



Allentown

435 Hamilton Street
Allentown, Pa. 18101

Minutes - Final

City Council

Wednesday, April 16, 2025

6:30 PM

Council Chambers

Invocation:

Pledge to the Flag

Roll Call

Present: 6 - Daryl Hendricks, Ed Zucal, Natalie Santos, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Candida Affa, and Santo Napoli

Absent: 1 - Cynthia Mota

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that Ms. Mota is absent and Ms. Montero is on the phone.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated very good.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated on the Suspension of the Rules, you might have to get something from Ms. Montero because you might to do Courtesy of the Floor first.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that he thinks he is right.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated to Ms. Montero that Mr. Hendricks has requested the Suspension of the Rules and he guesses the question is Courtesy of the Floor always need to be the first item of business.

Attorney Maria Montero stated no, it could be conducted after the Resolution, read and then discussed.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated ok.

A motion was made by Daryl Hendricks to Suspend the Rules and Move R48 to the front of the Agenda tonight.

Yes: 6 - Daryl Hendricks, Ed Zucal, Natalie Santos, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Candida Affa, and Santo Napoli

Absent: 1 - Cynthia Mota

[15-7650](#)

R48

A Resolution to protect and grant refuge to members of the LGBTQ+ community and people fleeing states with anti -LGBTQ+ laws, declares Allentown a safe and welcoming haven for the LGBTQ+ Community and urges County and sSate officials to support aforesaid legislation

Sponsors: Affa, Gerlach, Hendricks, Mota, Napoli, Santos and Mr. Zucal

Attachments: [R48 Gender Affirming Care.doc](#)
[Resolution #31042.pdf](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any comments from the dais.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that she is definitely interested to hear and it looks like they have some folks here from the public to hear their comments. She thanked her colleagues for voting for signing on to the Resolution. She stated that she has been here for five years and can't really recall many things that they all can agree on. It is great to see that they can all agree on this. She stated that they all read it and they all agree to the language of it. They all agree and it is a statement. They all agree and they understand that a resolution is a statement and not a law. She stated thank you. This should be a pretty straight forward vote for tonight.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated ok, thank you. He asked anybody else. He stated that he will take comments and asked Mr. Hanlon if he has several.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated yep.

Amelia Conway, 3650 Corriere Road, Apartment 302, Easton, PA 18045 stated she is here today to speak in favor of Resolution 48. She stated that she is a trans woman and received her transition related care in Allentown. She stated that what is often missed in the headlines and click bait news stories is the personal impact of transition. The lives made whole thanks to gender affirming care which is a big part of this Resolution and being a welcoming city for LGBTQ residents. She stated that access to the treatments quite literally made her life worth living. It was the antidote for the dysmorphia or gender misalignment that plaque her since puberty. For over 10 years, she suffered in silence. An alien in her own body, night's spent wondering why she was born at all. She stated that she tried to run from it. She stated that she tried to be the perfect son. It would have been easier. She stated that she did not want to be trans. Being trans meant to giving up the beautiful lie that she was living her entire life. It meant embracing a painful truth and living that out in its place. She stated that she will say this, transitioning has been the single best thing that has happened to her in her life. It has been one of the most difficult things that she has done, simply because it has made her confront her insecurities. It forced her to embrace who she is inside and it also forced her to take a

leadership role in her community. These are things that on her own, she would have no business doing. She simply would have listened to the powers that be and had that all dictated to her saying who she supposed to be, what rules she supposed to follow, and just embrace this identity, but the thing is it wasn't her. She was acting year, after year, after year, after year and it was exhausting. She stated that she is fortunate because she is 27 years old and started transitioning when she was 23. She was able to have some effects in her body that could go against her. The natal puberty that she was born into. Unfortunately, the natal puberty stuck with her and her saying that got her through transition is that you do the best you can with what you have and that has been her philosophy moving forward. Things aren't always going to be perfect. That doesn't mean they don't try. She stated that she likes to bring that same mentality here. There is a lot of chaos and craziness going on in the news right now as they can all tell. She stated that this is a good first step forward to be able to make a stand for people like her. Because to be true, there is threat to this care all across this country. She stated that in Arizona and Planned Parenthood extended for even minors as well as adults. She stated that she can tell them that missing a dose can be quite destabilizing, but being able to have access to this care has been literally life changing. Tonight, she does really do urge them to please pass this Resolution because it means the world to her as someone who receives their care in Allentown. She stated that because at the end of the day Trans rights are human rights and it isn't a matter of protecting Trans people, it is protecting our right to become the best versions of ourselves they could be.

Robin Gow, 4424 Trexler Road, stated receiving affirming care at the southside LVHN clinic and also a volunteer. The number of organizations in Allentown and the community organizer. Robin stated being grateful that the Council is poised to pass a Resolution for the protector of Queer and Trans community. Robin stated hoping to view this as a start and a beginning and not an end goal. After All, Allentown has been a leader in anti-discrimination protections since the passing of the first LGBTQ+ nondiscrimination ordinance in the state. Robin learned just a day ago that some groups are also here to urge the city to consider raising the minimum wage. Robin stated these issues are not separate. No one can reasonably live in Allentown for \$7.25 an hour. All of our communities are struggling, but directly seen it increase in Queer and Trans people struggling to make rent, afford food and pay utility bills. Robin hopes this Council can consider how to change this and stated that they could not truly be a haven for anyone if they do not continue to create more equity in all areas. Robin stated that they have slumlords like a climate charging exorbitantly high rent, placing our communities in even more financially vicarious situations and then who has the guts to ask unhoused people living in tents to relocate. Robin stated that they need so much more. This

is life or death for our community and so glad they are here to take this step, but urge the Council to pass this resolution and continue to think about more than can do for Queer and Trans people.

Ms. Krista Brownoly, 522 W. Maple Street, stated good evening honorable members of the City Council and thanked them for allowing her to speak. She serves as the Interim Executive Director of the Bradbury Sullivan LGBTQ Community Center which proudly serves and advocates for the rights, health and dignity of LGBTQ+ individuals and families in our community. She stated that she is here tonight to urge them to support the resolution for Allentown to be a safe and welcoming haven for the LGBTQ+ community. This resolution would affirm our city's commitment to keeping the LGBTQ+ healthcare safe, accessible and free from discrimination without government inference. Across the country, LGBTQ+ communities, especially Transgender and non binary individuals are under attack. State Legislators are advancing laws that ban gender affirming care, criminalize providers and strip away fundamental rights. These actions not only jeopardize lives, but also send a chilling message that the LGBTQ+ people are not worthy of care, safety, or belonging. She stated that they cannot allow that message to take route here. Not in our city. Not in Allentown. In the city of Allentown, they have the opportunity and the responsibility to lead with compassion and justice. A resolution in support of LGBTQ+ people is more than symbolic, it is a statement that our city values health, equity, recognizes the diversity of our residents and refuses to be complicit in harmful systems. LGBTQ+ people deserve to access the care they need whether it is mental health support, gender affirming treatment, HIV prevention, or reproductive healthcare. Without fear, shame or barriers. In 2024, statewide LGBTQ+ health invested 40 percent of all respondents identified the need for access to affirming care. Affirming healthcare services save lives. It improves mental health outcomes and builds a stronger more resilient community for all. This resolution would publicly affirm that the LGBTQ+ residents are seen, supported and protected. It would signal to healthcare providers institutions and policy makers that our city stands firmly on the side of dignity and inclusion and it would help to ensure that no one in our committee is left behind simply because who they are, who they love, or how they express themselves. She urged this Council to adopt this resolution that protects and affirms the LGBTQ+ people and in doing so, you will help safeguard the health and wellbeing of some of our city's most vulnerable and most vibrant residents. She thanked Council for their time, your leadership and commitment.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated that he wants a chance to weigh in and support after public comment.

Ms. Liz Bradbury, Chair of the Lehigh County Human Relations

Commission and the CEO of Keystone Equality - the statewide LGBT Political Organization, 427 1/2 N. 9th Street, stated that she is so encouraged that all seven of them have signed on to this important Right to Care Resolution at a time when the very fundamental of democracy is being challenged by the hateful actions of the Trump Administration. She stated you are the voices of hope, Corinne Goodwin and Councilwoman Santos asked her to craft the language of this Resolution so that it could be clear, direct, and something they can all get strongly behind so that the language really would assert policies to protect the healthcare rights of the LGBTQ+ people, especially transgender people in Allentown. She stated that she is proud to have done so. All municipalities can use the language and pass this resolution. She asked which of you is old enough to remember the height of the AIDS epidemic. She stated that the year was 1990, 35 years ago. She stated and Candida you were at the very helm to fight and advocate and plead for the tiniest bit of recognition by the US government. President Ronald Reagan wouldn't even say the word AIDS until four years into the epidemic and wouldn't even address it until two years after that as our dear friend were dying every week. She stated that and you Dina, would championing the Rainbow Games (sp) so that FACT could pay for the funerals of our cherished friends. She stated that they felt and were so powerless. She stated that they were so powerless. The government had turned its back. All they could do were plant trees along Lehigh Creek to honor the dead. She asked who among them, who among their comrades in our fight against AIDS would have imagined Candida that today you would be a member, a powerful longtime member of Allentown City Council as an out lesbian. Who would imagine that the federal government wouldn't just not be talking about LGBT healthcare, but actively trying to borrow LGBT people, especially transgender people from even being able to access fundamental healthcare at all. Even criminalizing doctors who were providing our people healthcare. She asked who among the angels of the ones we lost would have imagined that a powerful local resolution that would protect the healthcare of LGBT people, especially including trans people would come into your hands today for which you have the power to sponsor and vote. She stated that through you Candida, and each of you who stood up to sponsor this resolution. She stated all of them, especially Councilwoman Natalie Santos, who wasn't even alive during the AIDS epidemic, but who had the Moxy to bring this resolution forth. She stated that you all can make it so that our community doesn't have to feel paralyzed like it did 35 years ago. She stated because of their support today, you are a great City Council. This is the best of government in action. United together to stand up for what is right. She stated that is why she is proud to be part of the city of Allentown. Proud that you have put your actions ahead of diluted empty words and the rights and protections of this city citizens without a single step back. Thank you very much.

Corinne Goodwin, 1807 Majestic Drive - Orefield - Executive Director and Founder of Eastern Pennsylvania Trans Equity Project (a Lehigh Valley based nonprofit with a mission of supporting and empowering transgender, gender-expansive and intersex Pennsylvanians), stated good evening Councilmembers and thank them all for sponsoring this Resolution. It really sends a message that is important to our community. Corinne stated last week having the honor to speaking with the Human Resources Committee about a number of facts and statistics related to the importance of ensuring the transgender people have access to affirming care here in this city. Corrine stated providing information about how people are fleeing other states and coming to Pennsylvania, including Allentown to seek life saving care stating speaking how prosecutors in other states are pursuing and charging those people and their healthcare providers with crimes. While in other cases, they are trying to revoke parental rights of those that were seeking life saving care for their children and spoke about how those same prosecutors have gone after organizations, like the Trans Equity Project and like the Bradbury Sullivan Center for referring people to gender affirming clinic and care. Corinne stating not going to bore them with statistics today. Instead, Corinne gave an update on what's transpired in just the last seven days. Over the last week, the number of anti-transgender bills introduced across the country has increased to an astounding 854. In the past week, Pennsylvania healthcare providers and networks, including those based here in the Lehigh Valley have taken action to scrub their website of any information related to providing transgender affirming healthcare. In the past 48 hours, a major healthcare provider in Arizona and others across this nation have joined UNPC, here in Pennsylvania and pre-complying with the Trump's regime Executive Orders. Even though they were stayed by the courts. In the past 24 hours, the regime in Washington has launched a tip line that is encouraging people to report medical providers if they offer gender affirming treatment to transgender people. Care that is not only life saving, but is also 100 percent legal. Corinne stated that people's lives are at stake and now is not the time to be shy. Now is not the time to be redescent. Now is the time to reinforce and update the city's nondiscrimination ordinance for the 21st Century. Now is the time to ensure that the city's Human Relations Committee is fully staffed. Now is the time to take action to protect transgender and queer people who are living in and seeking life saving care in Allentown. Now is the time to stand up for what is right looking forward to their positive vote this evening.

Ms. Gwen Dietrich, no address given, stated hi and good evening wanting to speak tonight in support of protecting the rights of LGBTQ members of the city. Queer and Trans people are losing their rights at the federal level rapidly terrifyingly fast and they have to attempt to protect those rights in the

city now before they are completely stripped federally. Trans Youth are at a significantly higher risk of suicide and gender affirming healthcare is literally life saving. It keeps people alive. She urged everyone here and it seems like they all will to vote in support of this resolution. Protecting queer and trans people is the absolute bare minimum we can do and if nothing else, this resolution sends a message that this city supports the trans and queer community members and that in of itself is worthwhile. Thank you.

Dr. Christine Hortigen, 2132 S. 12th Street, Suite 402 - licensed Psychologist, stated that she practices in Allentown, providing Transgender Affirming Care. She stated that she is so happy to see that this comes across as a Resolution. She also provides continuing education and help other clinicians become competent in providing care to the community. She stated that she was here back in 2017 to speak in favor on the Conversion Therapy Ban for youth. She hopes that the Council will continue that legacy. It sounds like it goes back in further than that of protecting this community. As everyone said, the care that they provide has been under threat recently and they need to know that they can keep providing this life saving care for out clients. Gender Affirming Care is no a new concept and they have standards that are on an international level that they follow to make sure they are giving their clients the best care that they can. The Standards of Care came out in 1979. They were recently updated in 2022. There is a lot of research backing up doing this care. It is safe and affective and life saving for clients. Additionally, psychologists also follows EPA's guidelines for psychological practice. She stated that they have a lot of research backing up what we do and we know that limiting access to this care is incredibly detrimental to individuals, especially transgender individuals. It could lead to increase rates of anxiety, depression, substance use and as several people already mentioned, even suicide. This life saving care and they know it works and she hopes they all vote to pass this resolution.

Ceres (Seh-rayz) Capri, 555 Spring Street, Apartment 103 - Bethlehem, stated he lives in Bethlehem, but last employment was in Allentown and he received Gender Affirming Care in Allentown. He stated that he has only known that she was a Trans Woman for about six months and was trying to think what she could provide to convince this Council of passing this legislation, but it seems like you'll don't need that much convincing which is great. The experience, they say it takes a Village to Raise a Child. She stated that when she was a child she did not know that she was a trans child and wants to convey how isolating the experience is stating that she was told by her parents and grandparents and most of the people that she was raised around that she was supposed to be a boy. She moved forward and her parents would say oh, you are just not trying hard enough. Let them send her to an all boys high school. There is this disconnect that

builds and builds. You it to this high school and you feel completely disconnected from the people who supposed to be right there next to you. Having the same or similar gender experiences. She stated that she knows that this is not something that happens to everyone, but will say from personal experience, her parents saw her hanging out with people who weren't gender conforming and they were like, they don't like those people. They are going to try to make her go with other people. This influence continued throughout her life. The influence of the community, pushed her not to come out until a point in her life that she is currently at and thinks this community is incredibly important and something that she really appreciates about Allentown. She stated that she did not mention, but grew up on Long Island. The town where she went to high school in, just recently passed a ban on any trans people, trans children playing on sport teams. They can fine any school district. This is Nassau County she is talking about. To come from an environment like that into a community like this with multiple organizations, established community organizations that support trans people. That support LGBTQ people. They say it takes a Village to Raise a Child and they also say that it takes and transition is kind of like second puberty. She is incredibly grateful to have the LGBT support in this community organization and she thinks that in order to make this town the strongest town it could be and to look the barbarism per the administration directly in the eyes and say no, we will not change. She thinks they school be Allentown's top priorities right now. In resisting fascism and thinks passing this legislation is a grate first step.

State Representative Joshua Siegel, 449 West Whitehall Street, stated that he would like to commend all of them for bringing this very important Resolution forward and do recognize that unimity on Council especially in this day and age is not easy, so he applaud all of them for coming together to speak one voice. He thinks it is more important now more than ever that our local legislative bodies lead by example. They know that help and any degree of tolerance, respect and dignity is not going to emanate from the federal government. He stated that you see an administration in DC that is animated like chaos, cruelty and corruption. And, frankly, we have seen these tails all the time. The goalpost of hate also shifts, but the goal always remains the same. Frankly, it is to distract from a deeply unpopular and divisive agenda. There is no constituency for tax cuts for the rich or slices to Medicaid. In order to distract from that, they find a vulnerable group of people and put a target on their back. He stated that he stands before them as a son of an out gay man and a brother of a trans sister and he wants to make sure that families like his in Allentown knows that they are loved and respected and they are welcomed. It has never been they, them versus you. It is also been us versus the wealthy, versus the elites, versus the oligarch versus Musk and Resolutions like this help counteract that narrative. He stated he doesn't think that life is a zero sum gain to try to

elevate and acknowledge the hardship to one community does not diminish or disrespect or disregard the hardship of another. He stated that our trans and LGBTQ community are hurting. They are suffering and Resolutions like this are important. As a State Legislator, he can tell them, he introduced legislation at the state level to create a shield law for gender affirming care in Pennsylvania and protect our healthcare providers from out of state prosecutors. Those Bills will never see the light of day because our Republican Senate won't move them. Last year, they passed the Fairness Act which would have ensured that folks seeking housing and employment in Pennsylvania could not be discriminated against because of their sexual orientation or gender identity and they passed it in the House and they cannot run it is the Senate because they will not take it up. He stated that even our Constitution still defines marriage as between a man and a woman, despite the fact that over a decade ago, the Supreme Court ruled that the law of the land was Love is Love. He stated that it is more important than ever now that their local bodies and our counties and our cities speak with one voice to push back on this hateful narrative that the reason for people's hardships in life is that trans kids want to belong and play sports with their friends. He stated that nothing could be further from the truth or the reason that someone else is suffering is because we want to make sure that everybody can participate in this economy and gain access to housing. He stated that they can do both. He stated that they can build an economy of abundance where everybody has access to good jobs and healthcare and housing. They can make sure that everyone no matter who they are or what they choose to identify as or as to who they love can access it all the same. He applauded them for this courage tonight and for being a beacon of hope in a world full of darkness. It is time for this body to lead by example and you are doing that tonight as one voice and he commended them.

Mr. William Gorecki, 3124 Pearl Avenue, stated good evening to the members of Council. He is returning from last week to essentially restate his peace as is opinions on the matter has not changed and would like to give his perspective on anyone who wasn't present. n He stated that he is a lifelong member of Allentown, living here his whole life. He graduated at Building 21, Class 2022 as Valedictorian. Currently, employed by the DaVinci Science Center as they can tell by his fashion statement today. He came here right after work. He is currently teaching an afterschool science class at Trexler Middle School which has a young trans woman in it. Over the course of the last three months, he has watched her confidence increase in class. In somewhat adjacency to the use of HRT. He stated that the provider he does not know, but he presumes it is a healthcare organization within our Valley. He stated that he just wants to say that he is impressed and happy to hear that all of them have sponsored this Resolution and hope that they continue to sponsor Resolutions like this and

pass Bills like this in the future as was said by his fellow members of the public. He stated that this is a great first start. He stated let's keep going from here and strengthen the confidence of hundreds of thousands young people in our school system that live throughout the city of Allentown.

Ms. Karen Ocasio, Southside Allentown, stated that she is here in favor of the Bill as well. She stated that while we are fighting for these rights, we also have to make sure that these rights are implemented in the city of Allentown. She stated just a few weeks ago, her friend Danny Negrón was fired after being here for 19 years. She stated that the reason why is because someone who is known to be a liar against other employees in the city of Allentown made up lies about her brother, Danny Negrón who is a transgender man. She stated that this organization, this administration is not for the LGBTQ+ community. They use this as a platform to get votes. She stated that she wants everybody to open up their eyes because this is just an agenda. More of an agenda on his end and the end of this administration. She can tell them countless people before Danny Negrón who were part of the community, who has been another supervisor that is sitting here today that was discriminating against this person during the time they were on FMLA. She stated that she can tell them because she was their HR representative that was handling that case. She stated that so while they are fighting rights across the country, they have to make sure they take care of home first and let's start getting the people out who don't need to be here. Who are using the community for votes and vote for the right people.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that is the last card that he has been filled out.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated ok, Mayor did you want to speak.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated yes, please. Thank you for giving me the opportunity. He stated that there are a few things that he wants to say. He stated that he thinks it was Amelia who said it very, very well and it is a very helpful context for everything that they do here and correct him if he is wrong. She said do the best you can with what you have and where you are at. He asked is that accurate.

Amelia Conway stated yes.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated that they have a responsibility in the city of Allentown to create a safe, clean and healthy environment that promotes the well being of all of our residents including giving our folks the opportunity to get ahead. He stated that you know and certainly, this community knows safety is more than just physical safety. They are talking about more than public safety. He stated that we are talking about

psychological safety. We are talking about emotional safety and that is what you have in front of you now. It is an opportunity for you to provide for more than simply the public safety, but for the emotional safety of a community of people here in Allentown. He stated that he asked Corinne in a message earlier today about an estimate of the number of transgender people that live in Allentown and he thinks there are estimates across the country is that anywhere between one and two percent of the population identifies as transgender which makes the number here in Allentown in the thousands. He stated that there are thousands of people that you and I represent who are looking for safety and that is our fundamental duty as city leaders. He stated that you heard it many times that this is a time that is marked by uncertainty and rapid change. Quinn pointed out a number of things that changed in the past seven days. We now have to stand up and provide clear guidance to the people that we serve and a clear message to let them know that they can find safety in the city of Allentown. He stated that we have a responsibility to create an environment where people feel like they truly belong, where a discussion inclusivity and welcoming is more than as many people said tonight. Words, it has to be more than that. It has to be action as well. He want to especially thank Councilwoman Santos for your leadership in this. He stated that he has a definition of leadership that he picked up from Marshal Yans and it talked about develop leadership being accepting the responsibility to empower people to achieve shared values in times of in certainty. He thinks that she brought this resolution into a City Council with no support and your leadership to seven members supporting that resolution. He thanked Councilwoman Santos for that and stated that he doesn't want to applaud her for doing that. He stated many people did tonight as well. It is also lead to and they looked at the real five bullet points that you put out there as policy and started to craft policy now at the city of Allentown that would prohibit criminal prosecution or administration penalty against an individuals and you have more details there. Individuals that are seeking gender affirming healthcare. That would prohibit city personnel from imposing penalties or criminal prosecution on individuals who are coming from states where this type of healthcare has been criminalized and a policy that declines requests and seek not to facilitate the collection of any information related to gender affirming healthcare. He stated that policy is underway. Even in advance of Council passing the resolution and urging them to adopt policy, they are beginning that work. He stated that they can see where they are coming from and can see how important that is. He stated that he thinks that Liz made a very good point that it is now up to us to not turn our back on a community, particularly in times of crisis. He stated that this is a group of people here in this room and there are many, many hundreds of other people in the city of Allentown and in the Lehigh Valley who are looking for that stability right now, are looking for safety and you are now committing to safeguard and support every individual and you are recognizing validating those inherent

rights and thank them for that. He stated that he does want to say a couple things though. He stated first, and Corinne mentioned the Human Relations Commission. He stated that there are a lot of people in this room who are residents of the city of Allentown and all you have to do is put in an application to the Human Relations Commission and the city would consider that application. He stated that they have seven vacancies on the commission right now and he thinks there is a single nomination in front of Council tonight to fill one of those vacancies. There are many more vacancies and very few people who are willing to raise their hands and say yes, I will serve. He stated that he will happily entertain anybody's application who is here tonight. He want to also thank Representative Siegel and that should be a message to everybody here that is representation matters at all levels of government. It is not just the city that is here to be the ultimate check on administrations that are systematically moving the rights of individuals. He stated that they have to make sure they have protections at the state level as well. He stated that he is grateful that Councilman Siegel has stood up and done what he can to protect folks. He stated that we heard so many beautiful stories of people who feel more seen, more a part of the community. After having received care and make sure you continue to receive that care legally here in the state of Pennsylvania and Allentown will stand up and protect you. He stated that he is going to make one more ask of you and you just don't advocate out of a local level. He stated that we ultimately as a city add the responsibility of the policies that they enact has to be consistent with the laws of the city of Allentown and that is up to City Council to pass legislation to create new ordinances so to continue advocacy for laws that protect your rights at the city level. The city has to follow the laws of the state. You must also advocate at the state level not just support the type of legislation Councilman Siegel is pursuing, but also fighting against legislation that would systematically dismantle your rights that you see in the Republican Control Senate. The state has to follow the Rules of

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

Yes: 6 - Daryl Hendricks, Ed Zucal, Natalie Santos, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Candida Affa, and Santo Napoli

Absent: 1 - Cynthia Mota

Courtesy of the Floor

Please observe the Rules of Council when given privilege of the floor. A copy of the Council Rules can be found on the council agenda on the website.

If you would like to speak, we are asking that you fill out a card – they are on the back table - provide them to the clerk before speaking. Include your name and address.

When speakers have the privilege of the floor, personal insults, attacks, name calling or other behavior that is inconsistent with the purpose of conducting official business will not be tolerated.

Courtesy of the Floor is meant to provide public comments on items that are not on the agenda. Public comment during consideration of ordinances, resolutions and motions is limited by topic – your comments must be relevant to the subject matter of the proposed legislation. Public comments are taken before council votes on legislation.

You are given the privilege of the floor to provide public comment, it is not a question-and-answer session. State your position clearly and concisely for our consideration. If you speak on behalf of yourself, you have three minutes and if you are speaking on behalf of a group that has several members present, you will be given five minutes in place of everyone coming to the podium.

Please address the Council President not individual councilpersons or city staff. Refrain from insulting or defaming staff, officials, and the public; refrain from using offensive language, cursing, and making noises while other people are speaking.

Please be aware that comments and/or behavior in violation of these rules will result in a forfeiture of all remaining time and you will be asked to return to your seat.

Contract Approvals[15-7636](#)

R41

Authorization of Cooperative Contract(s) in an amount greater than \$40,000.00 to provide the City with various goods/services, for Versalift East, LLC, Whitmoyer Ford, Inc., CDW, Inc., Abel Recon, LLC, Kimball Midwest, Auto Zone Stores, LLC, NAPA, Hale Trailer Brake & Wheel, and Miller Flooring Company.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R41 Cooperative Approval - 4.16](#)
[Resolution #31035.pdf](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated ok, is anybody to speak and stated Ms.

Baraket. He asked if there were any questions or comments from his colleagues.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated just a quick question stating that she saw Ford and didn't bring the actual document up. She stated the city is not moving towards electric vehicles anymore.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated that they have the grant that was allowing them to make Electric Vehicle Pilot, but it is frozen at the moment by the administration. He stated that they are fighting that and the contract with Whitmoyer Ford was for electric vehicles.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated oh, just like a regular truck. She stated ok, thank you.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated ok, any comments from the public.

Yes: 6 - Daryl Hendricks, Ed Zucal, Natalie Santos, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Candida Affa, and Santo Napoli

Absent: 1 - Cynthia Mota

[15-7635](#)

R42

Authorization for an Agreement of Sale with Allentown Rescue Mission in the revenue amount of \$536,000.00 for the sale of City own property located 325 West Hamilton Street. Two (2) bid was received. However, one (1) bid was rejected due to not including a 10% bid bond.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R42 - Allentown Rescue Mission](#)

Minutes of Previous Meeting

[15-7617](#)

February 5, 2025 Special Council Meeting - Act on Immigration Status Bill
4 Minutes

Attachments: [February 5, 2025 Special Council Meeting - Act on Immigration Status Bill 4 Minutes.pdf](#)

Yes: 6 - Daryl Hendricks, Ed Zucal, Natalie Santos, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Candida Affa, and Santo Napoli

Absent: 1 - Cynthia Mota

[15-7653](#)

April 2, 2025 City Council Safe Streets for All Safety Action Plan Meeting
Minutes.pdf

Attachments: [April 2, 2025 City Council Safe Streets for All Safety Action Plan Meeting Minutes.pdf](#)

Yes: 6 - Daryl Hendricks, Ed Zucal, Natalie Santos, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Candida Affa, and Santo Napoli

Absent: 1 - Cynthia Mota

[15-7639](#) April 2, 2025 City Council Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [April 2, 2025 City Council Meeting Minutes.pdf](#)

Yes: 6 - Daryl Hendricks, Ed Zucal, Natalie Santos, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Candida Affa, and Santo Napoli

Absent: 1 - Cynthia Mota

Communications

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that Council held an executive session this evening to discuss a confidential personnel matter.

Mr. Santo Napoli stated that also he would like to remind visitors of City Council that they encourage them to park in the government deck, next door to city hall and to see our Clerk, Mr. Mike Hanlon for a Chaser to pay for your parking.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that the administration received two bids for the City owned property at 325 West Hamilton Street – one bid was rejected. The Allentown Rescue Mission was the bidder.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated just a brief correction, clarification, the Allentown Rescue Mission was the successful bidder.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated was the successful bidder.

Old Business: NONE

Budget and Finance: Chair Napoli, Santos, Gerlach

The Committee met on April 9 and forwarded an item on tonight's agenda; there are no future meetings scheduled.

Community and Economic Development, Chair Mota, Hendricks, Napoli

The Committee met on April 9 and forwarded a bill on this evening's agenda; the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 23 at 6 PM.

Human Resources, Administration and Appointments: Chair Santos, Napoli, Hendricks

The Committee met on April 9 and forwarded two items on this evening's agenda. One of those which they already voted on. There is no future meeting scheduled.

Parks and Recreation: Chair Gerlach, Santos, Affa

The Committee met this evening; the next meeting is scheduled for May 7 at 6:15 PM.

Public Safety: Chair Affa, Zucal, Mota

The Committee met this evening. The next meeting is scheduled for May 7 at 5:30 PM.

Public Works: Chair Zucal, Gerlach, Affa

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

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

The Committee has not met since the last council meeting; no meetings are scheduled currently.

Controller's Report

Mr. Jeffrey Glazier thanked Mr. Hendricks and stated there are four reports on the agenda for this evening. One is an Accounts Payable, one is a P-Card, one is a bank reconciliation. He stated that he is not going to report on those this evening. He stated that you guys can take a look at it yourselves or the public can take a look at those Reports by accessing them from the Controller's website. He stated that they report on them all the time. He stated what he does have for them this evening is an audit of the city's Tuition Reimbursement Program. He stated that he is going to talk about this for a little bit because it is a little bit different. He is going to say that there are a number of other audits coming down the pike in the next two or three weeks. Once again, different from the basic P-Card or Accounts Payable stuff. He stated not that some isn't interesting mind, but this is a little bit different. It gives them a little bit broader picture about how they do things in the city. They basically have three programs with tuition reimbursement. Non-bargaining employees,

municipal employees like SEIU, and then Firefighters have their own program. Police are handled a little bit different. Part of those folks are non-bargaining, but the officers get a lot of continuing education through the Police Budget. He stated so they don't see much of that. Once again, the audit is conducted in accordance to the generally accepted governmental auditing standards, and utilizes an approach that includes staffing interviews, reviewed of documents, and reports from examinations. The committee selected for this reimbursement was from all of 2023 and 2024. He stated that they may remember that in the last Accounts Payable Report, they noted that they made an issue of a tuition reimbursement because it was over by \$1,550 and that check was corrected and the reimbursement to the applicant was corrected, but they looked at that and thought they haven't looked at this for a long, long time and that issue generated this complete audit. He stated so in 2023, there were seven people non-bargaining that applied for reimbursement. In 2024, there were five. He stated that they noticed that there was non compliance with AIMS 66-03 to leave a city employment, educational reimbursement for non-bargaining unit employees who voluntarily or involuntarily release of employment before a full calendar year had transpired following the completion of the course for which they had received reimbursement or return total education reimbursement to the city. In 2023, they have identified two non-bargaining who left the city prior to one year to the end of the course and did not return the tuition reimbursement. The total uncollected was \$9,587.50. Consideration should be given to billing the employees. The administration should track the payments and ensure compliance. The administration responds - they agree to formulate a process to track and bill appropriately by the end of 2025. They are currently considering the time it will coincide with the rollout of our new personnel management or the new SEIU contract, the exact timing and change is due to unforeseen circumstances. He would tell them if somebody leaves, it is pretty hard to call the money back because there is really no payroll to deduct because maybe you got two weeks notice. It is heartening that the administration has acknowledged the issue and will work to a good solution in the future. If it is in the PPM, he thinks that needs Council approval so you guys will get a bite of that apple. Non-bargaining tuition reimbursement amount errors - per an administrative email dated 12/15/22, in 2023 non-bargaining staff reimbursement was increased from \$2,900 per annum to \$5,250 per annum. Employees were eligible to seek reimbursement for tuition, registration fees, and lab fees. Books and other required course materials not covered by course tuition fees are the employees responsibility and will not be reimbursed. He stated that they note the following: one non-bargaining employee for 2023 requested and received tuition of \$4,337.50. The received documentation totaled \$3287.50. The paperwork indicated an error in addition on the submission form that resulted in an overpayment of \$1,050. That employee is no longer active with the city and that would have been referenced in the prior one where someone left prior to a year or also referenced. One non-bargaining employee for 2024 was reimbursed for a total of \$5,500. The maximum yearly is \$5,250. This is an overpayment of \$250. That

employee is still within the city's employed so he is looking for resolution there from the administration. One non-bargaining employee for 2024 was reimbursed for a credit card service charge of 53.13. As a matter of fact, the city does not reimburse for credit card service charges whether it would be something like this or even we go out and buy materials for city usage. One non-bargaining employee for 2024, was reimbursed for a payment plan of \$25. He stated that they know the tuition reimbursement are generic and not specific to the bargaining unit and does not include the provisions required for the actual reimbursement amounts which may vary by bargaining unit. We recommend that the overpaid tuition reimbursement be collected. The administration should reiterate and be trained, the tuition reimbursement approvers of the proper policy. Consideration should be given advising the tuition reimbursement form and tailoring it to each bargaining unit. The forms should include the provisions requirements and the maximum reimbursement amount. The administration agrees with the recommendations and by the end of 2025, he is sure that those responsible for overpayments were collected and the appropriate tuition reimbursement form revisions are included. They will also note that this is supposed to be a reimbursement. You supposed to pay first and then, get reimbursed. From the documentation they received, it is not also clear that happens. Sometimes it looks like the city actually paying for the tuition and nobody getting the reimbursement. He stated that they are asking for better documentation that this is actually a reimbursement for those people who are applying. He also note that there is a class grade information. Some people supply it, but not everyone does. They are asked that that be dealt with. He stated that those are the highlights. Once again, they are on the website and you guys can have a moment to take a look and read them. He stated that this was the first time the new HR Director got to respond to an audit. It took a little bit of time for Mr. Velazquez to do it, but he gave good responses that were thought out and certainly shows the administration willingness to tackle this problem so this program goes forward without these hiccups. He stated that if you have any answers, he will be happy to answer them. He stated thank you Mr. Glazier.

Mr. Jeffrey Glazier stated very good. Thank you Mr. President.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that it was much appreciated.

The mayor has not submitted anything for the agenda.

[15-7671](#)

Controller's Reports: Bank Rec, Check Review, PCard Review, Tuition Reimbursement

Attachments:

[Bank Rec Jan.pdf](#)

[Check Review 3.15 to 4.4.pdf](#)

[PCard Review Feb.pdf](#)

[Tuition Reimbursement.pdf](#)

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE (To be Voted On):[15-7599](#)

Bill 29

Amending the African-American Advisory Council by clarifying and adding a section on selecting members stating: Council and the Mayor must make every effort to ensure the board reflects the community it has been created to serve. Appointments to the board should prioritize African American community leaders and city residents.

Sponsors: Affa, Mota and Napoli

Attachments: [Bill 29 African-Am Council Amd.docx](#)
[Ordinance #16120.pdf](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated ok, and he will also note that there are some changes to the proposal here, submitted by Ms. Holmes. He stated that at this time he would like to make a Motion that it would be read and put in the Bill itself rather than sending it back to committee that they do it all tonight.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that the amendment would take out the Section that mimics the Latino Advisory committee and add the Section of the list of African American organizations that they may nominate or select applicants for the African American Affairs Advisory Council for nomination that the mayor would include, but not be limited to the following:

African – American Business Organizations
African American Business Leaders Council (AABLC)
Black Women Connect Lehigh Valley
 African – American Community Organizations &
Nonprofits<ol start="3">
Promised Neighborhoods of the Lehigh Valley
Cohesion Network
Global Hope International
Lehigh Valley Black Church Housing Alliance (LVBCHA)
The Rising Sun Initiative
Allentown NAACP
Martin Luther King Jr. & Coretta Scott King Memorial Project of the Lehigh Valley
Power Lehigh Valley
Resurrected Life Community Development Corporation

African – American Led Youth Services & Programs

12. Boys and Girls Club of Allentown
13. Youth and Teen Renovations (YT Renovations)

14. James Lawson Freedom School
15. The Thrive Hub
16. Fine Feather Foundation Inc.

African & American Churches/Faith-Based Organizations

17. St. James AME Zion Church
18. Union Baptist Church of Allentown
19. Living Spring International Center
20. Resurrected Life Community Church
21. Restoration Temple
22. Rehoboth Church & Kenyan Congregation
23. Black Christian Churches and Ministers Alliance

African & American Owned Businesses & Service Based

24. Achieve Coaching & Consulting
25. Erin Resilience, LLC
26. Lehigh Valley Black News Network

African & American Owned Businesses & Retail/Brick & Mortar

27. Be's Skintiful House of Glam
28. Banks Beauty Bar
29. Mishka Premium Vodka
30. Wicksquisite Candles
31. The Kulcha Kernel
32. Nappy By Choice
33. CeCe J's Snacks
34. VIP The Next Level Barbershop
35. Nkasso African & Exotic Foods

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Mr. Hanlon. He asked if there were any questions or comments from his colleagues.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that this might be for Ms. Holmes. If there is and this is a very extensive list of entities where most leaders would be involved, but for example one gentleman that she had emailed her to about and she doesn't think that he is involved in any of these. She is reading the language, but not limited to so therefore this gentleman can apply and go

forth and serve.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated go ahead.

Ms. Kari Holmes stated that in response to your colleagues assessment and question, she is affirming that absolutely yes and she is also able to say that she did reach out to that gentleman and had a brief conversation with him and she thinks that the language with Mr. Mike Hanlon, Councilwoman Cynthia Mota, and Councilwoman Ce Ce Gerlach, they were able to have that language reflect what would be obviously what is most amicable with the community that it represents and also not too limiting so that individuals will also be involved, invited, and fill very welcome to be a part of it.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any other questions or comments from his colleagues or any comments from the public.

A motion was made by Daryl Hendricks, seconded by Ed Zucal, that this Bill be amended to the following:

To read and put in the Bill itself rather than sending it back to committee, they do it all tonight.

African – American Business Organizations

African American Business Leaders Council (AABLC)

Black Women Connect Lehigh Valley

African – American Community Organizations & Nonprofits

Promised Neighborhoods of the Lehigh Valley

Cohesion Network

Global Hope International

Lehigh Valley Black Church Housing Alliance (LVBCHA)

The Rising Sun Initiative

Allentown NAACP

Martin Luther King Jr. & Coretta Scott King Memorial Project of the Lehigh Valley

Power Lehigh Valley

Resurrected Life Community Development Corporation

African – American Led Youth Services & Programs

12. Boys and Girls Club of Allentown

13. Youth and Teen Renovations (YT Renovations)

14. James Lawson Freedom School

15. The Thrive Hub

16. Fine Feather Foundation Inc.

African – American Churches/Faith-Based Organizations

17. St. James AME Zion Church

18. Union Baptist Church of Allentown

19. Living Spring International Center

20. Resurrected Life Community Church

21. Restoration Temple

22. Rehoboth Church – Kenyan Congregation

23. Black Christian Churches and Ministers Alliance**African – American Owned Businesses – Service – Based**

- 24. Achieve Coaching & Consulting**
- 25. Erin Resilience, LLC**
- 26. Lehigh Valley Black News Network**

African – American Owned Businesses – Retail/Brick & Mortar

- 27. Be'Skintiful House of Glam**
- 28. Banks Beauty Bar**
- 29. Mishka Premium Vodka**
- 30. Wicksquisite Candles**
- 31. The Kulcha Kernel**
- 32. Nappy By Choice**
- 33. CeCe J's Snacks**
- 34. VIP The Next Level Barbershop**
- 35. Nkasso African & Exotic Foods**

Yes: 6 - Daryl Hendricks, Ed Zucal, Natalie Santos, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Candida Affa, and Santo Napoli

Absent: 1 - Cynthia Mota

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated ok, and now the Bill itself. He asked if there are any comments from his colleagues or from the public.

Yes: 6 - Daryl Hendricks, Ed Zucal, Natalie Santos, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Candida Affa, and Santo Napoli

Absent: 1 - Cynthia Mota

[15-7601](#)**Bill 30**

Amending the 2025 Capital Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of One Hundred Eighty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$185,000.00) from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) to support a feasibility study of MLK Trail Phase 3 (Parkettes to D&L Trail on Riverside Dr) and construction of either Phase 1 or 2 of MLK Trail.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 30 - DCED Grant Allocation MLK Trail](#)
[Ordinance #16121.pdf](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated to Ms. Gerlach this was in your committee.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated yes, it was and it was forwarded favorably to tonight's meeting.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any comments from the dais or from the public.

Yes: 6 - Daryl Hendricks, Ed Zucal, Natalie Santos, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Candida Affa, and Santo Napoli

Absent: 1 - Cynthia Mota

[15-7602](#)

Bill 31

Amending the 2025 Trexler Fund by authorizing a supplemental appropriation from the Trexler Escrow Unappropriated Cash balance in the amount of One Hundred Eight Thousand One Hundred Five Dollars and Seventy-Five Cents (\$108,105.75) to the MLK Trail capital account of the Parks and Recreation Department. These funds will be utilized for the construction of Phase 1 of the trail and is part of the 2024-25 Trexler Capital Project allocation.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 31 - Trexler to MLK Appropriation](#)
[Ordinance #16122.pdf](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that this was also in your committee, Ms. Gerlach.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated yes. It was forwarded favorably to tonight's meeting.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that this was also in your committee, Ms. Gerlach.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated yes. It was forwarded favorably to tonight's meeting.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that if there were any comments or questions from his colleagues or any comments from the public.

Yes: 6 - Daryl Hendricks, Ed Zucal, Natalie Santos, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Candida Affa, and Santo Napoli

Absent: 1 - Cynthia Mota

[15-7605](#)

Bill 32

Amending the 2025 General Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Forty-Six Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty-Six Dollars (\$46,766) from the Department of Justice for 2024 Edward Byrne Memorial JAG grant to the City of Allentown Police Department to utilize the funding evidence workflow management system and portable weighing scales. A portion of this funding is appropriated as a pass through to Lehigh County.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 32 - Police JAG Grant Appropriation](#)
[Ordinance #16123.pdf](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Mr. Hanlon and asked if this was in your committee acting tonight as Chair, Mr. Zucal.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that it was sent favorably. He asked if there were any questions or comments from his colleagues or from the public.

Yes: 6 - Daryl Hendricks, Ed Zucal, Natalie Santos, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Candida Affa, and Santo Napoli

Absent: 1 - Cynthia Mota

[15-7604](#)

Bill 33

Amending Part II General Legislation, Chapter 270 Fees, Article V Community and Economic Development Fees by revising the permitting and plan fees, reducing the permits per project to a single permit that covers all fees and updating language in the code. The intent is to streamline the permit application process and improve both customer service and administrative efficiency by consolidating all required permits into one comprehensive permit, simplifying the application and approval process.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 33 - CED Building Standards Fee Amendment](#)
[Ordinance #16124.pdf](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that this was in your committee Mr. Napoli, is that correct which you are a member.

Mr. Santo Napoli stated that it was forwarded favorably to the full Council.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any comments or questions from his colleagues or any comments from the public.

Yes: 6 - Daryl Hendricks, Ed Zucal, Natalie Santos, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Candida Affa, and Santo Napoli

Absent: 1 - Cynthia Mota

[15-7606](#)

Bill 34

Amending the 2025 General Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of One Hundred Thirty-Two Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars (\$132,800.00) from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) Grant to the City of Allentown Police Department. These funds will be utilized for reimbursement of expenses for the purchase of case management software, mobile devices, program analysis, unit apparel and additional Community Intervention Specialist.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 34 - PCCD Grant](#)
[Ordinance #16125.pdf](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Mr. Hanlon and asked if this was in your committee tonight, Mr. Zucal.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated yes, and it was sent favorably.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any comments or questions from his colleagues or any comments from the public.

Yes: 6 - Daryl Hendricks, Ed Zucal, Natalie Santos, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Candida Affa, and Santo Napoli

Absent: 1 - Cynthia Mota

[15-7607](#)

Bill 35

Amending the 2025 General Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Eighty-Five Thousand Nine Hundred Dollars (\$85,900.00) from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) Grant to the City of Allentown Police Department. These funds will be utilized for reimbursement of expenses for the purchase of portable breath testing devices, impaired driving simulator kit, trailer and training for officers.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 35 - Police PCCD Grant](#)
[Ordinance #16126.pdf](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated to Mr. Zucal, this was in your committee.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that this was also forwarded favorably.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any questions or comments from his colleagues or from the public.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated to Mr. Zucal, this was in your committee.

Yes: 6 - Daryl Hendricks, Ed Zucal, Natalie Santos, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Candida Affa, and Santo Napoli

Absent: 1 - Cynthia Mota

[15-7609](#)

Bill 36

Amending the 2025 General Fund, the 2025 Trexler Fund, the 2025 Risk Fund, the 2025 Equipment Replacement Fund, the 2025 Solid Waste Fund, the 2025 Liquid Fuels Fund, the 2025 Stormwater Fund, and the

2025 Golf Fund by appropriating funds from the un-appropriated balances for the rollover of encumbrances for the prior year commitments.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 36 - 2024 to 2025 PO Roll](#)
[Ordinance #16127.pdf](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that this was in your committee, Mr. Napoli.

Mr. Santo Napoli stated yes, it was forwarded favorably.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any questions and/or comments from his colleagues or from the public.

Yes: 6 - Daryl Hendricks, Ed Zucal, Natalie Santos, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Candida Affa, and Santo Napoli

Absent: 1 - Cynthia Mota

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that you have a few items, the appointment of Abigail Goldfarb to the Commission of Homelessness; Erlinda Aguiar, Human Relations Commission; Kyle Ropski to the Shade Tree Commission; Leslie Hartzell to the Planning Commission; and Richard Larish to the Noise Hearing Board.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Mr. Hanlon and asked if there were any questions or comments from his colleagues or from the public.

Yes: 6 - Daryl Hendricks, Ed Zucal, Natalie Santos, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Candida Affa, and Santo Napoli

Absent: 1 - Cynthia Mota

[15-7610](#)

R43

Abigail Goldfarb, Commission on Homelessness, 4/17/2029
(Reappointment)

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R Abigail Goldfarb - Commission on Homelessness, 04-17-2029.doc](#)
[Commission on Homelessness List.xlsx](#)
[Memo from Mayor Tuerk regarding reappointment of Abigail Goldfarb - Commission on Homelessness.pdf](#)

[15-7611](#)

R44

Erlinda M. Aguiar, Human Relations Commission, 4/17/2028

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R44 Erlinda M. Aguiar - Human Relations Commission, 4-17-2028.doc](#)
[Human Relations Commission List.xlsx](#)
[Memo from Mayor Tuerk regarding appointment of Erlinda M. Aguiar - Human Relations Commission.pdf](#)
[Resolution #31038.pdf](#)

[15-7612](#) R45
Kyle Ropski, Shade Tree Commission, 4/17/2030

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R45 Kyle Ropski - Shade Tree Commission, 4-17-2030.doc](#)
[R Kyle Ropski - Shade Tree Commission, 4-17-2030.doc](#)
[Shade Tree Commission List.xlsx](#)
[Memo from Mayor Tuerk regarding appointment of Kyle Ropski - Shade Tree Commission.pdf](#)
[Resolution #31039.pdf](#)

[15-7613](#) R46
Leslie Hartzell, Planning Commission, 4/17/2029

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R46 Leslie Hartzell - Planning Commission - 4-17-2029.doc](#)
[Leslie Hartzell Resume - Planning Commission.pdf](#)
[Planning Commission List.xlsx](#)
[Memo from Mayor Tuerk regarding appointment of Leslie Hartzell - Planning Commission.pdf](#)
[Resolution #31040.pdf](#)

[15-7646](#) R47
Richard M. Larish, Noise Hearing Board, 4/17/2030 (Industrial Representative)

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R47 Richard M. Larish \(Noise Hearing Board - Industrial Representative\).doc](#)
[Memo from Mayor Matt Tuerk regarding Richard M Larish Appointment - Noise Hearing Board.pdf](#)
[Noise Hearing Board List.xlsx](#)
[Resolution #31041.pdf](#)

RESOLUTIONS FOR FINAL PASSAGE (To be Voted On):

15-7728 R49
A Resolution calling on the Pennsylvania State Legislature to raise the wage and grant local wage control.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated any comments or questions from his colleagues.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that once again, she would like to thank everyone for signing on to this. She stated as State Rep. Siegel said, it is hard to get things out of committee in Harrisburg, but she thinks it is important for local bodies to again make statements of support. She stated that we got a working class city and our working class city deserves to thrive. She stated thank you for signing on to this.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked anybody else and asked any comments from the public.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that you have a number of speakers who would like to speak to speak to this.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated just a very quick comment, he thinks that the Resolution is calling on the state legislature to raise the minimum wage. He thinks it is absolutely commendable. He believes it is an additional component to the resolution that calls for a reduction in pre-emption. For those of you who don't know pre-emption is when the state tells local municipalities that they can't do certain things and giving Allentown City Council an hour to establish a minimum wage for the city of Allentown is good policy. He thinks that the state makes a further comment as long as the City Council issuing commentary related to the elimination pre-emption is a lot of other things that would like to see the state eliminate in terms of pre-emption, particularly around gun laws. He thanked City Council for making the statement to our state legislature and encouraged them to do more.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated thank you Mr. Mayor.

Ms. Susie (no last name given), 4534 Main Street - Whitehall, stated good evening. She stated thank you for letting her speak Mr. President, Mayor and Controller. She stated that her name is Ms. Suzie. She stated that she cooks for the public school system and has been a member of SEIU Workers United for 26 years which is their union here in Allentown. She is speaking in support of the HB-1150. The Bill that would raise the minimum wage to \$15 per hour and lift the pre-emption to communities like Allentown so that they can make a livable wage. She is speaking in support of the Resolution to call on the PA legislation to pass this HB-1150. She stated that her brothers and sisters in union are not making a livable wage with \$10 to \$13 an hour. They don't have health care. She stated that her mother has worked in food service all of her life and still works in food service at the age of 76. She stated that she has been an absent parent all

of her life working under these low wages, works every holiday, works every birth day, works every christening, graduation, weekend. Works all the time. She stated that her mother finally got two weeks vacation because she had breast cancer. Imagine getting two weeks off because you might die. She stated that is kind of sad. The livable wage has been in a crisis for a long time. The community are families and the families are dying from the financial starvation of these low and unlivable wages where they are at. She stated that this is why we, you and stated that she is so glad that they are practical with common sense. She stated that they have executed that tonight. She thanked them for having this on the agenda and letting her address the concern with everything around this. She stated that this is why they should support it. She stated as she tells the students that she feed, it is a no brainer. She thanked Council for their common sense. She yielded the rest of her time and thanked them for their attention to this matter.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated thank you and asked anybody else wishes to speak to this.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated yep, Regina.

Ms. Regina Padilla, Allentown Resident, stated she would like to share her portion of reality. She stated that she is not found of sharing information regarding her finances, but today she does find it necessary. She stated that she works for a local nonprofit which absolutely fuels her soul, but she earns \$29,000 a year. She pays \$10.50 a month for housing which is over 56 percent of her income and that does not include the utilities that she pays. She stated that while she feeds people for a living, she struggles to feed herself. She stated that she used to receive SNAP benefits of \$227 a month, but now it has been cut to \$23. She stated \$23. That is a dollar for every year she has been born. She is currently seeking a second job because full-time work is simply isn't enough to make ends meet. She stated that this isn't just her story, it is the story of thousands of her fellow residents in Allentown. People who strive each and every day, yet falls short. She stated that is why she is encouraging them to back a minimum wage increase to \$15 an hour. The minimum wage should not be set to \$7.25. In addition to being outdated, it is absolutely impossible to live on. A minimum wage of \$15 is not demanding luxury. It is about rent groceries and simply being able to breathe each month. She stated that is what the luxury of \$15 offers. Some people will tell you that an increase in wages will hurt businesses, but the fact is when workers earn more money, they spend more money in their own communities. They support businesses right here in Allentown and they have a chance to thrive and not just survive. The people impacted the most by low wages are women, people of color and immigrants who are the backbone of our workforce. She stated that we want and deserve more. She stated that she is asking them to be bold and

to stand up for workers like her to do the right things and cannot get ahead. She stated that is why she is encouraging them to back this Resolution that tells Harrisburg to raise the minimum wage to \$15 and give control of future wage setting back to the city of Allentown.

Ms. Gwen Dietrich stated good evening and she wanted to speak today in support of the Resolution. She stated that the current minimum wage is not livable. She stated that she thinks that they are all aware of that. She stated that her personal experiences is that she is a Type 1 Diabetic and her healthcare needs to total over \$6,000 per month just for diabetes. Not counting the two other chronic illnesses she has with a minimum wage job, there is no possible way she could cover those expenses. She stated that she is lucky enough to have Medicaid, but will see how much longer that will last. She stated that a lot of people don't. A lot of people don't have access to healthcare and regardless of that, they should be making enough money to have access to housing, healthcare, and food. She stated that not only does having such a low minimum wage restrict people's access to human rights, it also negatively impacts the economy because when people aren't making money to even afford their rent, they certainly aren't spending money on local businesses. She really urged Council to vote yes on this Resolution.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Gwen Dietrich.

Mr. Quinn Allen stated that he has been in the workforce since he was 19, consistently to make a living for himself. He would say every time, wages increased so did the cost of everything else. He stated on top of that, every time wages increased, the employers, the upper management always wanted less people on the floor leaving one or two people to take care of 20 to 40 customers in line. He stated that he is working even today as a side job which Ce Ce Gerlach knows that place. On top of all that, let's take a look at California right now. He stated that they increased minimum wage on fast food employees to \$20 bucks an hour and many businesses either let people go or shutdown their entire businesses. They got a phone call the very next day after the implementation of the \$20 an hour and called off the entire crew and said, sorry, you don't have a job anymore because he can't afford to pay that. In California, many Californians lost their jobs because of that. He stated that it has been consistent. He stated even five little years ago when businesses were so desperate to get employees due to the Covid, they increased their wages on their own to \$15 bucks an hour. He stated \$15 to \$20 bucks an hour at McDonald's. He stated that his big mac meal went from \$7 to like \$10. He stated why, because they were paying more. They afford to pay the employees better. He stated oh, yeah absolutely, but that doesn't mean greed will stop. He stated that he is sure that the government is making a lot more money in taxes because of those

increases between the buyers and the employees pay and the big corporations. He stated that is all he has to say about that.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Mr. Allen.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that is it.

A motion was made by Daryl Hendricks that this Ordinance be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Daryl Hendricks, Ed Zucal, Natalie Santos, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Candida Affa, and Santo Napoli

Absent: 1 - Cynthia Mota

15-7729 R50 - Approves the submission of an application for a grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for the renovations/upgrades of Ithaca Park. The city is asking for \$97,617.55 in grant funding with a match required – in-kind or cash.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any comments and questions from his colleagues or from the public.

Yes: 6 - Daryl Hendricks, Ed Zucal, Natalie Santos, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Candida Affa, and Santo Napoli

Absent: 1 - Cynthia Mota

15-7730 R51 - Approves the submission of an application for a grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for the construction of Phase 2 of the Martin Luther King (MLK) Trail. The city is asking for \$1,000,000 in grant funding with a match required – in-kind or cash.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any questions or comments from his colleagues or from the public.

Ms. Kari Holmes asked a quick question if she may to know where the plans for Phase II would be listed. She asked is that on the site for the city.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated to Ms. Holmes that she can ask Mandy Tolino.

Ms. Kari Holmes stated also to know or to request that those plans which however they are made public that they are shared widely with the community, especially because large amounts of funds go to that area. She stated that she is expressing that because as many of them probably know that was the area before gentrification of a number of Black owned businesses, homes in the African American community formerly known as Lawrence Street so our community will continue to have a great interest in how that is developed and she knows a lot of times the development

happens and then they are made public or decisions are then made public afterwards. She stated that she would like for ways for this to be made more public. One suggestion might be for someone like herself who is here at City Council on a fairly regular basis or tries to be if posts can be shared at the front information desk and that could also be put on social media and she also wants to commend obviously when those things are shared that way. It is very helpful. She stated to them, the interested and involved community because it gives them an opportunity to see it even if they are not already linked in to those committees. She stated thanks very much for their attention to the many times that has been done.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Ms. Holmes for her comments and stated Ms. Tolino is here and he is sure she will follow through on that. He asked if there was anybody else.

Yes: 6 - Daryl Hendricks, Ed Zucal, Natalie Santos, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Candida Affa, and Santo Napoli

Absent: 1 - Cynthia Mota

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

[15-7640](#)

Bill 37

Amending the 2025 Grants Fund to provide for a supplemental appropriation of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) from the State Office of the Budget, Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP). These funds are a pass-through grant that will support Cedar Crest College.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 37 Cedar Crest RACP](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any comments from the public.

REFERRED TO COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE WITH PUBLIC COMMENT PRIOR TO REFERRAL

[15-7641](#)

Bill 38

Amending the 2025 Grant Fund to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Four Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$400,000.00) from the PA DCED Local Share Account Grant. These funds are a pass-through grant that will support the Police Athletic League. The \$400,000 awarded in LSA funds will be used to rehabilitate the existing PAL Community Youth Education Center located at 2110 Park Drive in Allentown.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 38 - PAL LSA](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any comments from the public.

REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

[15-7643](#)

Bill 39

An Ordinance providing for the expenditure of Six Hundred Fifty-Four Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy-Five Dollars (\$654,775) in Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) and One Million Six Hundred Thousand One Hundred Twenty-One Dollars and Twenty-Three Cents (1,600,121.23) in HOME Investment Partnership Program, unspent funds for the January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020, January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021, January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022, January 1, 2023 and December 31, 2023, and January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024 grant years, for housing and community development programs pursuant to the approved Consolidated Plan, appropriate Federal Law and United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regulations. The monies are 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.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 39 HUD Amendment](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any comments from the public.

REFERRED TO THE COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

[15-7644](#)

Bill 40

Amending the 2025 General Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Fifteen Thousand (\$15,000.00) Dollars from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Office of The State Fire Commissioner (OSFC) Grant to the Allentown Fire and EMS Department for the purchase of training equipment.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 40 EMS OSFC Grant Allocation](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Mr. Hanlon and asked if there were any comments from the public.

REFERRED TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

[15-7645](#)

Bill 41

Amending the 2025 Golf Fund budget by upgrading one Maintenance Worker 2 (M08) position with a salary of \$43,950 to Greenskeeper (M16) with a salary of \$53,358 to better align with skills necessary for the position within a very competitive labor market.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 41 Parks Golf Reorg](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there are any comments from the public.

REFERRED TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

[15-7652](#)

Bill 42

Amending the Civil Service Board Rules governing the Appointment and Promotion of Police Officers and Fire Fighters by adding the following under Grading Procedures, c: All raw scores that end with .5 or greater shall be rounded up to the nearest whole number. All applicable veteran preference points shall then be added to the whole number. In the case of a tie, raw scores shall be used as a tiebreaker, with the original unadjusted scores used to determine who will place higher on the eligibility list. If there is a still a tie after comparing raw scores. The date and time of the submission of the application shall be used with the earliest submission date and time ranking higher on the list; and adding under Oral Examination: 3) The oral examination shall be conducted by a three-person oral examination panel approved by the Board. The oral examination panel shall consist of the Chief of Police or his/her designee and two (2) current Allentown Police officers holding the rank of Lieutenant or higher. The Civil Service Board may engage in an outside vendor to conduct the oral exam. In the event an outside vendor is selected by the Civil Service Board office and approved by the Civil Service board to conduct such oral exams for the position of Sergeant and Lieutenant, the make-up of the oral examination board shall be made by the selected vendor who will be conducting the oral exam, with the approval of the Civil Service Board.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 42.docx](#)
[Proposed Civil Service Rule Changes.docx](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any comments from the public.

REFERRED TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

[15-7642](#)

Bill 43

Amending the 2025 Grants Fund to provide for a supplemental appropriation of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) from the State Office of the Budget, Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP). These funds are a pass-through grant that will support Phoebe Ministries.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 43 - Phoebe RACP](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any comments from the public.

REFERRED TO THE COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

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

[15-7651](#)

R52

Establishing a Special Committee for reviewing and developing Community Policing and collaborative efforts the Police Department is currently involved in to create a strategic plan going forward that builds partnerships between police, community members and organizations to address issues and opportunities.

Sponsors: Affa, Gerlach, Hendricks, Mota and Napoli

Attachments: [R52 Community Policing.doc](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there are any comments from the public.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated if he could Council President Hendricks and stated that since you have the option to vote on these right now, voting now would just accelerate the development of that committee. They want to get start sooner rather than later.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that he is fine with that.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that he would just say this, Ms. Mota was the sponsor of this and was thinking that it would go to committee.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that in light of her not being here tonight, he will not deprive her of that, if that's ok. He stated that this will go to Ms. Mota's Committee.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that she thinks it goes to her committee.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated Public Safety.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated he is sorry Ms. Affa. You are right.

Ms. Candida Affa stated to Mr. Hendricks, once again, it is her committee.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked is it anything from Good and Welfare.

REFERRED TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

NEW BUSINESS: NONE

GOOD AND WELFARE: NONE

ADJOURNED: 8:20 PM

[15-6577](#)

Reference Materials:
Council Rules
Procurement Code
Ethics Code

Attachments: [Procurement Code](#)

[Ethics Code](#)

[Rules](#)