

**HARRISBURG CITY COUNCIL
LEGISLATIVE SESSION MINUTES
Danielle L. Bowers, President
Tuesday, November 14, 2023**

A G E N D A

CALL TO ORDER

6:00 PM

- President Bowers called the meeting to order at 6:17 PM.

ROLL CALL

- The City Clerk called the roll and 6 members were present; namely: Ausha Green, Robert Lawson, Westburn Majors, Jocelyn Rawls, Ralph Rodriguez, and Danielle Bowers. Shamaine Daniels notified president Bowers that she would be late, and arrived at 6:18 pm.

INVOCATION

- The Invocation was led by Councilman Majors.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Bowers.
- COMMUNICATIONS- Harrisburg Young Professionals presentation celebrating their 25th anniversary.

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR- Ms. Amber Blaylock expressed her concerns about the availability of public transit, and the condition of bus shelters that are provided now that cycling is becoming less of an option due to earlier sunsets and colder weather. She also challenged City Council members to use public transit regularly so that they can experience her concerns first hand. She would also like to see better lighting at the bus stops. Mr. Daniel D. Graham expressed the need for more public transit in Harrisburg. He asked for more frequent bus services on North 2nd Street. Mr. Graham also expressed the need for more Amtrak train services in Pennsylvania and all over the United States. He also expressed the need for increased police presence at pedestrian crosswalks. He also proposed that cyclists not be allowed to ride on sidewalks to insure increased pedestrian safety. Mr. Momin Bhatti expressed how proud he is to be a resident of the City of Harrisburg, where people of different faiths and backgrounds live in harmony. He also strongly condemned the recent acts of violence by Hamas against the Israeli people, and expressed that they are not in line with the true teachings of Islam. He extended his condolences and sympathies to his Israeli and Jewish neighbors. He also denounced the indiscriminate acts of violence by the Israeli government, and expressed his condolences and sympathies to his Palestinian and Muslim neighbors. Mr. Bhatti expressed deep concern for the immense hatred that is in the world today which allows the attacks to happen. He also expressed concerns about antisemitism, and Islamophobia. Mr. Bhatti invited the City Council and the Harrisburg community to a program entitled, “Voices for Peace” which will occur on Thursday November 16th from 6-7pm at the Hadee Mosque located at 245 Division Street.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Upon motion by President Bowers, without objection, the Legislative Session minutes of November 1, 2023 were deemed approved.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE –

- President Bowers reported on the Work Session of November 1, 2023.
- Vice President Green reported on the Work Session of November 1, 2023.
- Councilman Rodriguez reported on the Work Session of November 1, 2023.

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING

- **The City Clerk read Bill 8 - 2023 into the record.** - An Ordinance amending Title 8 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Harrisburg, known as the Building and Housing Development Code, to adopt amended permit fee schedules.
- **President Bowers moved Bill 8 – 2023 to the Public Safety Committee.**

ORDINANCES FOR AMENDMENT

- **The City Clerk read Bill 7 - 2023 into the record.** - An Ordinance amending the Administrative Code of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Harrisburg to authorize the Mayor and the City Controller to provide joint written designations for limited purpose digital signatories to execute agreements and related documents on behalf of the City of Harrisburg when a sole digital signor is mandated.

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE

- **The City Clerk read Bill 7 - 2023 into the record.** - An Ordinance amending the Administrative Code of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Harrisburg to authorize the Mayor and the City Controller to provide joint written designations for limited purpose digital signatories to execute agreements and related documents on behalf of the City of Harrisburg when a sole digital signor is mandated.
- **President Bowers called for a vote and Bill 7– 2023 passed unanimously with a vote of 7-0.**

RESOLUTIONS

The City Clerk read Resolution 75 – 2023 into the record. – A Resolution approving the Fifth Proposed 2023 Operations- Related Budget Reallocation.

- **President Bowers suspended the rules for discussion.**
- **Bryan McCutcheon, Accounting Manager presented, and gave a review and explanation of Exhibit F of Resolution 75 – 2023. He revealed that due to claims that involved property damage due to the flooding in the basement, and the fire which destroyed the Broad Street Market, the insurance rate increased exponentially and as a result the policy was cancelled.**
- **Councilwoman Daniels asked how many insurance vendors were researched.**
- **The Accounting Manager informed Councilwoman Daniels that the City uses an Insurance Broker (Marsh), and that there are approximately 7-9 different policies that use various different insurance agencies.**
- **Councilwoman Daniels then inquired if the City did a search for lower rates.**
- **The City Solicitor explained that yes there is a typical annual search that begins in the summer with the insurance broker, and that due to the fire at the Broad Street Market, the claim was much larger than the combined premiums that were being paid. He also stated that the City was able to secure a ladder of 7 different insurance companies that were able to make up the coverage that was given with the previous one insurance company.**

- **Councilwoman Daniels asked for a breakdown of last years policies and this year’s insurance policies.**
- **President Bowers inquired about footnote C, personnel changes and will there be any hiring done as a result of the personnel changes.**
- **Mr. Timothy Brooks, Budget Manager responded that the positions will be filled and are accounted for in the 2024 budget.**
- **President Bowers then moved to resume the Legislative Session.**
- **The City Solicitor reminded City Council this is an amended version of Resolution 75 – 2023.**
- **President Bowers called for a vote and Resolution 75 – 2023 passed unanimously with a vote of 7-0.**
- **The City Clerk read Resolution 76 – 2023 into the record.** – A Resolution approving, adopting, and placing into immediate effect the Dauphin County 2023 Emergency Operations Plan as the official Emergency Operations Plan for the City of Harrisburg.
- **President Bowers called for a vote and Resolution 76 – 2023 passed unanimously with a vote of 7-0.**
- **The City Clerk read Resolution 77 – 2023 into the record.** - A Resolution approving the disposition of surplus vehicles which have exhausted their useful life for City operations by the Bureau of Vehicle Management.
- **President Bowers moved Resolution 77 – 2023 to the Public Works Committee.**
- **The City Clerk read Resolution 78-2023 into the record.** - A Resolution confirming the appointment of Ms. Tyrsa J. Cameron, Esquire to serve as the Assistant City Solicitor for the City of Harrisburg’s collection matters.
- **President Bowers moved Resolution 78 – 2023 to the Administration Committee.**
- **The City Clerk read Resolution 79-2023 into the 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 Bowers moved Resolution 79 – 2023 to the Administration Committee.**
- **The City Clerk read Resolution 80-2023 into the record.** - A Resolution confirming the appointment of Mr. Donald C. Styer, III, Esquire to serve as an Assistant City Solicitor for the City of Harrisburg for general matters.
- **President Bowers moved Resolution 80 – 2023 to the Administration Committee.**

OLD BUSINESS

- Councilwoman Daniels requested that the Law Bureau bring down the mandate for the Affordable Housing Bill.

NEW BUSINESS – Councilwoman Rawls informed the public of the following events:

- On Saturday October 18th, the public is invited to the Annual Holiday Parade which will begin at 10:00 am at Front and Second Streets. This year’s theme is “Rocking Around The Burg.” The parade will feature giant parade balloons, marching bands, dance team performances, decorated floats, Santa Claus, and more. After the parade, residents can meet Santa Claus in Strawberry Square and have free hot chocolate and cookies.
- The Harrisburg Forum welcomes Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra Masterwork Series “The Three -Cornered Hat.” This colorful program filled with humor and charm will take

place at 7:30 pm. Ticket prices range between \$16 - \$93 and can be purchased online at www.visitthersheyharrisburg.com.

ADJOURNMENT- 7:11 pm.