

**HARRISBURG CITY COUNCIL**  
**LEGISLATIVE SESSION MINUTES**  
**Tuesday, October 25, 2016**  
**A G E N D A**

**CALL TO ORDER**

- President Williams called the meeting to order at 6:07PM.

**ROLL CALL**

- The City Clerk called the roll and all 7 members were present during roll call, namely: Ben Allatt, Jeff Baltimore, Shamaine Daniels, Destini Hodges, Cornelius Johnson, Westburn Majors and Wanda R. D. Williams.

**INVOCATION/MOMENT OF SILENCE**

- The Moment of Silence was led by Mr. Baltimore.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

- The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Allatt.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

- Mr. Lenwood Sloan and students from Harrisburg High School SciTech gave a presentation about their progress towards creating a Youth Harrisburg City Council.

**COURTESY OF THE FLOOR**

- Daniel Graham said that Resolution 59-2016 sounds good, but he hopes that the police start to enforce the red lights at the intersections. He said Market Square, 2<sup>nd</sup> and Chestnut and other intersections are dangerous. He said that he is glad to see some Police Officers on bicycles, but we need more police for Public Safety.
- David Forkkio said that it's extremely important that Council respects the lower class community. He said that the housing market is limited and they are forced to live outside of the city, where all the good jobs are. He said that he'd like to note that it's been almost three months since "Shaleek Moss" was killed by the Harrisburg Police Department.
- Jeremiah Chamberlin said that he doesn't think passing the Housing Discrimination Bill is a good idea. He said that we need to protect our citizens, but accepting a housing voucher is more difficult than it seems. He said with respect to inspections, he is a landlord and if we stop inspections, we would have to stop with those fees and we would lose at least \$30 or \$40K a year. He said that he supports what the Mayor is trying to do, to hire more codes officers. He said that he believes all houses should be inspected and he keeps his houses in good shape just as everyone else should.
- Antoine Horve Sr. said that regarding discrimination on section vouchers, he opposes the legislation. He said that the section 8 housing inspections that are being conducted are not enough. He said that the Harrisburg City Codes officers should act as a safety net for these inspections to make sure they are properly inspected. He said it is agreed upon that Mayor Papenfuse is correct that the Code Inspections and HUD Inspections are both necessary. He said in 2013 his home was inspected by the Codes Department for window replacements under the home improvement program. He said that DBHD Code Inspectors determined that all windows tested positive for lead. He said the attached home was built the same year and was recently approved for Section 8 Housing. The residents that recently moved in have four kids and if a Code Inspector would come out to that house he guarantees that house would test positive for lead. He said that he is older and his health isn't so good and his life has been a nightmare because of his neighbors. He said police have been dispatched at least three times and complaints have been filed with the Harrisburg Housing Authority with no results. He said that it is true that our residents deserve good neighborhoods; however retired neighbors do not deserve

section 8 neighbors. What is needed is amended legislation to add more city code officers.

- Sheena Mosley said she is there on behalf of South 14<sup>th</sup> Street. She said that she heard that the money was received for the residents, but she doesn't understand why the city is controlling the money. She said the city doesn't pay their taxes and they weren't out there doing what they needed to do. She said that she heard that Mayor Papenfuse sent out something to the media and she said no one was knocking on anyone's door today. She said if you are going to write something, please get it correct. She said that they weren't informed that something was going to happen today and it was very unprofessional.
- Maria Vargas said that she was not pleased by the press release that was sent out by the Mayor. She said that there was no excuse for this letter to go out today and that she was the resident knocking on doors. She said that DCED is trying to help, the Commissioners are trying to help and the Mayor has issues with them, but keep that on the back line and don't bring it to South 14<sup>th</sup> Street. She said they don't care about who you get along with; they care about the safety of their families. She said please make sure when you bring your staff out, make sure that they bring the correct information. She said that the relocation goes out to the renters and not for the homeowners. She asked the Mayor what he is doing to help them, what is Impact Harrisburg doing. She said they are concerned about the redesign of the area and the area is no good.
- Kevin Novingor said he opposes the removing of the Section 8 Housing Code Inspections. He said that he lives in a troubled neighborhood and it's a mixture of renters, homeowners and section 8. He said that if they remove the city inspections they would be unable to receive adequate help from the city. He said that codes have always been helpful and he is concerned if we eliminate them. He said regarding housing discrimination, he did a quick look online (craigslist) and through conversations he didn't notice that big of a difference in the rental costs. He suggested that City Council work towards enabling legislation that would augment a code that would provide more inspectors on the street and have a methodology that would address problems.
- David Lanza said he is there to speak about Bill 21. He said from a literal reading of this Bill it would prohibit a landlord from turning down an applicant who has no income. He said it may not be the intention of the Bill, but it is how it reads. He said this will result in law suits against landlords. He said that this would be a violation of Federal Law. He said it may seem to be (on its face) a good thing, but it will be a domino effect on investor owned properties and homeowner occupied properties. He said that the Section 8 program was not meant to be mandatory. He said regardless of whether investors abandon the city because of this Bill, the simple fact is there will be less money and less housing available. He urged City Council to allow them to work together to discuss ideas to provide input. He said other organizations are willing to provide resources where these issues can be addressed. He asked that Bill 21 not be adopted.
- Brett Woodburn said access to housing is a critical issue and it's something that realtors take very seriously. He said that they have programs that educate people on Fair Housing and they have approached the City of Harrisburg, but did not receive a call back. He said one of the most problematic things to do is to enact legislation reactively. He said the realtors would offer services to identify legislation passed elsewhere and at a state level to find out what the problems were and how those pieces of legislation worked out over time. He encouraged Council to use the resources made available so they can work together, with Council to address the needs of housing and to protect the rights of property owners, because we need to find balance.
- Thomas Leonard said he urged City Council not to pass a Bill that would remove section 8 rental units from the City Code Inspection Process. He said that he lived in the City for 34 years and he knows the intention is to get work done that is not being done. But, we are coming out of a historic low point and we are working on it. He said if the purpose is to ease the workload the better idea is to get more Codes Officers on board.

- Glen Lehman said that he manages about 250 rental properties in the city and about 10-12% accept section 8. He said he's disappointed that he is coming to City Council at this point and time because he continuously reaches out to codes and City Council to see if anyone has questions that he could help and talk through things. He said he has a hard time with the fact that the whereas and whatnots couches as if protected income is all about section housing or discrimination of tenants, because it's not. He said people don't understand how Section 8 works. He said that the Section 8 program is set up to determine the voucher based on the average rent of properties in the city. He said the only way a section 8 tenant can get into the house is if the tenant and landlord accept money on the back end to defraud the system and that is not what you would want to do. The Landlord on 2118 Susquehanna Street would love to take a Section 8 tenant, but the problem is the property next door is boarded up and he is unable to participate in that program. The problem is that if this ordinance gets passed through and if a Section 8 participant wants to rent that property and we don't allow them, we'd be involved in a law suit. He said that there is a lot more to this Bill and he suggests Council to Table this and clean it up. He said he is available and will leave his card if anyone wants to talk to him.
- Chris Wyman asked City Council to table the Bill. He said many people are willing to go over this with you to explain the impact.
- Richard Soto said he caught the back end of this discussion, but asked City Council to hold the vote that could affect a lot of the residents. He said people should come together collectively to work this out. He said that we are 26% poverty rate in the city. He said that he doesn't think people should buy a home unless they lived in the city for at least three years, so that they understand the people and our culture so that they can take care of their homes. He said we should look into Habitat Humanity because they refurbish homes and sell them back to the community, but not for \$80-\$90K that is too much and the program wasn't fit for that. The program is for people to provide affordable homes to people so they can be homeowners.
- Don Graves said that he has been through this from start to finish and he is a homeowner. He asked what happened to the Host Fund? He said with regards to communicating with neighbors, he has been door to door. He said the Mayor couldn't be there and he is trying to bad mouth someone else and it's not right because the important thing is the money is coming from somewhere else.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Upon motion by President Williams, with no objections, the Legislative Session Minutes of October 11, 2016 were deemed approved.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- Chair Baltimore reported on the Community & Economic Development Committee Meeting of October 19, 2016.
- Chair Allatt reported on the Budget & Finance Committee Meeting of October 19, 2016.
- Chair Daniels reported on the Building & Housing Committee Meeting of October 20, 2016.
- Chair Hodges reported on the Parks, Recreation & Enrichment Committee Meeting of October 20, 2016.

#### ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING

- **The City Clerk read Bill 25-2016 into record** - An Ordinance amending Section 5-715.8 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Harrisburg to increase the business privilege and mercantile license fee from \$40 annually to \$50 annually effective January 1, 2017.
- President Williams placed this in the Community & Economic Development Committee.

## ORDINANCES FOR AMENDMENT

- There were none.

## ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE

- **The City Clerk read Bill 21-2016 into record** – An Ordinance to amend and update Section 4-105.2 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Harrisburg relating to unlawful housing and commercial property practices by adding protection against source of income discrimination for residents with a verifiable source of legal income.
- Mr. Johnson made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hodges to Table Bill 21-2016.
- President Williams called the vote for the Table and this motion carried 6-1, with Ms. Daniels voting in the negative.
- **The City Clerk read Bill 24-2016 into record** – An Ordinance amending Chapter 6-331 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Harrisburg, which prohibits smoking in all buildings, vehicles, and playgrounds owned, leased or operated by the City of Harrisburg, to include pools owned, leased or operated by the City of Harrisburg.
- President Williams called for the vote and this passed 7-0.

## RESOLUTIONS

- **The City Clerk read Resolution 59-2016 into record** – A Resolution authorizing the appropriate City officials to execute the grant agreement documents accepting a \$52,569 award under the Automated Red Light Enforcement ("ARLE") Funding Program from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation ("PennDOT")
- President Williams called for the vote and this passed 7-0.
- **The City Clerk read Resolution 75-2016 into record** - A Resolution confirming the appointment of Mr. Joshua J. Grubbs to serve on the Harrisburg Human Relations Commission for a three year term.
- President Williams placed this in the Administration Committee.
- **The City Clerk read Resolution 76-2016 into record** – A Resolution confirming the appointment of Ms. Shaashawn S. Dial-Snowden to serve on the Harrisburg Human Relations Commission for a three year term.
- President Williams placed this in the Administration Committee.
- **The City Clerk read Resolution 78-2016 into record** - A Resolution approving the Preliminary/Final Subdivision and Lot Consolidation Plan submitted by Doug Neidich of GreenWorks Development, LLC to subdivide a portion of the property at 1519 North 3rd Street, and consolidate the subdivided portion with the property at 1511 North 3rd Street.
- President Williams placed this in the Community & Economic Development Committee.

## OLD BUSINESS

- There was none.

## NEW BUSINESS

- Chair Allatt announced that Harrisburg City Council will be hosting a “Pre-Trick or Treat Night Bash” on Wednesday, October 26<sup>th</sup> at two different locations, Harrisburg Fire Station #1 – 1820 N. 6<sup>th</sup> Street and Fire Station #8 – 9 S. 13<sup>th</sup> Street. He invited all of the public to come out for a good time.
- President Williams thanked Mothers Subs and Middleswarth for helping to sponsor the “Pre-Trick or Treat Night Bash” and invited the public to attend.

- Mr. Johnson said that he will be having a Public Safety Committee Meeting on November 1<sup>st</sup> at 5:30PM. Additionally, he said that he decided to make a motion to Table Bill 21-2016 because it needs more consideration and engagement with the public. He said it is healthy to have these discussions, which is respectful for everyone. He commends Councilwoman Daniels for bringing this legislation forward because it starts an important discussion and he looks forward to continuing the discussion.
- President Williams announced that she will be having an Administration Committee Meeting on November 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5:30PM. She also announced that the Legislative Session for November 8<sup>th</sup> will be changed to November 9<sup>th</sup>, due to the election. She announced that Mother's Subs and Zumbalicious will be having their first annual Christmas Toy Drive and they are asking people to donate a new unwrapped toy or to donate \$10. She said you can drop off donations at Mother's Subs, 770 Eisenhower Blvd. or at Camp Curtin School.
- Mr. Allatt encouraged everyone to get out and vote on November 8<sup>th</sup>.

#### ADJOURNMENT

- \* The meeting was adjourned at 7:25PM.