



Allentown

435 Hamilton Street
Allentown, Pa. 18101

Minutes - Draft

City Council

Wednesday, March 18, 2026

6:30 PM

Council Chambers

Invocation:

Pledge to the Flag

Roll Call

Present: 7 - Cynthia Mota, Natalie Santos, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Candida Affa, Santo Napoli, Jeremy Binder, and Cristian Pungo

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 are 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 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.

Ms. Betty Cauler, Tilghman Street, stated one thing last week meeting that wasn't brought up about Mrs. Binder's appointment was that her company Ripple Community received a \$1 million grant from the city CDBG in

November of 2023. She stated that was not brought up. She stated that she thinks it is a very important thing. She stated that she knows they already voted on it, but you have to look at how this looks to the public, how it violates the trust to the public and it is not like Mrs. Binder is not qualified stating trust her she is. She sounds like she is probably the most qualified. It is the appearance of impropriety that is the problem, now that the money is involved. It just gives the appearance of conflict is not from her volunteer status, but from her immediate family relationship to a City Council official and a financial interests in a company receiving municipal funds. In many cases, according to the Pennsylvania State Ethics Code such as a transaction could be deemed void or illegal. If not fully disclosed and handled correctly and if she remembers correctly she doesn't remember seeing any public display disclosure of that in the March 4th Agenda. It also says to avoid legal issues, the Councilman must immediately abstain from voting on any budgetary matters involving that housing board. Proper disclosure must be made in the public records. She stated that she thought that she didn't see that public disclosure. She just wants to bring up again that two years ago Council passed a 4- 3 No Confidence Vote against Mayor Tuerk. She doesn't think anything has changed in those two years. This is a Mayor that retaliates against anybody. Who questions his administration. She stated that we have seen that recently in the snubbing of Becki Kiss in the Parks and Recreation Board and his firing of Karen Ocasio and the Human Resources Director Nadeem Shahzad. These are clear cases of spiteful retaliation and now with Mrs. Binder's appointment, they are seeing instead the appearance of quid pro quo and preferential treatment. If the appointment was made with the understanding of Councilmembers vote or influence would be swayed in favor of the Mayor. This is a direct violation. She stated that Mayor Tuerk's actions have already caused the city's taxpayers over \$550,000 for lawsuits and investigations on charges of discrimination and yet the public still have no facts and no explanation or disclosure from either Duane Morris or Curtis have been given to the public and they should be part of the public record. Now, if a complaint is filed with the Pennsylvania Ethics Commission about this appointment, additional fines will result and taxpayers will be liable for that as well. She stated that she also wanted to say that other than her being a very good qualified candidate, her husband is on City Council and is considered by many to be the swing vote for Council in favor of the Mayor's agendas. She stated that is another strike against it. She stated that she knows it is probably too late to do anything, but if a complaint is filed, y'all have to deal with it. Governing is not all puppies and rainbows Mr. Napoli stating you have to make tough choices sometimes. Mr. Santo Napoli thanked Ms. Cauler. If you want the public trust, y'all need to start earning it. Thank you.

Mr. Jeremy Binder stated real quick, just for clarification and asked

Attorney Maria Montero is she aware of any conflict of interest in this process.

Attorney Maria Montero stated to her knowledge when he first shared the information that this was your spouse that was recommended to join, she did as Council recommend that even at the subcommittee level that he not put the name forward. She stated that she publicly stated during that meeting that there was a relationship between Ms. Binder and yourself. She asked Mr. Binder what is her last name.

Mr Jeremy Binder stated that it is Binder.

Attorney Maria Montero stated Binder, ok. She stated that was disclosed and you recluded yourself even from the nomination.

Mr. Jeremy Binder stated thank you.

Mr. Santo Napoli stated ok, moving along and stated that they are going to jump onto Contract Approval.

Contract Approvals

Ms. Genesis Ortega stated that they do not have any more cards.

Mr. Santo Napoli stated that he will make an exception. In the future, please file a card so that they can keep track. He asked for her full name.

Ms. Mary Tomlinson, 373 W Liberty Street, stating she just want to announce the flyer in the back about the clean up at our beloved Union Terrace Park on Saturday. From 9:00 to 12:00 and it is being put together by a great organization in the Little Lehigh Watershed Steward's (sp) (inaudible) and they all a part of that watershed. Thank you.

Mr. Santo Napoli stated that they are going to jump into Contract Approvals. He stated our first one is R37.

[15-8313](#)

R37

Authorization for Contract with Belfor USA Group, Inc. (d/b/a Belfor Property Restoration) in the estimated yearly sum of \$25,000.00 to perform standard boarding up services for commercial and residential properties. One (1) bid was received, contract shall be for three (3) years with two (2) additional one (1) year renewals beyond the contract expiration period.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Request for Council Approval - Belfor](#)
[Resolution #31236](#)

Mr. Santo Napoli thanked Ms. Ortega and stated normally we have Ms. McNeil. He asked did we change that to the administration at this point. He asked is there any updates from the administration on this.

Ms. Vicky Kistler stated no, this is a standard board up contract that they have on file every year or so as they expire, they go out for bids and renew whatever company provides the most economic response.

Mr. Santo Napoli thanked Ms. Kistler and asked if there were any questions or comments from the dais or the public on R37. He asked Ms. Ortega to please call the vote.

Yes: 7 - Cynthia Mota, Natalie Santos, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Candida Affa, Santo Napoli, Jeremy Binder, and Cristian Pungo

Enactment No: 31236

[15-8329](#)

R37.5

Authorization of Cooperative Contract(s) in an amount greater than \$40,000.00 to provide the City with various goods/services, for Granicus, LLC.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R37.5 Cooperative Proposal](#)
[Resolution #31237](#)

Mr. Santo Napoli asked is there anything from the administration on this Contract.

Mr. Gerry Anthony stated that this is just a Change Order of an existing Contract. The current Contract expired in February of 2026. This is a Contract extension through June 30, 2026 to put us in line to do an RFP before the entire system of Council Chambers here. He stated that it is simply a Contract extension.

Mr. Santo Napoli stated ok and asked through June 30th, correct.

Mr. Gerry Anthony stated through June 30, correct.

Mr. Santo Napoli thanked Mr. Anthony and asked if there were any questions or comments from his colleagues or the public on R37.5.

Yes: 7 - Cynthia Mota, Natalie Santos, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Candida Affa, Santo Napoli, Jeremy Binder, and Cristian Pungo

Enactment No: 31237

Minutes of Previous Meeting

[15-8311](#) March 4, 2026 Public Hearing Intermunicipal Liquor License Transfer Request - Felix Restaurant, LLC

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [March 4, 2026 Public Hearing Intermunicipal Liquor License Transfer Request - Felix Restaurant, LLC](#)

Yes: 7 - Cynthia Mota, Natalie Santos, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Candida Affa, Santo Napoli, Jeremy Binder, and Cristian Pungo

[15-8323](#) March 4, 2026 City Council Meeting Minutes

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [March 4, 2026 City Council Meeting Minutes](#)

Yes: 7 - Cynthia Mota, Natalie Santos, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Candida Affa, Santo Napoli, Jeremy Binder, and Cristian Pungo

Communications

Mr. Santo Napoli stated regarding visitors at all our City Council meetings, they encourage them to park for free in the government deck next door to City Hall. Please see our City Clerk for a voucher to pay for your parking.

Old Business: NONE

REPORTS

President Napoli: City Council will be holding Special Meetings on March 25 at 6:30 PM to consider the appointment of Frank Kane as Managing Director; April 8th at 6 PM with the Parking Authority and on April 22nd at 6 PM will be a discussion and Report with ANIZDA.

Budget and Finance: Chair Pungo, Mota, Gerlach

The Committee has not met since the last council meeting; the next meeting is scheduled for March 25th at 5:30 PM stating that is next week.

Community and Economic Development: Chair Gerlach, Binder, Napoli

The Committee met this evening. They discussed a number of Pass Through Grants that they will be voting on later tonight.

Human Resources, Administration and Appointments: Chair Binder, Santos, Affa

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

Parks and Recreation: Chair Santos, Pungo, Binder

The Committee met this evening. They had a series of presentations from the EAC and our Sustainability Coordinator, the next committee meeting is scheduled for April 1 at 6:15 PM.

Public Safety: Chair Affa, Mota, Santos

The Committee met this evening; there are no other scheduled meetings at this time.

Public Works: Chair Mota, Pungo, Affa

The Committee met March 11; the next meeting is scheduled for April 1 at 6:00 PM.

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

The Committee met on March 5, 2026, at 6:00 PM - the next meeting is not yet scheduled.

Controller's Report: The Controller has submitted a PCard Report that is on the agenda website.

Mr. Jeffrey Glazier thanked Mr. Napoli. He stated Mr. President he has a P Card Review for the month of December 20, 2025. He stated that this came out of March 9th. This review and stated that the reviewed 484 documents for a little bit over \$141,000. He stated that the first issue that they came up with is what they believe is a violation of AIM 1106 which is operator responsibilities when driving a city vehicle. He stated that this is a city vehicle that passed a school bus. It was captured with

the stop sign out. It was captured and the violations were sent to the city because it was the owner of the vehicle that is responsible for the violation and the city paid it and paid the convenience fee. He stated that it is the Controller's opinion that operators should be responsible to maintain their vehicles in a safe manner at all times. Whether it be something like this because he thinks that they all can agree it is not a good look to pass a school bus with a stop sign out especially when so much they do here in the city is public safety related and possibly put the life of a child in danger. It is not something they want to be identified with at any point in time. The department head responded. It was a very thoughtful response which lists the conflicts between what the AIM is and between what the state law is and between what bargaining unit contracts may be and generally you are going to end up contrary what bargaining unit contracts and arbitration. Another issue that was addressed was at and they are supposed to keep logs of vehicle usage. Clearly, an emergency vehicle on an emergency, you are probably not going to do that, but if somebody is taking a city vehicle and running to Home Depot to get a supply for a facility or something like that. Clearly, it is not an emergency situation. It should be adequate time to make sure they know who is driving that vehicle. In the instance, they couldn't determine definitively who was driving the vehicle. He stated that he thinks that there are some things they can work on to have these processes work better going forward with (inaudible) and unfortunately there is no great Resolution at the time being, but are forearmed and can deal with it in a more effective manner in the future. Also, in more quotidian. They identified one over payment. There is an unsupported balance of \$58.72. The department was advised and they will be applying for credit. They had 10 instances where incorrect expense accounts were used. The departments were advised and journal entries were done. They had instances where sales tax were paid on invoices. One for \$6.84; one for a \$1.74 stating that while they are always interested in getting the money back, at some point they acknowledge that the effort to get the money back is greater than the dollar amount than it becomes important is that the department is fully advised and the people using the P Cards were fully advised and these transgressions or whatever mistakes were not repeated in the future. He stated that they all know from their own personal purchases, the credit card fees become kind of ubiquitous. The city allows certain charged fees up to \$10. That is a pretty recent change. It used to be you were not allowed to pay any of them, but that is really the environment that we are in. He stated that they noted that one invoice with the charge of \$10.72 and one was \$10.50. The departments were advised and they will try to get a credit. He stated every once in a while we run into something even larger for a larger purchase. The purchase might be \$30 or \$40. They believe that should really be actionable. Untimely payments of invoices which they shoot for 60 days. He stated that there was a number of invoices. The six that were paid beyond that, the departments were advised and they were spotted with a reason and that is why the invoices were paid. He stated that it is 60 days and also in Munis, one of the things that they depend on is adequate documentation. Whether it be the receipt or

whether it be the invoice. There were seven instances where adequate documentation was not provided. The departments were advised and the documentation was uploaded and stating that is his Report, Mr. President.

Mr. Santo Napoli thanked Mr. Glazier. He stated for the Mayor's Report, nothing was submitted. He stated that they will move along to Ordinances for Final Passage.

Mayor: The mayor has not submitted anything.

[15-8333](#) Controller's Reports

Attachments: [P Card - Dec Report](#)

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE (To be Voted On):

[15-8240](#) Bill 10
Amending the 2026 Capital Fund Budget to provide for an increase of Three Hundred and Forty-Six Thousand One Hundred Fifty-Eight Dollars (\$346,158.00) to partially fund the reconstruction on Lehigh and Union Street as part of the Pennsylvania Local Share Account Grant the City was awarded. This grant is fully reimbursable and once the project has been completed, the City will be reimbursed.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 10 - Lehigh Union Street LSA](#)
[Ordinance #16195](#)

Mr. Santo Napoli thanked Ms. Ortega and asked were there any questions or comments from his colleagues or the public on Bill 10.

Yes: 7 - Cynthia Mota, Natalie Santos, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Candida Affa, Santo Napoli, Jeremy Binder, and Cristian Pungo

Enactment No: 16195

[15-8281](#) Bill 13
Amending the 2026 Grant Fund to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250,000.00) from the PA DCED Local Share Account Grant. These funds are a pass-through grant that will support the Resurrected Community Development Corporation.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 13- RCDC LSA Appropriation](#)
[Ordinance #16196](#)

Mr. Santo Napoli stated that it was in Ms. Gerlach's committee.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated yes, 13 through 17 were in the committee

tonight. They are all construction related.

Mr. Santo Napoli stated ok, thank you. He asked if there were any questions or comments from the dais or the public on Bill 13.

Yes: 7 - Cynthia Mota, Natalie Santos, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Candida Affa, Santo Napoli, Jeremy Binder, and Cristian Pungo

Enactment No: 16196

[15-8282](#)

Bill 14

Amending the 2026 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 Jewish Community Center of the Lehigh Valley.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 14- JCC LSA Appropriation](#)

[Ordinance #16197](#)

Mr. Santo Napoli asked if there were any questions or comments from the dais or the public on Bill 14.

Yes: 7 - Cynthia Mota, Natalie Santos, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Candida Affa, Santo Napoli, Jeremy Binder, and Cristian Pungo

Enactment No: 16197

[15-8283](#)

Bill 15

Amending the 2026 Grant Fund to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Two Hundred Ninety-Six Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy-Eight Dollars (\$296,878.00) from the PA DCED Local Share Account Grant. These funds are a pass-through grant that will support the Museum of Indian Culture.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 15 - Indian Culture Museum LSA Appropriation](#)

[Ordinance #16198](#)

Mr. Santo Napoli asked if there were any questions or comments from his colleagues or the public on Bill 15.

Yes: 7 - Cynthia Mota, Natalie Santos, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Candida Affa, Santo Napoli, Jeremy Binder, and Cristian Pungo

Enactment No: 16198

[15-8284](#)

Bill 16

Amending the 2026 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 (RAC-P).

These funds are a pass-through grant that will support The Baum School of Art.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 16 - Baum School RACP Appropriation](#)
[Ordinance #16199](#)

Mr. Santo Napoli asked if there were any questions or comments from the dais or the public on Bill 17.

Yes: 7 - Cynthia Mota, Natalie Santos, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Candida Affa, Santo Napoli, Jeremy Binder, and Cristian Pungo

Enactment No: 16199

[15-8285](#)

Bill 17

Amending the 2026 Grant Fund to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Seven Hundred Seventy-Five Dollars (\$775,000.00) from the PA DCED Local Share Account Grant. These funds are a pass-through grant that will support the Allentown Art Museum.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 17- Art Museum LSA Appropriation](#)
[Ordinance #16200](#)

Mr. Santo Napoli asked if there were any questions or comments on Bill 17 from the dais or the public.

Yes: 7 - Cynthia Mota, Natalie Santos, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Candida Affa, Santo Napoli, Jeremy Binder, and Cristian Pungo

Enactment No: 16200

[15-8286](#)

Bill 18

Amending the 2026 Capital Fund Budget to provide for a transfer of Fifty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$55,000.00) from a completed Capital account for the redesign of traffic signal upgrades at 17th and Linden St, 17th and Turner St, 17th and Chew St, and 17th and Walnut Street intersections. This project was mostly funded through the Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant (MTF-DCED). This will transfer the unused funds from a completed capital project to the correct account for these services.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 18 - 17th Street Redesign Transfer](#)
[Ordinance #16201](#)

Mr. Santo Napoli stated that this was in Chair Mota's committee.

Dr. Cynthia Mota stated that it was favorably.

Mr. Santo Napoli asked if there were any questions or comments from the dais or the public on Bill 18.

Yes: 7 - Cynthia Mota, Natalie Santos, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Candida Affa, Santo Napoli, Jeremy Binder, and Cristian Pungo

Enactment No: 16201

[15-8287](#)

Bill 19

Amending the 2026 Capital Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Forty-Five Thousand Two Hundred Ninety-Five Dollars and Thirty-Nine Cents. (\$45,295.39). This was the result of payment in lieu of tree plantings from Allentown School District, QR III LLC, 309 E Hamilton ST LLC, The Waterfront Development Corp, North Sixth St Properties OP LP, Executive Education Charter School, and East Penn Properties LP. Funds will be used for the purchase of new street trees.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 19 - Shade Tree Revitalization Appropriation](#)
[Ordinance #16202](#)

Mr. Santo Napoli stated that this was in your committee Ms. Mota.

Dr. Cynthia Mota stated yes, it was. She stated that it was forwarded favorably.

Mr. Santo Napoli stated thank you. He asked if there were any questions or comments from his colleagues. He stated Ms. Gerlach

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that they had a bit of a discussion on this during the EAC presentation. She stated she is going to vote tonight because it is here, but she does think that they should amend this in the future based on conversations that maybe other cities are doing to actually cover the costs of the tree.

Dr. Cynthia Mota stated that she agrees with you. It is costly.

Mr. Santo Napoli stated Mr. Pungo, go ahead.

Mr. Cristian Pungo stated that he will also add on that he thinks there are some good conversations at the meeting. He stated that obviously this is money getting into the city, but this specific circumstance, it was decided that the trees cannot be planted so that is why the Fee in Lieu allowed and stated that he thinks there is some greater conversations again on our Shade Tree Ordinances and understanding what opportunities there are for people who may feel like a similar situation, not just developers, but city residents at large.

Mr. Jeremy Binder asked is there cause to speak to that and stated that he knows that he had suggestions on possibilities for some cities. He doesn't know if he would like to keep going for now.

Mr. Santo Napoli stated that he thinks.

Audience member asked about public comment.

Mr. Jeremy Binder stated thank you.

Mr. Santo Napoli asked if there were any other questions or comments. He stated now, they will take public comment on Bill 19.

Mr. Kyle Ropski, 528 N Burkes Street, stated good evening everybody. He stated that he is a member of the Shade Tree Commission and speaking on behalf of them, but he just wants everyone to know that increasing the cash in lieu of fee is something that they have been working on for a long time. They have been in conversation with other cities and doing research for a good chunk of time. He stated that they recognize the value of trees and the money that and stated that it is hard to put a dollar value to it. There are ways to do it, but it is difficult. The current method that we utilized in the Shade Tree Ordinance is the valuation of a PennDot valuation for a red maple tree which they know from our recent Urban Forestry Master Plan Tree Inventory. It is the most common tree in the city, but they are interested in finding a more equitable balance on how they can make that cash in lieu of fee more equitable to the real value of that tree brings to the community and again, this is something that we constantly discuss on how do we bring more revenue into the city that is not falling onto the taxpayers backs, but rather the developers that can pay them. He thinks that increasing cash in lieu of fees is a great way to do that so he welcomes anybody on the commission. He stated that they welcome questions and inquiries and research will definitely work on it and he will be happy to fill in anybody in on that process. Thank you.

Dr. Cynthia Mota stated that she stated that she is sure she has a meeting regarding that. She stated Public Works.

Mr. Santo Napoli stated ok, great. He stated that he is happy to hear. He stated thanks for all the feedback. He asked is there any other public comment. He stated that they will call a vote on Bill 19.

Yes: 7 - Cynthia Mota, Natalie Santos, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Candida Affa, Santo Napoli, Jeremy Binder, and Cristian Pungo

Enactment No: 16202

[15-8289](#)

Bill 22

Amending the 2026 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 equipment.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 22 - EMS OSFC Grant Allocation](#)

[Ordinance #16203](#)

Mr. Santo Napoli stated that it was in Ms. Affa's committee.

Ms. Candida Affa stated yes and it was forwarded favorably.

Mr. Santo Napoli thanked Ms. Affa. He asked if there were any questions or comments from his colleagues or the public on Bill 22.

Yes: 7 - Cynthia Mota, Natalie Santos, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Candida Affa, Santo Napoli, Jeremy Binder, and Cristian Pungo

Enactment No: 16203

CONSENT AGENDA

[15-8312](#)

R38

231 N 7th Street and 232 N Church Street Apartment Renovations - Sewage Planning Module

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R38 231 N 7th Street and 232 N Church Street Apartment Renovations - Sewage Planning Module](#)
[231 N 7th Street and 232 N Church Street Apartment Renovations Sewage Planning Module](#)

Ms. Genesis Ortega stated so we have R38 which is 231 N 7th Street and 232 N Church Street Apartment Renovations Sewage Planning Modules. She stated that R39 which is the appointment of Tom Burke to the Nuisance Abatement Board of Appeals with the term ending March 19, 2028. She stated that R40 is the appointment of Ramon Nunez, Jr. to the Board of Parks and Recreation, term ending 3/19/2031. She stated R41 is the appointment of Susan Gilbert Zencka to the Environmental Advisory Council with her term ending 1/1/2029. R42 is a Sewage Planning Module at 1 Center Square and R43 is a Certificate of Appropriateness for work in the Historic District at 1515 Linden Street.

Mr. Santo Napoli asked if there were any questions or comments from the dais on any of these Consent Agenda Items. He asked if there were any questions or comments from the public.

Yes: 7 - Cynthia Mota, Natalie Santos, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Candida Affa, Santo Napoli, Jeremy Binder, and Cristian Pungo

Enactment No: 31238

[15-8320](#)

R39

Tom Burke, Nuisance Abatement Board of Appeals, 3/19/2028

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R39 Tom Burke \(Nuisance Abatement Board of Appeals\)](#)

[Burke 3-26](#)

[Resolution #31239](#)

Enactment No: 31239

[15-8319](#)

R40

Ramon Nunez, Jr., Board of Parks and Recreation, 3/19/2031

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R40 Ramon Nunez, Jr. \(Board of Parks and Recreation\)](#)

[Ramon Nunez Jr. Board of Parks and Recreation, 3/19/2031](#)
[\(Reappointment\)](#)

[Resolution #31240](#)

Enactment No: 31240

[15-8318](#)

R41

Susan Gilbert Zencka, Environmental Advisory Council, 1/1/2029

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R41 - Zencka Appt to EAC](#)

[Memo from Mayor Tuerk regarding Susan Gilbert Zencka -](#)
[Environmental Advisory Council](#)
[Rev. Dr. Susan Gilbert Zencka Resume 2026](#)

[Resolution #31241](#)

Enactment No: 31241

[15-8326](#)

R42

Sewage Planning Module at 1 Center Square

Attachments: [R42 - Sewer Planning Module](#)

[Planning Module-Allentown Receipt-](#)

[Resolution #31242](#)

Enactment No: 31242

[15-8322](#)

R43

Certificate of Appropriateness for work in the Historic Districts:
1515 Linden Street

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R43 MARCH - HARB Resolution](#)
[1515 LINDEN ST - FINAL REVIEW](#)
[Resolution #31243](#)

Enactment No: 31243

RESOLUTIONS FOR FINAL PASSAGE (To be Voted On):

[15-8321](#) R44
Council President Napoli - Allentown Economic Development Corporation
(AEDC)

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R44 Santo Napoli \(AEDC - Allentown Economic Development Corporation\)](#)
[Resolution #31244](#)

Mr. Santo Napoli stated that he will recuse himself from this vote. He asked if there any questions or comments from his colleagues or the public on R44.

A motion was made by Santo Napoli that this Resolution be approved. The

Yes: 6 - Cynthia Mota, Natalie Santos, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Candida Affa, Jeremy Binder, and Cristian Pungo

Recused: 1 - Santo Napoli

Enactment No: 31244

[15-8325](#) R45
Approves the submission of the formal application to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development for eight hundred seven thousand dollars (\$807,000) from the Statewide Local Share Account (LSA) grant that will support the purchase of new equipment for the Allentown Police Department.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R45 - APD LSA CNT Vehicle](#)
[Resolution #31245](#)

Mr. Santo Napoli asked if there were any questions or comments from his colleagues. He asked if there were any questions or comments from the public on R45.

Dr. Cynthia Mota (inaudible).

Mr. Santo Napoli stated that he missed it and asked for a heads up.

Assistant Chief James Gress stated that this is a no match grant from DCED. It is under the umbrella of emergency services of (inaudible) and the command component of emergency services. There are not a lot of funding opportunities out there for vehicles. This one is for a command component vehicle. They call it a command post where intelligence can be gained and interviews can be had, resources can be applied, and discussed and things like that. On the current one, we got back in early 2005 he believes it was. It was retired from the city of Bethlehem and it was a bomb truck. They traded a few spots from the fire academy for the truck. Members of the crisis negotiation team unit and equipped ourselves from donated items and built the truck ourselves. Unfortunately not a lot of the parts are no longer available for it. It has a lot of mechanical issues. It has a lot of mechanical issues and this funding opportunity came along to replace it. He stated that they inspect out the vehicle with all the latest technology with all the cameras, the monitors, the equipment that is needed for a state of the art command center. He stated what it does though, it is best practices and guidelines set by accreditation standards and EMA standards that call for this type of equipment and command unit to be had for a city our size. He stated that it is a no match grant and we need Council's approval just to apply.

Mr. Santo Napoli stated thank you for that. He stated sorry that he went out of order. He asked if there were any questions or comments from his colleagues. He asked if there were any questions or comments from the public on R45.

Yes: 7 - Cynthia Mota, Natalie Santos, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Candida Affa, Santo Napoli, Jeremy Binder, and Cristian Pungo

Enactment No: 31245

[15-8324](#)

R46

Approves the submission of the formal application to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development for two hundred ninety-five thousand three hundred fifty dollars (\$295,350) from the Statewide Local Share Account (LSA) grant that will support the purchase of new equipment for the Allentown Police Department.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R46 - APD Equipment LSA](#)
[Resolution #31246](#)

Ms. Genesis Ortega asked did we just do that one.

Mr. Santo Napoli stated yes, so Chief Gress go ahead.

Assistant Chief James Gress stated if he may. He stated that this will replace an upgrade. Most firearms that the department uses, it will also replace aging ballistic shields that are needed in the department and again, it is a no match grant from the DCED under this specific umbrella. He stated that it aligns with best practices in the state's accreditation standards as to when the equipment needs to be replaced. He stated that they are at the stage right now where it needs to be replaced. There is perfect timing just to apply to this grant.

Mr. Santo Napoli stated ok, thank you. He asked if there were any questions or comments from his colleagues or the public on R46.

Yes: 7 - Cynthia Mota, Natalie Santos, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Candida Affa, Santo Napoli, Jeremy Binder, and Cristian Pungo

Enactment No: 31246

[15-8309](#)

R47 - Transfers

Public Works – Traffic Bureau – \$168,000.00 is required because the contract for the redesign of S Jefferson Street came back higher than anticipated.

Parks & Recreation – \$10,979.50 is required to pay for permit fees to LCCD for this project's NPDES permit that is required.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [R47 Transfers](#)

[Funds are available for all parts of this project including permit fees, just need to move into the correct standard account](#)
[Required because the contract for the redesign of S Jefferson Street came back higher than anticipated](#)
[Resolution #31247](#)

Mr. Santo Napoli asked are there any comments from the administration on either one of these for us. He asked if there were any questions or comments from his colleagues regarding both these transfers or the public on R47 on the two transfers.

Yes: 7 - Cynthia Mota, Natalie Santos, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Candida Affa, Santo Napoli, Jeremy Binder, and Cristian Pungo

Enactment No: 31247

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

[15-8314](#)

Bill 23

Amending the 2026 Trexler Fund Springwood Budget to provide for a

supplemental appropriation of Thirteen Thousand Four Hundred Sixty-Eight Dollars and Eighty-One Cents (\$13,468.81) from the Springwood Trust portion of the Trexler Fund's unappropriated 2026 balance per General Trexler's will.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 23 Springwood 2026 Appropriation](#)

Mr. Santo Napoli stated ok and asked any questions or comments from the public on Bill 23. He stated that this will be referred to Ms. Santos committee.

Ms. Natalie Santos stated thank you.

REFERRED TO PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

[15-8315](#)

Bill 24

Amending the 2026 Capital Fund Budget to provide for an increase of One Million Eighty-Seven Thousand and Three Hundred Ninety Dollars (\$1,087,390.00) to fund the upgrade to the intersection of 19th Street and Roth Avenue as part of the Green Light Go (GLG) Grant the City was awarded. This grant is partially reimbursable and requires match funding.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 24 GLG Funding](#)

Mr. Santo Napoli thanked Ms. Ortega and asked any comments from the public on Bill 24.

REFERRED TO THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

[15-8316](#)

Bill 25 Refer to Public Works

Amending the 2026 Capital Fund Budget to provide for an increase of Ninety-Five Thousand Two Hundred Twenty-Two Dollars and Fifty Cents (\$95,222.50) to the Traffic Signals Upgrade expenditure account to repair traffic equipment at two intersections due to weather related damage that knocked down two traffic signals. Capital Fund Cash will be used to fund this project.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 25 Traffic Equipment Transfer](#)

Ms. Genesis Ortega stated that the administration is requesting that this one be acted on immediately.

Mr. Santo Napoli asked can we have Director Shahda give us some information on this, on Bill 25.

Mr. Mark Shahda stated Council President, good evening. He stated good evening Council. He stated so what we are doing this evening is we are asking City Council to introduce this ordinance, the transfer of funding and the suspending the Rules and voting on it this evening. He stated that they had two intersections that were damaged through a windstorm a few weeks back. One of the intersections was at Sixth and Walnut and the second intersection is on Union Boulevard in front of Coca Cola Park. Obviously, these are major arteries that we have within the city of Allentown that are heavily travelled and for safety reasons, they are asking City Council to Suspend the Rules and vote on this, this evening so we can get the funding into the account and start doing the work to get these intersections back in service.

Mr. Santo Napoli thanked Mr. Shahda for that background and asked any comments from his colleagues. He stated Ms. Mota.

Dr. Cynthia Mota stated that he thinks it is important to fix it, but this is what she would like to know and asked when was it knocked down. She stated to Mr. Shahda you said a few weeks ago.

Mr. Mark Shahda stated that is correct.

Dr. Cynthia Mota stated yeah, when a few weeks ago.

Mr. Mark Shahda stated that the wind damage came in and asked not to hold him to the exact date, but it came in about three weeks ago. He stated that they had to go through their internal process and having our Risk Department review the claims to see if it is something that could be honored through our Risk Department or if they had to find the funding within our Capital Fund Accounts and that's kind of where it kind of got held up a little bit. He stated so we found the funding of one of our Capital Accounts and transferring the money this evening to proceed with the repairs.

Dr. Cynthia Mota stated another question and asked if it is \$95,000, will it be cheaper if we go through a bid or will this be considered an emergency.

Mr. Mark Shahda stated that it is an emergency repair, Councilperson Mota. He stated even going through the bidding process, their typical process is going to be anywhere between six to eight weeks from the time they assemble our RFP, put it out to bid, review the bids and award it. He stated that he does not feel comfortable waiting and going through that process. He stated that this is an emergency situation and obviously traffic signals play a major role in our overall traffic safety.

Dr. Cynthia Mota stated that she agrees with him, 100 percent. She stated also she would like to know, who is going to be the one fixing this and when will it take place. She stated if we voted yes, on this tonight.

Mr. Mark Shahda stated that they received a quote from Telco and unfortunately there is a longer lead time on some of the infrastructure that is needed to mass arms and the poles. He stated that is another reason why they are asking City Council to Suspend the Rules and vote on it this evening. Rather than going through the bid process, the overall bid process like you said is about six to eight weeks and there is a long lead time on the mass arms and poles due to supply chain issues and that could be another few months out and they are just trying to shorten that timeframe.

Dr. Cynthia Mota asked have we worked with them before.

Mr. Mark Shahda stated yes, we have. They have done a lot of work in the city of Allentown and they do good work.

Dr. Cynthia Mota stated ok.

Mr. Santo Napoli asked if there were any other questions or comments before we get to it. He stated Ms. Gerlach.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that she just wants to make sure she understands. She stated in an emergency situation was created, but because the administration wanted to do their due diligence, they took about three weeks to make sure that everything and the Risk Management had to go out and make sure everything was assessed correctly and there is an internal and it sounds like it is some sort of internal administrative procedure to deal with emergency situations like this.

Mr. Santo Napoli stated that is correct and we did have a meeting with our Risk Department where we are streamlining that approach so going and moving forward that process can be a lot. That window is going to be a smaller window, a timeframe window to get those repairs done.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated got you and stated ok, it is great to hear that there is an internal administrative procedure for an emergency like this. She stated thank you.

Mr. Mark Shahda stated you are welcome.

Dr. Cynthia Mota stated that we don't want anyone to get into an accident

so of course, it needs to be fixed, but she thinks it was important for us.

Mr. Santo Napoli stated that it is very fair. He stated that if anybody wants to make a Motion.

Mr. Santo Napoli stated that we have a Motion and a Second. He stated so for the amendment which and asked if Ms. Ortega wants to read it or should he.

Ms. Genesis Ortega stated that it is Bill 25 Amending the 2026 Capital Fund Budget to provide for an increase of \$95,222.50 for a Traffic Signal Upgrade expenditure account to repair traffic equipment at two intersections due to weather related damage that knocked down two traffic signals. Capital Fund cash will be used to fund this budget. She stated that Section Six: That pursuant to Section 218 of the Home Rule Charter and upon affirmative vote of six of seven councilpersons the fourteen-day period between introduction and final passage is hereby eliminated.

Mr. Santo Napoli stated ok, thank you. He stated on this vote if they have at least six yeses, that will take care of this and move this forward and eliminate the 14 day waiting period. He asked if there were any other questions or comments from the dais on the amendment. He asked if there were any questions or comments from the public on Bill 25 along with the amendment.

A motion was made by Cynthia Mota, seconded by Candida Affa, that the Rules be Suspended to act and vote on Bill 25.

Yes: 7 - Cynthia Mota, Natalie Santos, Ce-Ce Gerlach, Candida Affa, Santo Napoli, Jeremy Binder, and Cristian Pungo

Enactment No: 16204

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

NEW BUSINESS: NONE

GOOD AND WELFARE

Mr. Santo Napoli stated that we covered the upcoming meetings and asked any Good and Welfare.

ADJOURNED: 7:13 PM