

HARRISBURG CITY COUNCIL
LEGISLATIVE SESSION MINUTES
Tuesday, August 29, 2017
A G E N D A

CALL TO ORDER

- President Williams called the meeting to order at 6:10PM.

ROLL CALL

- The City Clerk called the roll and 6 members were present during roll call, namely: Ben Allatt, Shamaine Daniels, Destini Hodges, Cornelius Johnson, Westburn Majors and Wanda R. D. Williams.

INVOCATION/MOMENT OF SILENCE

- The Moment of Silence was led by Ms. Hodges.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

COMMUNICATIONS

- Mayor Papenfuss introduced 5 new city employees and allowed them an opportunity to introduce themselves.
- Chief Enterline announced that Red Cross will be doing Smoke Alarm Installation starting in September in partnership with the Harrisburg Fire Department. He said there are 1,000 smoke alarms to be installed and they will be walking around the city on September 8th.
- Ms. Carol and Ms. Margaret expressed their concerns and frustrations about the Heinz-Menaker Senior Center. They provided City Council with a packet.

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

- Linda Cammack said that there is a Drug & Alcohol center located in her neighborhood and is not zoned to be there. She said the owner resides in Mechanicsburg with the company CSG. She said the citizens are afraid and asked for assistance.
- Lewis Butts said this is the most engaged City Council he has ever seen and thanked them. He congratulated the PAL baseball team. He asked the Mayor for help with Camp Curtin and restoring Harrisburg's history. He said that this will offer funds and economic development in that area. He said there are areas near the Incinerator that we could put the compost site. He said we must hire people within our city.
- Veronica Varcove a non-city resident asked to speak, however she was not a city resident. The Council President asked that she submit her comments to the City Clerk.
- Hillary Henson said she wanted to talk to City Council regarding emotional appeals. She spoke in opposition to purchasing riot gear. She said she cares about Police Officers' lives, but she is against spending \$65,000 on riot gear. She indicated she found gear in LA that cost a fraction of that amount.
- Max Neely spoke in opposition to purchasing riot gear. He said he is an anarchist and he is here participating in the government, but he doesn't agree with it and doesn't feel the police serve the interest of the people, nor is the government transparent.
- Amanda Arbour spoke in opposition to purchasing riot gear. She said we all know that there is a deep mistrust between the police and community. She said this is something that will not bring us together, because we need de-escalation in the community.
- Pam Parson said the Central PA Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild opposes the allocation of \$65,000 for riot gear.

- Chris Sennick said he is a member of the Democratic Socialist of America and all of the people on the left side of the room oppose the police getting \$65,000 for riot gear because it is completely unnecessary and the Police should focus on threats coming from outside of the city.
- Joshua Rhoads spoke in opposition to purchasing riot gear. He said there were recently incidents of the police using mace. He said if the police aren't capable of correctly assessing a situation with mace, they aren't trained correctly to use tear gas. He said it would break his hear to see tear gas being used in Harrisburg.
- Asher Isley said it was brought to her attention that the White House announced they intend to issue an Executive Order giving police military equipment. She said if this is going to happen anyway, it's not point to purchase this hear. She said the more hands on the police are, the more scared the citizens get.
- Keith Bentz said he has been at two events at the heart of what this discussion is about. He said it is illegal to openly carry weapons on capitol grounds and no police were disarming them. He said he would like our officers to be protected, but let's be real about what is going on.
- Sarah Christian said that it sounds like a lack of training here. She said instead of requesting a new "shiny tool set" we should focus on training. She said rather than asking for \$65,000 for riot gear, we should get more training.
- Katherine Lugaro of New Cumberland asked to address City Council, the Council President asked that she submit her comments to the City Clerk.
- Council President Williams and Vice-President Daniels asked Solicitor Neil Grover to give a formal legal opinion as to non-city residents speaking during public comment.
- Mr. Ramsey asked everyone to be positive. He said that he will keep everything peaceful and the Police don't need that \$65,000 for riot gear, it could be used for a community center. He gave City Council a demonstration of a Tai Chi with two of his students.
- Guy spoke in opposition to the \$65,000 riot gear and recommended de-escalation training.
- Hanniel Sindelar spoke in opposition of the \$65,000 riot gear. She said she was thankful that City Council was bringing this back up for discussion, because at the last meeting they were not able to address the Police. She said this action feels like a slap in the face, when other issues requested by the community have not made progress.
- Tara Stark Mueller said the \$65,000 is unnecessary in light of the announcement by the Trump Administration to give police militarized gear. She said it would be the right move to vote against this measure. She said Mr. Allatt made a recommendation to meet with the community and she is unaware of any meeting taking place.
- Danny Martin spoke in opposition for the riot gear allocation. He said there have been studies that Police Department's that receive that type of gear have increase in violence and misuse of force. He recommended a Police Review Board. He said he wasn't sure when the agenda is posted, but citizens need more time to be fully engaged. He said regarding the term limits, citizens should have the ability to recall our officials and revoke representatives they have elected.
- Charise Grayer said her husband is a retired Officer and she is thankful he hasn't had any issues regarding safety. She said she hears what people are saying, but she wants their family members to be prepared. She said Chief Carter will have enough sense as to when to bring that gear out. She said the city is coming up now and it's time for us to get in line with everybody else.
- Aaron Johnson said the compost site around 19th Street isn't possible because it's in the flood zone. He said regarding the riot gear, he is a military guy. He said he wished we could have more respect for our police. He said they need the equipment to be prepared.
- Brandon said there seems to be an inconsistency with the meetings and who will be able to speak. He asked for clarification before the next meeting.

- Richard Soto said he has his blue on and is from the street. He said Police Officers are human beings just like us. He said let's stand up for what is right for our city because it is going to protect the people of our city. He said he did 10 years in prison with a racist Police Chief and thank goodness, he is gone. But, sit down with our Police Chief and share your ideas with him, he will listen.
- Steve O'Neil said the \$65,000 could be better allocated, than for riot gear.
- Jane Bordack said they need more police presence in her area of Allison Hill. She said they are good people, they work with the police. She said she did a lot of research about Community Policing and she thinks Harrisburg can lead the way. She said it is ok to get the riot gear, just come sit in our neighborhood.
- Ron Johnson said he knows that Community Policing Works because he seen the success. He said it is sad to see our senior citizens run in their house because someone is shooting because of lack of police presence.
- Jennie Jenkins said that compromise always works. She said our Police Department is a part of our community and they have the right to feel safe. She said to have the right equipment would put their families at ease.
- Anthony Harrell said recently there were three shootings on his block. He said crime is up and neighborhoods aren't safe. He said there is a disconnect between police and this community. He recommended taking that \$65,000 and using it to make the community safer.
- Chief Carter said that this conversation is good. He said he needs to hear the misunderstanding between the community and the police. He said the doors are open for you to work with police to make our city safer. He said he knows that you don't mean any harm, but it is the outsiders coming into our city that we are concerned with. He said he needs to be able to equip his officers with the proper gear to keep them safe.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Upon motion by President Williams with no objections, the Legislative Session Minutes of July 6, 2017 were deemed approved.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- There were none.

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING

- **The City Clerk read Bill 10-2017 into record** – An Ordinance amending Chapter 2-701 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Harrisburg to limit any person from being elected to the office of Mayor more than twice and to limit any person who held the office of Mayor or acted as Mayor for a period of more than two years of a term to which some other person was elected as Mayor from being elected to the office of Mayor more than once; and amending related chapter headings.
- This was placed in the Administration Committee.
- **The City Clerk read Bill 11-2017 into record** – An Ordinance Chapter 2-503 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Harrisburg on the organization of the Youth Commission and authorizing the creation of an application process for the selection of its youth members.
- This was placed in the Parks, Recreation and Enrichment Committee.
- **The City Clerk read Bill 12-2017 into record** – An Ordinance amending the City of Harrisburg's Traffic Control Map pursuant to Chapter 3-109 of the Codified Ordinances by changing the flow of traffic of Goodwill Drive between Cameron Street and North 12th Street from a two-way street to a one-away street.
- This was placed in the Public Safety Committee.

ORDINANCES FOR AMENDMENT

- There were none.

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE

- There were none.

RESOLUTIONS

- President Williams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Allatt to invite Grants Manager, Jonathan Hicks and representatives of the administration to give an overview of the grant-related Resolutions on the agenda and the importance of their passage at this meeting.
- **The City Clerk read Resolution 72-2017 into record** – A Resolution approving the Fourth Proposed 2017 Budget Reallocation to provide for additional equipment allocations.
- Mr. Allatt made a motion, seconded by Mr. Johnson to make the following amendment: To approve the proposed reallocation with the following condition: That the Office of the Solicitor shall provide the Council with a proposed Resolution for consideration at our first Legislative Session of September (2017) to form a Task Force to consider (1) Community Policing (2) Training Initiative (3) Civilian Review Board. The Task Force will be made up of 8 people: (2) from the Administration (2) from City Council (3) members of the community nominated by the Mayor or City Council and confirmed by City Council and (1) member selected from FOP.
- President Williams called for the vote on the amendment and this passed 6-0.
- President Williams called for the final vote as amended and this passed 5-1, with Ms. Daniels in the negative.
- **The City Clerk read Resolution 73-2017 into record** - A Resolution approving the sale of old cell phones that are owned by the City of Harrisburg and are no longer being utilized due to age and/or condition.
- President Williams called for the vote and this passed 6-0.
- **The City Clerk read Resolution 74-2017 into record** – A Resolution authorizing the City of Harrisburg to negotiate and enter into a professional services contract with Maverick Strategies for strategic guidance and intelligence gathering for lobbying related service.
- President Williams placed this in the Administration Committee.
- **The City Clerk read Resolution 75-2017 into record** - A Resolution authorizing the City of Harrisburg to enter into a grant agreement with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation for the purpose of upgrades to the traffic signals and communications at eight intersections located on Forster Street in the City of Harrisburg.
- President Williams called for the vote and this passed 6-0.
- **The City Clerk read Resolution 76-2017 into record** - A Resolution approving the Fifth 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 77-2017 into record** – A Resolution ratifying the submission of a grant application to the Department of Community & Economic Development for the purpose of funding the Chestnut Street Revitalization Project.
- President Williams called for the vote and this passed 6-0.
- **The City Clerk read Resolution 78-2017 into record** – A Resolution re-appointing AJ Knee to continue serving on the Harrisburg Architectural Review Board.
- President Williams called for the vote and this passed 6-0.

- **The City Clerk read Resolution 79-2017 into record** – A Resolution re-appointing Trina Gribble to continue serving on the Harrisburg Architectural Review Board.
- President Williams called for the vote and this passed 6-0.
- **The City Clerk read Resolution 80-2017 into record** – A Resolution re-appointing April Rucker to continue serving on the Harrisburg Architectural Review Board.
- President Williams called for the vote and this passed 6-0.
- **The City Clerk read Resolution 81-2017 into record** – A Resolution re-appointing Camille Bennett to continue serving on the Harrisburg Architectural Review Board.
- President Williams called for the vote and this passed 6-0.
- **The City Clerk read Resolution 82-2017 into record** – A Resolution authorizing the submission of a grant application for a Dauphin County Local Share Municipal Grant under the Pennsylvania Gaming Act for the purpose of funding personal protective equipment for the Bureau of Fire’s special operations team members participating with Technical, Swift Water and Dive Rescue.
- President Williams called for the vote and this passed 6-0.
- **The City Clerk read Resolution 83-2017 into record** – A Resolution authorizing the submission of a grant application for a Dauphin County Local Share Municipal Grant under the Pennsylvania Gaming Act for the purpose of funding GPS emergency vehicle preemption (EVP) equipment for fourteen downtown intersections and six City-owned emergency response vehicles.
- President Williams called for the vote and this passed 6-0.
- **The City Clerk read Resolution 84-2017 into record** – A Resolution authorizing the submission of a grant application for a Dauphin County Local Share Municipal Grant under the Pennsylvania Gaming Act for the purpose of funding five different pieces of equipment for the Bureau of Police.
- President Williams called for the vote and this passed 6-0.
- **The City Clerk read Resolution 85-2017 into record** – A Resolution authorizing and approving the submission of an application to the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board (PLCB) to exempt a specific area of the City of Harrisburg from the PLCB’s regulations regarding amplified music being heard off the licensed premises in favor of enforcing the City’s adopted noise ordinance.
- President Williams placed this in the Public Safety Committee.

OLD BUSINESS

- Mr. Johnson asked for an update on the COPS grant in more detail.
- Ms. Daniels asked for an update on the “Police Blotter” on the website and where it went.

NEW BUSINESS

- Mr. Allatt requested to have a discussion with the Codes Department to get clarification on process.
- Mr. Johnson made an announcement about the Safe Return Program. He said it will be at Zion Assembly Church from September 21-23rd. He encouraged the community to attend.
- Ms. Williams announced there will be a Special Public Meeting on August 31st at 5:15PM to fill the vacancy on City Council until January.

ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting adjourned at 9:34PM.