

**COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 6, 2008**

ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSONS IN THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES COMMENCING AT 6:55 PM

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

Mr. D'Amore nominated Councilperson Michael Donovan to chair the Administration Committee.

Mr. Donovan accepted.

APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Schweyer nominated Mr. D'Amore to chair the Appointments Committee.

Mr. D'Amore accepted.

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Guridy nominated Mr. Schweyer to chair the Community and Economic Development Committee.

Mr. Schweyer accepted.

LEGAL AND LEGISLATIVE

Mr. Schweyer nominated Mr. Phillips to chair the Legal and Legislative Committee.

Mr. Philips accepted.

PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. Guridy was already elected to chair the Public Works Committee.

RULES AND CHAMBERS

Mr. Donovan nominated Mr. D'Amore to chair the Rules and Chambers Committee.

Mr. D'Amore accepted.

Mr. Donovan said it is his belief that when a committee is in session, and he's not a member, he would rather sit in the audience, and if he has something to say he'll walk to the podium. That makes it clear that the committee is doing work. He will welcome Council members to join the committee.

COMMITTEE OF WHOLE – 7:00 PM

Cedar Beach Update

Mr. D'Amore said they have some time constraints this evening. The update will adjourn at 7:30 in order to start the Council meeting on time. This is not the last time there will be public comment or is the last update on this issue. No votes will be taken tonight on Cedar Beach.

Greg Weitzel said they've been working on this master plan for the last 7 months. They're nearing the end of the master plan process. Part of that process is to review it before Council to gather input. The next step is to develop an engineering and construction document. We will discuss major trends that are affecting their field, discuss the Cedar Creek Parkway planning process. Every Recreation Department in the country caters to varied users. Today the term is multi-generation. We have to think about providing activities and programs for seniors down to tots. Parks, today, need to become unique and attractive facilities. We have to provide programs for all users and abilities. Today we face unique challenges and trends. The building of traditional parks does not meet the diversity of our community. One of the biggest issues we face is funding. As you know, Parks and Recreation is usually the first thing to get cut in a budget process. We need to become unique in a way in which we manage, market and advertise what we do. We've already identified as part of our master planning process over \$20 million in capital improvements needed in

our City system. Some of the other major factors is the less active life styles. It's a hot item right now. Over 60% of Americans don't get the average of 30 minutes of activity 5 days a week. 30% of adults in America are completely sedentary. They don't move at all. There are 58 million overweight children and 40 million obese. One third of all children are overweight. A recent report by the Institute of Medicine calls on local government to expand the number of rec facilities, parks and bike paths to address this issue. Who is in a better position to make us have an impact on less active lifestyles? He thinks it's Parks and Recreation. Our communities are designed for one mode of transportation – vehicles. Today, we don't even walk to fitness centers. The other major trend or challenge we face is this technology and highly stimulated education. How much time of the day do you spend on TV or on the computer? The average American spends 6 hours a day with the medium. That most likely will increase as each year goes by and technology becomes more and more increased. If you think about computers and video games – if you practice violent acts day in and day out, the likelihood of having aggressive behavior will increase. Researchers found the participation in parks is declining. Development trends and urban sprawl -- a national study found people living in sprawling areas walk less, weigh more and are more likely to be obese. Security and maintenance in public facilities is a major issue and something we have to address on a day to day basis. The major trend is our aging population. Pennsylvania is second only to Florida with the amount of seniors we have. Two thirds of older adults today visit parks and benefit from stress release and a clear mind. The reason he brought all this to their attention is because these were on our thoughts and minds throughout the process of planning the Cedar Creek Parkway renovations. The plan outlines for them is a new competitive platform for Parks and Recreation in the City. We are known as Pennsylvania's Park Place, and we have a lot of work to do to address these challenges and trends. One of the key elements was facility-based solutions. Designing our facilities or renovating our current parks and recreation services to specifically address these challenges and trends. Also, we need to provide activities and programs for all ages and abilities. All skills and abilities -- whether it's a disability, blind, we need to provide, per ADA requirements today, when we renovate our facilities they must be completely accessible for all residents. Today's parks need to provide both active and passive activities. We have passive rules in place at many of our parks. We need to look at the big picture on how we're going to move forward. We must inspire the residents to get out and be active and help educate them on the environmental issues we have. Today our malls are destination oriented. We need to do the same with our parks. The first thing they did was set the goals, the guiding principles for what they wanted to accomplish. The architects then did a site analysis by identifying the current constraints, issues, problems, strengths. Next they did their key person interviews. They identified over 25 people, they interviewed one on one and gathered their input on the changes. The people who organized SportsFest, Mayfair, Pigeon Club, Boys and Girls Club, anyone who holds a special event in Cedar Creek to the Trexler Trustees. They now have a preliminary master plan. At that time they held a public meeting. They provided opportunities for emails, walk in the door, look over the plan. It went through multiple revisions. Lastly, they put some costs together. They want to highlight and enhance the parks' new features – Cedar Creek, Muhlenberg Lake and the Rose Garden. They want to provide a diverse variety of recreation opportunities to serve different ages, interests and abilities. They want to protect and enhance the natural resources and provide trails for recreation and fitness throughout the parks and beyond to link to Trexler, Muhlenberg and Cedar Beach and improve the parks for special events. We know we have electrical needs that aren't being met. The next step is to meet with the Mayor and Council and let you have an opportunity – he has copies of the plan as well as artists' rendering – and give you an opportunity to look over these, make notes and have one-on-ones. They want to continue to the public input process. They've already received multiple grants from the State and Trexler Trust and County to begin the process. Then they go into their Phase I development engineering permits and construction.

Mr. Weitzel responded to a question from Mr. Phillips. He said the reason is Cedar is the crown jewel. It is where the majority of our special events are being held. It is the place where we got a state grant for \$375,000, a County grant for \$260,000. This is the most heavily used park in our system.

Mr. Phillips said again, you're taking care of the west end of Allentown.

Mr. Weitzel said they have to plug away one by one. They're following recommendations to the master plan and also the funding. They received the grants as he stated previously.

Mr. Phillips said some people will feel slighted.

The Mayor said they're working out all the parks. They have grant applications for Keck Park, for parks on the south side. They're working the entire system. This park has the highest traffic. It also serves our watershed. There are some real problems with Muhlenberg Lake. They'll also address some of the environmental issues that lead to the flooding and other things in that particular area. All of our parks need renovations. Over the course of the years, they've provided renovations throughout the entire system. They've worked extensively with Keck Park on the east side. They renovated the entire pool house for the community center. They're working on Roosevelt Park.

Mr. Weitzel said they just received a grant for the east side.

The Mayor said they're doing their best to strategically categorize what parks have the greatest need. They have a master plan for Parks that was paid for by the Trexler Fund several years back. They're following the recommendations that were outlined by the master plan.

Mr. Weitzel said they have identified over \$20 million in capital improvements across the system.

Mr. Donovan asked if the pictures are on a PDF file and have they been distributed to Council ahead of time?

Mr. Weitzel said the pictures are on a PDF file.

The Mayor said this is not the final draft. Greg will meet with you individually with the architect

Mr. Donovan said he has a follow up to Mr. Phillips question on priorities. It might be useful for all of us to hear the list of criteria you've used to establish what was the highest priority park. That would allow them to communicate that and create a sense of understanding. He finds it interesting in the master plan which includes the Rose Garden proposal, which was brought forward before we reviewed the master plan. He has concerns with that. If it was part of the package, then maybe it could have been presented as part of the package. He has read the master plan. The one question he has was on maintenance issues in terms of how that will be funded in the future. Sometimes we build weigh stations along the roads and then have no money to operate it.

The Mayor said we should give copies of the master plan to all of Council.

Mr. Guridy said good job. We need a couple of skate parks in the City.

Mr. Weitzel said they've heard from many different people with varying opinions. We heard everything from fill in Muhlenberg Lake to completely renovate it. They have a great group of architects working on this plan to come up with the best options available and considering the cost factors.

Mr. Guridy said he's happy to hear we're looking at creating some pocket parks in the urban area.

The Mayor said they've been working with Central Elementary School. They're raising some money for the equipment, and we're going to provide the installation at no charge. The same thing is happening at McKinley Elementary. The City will provide the services free of charge.

Mr. Schweyer asked what is the time frame?

Mr. Weitzel said he'd like to finish this in the next month. That will give them a couple of months to go out for an RFP for engineering construction.

Mr. Phillips said if you want to discuss this him, he wants it discussed now.

Mr. Weitzel said part of the idea are new trellises, new walkways, bringing in a master gardener to assist with the types of roses they choose, improvements we can make to the old fashioned gardens – they're all part of that process – all the people they met with, all the recommendations they made they felt were feasible for the Rose Garden.

The Mayor said we can do this without charging fees. We'll just pay for it in a different way. If you don't want to charge a fee, then we won't. We still have to pay for it.

She has a 9 year old with autism. They wanted to throw a party and there was not one park that was gated or fenced that we could go to. This is where it started. We had to have it in Salisbury Township. They have these children with disabilities. There can be renovations and wonderful expectations done almost anywhere, this park is part of the paying issue, part of the everything issue and our kids have no where to go. This was suppose to help them and she has seen wheelchairs that looked part of this whole great master plan, but she hasn't heard about what she heard 3 years ago. Making Cedar Beach and the Rose Garden great, yes, everything's great.

Michael Molovinsky said his initial reaction was I hope they don't try to fix something that isn't broken. Perhaps we should look into amenities that we don't have to serve special needs, etc. We have a very well received famous park system. They may be large expenditures but not improvements.

Michael Adams, 28 South 14th Street, said soil compaction on stream bank erosion and vegetation along the creek associated with stream bank erosion. In the last 4 years, we have had as much as 2 feet of erosion, which is approaching catastrophic. In the master plan, the entire comment on Lehigh Parkway is 2 paragraphs. It returns again and again to the idea of needing to plant vegetation. So he's asking they pay attention to soil compaction, stream bank erosion and repairing. If the creek is not stabilized and the ground is not taken care of, anything else is sort of beside the point. The connection to that is the delicacy of dredging Lake Muhlenberg, which was once a swamp. Swamps have a tendency to want to return to swamps.

The Mayor said if you look at the master plan, you'll see there are repairing areas up and down the stream bank of Lake Muhlenberg.

Mr. Weitzel said it's not just a Cedar Creek issue. It's at Little Lehigh, Jordan, Trout Creek. This is something they're working very closely with. They just had a meeting this afternoon with the County Conservation District, the DEP, and other departments and other states on no growth policies. You'll be hearing more about this in the future.

We do have a lot of people in the community who need an acceptable playground and the gated area is crucial for a lot of our kids for safety. Last spring they had almost 4,000 people who participated in a single disability walk in the Allentown area. It's a need in our area. There's a lot of individuals that could definitely have access to the park.

Wilson Black, 35 Poplar Street, said he was not in favor of charging fees.

Virginia Wolfe, 3089 Lindbergh Avenue, said she has called the Mayor's office several times and the Parks Department. Never received any answer. We cannot have a world class park system without a written protocol concerning the wildlife. She wants a non-lethal method for dealing with so-called problem wildlife. You need to attack the problem; not the animal. This happened with the fiasco we had several years ago with the killing of the swans. That was inexcusable. She doesn't want this to happen again. The internet has endless solutions to do to solve problem situations. The geese are going to attract predators.

Mr. Donovan said he has heard from several individuals about facilities that will help a variety of children with needs. Instead of a map, it would be important to have a listing of the detail of various facilities and what they're capable of providing.

Mr. Weitzel said the state and federal grants we're using for this project, and as part of the renovations, the entire park is to be made ADA accessible.

Mr. Donovan said the only thing with that is that I think there may be issues about ADA accessible versus other facilities that particularly cater to other needs individuals might have. He suspects there might be some differences.

The Mayor said they actually took that into consideration.

Mr. Weitzel said since he started this position he's met with the families with children with disabilities and children with disabilities. They were part of that process. There were hundreds of people who weighed in on this, and that was a special group that we're considering as part of the entire plan.

Mr. Phillips said there's always a cost associated with doing this.

Mr. Weitzel said it's a requirement -- by coming up with a solid plan before we start moving trucks in there. The idea is to gather as much input as we can so we have a solid plan that people are behind that addresses all the issues. The disabilities issue is one of the key components they've been addressing. The Rose Garden, right now, is not completely accessible to someone in a wheel chair. It's hard for a wheel chair to get around on grass. That's just one example of things they've considered.

In response to Mr. Phillips, Mr. Weitzel said one of the things in the City is a wildlife management plan. It's identified in the master plan. They need to work through it. It's definitely a goal.

Mark Lima, 523 West Turner Street, said he'd like to know how many residents actually use the park system. That should have been studied.

The Mayor said there are hundreds of thousands who use it every year.
The meeting was adjourned.

**COUNCIL MEETING - 7:30 PM
FEBRUARY 6, 2008**

1. Invocation: Julio A. Guridy

2. Pledge to the Flag

3. Roll Call

Mr. Donovan, Mr. Guridy, Mr. Phillips, Mr. Schweyer, and Mr. D'Amore.

Mr. Howells and Ms. Eichenwald were absent.

4. Courtesy of the Floor

Paulette Hunter, 747 Tilghman Street, passed out pictures of what a playground should look like if it's accessible. Since 2004 she has come to Council about a playground where her son can play. They wrote a letter and sent it to the Mayor, and they forwarded that document to the state in order to get the grant they got. There are over 9,000 kids in the Lehigh Valley that have a disability. She also gave Greg a letter indicating the need for this new playground. She feels their voices are not being heard.

Mr. Guridy said she should be included in the discussions of the master plan.

Ms. Hunter said she's been trying to participate, but she's been left out.

Mr. Phillips asked why wasn't she part of the planning?

Mr. Weitzel said there were interviews by key people. He has met with the groups on 3 separate occasions. They're meeting again on Friday with the architects. If you notice the plans, there is a fence around the playground and that is a direct result of Paulette's request for it.

Ms. Hunter asked what happened to the money we got from Jennifer Mann and Browne?

Mr. Schweyer said he met with Greg on Friday. It's all in the plans and will be done.

Mr. Donovan said the document came a bit too late. It's a picture rather than a listing. You said the fence was there, but it's difficult to see. We also have concerns about costs, whether the whole park should be renovated – all those issues. It's indicative on your people to put together a better presentation of what's going to happen. That's a recommendation that he would like to see if he were to assess this. He doesn't have enough information. He would like something with more substance in terms of an inventory of items.

Dennis Pearson, 942 East Tilghman Street, said the parks are a part of the soul of the City. Any effort to destroy the soul is doing a disservice to the City. Some may come here and say it's pork barrel. It's not necessarily pork barrel because to the City the parks are not liberal; they're conservative. We have no elected Councilperson that currently lives on the east side. The Administration must give consideration to qualify east siders who like to be part of boards and commissions. This is not just a City problem; it's a County problem, too. Rarely does he see someone with a zip code of 18109 appointed to their boards either.

Mr. D'Amore said wanted to thank Dennis for spending many years helping to preserve and protect Irving Park.

Mark Lima, 523 Turner Street, said he's here to talk about the Sweep Program. He wants a clean City as much as anyone else. But everyday, especially where he lives, he sees a steady stream of drunks coming from Trinkle's Bar. They usually stagger down Turner Street shedding beer bottles and refuse as they go. They stop at the entrance to Law Street to urinate and do drug business, but he's the one who got a ticket for a type of furniture – an indoor chair that was on his porch. He's gone through the ordinances, and he found nothing that talks about indoor/outdoor furniture or whether he can have it in his patio. All it talks about is accumulation and damaged furniture, which is nothing he has. He sits on his porch most of the day and night to discourage drug dealers. If he doesn't have furniture, he'll stand on his porch, and then he'll be directly confronting these folks. This is a replacement for a previously failed program called Blight Zone last time. No money generated from that designated Blight Zone was ever used for improvements in his neighborhood. They went elsewhere. Remember the buildings that were designated as blighted were determined to be so by some interns that were hired to look at the facades of the house and rate them 1 to 5. That's a pretty awful thing to do to our houses and decide whether they're livable or not. Nothing has really changed; it's much the same. As far as the SWEEP Program, it's really a sham designed to

penalize the working poor. He would like to know who are the original complainants, he'd like to know what the program cost, how much employees are being paid, what it costs to run, how were the officers trained and who trained them? Where are the written guidelines for ticketable offenses. Are they able to interpret these ordinances? It appears as though they did that in his case. Did they use their judgment? Will the spate of tickets they just gave out be justification for expanding the SWEEP Program? It's just one more case of Allentown government trying to be profitable. It only talks about damaged, deteriorating furniture and accumulation. If there's time for these Sweep officers to walk around the neighborhood, take and print photographs, write citations, etc. There would have been time to knock on the doors of the constituents they're supposed to be serving and impart this vision for a better city. The problem we're addressing won't be solved without neighborhood participation or beating residents with monetary penalties. The more often the City comes in here and hammers us with these tickets and trying to teach, the less we will do.

Mr. D'Amore said Richard Young will get you in contact with our bureau manager.

Mr. Phillips said he was not a proponent of the program. He doesn't think it does what it's supposed to do.

Michael Molovinsky said on December 19th, when Council was passing the home inspection law, the City Administration commented there would be a director of community development in place before the law was implemented. As we all know, that director has come and gone. Right now the law is being implemented, but we do not have a director. On January 26th, in reaction to a citizen meeting, Mayor Pawlowski said all the citizens had ample opportunity to speak out on the home inspection law. He doesn't believe that's factual. He believes the average citizen didn't even know about it. They still don't. The night it was on the agenda, there was a lot going on, so it didn't get the due diligence it deserved. On January 31st, the City Administration sent a communication to all the neighborhood leaders and community watch leaders that they're going to count on them to keep their eyes and ears open and report any homes for sale in the neighborhoods in the City. He finds that to be un-Allentonian and un-American. That's not the purpose of our community leaders – to report on neighbors to the City on civil matters. The realtors who were here and testified on December 19th, noted they represented the Realty Board. They represented only themselves. They never polled or surveyed the realtors. As elected officials, they took it upon themselves to make that decision. Since, he has spoken to about 10 realtors individually and without an exception, they were all opposed to the home inspection. He immediately was going to go for a Citizens' Referendum and put it on the ballot, where it should have been in the first place. He believes we should count on our citizens' ethics to sell a proper home, and we should count on the buyer's due diligence to check what they're buying. He asked Council to suspend the rules and rescind/repeal Ordinance No. 14561.

Robert Romancheck, 117 South 16th Street, wished the new Council good luck. A developer would like to put up 2 very large billboards on Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive. He hopes Council asks the developer to back away from that idea. They would like to expand the park system. The Zoning Hearing Board has approved that property for storage. He hopes the City files papers with the court to deny that. It could be used for the good of Allentown rather than storage.

5. Approval of Minutes:

January 7, 2008

January 16, 2008

6. Old Business: None.

7. Communications

8. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – President D'Amore

Council will be meeting on February 20th at 6:30 on the confirmation of the Parks and Recreation Director; at 7:00 PM, we will take public testimony on the application for an economic development liquor license for The Cosmopolitan and at 7:15 we will take public testimony on blighted properties. The plan will be to take public testimony and vote on them at the Council meeting that follows if there are no problems or objections.

ADMINISTRATION – Chairperson Donovan

The Committee elected a Chairperson tonight; a future meeting is not yet scheduled.

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – Chairperson Schweyer

The Committee met on January 30 and forwarded Bill 2 which is on tonight's agenda; and tonight to elect a Chairperson.

PUBLIC WORKS – Chairperson Guridy

The Committee met on January 30th and forwarded the Commonwealth Street Vacation unfavorably to the February 20th agenda; and forwarded a traffic control map on tonight's agenda with a favorable recommendation with an amendment; and they met tonight to elect a Chairperson. A future meeting has not yet been scheduled.

PUBLIC SAFETY -Chairperson Howells

The Committee met this evening; a future meeting has not yet been scheduled.

APPOINTMENTS - Chairperson D'Amore

The Committee has not met since the last Council Meeting, but has a few appointments before it that should be ready for the next agenda.

LEGAL AND LEGISLATIVE – Chairperson Phillips

The Committee elected a Chairperson tonight; a future meeting has not yet been scheduled.

RULES AND CHAMBERS – Chairperson

The Committee elected a Chairperson tonight; A future meeting is not yet scheduled.

OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS

AEDC - Councilperson Donovan

CONTROLLER'S REPORT

9. ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE:

Bill 120 Fire Donation

Amending the 2007 General Fund Budget authorizing a supplemental appropriation as a result of a donation from the Allentown Patriots for One Hundred and Fifty (\$150) Dollars, Traffic Control Services, LLC. for One Hundred and Fifty (\$150) Dollars, and from Robert Kudlak and David Xander, each for Ten (\$10) Dollars.

Bill 120 was removed from the agenda.

Bill 1 Traffic Control Map

Ron Penrose said this is a change to the traffic control map, and you will see this about 3 or 4 times a year. They are proposing to remove the stop sign at 16th and Chew Streets; they are installing stop signs at 21st and Allen; removal of no parking on the west side of North Third Street from Sumner Avenue to Cedar Street; we changed the speed limit on MLK Drive from Lehigh to Union from 35 to 25 mph.

Mr. Phillips asked why is the stop sign at 16th and Chew being removed?

Mr. Penrose said it was by Council's recommendation that it be done. It never met State requirements which Council was aware of. The Police Department is having problems trying to enforce stopping that people are not doing, because it is not enforceable. If they give them a ticket for going through a stop sign, all they have to do is request a hearing and they will win the hearing because there was no study done to justify the installation of a 4 way stop.

Mr. Phillips said he doesn't remember rescinding that.

Mr. Penrose said you did not. This ordinance is rescinding that.

Mr. Phillips asked what is our liability?

Mr. Penrose said there were accidents there but not enough to require a 4 way stop.

Mr. Phillips asked what have the numbers been since the installation of that stop sign?

Mr. Penrose said there have been 3 accidents. Prior to that there was never more than 4 accidents in a 12 month period.

Assistant City Solicitor Burianek said our liability is greater in having a stop sign. He told Council in response to what the Public Works Director and Traffic Bureau told you. The state vehicle code in certain areas is preemptive. It permits municipalities to establish stop signs and 4 way stop signs but you have to meet certain thresholds, accident thresholds, which were not met. Therefore, the City doesn't have the authority.

Mr. Phillips said you didn't answer my question. What is the liability now that the signs are already there?

Attorney Burianek said I did answer your question. I said to you I think the liability is greater to have a sign there that is not justified under state law. We cannot be liable for not having a stop sign there because the state law does not let us put stop signs there.

Mr. Phillips said municipalities can enact.

Attorney Burianek said we can enact traffic regulations; we can put up stop signs, but only where the traffic study justifies it. The state has preempted the law and said municipalities can only place a stop sign where accidents – he'll defer to the Engineering and Traffic expert here – only where accidents . . .

Mr. Penrose said and vehicle volumes justified it.

Attorney Burianek said and they don't in this situation.

Mr. Penrose said the state requirement is 500 vehicles per hour, 8 hours of the day. It doesn't meet it. It never has.

Mr. Phillips said he'd like to have that study done.

Mr. Penrose said he was there for an hour about 2 weeks ago counting cars for 1 hour. He took the noon time hour and it did not meet the 500 vehicles per hour. He was there westbound on Chew Street, there were 8 vehicles that totally went through the stop sign. About 50% of the others rolled through it. When people use the street with a multiway stop intersection and know no one is coming up 16th Street, and they know that so they're going to go right through it, which is why you don't make 4 way stop where they're not generated by meeting the state requirements.

Mr. Donovan said he thinks the residents in that area are concerned with safety. He accepts the fact that it's an illegal stop sign and he supports its removal, but as he mentioned last time determination on line of sight issues for people coming out of the cross streets to enter the main road safely. There are places around the country that use speed tables versus speed bumps. They're designed such that cars can over them, and if they go over 50 they take off. They require a complete slow down. They've been very effective in other communities where he's lived in order to control speed. He's not saying that's the solution, but he does think it's important that safety in the west end and around the city at some of these cross streets, we have a lot of sight problems that should be looked at creatively. He needs to learn why stop signs go up because as he goes through the City and sees stop signs, and some traffic is very minimal.

Mr. Guridy said it never met the requirement certified by PennDOT to put a sign there. He thinks 2 traffic studies were done before they put a sign there. He was appalled to hear people were not stopping.

Mr. Phillips said he's annoyed that the West Park Civic group was not contacted about this stop sign. Their concerns need to be aired.

Mr. Penrose said you have in front of you what the Administration recommends should occur on that street. It is basically wall to wall cars from Sumner all the way back to Cedar Street. If he pulls off Sumner and someone else comes off of Cedar, you can't pass and there's no place to pull over to get through. For public safety they thought they'd open up the street, which should be open to travel, and take off parking on the west side. He doesn't think volumes are relative to this street. You have a City street that is not wide enough to handle parking on both sides, and cars can't pass each other. We got complaints, and he reacted to the complaints.

Mr. Phillips asked how many calls have you received?

Mr. Penrose said anywhere from 4 to 6 calls.

Mr. Donovan asked if the committee forwarded this so that we would have to have a motion to remove this?

Mr. D'Amore said the committee recommended it favorably to Council with a recommendation that an amendment be put forward at the Council meeting to remove the provision of no parking on the west side of North Third Street.

Mr. Guridy and Mr. Donovan moved to amend Bill 1 by removing the no parking provision on the west side of North Third Street, from Sumner Avenue to Cedar Street.

Mr. Donovan asked Mr. Penrose if this request does pose a public safety hazard in his professional opinion?

Mr. Penrose said it does.

Attorney William Malkames requested not voting on this until the next meeting so they could have their traffic engineer appear. Also, the property owner was unable to be here tonight.

Mr. D'Amore said he's not going to grant that request.

Attorney Malkames said the complaints might come from some other person who operates the same type of business as Mr. Hanna.

Al Hanna, 3512 Sharon Circle, Schnecksville, said they've been in operation since 2000. He doesn't know who's complaining. There's no accidents and there's no safety issue. He requested Council amend the Bill.

Mr. Guridy said he had no problem going through the street.

Mr. Phillips asked how long does a car sit on the street after it's transferred to you? At any given time there could be 1 or 5 cars there.

Mr. Donovan said any car that is parked on a City street and doesn't have a license or is properly registered should not be there. He doesn't understand the hardship. It represents a public safety hazard which is the #1 concern.

The amendment to Bill 1 failed, 2 Yeas and 3 Nays, Schweyer, D'Amore, Donovan.

Mr. Phillips moved to amend Bill 1 by removing 16th and Chew Street removal of the stop sign.

There was no second to the amendment.

Michael Adams, 28 South 14th Street, said his experience on that street is he's gone through the stop sign, because he's gone down there 10,000 times. He would hope that Jerry Kresge might have the opportunity to weigh in as chief of security.

Mr. D'Amore asked if stop signs are good traffic devices for pedestrians' safety?

Mr. Penrose said they help with pedestrian crossings. Pedestrian crossings are counted at the time when you do a study. They count as well as a vehicle for the 500 vehicles per hour.

Bill 1 was adopted, 4 Yeas and 1 Nay (Phillips).

Bill 2

Introduced by the Administration, the legislation creates an Environmental Advisory Council by providing operating procedures and stating the powers of the Council

Mr. D'Amore and Mr. Guridy moved to amend Bill 2 by adding "Council appoints 2 persons to the Advisory Council and 5 Members of Council shall be appointed by the Mayor."

The amendment to Bill 2 was approved, 5 Yeas and 0 Nays.

Bill 2 was adopted, as amended, 5 Yeas and 0 Nays.

10. ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION:

Bill 4

Introduced by the Administration, the bill amends the 2008 General Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of \$59,698 from the Pennsylvania Department of Health to various accounts in the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program of the Health Bureau, Department of Community and Economic Development to increase the capacity of the Allentown Health Bureau and partners to respond to an influenza pandemic and to initiate and catalyze community wide preparedness efforts through the development, coordination and testing of regional and local public health pandemic plans.

Bill 4 was referred to Community and Economic Development.

11. **CONSENT AGENDA:** None

12. **RESOLUTIONS ON SECOND READING:** None

13. **NEW RESOLUTIONS:**

R1

Encroachment for a Handicap Ramp at 301 North 9th Street

R1 was referred to Community and Economic Development.

R2

Introduced by the Administration and includes the following properties:

247 North 4 th Street	321 North Law Street
426 North 7 th Street	441 West Liberty Street
113 West Chew Street	717 West Liberty Street
212 North Church Street	621 North Lumber Street
239 Elliger Street	519 North New Street
521 West Gordon Street	214 North Jordan Street
131 South Penn Street	

R2 was referred to Committee of the Whole, scheduled for February 20th, at 7:15 PM.

R3

Approves the Issuance of an Economic Development Liquor License for Cosmo's at 22 North 6th Street

R3 was referred to a Public Hearing, scheduled for February 20th, at 7 PM.

14. **NEW BUSINESS:**

Mr. Donovan said he would like to refer back to Mr. Molovinsky's request of Council to suspend the rules to rescind Bill 109, Buyer Notification Ordinance. He is concerned that the legislation was passed in the last term of Council. He does feel there was an inadequate amount of information. He heard other communities around the state, i.e., California, Ohio and Florida using this technique. He has not heard sufficient evidence about the consequences or outcome of that. He'd like to recommend since the ordinance is still enforced, and he would not recommend postponing it, he'd like to recommend that Council form an Ad Hoc Committee to spend the next few months to study the benefits cost of this ordinance over the next 3 or 4 months to report back to Council and determine whether there are any improvements to be made to it or even, if necessary, to consider a major provision. He feels that ordinance is part of a greater housing strategy for the City, and while it appears to have some benefits, he is concerned there was not enough information presented to Council. He has questions on this ordinance.

Mr. D'Amore said he will create an Ad Hoc Committee to study the implementation of this housing inspection ordinance, and if there is willingness on the part of Mr. Donovan, he will name him the Chair of the Committee with the power to investigate.

Mr. Donovan asked if the Ad Hoc Committee will consist of Council members, or could he ask members of the community, as well as the Administration?

Mr. D'Amore said you can use your own members of Council and members of the public at large.

15. **GOOD AND WELFARE:** None.

16. **ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 9 PM.

Michael P. Hanlon
City Clerk