

**HARRISBURG CITY COUNCIL  
LEGISLATIVE SESSION MINUTES  
Tuesday, October 27, 2020**

**A G E N D A**

**CALL TO ORDER**

- President Williams called the meeting to order at 6:00PM.

**ROLL CALL**

- The City Clerk called the roll and all 7 members were present during roll call, namely: Ben Allatt, Danielle Bowers, Shamaine Daniels, Ausha Green, Dave Madsen, Westburn Majors and Wanda R. D. Williams.

**INVOCATION/MOMENT OF SILENCE**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

- The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ms. Green.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

- There were none.

**COURTESY OF THE FLOOR**

- Leah Davis submitted: I am a new Harrisburg resident, and this is my very first time attending a city council meeting. I don't know enough about Bill-8 to submit a public comment on it yet without listening and learning more from the residents who have been so diligently paying attention to these city council meetings and disseminating the information further among city residents. I am so grateful to these individuals, without whom I would not have even known the when's, where's, and what's of these meetings in order to attend. Because of that experience, I do want to submit a public comment on the accessibility of these live streamed sessions. It should not be the responsibility of the community members to encourage community engagement, or to be solely responsible for disbursing information about the agenda items in plain language to the community members for whom these issues will affect. That should be the job of the city government. You should be encouraging community engagement, you should be continually providing information on multiple platforms on how community members can be engaged, and you should be providing multiple, easy ways to access that engagement. It is very odd to me that the livestream of these sessions can only be found on the WHBG20 YouTube page, and are seemingly not shared online anywhere official except in the news section on the city's website, buried in other articles, where I had to dig and search for this link, or rely on residents sharing the link on their personal Facebook pages in order to be "in the know" enough to find it. If this is truly a publicly accessible event, then you need to prioritize making it truly public ally accessible and easy to find. It should be dual streamed to YouTube and the Harrisburg City's Facebook page. (Similar to how it is already done on the mayors Facebook live community conversation sessions) Residents should be encouraged to attend on multiple official platforms, including our city's official social media accounts. The live streamed videos should be embedded or linked to on the front page of harrisburg.gov website, so residents don't have to be "in the know" or dig for a link to find it. Comments should be turned on, so that residents can engage more in the livestreamed setting. More care should be taken so that those with accessibility needs such as captions and transcripts can still participate.

The stream should be more professionally done, with clear audio and video so residents can hear every word. Simple, easy to read infographics should be created and shared on our city's official social media accounts encouraging civic engagement and disbursing information on the agenda items to city residents. Alternatively, an official city council social media account should be created to share all the above information, so that residents who want to be involved have an easy, central location to go.

- Brandon A Basom submitted: I am a new Harrisburg resident, and this is my very first time attending a city council meeting. I don't know enough about Bill-8 to submit a public comment on it yet without listening and learning more from the residents who have been so diligently paying attention to these city council meetings and disseminating the information further among city residents. I am so grateful to these individuals, without whom I would not have even known the when's, where's, and what's of these meetings in order to attend. Because of that experience, I do want to submit a public comment on the accessibility of these live streamed sessions. It should not be the responsibility of the community members to encourage community engagement, or to be solely responsible for disbursing information about the agenda items in plain language to the community members for whom these issues will affect. That should be the job of the city government. You should be encouraging community engagement, you should be continually providing information on multiple platforms on how community members can be engaged, and you should be providing multiple, easy ways to access that engagement. It is very odd to me that the livestream of these sessions can only be found on the WHBG20 YouTube page, and are seemingly not shared online anywhere official except in the news section on the city's website, buried in other articles, where I had to dig and search for this link, or rely on residents sharing the link on their personal Facebook pages in order to be "in the know" enough to find it. If this is truly a publicly accessible event, then you need to prioritize making it truly publicly accessible and easy to find. It should be dual streamed to YouTube and the Harrisburg City's Facebook page. (Similar to how it is already done on the mayors Facebook live community conversation sessions) Residents should be encouraged to attend on multiple official platforms, including our city's official social media accounts. The live streamed videos should be embedded or linked to on the front page of harrisburg.gov website, so residents don't have to be "in the know" or dig for a link to find it. Comments should be turned on, so that residents can engage more in the livestreamed setting. More care should be taken so that those with accessibility needs such as captions and transcripts can still participate. The stream should be more professionally done, with clear audio and video so residents can hear every word. Simple, easy to read infographics should be created and shared on our city's official social media accounts encouraging civic engagement and disbursing information on the agenda items to city residents. Alternatively, an official city council social media account should be created to share all the above information, so that residents who want to be involved have an easy, central location to go.
- Andrew Hollinger submitted: On the issue of Bill 8, too little public accessibility has been made on behalf of a prospective group meant to represent the public. Ben Allatt's plea for "diversity of thought" speaks loud and clear that we need public input concerning public safety and representation when it comes to critiquing law enforcement. Evidence in the similarity of public comments considered demonstrate this lack of diversity. Only allowing emailed input heavily limits diversity. Including responses across platforms allows the public to engage at their convenience. I believe a civilian review board with the power to hold HPD accountable is an absolute necessity, beyond recommendation making and public relations. I believe full police transparency is an absolute necessity, including police union contracts. I believe diverting police funding back to our city's residents is an absolute necessity, so that our resident's needs are met and are not punished for survival.

- Amanda Arbour submitted: I live on Allison Hill. I am writing regarding the amended version of Bill 8-2020. I appreciate the changes to make it clear that the intent of this body is accountability, the reduction in the residency requirements and removal of government officials as members, and not requiring a ride-along or training by the police. However, this body is still called an “Advisory Council”, has 3 appointments by the Mayor, and other issues that need to be addressed. One of the fundamental questions I keep coming back to is, what does accountability look like? Yes, in this version of the bill there is administrative subpoena power to compel third party records, and a records request process with the “teeth” of restricting “the release or use of budgeted funds to hire new officers”. These are steps in the right direction, but I am skeptical about what material changes there would be in the implementation. We know that the Harrisburg Police Department simply didn’t provide reports that were REQUIRED for years. We know that the current “Right to Know” process is cumbersome, arduous, and time-consuming. We know that the Mayor has ALWAYS had the power to hold the police accountable, and simply doesn’t. So how will this “Advisory Council” be any different? What will City Council do to ensure that the police are Held accountable? I ask each City Council member to respond to this question. The fact that so many Harrisburg residents have been submitting public comments week after week for months now with a shared message should indicate that our communities are organized, we know what we want, and we will keep demanding it. It should not be met with pleas for a “diversity of thought”. Instead, City Council must do more to make these meetings accessible. The City has kept comments off on YouTube, has not allowed many opportunities for call-ins for public comment, has only taken public comments via e-mail, and truncated those that seemed too similar. We call on City Council to make these meetings more accessible to more of your constituents.
- Kimeka Campbell submitted: PLEASE DO NOT TRUNCATE THIS PUBLIC COMMENT. I have used a template and added specific details that I think are important. Truncating comments can be seen as a way to limit public voice on the issue of Bill-8! On Bill-8 Diversity of Access Matters! At last week’s city council meeting, Vice President of the Council Ben Allatt made a plea to consider “balance of perspective” and ‘diversity of thought’ in the process of forming Bill-8 into a piece of legislation that would work for a majority of city residents. He even made reference to folks who are ‘reaching out on the side’ and ‘stopping us in the street’. I find this interesting because members of City Government, including the Mayor, have complained that residents aren’t participating. Now that residents ARE participating, the thoughts of residents are not diverse enough for—at the very least the—Vice President of the council. If you look back to the first infographic and public comment letter that I sent in, I asked that these meetings be formed in a way that allows more people to participate. Additionally, over the last few months during Covid, the residents have pleaded with the City to make the council meetings more accessible. Nevertheless, the city has kept comments off on their YouTube videos, has not allowed more than two opportunities for call-ins for public comment, only taken public comment via email, and truncated public comments that seem too similar. Considering these real issues, it seems **\*\*extremely disingenuous\*\*** that the Vice President of the council would now call for more “diversity of thought” in the responses the council is receiving. We again call on the City Council to make these meetings accessible in various ways so that MORE residents can participate and give public comment. This should be the standard during this very difficult time for all residents. How can the council expect to receive a diversity of

thoughts if there isn't a diversity of ways that folks can participate? I found this line of thinking to be completely dismissive.

Additionally, we would like to acknowledge the excellent job that the City Council has done so far to incorporate the comments of those who are participating in the public comment process. We have seen positive changes as a result. However, we still require the City Council to address the following issues: 1. It was mentioned last week that we would have a link to the policing districts where residents would need to be from in order to serve. I have spoken to a few people that have told me that the districts are 'not a secret'. Is there a webpage or other documents that community members can reference? 2. I understand that a different mayor may be 'more friendly' to the police in another administration. This does not change the fact the Mayor has police oversight right now and has been slow to respond to community issues regarding policing. I would like the mayor to have fewer initial appointments on this board as the perception is that that position needs a check and balance from the community on how they interact with the police on our behalf. 3. Please answer why this body is needed if Council and the Mayor already have police oversight? As the Vice President of Council has stated, this bill won't solve everything. So, the question remains, what IS it supposed to solve? And why should residents believe that this body will be useful? How will you all convince the community that this is a good thing and not just another arm of bureaucracy? If this proposed body cannot have oversight power, what is the council's commitment to acting on the powers that they already have? 4. How can the city council be more involved in review police contracts? We know that the mayor has the power to ask to review contracts at any time. Can reviewing police contracts regularly be included in this bill? Thank you for your prompt attention to these requests. As a part of this community, I look forward to working with City Council to honor the requests of this city's taxpaying residents.

- Rachel Peacock submitted: I still live in Midtown. I am writing to you again because Bill-8 needs more work. We need 'diversity of thought' in the process of forming Bill-8 into a piece of legislation that would work for most city residents. My friends have created a task force to encourage city residents to attend more City council meetings. The Meetings aren't always accessible. Nevertheless, the city has kept comments off on their YouTube videos, has not allowed many opportunities for call-ins for public comment, only taken public comment via email, and truncated public comments that seem too similar. As a veteran I can honestly say this is form of Guerilla Warfare and it's not acceptable. I did sacrifice my youth to be silenced by a totalitarian City Council. As a taxpayer of this cites many taxes, I need City Council to make these meetings accessible. If you were in my shoes you would want your voice to be heard. Please stop silencing the city resistant that are disfranchised. Please make the meeting accessible in various ways so that MORE residents can participate and give public comment. This should be the standard during this very difficult time for all residents. I have several BILL-8 questions. What are the districts referring that residents are expected to live in to serve? Our own police don't have that requirement, might I add. The Mayor already has power over the police. Why is he given a choice in this represented of the Review board? Sound like double dipping into power structures to me. How sill the future board hold police accountable? If this future body doesn't have oversight power, then what is the point? This is sounds like a horse and pony show to me.

I look forward to reading the revisions to honor the requests of this city's tax paying residents.

- Liam Hicklin submitted: Thank you for your diligence in including written public comments in your legislative and work sessions regarding bill 8-2020, and for paying attention to the requests of the residents who have taken the time to contact you and make their demands known. We have noticed that some council members have taken public comments seriously and referenced them while proposing amendments to the bill.

One item of concern last week was the comment from councilmember Allatt about the paucity of diversity in the comments submitted. He suggested that there were different opinions being expressed by city residents behind the scenes. But as the meetings are a public forum, and we're told to participate through public comments, I wonder why those people aren't using the same channel as the residents who are taking the time to write their comments and send them in. Is there another mode of participation that we're not aware of? One point I'd like to make is that, according to solicitor Grover, the board will never have any power to hold the police accountable. That power lies in the council and the mayor. If that's the case, it's imperative that this committee truly represent the people of Harrisburg and not the people who already have the power to hold police accountable but have yet to assert that power. We need people on the committee who are not beholden to the mayor or the city council and who are willing to hold them to their words. True oversight cannot come from within the system.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Upon motion by President Williams, with no objections, the Legislative Session Minutes of October 13, 2020.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- Chair Allatt reported on the Work Session of October 20, 2020.
- Chair Bowers reported on the Work Session of October 20, 2020.
- Chair Green reported on the Work Session of October 20, 2020.
- Chair Madsen reported on the Work Session of October 20, 2020.
- Chair Majors reported on the Work Session of October 20, 2020.
- President Williams adjourned for a 5-minute recess.
- President Williams went back into session.

#### ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING

- **The City Clerk read Bill 13-2020 into record** – An Ordinance vacating and striking from the Official Map of the City of Harrisburg a portion of Kent Alley within the block bounded by 1820 North 5<sup>th</sup> Street, North 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Kelker Street, and Fulton Street and an unnamed grocer's alley running from that portion of Kent Alley to Kelker Street pursuant to Chapter 3-109 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Harrisburg.
- President Williams placed this in the Public Works Committee.

#### ORDINANCES FOR AMENDMENT

- **The City Clerk read Bill 8 2020 into record** – An Ordinance amending Part 5 of the Administrative Code under Chapter 2-500, adding thereto Chapter 2-515 to establish a Citizens Law Enforcement Advisory Committee.
- Ms. Green moved, seconded by Mr. Allatt to make the following amendment, referenced as Amendment 13: This is a Motion to further amend Bill 8 of 2020 as follows: Under Section 2-515.12, regarding Meetings, striking at line 310 the term "an annual public meeting" and replacing it with the term "quarterly meetings".
- President Williams called for the vote and the amendment carried 7-0.

- Ms. Bowers made a motion, seconded by Ms. Green to make the following amendment, referenced as Amendment 14: This is a Motion to further Amend Bill 8 of 2020 as follows: Under Section 2-515.7.A, regarding Original Committee Appointments, striking at line 123 the term “four (4)” and replacing it with the term “five (5)” and striking at line 124 the term “three (3)” and replacing it with the term “two (2)”. This amendment provides the Council with 5 appointments and the Mayor with 2 appointments to the original board.

- President Williams called for the vote and the amendment carried 7-0.
- Ms. Green made a motion, seconded by Mr. Allatt to make the following amendment, referenced as Amendment 15: **Section 2-515.7.B:** This is a Motion to further Amend Bill 8 of 2020 as follows: Under Section 2-515.7.B, regarding Original Committee Appointments, striking lines 127 through 130 in the entirety and substituting the following as subsection 7.B: **TWO (2) OF THE ORIGINAL MEMBERS SHALL BE APPOINTED TO FOUR (4) TERMS, TWO (2) SHALL BE APPOINTED TO THREE (3) YEAR TERMS AND THREE (3) SHALL BE APPOINTED TO TWO (2) YEAR TERMS, THE SPECIFIC TERM OF EACH APPOINTEE TO BE DETERMINED AT THE TIME OF APPOINTMENT, CONSISTENT WITH THIS SUBSECTION, EACH OF WHOM SHALL SERVE UNTIL THE APPOINTMENT OF THEIR SUCCESSOR.**
- President Williams called for the vote and the motion carried 7-0.

#### ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE

- There were none.

#### RESOLUTIONS

- **The City Clerk read Resolution 71-2020 into record** – A Resolution authorizing the City of Harrisburg to facilitate the completion of certain improvements in the ongoing MulDer Square project to be funded through the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania’s Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (“RACP”) under an award made to the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Harrisburg; and otherwise approving the related “RACP Reimbursement Agreement” between the City and the Redevelopment Authority to advance reimbursable project costs in a sum no greater than three million dollars (\$3,000,000.00), in a manner consistent with the terms and conditions of the RACP grant.
- **President Williams called for the vote and this passed 7-0.**
- **The City Clerk read Resolution 73-2020 into record** – A Resolution appointing Kali Tennis to serve on the Harrisburg Architectural Review Board.
- **President Williams called for the vote and this passed 7-0.**
- **The City Clerk read Resolution 76-2020 into record** – A Resolution approving a Preliminary/Final Land Development Plan to develop an approximately 200-space parking lot at 1501 North 7<sup>th</sup> Street.
- **President Williams called for the vote and this passed 7-0.**
- **The City Clerk read Resolution 78-2020 into record** – A Resolution authorizing the City of Harrisburg to negotiate and enter into a professional services contract with Steve Zimmerman to provide access and service of the City’s historical mainframe programming operations and related services in the Bureau of Information Technology.
- **President Williams called fore the vote and this passed 7-0.**
- **The City Clerk read Resolution 79-2020 into record** – A Resolution authorizing the submission of a grant application to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Multimodal Transportation Fund for up to nine hundred and seventy-two thousand seven hundred and thirty dollars (\$972,730.00) to help fund the construction of the Courthouse Connection Multimodal Project.
- **President Williams called for the vote and this pass 7-0.**

- **The City Clerk read Resolution 81-2020 into record** – A Resolution authorizing the City of Harrisburg to negotiate and enter into a final agreement with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation arising from the Harrisburg Strong Plan; to secure a reimbursement of funds up to two million eight hundred and ninety-two thousand four hundred and seven dollars (\$2,892,407.00) through the statewide Multimodal Transportation program; and to thereby assist with the ongoing North Second Street Multimodal Project.
- **President Williams called for the vote and this passed 7-0.**
- **The City Clerk read Resolution 82-2020 into record** – A Resolution authorizing a final agreement to resolve certain disputes arising from a 2014 Lease Agreement of certain properties serving as the City’s primary Public Works facilities.
- **President Williams called for the vote and this passed 7-0.**
- **The City Clerk read Resolution 86-2020 into record** – A Resolution approving the Sixth Proposed 2020 Budget Reallocation.
- **President Williams placed this in the Budget and Finance Committee.**
- **The City Clerk read Resolution 87-2020 into record** – A Resolution approving the Preliminary/Final Subdivision and Land Development Plan submitted by Tarik Casteel on behalf of TLC Work-Based Training Programs, Inc. to construct eight (8) residential units on a vacant lot at 440 Kelker Street.
- **President Williams placed this in the Community & Economic Development Committee.**

#### OLD BUSINESS

- Mr. Allatt said he would like to challenge the collective body to figure out ways we can address the interactivity of our meetings, but also encouraged residents engage City Council by to e-mail, by calling and requesting meetings because we are open to doing so.

#### NEW BUSINESS

- President Williams said that due to rain, the “Grab and Go” Trick or Treat night will be changed from Thursday to Saturday from 5-7PM. She thanked all the sponsors for helping to make this event possible.

#### ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting was adjourned at 6:53PM.