

Ray O'Connell, President
Julio A. Guridy, Vice President
Joseph Davis
Jeanette Eichenwald
Jeff Glazier
Daryl Hendricks
Cynthia Y. Mota



Allentown City Council
435 Hamilton Street
Allentown, Pa. 18101
AllentownPa.Gov

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COUNCIL MEETING
January 21, 2015
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – 7:00 PM

1. Invocation: Minister Maurice Diggs – New Christian Harvest Church
Monsignor Andrew R. Baker - Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena

2. Pledge to the Flag

3. Roll Call: Davis, Eichenwald, Glazier, Guridy, Hendricks, Mota, O'Connell
Dale Wiles represented for the Solicitor's office

4. Courtesy of the Floor

Mr. Kenneth Heffentrager, 733 N. 11th Street – Allentown Tenants' Association, stated that with all the construction, the buildings, the jobs coming in something needs to be done about affordable housing. Better sustaining jobs are needed.

Mr. Lou Shoop, 1130 Hamilton Street, stated that he is here with his partner Robert Trotner and they are representing a group of citizens called Represent Us which is designed to get money out of politics. He asked City Council to consider passing a nonbinding Resolution to get big money out of politics. Big money does not have a place in a democracy.

Mr. Guridy stated that we will certainly take this into consideration and get back to you with a decision.

Mr. Robert Trotner, Lehigh Valley Coffee Party, stated that it is the 50th Anniversary of Citizens United. For 220 Years in this country we had campaign contributions that worked fine. For the past five years, the result of Citizens United has been a major increase in corruption in politics.

Mr. O'Connell asked have you been to other legislative branches in the county.

Mr. Shoop stated we will in the near future. We are starting here.

Election of President and Vice President:

Mr. Guridy stated that we are now going to have a reorganization of Council. We are going to run the election for president and vice president. Mr. O'Connell for president and me for vice president.

Mr. Guridy nominated Councilman O'Connell for president.

Ms. Mota seconded the nomination.

ELECTION OF MR. RAY O'CONNELL FOR PRESIDENT PASSED, 7 – 0

Mr. Ray O'Connell stated that he got a surprise walk in from his wife and daughter which he told them both not to come. He thanked his wife, Mary Beth; his daughter Kaitlyn and son Brendon. He thanked his colleagues for their encouragement, support and confidence as incoming Council President. I thank my friends and supporters. I see some in the back in the audience tonight. I am truly honored and humble to serve Council as president for 2015. I have been blessed to have a great family supporting me throughout the years. I have been a public servant for 43 years. Thirty-eight years with the Allentown School District and five years on City Council. I care deeply about Allentown. My roots are here and I only want the best for the residents in Allentown. We are coming back. We need to serve the people of Allentown. People make the city great. I am going to bring total respect and dignity to Council Chambers. He thanked Maurice Diggs for his wonderful sermon and his pastor Monsignor Andrew Baker from St. Catherine of Siena. My goals and vision for this year, as Council President I will seek to ensure that each Councilperson add value to Council, work with the administration and the citizens. I look forward to your support and input. I want to strengthen our communication with the mayor, our employees and the residents of our city. To start up the Compliance Review Board with the Water and Sewer Lease Agreement. To look at opportunities with Council and other committee structures on the road. Not always meeting in Council Chambers, but going to the south side, the eastside, the west side, and the north side. To review and create an ideal collaborative legislation with the administration; the Controller, Mary Ellen Koval; the Solicitor's office. Review options to use social media and websites for meeting notices and information. Use our staff in City Hall more effectively to provide research and context in our decision-making. Create an on-going list of research and tasks and committees that can be prioritized, training of the staff, reviewing the Council Agenda presentation. Ensure delivery of agenda to council prior to public distribution, review our internal communication and look at the best Council practices throughout the valley, county and state. Review the table of contents on the Code and add to the website. He thanked everyone for being there.

Mr. Ray O'Connell nominated Mr. Julio Guridy for the nomination for Allentown Council Vice President.

Mr. Hendricks seconded the motion.

ELECTION OF MR. JULIO GURIDY FOR VICE PRESIDENT PASSED, 7 – 0

Mr. Julio Guridy thanked everyone and his colleagues for allowing him to serve as president for the past three years. I truly enjoy working with all of you. We spent some very interesting years the past few years. I have been on Council for 14 years. The last few years have been strong and powerful starting with the NIZ, the bridge across the Lehigh River and buildings that are going to be built, we worked with the preservice of not only Council, but the administration. People already know that Allentown is a city that is being redeveloped. It took less than two years to develop the PPL Center. That was a lot of work with a lot of people and a lot of jobs were developed. Last Friday, we had a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Renaissance Hotel. With the financial tsunami we had in the past few years we created and had a problem with our police and fire pensions. We were able to lease the water and sewer and reduce the pension liability and created an MMO that is mandated by the state and manageable for our city. We are able to stabilize our finances and pay our pensions. Here on the dais we had interesting moments and great debates. We have a budget that is balanced. He thanked Mr. O'Connell for being willing to take over the presidency. The three goals I have in mind: to increase the line of communication between legislative bodies and residents. Drafting a Council newsletter that is going to be developed. As a member of the Rules, Chambers, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee plan a few meetings for local government boards. I would like to complete the work of City Council Chambers. When I took over as president, this

was not the Chambers you see now. We remodeled this and brought it to the 21st Century. We started a legislative management system that began last year. He thanked, the administration, his colleagues and the public.

5. Approval of Minutes: December 3, 2014; January 7, 2015

APPROVED BY COMMON CONSENT

6. Old Business

NONE

7. Communications

Mr. Guridy stated that he has a letter from former Councilman Peter Schweyer who is the new State Representative for District 22. His office is open and is on 4th Street.

8. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

Budget and Finance: Interim Chairperson Guridy

The committee has not met since the last Council meeting; the next meeting is scheduled for January 28 at 6 PM.

Public Safety: Chairperson Eichenwald

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

Community and Economic Development: Chairperson Davis

The Committee has not met since the last Council meeting; the next meeting has not yet been scheduled.

Parks and Recreation: Chairperson Mota

The Committee has not met since the last Council meeting; the next meeting is not yet scheduled. There is a meeting scheduled February 5th at 6:30 PM at the St. Luke's Community Center on 7th Street to receive neighborhood input on the Stevens Park redevelopment.

Public Works: Chairperson O'Connell

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

Human Resources, Administration and Appointments: Chairperson Hendricks

The Committee has not met since the last Council meeting, the next meeting is not yet scheduled.

Rules, Chambers, Intergovernmental Relations and Strategy: Chairperson Guridy

The Committee has not met since the last council meeting. There are no future meetings scheduled as of this time.

Mr. O'Connell read the new Committee assignments.

- **Budget and Finance – Chair, Mr. Glazier**
- **Community and Economic Development – Chair, Mr. Guridy**
- **Human Resources, Administration and Appointments – Chair, Mr. Hendricks**
- **Parks and Recreation – Chair, Ms. Mota**
- **Public Safety – Chair, Ms. Eichenwald**
- **Public Works – Chair, Mr. Davis**
- **Rules, Chambers, Intergovernmental Relations and Strategy – Chair, Mr. O'Connell**

OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS

NONE

City Controller’s Report

NONE

Managing Director’s Report

Mr. Dougherty stated that the administration has committed one of every two meetings a month to bring city staff before you for a meet and greet and briefing to get to know city staff. The next two will be the Health Department with Vicky Kistler’s senior staff and to better immerse you in the workings of this administration. I will bring my working group before you. We will provide you a matrix of how we track and cover large projects and their status.

9. APPOINTMENTS:

Joe Hoffman	Environmental Advisory Council	01/02/2018
Juan Camacho	Zoning Hearing Board	01/03/2019
Dan Kainz	Allentown Public Art Commission	01/05/2020
Peter Lewnes	Allentown Public Art Commission	01/05/2020
David Howells, Sr.	Civil Service Board	01/21/2019
David S. Jones, Sr.	Civil Service Board	01/21/2018
Fred Banuelos	Civil Service Board	01/21/2017
Pastor Gus Al-Khal	Civil Service Board	01/21/2019
(Alternate)		
Theodore W. Schick, Jr.	Civil Service Board	01/21/2019
(Alternate)		

Mr. O’Connell asked any comments from his colleagues or the public.

RESOLUTION PASSED, 7 – 0

Mr. Juan Camacho appreciates the vote of confidence and look forward to serving the city on the Zoning Board for another four years as a permanent member.

10. ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE:

Bill 63 Street Vacation – South Jefferson

Providing for the vacation of a portion of South Jefferson Street from the centerline of Martin Luther King Drive in a Southerly direction to the Little Lehigh Creek in the Thirteenth Ward of the City of Allentown.

Mr. O’Connell stated that we had Mr. Messinger and Mr. Berger here earlier and there were no objectors. It was forwarded favorably by Ms. Eichenwald, Mr. Davis, and myself by a 3 – 0 vote. He asked if there are any comments from his colleagues or the public.

ORDINANCED PASSED, 7 – 0

Bill 1 Street Vacation – Sell Street

Providing for the vacation of a portion of Sell Street from the centerline of Mountain Road to the centerline of Ester Street in the Nineteenth Ward of the City of Allentown.

Mr. O’Connell stated that we had Mr. Messinger and Mr. Berger here and one person spoke which was Attorney Santanasto for one of the parties. They were looking at who has the property rights and they have to work it out as individual property owners. It was passed favorably, 3 – 0. He asked if there are any comments from my colleagues or the public.

ORDINANCED PASSED, 7 – 0

Bill 2 Street Vacation – South Roy Street

Providing for the vacation of South Roy Street from the centerline of Willow Street to the centerline of Hill Street in the Eighteenth Ward of the City of Allentown.

Mr. O’Connell stated that we had Mr. Messinger and Mr. Berger were here. There were no objectors and it passed favorably 3 – 0 to the entire Council. He asked if there are any comments from his colleagues or the public.

ORDINANCED PASSED, 7 – 0

11. RESOLUTIONS FOR FINAL PASSAGE:

NONE

12. ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION:

Bill 3 Weapons Provisions Repealer

Referred to Committee of the Whole

Amending Article 734, Weapons and Article 951, Park Regulations, of the Codified Ordinances, in regard to provisions governing weapons within the City of Allentown.

Mr. O’Connell asked if there are any comments.

Mr. Eric Tremmer, 1324 S. 12th Street, stated that he is a member of the Lehigh Valley Tea Party and speaking on behalf of his chairman and the second amendment committee. On January 12th, our attorney Tom Kurl sent the City Solicitor a letter outlining the ordinances that Allentown is in violation of state law.

Mr. O’Connell stated that we saw the letter from the attorney.

Mr. Tremmer stated under Act 192 we are an organization with standing. Time is of the essence and we urge you to move quickly and repeal the offending ordinances.

Mr. O’Connell stated that we are going to discuss it on February 4th under the Committee of the Whole.

Bill 4 Lead Grant

Referred to CEDC

Amending the 2015 General Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of \$35,000.00 from a Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Health grant, to the Bureau of Building Standards & Safety to provide for lead pain remediation.

Bill 5 Landlord/Rental Amendment

Referred to CEDC

Amending ARTICLE 1759 Landlord and Rental Regulations by adding a provision noting compliance with House Bill 1796 which provides for the protection for victims of abuse or crime.

13. RESOLUTIONS FOR INTRODUCTION:

R-4 Certificates of Appropriateness for Work at 213 West Street, 1513 Turner Street and 1023 Chestnut Street

Mr. O’Connell asked if there are any comments from his colleagues or the public.

RESOLUTION PASSED, 7 – 0

R-5 Easement at 114 Walnut Street

Mr. O'Connell asked any comments from his colleagues or the public.

RESOLUTION PASSED, 7 – 0

R-6 Sewage Planning Module for Trout Creek Cottages Development

Mr. O'Connell asked any comments from his colleagues or the public.

RESOLUTION PASSED, 7 – 0

14. NEW BUSINESS

NONE

15. GOOD AND WELFARE

Ms. Mota stated that on February 18th we plan on celebrating Black History Month from 4:00 PM – 6:45 PM at City Hall.

16. ADJOURNED: 7:50 PM