



Allentown

435 Hamilton Street
Allentown, Pa. 18101

Minutes - Final

Public Works Committee

Wednesday, July 26, 2023

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

2024 Budget Priorities

Roll Call: Chair Zucal, Santos, Hendricks

Discussion: Budget Priorities

[15-6091](#)

Public Works, Solid Waste, Stormwater, AO, Liquid Fuels

Purpose of the meeting is to lay out some priorities; future detailed discussions will occur at future meetings.

Clerk Reads Council Priorities - 2 Minutes

Department Director - 8 minutes

Review of City Infrastructure and Infrastructure Projects/Funding Need

Budget – Operations – staffing

Personnel Requests

AO/Lease

Committee Members – 3 minutes each

Action Items - 3 minute

Attachments: [Committee and Administrative Priorities](#)

[AO](#)

[Liquid Fuels](#)

[Public Works](#)

[Solid Waste](#)

[Stormwater](#)

Mr. Ed Zucal stated to Mr. Shahda that he has eight minutes to present.

Mr. Mark Shahda thanked Council and stated that Public Works is committed to a safe, clean and healthy city and continue with the services. One of the key services Public Works provides is the trash fee. He talked about the projects and HVAC upgrades, and roof replacement and garage doors. Building assessment is a priority. He talked about the Wayfinding implementation. He talked about the operation budget. He talked about street repair and maintenance repairing 12 miles and 1 1/2 mile for alley paving. They are bringing two new positions and upgrading positions. He

stated there were 74 cleanups. Scheduling the next quarterly Act 537 meeting in September. To complete the Administrative Order Compliance under the Concession Lease Agreement, the city is required to fund the Act 537 Plan through the AO (Administrative Order) funding and need approximately \$1 million. They are finally completing the final alternative analysis while evaluating regional financial feasibility. All funds from the city to complete the AO will be covered from the city ratepayers and signatories. He talked about the garage performance 7 out of 10, eight months into the transition. The garage is fully staffed with eight licensed Diesel Technicians, and three fully certified EVT Techs. They have brought most of the work in-house, state inspections and conducted their own emissions testing. The communication between the garage staff and the other departments have greatly improved to keep the departments up to date on the status of their equipment. They conducted a preventive maintenance program to extend the life of the vehicles. They will continue to work with Purchasing to get the vendors setup and streamline the Purchasing process for parts and services.

Mr. Ed Zucal asked about the total amount of the Capital Projects. He asked if it takes account the capital projects that the Fire Department is asking for.

Mr. Mark Shahda stated \$13.8 million.

Mr. Ed Zucal asked Ms. Santos if she had any questions.

Ms. Natalie Santos stated that she does not have any questions right now.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked Mr. Shahda about the \$5.3 million roof replacement across city properties. He asked him to prioritize them. One thing he does not want is a roof coming off to the point it is starting to leak.

Mr. Mark Shahda stated that they pretty much have an idea of which roofs need to be replaced. They are mainly at our Fire station. The roofs at Bucky Boyle and Keck Park are in dire need of repair. They have water coming into the building causing further damage to the interior of these buildings.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if he scheduled any work.

Mr. Mark Shahda stated right now we are doing some temporary patch work to hold items off and doing spot repairs.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated that if we are going to do a replacement on some of these buildings, it does not make sense to put a half million-dollar roof on

or delay repairs to a roof, if they are going to not actually replace a building. An inventory assessment has to be completed. They are working with the Commonwealth Department of Community and Economic Development to supplement what we budgeted for in the 2023 budget to do that inventory assessment. They don't want to put a new garage door on a building that they plan on to demolish. These are preliminary numbers.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked about the Fleet Maintenance Garage scoring 8 out of 10 and ask is this a matter of getting back up to speed and how they abandoned it for a number of years. He asked Mr. Shahda does he feel that the work and performance will be improving.

Mr. Mark Shahda stated that they had to build from scratch. They had an underperforming/failing contractor that was servicing the fleet and left the fleet and garage in disrepair. They had to pick up the piece and picking everything back together and provide a level of service that the city deserves and needs. There were learning curves and hiccups, but exceeding expectations.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked Mr. Shahda to keep an eye on that. He stated that he sees a lot of lights and traffic signals that are much larger than normal. Is that something you look at for specific intersections?

Mr. Mark Shahda stated that there is an industry standard for the size of the traffic signals. They should be standard sizes.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated that Mr. Shahda mentioned 100,000 signs. He looked at a picture of parking in 1975 and can see a sign that he absolutely recognize from almost 50 years ago and it is still up. The team is working diligently to inventory those signs to really know what is out there. They are going to continue to look for support nationally at the state level for investments. It all goes to clean, safe and health for our city and these guys are at the front lines of doing that work.

Adjournment: 6:15 PM