



Allentown

435 Hamilton Street
Allentown, Pa. 18101

Minutes - Final

City Council

Wednesday, January 10, 2024

6:30 PM

Council Chambers

Special Meeting

Roll Call: Cynthia Mota, Santo Napoli, Candida Affa, Ce Ce Gerlach, Daryl Hendricks, Natalie Santos, Ed Zucal

Welcome. City Council's organizational meeting was postponed until this evening. This is a special meeting called for the purpose of dealing with the reorganization and to conduct any general business as need be. The first item tonight will be Courtesy of the Floor. You can address any issue this evening under Courtesy of the Floor including the reorganization.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that if you wish to speak tonight, he would suggest that they get a card on the back table. Please present it to Mr. Hanlon, the Clerk and the subject you wish to speak on.

Mr. Lewis Shupe, 1101 Hamilton Street, stated that he has a prepared statement that he would like to read out. Bill 58 was passed last year. Despite being temporary evicted. A month ago he announced his candidacy as an independent candidate for the PA-7 Congressional District of the US House of Representatives. One of reasons is to ask the following question, why is it that our American Constitution is considered the highest law in the land and yet it infringes the most and infringes the least. A campaign slogan that he has adopted is helping bringing Lincoln's better angels back to the halls of Congress. Tonight, he asked that they bring Lincoln's better angels back to this Chambers. He comes to them tonight to ask the City Council to reconsider Bill 58 which was introduced on June 13, 2023 and passed by unanimous vote on July 19, 2023 despite his request at that time that the Bill be tabled. Bill 58 installs gunshot sensors and automated license plate readers in Allentown. These controversial and intrusive technologies trap people and nobody is tracking outcomes. Police claim to use that the technology will allow them to respond quicker to gunshots. There are more evidence and clear more gun related crimes, but there is no tracking of response times before and after. No tracking whether evidence is better preserved and no tracking on whether the clearance rate for related crimes is better after the adoption of this new technology than before its adoption. If the benefits were so clear, why not require the Allentown PD to show you the work. He stated that we can't just adopt an intrusive and possibly an unconstitutional technology with

no metrics at all to it. As a candidate he is concerned about the expansion of the surveillance state and particularly the damage it does to the first and fourth amendments. He stated that we have the right to be subjected to unreasonable searches and seizures. Over the last 15 years, the Supreme Court has increasingly recognized that citizens have a valid privacy interest in the pattern of their movement in the public. It is no longer enough constitutionally to say that citizens can be subjected to audio surveillance from gunshot sensors simply because those sensors record in public places. It is no longer enough constitutionally to say that police can track a pattern of where our cars move public. As data collection gets cheaper and deeper, the requirement on law enforcement to justify that corruption by getting the proper fourth amendment probable cause warrant has increased. As an Allentown resident, he is letting them know that it is not appropriate for police to do this me, to you, to anybody in the city of Allentown. They will keep a record of our comings and goings and what we say as we walk down the streets. He stated to please reconsider Bill 58.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Mr. Shupe. He asked Mr. Hanlon if he had any others. He stated that they will move on now to the election of Council President and at this time, he will take nominations from the floor for president.

Mr. Santo Napoli stated that he wants to make a nomination. He nominated Ms. Cynthia Mota.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that there is a nomination made for Ms. Cynthia Mota for president.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach seconded that nomination.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that a second is not needed.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated so no motion.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that the second is not needed, just the nomination. He asked if there are any other nominations for president. He stated going once, going twice. Nominations for president is closed.

Courtesy of the Floor

Procedures: Organization of Council:**Election of Council President**

President Hendricks takes nominations from the floor for President – each councilperson can make one nomination. Nominations do not require a second. The President can make a nomination after all councilpersons have had the opportunity. After the nominations, candidates are voted for in the order they were nominated until someone gets a majority vote.

The process follows the same process for the Vice President – Hendricks takes nominations, candidates are voted on in the order nominated.

After the election of President and Vice-President, councilpersons change seats for the remainder of the meeting - Elected President goes to Hendricks seat, Vice President goes to Mota's seat - others go to vacant seat.

The newly elected President takes comments from the members of Council and the Mayor.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that on the election of the President for Ms. Mota as Council President.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated congratulations and the new president will be Ms. Cynthia Mota. He stated and now we will have nominations for the office of Vice President.

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

Council Rules:**RULE VI: ELECTION AND REMOVAL OF PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT****A. Election of the President and Vice President of Council**

Council will elect a President and Vice President at its organizational meeting. The President or Acting President will first take nominations from the floor for Council President. Each Councilperson can only make one nomination. After the nominations have been made by councilpersons, the President may offer a nomination. The potential candidates shall be voted on as nominated. The first candidate to receive a majority vote will become the President. The procedures will be the same for the election of the Vice President. (30154 3/3/2021)

If a Councilperson is not able to attend such meeting, they may participate in the election of the president by phone. (26643 10/21/92; 28613 8/5/09)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that now they will have nominations for the office of vice president.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that she will nominate Santo Napoli.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated there is a nomination made for Santo Napoli for vice president.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated to Mr. Hendricks, Ms. Gerlach.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that Mr. Zucal nominated Ce Ce Gerlach for vice president. He asked if there are any other nominations. He stated hearing none, as procedure has it, the first nomination will be voted on and that will be for Santo Napoli.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated ok, the vice president will be Mr. Santo Napoli and congratulated him. He asked if there were any comments from his colleagues.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that the new president takes over.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated takes over and stated to Ms. Mota that he presents her with the gavel and the seat that goes along with it.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated good evening and asked if they had any comments from the dais.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that he would like to state that first off and foremost he appreciates the cooperation he had with his colleagues over the last year. He commends both Ms. Mota and Mr. Napoli and pledged that he will do his best to serve them and the city of Allentown in the upmost for the taxpayers. He stated congratulations to the both of you.

Ms. Cynthia Mota thanked Mr. Hendricks. She asked if there were any other comments from the dais. She stated that she does have a comment stating she would like to thank everyone for your support; she hopes to live up to your expectations. She will give it her best. Her comments are targets that she would like to work on this year. We need to work better as a group. She recognizes they have different interests and personalities – but we need to work for the interests of all the residents and the interests of our city as an organization. This group includes the Mayor and city staff. Public Safety is the highest priority a local government has. To this end, she would like to take a close look at establishing a community policing program – putting officers back on the beat, on the neighborhood streets, providing substations in our neighborhoods for police; the officers can get to know the residents, act as a clearing and referral house for community issues; and most importantly, act as a

deterrent to crime. She stated that would be great with other nonprofits. She stated that she plans to work with the administration on ongoing priorities – the zoning code, development of a housing strategy, and look at creating some financial policies inclusive of developing fiscal policies, a capital project process, and funding our capital needs. She encouraged everyone to work with staff and the administration to better understand their operations – perhaps having some sessions demonstrating Energov, information technology capabilities, perhaps ride alongs with the police; in short, we should get a better understanding and appreciation of city staff and city operations and have some fun at the same time by doing so. She would like to work with the administration on communications – using our video capacities to review upcoming council meetings, city goals and priorities, provide information on city operations, and anything else we see as important. If council indulges her, she would like to set up some workshop meetings where we can develop priorities and goals for the year and beyond – we need to be more strategic in our thinking. We could extend the outreach to include residents, the school district, and our local state and county representatives. Finally, Council and the public need to step up their game and act with better decorum in our meetings. Council should not speak down to the public, we should not need to remove individuals from meetings, nor should we listen to cat calls from the back of the room. If need be, she will even allow Mr. Zucal to have more time to tell us his amazing stories if there is less bickering. In the end, she looks forward to a year of working on getting some things done; so next year we can look back and say we – city staff, council, and the mayor - made a big difference. She thanked them all for this opportunity. She stated to Mayor Tuerk that she sees that he might have some comments.

Mayor Tuerk thanked Ms. Mota asked stated good evening members of Council and Mr. Hanlon, members of the public, it is his honor to say a few words tonight in recognition of tonight's proceedings. He stated to Council President Mota, it is clear that your fellow members of Council hold you in high esteem and believe in your ability to do this job. He agrees that she makes an exceptional City Council President as evidence in the way that you handled the job in 2022. He stated that they all are counting on her. They are all counting on you to conduct fair meetings and regularly collaborate with his administration to serve the residents and businesses, the taxpayers of Allentown. He stated to Council Vice President Napoli, congratulations to you as well. He stated that he is confident in the short amount of time, you have shown yourself to be a great listener and a supporter of a sufficient government. He stated that he is confident that those comments will serve him well as vice president. He stated to Councilman Hendricks congratulations on your term as president stating that over the past year, he and Mr. Hendricks have disagreed often, but

they always found a way to resolve our differences for the good of our residents and businesses and taxpayers. He stated that he deeply appreciates that about him. To all the members of City Council, he looks forward to working closely with them in the year to come. Great partnerships are built on accessibility, open communication, flexibility, mutual goals, and measurable objectives. He stated that they can count on him to be honest, available, and flexible. Over the course of the next year as Council President Mota mentioned, you will meet another 22 times to advance legislation that benefits our residents and businesses. His administration stands ready to help and as you said, have fun. He stated let's work together.

Ms. Cynthia Mota thanked Mayor Tuerk and stated at this time this meeting is adjourned.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that if he could before he goes and forgive him if he was remise in this. He thanked the City Clerk, Michael Hanlon who has been an extremely big help to him and this entire body. His knowledge and objective reasoning in many matters were just unchallenged. He stated that he adds so much to this body and knows that Cynthia is going to be relying on him going into the next year. All of them owes him a debt of gratitude and applauded him for all the work he does. He thanked Mike.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that he appreciates that.

Yes: 4 - Cynthia Mota, Daryl Hendricks, Candida Affa, and Santo Napoli

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

Council Comments

Mayor's Comments

ADJOURNED: 6:46 PM

[15-5720](#)

Council Rules
Procurement Procedures
Code of Ethics

Attachments: [Council Rules 2023](#)
[Contract/Procurement Procedures from the Code](#)
[Ethics Code](#)