

Michael D'Amore, Ph.D., President
Peter Schweyer, Vice President
W. Michael Donovan
Jeanette Eichenwald
Julio A. Guridy
Ray O'Connell
Mike Schlossberg

Allentown City Council
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COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES - 7:30 PM
September 21, 2011
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

- 1. Invocation: Michael Schlossberg**
- 2. Pledge to the Flag**
- 3. Roll Call:** D'Amore, Donovan, Eichenwald, Guridy, O'Connell, Schlossberg, Schweyer
John Marchetto represented for Solicitor's Office

4. Courtesy of the Floor

Mr. Lou Hershman, 405 N. Gilmore Street, stated that Mr. Donovan will speak on the audit tonight. He stated that in the budget they budgeted \$2.4 million from the 35 percent wage tax increase and he is still waiting for the \$5.6 million difference between the \$2.4 that is budgeted and the \$8 million that was supposed to be collected. He asked where he can find it in the budget. He stated that they estimated an \$8 million earned income tax collection from 35 percent and have \$2.4 million budgeted on page GF-27, he would like to know where the difference is. He stated that his budget pages are ripping out of the book.

Mr. Donovan stated that he will have a comment at his committee meeting. He stated that this is the first time you mentioned 5.6. There is a line item for the revenue, for the MMO's, for the contribution and for the pension fund and as we made clear the determination of the proper allocation to the pension fund has not been yet made, but we have asked the finance department for a recommendation on that. He stated that Mr. Hershman introduced a new number. He stated that he is quite clear with the \$17 million with the \$10 million increase pursuant to the EIT increase was justified with two reasons and part of that had to do with Act 205 and part of that had to do with case law. He stated to that to date Mr. Hershman was concern was the pension allocation and we are in the process. No determination has been made on what would be the best allocation so you are introducing new information.

Mr. Hershman asked if he could answer Mr. Donovan. He stated that Mr. Donovan presented the City of Allentown EIT Summary and the last line \$2.3 million allowable under Act 205. That means the proposed budget that was presented to us for \$8 million estimated to be collected from Act 205. That leaves \$5.6 million unaccounted for. He stated that he is trying to find out where he could find it. When something reads permissible that means it is allowable, is that correct.

Mr. D'Amore stated allowable, yes.

Mr. Donovan stated to Mr. Hershman that he has repeated this over and over again. He stated that he explained that there have been two justifications that were given at the Budget Hearing. One was the EIT associated with Act 205 and the other was case law. That is not broken down in the budget. He stated that it was something that he asked for six months as you know.

Mr. Hershman stated that he will make this a campaign promise.

Mr. D'Amore stated that hashed through this a number of times and they will try and calmly do it once more.

Mr. Donovan stated that he gave Mr. Hershman that document that he asked for six months which shows the justification for Act 205 component and also said publicly, repeatedly that he then went to the administration and said what was the justification for the rest of the amount and he was given legal opinions which for good reasons are given to council and it was mentioned at the Budget Hearing and he went back to the minutes. He stated that it was mentioned briefly that case law was the justification for the rest. That does not need to show up in the budget book. That was a legal justification on why \$10 million was increased.

Mr. Hershman stated that he does not know the change in government went. You have to show revenue of \$8 million and you do not show expenditure to match the revenue other than unappropriated balance. He stated that he understands budgeting too. When it reads allowable under Act 205 he understands what that means. It means there is a difference because when the proposed budget came out, it showed \$8 million estimated with the 35 percent wage tax increase. That means that there is a difference there. When the final budget came out, it was lumped together.

Mr. Donovan asked Mr. Hershman than why did he ask the administration for six months for exactly the same thing you asked. He stated that he explained the situation. It does not show up in the budget book. That was a legal justification to show why \$10 million was increased.

Mr. Hershman stated that all he has left is to ask the Auditor General to come in here and audit this revenue. You are misrepresenting the public because you could have put it in a column.

Mr. D'Amore stated to Mr. Hershman that should be very appropriate if you chose to do that. He stated that Mr. Donovan has given you an answer and he understands that it is not the answer he likes. He is giving you the answer to his ability. He stated that he does not know what else Mr. Donovan can do for him. If you feel that you need to go further and need to go to the auditor general than that is what you need to do.

Ms. Jill Maulsburger, Center City, stated that she was reading the Wall Street Journal a copy from a while back and it was talking about Johnny and Disney and it was going to make a movie about the Lone Ranger and Disney kept weighing the risks with the benefits with the movie on how much they think it would make and how it would cost to make it and at the very end, they decided that it was not worth it, the benefits was not greater than the risks. Business is pretty flexible. Private business is pretty flexible and if they could evaluate all the way up to do something. She stated that she was thinking about this and thinking about Allentown and the arena project and noticed that before this meeting there was another meeting, a committee meeting on the economic development liquor license request and you were asking questions about losing business and the competitive business and risk benefits and talking about financial ruin and how much the city will lose. She stated that she found it fascinating because it does not seem to be the type of attitude that the city holds for the stadium. She stated that she looked up an article on Pennsylvania Arenas and it was from Jim Paynard which is a reporter for the PA Independent and he researched this and found that all these small cities around Pennsylvania Chester, Lancaster, Beaver Falls, York, Johnston, Altoona, Washington, Scranton, Muzette, Harrisburg, and Hershey all have minor league stadiums that they built and none of them are making money. The state of Pennsylvania has put in \$500 million since 1999 – 2009 and taxpayers can be expected when there is a bond sold for these things to pay in reality 2.5 or 3 times the amount discussed. She stated that they discussed \$100 million for the arena. We will be paying \$2.5 million – \$3 million that will be the real cost and then you have the upkeep. The only benefit is the team, the city never benefit from these things. It is a shame that you do not evaluate or reevaluate these things with risks and benefits.

Mr. D'Amore thanked Ms. Maulsburger and stated that it is a constant reevaluation that is going on, but thank you for your comments.

Mr. Ernie Atiyeh stated that if you recall earlier this year a gentleman came up here that was a crossing guard and he was concerned of getting a parking ticket when he is actually doing his job and he mentioned that he would look in to it. He stated that he did look into it and he contacted the police department and contacted the Parking Authority and he is very happy to say they came up with a situation where crossing guards are permitted to park at meters while they are on duty. He thanked the police department, especially Assistant Chief Warg for putting all this together. He stated that he is president of the Allentown President's Council and this past Thursday they has a meeting and made a recommendation to council that they sit down and have a discussion about putting some funds aside for neighborhood initiatives. He stated that if they would like to get together on something like that he knows he could put together a committee and talk about it. It is something appropriate for City Council to do.

Mr. D'Amore thanked Mr. Atiyeh and stated that he is sure that Council will get in touch with him on that.

Mr. John Ingram stated that he is not going to talk about Bill 66 that they are bringing to the floor. He would like to talk about hiring of police officers in the City of Allentown. He stated that his opinion is that he does not know the percentage of bilingual officers there are in the City of Allentown, but the city is now forty-three percent Hispanic and it will soon be a majority of Hispanic city, within five or ten years based on the current trend. One of the goals of the police department and the Mayors office should be to move toward at least forty percent bilingual officer core in the City of Allentown and when it goes over fifty percent, it should be a fifty percent bilingual police force. That does not mean fifty percent Hispanic; he is talking about fifty percent bilingual. Most will be Hispanic and that will be great to provide for better continuity in the city. He stated that particularly when you talk about the neighborhood concept of police officers walking the beat on the city streets. He stated that is what they should be doing to know the residents in those neighborhoods on a first name basis. He other issue he want to talk about in a generic sense. You are going to reissue debt, and refinance debt. Today the Federal Reserve board announced they are going to buy \$400 billion of long term government securities, US debt. Concentrating on the six to thirty year maturities, immediately the thirty year Treasury bond today dropped 16 – 17 basis points to 3.01 percent. That is the lowest it has been since the depths of the financial crisis three years ago. The ten year Treasury note dropped to 1.86 percent at the low. This is an ideal time to lock in low rates on any refinancing for the City of Allentown and time should not be wasted on that.

Mr. Guridy stated that both issues that they spoke about are very important and well noted. The first one is particularly important because he has been talking about it for the past eleven years. Not only should they reflect the population in the police department, but in the fire department, in the public works department, in the economic development department and the recreation department and every other department in the city. He applauded Mr. Ingram for his observation. He stated that it is very difficult to do that in a short term. Bill 66 will probably help as well to move in that direction. This is not the first time they has a list like this.

Mr. Schweyer stated to Mr. Ingram that his concerns are duly noted and like to let him know and Mr. Marchetto has done more leg work on this then anyone. He stated that they are in the process to see what they are legally able to do because so much of this is based on state law with the intended goal of making our police department as bilingual as possible. He stated that the city has 199 sworn in officers and we have nine women. When we talk about diversity, we can not simple talk about having 15 officers that are bilingual. We have less female officers then we have bilingual officers. There are a number of things they should look at to make sure our police department reflects our city. They are examining a number of different ways and Bill 66 will be the first step in giving us the flexibility to hire folks who will not only serve the city with distinction, but reflect what the city is becoming. There are additional ways and hopefully it will be awhile. We hope to have some resolution of what we can do.

Mr. Steven Ramos, 324 N 8th Street, stated that the city wants to begin demolition in November and he knows there is a lot of discussion on how the financing is going to work. He stated as he remembers back to the first

years back when we spoke about an arena where the Hess's building is at to his recollection they were going to build it, and then the financing did not come through. The Hess building was demolished and then no arena. If we can ensure and require that and guarantee that we will have the financing before we start demolishing some of the buildings we have on Hamilton and Seventh Street so that we do lose buildings that were built in 1892. He knows that the city wants to push the arena, but if financing did fall through, it would be a shame to lose those buildings.

Mr. D'Amore thanked Mr. Ramos and asked anyone else for courtesy of the floor.

5. Approval of Minutes: September 7, 2011

Minutes Approved by Common Consent.

6. Old Business

Mr. Donovan stated that move to reconsider of Bill 45 to amend Section 147.04, Trustee Officers, by amending the reference to the Mayor as President of the Board and there will be a change and the board will elect its own President.

Mr. D'Amore stated that they have to take a vote to reconsider first before they amend. If there is an affirmative vote, they have to amend and if they amend, they will also have another affirmative vote on the ordinance.

Mr. Marchetto asked what they are reconsidering.

Mr. D'Amore stated that they are reconsidering Bill 45.

Mr. Marchetto asked why it being reconsidered. He stated that they passed a bill and now they want to amend that same bill. You don't want have it before and possibility reject it. He stated that it will be an amendment of the bill.

Mr. D'Amore stated that it is not out of order to do a reconsider.

Mr. Hanlon stated that in the Rules says at the next meeting the prevailing side can make a motion to reconsider.

Mr. D'Amore asked if they vote to reconsider than they can amend. There is some reason for this. He stated that as long as it is in order.

Mr. Marchetto stated that they are allowed to reconsider.

Mr. D'Amore stated that if it is in order as long as members of council want to do it, then they will do it. He stated that the question is there an objection to reconsidering Bill 45. He asked do they need a voice vote on the reconsideration if there is no objection. He stated there are no objections, they open up Bill 45.

Bill 45 Agg Pension Members.doc

Mr. Donovan read the Mayor Board shall choose their shall be the President, the City Controller shall be the Secretary, and the Director of Administration and Finance shall be the Treasurer of the Aggregated Pension Trust Fund.

Mr. D'Amore asked was there an objection to the amendment. There are no objections to the amendment so the Bill stands as amended. He asked if there was any discussion from members of Council on Bill 45 or the public.

Mr. Hoffman stated that they had discussions about this because it was overlooked. He stated that he and Mr. Strathearn discussed taking it to the aggregate board and seeing what they thought and he sees that Council is not doing that now. He stated that they are taking it and voting on it. He stated that he is not in favor of it. He rather have someone in City Hall be the president that the controller and secretary has to deal with in order to organize the issues and put them forth as oppose to anybody. It could be a resident that retired. They may not be available. To keep it simple for the secretary, he is in favor of designating it as the Director of Finance, President, Controller, Secretary and the manager of accounting the treasurer of the fund. It is debatable, but is his position on the functions the controller has to perform as secretary.

Ms. Eichenwald asked Mr. Hoffman what is the function of the president. Is it a function that the controller has to meet with the president on a regular basis? Is the president a figurehead that calls the meeting to order?

Mr. Hoffman stated that generally what the secretary of the board is doing is confirming what the mayor, president or Mr. Strathearn as director of finance of what will be on the agenda. Flushing out the issues and putting together the agenda to get the meeting going and rolling smoothly. If that person happens to have a month in Florida it would be more difficult to do and they are not focused strictly on city business. They may have other things going on.

Ms. Eichenwald stated that can be determined by the people who are making the choices to the president. Is there a constant interaction does it have to be on a professional basis in the confines of the administration to make the board run smoothly.

Mr. Hoffman stated that he does not think so. It is a matter of availability and focus.

Ordinance passed, 7 – 0 as amended

7. Communications

Ms. Holly Edinger, Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corporation, thanked Council for their time and stated that she was in Easton and Bethlehem over the summer talking about this program and what they are trying to accomplish regionally the Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corporation is a regional nonprofit and they work in tight partnership with their friends at the city's Department of Community and Economic Development as well as the county and if you could imagine it is a challenge to keep everyone happy, but they do a fair job at it. She gave them a handout and began talking about the document about the partnership to sustain communities. The federal government has formed an office of sustainable communities. It is a partnership that is kind of unprecedented and they are looking to breakdown silos of the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency), the department of transportation and the department of Housing and Urban development. It is a partnership between three large agencies within the federal government. They are looking to align resources and looking for programs and goals that bring together three goals that bring together what they created that is called sustainable communities defined by the coalition and the livability principals which are outlined by the sheet for you. When you take a glance at it, there are things that are very nature for a city like Allentown. There are things like promoting an equitable and affordable housing, valuing communities and neighborhoods. These are bread and butter issues for the cities, the boroughs, and the region. She stated that LVEDC in partnership with the counties and cities as well as some other nonprofits is doing is pursuing a grant which is available through HUD and it is a regional planning grant to create more sustainable communities. She stated that on the back side is a summary of the grant application that they proposed last year to HUD. Last year, they applied for \$5 million and of that \$5 million and of that \$5 million there was a

significant amount of that money designated to catalytic projects and the catalytic project was one in each of the three cities and it will bring planning resources to that project. She stated that they were not funded last year; however, they scored very well and on the radar of our friends at the federal agencies and have been encouraged to apply again. It made it through the federal budgeting process and unfortunately there is another round to this grant going on right now. They are putting in an application for about \$3.7 million and of that \$650,000 will be coming to the City of Allentown directly to foster a project that will help the city create a more sustainable community. As it is right now, the city is based around the S. 10th Street neighborhood and industrial corridor there which has a lot of housing, but it does not have as many jobs as it should or vice versa. In Bethlehem, they are doing a project that will better link the neighborhood with the new women's center. She stated that she is trying to talk about transportation options and LANTA is part of the partnership as well. It is a strong coalition of regional partners and we are really hopeful that we are going to get this money are help your project specifically, but by helping your project and helping on a regional level they will be more realistic on future growth and how the regions grows and how it impacts the city. She stated that this is a HUD grant and they like to see public participation.

Mr. Schlossberg thanked Ms. Edinger and asked does she need any action for council or the department of Community and Economic Development right now.

Ms. Edinger stated no, but is working with the department of Community and Economic Development about a commitment to the partnership with an application and consortium agreement. That will be a bigger action item if they are funded.

Mr. O'Connell thanked Ms. Edinger and asked what the timeline is.

Ms. Edinger stated that it is pretty tight and last year they put the application in the beginning of October and it is due and hoping to hear before the holidays. This is funded out of fiscal year 2011 for the federal government.

Mr. O'Connell asked if she stated that LVEDC scored high last year, came up short and were encouraged to apply again.

Ms. Edinger stated that they gave a few communities deferred status based on the application last year. We were one of the communities to get that and it gives two bonus points this year. It also enabled them to give two bonus points to other organizations applying for other HUD programs. The city that was applying for a healthy homes grant through HUD and because of the partnership they were able to give them certification to get two points on their application. The application process would be helpful.

Mr. Donovan recommended since EAC comes under Mr. O'Connell he thinks from the point of view of developing partnership the Environmental Advisory Council could work closely with you on a variety of issues that you discussed here and they will be interested. He stated that he does not know if any representatives from the committee are here, but that would be good.

Ms. Edinger stated that if they are awarded this grant, the level of public outreach and reengagement will probably be something that they have never seen in the Valley. They are talking about going to every EAC and every main street program into this and meeting people where they are and talking about this process.

Ms. Eichenwald stated that when they get the money will there be any job creations from the local employee force.

Ms. Edinger stated there are many key components on the application and they will be hiring two people from LVEDC to help administer the program and the planning commission may hire people. There will be a handful

of staffing jobs to administer the money and work on the program, but one of the big components on the application this year and what came up a great deal from Mr. Hefele was the need to do a regional study of housing versus employment centers. What they are proposing with this money is that will be one of our first steps that we review on a regional level where the jobs are and where the workers housing is and how long that commute time is and does it make sense. If you talk to people from LANTA, a lot of it does not make sense. Out of that they will be doing a regional economic development strategy and that regional economic development strategy will have a goal of creating jobs and improve the job housing balance.

Mr. Guridy thanked Ms. Edinger for taking the message to the people. He stated that Ms. Edinger mentioned working for a number of organizations including CACLV and asked her was she working with the local housing authorities.

Ms. Edinger stated only through the regional affordable housing initiative. It is a by county effort to increase affordable housing opportunities. That initiative is at housed at CACLV and for the purposes of the grant application they are drawing a big umbrella that when they get funding they will reach down out in that umbrella and get all the partners. The affordable housing and housing development authorities are represented by the regional initiatives right now and the cities.

Mr. Guridy stated that they can talk about that tomorrow at the meeting.

Ms. Edinger stated that it is definitely something that they are going to have to.

Mr. Guridy stated that the reason why he mentioned it is because they did a 5-year plan for our organization and some goals are similar and it would be great if they work together in some of the areas and more they can capitalize on the process.

Mr. O'Connell stated to Ms. Edinger that she stated that the Allentown Catalytic Project will be the S. 10th Street corridor and yet he sees on the summary it says these include the revitalization of the Lehigh River Waterfront in central Allentown.

Ms. Edinger stated that this is last year's summary. Last year we were focused on the waterfront.

Mr. O'Connell stated that Ms. Edinger is going to concentrate in Allentown in the S. 10th Street corridor.

Ms. Edinger stated yes.

Mr. D'Amore thanked Ms. Edinger.

Ms. Hailstone stated on behalf of the administration she would like to thank LVEDC and specifically Ms. Edinger for taking the lead and all the work putting in.

Mr. D'Amore stated on behalf of Council he would like to thank Ms. Hailstone as Community and Economic Development Director for her role and participation and Mr. Hefele and everyone in the department.

Mr. Schlossberg stated that he would like to suspend the rules and bring R-53 forward.

Mr. Schweyer seconded.

R53 Octane Partners LLC.DOC

Approves the Issuance of an Economic Development Liquor License for Octane Partners LLC
Inside Lehigh Valley Grand Prix, LLC 649 South 10th Street, Allentown, PA

Mr. D'Amore stated that this was before the Public Hearing right before the City Council meeting. He stated that if there is discussion by members of Council.

Mr. Schweyer stated that he would like to mention that several of them were reached out to and he spoke to Mr. Scott Unger, Executive Director of Allentown Economic Development Corporation and he was very encouraging and very enthusiastic about this and had nothing but good things to say about the operation and working relationship. He stated that they heard it earlier today, but wanted to let the public know that they did hear from the property owner who of course is one of our economic development groups.

Mr. D'Amore asked were there any other comments from council or the public.

Resolution passed, 6 – 1 (Eichenwald)

8. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

Budget and Finance: Chairperson Donovan

The Committee has not met since the last council meeting; the next meeting is scheduled for September 28th at 6:00 PM. He spoke to the chief auditor on Tuesday morning to find out about the status. The draft for internal review will be ready later this week. He asked about the financial report. He stated that in the coming weeks, the 2012 budget. He stated that he has spoke to Mr. Hershman about the EIT and the budgeting item.

Mr. Strathearn stated that it was emailed out.

Public Safety: Chairperson Guridy

The Committee met this evening and has one Bill on the agenda, Bill 66; the next meeting is scheduled for October 5th.

Community and Economic Development: Chairperson Schweyer

The Committee has not met since the last Council meeting the next meeting is scheduled for October 12th at 6:00 PM – this meeting will be a review and preview of the CED's budget.

Parks and Recreation: Chairperson Ray O'Connell

The Committee met this evening and had a presentation by the Environmental Advisory Council; the next regularly scheduled meeting is on October 19th prior to the Council meeting pending agenda items.

Public Works: Chairperson Schlossberg

The Committee has not met since the last Council meeting; the next meeting is scheduled for October 12th at 7:00 PM to hold a long term budget review, this meeting will be a review and preview of the Public Work's budget.

Human Resources, Administration and Appointments: Chairperson Eichenwald

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

Rules, Chambers, Intergovernmental Relations and Strategy: Chairperson D'Amore

The Committee has not met since the last meeting.

OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS

Housing Authority – Councilperson Guridy

There is a scheduled meeting tomorrow at 9:00 AM and are open to the public.

CONTROLLER'S REPORT

None

9. APPOINTMENTS:

Jacqueline I Morales	Electricians Examining Board	01/25/2013
Michael A Prisaznik	Plumbers' Examining Board	05/01/2012
Erick Bernhard	Plumbers' Examining Board	06/04/2013
David DeWalt	Plumbers' Examining Board	06/04/2013
William Gibisser, Jr.	Plumbers' Examining Board	05/01/2013
Robert Brinker, Jr.	Plumbers' Examining Board	05/01/2012

Appointment to the Electricians Examining Board
Re-Appointment to the Plumbers Examining Board

Resolution passed, 7 – 0

10. ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE:

Bill 66 Police Officer Hires

Authorizes the hiring of certain Act 120 certified individuals to expedite getting additional police presence in the City

Bill 66 POLICE CIVIL SERVICE HIRING

Mr. Guridy stated that they discussed it this evening and the bill was read. It would give the city the opportunity to hire new police officers who have been who has gone through the Act 120 certification and individuals who can support our city and public safety. He stated that as Mr. Schweyer stated earlier, this bill gives them the opportunity to diversify our police force and recommended they approve it unanimously.

Mr. Schweyer stated to Mr. Guridy that he knows that this has been an issue for him for a long time. He would like to acknowledge his efforts and for Chief MacLean this will create a way to help us achieve our goals and that is what we need and appreciates the effort.

Mr. Guridy thanked Mr. Schweyer for coming up with the Bill and Assistant Chief Warg.

Mr. Donovan asked Chief MacLean about the comment earlier and asked if the city every considered a financial incentive for officers to take a second language training.

Chief MacLean stated that they discussed that in the past and it never went anywhere.

Mr. Donovan stated that the reason why he asked is that he was involved in a situation where one of the officers who is Caucasian actually spoke fluent Spanish and was able to handle something. He admires people that learn the language. He stated that it strikes him as an opportunity.

Mr. Guridy stated that in the late 80s and early 90s there was an effort to have police officers take it and there were some council members to have the police officers learn English or Spanish and write reports at that time and some council persons felt it was inappropriate and terminated it. There is a way to do this. He thinks it should be the police officers, fire fighters and people that deal with the public. It will be money well invested.

Ordinance Passed, 7 – 0

11. ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION:

Bill 67 General Obligation Bonds, Series A of 2011 Referred to Budget and Finance

Bill 67 Refinancing and Issuance of General Obligation Bonds

Capital Projects Funding (not to exceed \$4,000,000) and Refunding of General Obligation Bonds, Series of 2001 Bonds and Guaranteed Sewer Revenue Bonds, Series of 2001 and Guaranteed Water Revenue Bonds, Series of 2001 General Obligation Bonds, Series A of 2011

12. CONSENT AGENDA:

CA-1 HARB.doc

Certificates of Appropriateness for work in the Historic Districts

Resolution passed, 7 – 0

13. RESOLUTIONS ON SECOND READING: None

14. RESOLUTIONS ON FIRST READING:

R50 DUI ENFORCEMENT GRANT

Authorizes Mayor to sign \$14,100 Grant for an Alcohol Enforcement Program

Grant Application:

City of Allentown Alcohol Enforcement Program

Mr. D'Amore stated that this was a request to vote for this evening. He asked were there any objections.

Resolution passed, 7 – 0

R51 Budget Process

Amending Council Rules by adding a section on Budget Procedures

Mr. Schlossberg stated that this was in front of Rules and at the last meeting; they made a few ethical amendments to it. They pulled the original and introduced it today. The consensus was pretty favorable toward the legislation and stated that they should vote on it today. This breaks up our hearing and they vote on the budget amendments in one night and give the public and council members ample time to research and comment on them and vote at a separate meeting and no other amendments could be introduced unless there is a motion to suspend the rules which will require four council members voting for that suspension. Essentially they will vote on the amendments to the budget one night and the entire budget on the second night.

Mr. Schweyer stated to Mr. Schlossberg great work and the committee hearing was very helpful. He stated that Mr. Schlossberg was able to hash out new things. The community review will begin next year because they are at the end of September. CED is holding their budget reviews.

Mr. Schlossberg encouraged colleagues to hold a long term hearing before the budget is introduced. He stated that he and Mr. Schweyer will hold separate hearings so that they can hear that information because it is valuable information, but not for a budget hearing. He asked his colleagues to hold hearings on their respective communities.

Ms. Eichenwald stated that the changes are absolutely necessary. She encouraged them to send a memo or written advisements on the different procedures that they will follow so they will not be in the same situation of listening to two hour power points and then exhausted deal with the real issues for the presidents, the officers and the entire council.

Mr. D'Amore stated that sounds very wise. He stated that they could do that in any form she would like.

Ms. Eichenwald stated in the form of a letter.

Mr. D'Amore asked is it a letter signed by him.

Ms. Eichenwald stated it should be signed by the seven of them and part of the letter that is important is the issue about power point and giving them ample time to talk about the important issues about the budget.

Mr. D'Amore asked Mr. Hanlon to get the letter done, drafted and have everyone sign it by the next meeting and give to the Mayor.

Mr. Guridy asked are they suggesting that they do these meetings prior to November. He asked would there be several budget hearings prior to November and then they will have the budget hearing excluding the power point presentations.

Mr. Schlossberg stated that he would not classify these meetings before the budgets are introduced at budget meetings. He stated that he would classify it more as a long term strategic meeting to learn various department stresses, their challenges and what their priorities are for next year. He stated as an example when he does his public works meeting he will be asking Mr. Young about his capital improvement projects for the water, sewer and road infrastructure and then ongoing cost of delaying some of these projects as the economy dips.

Mr. Guridy stated that in essence in October they should have these hearings and asked Mr. Schlossberg is he suggesting public hearings.

Mr. Schlossberg stated yes and he does not know how will apply to this year.

Mr. Guridy stated that he does not have any problems with it.

Mr. D'Amore stated that resolutions take effect when they are passed. It will apply to this year.

Resolution passed, 7 – 0

R52 Vacancies

Referred to Rules, Chambers, Intergovernmental

Amending Council Rules by adding a section on Filling Vacancies in Council, Controller and Mayor's Office.

Mr. D'Amore asked the committee is there a time where they can meet.

Mr. Donovan stated that he is pretty flexible.

Mr. D'Amore stated that he and Mr. Donovan will be here for Budget and Finance, can you make it next Wednesday at 7:00 PM so they can do Rules, Chambers, Intergovernmental Relations and Strategy after Budget and Finance.

Mr. Schlossberg stated that it is Rosh Hashanah and it will be inappropriate to do that.

Ms. Eichenwald stated good choice.

Mr. D'Amore apologized for asking and stated that they will try to schedule that later and his mom will be proud.

15. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Donovan stated that to Mr. Strathearn that he is sorry he missed that email when Mr. Hanlon sent it out. He stated that he just took a quick look and they are still falling behind on EIT to date and most of the other accounts are pretty much in line for the year so far. In the last few years, they have not had a big jump at the end of the year and that is something that they have to watch.

Mr. Strathearn stated that they do see it going up month by month.

Mr. Donovan stated that it is actually higher than what he would have forecasted so that is good.

Mr. O'Connell stated that he would like Ms. Eichenwald, Mr. Donovan and Mr. Schweyer jump in. He stated that at the end of the Parks and Recreation committee meeting a gentleman came up to the dais and said he had concerns. One was about the flooding when it rains heavy and the Little Lehigh and the fecal matter at the Robin Hood area. He stated that the water test for the fecal matter because obviously that is a concern. He stated that the kids swim in that area after heavy rains and it is very unhealthy. He stated that he wants to know how they can warn the people in signage "no swimming due to unhealthy conditions" as you would have by Union Terrace "don't ice skate because there is not enough ice there". He also spoke about the speed limit and the patrols at the Lehigh Parkway. They need to be addressed.

Mr. D'Amore asked Ms. Hailstone to speak to Ms. Kistler about the possibility of them posting warnings on the unofficial swimming.

Mr. Schweyer stated that there are three different issues and how three different departments sort of have control of one thing. The Parks and Recreation is the water in their parks. The monitoring and testing seems to be a Public Works function and the notification of the public seems to be a public health issue. He asked if they could notify Ms. Kistler and appropriate person and will get an update at the next council meeting.

16. GOOD AND WELFARE

Mr. O'Connell stated that Mr. Weitzel was here earlier and as the chair of the Parks and Recreation committee he thinks it is fitting that came from Mr. Mike Moore stating that Mr. Weitzel was invited to watch the Roundtable. He read the communications email.

City of Allentown Director of the Department of Parks & Recreation Greg A. Weitzel is one of just 60 invitees to a Washington, DC roundtable on the challenge of sustainably funding urban and metropolitan parks.

The National Recreation & Park Association and the Urban Institute in cooperation with the National Association of Counties and National League of Cities will convene the event on Tuesday, September 27. The roundtable, "Financing the Future: The Critical Role of Parks in Urban and Metropolitan Infrastructure," will bring together an influential group of decision-makers, policy experts, managers and researchers from a wide variety of disciplines to address critical issues and point to solutions for the future.

Weitzel said, "I'm honored to be invited to join with my colleagues from across the country in our nation's capital to discuss these challenges and how to work towards repositioning parks and recreation in the future."

Weitzel is one of just two invitees from Pennsylvania. The one day roundtable takes place at the Urban Institute.

Mr. O'Connell stated that it is not only an honor for Mr. Weitzel, but an honor for Allentown and he sent an email to him and stated make Allentown proud. He stated that Mr. Weitzel is one of two invitees from the entire state of Pennsylvania and that is a credit to Mr. Weitzel and the entire Parks and Recreation office and a credit to the city of Allentown.

Mr. D'Amore stated that they are in concurrence with that.

Ms. Eichenwald welcomed the interns and asked them to introduce themselves.

Mr. D'Amore stated why not get you on the record for prosperity.

Ryan Boyington, junior double major and Muhlenberg College in Political Science and Economics, Abra Evensky, International student with a Business concentration, and Dianna Shinn, double major in Political Science and English.

Mr. D'Amore thanked the students for choosing the City of Allentown for their internship.

Ms. Eichenwald stated that she is a graduate of Muhlenberg too.

Mr. D'Amore stated that he is happy to have them on and he is a Moravian graduate.

Mr. D'Amore stated that last week they had to call the EMS for his son John having breathing problems. The doctors believe he has asthma. The EMS responded with text book response. The fire department, EMS and is sadly the third time they had to call EMS for the boys and each and every time they responded professionally and he is so happy for all the EMS and first responders in the city and is deeply grateful. He asked Ms. Hailstone to pass that along.

17. ADJOURNED: 8:47 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.