#)
[900 Block of N. Lumber and Refwal Street from Clay Street to Dead End](#)
[Letter from the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission - 900 Block of N. Lumber and Refwal Street from Clay Street](#)
[Report to the City Clerk and Allentown City Planning Commission - N. Lumber Street from Clay Street to Whitehall Street](#)
[Staff Report - N Lumber and N Refwal Street from Clay Street](#)
[Letter from Vicky Kistler regarding Allentown Planning Commission decision on 900 Block of N. Lumber and Refwal Street from Clay Street](#)
[Lumber Refwal Labels](#)

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that it was passed favorably 3 - 0. She asked if there were any comments from the administration, Council or the public.

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

Enactment No: 15834

[15-5194](#) Bill 50 Budget and Finance, recommended favorably
Amending the 2022 Capital Fund Budget to provide for a total transfer of Five Thousand Five Hundred Ninety-Seven Dollars and Fifteen Cents (\$5,597.15) among Capital Projects with the final outcome being the

closure of Capital Project 2028 – Police Academy Road and Parking Lot and Capital Project 2209 Mack Pool. These Capital Projects are complete and have been reconciled by the Finance Department.

Attachments: [Bill 50 CAPITAL PROJECT CLOSE OUTS & TRANSFERS](#)

Mr. Joshua Siegel stated it was forwarded favorably to Council for a final vote.

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if there were any comments from the dais or the public.

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

Enactment No: 15835

[15-5197](#)

Bill 54 Budget and Finance, forwarded favorably Amending the Administrative Code, § 5-15 City Council action on budget, by changing the definitions of the Mayor's Proposed Budget to comply with current and amended provisions of Home Rule Charter - that the budget shall be submitted on or before 75 days prior to the ensuing fiscal year pursuant to the Charter rather than 60 days (housecleaning measure).

Sponsors: Mota and Mr. Zucal

Attachments: [Bill 54 Budget Bill](#)

Mr. Joshua Siegel stated that it was forwarded favorably.

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if there were any questions from the dais or the public.

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

Enactment No: 15836

[15-5260](#)

Bill 64 Budget and Finance, forwarded favorably Amending Part I: Administrative Legislation, Chapter 5 Administration of Government, Article IV Financial Procedures, Section 25 Temporary investment of funds.

Attachments: [Bill 64 Investment Policy Ordinance 8-17-22](#)

Mr. Joshua Siegel stated that it was forwarded favorably to Council for a final vote.

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if there were any questions from the dais or the public.

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

Enactment No: 15837

[15-4588](#)

Bill 92 Public Safety, Recommended Unfavorably 2-1 - wait until alternative penalty is found. Needs an amendment to change sections to reflect codification.

Amending Article 531, Stopping, Standing and Parking, Section 531.99 Notice of Violation; Waiver (H) by deleting a provision that states that in default of payment of fine and costs, someone could be imprisoned not more than ten days.

Sponsors: Gerlach and Mr. Siegel

Attachments: [Bill 92 Deletes imprisonment provision for non-payment of penalties](#)
[Stopping, Standing and Parking](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that he would like to make a Motion to Table until such time that his colleagues on the Parking Authority comes up with an alternative plan to replace imprisonment. There is no rush to this. No one has been imprisoned in the recent past.

Yes: 5 - Candida Affa, Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Joshua Siegel, and Natalie Santos

No: 2 - Ed Zucal, and Ce-Ce Gerlach

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Michael Hanlon asked if Council was ok with the Consent Agenda. Does anybody want to take anything off?

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if there were any comments from the public.

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

[15-5279](#)

R127
John F. Gross, ACIDA, 1-1-2027 (Reappointment)

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R127 ACIDA - John F. Gross](#)
[John F. Gross, ACIDA, 1-1-2027](#)
[Resolution #30486](#)

Enactment No: 30486

[15-5280](#)

R128
Santo Napoli, Blighted Property Review Committee, 1-1-2026

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R128 Blighted Property Review Committee - Santo Napoli](#)
[Santo Napoli, Blighted Property Review Committee, 1-1-2026](#)
[Resolution #30487](#)

Enactment No: 30487

[15-5281](#) R129
Christian Brown, Planning Commission, 6-3-2025 (Reappointment)

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R129 Planning Commission - Christian Brown](#)
[Christian Brown, Planning Commission, 6-3-2025](#)
[Resolution #30488](#)

Enactment No: 30488

[15-5282](#) R130
Christian Brown, Blighted Property Review Committee, 6-3-2025
(Reappointment)

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R130 Blighted Property Review Committee - Christian Brown](#)
[Christian Brown, Blighted Property Review Committee, 6-3-2025](#)
[Resolution #30489](#)

Enactment No: 30489

[15-5311](#) R130B
Trent Sear, Zoning Hearing Board, 09/06/2026 (Alternate)

Attachments: [R130B Zoning Hearing Board - Trent Sear \(Alternate\)](#)
[Trent J. Sear - Zoning Hearing Board](#)
[Resolution #30490](#)

Enactment No: 30490

RESOLUTIONS FOR FINAL PASSAGE (To be Voted On):

[15-5291](#) R131
Police Officer Appointments

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R131 Hiring Two Patrolmen](#)
[Resolution #30491](#)

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if there were any comments from the administration.

Assistant Chief James Gress stated that he will give a little background on the applicants. We have two before you for approval Merveille Mvindu is 30 years old and a Bill 66 applicant which means he is already Academy certified. He comes to us from the Democratic Republic of Congo. He came here ago 15 years ago, had an interest in law enforcement, got a degree from Bucks County Community College in Criminal Justice and graduated from our Academy in 2019. He currently works for the Sheriff's office. He stated that the Police Department would like to bring him onboard. The other is Steven Bettys. He is a 40 year old applicant of Bill 66. He is a graduate of Montgomery County Community College and graduated from the city's Academy in 2010. He also works for the Sheriff's office.

Ms. Cynthia Mota thanked Assistant Chief James Gress and asked if there were any questions or comments from the dais.

Mr. Joshua Siegel stated that it is usually Police then Sheriff's office.

Assistant Chief James Gress stated that our retirees we send there way.

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if there were any comments from the public.

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

No: 1 - Ce-Ce Gerlach

Enactment No: 30491

[15-5292](#)

R132

Approves the submission of the formal application for the local share account grant on behalf of Lehigh Valley P4P Boxing, Inc. to fund facility repairs to assist in the continuation and operation of their successful youth enrichment boxing program.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R132 Local Share Grant Application](#)
[Resolution #30492](#)

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if there were any comments from the administration.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated that he does not know if anybody had the opportunity to join some of our firefighters in visiting the Boxing Gym. It is a heart lifting experience. There are kids getting off the streets using boxing to get them on the right path. He was able to visit on a hot day in June and was drenched with sweat about time he left there. Not because the sweat

and the humidity in the air, but because he was in numerous selfies because of the boxers. They are really good kids, really good projects and hopefully that this application will be supportive by the Commonwealth.

Ms. Cynthia Mota thanked Mayor Tuerk and asked if there were any questions or comments from the dais.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that she comes from a boxing family. Her cousin Sunni from the 60s, 70s, and 80s. It took so many kids off the streets. In the basement of his home and he had no grants or nothing like that. He showed not to be bullies. He took them in and one was a schoolteacher. It is going back several years, but she used to go and watch the matches and how he was able to teach these young men. Boxing is a way for especially for a lot of inner city kids to get the anger out and it is a sport. He had four Golden Glovers. One was his son, Erick Affa. They take them to the Golden Gloves, they can go to the Olympics, they can become pros. This is something that she truly believes in. Boxing is one of the sports for inner city kids and women. She stated that she is all in favor of this.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated that one thing he learned from talking to these kids is that they look at an L not as a loss, but a learning opportunity. It is very encouraging to hear that. The teaching is strong there. It is a fantastic program.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that he had the experience of always visiting the gym with the firemen and he too believe that since it was right down the street where he grew up. It is a very needy neighborhood and it is helping a lot of the children in that area and teaching them the skills of life in addition to boxing. It is very important and he fully supports this.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that she also agrees with him. It is important to make sure our youth is active and this is a great way. She asked if there were any comments from the dais or any comments from the public.

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

Enactment No: 30492

[15-5293](#)

R133

Approves the submission of the application to the U.S. Department of Transportation for grant funding for a minimum of two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000.00).

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R133 Dept of Transportation](#)
[Resolution #30493](#)

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if there were any comments from the administration.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated that he wants to provide a little background on this. This is the first grant application that they will be making under the new bipartisan infrastructure law. This will fund safe streets and roads. Given the incident yesterday it is of utmost importance in the city of Allentown to improve pedestrian safety. It would fund Planning efforts to create safe streets and roads for all under the bipartisan infrastructure. He stated that they are hopeful that this is the first many grant applications under that law.

Ms. Cynthia Mota thanked Mayor Tuerk and asked if there were any comments from the public.

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

Enactment No: 30493

[15-5294](#)

R134

Authorizes the Submission of the Formal Application to the Pennsylvania Office of the Budget for a Grant of Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000) to support the DaVinci Science Center Downtown Allentown Project.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R134 RACP Da Vinci 1](#)
[Resolution #30494](#)

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if there were any comments from the administration.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated that he knows that there was a question that was asked by a member of Council on why we needed three separate Resolutions for DaVinci Projects. It is because these are for three separate grants applications. We need a Resolution for each of the following three Resolutions.

Ms. Cynthia Mota thanked Mayor Tuerk and asked if there were any comments from the public.

Ms. Candida Affa asked Mayor Tuerk if this is a \$2 million grant that DaVinci is getting.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated that they are applying for the grant.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that they are applying. They don't know if they are going to get it. She asked if there were any comments from the public.

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

Enactment No: 30494

[15-5295](#)

R135

Authorizes Submission of the Formal Application to the Pennsylvania Office of the Budget for a Grant of Eight Million Dollars (\$8,000,000) to support the DaVinci Science Center Downtown Allentown Project.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R135 RACP Da Vinci 2](#)
[Resolution #30495](#)

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated this is a separate Resolution for a separate grant. This is the same Project.

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if there were any comments from the dais or the public.

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

Enactment No: 30495

[15-5296](#)

R136

Authorizes the Submission of the Formal Application to the Pennsylvania Office of the Budget for a Grant of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) to support the DaVinci Science Center Downtown Allentown Project.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R136 RACP Da Vinci 3](#)
[Resolution #30496](#)

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated that this is a separate authorization for the separate grant for the same Project.

Ms. Candida Affa asked how long would it take for us to know if these grants were approved. Do you have any idea?

Ms. Vicky Kistler stated that they don't. Typically, HUD can go anywhere from months to many months.

Mayor Tuerk stated that these are Pennsylvania.

Ms. Vicky Kistler stated that she is sorry.

Mayor Mathew Tuerk stated that one of them is the Redevelopment Capital

Assistance Programs. One is under another program line. The anticipation is that grants will be awarded in this fiscal year.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that it is important for us to know because they are asking for \$1.5 million from the City of Allentown. There is \$12 million that they may be getting. It would be important for us to know.

Mayor Mathew Tuerk stated that they are expecting to receive these grants.

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

Enactment No: 30496

[15-5274](#)

R137

Approves two transfers: (1) \$39,000.00 from CED - HUD to move funds from the 40 to 46 for new Contract Services for Jordan Skatepark; (2) \$16,950.00 from Parks and Recreation since the Golf Course is in need of the VC 60 attachment with double roller and carbide tip blades to remove thatch on greens and tees and improve drainage.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R137 Transfer Funds](#)

[Jordan Skatepark](#)

[Golf Course iVC 60](#)

Ms. Cynthia Mota thanked Mr. Hanlon and asked if there were any comments from the administration.

Mayor Mathew Tuerk stated that these are small investments in order to improve the services for the Skate Park and well recognized Allentown Municipal Golf Course.

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if there were any comments from the dais or the public.

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

Enactment No: 30497

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

[15-5298](#)

Bill 66 Parks and Recreation

Amending the 2022 Capital Fund Budget to provide for an appropriation of the donation of Twenty Thousand (\$20,000.00) Dollars from Friends of the Allentown Parks into the Bogert's Bridge capital project account. These funds will be used for design and construction of Bogert's Bridge.

Attachments: [Bill 66 Bogert's Bridge](#)

Ms. Cynthia Mota thanked Mr. Hanlon and asked if there were any comments from the dais or the public.

REFERRED TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

[15-5297](#)

Bill 67 Refer to Budget and Finance Committee
Amending the 2022 General Fund Budget by transferring Fifty Thousand (\$50,000.00) Dollars from the CED General Fund and additional One Hundred Twenty Five Thousand (\$125,000.00) Dollars be appropriated from the General Fund balance to General Systems Management account. The purpose is to have funding in place for requests for proposals to 1.) Upgrade the City's website, and 2.) Allow for prospective regulations to be posted on Granicus to allow for a public comment period before regulations are considered to be adopted.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 67 General Fund Budget](#)

Ms. Cynthia Mota thanked Mr. Hanlon and asked if there were any comments from the dais or the public.

REFERRED TO THE BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

[15-5299](#)

Bill 68 Parks and Recreation
Amending the 2022 Capital Fund Budget to provide for a transfer of funds from the General Fund to Project 2202, Jordan Creek Greenway Trail (JCGT) in the amount of Fifty Thousand (\$50,000.00) Dollars to be used to provide additional funding for construction and/or construction inspection of the Jordan Creek Greenway Trail.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 68 Jordan Greenway](#)

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if there were any comments from the dais or the public.

REFERRED TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

[15-5300](#)

Bill 69 Parks and Recreation
Amending the 2022 Capital Fund Budget to provide for a deposit of One Thousand Two Hundred and Sixty-Three Dollars and Seventy-Three Cents (\$1,263.73) of donation funds from Homebase Skate Shop to help contribute to the cost of construction for our Skate Park. These funds would be placed in the Jordan Skatepark capital project.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 69 Jordan Skatepark](#)

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if there were any comments from the dais or the public.

REFERRED TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

[15-5301](#)

Bill 70 Public Safety

Amending the 2022 Equipment Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of funds received from Phase-4 of the Cares Act to provide for the purchase of an ambulance.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 70 EMS Ambulance](#)

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if there were any comments from the dais or the public.

REFERRED TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

[15-5302](#)

Bill 71 Public Safety

Amending the Part One: Administrative Legislation, Chapter 19 Civil Service Rules by updating the policies in Sections 19-5 and 19-6.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 71 Police Employment Amendment](#)

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if there were any comments from the dais or the public.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that he will review this, but a quick note from the Assistant Chief Gress, what language are we moving or adding to expedite the hiring process.

Chief Charles Roca stated that we are removing some of the language in 19.5A where it has after as amended that to certification then adding out of state applicants must contact the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Municipal Police Officer Education Training Program and obtain full waiver form, complete assessment test, and obtain their Municipal Police Officers Certification prior to application. That is the first section. The second section under Recruitment, we eliminate the first part of it and add, in the event that the mayor determines that there exist conditions affecting public safety which requires the appointment of certified police officers without competition. The mayor shall request in writing that the board in accordance with the Rules conduct recruitment for the purpose of filling request number of police officer positions. The process for the appointment for certified police officers without competition and these

Rules shall be in addition to and not in lieu of the process of the appointment of police officers in accordance with the Civil Service Examination and grading requirements in these Rules. It is adjusting that initial verbiage. In the first part, the Police department will get applicants for the Bill 66 which their police certification did not transfer over to what is required for a Police Officer in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. It is clearing up that language as well and also allowing the mayor to state that we need to hire these Police Officers.

Mr. Ed Zucal asked if in the first part are you trying to changes that are not required by MOPEC. The first part you said you want to make it that it is not required for Allentown officers. He asked is he clear on that.

Chief Charles Roca stated that is for out of state applicants.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated correct. Is that not a MOPEC requirement that we can supersede?

Chief Charles Roca stated that it is not a specific MOPEC requirement. It is for the simple fact that they have to get fully certified before they will be able to apply for the Bill 66. Let's say they are a Police Officer in another state and they come into Allentown to test. Their police certification might not carry over because they might need some additional training. Before they can apply under the Bill 66, they would need to get that verification of a waiver and a full certification and as it says here, obtain a municipal police officer certification prior to applications. When they complete their application packet, we have it right there and they can be hired. They would not have to go to the academy. We can get them right in, do the training and get them through the process and they can get on the road.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that they will talk about it because he is a little confused on it.

Chief Charles Roca stated that he will explain it better.

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked how much time will that save.

Chief Charles Roca stated a boatload of time. Just having the officers able when the submit for Bill 66. Of course that is the full process of hiring with the background and everything. Minus the written test and the physical agility test. We still delve into their background as we do with any candidate that comes through the competitive process. It saves time and the Police Department is able to get that officers right out onto the road.

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if there were any other questions from the dais.

She asked if there were any questions from the public.

REFERRED TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

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

NEW BUSINESS: NONE

GOOD AND WELFARE

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that he has a question for the Mayor. He stated that it is a rumor that he heard and he is just trying to verify it through the sources that the city is not planning on having a Halloween Parade this year.

Mayor Matthew Tuerk stated the city canceled the October 9th Halloween Parade. They are planning an October 28th Halloween Celebration.

Mr. Ed Zucal asked is there or is there not a Parade.

Mayor Matthew Tuerk stated no parade. There is a celebration.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks commended the city's Fire Department. This past Monday at the severe fire that occurred on the southside as the Mayor stated. He, the Mayor and his colleagues were at a recent ground breaking for the new Emergency Services Center and this fire just reinforced the reason and the need for such a building. He knows that one of the firefighters ended up in the hospital. Fortunately, he talked to Firefighter Warmkessel on Tuesday morning. He was only there to observe and he suffered exhaustion as did several of them. As the Mayor said too, this is a difficult time when we don't have sufficient manpower on the date to do the fighting. They were certainly overwhelmed at that time. Fortunately, no loss of life. There was one serious injury, but again, he wants to give kudos to the men in uniforms, the Firefighters.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that she would also like to read an email that she got this morning. It says we the people of Allentown owes our first responders a debt of gratitude for their services. As Dan points out in his article this man and woman short-staffed responded. Two men first on the scene don't wait. They take action knowing that their team is responding to back them up and tackle this huge fire. Fire, Police and EMS all responded with manpower during the holiday weekend. He extended thanks to them from their community. We appreciate their readiness to tackle whatever arising under the worst conditions. She stated that she loves getting emails like this. The community is very appreciative. She stated that while many of them were having fun, they were out there saving

lives.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that since they really did not get a chance to talk about Bill 92. She has kind of been at this for a year. It is obviously something that she is passionate about not incarcerating people for unpaid tickets. It was tables again tonight. It has been 21 days since the Parking Authority was here. Has there been any communication about what they have been working on?

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated yes, he has been communicating with them. What they are working on right now, it is going to take a little bit more time.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach asked if they gave a ballpark. A year or a month.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that it all depends on the state. That is all he is going to say. These things do not happen quick.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that she was just looking at the minutes of the last meeting on the 24 and she did not see anything.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that he will keep her advised of it. He can have them speak to her personally.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that would be wonderful. She thanked Mr. Hendricks.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that in another words Mr. Hendricks, something is being done. They are working on it.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated absolutely.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that when they have a conversation she would like to be involved.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated sure.

ADJOURNED: 7:41 PM