

**HARRISBURG CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE SESSION MINUTES
Tuesday, August 13, 2019**

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

- President Williams called the meeting to order at 6:45PM.

ROLL CALL

- The City Clerk called the roll and 6 members were present during roll call, namely: Ben Allatt, Shamaine Daniels, Dave Madsen and Wanda R. D. Williams. Mr. Majors was excused.

INVOCATION/MOMENT OF SILENCE

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

COMMUNICATIONS

- Wayne Martin, City Engineer, gave an update on the RFI request the city sent out regarding Capital Region Water.

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

- Melanie Cook said she has concerns about the removal of the stop signs on Third Street. She asked how this keeps happening, where a City Government decides to sell an asset and the body we elect is not informed. She said it is a lack of respect for City Council and the taxpayers. She said it appears that there is a chess match going on within this government, where there is a reaction to someone doing something and you have to catch it and block it. She recognized Councilwoman Green for participating in a panel meeting to consider a Police Advisory Committee. She said she hopes we could have a continued discussion to head in a positive direction.
- Robert Candidate announced the Dauphin County Recovery Day on September 28th from 12PM – 6PM at Reservoir Park. He said he ran programs in Dauphin County from 2011 – 2017. He said the issue we are having today is that we are not working together. He said there is a new social service center opening in Allison Hill, because the main issue we are having in our country is regarding mental illness. He asked everyone to come to the event in September and to look for more information about the new center. He said that he can be reached by e-mail for more information: stayvetnet@gmail.com.
- Ron Johnson said the Police presence is in downtown, but they need more on Allison Hill. He said there are drug dealers all around and he fears that the children are going to step on a needle or find a body. Additionally, he asked for more parking enforcement officers to visit Allison Hill.
- Laura Harding said she lives on Third and Emerald where the stop sign is slated to be removed and it appears to be a lack of transparency. She said there are multiple playgrounds in the area and kids run back and forth. She said that she appreciates City Council holding a Public Meeting on the 20th, but she wanted answers now because children's lives are at risk. She said this is something that shouldn't be up for debate.

- Joseph Gauger said he is in favor for the Stop Sign on Third & Kelker to remain. He said that he opposes the city privatizing the water authority. He said it doesn't benefit the citizens and he suggested that we have more public oversight of the water resources in Harrisburg.
- Kathryn Lally said she is new to the Harrisburg area and opposes privatization of our water. She said water is such a crucial asset to our city and if we would privatize our water we would lose our control.
- Ryan said he opposes privatizing water for the City of Harrisburg. He asked how can we guarantee our residents wouldn't be poisoned or be put in a bad situation by who we sell our water to.
- Sheila Dow-Ford said she enjoys her working relationships with the government body. She said communities need to commune and communicate together. She said it is shocking that we all received the information on Pennlive. She said it makes her angry and question what the motive was behind this decision. She said under the "Strong Plan" this government should work in concert with Capital Region Water to affect good governance around the operation of the city's water. She said what has happened here, doesn't fit in with that.
- Evelyn Hunt asked if there was a problem with CRW. She asked why would we want to lose another asset in the City of Harrisburg. She said she has been to plenty of CRW Board Meetings and the Mayor questioned the Storm Water fees, the timing appears to be bad.
- Penny said she understand Council was aware and the Mayor was only collecting inquiries. But, for the public it appears that you are selling meat before the cow was slaughtered. She said she is "not about it" (selling the water) and feels like there are a lot of people that couldn't make the meeting "about it" either.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Upon motion by President Williams, with no objections, the Special Legislative Session Minutes of July 9, 2019 were deemed approved.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- Mr. Madsen reported on the Work Session of August 13, 2019.

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING

- There were none.

ORDINANCES FOR AMENDMENT

- There were none.

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE

- **The City Clerk read Bill 2-2019 into record** - An Ordinance appropriating Community Development Block Grant Program funds from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development for Fiscal Year 2019 and authorizing expenditure of such funds.
- **President Williams called the vote and this passed 6-0.**
- **The City Clerk read Bill 3-2019 into record-** An Ordinance appropriating Emergency Solutions Grants Program funds from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development for Fiscal Year 2019 and authorizing expenditure of such funds.
- **President Williams called the vote and this passed 6-0.**

- **The City Clerk read Bill 4-2019 into record** - An Ordinance appropriating HOME Investment Partnerships Program funds from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development for Fiscal Year 2019 and authorizing expenditure of such funds.
- **President Williams called the vote and this passed 6-0.**

RESOLUTIONS

- **The City Clerk read Resolution 51-2019 into record-** A Resolution approving the Fiscal Year 2019 Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), and Emergency Solutions Grants Program (ESG), along with the 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan.
- **President Williams called for the vote and this passed 6-0.**
- **The City Clerk read Resolution 53-2019 into record** - A Resolution technically amending Resolution 17 2018 by including an additional parcel to be acquired by the City of Harrisburg pursuant to Chapter 128 of the Third Class City Code for the construction, erection and extension of a permanent public works facility.
- **President Williams called for the vote and this passed 6-0.**

OLD BUSINESS

- There was none.

NEW BUSINESS

- Mr. Allatt thanked members of the public for their comments. He said the challenges he has had is there is no true collaboration that occurs. He said there is usually an arbitrary decision made and City Council is forced into reaction mode. He has questions regarding the motive and prefers to have an interactive discussion rather than things happening this way, finding out after the fact. He said we need to do a better job at communicating and collaborating and arriving at decisions that benefit everyone. He said communication has to improve, because as elected officials they are the ones getting stopped and questioned about what is happening and unable to give answers.
- Ms. Williams agreed with Mr. Allatt and apologized to the public because she wasn't aware that the Mayor was going to come out with that announcement before she had the opportunity to meet with Council Members. She said that anything that the administration wants to do, needs to come before City Council. She said she moves on things quickly and takes immediate action when she finds out about things happening in the city.
- Marc Woolley said he wasn't in the meeting between the Mayor and the Council President, but understands that (regarding third street) there were a series of Public Meetings held about that. He wanted to make sure that the communication between the administration and City Council are improved and he looks forward to having a conversation about how we can do that.
- President Williams said she has a copy of the Vision Zero report and her understanding was that any removal of traffic control signs, that there would be Public Meetings first, because there are a lot of concerns.
- Ms. Daniels said in all fairness City Council voted on the plan and she doesn't think all the blame should fall on the administration.
- Ms. Williams said she doesn't have a problem with the plan, but she said there was some mention about having additional meetings and that didn't happen. She said specifically when they are removing a stop sign.
- Ms. Daniels said she walks third street every day and there aren't a lot of cars, in fact you could double park on Seneca for a long period of time. She said Mr. Martin said that 800 cars that travel on Third Street in an eight-hour period.
- President Williams said that she has a problem with the Traffic Study in that area.

- Mr. Allatt said he thinks there is disconnection between the intent of when the plan was formulated and the outcome of what happens after bump outs were formed.
- President Williams asked for that information to be reported at next week's meeting.
- President Williams announced that there will be a meeting on August 20th at 5:30PM to discuss the removal of stop signs in City Council Chambers. She also announced that there will be a Public Meeting on September 10th at 6PM at our Public Works Facility to discuss CDBG. The next Legislative Session will be held on September 17th. On September 28th from 12-6PM there will be a function at Reservoir Park. Finally, the Weekender will be held on Friday at Hall Manor Park, Saturday at Reservoir Park and Sunday at Reservoir Park.
- Ms. Bowers announced that there is a network event on Thursday from 5:30PM – 9PM at the Harrisburg Hilton.

ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting adjourned at 7:53PM.