

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
JANUARY 7, 2009

R91

Council Sponsored: Amends Council Rules and Regulations by Realigning the Committee System

Mr. Schweyer said he chaired an Ad Hoc Committee to review Council Rules. The goal was to examine how we govern ourselves with the specific purpose insuring that we're working as effectively and efficiently as possible, and to make sure opportunities are divided equally amongst our colleagues. Lastly, Council becomes more of a policy making proactive body as opposed to one simply reacting to the Administration's proposals. The committee was composed of Jane George - Governmental Affairs, St. Luke's Hospital; Bob Donchez-President, Bethlehem City Council; Gina Kormanik-Former member of Allentown School Board; Michael Schlossberg-Borough Manager for the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce; Martin Velazquez-Former member of Allentown City Council; and, Michael Hanlon - City Clerk. They tried to decipher problems Council faces. They polled present members of Council, former members of Council and members of the Administration. We looked at Council Rules in other municipalities. PLCM has excellent resources. They held a series of meetings. He also had meetings to delve into more specifics. One of the things they noticed from past members of Council was the concern about a lack of decorum and professionalism. There's a real question about the amount of work the individual committees do. Community and Economic Development, Public Works and Public Safety have a tremendous amount of work. Then there's Legal and Legislative that only met once throughout the year. The division of responsibility and opportunity is something they have grave concerns over. The committees evolved over the years in a way that is inconsistent with how the Administration has evolved. We now have a Parks and Recreation, a cabinet level position that is still under Community and Economic Development Committee. There are 4 members of the Public Safety Committee and there were questions on who would chair the committee, which could end up in 2 ties. It also did not match up with other municipalities. We are going to start measuring ourselves on what we've done for constituents as well as the City. We don't have a plan, benchmarks, hard and fast policies on what we're able to accomplish throughout the course of the year. That leaves us with a situation to react to what the Administration says. The committee felt we should take a more aggressive or proactive approach toward overall policy making. They looked at planning seminars and other sessions to try to figure ways Council could be proactive in addition to our routine rank and file responsibilities. He met with people in the strategic planning industry in Right Management. They gave them ideas and suggestions. We looked at the role of leadership, terms of office, how to go about and actually try to change the ways we elect our President and Vice President and term limits. He presents R91, which specifically addresses some of the controversial recommendations and tries to streamline the process and address the overriding concern which is the amount of work certain committees have versus other committees. Section A, of R91, outlines 7 committees. Some are familiar; some are new. Budget and Finance who will look at taxation and our finance plan and codify that within Council so that if we are in a situation next year where our pensions are going to be out of whack and we're going to have to pay significantly more, we'll know this will happen. Currently that's in Administration, but they also have personnel issues and other concerns. That's why the Budget and Finance was created. Public Safety will not change: Police, Fire, EMS. Community and Economic Development will change. It will still deal with economic development, building safety and standards, zoning, planning, health, permits, redevelopment, human relations as their core function but a notable omission is Parks and Recreation, which is why a separate committee was created for them. They will handle all matters pertaining to parks and recreation and the Environmental Advisory Council and the Shade Tree Commission. Public Works will not change. Human Resources, Administration and Appointments. - The Appointments Committee meets mostly by email. We have no mechanism outside of the Administration Committee to look at Human Resources or employee code of conduct. There are a number of opportunities there. It would seem appropriate that we would improve the efficiency of government. It would seem appropriate to include appointments within the body of that committee. That way we can continue to monitor to make sure we're looking for the most diverse workforce and committee and board structures, appropriate uses of public facilities, vehicle or personnel codes. Rules, Chambers, Intergovernmental Relations and Strategy. This committee will codify our goals to meet with intergovernmental relations, i.e., the school board, Lehigh County Board of Commissioners, members of the State and House Congressional delegation and staff and creating an overall strategy and direction for City Council. Special committees such as Ad Hoc committees will remain. They also want to codify the committees. Not everyone can chair a committee. That's a mistake. 7 Councilpersons were elected by the residents. They put their faith and trust in our ability -- not only to govern but to lead and manage. As a result, the committee believes every member of Council should have an opportunity, and a responsibility, to lead a committee. This language would mandate that every member of Council would have the ability to lead and direct a committee. One of his concerns with a

future Council is this is an opportunity to make sure if a Council President has an issue with another member of Council, they will not take it out on that person by marginalizing them. It guarantees that everybody will always add something that is of major value to our City as a whole. It's a way to guarantee against any kind of tyranny of the Council President. It gives everyone a say in the long term future. It also guarantees that members of Council have a certain responsibility. The Chairs should be chosen by the Council President, because it's the only way it guarantees that every member of Council is a Chair and prevents in fighting . If we go by the standards we have now, people can share multiple committees. That doesn't divide the labor, responsibility, or opportunity. Lastly the members of the committees will still be chosen by the Council President. In an effort to mitigate against the overall power of the presidency, we recommended that Rules, Chambers, Intergovernmental Relations and Strategy always be chaired by the Council President. That way he can't pick the best committee for himself or the committee that interests him. It mandates the direction of the future that is in that person's hands for that one year. As a result, it codifies what the role of Council President is. We also recommended the Council Vice President be mandated to be on that committee as well. Remaining members of Council will divide their responsibilities. Every Council member will serve equally on 3 committees, and every member will automatically be a chair of a committee. The purpose and the goal is to make sure everybody has the opportunity and responsibility to do what we're elected to do. We are keeping the recall portion, which is currently not a part of our rules. The recall portion is to insure that if 2 members of a committee disagree with 5 members of Council, they can still pull out a bill, which is no different than what we have now. We discussed the potential term of a Council President from 1 year to 2 years. We talked about creating term limits for the Council President. This committee nor I did not want to seem like he was going to adversely impact tonight's Council President's election by suggesting we give this person 2 years, or that last year's vote amounted to 2 years instead of 1. It could potentially ease some of the political internal fighting every year. It's something we need to look at. The Rules, Chambers, Intergovernmental Relations and Strategy Committee may choose to look at it or create another Ad Hoc Committee. We looked at Courtesy of the Floor, redundancy. We are constrained by what our Charter says. We can only change our rules internally; we can't change our Charter internally. We can't change anything without voter referendum. This will give Council the opportunity to create a stronger proactive policy and push the City in the direction they were elected to do, and do it in a manner that is fair and equitable for all future Councils.

Ms. Eichenwald congratulated Mr. Schweyer on excellent work. The only thing she would like to add is the President should make the appointment of the Chair in conjunction with individual Council people. Each one of us might have an area in which we wish to serve. She would like that codified.

Mr. Schweyer said that is a good suggestion.

Ms. Eichenwald said she would move to amend R91 by adding to Part D, The President choose the Chairperson of the individual committees in conjunction with the seven (7) City Council members.

Mr. Guridy asked exactly what is the interpretation of C, Members?

Mr. D'Amore said committee appointments are made by the president. That language didn't change.

Mr. Donovan said he agrees and supports Ms. Eichenwald's recommendation. Mr. Schweyer acknowledged the role of the legislative body in terms of helping the residents set strategy and to specify that as one item of the committee. He also agrees it's important to uniquely specify the budget and finance responsibilities. That committee has had a lot to do this past year in terms of financial matters. More can be done to specialize in budget and financing fiscal matters. He also agrees with Human Resources taking over the administrative and other types of responsibilities. He is in support of the recommendations.

Mr. Guridy said we didn't call it a budget committee but we did have a Finance Committee. He was part of that committee and because of the fiasco we had with the FOP pension . . .

Mr. Schweyer asked if they should add pension funds specifically to the Budget and Finance Committee?

Mr. Guridy said yes.

Mr. Schweyer said he'll make that motion during the meeting.

Ms. Eichenwald said when you highlight those 3, you negate some of the others.

Mr. Schweyer said just add it to the definition.

The City Clerk said pension should be under Budget and Finance or Human Resources.

Mr. Schweyer said he would argue under Budget and Finance because if the pensions aren't good, we're going to be raising taxes.

Mr. Donovan said as chair of the Administration and Finance Committee, and as Council's representative and the Mayor's designee to the Police Pension Fund, he could see how there are differences, in terms of some aspects dealing with pension benefits that we would want to be aware of that are half financial and half personnel any decisions made discussing the issue of Human Resource and Administration and Appointments Committee would have a financial effect, but you would probably end up maybe in both committees and look at it from their own expertise. There are questions in the "DROP" proposal like how do the officers get notified or what type of documentation is involved that is not part of the legislation? There may be times when 2 committees need to look at something.

Mr. Schweyer said that's why we have a Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Donovan said you don't want to go too far into mentioning pensions in the definitions. He's flexible.

Mr. D'Amore said without any guidance pensions would fall under Human Resources, Administration and Appointments because it's effectively a benefit. If we want to put it somewhere other, we don't want to specify.

Ms. Eichenwald said Mr. Schweyer mentioned he considered changing the way in which we elect the president and vice president of Council. Had we been having this discussion 3 or 4 weeks ago, she would have agreed. The election in November showed the electorate on a national level, and all politics is local, and also on the City level that our citizenry wants change in the way in which we operate and conduct ourselves. The last couple of weeks it was noted by The Morning Call that there have been lobbying considerations, political jockeying, deal making, all of which made her extremely uncomfortable. She finds the lobbying and phone calling – you vote for me, I'll vote for you – decreases the professionalism in the way we serve the citizens. We need to bring a system to this so that in future years, we no longer engage in those kinds of issues, and we allow ourselves free and open time to deal with the issues of concern and allow ourselves free and open time, i.e., meeting our budget requirements, how to help the City to grow in a correct and responsible fashion. Too much effort is spent on lobbying for political positions. She agrees with what Mr. Schweyer said. We are 7 Councilpersons. All of us have been elected by the citizens of this City in hard fought electoral contests. By the confidence placed in us, the citizens have agreed that we have leadership capabilities. She feels as in the committee structure that when it comes to the 2 leadership positions there should be a rotation of that responsibility. The proposal that's in front of them is the one she urges they adopt. Not at some future time, but consider it for this year. She requested the City Clerk read the proposal.

Mr. Donovan questioned whether that was appropriate at this time.

Mr. D'Amore said the issue we have is to make this change would require an affirmative vote at a meeting. The rules dictate that the first thing we do at this meeting is vote for President and Vice President. We're at game time, and we can't change the rules for this game, but we can change the rules at a subsequent game.

Ms. Eichenwald said she asked the City Clerk to check with the Solicitor about the suspension of rules.

The City Clerk said Assistant Solicitor Danks said his interpretation of your rules is that you are the interpreter of your rules. Mr. D'Amore would have to make the call on what could be suspended and what will be done. It will be up to a majority vote, either agree or disagree.

Mr. D'Amore said if a motion to suspend the rules is made – it's not in the Charter, it's just part of Council rules -- by a majority we could then change the rules.

Mr. Guridy said we won't do that now, we'll do it when we start the meeting at 7:30 PM?

Mr. D'Amore said that is correct. It would be in order to do it at the Council meeting.

Ms. Eichenwald said that's fine with her. She requested again that the City Clerk read her proposal.

The City Clerk read the following:

A. Election: Council will select a President and Vice-President at its organizational meeting. The election of the President and Vice-President shall be rotated on an annual basis provided that said person garners support from the majority. The selection rotation shall be based on the most senior councilperson and in the advent of no councilperson having seniority, on the basis of the popular vote. If the candidate fails to garner majority support, Council shall proceed to the next eligible candidate. The second most senior councilperson shall be selected as the Vice President and in the following year serve as the President of Council provided that the candidate garners majority support. Once the person has served as Council President, they lose their seniority years that are counted towards the office and must start over for the selection process. The President (or Acting President) will be first take nominations from other Council members for the nomination of President. Each Council member can offer only one nomination at a time when recognized by the Council President. After nominations have been made by Council members, the President may offer a nomination. The potential candidates will be voted on in the order they were nominated. The first candidate to receive a majority vote will become the President. The procedures will be the same for the election of the Vice President. (26643 10/21/92)

Ms. Eichenwald said her reasoning behind this is it spreads the responsibility of leadership in a fair and just basis among the 7 members. It will eliminate the lobbying, the political maneuvering that we have engaged in in the 2 prior processes that she's participated in. It still maintains the Democratic right of each and every member of Council to vote yes or no for a particular candidate. It also establishes a wall of order of following a pattern so everyone will know it will be their turn. It will then give those candidates an opportunity. It will then give those candidates to draw a division statement. Now when she gets the phone call of will you vote for me, that's all she's told. If we go into a more serious and professional manner of doing this, the candidates will have an opportunity to draw division statements and a plan when they know it will be their turn.

Mr. Guridy said he, too, has been enduring the pain of having to be called every year for the last 8 years he's been on Council for people lobbying him to support them to the point that if we don't support them they'll tell everybody you're not a good Councilman; or, if you don't support me they'll tell the constituents not to vote for me. Things have been very unethical and immature. It's at the point where we shouldn't be engaging in those types of childish politics. We should move forward with a proposal like this. He thinks they should rotate. He also believes we are elected by the public to serve the public, not to aggrandize ourselves and to make sure we provide leadership. Anybody who is elected to City Council has demonstrated their leadership qualities, and that can be further enhanced by participating as the President and rotating the presidency as opposed to the lobbying system we have.

Mr. Donovan said since this was not on the agenda for this Committee of the Whole, he has comments, but he'll reserve them until we go into the regular Council meeting.

Mr. Schweyer said he'll also comment at the regular Council meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.

COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 7, 2009

1. Invocation: David M. Howells, Sr.
2. Pledge to the Flag
3. Roll Call
4. Courtesy of the Floor

Mr. D'Amore said Bill 87, Sheet Metal Technician, has been pulled from the agenda, and also Bill 128, Bidding Policies.

Dennis Pearson, 942 East Tilghman Street, said for 15 years they've put Christmas lights at Irving Park. He presented a 15 year commemorative to Council. We are in a period of change. Politicians should realize there's an old African proverb that when 2 elephants fight, it's the grass that suffers. When opposing forces fight, it is the people that really suffer. How many problems have been caused in our current economy because 2 opposing forces have been fighting and didn't care about the people who are suffering through this crisis?

Mr. Donovan said it was his 2nd year to attend the Christmas holiday lighting festivities. He enjoyed it. It takes an incredible amount of work, and he understands he did most of that work.

Mr. Pearson said at this given time many of the moons took flight to Egypt, meaning the swimming pool is now empty.

Mr. Schweyer said he was not able to participate in the opening ceremonies, but it was a great display.

Paulette Hunter said thank you. The video cameras are up. She also looks forward to seeing the foot patrol.

Greg J. Potter, 526 South Berks Street, thanked Council for voting for the resolution on health care reform. They are having a meeting on the 28th or 29th. All 3 mayors have been invited. Easton also passed a resolution unanimously. Regarding Bill 87, we get black eyes on our own without trying. Verizon is set, after negotiations are taken care of, to do a Fios build out in Allentown. Fios is a great product and people will move to Allentown because of that. Very few communities are getting it; it's expensive; it's lucrative. It's going to give the City some money. Tampa was disastrous. There were 6 or 7 gas line breaks that he knows of that were perpetrated by faulty contractors who were not trained properly or hired. Pittsburgh had the same situation. It's important we get quality work done. Having adequate trained personnel in contracting work is essential to our lifestyle in this City.

Bill Randall, Youth Education in the Arts, said they put on the Drum and Bugle Corps competition in the summer. Our premier program, the Cadet Drum and Bugle Corps is headed to Washington for the inauguration. He thanked Council for passing a resolution on their behalf.

Ralph Romano said he's a retired police officer after 16 years. Not all of them retired with enormous pensions. Their #1 priority was their families. He was an investigator in the criminal investigation division. The Police Department is severely understaffed, outgunned and undermanned. Did anyone entertain the idea of having experienced investigators work part time on cases they have opened?

Mr. D'Amore said your advocating that we look into the possibility of hiring some of our former investigators. That's something they can look into. There will be contractual issues that have to be resolved. He thinks it's safe to say the proposal for part time uniformed police officers has been withdrawn.

Ken Bennington said yes.

Mr. D'Amore said it is not an active proposal at this time any more.

Mr. Romano said he's an experienced investigator who could come back and work on these cases.

Mr. Guridy said you're saying you're willing to come back and work, get a pension and get paid again.

Mr. Romano said it has nothing to do with money or double-dipping. As a detective, he made commitments to people to bring killers to justice. He has no doubt if the department was fully staffed, it would be a gem of a police department that it is. Imagine cutting half of Council in half and trying to do the same amount of business.

Mr. Phillips asked if we are currently working with the D.A.'s detective squad task force?

Mr. Romano said yes.

Mr. Phillips said he doesn't know how they could make it work. It's a plausible idea. Do you have any other solutions?

Mr. Romano said first of all if the drop pension was in place, he'd be at his desk solving some cases. How that happens now is a whole other ball of wax.

Ms. Eichenwald and Mr. Guridy moved to suspend the rules to introduce Draft R3.

Mr. D'Amore said he objects. He called for a vote to suspend the rules.

The motion to suspend the rules failed, 3 Yeas and 3 Nays (Donovan, Schweyer, D'Amore).

Mr. Guridy moved to suspend the rules to vote for the President and Vice President on January 21st, or until there are 7 Councilpersons present.

Mr. Donovan, Mr. Schweyer and Mr. D 'Amore objected to the motion.

The motion was withdrawn.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT:

Here are the relevant Council Rules:

A. Election: Council will elect a President and Vice-President at its organizational meeting. The President (or Acting President) will be first take nominations from other Council members for the nomination of President. Each Council member can offer only one nomination at a time when recognized by the Council President. After nominations have been made by Council members, the President may offer a nomination. The potential candidates will be voted on in the order they were nominated. The first candidate to receive a majority vote will become the President. The procedures will be the same for the election of the Vice President. (26643 10/21/92)

Mr. Donovan nominated Michael D'Amore for President of Council.

Mr. D'Amore accepted the nomination.

Ms. Eichenwald nominated Julio Guridy for President of Council.

Mr. Guridy accepted the nomination.

The motion to nominate Michael D'Amore as President of Council was approved, 4 Yeas and 2 Nays (Eichenwald and Guridy).

Mr. Schweyer nominated Michael Donovan for Vice President of Council.

Mr. Donovan declined the nomination.

Mr. Donovan nominated Tony Phillips for Vice President of Council.

Mr. Phillips accepted the nomination.

Mr. Guridy nominated Jeanette Eichenwald for Vice President of Council.

Ms. Eichenwald accepted the nomination.

The motion to nominate Tony Phillips for Vice President of Council failed, 3 Yeas and 3 Nays (Guridy, Schweyer, Eichenwald).

The motion to nominate Jeanette Eichenwald for Vice President of Council failed, 3 Yeas and 3 Nays (Phillips, Donovan, D'Amore).

Mr. Schweyer nominated Julio Guridy for Vice President of Council.

Mr. Guridy declined the nomination.

Mr. D'Amore nominated Michael Donovan for Vice President of Council. He requested Mr. Donovan reconsider his declination.

Mr. Donovan accepted the nomination.

The motion to nominate Michael Donovan was approved, 5 Yeas and 1 Nay (Guridy).

Mr. Guridy said we end up making deals. Some deals don't stand and people don't keep their word. It's very awkward and embarrassing. He wishes not to be part of the way this has been done in the past, and therefore supports Ms. Eichenwald's resolution. We should rotate the presidency and vice presidency.

Mr. Donovan said he appreciates the comments. We do have a broken system. When he came on Council last year, his cell phone went way over its limits as politicking occurred for the officerships of Council. He believes it's in all of our interests to reconsider the rules. We knew for some time there would be a reorganization. Whatever good merits Ms. Eichenwald's resolution has, especially in its goal, there's certainly not enough time this evening to consider it and discuss it in a rational way. He believes in a merit system. In the future, he would like to see where candidates would express an interest and make a statement to their fellow Councilors, and to the public, as to why they would be most qualified for the position. Because of the newspaper article, he contacted his colleagues about being nominated. He never asked for a vote. He thinks we should take a look at how we select our officers.

Ms. Eichenwald said she agrees with everything Mr. Guridy said, and she's profoundly disappointed that they didn't have an opportunity to air this resolution tonight. What we just witnessed makes this resolution more imperative. She hopes they will consider this resolution at some future date. She hopes there will be a system whereby there is a rotation system of leadership, and everyone has the opportunity to serve. She hopes the lobbying and politicking will cease.

Mr. Schweyer said he thinks there's a lot of merit to what she's saying. We need to take a broad based view of everything we're doing on Council. Whether it's to dictate policy for how we, ourselves, operate or the direction of the City on a whole.

Mr. Guridy said the reason he declined the vice presidency is because he's been in that position for 5 years. He felt someone else should be vice president.

Mr. Guridy and Mr. Schweyer moved to suspend the rules to introduce R3 and send it to committee.

Mr. D'Amore said he has a concern that Mr. Schweyer's committee was charged with the duty of reworking Council rules. They have a proposal on the election and vice president. They all agree the process they use is not a very good one. He would not like to see a resolution that was framed effectively in a day or 2 take precedence over a resolution that's been

worked on for a year. He's fine with considering them equally. We will have a committee hearing when Mr. Schweyer's resolution is ready as well.

Mr. Schweyer said it won't be difficult to offer that resolution. He should have it within a week.

Mr. D'Amore said R3 is referred to Committee of the Whole to be scheduled at a later date.

Mr. D'Amore said it's been a pleasure serving with Mr. Phillips as the vice president, and he welcomed Mr. Donovan's leadership. He doesn't think they all should agree all the time. It doesn't look good if we don't handle our disagreements well.

5. Approval of Minutes: None

6. Old Business

Mr. D'Amore noted a Resolution on ACIDA appointments last week mistakenly appointed David Olson's term to expire on 1/1/2013. This was a typo and should have read 1/1/2010.

7. Communications

Mr. Donovan said over the last year there's been a variety of discussions on sewer fund transfers. He and Mr. Hoffman made an attempt to understand those transactions. He passed out a memo on the transfers.

8. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

Mr. D'Amore said a public hearing has been scheduled for January 21st at 7:00 PM to take testimony on the Comprehensive Plan. The plan will also be discussed at the CEDC on January 14th, which starts at 6:00 PM.

ADMINISTRATION – Chairperson Donovan said the Committee met on Monday; a future meeting is scheduled for January 28th, the fourth Wednesday of the month. They recommended pulling Bill 128 to improve it.

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – Chairperson Schweyer said the Committee has not met since the last Council meeting; a future meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 14th at 6:00 PM.

PUBLIC WORKS – Chairperson Gurdy said the Committee has not met since the last Council meeting; a future meeting has not been scheduled.

PUBLIC SAFETY – Mr. Phillips said the Committee has not met since the last Council meeting; a future meeting has not been scheduled.

APPOINTMENTS - Chairperson D'Amore said the Committee has not met since the last meeting; a future meeting has not been scheduled.

LEGAL AND LEGISLATIVE – Chairperson Phillips said the Committee has not met since the last Council meeting; a future meeting has not been scheduled.

RULES AND CHAMBERS – Chairperson D'Amore said no meeting; no report.

CONTROLLER'S REPORT

Presales Inspection Meeting: Councilperson Donovan said they submitted a report to Council and have scheduled a press conference for Monday, January 12th, at 11 AM, to present the Committee's recommendations.

Council Reform Committee: Councilperson Schweyer said they had a Committee of the Whole to discuss R91.

9. **ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE:**

Bill 87

Sheet Metal Technician was removed from the agenda.

Bill 128

Bidding Policies was removed from the agenda

Bill 129

Administration Sponsored: Amending Article 143, Police Pension Fund, by providing for the outcome of the Act 111 award on the compensation for overtime, providing for a One-time Deferred Retirement Option Plan, and deleting provisions in compliance with the award.

Ken Bennington said Randee Sekol doesn't know if he will get here tonight. He just landed at Philadelphia Airport. If you would like to table it, that's fine.

Mr. D'Amore said why don't we table it until later in the meeting. If Mr. Sekol gets here we'll consider it then.

Bill 130

Administration Sponsored: Repealing Article 112 (Public Records) of the Administrative Code of the City of Allentown and adopting an Open Records Policy for the City of Allentown consistent with Act 3 of 2008 of the Pennsylvania General Assembly, known as the "Right-to-Know Law"

Mr. Donovan said this bill provides a common sense procedure for citizens of Pennsylvania to obtain information from various entities. It was forwarded 3-0.

Bill 130 was adopted, 6 Yeas and 0 Nays.

10. ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION:

Mr. Donovan and Mr. Phillips moved to suspend the rules to introduce Bill 1 on Bidding Procedures.

Mr. Donovan said the residents approved a change to the Charter. In the past many, details of purchasing were handled through the Administrative Code. At the Administration Committee, we decided there were other good controls Council could put into the new bill. They recommended to pull the bill and put together a much more useful bill that has good controls in it.

Bill 1

Amending the Administrative Code, Article 130.16, Contracts, by standardizing bidding policies and controls to ensure the most cost effective securing of goods and services for the City of Allentown.

Bill 1 was referred to Administration Committee.

Mr. Donovan said the exact language that was in the Charter is the exact ordinance of the City.

11. **CONSENT AGENDA:** None

12. RESOLUTIONS ON SECOND READING:

R91

Council Sponsored: Amends Council Rules and Regulations by Realigning the Committee System

Mr. D'Amore said they never voted on R91 at the Committee of the Whole meeting, because dialogue ensued on R3.

Mr. Donovan moved to pull R91 out of committee.

The motion was approved by common consent.

Mr. Schweyer asked Ms. Eichenwald if she would like to make a motion to introduce her amendment.

Ms. Eichenwald and Mr. Donovan moved to amend R91 by adding to Part D, The President shall choose the Chairperson of the individual committees in conjunction with the seven (7) City Council members.

The amendment to R91 was approved by common consent.

R91 was approved, 6 Yeas and 0 Nays.

R89

Authorizes Disposition of Certain Records

Mr. D'Amore said R89 was tabled at the last meeting.

Mr. Donovan said there were several typos that were identified by Mr. Guridy and others.

Mr. Bennington said the destruction dates on all the records – they found older boxes that should have been disposed of earlier.

Mr. Schweyer said we just adopted the Open Records law. Does this resolution still comply with the Open Records law?

Attorney Danks said yes.

R89 was approved, 6 Yeas and 0 Nays.

13. NEW RESOLUTIONS:

R1

Authorizes the Filing of a Proposal for \$50,000 in Funds with the Pa. Department of Community and Economic Development for the continuation of the Elm Street Program in Old Allentown

R1 was referred to CEDC.

R2

Authorizes the Filing of a Proposal for operating grants for the Seventh Street Program area in the amounts of \$40,000 and \$35,000 for years 4 and 5 respectively, and façade grants in the amount of \$30,000 per annum for years 4 and 5 with the Pa. Department of Community and Economic Development,

R2 was referred to CEDC.

14. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Bennington read a letter he received from the Public Human Resource Certification Council. It recognizes Christine Ruth for achieving international recognition for the Public Management Association for Human Resources. She is now authorized by the Human Resources Certification Council to use the IPMA/CP or IPMA/HR certified professional designation.

Mr. Donovan said we need to have a resolution on Bill 129.

Bill 129 amends the Police Pension to include the "DROP" Pension Plan.

Mr. Donovan said the City must follow precise rules for the state in regards to arbitration awards and the way pension changes are implemented. In the most recent negotiations between the FOP and the City, the "DROP" Pension Plan was adopted. Part of the requirement by the state is to have an actuarial analysis of the implemental cost of that award. We just received that analysis with a technical term of it being actuarially sound. There were will be an annual increase of \$73,673 to the City's cost of supporting the pension.

Mr. Hilliard said he thinks they can wait until the 21st to pass the resolution.

Ms. Eichenwald and Mr. Guridy moved to table Bill 129.

Bill 129 was tabled, 6 Yeas and 0 Nays.

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

16. **ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Michael P. Hanlon
City Clerk