

Peter Schweyer, President
Michael Schlossberg, Vice President
Frank J. Concannon
Jeanette Eichenwald
Julio A. Guridy
Ray O'Connell

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ORGANIZATIONAL/COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
January 3, 2012

COUNCIL CHAMBERS
Council Meeting – 6:00 PM

- 1. Invocation: Jeanette Eichenwald**
- 2. Pledge to the Flag**

The meeting was called to order.

- 3. Roll Call:** Concannon, Eichenwald, Guridy, O'Connell, Schlossberg, and Schweyer were present
Frances Fruhwirth represented the Solicitor's office.

- 4. Courtesy of the Floor:** None

Mr. Donovan stated that when he was inaugurated four years ago there was an opportunity for outgoing Council people to make remarks and he would like to say thank you, again, to the residents and taxpayers of Allentown and the people who voted for me and the staff for everything that they do. He thanked Mr. Hanlon and Ms. Whitehead for making his job so much easier. Thank you Fran for so much legal support. Ken Bennington it was always a pleasure on Friday mornings to discuss the issues of the city, it was one of my fondest of times each week and thank you Mayor Pawlowski for your help with my election and trying to move the city forward. He stated that Mr. Concannon had asked me if I were interested in running for City Council and thank you for that since it was one of the most enjoyable experiences in my professional career.

- 5. Swearing In of New Councilpersons**

Jeanette Eichenwald
Peter Schweyer
Frank J. Concannon

The Councilpersons were sworn in.

Remarks of New Councilpersons

Ms. Eichenwald stated that it is an honor to have the privilege to go first, I am a teacher and as a teacher I love to tell stories. Once upon a time a long time ago in a city far away there was a desire to hold a celebration and all the citizens of that city would participate in this glorious day. They decided what would make this day very special if everyone could have just a little bit of wine to toast all the years that they have worked together. Into the center of this square they brought a huge empty barrel and every citizen said that they will bring just a little bit of wine to fill up the entire barrel so the night of the celebration it would be full, but one member of our community said that I don't have as much as others, I'll just bring a glass of water instead and somebody else said, I'm very busy I don't have time to go and bring my little glass of wine and another person illuminated and thought that they have too many responsibilities, too many hardships, and things that I need to take care of I'm not going to go either, but night after night, the citizens came and deposited a glass of liquid into the big barrel then came the night of celebration and everyone in the city gathered in the town square with excitement and joy and anticipation waiting for the great moment when they turn the spigot of the barrel all that came out was water and so it is that it is incumbent upon everyone to take responsibility, those who have more and those who have less. Those who have responsibilities and those that may have less if we the citizens of Allentown each and every one of us volunteers and participates and serve as an example then our community will have a glorious celebration. All of our citizens deserve the opportunity to make a difference to have a chance at success, prosperity and contentment within this glorious city. Economic development, clean and safe streets, a reduction of crime, this is a job not only for those of us that sit in

positions of administration or here on city council or work for the city. It is the challenge, the obligation and the responsibility of every citizen to participate to make this a better place to live. It's moments such as this that fill me with overwhelming awe at the majesty, the glory and the magnificence of the United States of America and this city in which I have chosen to live. As the daughter of immigrants, parents who are survivors of the holocaust, my father and mother arrived here and my father weighed seven-eight pounds, blind and death as a result of the greatest evils of government. I am filled with deep emotions this evening to think that I their daughter only one generation later will be given the opportunity to do the best that government can do to make lives good, to make righteous, justice and mercy to those people among who I live. I thank tonight, exceptionally my husband, my companion in life; I thank him for his good counsel and for his love. I thank my children and my grandchildren those who might have met them at the polls know that they are indeed my secret weapon, but most of all I thank the citizens of this city for having entrusted me with another opportunity to serve. I am grateful and appreciative of their confidence. She stated to Michael and Michael your wisdom and dedication and commitment to the city. To Julio, Peter and Michael and Ray I look forward to continuing our work and Frank how very much I look forward to your joining us this evening. Thank you to all of you that is present here tonight and I hope that the legacy of this city is one of generosity and spirit, considering all of their needs and knowing that I care deeply about this city that I call home.

Mr. Frank Concannon stated that not being able to deliver a simple talk as Ms. Eichenwald has in such a way and not having any new jokes I shall pass, thank you.

Mr. Schweyer thanked Mr. Concannon, said good evening everyone and thanked him for taking the deferral of the floor this evening of an offer of kindness. It's funny how much stuff happens in the course of four years over the last four years my mother-in-law was home with an eight month old baby girl and we were sworn in here with an audience that looks similar to today. It was joined by my mother and my stepmother and my new colleagues. He stated that he is an Allentown kid and he was born and raised in Allentown and his father served this city for many years as a worker in parks and water and eventually our meter shop. It is every kid's dream to be able to contribute to our hometown in one way or another and at the end of the day we should all strive to improve our hometown in public service or do it in other ways. I see so many people here from so many different communities' labor and charitable organizations Dan Meist is here from Stevens Park, Ken Laudenslager, and Joe Davis served as president of Midway Manor and our folks from the Syrian community are here and Adrian Shanker from Equality PA, who all serve our community and the collective city in ways that are vitally important. We created a city that he believes that is the best city to work, live and raise a family in the Lehigh Valley and beyond. There is not a place he prefers to call home more than Allentown and is deeply honored to be able to serve his hometown with all of you in this room that makes this place great and it's a dear honor. In the last four years he serves with nine different members of City Council and now one mayor and after this evening two controllers and he will tell you the level of commitment that is demonstrated that serves your government and your city is tremendous. They are good people that work hard every day and get up and think about ways to make our hometown better. We should all be grateful for the folks that are seated to my right and my left and the folks that have served us beforehand and folks that clearly would come after us. I thank you all for the opportunity to once again have another four years to serve my hometown.

Mr. Guridy made a motion to suspend the rules to postpone organizing council until February 1st when the council vacancy is filled; and that until the vacancy is filled we postpone the rules relating to the committee structure, continuing with our structure until we have a full complement of Council.

Mr. O'Connell seconded the motion.

Mr. Schweyer stated that it is a result of a conversation that we had at the last council meeting.

Motion to suspend the rules 6 – 0

7. Swearing In – City Controller

Mary Ellen Koval

Ms. Koval was sworn in.

Remarks of Controller

Mr. Koval thanked everyone for joining her and to the distinguished elected officials, our guests, friends and family who came out to support us tonight. She acknowledged her predecessor, Mr. Hoffman, for the time he spent as City Controller for the past four years and she wished him well in his retirement. She stated that she brings public and private sector

experience and she looks forward to working with City Council and the administration on moving Allentown forward. She accepts the office with a deep set of responsibilities and with an unwavering focus in keeping faith, trust and confidence the voters placed with me. Thank you for being here and I look forward to working with all of you and with Mr. Ken Bennington and Mayor Pawlowski.

8. Remarks by the Mayor

Mayor Pawlowski thanked City Council for letting him share a few words and stated that it is an honor to be here this evening. He welcomed back the returning members of City Council. He congratulated Ms. Koval who is joining them in an elective role in the first time. It is exciting when a colleague that you have known for many years moves forward into a new role and responsibility. He looks forward to working with City Council individually and collectively in the coming terms. His door is always opened and he looks forward to all of them as together we move Allentown forward. Now, that the election process is over and they no longer counting belts they can count what unites us. The cause we believe in to achieve and brighter future for the city for which we all love and the challenging we tackle together as a community. We may not always agree on how that is done, but we do agree on the basic premise on making Allentown a better place to live for our residents, a better place to work and do business and a better place to play for those who come and revisit our city. Because of our collective hard work and our collective sacrifice and our tenacity and our resilience Allentown is transforming. Like any other urban city in America we have our share challenges. Any fair share of analysis shows we have made tremendous progress on many fronts and have started to rebuild our city. Six years, when I took office, our goal was to lay a solid foundation based upon building blocks of public safety, fiscal stability and economic development. Building blocks that you have all mentioned tonight. Together, we have made tremendous strides in a number of areas and together you have challenges into opportunities and have laid solid footings in which to continue to build our future. We still have a ways to go, yes. Will we have setbacks in this rebuilding process, absolutely, but working together we will rebuild our economy and set a new foundation for our city's future, but this future will not happen without a fight. The continuous fragile state of our economy makes it difficult to see ahead, but the challenges are expected in our city going into 2012. In an understatement to say that we are living in complex and difficult times. Far too many people in Allentown, the Lehigh Valley and across the nation continue to feel the pain in one of our nation's worst economies and worst recession in almost seventy years and Allentown like cities across this commonwealth and country are not immune to the nation and global realities. Yet, to emerge from this dark tunnel with a robust post-recession economy he believes that we must work together to maintain our current course and commit ourselves the following to strengthen our city's overall fiscal health providing greater efficiencies and accountability and delivery of city services and improve residents quality of life and invest in our people and continue to create economic growth, development and jobs for our future. He stated that he understands the need for our city government to maintain fiscal discipline. Since taking office I have worked to continuously fixing our budget process and rectifying the mistakes in the past. Our commitment to responsible balance budgeting has paid off. We worked together and transformed an \$8 million deficit inherited by the previous administration into a multi-million dollar cash reserve which helps the city weather this unexpected economic downturn in our nation's economy and for the seventh straight year, we were able to propose a budget to City Council with no property tax increases. This meant less of a burden for the people who suffered the most in this economy, the unemployed and our senior citizens. I am proud of our record for fiscal responsibility over the past years, but despite our best efforts 2012 and 2011 we will face some daunting challenges in 2012. The burden and consequences of the nation of our national and state policies means decreased funding. Recently, I got a letter from HUD that we will have a decrease of over \$500,000 in CDBG funds over a thirteen percent decrease added on to the over 12.5 percent decrease we received last year. Increase in expectations that we received from our citizens, falling revenues and unexpected bills, most notably a mass increase in pensions with the downturn of the stock market and the early retirements of police and fire. In 2012, I remain committed to leading our city with fiscal restraints making tough fiscal choices on what to spend money on just like our residents and businesses do every day. You have my commitment that we will confront these challenges working together and creatively as a community knowing our success will mean that we will have created an even stronger vibrant city for the future. I believe what all of you stated here tonight that the most important obligation of government is that it is committed to public safety and the cornerstone of our city's foundation, it's the underpinning of everything that we are trying to build, it's the context of our economic growth, it's the setting of good jobs in the future, it's the building blocks of a strong and thriving community. Over the last several years, we have raged an attack on crime on many fronts; we have put more police on the streets, thanks to the coordinative efforts between the Council and the administration. Over the past six years, we have increased the size of our police force from its historic lows in 2006 by hiring and training 80 new officers to patrol and protect our neighborhoods and also thanks to federal grants we have over 20 more new officers on its way this year. We initiated the use of new crime fighting technology and implemented state of the art security cameras surveillance networks with 80 cameras watching the streets throughout our city. We targeted problem properties and establishments by utilizing pro-active smart policing, looking at new code enforcement strategies like the one Mr. Schweyer proposed at the beginning of last year and as a result of these efforts, Allentown is becoming a safer city. Now,

we measure success by results and when it comes to crime, the results are clear, crime is down in Allentown for the fifth straight year in the row. This is a testimony and testament of the dedication, the expertise and the hard work of our Allentown police officers and the trend is going in the right direction and I know we could do more, we must do more, and we will do more. Tonight, as we start a new term for many of you and a new year, I ask for your support to join me in this most important fight. There two issues that we talked about here tonight the unfunded pension liability and public safety having become our most pressing issues that we face as a city. Over half of our general fund balance, 47 million out of 84 million are spent dealing with either bad decisions in the past like the pension issue or bad behavior. I believe that it is a waste of taxpayers' money. It's a challenge and a change we have to make and together I think we will make that change. I would work tirelessly to move our city forward for next year and years ahead and I ask you to roll up your sleeves with me and let's show what we can do when we work together as a city. People of the city do not need to hear or read about acrimony. They see no value in a contentious relationship between the administration and City Council. They simply want us to lead and make Allentown a better place to live, work and play. When we work together as partners to bring a fabric of our city together as we draw this fabric closer we feel the warmth of human connections that will not only help us weather future storms, but lead our city back to greatness. I wish you the best of luck tonight, thank you for your service and I look forward to working with you.

Mr. Schweyer thanked the Mayor and stated that he failed to acknowledge one person in the audience and that's a member of our school board Ms. Ce-Ce Gerlach. Thank you for coming out here tonight. It is important and vital to know and to build that relationship between the school board, the school district, and the city as we talked about for years. In a year and a half my wife and I will be sending one of our children to one of the schools in the district and we appreciate your service and we have a vested interest to make sure we are successful for the people we serve collectively.

9. Approval of Minutes: None
10. Old Business: None

11. Communications: None

12. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

Mr. Schweyer stated that there have been no committee meetings since the last council meeting – a meeting scheduled will be forthcoming.

Budget and Finance:

Public Safety: Chairperson Eichenwald
None

Community and Economic Development: Chairperson Guridy
None

Parks and Recreation: Chairperson Ray O'Connell

If we have any committee agenda items, we will meet on January 18th at 6:30 PM

Public Works: Chairperson Schlossberg

We will have a Public Works meeting previous to the next Council meeting. The date and time to be determined

Human Resources, Administration and Appointments:

Rules, Chambers, Intergovernmental Relations and Strategy: Chairperson Schweyer

Mr. Schweyer stated that they will be addressed the Rules and you heard by Mr. Guridy on the first meeting in February.

OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

CONTROLLER'S REPORT

None

13. APPOINTMENTS:

14. ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE: None

15. ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION:

Bill 1 Traffic Control Map Amendment

Referred to Public Works

NO PARKING: St. Cloud Street - between Maple and Walnut Street (west side only, east side already permanently posted)

ONE WAY TO TWO WAY: St. Cloud Street - between Maple and Walnut Street

STOP: Maple Street at South St. Cloud Street

16. CONSENT AGENDA: None

17. RESOLUTIONS ON SECOND READING: None

18. RESOLUTIONS ON FIRST READING: None

19. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Schlossberg thanked Mr. Donovan and Mr. D'Amore for two years I had the privilege and the pleasure serving with both of you gentlemen, often agreeing frequently not and regarding I think the one thing I held dealing with both of you was that your passion is part of what made you both excellent public servants. I am grateful to serve with you and the city is a better place because what you did and I hope that I would be a better councilman because the experiences that I have learned from being with each of you. To Ms. Eichenwald and Mr. Schweyer, Mr. Concannon and Ms. Koval congratulations. An inaugural is very interesting to me because if you actually read our Charter you will see that this inaugural is completely symbolic. Everyone officially took office or re-took their office at noon today. Why are we here, why do we do this, I have in front of me a picture of my son and I do that as a reminder because believe it or not sitting up here, we have frustrating moments and there are times we sit here and say why in God's name are we here fighting an unwinnable fight when we could be home with our families and the reason why I keep that picture of my son is the same reason that we are all here today to remind ourselves and rededicate ourselves to our passion and though the seven of us, six right now up here may fight sometimes with each other occasionally with the mayor, we are all here truly for the best interest of our city and we are here to make a place that we have called home all of our lives or in some cases travelled here from New Jersey for better. It is always a pleasure to serve with everyone here.

Mr. Guridy congratulated the new councilmembers and welcomed back Mr. Concannon. He stated that he remember when he used to speak at council meetings and would speak to Mr. Concannon and then you went away and became controller for two terms and now you are back and I am happy to have you here. He thanked Mr. Donovan and Mr. D'Amore for your service. The city is a better place because the two of you being here. To the administration, I continue to look forward to working with you. He stated to Mr. Schweyer it is always a pleasure.

Mr. O'Connell stated that it is a pleasure. I was sworn in two years ago. I have two years down and two years to go and it has been an honor serving on City Council. I have been in Allentown for about thirty-six years and I did thirty-eight years with the Allentown School District and I love the school district and love the city. This city is coming back and being revitalized. He stated that he has known Mayor Pawlowski for quite a few years and there is not a harder working mayor in the country then Mayor Pawlowski. This man works 24 hours a day seven days a week to make Allentown a better city and he is making Allentown a better city. Sure, we have uphill climbs, many of them. The days of Hess's, Zolinger, and Lay's they are never coming back and we know that, but we can bring economic development, community development and hope to every citizen of Allentown. He stated to Mayor Pawlowski you are doing a fine job and you will continue to do a fine job and work tirelessly for the people of Allentown and I thank you for that. He stated to Mr. D'Amore you have always treated me with respect and courtesy and though as politicians we don't always agree, you are a very intelligent individual and I always respected what you had to say and I wish you the best as a judge. He stated to Michael Donovan that at times he kids him of being scholarly and prophesizing about this and that and I say it is jest. You have done so much for the city and we will really miss your mind in budget and finance. The numbers that he crunches month end and month out is unbelievable and he is on top of his game in budget and finance. I know that you a truly honored to serve the City of Allentown and the residents of Allentown. We can get into the philosophies on societal issues that had to be taken in Allentown they are deep rooted and they need to be addressed. He stated to his colleagues Ms. Jeanette Eichenwald you are on your second term and you are a wonderful lady who brings so much to the City of Allentown and like Mr. Schweyer said I will never want to follow you on an invocation or swearing in ceremony because you are so eloquent in your words. Mr. Schlossberg is a new kid on the block and I call him an import from New Jersey, but he is a good young kid, and intelligent young kid and he is going to go places. Mr. Schweyer, I have much respect for you as president and City Councilperson and there is a big future for you and we wish you well. Mr. Guridy, I have known you for many years and you represent the community extremely well and you should be proud of what you do for the city. Mr. Concannon, I

have known you for too long. He stated that they go back to 1978 when he was assistant principal at Raub Junior High School and you were involved in the Democratic Party. He stated that Mr. Concannon asked him would he be interested in running for City Council and I said no I am not ready for City Council at this time, but I did take your advice and run for City Council. We are going to have moments when we are not going to agree, but we need to disagree respectfully and civilly for the citizens of Allentown. We need to make decisions with our mind and our heart and we need to work cohesively as a group to bring this city forward all the way through. What is happening in the City of Allentown, it is a new birth, not only the arena project, there are lots of projects happening in Allentown and that's a credit to the city, the mayor, and the administration. Please continue to support Allentown and we are going to move Allentown forward.

Mr. Guridy congratulated Ms. Koval and stated that he looks forward to working with her. You bring a wealth of experience from the finance office and you will do a wonderful job filling the shoes of Mr. Hoffman. He stated that he likes to talk about the demographics of the community and as he looks out on the floor to the people, he is a little concerned that we are not fully represented of the community that we are representing here. All of us need to do a better job bringing some of the people in the city that are not here today into compliance and in tune of what we do in city hall. We need to integrate them and it is our responsibility to do that and we all are committed to do it.

Mr. Schweyer stated that he toured the sinkhole site in the city and it is certainly disconcerting. Sinkholes happen throughout our region and it was something that is tragic. He asked Mr. Schlossberg since he is acting chair of Public Works continue to work with the administration and we can get a report on what are some of our efforts are.

Ms. Eichenwald stated that she was chagrined to learn that there is not even insurance for these people. In a future date, we need to take the lead to develop some kind of way in which we can help. Other nature disasters that are covered by some form of insurance, this is not. We need to thank to the public servants in the City of Allentown that was there to help and aide and alleviate the dangerous situation.

Mr. Guridy stated that he was driving on 8th and Linden and there were big bulldozers there working the arena site and he would like to point that out. The arena is coming, the signs are there, and the fences are up and demolition started. Congratulations to the mayor, we will have a wonderful 2012 and 2013.

20. GOOD AND WELFARE

21. ADJOURNED 7:10 PM

Council meetings are held on the first and third Wednesday of each month beginning at 7:30 pm in Council Chambers. For copies of the agenda or meeting announcements, please visit our website at www.allentownpa.gov. or contact the Clerk at hanlon@allentowncity.org to receive an email notice of the meetings.