

HARRISBURG CITY COUNCIL
LEGISLATIVE SESSION MINUTES
Tuesday, May 23, 2017
A G E N D A

CALL TO ORDER

- President Williams called the meeting to order at 6:14PM.
- President Williams announced that an Executive Session was held before the meeting to discuss Legal Issues.

ROLL CALL

- The City Clerk called the roll and all 7 members were present during roll call, namely: Ben Allatt, Shamaine Daniels, Jeff Baltimore, 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

- President Williams made a statement regarding the Comprehensive Plan discussion at the previous Work Session on May 18th. She said that Mr. Baltimore invited a guest that was here to give her perspective on the Comprehensive Plan and she was interrupted several times. She said anyone that City Council invites to the table will not be challenged or disrespected in the future. She said if there is a repeat performance by the Administration, the Chair will respectfully request your silence or that you be removed from the meeting. She said we must be respectful to everyone.
- President Williams introduced our new Assistant City Clerk, Chardan Huston.

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

- Stephanie McMurray said she was delinquent in her taxes and set up a payment plan with Dauphin County. She said that she received a letter about the Ordinance that was passed and the City Treasurer didn't know anything about it. She asked if the money that she paid could go to her delinquent school taxes, so her house won't be up for sale in July.
- Kay Ann Wetzel said she opposes Resolution 49-2017. She said that they are against the project for well over a year. She said the last they heard that they didn't get the funding for the project and they were told by the Planning Commission that if that occurred, they would have to go through the entire process all over again. She said that she received a letter in the beginning of the year and a survey would be sent out and she never received this survey. She requested to be a part of the meeting to discuss the Resolution and express their concerns.
- Khaldun Rasheed thanked the City of Harrisburg for the benefits for Veteran's for this upcoming weekend. He said that today he was on Fox News about the Blight in the City of Harrisburg. He said for over 30 years he has been trying to get a certain property demolished and he discussed that on air today. He said there were pros and cons about what he had to say, but he is fully in support about the new initiative about blight in the city. He said he can see progress in the mentality and people are starting to care about what is going on next to them. He said when the Citizen's Code program was in place, he was actively involved.

- Sam Moore said she had a few concerns about the FOP Bargaining agreement. She said the language “Unless agreed by an officer a municipality shall not make any public comment on the reason for disciplinary action” the public will never know what the disciplinary action was. Another concern “If anonymous complaints are made, but no evidence is obtained the complaint is unfounded” this seemed passive and there is no process. She said that she was curious about the Safety and Health Committee and would like an explanation on the members of that committee and what that would look like. Her final question was about disciplinary records, it is important to keep their records “on record” so the public knows what an officer has done or not done.
- Maria Vargas said her biggest issue is the lack of communication. She said in many meetings she attends, this has been going on over three years. She said they attended the School Board meeting last night and their response was that when they went to the City and County they have different numbers. She said South 14th Street is not getting answers and they just want to know when the refund is coming from the city. She said it has been six weeks since this has been approved and they want to know why they are still waiting.
- Daniel Graham said we need more railroad passenger trains coming into Harrisburg. He said this will provide many good paying jobs for people. He said that we also need factories in Harrisburg and all over the USA for good American workers. He said he hopes President Trump repeals all free trade agreements and bring back manufacturing jobs that we lost to other countries. He said it has been suggested before and he agrees that we need to provide term limits to the Mayor of this City.
- Vonda Evans said she doesn’t know what is going on about the funding, but it’s not fair that this situation is being prolonged. She said people are breaking into these houses that they own and you want us to pay taxes. Why aren’t we getting the funds that were granted to us, she asked what are they supposed to do.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Upon motion by President Williams, with no objections, the Legislative Session Minutes of May 9, 2017 were deemed approved.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- Chair Williams reported on the Work Session of May 18, 2017.
- Chair Hodges reported on the Work Session of May 18, 2017.
- Chair Daniels reported on the Work Session of May 18, 2017.
- Chair Johnson reported on the Work Session of May 18, 2017.

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING

- **The City Clerk read Bill 6-2017 into record** - An Ordinance for the purposes of reauthorizing, within the City of Harrisburg, an area designated as a Neighborhood Improvement District, designating a non-profit corporation to administer the same, accepting a business plan for the district and authorizing assessments for the operation thereof and meeting all other requirements under the Neighborhood Improvement District Act for continuation of the same and repealing all inconsistencies ordinances or parts of ordinances.
- President Williams placed this in the Administration Committee.

ORDINANCES FOR AMENDMENT

- There was none.

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE

- **President Williams removed this from the agenda - Bill 5-2017** - An Ordinance amending Section 8-501.1 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Harrisburg to authorize the Building and Housing Code Board of Appeals to include two (2) alternate Board member positions and to permit taxpayers within the City to be eligible for appointment to the Board.

RESOLUTIONS

- **The City Clerk read Resolution 72-2016 into record** - A Resolution to review the Application for a Certificate of Appropriateness filed by Ms. Maritza Robert for the replacement of wooden swing-out garage doors with a metal roll-over garage door with decorative elements at the property located at 587 South Front Street.
- Ms. Daniels moved to make the following amendment, seconded by Mr. Baltimore. To approve the appeal of Maritza Robert, related to certain exterior work performed at 587 South Front Street in the Historic Overlay District, authorizing the issuance of a certificate of appropriateness for the improvements and otherwise waiving on a non-precedential basis the time restrictions for consideration of such appeals.
- President Williams called the vote for the amendment and this passed 7-0.
- President Williams called for the vote on this Resolution as amended and this passed 7-0.
- **The City Clerk read Resolution 33-2017 into record** – A Resolution authorizing the City of Harrisburg to negotiate and enter into a professional services contract with MKSD, LLC, d/b/a MKSD Architects to provide a feasibility study of the City’s pools.
- Ms. Hodges made a motion, seconded by Mr. Baltimore: Contingent upon the Administration doesn’t find a previous pool study and if it is found and not up to the full extent of this study we are going to conduct now, this can be used to implement a further study with the pools (by June 6th).
- President Williams called the vote for the amendment and this passed 7-0.
- President Williams called for the vote on this Resolution as amended and this passed 7-0.
- **The City Clerk read Resolution 35-2017 into record** - A Resolution authorizing the submission of a grant application to the Department of Community & Economic Development for the purpose of funding the development of a Master Site Plan for City Island to help guide future development on the island.
- President Williams called for the vote and this passed 7-0.
- **The City Clerk read Resolution 36-2017 into record** - A Resolution authorizing the City of Harrisburg to enter into a grant agreement with the Pennsylvania Urban & Community Forestry Council for the purpose of funding a tree planting project under the Tree Vitalize program.
- President Williams called for the vote and this passed 7-0.
- **The City Clerk read Resolution 37-2017 into record** – A Resolution ratifying a Prescription Drug Benefit Facilitation Services Agreement with Benecard Services, Inc.
- President Williams called for the vote and this passed 7-0.
- **The City Clerk read Resolution 41 – 2017 into record** - A Resolution ratifying the Commercial Energy Sales Agreement with Champion Energy Services for the generation of electricity for certain properties and accounts for the City of Harrisburg.
- President Williams called for the vote and this passed 7-0.

- **The City Clerk read Resolution 43-2017 into record** – A Resolution approving a professional services agreement with SMS Systems Maintenance Services, Inc. for maintenance support of the City’s SAN server.
- President Williams called for the vote and this passed 7-0.
- **The City Clerk read Resolution 44-2017 into record** - A Resolution of the Council of the City of Harrisburg ratifying the 2017-2020 Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City of Harrisburg and the Fraternal Order of Police Capital City Lodge No. 12.
- President Williams called for the vote and this passed 5-2, with Mr. Johnson and Mr. Majors voting in the negative.
- **The City Clerk read Resolution 45-2017 into record** – A Resolution endorsing the adoption and use of a Debt Management Policy for the City of Harrisburg.
- President Williams placed this into the Budget & Finance Committee.
- **The City Clerk read Resolution 46-2017 into record** – A Resolution approving a professional services contract with Urban Engineers, Inc. to provide construction management and inspection services for the Third Street Multimodal Project.
- President Williams placed this in the Public Works Committee.
- **The City Clerk read Resolution 47-2017 into record** – A Resolution approving the Third Proposed 2017 Budget Reallocation in order to provide for additional program and equipment allocations.
- President Williams placed this in the Budget & Finance Committee.
- **The City Clerk read Resolution 48-2017 into record** – A Resolution endorsing the adoption and use of a Fund Balance Policy for the City of Harrisburg.
- President Williams placed this in the Budget & Finance Committee.
- **The City Clerk read Resolution 49-2017 into record** – A Resolution approving the Preliminary/Final Land Development Plan submitted by Jodie Smiley to construct a three story multifamily dwelling at 1100 S. 20th Street, Harrisburg, PA to provide affordable rental housing to seniors.
- President Williams placed this in the Community & Economic Development Committee.
- President Williams moved, seconded by Mr. Baltimore to bring **Resolution 50-2017** – A Resolution approving a clarifying Addendum to the City’s Municipal Pension Plan Contract administered by the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System.
- President Williams called for the vote on the motion and this passed 7-0.
- President Williams made a motion, seconded by Ms. Daniels to suspend the rules.
- Mr. Grover gave an explanation to clarify the need for Resolution 50-2017 and they recommended City Council adopt the Resolution.
- The City Clerk noted in the 4th Whereas section there was an error that says 2107 instead of 2017.
- Mr. Allatt moved, seconded by Ms. Daniels to make the correction to the language on that date changing it to 2017.
- President Williams called for the vote on the amendment and this passed 7-0.
- President Williams went back into session.
- President Williams called for the vote on Resolution 50-2017 and this passed 7-0.

OLD BUSINESS

- Mr. Majors asked for an update about the timeline for the Comprehensive Plan and the upcoming dates.
- Ms. Parker said that they are working on a schedule that they can post, but the Planning Commission is stating they need a little bit more time. They are doing their part to move

NEW BUSINESS

- Ms. Hodges announced there will be an update on June 6th about the summer programs and the pools. She asked everyone to have a safe Memorial Day Weekend and to visit Art's Fest.
- Mr. Johnson asked the Administration for an update on the hearing about Blight.
- Mr. Papenfuse said that this was a Senate Sub-Committee Meeting that they were invited to attend. He said that they gave a presentation and focuses on Legislative Changes to provide more funding to the city to help fight blight. He said that this was televised and they would be interested meeting with City Council in the future to come up with a strategy to lobby together.
- Ms. Parker said they focused on proactive activities and reactive legislation. She said that she has written remarks that she can provide to City Council members.
- Mr. Papenfuse said Blighted Properties are no longer being boarded up and some cities are now using different strategies that cost more money, but they are interested in pursuing.
- Mr. Johnson said was one of the last things that they did in Susquehanna Township that required on properties to have functioning doors and windows. He said that a similar policy was put into place in Philadelphia. He said that when Boards are put up it takes away from property value. He said that he can get a copy of that ordinance and give that to Neil.
- Ms. Williams asked how many blighted/condemned properties do we have in the city?
- Mr. Papenfuse said 443 condemned properties.
- Mr. Johnson said are their various levels of properties that are condemned?
- Ms. Parker said they do have various levels and the Codes / Fire Department go out and determine what properties are unlivable. She said they have a lot of interest from small developers that have a vision to rehabilitate a neighborhood.
- Mr. Majors said regarding Act 152, do we need to get state approval or is it based on deed transfers?
- Mr. Papenfuse said right now they are expecting it to generate about \$230,000.00 for this year and that money is going to the County Land Bank, but they are determining the priorities. Jackie's concern is that this legislation gives the counties a useful resource, but nothing says that the money is to be used in the city or where blight is at its worst.
- Mr. Majors asked if we can work with the county to help them prioritize that money?
- Ms. Parker said they will certainly do that, but they mentioned to the Legislator that they should do something where a percentage goes to the areas that have the most blight.

- Mr. Papenfuse said they could make a change to say that a portion goes to the city Land Bank.
- Mr. Johnson asked how much money we have in our Land Bank.
- Ms. Parker said \$250,000.
- Mr. Johnson suggested to have a meeting to further discuss this. He said we should talk about how to get reoccurring funds for our Land Bank.
- Ms. Parker said there are so many owned by the Redevelopment Authority, but the key is to be able to go into Judicial Sale and get more properties. The idea is to work with the Redevelopment Authority to get a focused, targeted area. She said that when Councilwoman Williams walked on 4th Street, they are trying to address them and they are working on it. She said we can go to the court to ask if we can do something with these type of properties, but we need to be able to have the money to do something with them.
- Mr. Majors encouraged folks to work with the city to place all summer programs on the city's website to engage the youth for the summer.
- Mr. Baltimore recommended that City Council seek an outside legal opinion on the interpretation of the Comprehensive Plan contract and requested a legal interpretation on the roles of Council, Planning Commission and the Administration when it comes to the Comprehensive Plan. He said that we are all interpreting this differently and this is money well spent. He asked that we have another workshop to discuss this further.
- Ms. Williams asked to sit down with the Mayor, because she is sick of all the paper we use and she wants to have lap tops for City Council members. She congratulated Mr. Allatt, Ms. Daniels and Mr. Papenfuse for the re-election bids.

ADJOURNMENT

- The Meeting adjourned at 8PM.