



Allentown

435 Hamilton Street
Allentown, Pa. 18101

Minutes - Final

City Council

Wednesday, August 2, 2023

6:30 PM

Council Chambers

Invocation:

Pledge to the Flag

Roll Call

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

Courtesy of the Floor

Courtesy and Privilege of the Floor Rules

Ms. Vicky Kiss, 28 S. Berks Street, stated that she is disappointed that Council voted against term limits. It is a democracy and it should have went on the ballot for everybody to vote. The reason why you did not put it on the ballot because you know people will vote for them.

Mr. Lewis Shupe, 1101 Hamilton Street, stated that tomorrow night he is hosting an event at Seventh and Hamilton at the Sailors and Soldiers Monument to stand up against Donald Trump and the rule of law. No one is above the law. He asked for retention ponds to hold back the water.

Ms. Terry Kloiber, 345 Grandview Boulevard - Bethlehem, thanked Mr. Hendricks for responding when she was inquiring about City Council meetings and if the public was able to speak at the meetings. She talked about the accidents that happen on Hanover Avenue, Eaton Avenue and Broad Street a few feet west of the Allentown/Bethlehem border. She spoke of the dangers of the intersection. There nothing on this intersection telling drivers they have to yield to oncoming traffic when they cross over from Hanover Avenue crossing over to Eaton. She stated that it will get worse if apartments are built on this lot. She asked for a traffic circle and a scaled down project.

Mayor Matt Tuerk advised Ms. Kloiber to talk with the Planning/Zoning team, Vicky Kistler and Mark Shahda, who is the Public Works Director.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that he forwarded the email to Mr. Shahda.

Ms. Mary Jo McCool, 449 Grandview Boulevard - Bethlehem, stated that

she is not a current visit, she grew up on the Eastside of Allentown, moved to Bethlehem in 1987. Her concern is the stormwater by Bennett Toyota. There is major flooding in the area. Manhole covers have been pushed off the street. The intersection flood with three to four feet of water. With the development of the State Hospital Property that can compound, and she does not know if the infrastructure is strong enough to handle all of that along with the traffic.

Mr. Paul Fondl, 413 Grandview Boulevard, stated that in 2016, there was an accident at the intersection. The girl that was hurt ended up having neck surgery. She started this petition and moved back to her home state of Washington. He has over 200 names. He asked about an anti-skid macadam and the intersection.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if Mr. Fondl has a copy.

Contract Approvals

[15-6112](#)

R125

Authorization for Contract with All City Management Services, Inc. in the amount of \$720,241.20 per contract year to provide Crossing Guard Services, as needed by the City of Allentown. Terms.

Attachments: [R125 - Crossing Guards](#)
[Resolution #30677](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there someone to speak to that.

Ms. Sarrah McNeil stated that this was RFP 2023 - 16. It was advertised on May 13, 2023. On June 16, 2023, the public opening was held and the city received two proposals. The evaluation committee held both technical and cost evaluations. The proposals were evaluated on the ability to meet the RFP requirements and after all the evaluations were conducted, the committee felt that the oral interviews were necessary. The committee held oral interviews on July 26. The committee made recommendations to award based on the firms qualifications and overall score. The city is recommending an award to All City Management Services, Inc.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any questions from his colleagues.

Ms. Candida Affa asked on these two bids are any on the contracts that we already have.

Ms. Sarrah McNeil stated yes. All City Management is who we currently have.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach asked how well did they do or they are doing. She

asked how much do they pay their people.

Chief Charles Roca stated that they have improved immensely for providing that services. They had some transitional issues during the Covid time when the Police Department took additional help. They have improve significantly. The cost per person is \$25 per person.

Ms. Sarrah McNeil stated that let her pull it up.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated that they contract is attached.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that she feels that at some point they increase their pay to try to get more people.

Chief Charles Roca stated that is correct.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated that they made a concerted effort on the communications side to increase awareness of the available of these jobs.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked Ms. McNeil what was the cost last year.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated that he can answer that. It was around \$520,000.

Ms. Sarrah McNeil stated that she has the rate that they are going to propose. It is \$27.22 per hour.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach asked if that is what the employ gets. No way.

Ms. Sarrah McNeil stated they said \$27.22 per hour, per guard. It is based on 49 crossing guards compensated on an average of three hours per day or 180 school days annually.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that there are no more issues with crossing guards, right.

Chief Charles Roca stated that they had issues. It could be that the pay was lower. It attracted more people. It alleviates the police officers to have to cover those corners which eats up a lot of manpower. They a determining the best layout.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated that is the rate they charge us is \$27.22 per hour. What they are paying their employees may not be detailed in the contract.

Ms. Sarrah McNeil stated that they say \$27.22 per hour, per guard.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that is a lot.

Ms. Sarrah McNeil stated that is a lot, but that is what they have in the paragraph under proposed hourly rate.

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked how much will this be for a year.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated \$720,241.20

Attorney Charles Smith stated that might be quantifying their internal costs.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated that is their internal costs. He stated to Ms. McNeil for a point of clarification, we you do the math, 49 crossing guards, three hours a day, 180 days a year times \$27.22 equals the \$720,241.20. Whatever their margin is would be the difference of what they pay their employees. There is a performance standard and meet the expectations.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that the reality is that they had issues getting guards and now there are no issues. Obviously, they are happy with their wages.

Chief Charles Roca stated that he would agree with that, but sometimes people don't like to go out in the cold, the rain, or the snow. Realistically, the city did a good job advertising this and getting the residents involved.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated to Ms. Gerlach that it would be good to find out how much they are getting per hour.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated that if the posts are not covered, it becomes the city's responsibility. It is significantly more expensive to hire a police officers to man the pedestrian crossing.

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

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

Enactment No: 30677

[15-6103](#)

R126

Authorization for Contract with RCM&D Self Insured Services Company, Inc. (d/b/a Sisco, Inc.) for a total of \$170,000.00 to act as a Third-Party Workers Compensation and Automobile Claims Administration (TPA) Services. This Contract term shall commence upon full execution and shall cease two (2) years thereafter. Upon written agreement, this contract may be extended for up to one (1) additional one (1) year term beyond the

contract expiration period.

Attachments: [R126 - TPA](#)
[Resolution #30678](#)

Ms. Sarrah McNeil stated that this was done as RFP 2023 - 24. It was advertised on May 3, 2023. On May 31 2023, the public opening was held and the city received three proposals. The evaluation committee held both technical and cost evaluations. The proposals were evaluated on the ability to move the RFP requirements and after all evaluations were conducted, the committee felt that oral interviews were necessary. The committee held oral interviews with the two highest scored firms on June 21st. The committee made recommendations to award based on the firms qualifications and overall score. The committee is recommending an award to RCM&D Self Insured Services Company, Inc.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked Mr. Ferry if he wanted to add to this.

Mr. John Ferry stated that the city is currently using a company called PMA and they have been with the city for a long time. They do great work, but the city wanted to go and see what other options were available. Luckily, the city had a lot of interest in this contract and decided to go with the change. They were really impressed with the companies analytics and data collection capabilities. They are excited to hopefully move forward with this contract.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated at a lower cost he presumes also. Any money saved, is a bonus for the taxpayers.

Mr. John Ferry stated that it is. About \$10,000 per year.

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

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

Enactment No: 30678

Minutes of Previous Meeting

[15-6099](#) July 19, 2023 City Council Meeting - ARPA Resolution Discussion Minutes

Attachments: [July 19, 2023 City Council Meeting - ARPA Resolution Discussion Minutes](#)

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

Communications

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that on June 23 about 10 after 10 at night he returned home from a job and having been involved in some of the arrests of the prior dog fighting that occurred in Allentown. It has its own specific sound believe it or not. He thought he heard two dogs fighting. When he came around to put his trash out, he looked in the direction where he thought it was coming from and it was not coming from that. He looked in the opposite direction and it was a female who he knows who always walks her dog at 10th and Green to about 22nd and 23rd walks back sometimes twice a day. She was screaming for someone to help her and that she was being attacked. He stated that he was a couple hundred feet if that. He ran down and another motorist had stopped. Her dog was getting attacked by a dog across the street who we later now know was not vaccinated, had no leash on it at the time, has been allowed to run free before. He is not sure if it attacked anybody before that night. She stumbled and struck her head. The dog did grab her, but did not break the skin. Her dog has now had four surgeries and the other person has been cited and been given a Hearing Notice that he will appear at. He stated that here is the issue that he has. It is not a major issue per se for him, but he called the Staff Review Office last Tuesday asking since she runs a business, if he can come down and get a copy of the report since his name would more than likely be on it as a witness. He stated that he was informed that it was not. He instructed the victim that she would have to go down and get it herself. She took time off from work. She went down last Thursday and while she was there and by the way the rule of the Police Department is if you are a victim in a crime and you pay the \$15, you are entitled to see a copy of the Report. When it was all said and done she left there completely distraught and crying. She describe the individual to him and he is not going to get into that. It very sad that somebody that is a taxpayer in this city, had to leave a Police Department when they followed the proper procedures to get a Report. It has to go through that after all she has done. They would not give her the Report because she did not have the other party's name. She needed that Report so that she could file private charges through either his homeowner or him to cover the four surgeries for the dog. That is not how we should operate in this city.

Mr. Santo Napoli stated that he wanted to remind residents and visitors and encourage them to park in the government deck when they attend City Council meetings. Mr. Hanlon has vouchers for free parking.

Old Business

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that he has a constituent/taxpayer ask him to ask Mayor Tuerk. Last week, he almost ran over the motorcyclist that is driving down our street and last year, on July 23rd you held a press conference forming a Taskforce. Their question was that they have seen no reduction of these guys riding around. He asked how many meetings have been held

with that Taskforce to try to prevent what is going on.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated that there have been no subsequent meetings of the Taskforce. They got together one time recently about an update to the Taskforce.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated to Mayor Tuerk you need to step that up.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated thank you, sir.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any other comments for Old Business.

REPORTS**REPORTS****Budget and Finance: Chair Napoli, Hendricks, Gerlach**

The Committee met this evening; the next meeting is scheduled for August 9 at 5:30 PM.

Community and Economic Development: Chair Mota, Napoli, Affa

The committee met this evening; the next meeting is scheduled for August 9 at 6 PM.

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

The Committee met on June 26th at 6:30 PM; there are no meetings schedule at this time.

Parks and Recreation: Chair Gerlach, Affa, Mota

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

Public Safety: Chair Affa, Hendricks, Zucal

The committee met on June 26th at 5:30 PM; there are no future meetings scheduled.

Public Works: Chair Zucal, Santos, Hendricks

The Committee met on June 26th at 6 PM; there are no future meetings scheduled at this time.

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

The committee has not met since the last Council meeting; a future meeting has not been established.

Controller's Report (3 minutes)

Mr. Jeffrey Glazier gave an Accounts Payable Report from 7/1/2023 - 7/28/2023.

During that time period, they reviewed 489 checks, 966 invoices with a total amount of a little bit over \$3 million. There were 19 manual checks for \$229,000, and four wires for a little bit over \$1 million. He went over the findings of over payments, a wire issue and credits quarterly which the Accounting Department netted out the invoices. It interrupted the audit trail. Next Wednesday, there is a Budget and Finance meeting for the month of August and the interns will be giving their process flows.

Mayor's Report (3 minutes)

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated that the bridge at Martin Luther King and Wire Mill at Lehigh

and Sixth Street is now open. There is much easier access. He was happy to see Mr. Hendricks. A few things that brought our community together. Romper Day is an absolutely awesome experience. Celebrating 109th Romper Day. He thanked John Rubric (sp) with the assistance of Chris Hendricks and recreation team. Mark calendar for next year. The last Saturday of July, friends on S. Race Street celebrates the S. Race Street Block Party. It is a tremendous gathering. He thanked the firefighters for coming out and keeping everybody cool before the rain showed up and did the job for us. Two events happened at the same time. The Awesome Fest which is a basketball tournament for high school kids and area high school kids. The Heritage Classes returned to Valania Park. He thanked the Parks and Recreation team for a fantastic job that they did organizing. He welcomed neighbors from Bethlehem and said he is glad they are here. He looks forward to seeing them this Saturday. The developer for the State Hospital property is holding a community feedback event. He highly encouraged Council and all the residents to attend, give an opportunity to listen to neighbors' concerns as it relates to development on the east side. He showed Council a monthly calendar that the Mayor's office has been producing showing the events that are coming up for each month. The month of August is here. September 3rd, is Indian Heritage Month which is celebrated in Arts Park. He talked about Classics and Cruisers. ASD is doing a back to school event on Tuesday, August 15.

Mr. Ed Zucal asked for times for the ASD back to school event.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated that he believes it starts around noon. He will consult his calendar. It is a Cedar Beach starting at 1:00 PM - 7:00 PM.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that this is awesome. At least they know what is going on. She stated that she, Mr. Hendricks and other Councilmembers have missed out on a lot of the events because they were not aware.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated that these calendars are mailed out to all city emails, posted on Facebook and on the front desk of City Hall in the lobby. He thanked Katherine Mako and the Mayor's office for pulling this stuff together.

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE (To be Voted On):

[15-6065](#)

Bill 66

Amending the 2023 General Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$80,000) from the unappropriated balance to the Department of Community and Economic Development – Health Bureau equipment expense account. The funds will be used for purchasing a mobile medical response trailer and an SUV to be used in public health response.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 66 Health Preparedness SUV](#)

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

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that this was passed in committee and they are excited because they will be able to purchase a Medical Response Trailer.

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

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

[15-6064](#)

Bill 67

Amending the 2023 Capital Fund Budget to provide for a transfer of Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000.00) from the Parks Maintenance Facility capital project fund to the Mack Pool capital project fund to provide for an evaluation and recommendations for repairs to the Mack Pool facility.

Attachments: [Bill 67 Parks Facility to Mack Pool](#)

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that it was forwarded favorably to the meeting tonight.

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

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

[15-6063](#)

Bill 68

Amending the Firemen's Pension Fund Ordinance.

Attachments: [Bill 68 Firemen's Pension Fund Amendments](#)
[IAFF CBA 2021-2025](#)

Mr. Santo Napoli stated that this was moved forward favorably as it cleared up the language in our ordinance to match the CBA for the firefighters. He asked if there were any comments or questions from his colleagues or the public.

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

[15-6062](#)

Bill 69

Amending the Employees' Retirement and Pension System Ordinance.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 69 OE Pension Fund Amendments](#)

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

Mr. Santo Napoli stated that it was moved forward favorably as well.

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

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

[15-6069](#)

Bill 71

Amending the 2023 General Fund budget to accommodate the reorganization of positions to allow the Parks and Recreation Department to operate more efficiently, prepare for future project work and be in compliance with the home rule charter.

Attachments: [Bill 71 - Parks Reorg](#)
[ReOrg Chart](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that it was in Ms. Gerlach's committee.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that it was forwarded favorably this evening.

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

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

[15-6070](#)

Bill 72

Amending Part II General Legislation, Chapter 298 Flood Control, Article IV Administration by updating the language in Section 13 and Article VI by updating the language in Section 26.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 72 - Flood Control Amendment](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that this was in Community and Economic Development.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that this forwarded favorably in front of full Council. It is updating the language that aligns with the FEMA requirements.

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

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

[15-6050](#)

Bill 73

Amending Chapter 406, Administrative Code, Nuisance Abatement.A.

Board Solicitor for Hearings by having the Appeals Board select a Solicitor for purpose of the appeal hearings. The legislation basically does some housecleaning on the measure that was previously passed.

Sponsors: Affa and Hendricks

Attachments: [Bill 73 Nuisance Abatement Appeals](#)

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

Ms. Cynthia Mota thanked Mr. Hendricks and stated that this was also forwarded favorably in front of full Council. It has to do with the board having its own Solicitor.

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

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

[15-6066](#)

Bill 74

Amending the 2023 General Fund budget to create three (3) new positions and upgrade two (2) positions in the Allentown Health Bureau. The funds for these positions were awarded as a grant from the Center for Disease Control.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 74 Grant Funded Health Positions](#)

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

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that this was also forwarded favorably to the full Council. It has to do with upgrading positions to move it out of the General Fund.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked Mr. Hanlon if he had to do an amendment to this with the full vote.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that was the shortest term ever served.

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

A motion was made by Cynthia Mota, seconded by Santo Napoli, that this Bill amended to Change the Name in Section I Community Health Paramedic to Public Health Paramedicine Specialist

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

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any questions or comments.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that he knows Ms. Santos will do a great job. He stated that he is just curious why Ms. Affa does not want to be on it anymore. He asked if her time was up.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that they found it better for her not to be on.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that is your baby. That's your gig.

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

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

[15-6121](#)

R128

Natalie Santos (Replacing Candida Affa), Nuisance Abatement Board of Appeals

Attachments: [R 128 Appointment Natalie Santos - Nuisance Abatement Board of Appeals \(Replacing Candida Affa\) Resolution #30679](#)

Enactment No: 30679

[15-6078](#)

R129

Sewage Planning Module at Stack Storage Allentown – 2118 Hanover Avenue.

Attachments: [R129 Stack Storage Allentown - Sewage Planning Module](#)
[00A Letter and Checklist](#)
[00B Completeness Checklist](#)
[01 Municipal Transmittal Letter](#)
[02 Resolution of Adoption](#)
[03A Component 3 and Attachments Combined](#)
[03B LCA Allocation Letter](#)
[04 Signed Component 4A City of Allentown](#)
[05 Signed Component 4B LVPC](#)
[06 Flow Calculations](#)
[Resolution #30680](#)

Enactment No: 30680

[15-6084](#)

R130

Certificate of Appropriateness for work in the Historic Districts: 246 N. 11th St.; 449 N. 10th St.; 347 N. 8th St.; 745-47 W. Turner St.; 44 N. West

Attachments: [R130 HARB Resolution](#)
[44 N West Street Final Review](#)
[246 N 11th Street Final Review](#)
[347 N 8th Street Final Review](#)
[449 N 10th Street Final Review](#)
[745-47 W Turner Street Final Review](#)
[Resolution #30681](#)

Enactment No: 30681

RESOLUTIONS FOR FINAL PASSAGE (To be Voted On):

[15-6056](#)

R124

Denial of a Certificate of Appropriateness – 1033 ½ W. Court Street

Attachments: [R124 HARB Resolution to DENY - 1033.5 W Court St](#)
[1033.5 W Court St Final Review](#)

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that it was tabled. They need more information.

This Resolution was tabled.

Enactment No: 30682

[15-6104](#)

R131

Authorization for Contract with Pinebrook Family Services in the amount of \$100,000 per year to provide professional services, Mental Health Liaison Program - sole source, one year contract with option for two additional renewal terms of one year each.

Attachments: [R131 Resolution - Pinebrook Agreement](#)
[Resolution #30683](#)

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

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that they have two members from there helping us now, correct. He asked about the \$100,000 covering how many workers.

Chief Charles Roca stated that we currently have one. One left the employment of Pinebrook. He stated that all together it will be two. They are in the process of hiring tomorrow. They have interviews with Pinebrook to pick a new second Community Intervention Specialist.

Mr. Ed Zucal asked if two were enough.

Chief Charles Roca stated no, we need more and hopefully they will be able to get more.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that he can't make a motion now, he will come up with a Resolution for a later date. He stated that it seems like we are trying to solve issues here with mental illness. He asked if there is a way to take additional funding from the General Fund to increase to four.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated that they budgeted for the 2023 budget for \$208,000. It is a question to come into an agreement. They have a partnership agreement with Lehigh County to fund the other person. If they can strike an agreement with the county to increase the manpower, it would come out of our additional funds. This is something you will see in the 2024 budget which is a desired increase for funding for this program.

Mr. Ed Zucal asked if they can get four onboard versus two.

Chief Charles Roca stated with the appropriate vetting of people, absolutely.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any other comments.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that she voted for this every single year, even though she obviously does not think it goes far enough. She continues to vote for it. She thinks it should be referred to committee because they have not gotten data yet to see how well it is working. Based on the communication you and Mr. Hanlon, the report is finished and it is in the hands of the county. We don't have it and it then brings up the question of the original semi-finished report that we received from Cedar Crest was different from what they gave to the county. She asked if the city report done or just the county report done.

Chief Charles Roca stated that the county's report is in partnership with the city. If the county funded the report, it goes through the process of the county. By having them review it which they are not done yet he will be happy to provide them with an approval, a copy of the report so that you can review it as well.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that Mr. Hendricks talked about the importance of data at the equity meeting at Fountain Park and he is data driven. She does feel that it is important that before they make decisions about continuing the program and got data to make those decisions on. The only data she has is from a year ago when they first presented. She asked if

they had updated data.

Chief Charles Roca stated that they are making data driven decisions as far as the Police Department. This is a Resolution and something that should be voted on right now then go to committee. These workers have been working since January. He wants to pay them for the work that they have done. He stated that they will be happy to provide Ms. Gerlach with data at an upcoming time.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach asked if they city already had a contract with them. Why do we have to do this now? Did the Lehigh County pull out for paying for this?

Chief Charles Roca stated that he cannot answer for Lehigh County, but can say that last year you may recall was on a Purchase Order and wanted to make it correct by doing it as a contract. It was pointed out by the Controller who talked about it. This is the steps to do that. In lieu of making an MOU with Pinebrook Family Answers for the purpose of this program. That is what brought us to today for the authorization for the contract.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach asked what would happen if it was a two-week delay and have Mr. Vogler or someone come in and say what they have been up to before we say here is more money.

Attorney Sarah Rotz stated that the Police Department reached out to the Solicitor's office to help draft a contract to formalize the process as Mr. Glazier recommended. It is the Solicitor's understanding that this will just formalize the agreement that is already in place to have the terms more official between the parties and have a contract in place in Rule 7D, Council Rules do say when a Resolution first appears on the agenda, it will be acted upon at the meeting unless the presiding officer or Council by a majority vote and submit such matters to the appropriate committee.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach asked for a copy of that contract.

Attorney Sarah Rotz stated that it is still under review by the parties. It is drafted and will be reviewed by the city and then go out to Pinebrook.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach asked if there is an anticipated month, not date when they will get some information about the successes that is happening and challenges.

Chief Charles Roca stated that as soon as he can provide her with something, he will within a month's timeframe at the latest.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that she would want a more community response. They have to work with what they got. She will support it. It just would be great to have some more information as they make these decisions. She stated that they do that for a lot of other things. She stated that Council tables things, push things off if we say we don't have enough information.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated that when we prepare the 2024 budget, they will have the full report from Pinebrook and Cedar Crest and can offer a theory of change and a reason for the expected outcomes. When they appear before them in the 2024 budget process, certainly asking for increases in the level of funding to increase the investment in the program. It will be based on the reports. The expectation is that this is a successful program and asking Council to take action tonight to formulize the agreement that they are preparing and that the reporting will provide Council with the data necessary to make a decision about it in terms of increase investment in the program which will result in an improved intervention which should result in improve outcomes for residents.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that she definitely looks forward to the report. The first time when Professor Hoke was here. Some of the questions weren't exactly able to be addressed and measured. A question was how many arrests have been diverted. She suggested that Vogler was a better person to present. She asked if they can get him here to present. She is not saying that she is a number one fan of this program, but he definitely cleared up some of her misinterpretations.

Chief Charles Roca stated that they can always speak with him. That is an absolute possibility.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that he's got data for whatever reason Cedar Crest just did not present.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated that when City Council votes on this Resolution tonight, it won't put this topic to bed. They are happy to continue presenting the results of the investment of this program over the course of the next weeks and months. It is something that we believe in and have visual evidence as a result of our investment and partnership with Pinebrook with the county. We are happy to prepare and develop and deliver the data to get to you in partnership with our colleagues at Pinebrook and the county as it becomes available.

Chief Charles Roca invited Council to come out and see what the CIS does in the day to day and also when they do a ride along with officers and how that interaction takes place in the community. They very much want to

collaborate and serve our residents the best that they can.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Mayor Tuerk and Chief Roca and asked Ms. Gerlach if that was all.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that is it.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if there were any other questions or comments.

Mr. Santo Napoli asked Chief Roca mentioned a desire to increase this program, but you mentioned difficulty in doing so. Is that budgetary or the lack of qualified candidates.

Chief Charles Roca stated that it was more budgetary. They want to be able to put funds to it. It will be a great benefit to our community. He wants to give the CIS program its sole justice. It appears that it is always something else. This is something that they are shaping in collaboration with the Allentown Police Department that provides these outcomes for our residents and our community to be able to divert people from having to go to jail or helping people that are repeat callers to 911. It is something that is ongoing and growing. It adds values to our services overall in the city in conjunction and collaboration with the county.

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if they are inviting Council to do a ride along.

Chief Charles Roca stated that he always do. He opens the Allentown Police Department to any member of Council. Please come along. Even if it is not with the CIS Program, see what our officers do day to day. Understand the calls of services that they are going on. There are two members of Council that are former Police Officers and have an understanding, but things over the years have changed as well. It is important to get that understanding from the officers' perspective not just Chief of Police Roca. They are a department that wants to be able to connect and interact positively with the community.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that she did a ride along and she was really impressed. She stated that she would love to do one with Ce Ce Gerlach. She stated that when you are ready, she will go along with her.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that they will see. Thank you for the offer.

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

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

Enactment No: 30683

[15-6106](#)

R132

Authorization for Contract with Norfolk Southern Railway to provide preliminary engineering services.

Attachments: [R132 - Norfolk Southern Agreement](#)
[Resolution #30684](#)

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

Mr. Ed Zucal asked what is the Engineering Services for.

Mr. Mark Hartney stated that this is associated with a land development. There is a land crossing that the city has asked the developer to look at. Norfolk Southern because they are regulated by the PUC won't enter into an agreement with a developer. They would only enter into an agreement with the municipality. The city established an escrow account with the developer. The city is not paying anything for this. They just want to have an agreement with the city. Norfolk Southern feels better contracting with the city of Allentown than a developer.

Mr. Ed Zucal asked where is this at.

Mr. Mark Hartney stated 1901 S. 12th Street.

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

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

Enactment No: 30684

[15-6105](#)

R133

Authorizes the submission of the formal application for a Pennsylvania DCED Emergency Solutions Grant in the amount of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00) to benefit Lehigh Valley Regional Homeless Advisory Board members. This grant will allow sub-recipients to provide homeless services and resources to the region's homeless population.

Attachments: [R133 - PA ESG](#)
[Resolution #30685](#)

Ms. Vicky Kistler stated that this is the distribution where it is a pass through of the allocation to the RHAB for the RHAB to be able to deal with the issues around homelessness. The Regional Homeless Advisory Board

gets its money through this allocation.

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

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

Enactment No: 30685

[15-6107](#)

R134

Authorizes the submission of the formal application for funding from the DCED Multimodal Transportation Fund (MTF) Grant Services in the amount of One Million Four Hundred and Three Thousand Dollars (\$1,403,000) for three intersections on 17th Street.

Attachments: [R134 - DCED Mutimodal Transportation Fund Grant Resolution #30686](#)

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked where are those intersections.

Mayor Matt Tuerk stated that these are the signalized intersections at 17th and Hamilton, 17th and Linden and 17th and Turner. It improves traffic safety along the corridor leading to Allen High School.

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

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

Enactment No: 30686

[15-6096](#)

R135

Approves transfer: (1) \$136,500.00 in Information Systems to Cover \$122,000.00 from Account #46 Used to Pay for new allentownpa.gov website which was a non-budgeted expense and to Cover Slight Overages of the Microsoft and ESRI Contracts.

Attachments: [R135 Transfer Funds To Cover \\$122,000 from Account 46 Used to Pay for New allentownpa.gov website Resolution #30687](#)

Mr. Gerry Anthony stated that the \$122,000 was overlooked funding for the 2023 budget. IT needs an interdepartmental transfer from the 42 to the 46 Account to cover expenses.

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

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

Enactment No: 30687

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

[15-6109](#)

Bill 75

Amending the 2023 General Fund budget to allow for a position name change in the Department of Public Works, Recycling and Solid Waste, by changing the SWEEP Officer position to SWEEP Officer Bilingual.

Attachments: [Bill 75 - SWEEP Officer Retitle](#)

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

REFERRED TO THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

[15-6110](#)

Bill 76

Amending the 2023 Capital Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) from People's First Federal Credit Union to support the mini-pitch system at Jordan Meadows.

Attachments: [Bill 76 People's First Donation](#)

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

REFERRED TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

[15-6111](#)

Bill 77

Amending the 2023 General Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Two-Million-Dollars (\$2,000,000.00) grant funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to address housing related hazards include radon remediation, asbestos abatement, as well as electrical and plumbing repairs

Attachments: [Bill 77 Grant Funded PAHHP0110-23](#)

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

REFERRED TO THE COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

[15-6094](#)

Bill 78

Providing for the vacation of Dodge Street from the centerline of South Muhlenberg Street to the centerline of Vacated South Brighton Street in the

Eighteenth Ward of the City of Allentown.

Attachments: [Bill 78 Dodge Street from the centerline of South Muhlenberg Street Vacation Dodge Street Vacation Report](#)
[Letter from Mike Hanlon regarding Dodge Street from S. Muhlenberg Street to S. 24th Street - Street Vacation Dodge Street from South Muhlenberg Street to South 24th Street - Vacation Report](#)
[Lehigh Valley Planning Commission Letter regarding Dodge Street Vacation Petition](#)
[S. Muhlenberg Street S 24th Street Labels](#)

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

REFERRED TO THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

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

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Candida Affa stated that she wants to clarify when Mr. Zucal asked her about the Nuisance Abatement. She stated that she takes it very seriously. She was with the Nuisance Abatement from the very beginning, eight years ago and the Disruptive Conduct. Those boards are so important. As legislators, they make these laws. It is so important that it is not kicked to the curb. That they are done in a way that we can win and get disruptive people out of our city. You are a judge when you are sitting up there. She stated that she made comments publicly and she sticks with them. She would like to see the after hours clubs shutdown. She made the comments, so she cannot be a judge. She respects and would not do anything that will hurt the city's chances to win in every case. She stated that lawyers, the police officers, and the administration are working hard for that. She would have to recuse herself almost every time. She commends all the people that volunteers to do this because they have to take it very serious, understand, listen and be fair judges. In the case she made statements, she made them publicly. She does not want to interfere. She wants it done right.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks commended Ms. Affa for her candor for speaking on that.

Mayor Matt Tuerk asked if he can build on the importance of that. If there are members of the public that are listening, it is an opportunity through the city of Allentown's website to submit an application for consideration to be appointed to both the Nuisance Abatement and Disruptive Conduct Appeal Boards. There are critically important positions and we need excellent representation from the cost of the city of Allentown to ensure that we are

conducting the most fair process possible. Anybody that is out there and members of Council as they work through the community, please encourage people to submit an application for consideration.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Mayor Tuerk for that.

GOOD AND WELFARE

Mr. Ed Zucal gave a piece of advice stating he found through experience that if you buy a Roku TV, you don't have to buy the separate Roku remote.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Mr. Zucal for that tip.

ADJOURNED: 7:49 PM