

ORDINANCE NO.

FILE OF CITY COUNCIL

BILL NO. 34 - 2023

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INTRODUCED BY

APRIL 19, 2023

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AN ORDINANCE

Amending the 2023 General Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Twenty Thousand (\$20,000.00) Dollars from WIP Allentown Redevelopment LLC. The funds will be deposited into an escrow account for payment of invoices from Norfolk Southern for their fees and costs relative to their review of the proposed design and construction of the pedestrian crossing.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ALLENTOWN:

SECTION ONE: That City Council authorizes a supplemental appropriation of Twenty Thousand (\$20,000.00) Dollars in the following manner:

**NS Escrow – 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Reimbursement**

**000-5214**

**\$ 20,000.00**

SECTION TWO: That this Ordinance will take effect ten (10) days after final passage.

SECTION THREE: That all Ordinances inconsistent with the above provisions are repealed to the extent of their inconsistency.

## Legislative Template

- What department or bureau is this bill originating from? Where did the initiative for the bill originate?

Public Works - Engineering

- Summary and facts of the bill.

WIP Allentown Redevelopment LLC (a commercial property developer) has obtained conditional approval from the City of Allentown Planning Commission to redevelop the property at 1901 S 12<sup>th</sup> Street with a commercial building and to investigate a possible public pedestrian sidewalk crossing along S 12<sup>th</sup> St over the existing Norfolk Southern Railway that runs along the west boundary of the property. The developer is willing to fund the public pedestrian sidewalk crossing, but Norfolk Southern requires the City to be the project sponsor. The purpose of this bill is to accept \$20,000 from the developer to be deposited into an escrow account established by the City for payment of invoices from Norfolk Southern for their fees and costs relative to their review of the proposed design and construction of the pedestrian crossing.

- Purpose – Please include the following in your explanation:
  - a. What does the bill do? What are the specific goals or tasks the bill seeks to accomplish?

This bill would accept the \$20,000 from the developer and be placed in an escrow account.

- b. What are the benefits of doing this? What are the drawbacks?

The developer is willing to fund all costs and fees Norfolk Southern charges to the City relative to the design and construction of the pedestrian sidewalk crossing. Doing this would provide the funding the City needs to apply to Norfolk Southern to begin their review. Norfolk Southern requires payment for its costs and expenses incurred for reviewing and handling the Railroad Work.

- c. How does this bill relate to the City's vision/mission/priorities?

Allentown Vision 2030 has identified mobility challenges for this area and encourages projects that improve pedestrian access to jobs.

- Financial Impact – Please include the following in your explanation:
  - a. Cost (initial and ongoing)

There would be no cost because the City would be accepting the \$20,000 from the Developer to be placed in an escrow account.

b. Benefits (initial and ongoing)

- Funding Sources – Please include the following in your explanation:
  - a. If transferring funds, please make sure to give specific account names and numbers. If appropriating funds from a grant, please list the agency awarding the grant.

The \$20,000 accepted from the Developer would be deposited into revenue account 000-5214 (NS Escrow – 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Reimbursement).

- Priority status – Are there any deadlines to be aware of?

n/a

- Why should Council unanimously support this bill?

The developer is paying for the costs incurred so the City isn't responsible to pay for them and supporting this bill allows the City to work with the developer to pursue the public pedestrian crossing.