

**HARRISBURG CITY COUNCIL**  
**LEGISLATIVE SESSION MINUTES**  
**Danielle L. Bowers, President**  
**Tuesday, May 28, 2024**

**CALL TO ORDER**

6:00PM

- President Bowers called the meeting to order at 6:57 PM.

**ROLL CALL**

- The Assistant City Clerk called the roll and 7 members were present; namely: Shamaine Daniels, Crystal Davis, Ausha Green, Lamont Jones, Jacelyn Rawls, Ralph Rodriguez, and Danielle Bowers.

**INVOCATION**

- The Invocation was led by Councilwoman Daniels.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

- The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Bowers.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

- There was none.

**COURTESY OF THE FLOOR**

- Daniel Stern spoke to the importance of beginning the reconstruction of the Broad Street Market, highlighting its economic, social, and historical significance to the Harrisburg community. Mr. Stern identified the market's role in providing access to healthy food, fostering community interactions, and preserving Harrisburg's historical legacy. Mr. Stern urged the City Council to act swiftly in selecting a construction manager to mitigate further economic losses, support local vendors, and restore the market as a central social hub.
- Eric Hagerty, former Secretary of Education for Governor Wolf and current volunteer chair of the Broad Street Market Alliance, apologized for the tone of his previous comments following the last City Council vote. Mr. Hagerty encouraged City Council to reconsider selecting Alexander as the contractor for the Broad Street Market reconstruction, emphasizing Alexander's commitment to diversity and local labor. Mr. Hagerty highlighted the urgency of moving forward with the project for the benefit of vendors and the community, noting that not a single brick had been laid in the ten months since the fire. Mr. Hagerty stressed that the goals of rebuilding the market and strengthening diverse contracting practices are not mutually exclusive. Mr. Hagerty concluded by acknowledging the challenges faced by the Council and expressed his appreciation for their willingness to reconsider the decision.
- Steven Brown shared his positive experiences with union labor, emphasizing the importance of union involvement in city projects. Mr. Brown highlighted the benefits of union apprenticeship programs, which provide stable employment and valuable training for future construction workers. Mr. Brown stressed that union programs offer a pathway to a stable career and financial independence, sharing his personal journey and the support he received from union networks. Mr. Brown advocated for incorporating union labor and

apprenticeship opportunities into local projects to ensure that community members benefit from job opportunities and skill development.

- Rochelle from Midtown, emphasized the critical importance of proper historic preservation in the reconstruction of the Broad Street Market. She expressed concerns about maintaining the integrity of the market's architectural features, specifically the clearstory windows and brickwork. Rochelle urged the Council to ensure that the chosen contractor has substantial experience in historic restoration to preserve the market's historical character and avoid any shortcuts that could compromise its authenticity.
- Brian Pomeroy, Council Representative for the Carpenters Union & Secretary Treasurer for the Central PA Building Trades, advocated for the selection of Alexander as the contractor for the Broad Street Market reconstruction. Mr. Pomeroy highlighted the significant voluntary contributions of union members in building the temporary market structures and emphasized the importance of union labor in ensuring high-quality craftsmanship. Mr. Pomeroy stressed the value of union apprenticeship programs, which offer comprehensive training and result in graduates who are well-prepared for careers in the construction industry. Mr. Pomeroy pointed out that these programs are cost-free for apprentices and provide stable, well-paying jobs. Mr. Pomeroy concluded by urging City Council to approve Alexander, stating that it is the right choice for the project and beneficial for the community.
- Matthew Kotic expressed support for approving Alexander Construction Company as the construction manager for the Broad Street Market reconstruction. Mr. Kotic highlighted the market's essential role in the community, both as a food source and as a central social gathering place. Mr. Kotic shared his personal experience as a union carpenter, noting that the union apprenticeship program enabled him to earn a good wage and purchase a home in Harrisburg. Mr. Kotic advocated for increased collaboration with local schools to introduce students to trade opportunities, ensuring a steady pipeline of skilled labor for future projects.
- Paul Martz emphasized how important an expeditious reconstruction of the Broad Street Market is to him. Mr. Martz acknowledged the complexity of the decision facing City Council but stressed that the city requires the market to be rebuilt promptly due to its significant role in the community. Mr. Martz urged the Council and the Mayor's Administration to work collaboratively to ensure the project proceeds without further delay.
- Kariem Mathis, a member of Carpenters Local 431, shared his personal journey and expressed gratitude for the opportunities provided by the Carpenters Union. Mr. Mathis explained that he grew up in Allison Hill and got involved with the wrong crowd, which led to a prison sentence. During his time in prison, he chose to learn carpentry, attending a year-long trade program daily. Mr. Mathis emphasized that this opportunity was pivotal in turning his life around and credited the union for giving him a chance to apply his skills and build a better future.
- Shane Fox urged City Council to reconsider their vote from two weeks ago regarding the Broad Street Market reconstruction. Mr. Fox emphasized the market's significance not only to his neighborhood but to the entire city, highlighting its role as both a grocery source and a social hub. Mr. Fox noted that the market is a place where people connect and socialize, and its absence has been deeply felt since the fire. Mr. Fox stressed the urgency of moving forward with the market project, expressing that while he has no strong preference for a

specific construction manager, it is crucial to select a qualified contractor and commence the reconstruction as quickly as possible to restore this vital community asset.

- David Morrison, Executive Director of the Historic Harrisburg Association, underscored the importance of the Broad Street Market to the Harrisburg community, emphasizing its role in providing fresh food and serving as a cultural and social gathering place. Mr. Morrison expressed concern over ensuring that the market's historical aspects are preserved during reconstruction. Mr. Morrison advocated for selecting a contractor with expertise in historic preservation to maintain the market's architectural and historical integrity. Mr. Morrison stressed that the reconstruction should honor the market's legacy and proceed swiftly to bring back its essential services to the community.
- Michael Rodriguez, a five-year resident of Harrisburg and a small business owner, emphasized the Broad Street Market's vital role in the community. Mr. Rodriguez highlighted the market's support for local businesses and its welcoming atmosphere. Rodriguez urged the Council to award the reconstruction project to the contractor that legally won the bid and has a reputable history in historic preservation. Mr. Rodriguez stressed the importance of promptly restoring the market for the community's benefit.
- Anthony Barnett, a homeowner and taxpayer in the Uptown area, shared nostalgic memories of visiting the Broad Street Market as a child and emphasized its long-standing importance to the community. Reflecting on his own second chance in life, Mr. Barnett highlighted the support he received that helped him succeed and called on City Council to make a thoughtful decision that benefits the market and the broader community.
- Reverend Harris expressed his appreciation for the democratic process and highlighted economic disparities in contract allocations, noting 93% go to whites and 40.5% go outside the county. Reverend Harris encouraged City Council to include more local and minority contractors, proposing a 30% inclusion on contracts. Reverend Harris also emphasized the importance of making the Broad Street Market accessible for disabled individuals. He thanked the Council for their efforts and dedication to the community.
- John Palmer, a long-time Harrisburg resident, expressed frustration over the delays in the Broad Street Market reconstruction. Recounting his history with the market from childhood, he emphasized its importance for providing fresh food and fostering community. Mr. Palmer urged the Council to expedite the reconstruction process by hiring a competent construction manager and eliminating red tape. Mr. Palmer stressed that the community needs the market to be rebuilt promptly without further excuses.
- Andrea Grove, owner of Elementary Coffee Company, emphasized the Broad Street Market's crucial role in supporting small and diverse businesses. Ms. Grove highlighted the market's impact on women, people of color, and other underrepresented groups. Ms. Grove urged City Council to facilitate a swift and effective rebuilding plan for the market to ensure it continues to provide opportunities and foster community growth. Ms. Grove called for a reconsideration of the current bid to restart the market's reconstruction.
- Venus Hamaker, Vice Chair of the Broad Street Market Alliance, encouraged City Council to reconsider their previous vote to avoid losing state funding. Ms. Hamaker emphasized the need for more space to accommodate vendors and the importance of providing a diverse range of products. Ms. Hamaker urged the Council to make decisions that benefit the entire community and support the market's reconstruction.
- Ed Jaroch thanked City Council for potentially reconsidering their vote and stressed the importance of appointing a construction manager to advance the Broad Street Market

project. Mr. Jaroch noted city administration's efforts to follow the RFP process and highlighted the progress indicated by the Alexander 30% inclusion rate. Mr. Jaroch encouraged City Council to approve the project manager to ensure the market's timely reconstruction.

- Bear Murray XI, a lifelong Harrisburg resident, voiced frustration over city funds leaving the community and emphasized the need to hire local contractors. Mr. Murray supported Reverend Harris's points on economic disparities and urged the Council to prioritize in-house contractors for the market's reconstruction to retain resources within the community.
- Karl Singleton highlighted the importance of intentional inclusivity in city projects, referencing the economic disparity study. Mr. Singleton urged the Council to ensure equitable access to contracting opportunities for local black and brown businesses. Mr. Singleton called for consistent community support for various projects and emphasized the need for equitable opportunities beyond apprenticeship programs. Mr. Singleton concluded by encouraging elected officials to act in the community's best interests.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- The minutes for the Legislative Session of May 14, 2024, stand approved.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

- Administration Chair Bowers reported out on the Work Session of May 28, 2024.
- Budget & Finance Chair Green reported out on the Work Session of May 28, 2024.
- Community & Economic Development Chair Daniels reported out on the Work Session of May 28, 2024.
- Parks, Recreation and Enrichment Chair Rawls reported out on the Work Session of May 28, 2024.

#### ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING

- There was none.

#### ORDINANCES FOR AMENDMENT

- There was none.

#### ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE

- There was none.

#### RESOLUTIONS

- **The Assistant City Clerk read [Resolution 30-2024](#) into record** – A Resolution approving the Fourth Proposed 2024 Budget Reallocation.
- **President Bowers called for the vote and this passed 7-0.**
- **The Assistant City Clerk read [Resolution 31-2024](#) into record** – A Resolution authorizing the City of Harrisburg to enter into a professional services agreement with Maher Duessel, PC for the purpose of providing audit preparation services to the City of Harrisburg.
- **President Bowers called for the vote and this passed 7-0.**
- **The Assistant City Clerk read [Resolution 32-2024](#) into record** – A Resolution authorizing the City of Harrisburg to negotiate and enter into a Landowner Grantee

Agreement with the Capital Area Greenbelt Association in furtherance of construction and restoration of the Paxtang Parkway Creek and Trail.

- **President Bowers called for the vote and this passed 7-0.**
- **The Assistant City Clerk read [Resolution 33-2024](#) into record** – A Resolution authorizing the City of Harrisburg to participate in the 2024 Cohort of the Pennsylvania Blueprint Communities Program.
- **President Bowers called for the vote and this passed 7-0.**
- **The Assistant City Clerk read [Resolution 34-2024](#) into record** – A Resolution approving the Preliminary/Final Land Development Plan for 174 North 15th Street, submitted by St. Johns CME Church, to consolidate two parcels and construct a new 2,400 square foot church, seventeen (17) space accessory parking lot, and associated site and access improvements.
- **President Bowers called for the vote and this passed 7-0.**
- **The Assistant City Clerk read [Resolution 35-2024](#) into record** – A Resolution approving the Preliminary/Final Land Development Plan for 1719 Market Street submitted by Capitol City Church of the Assemblies of God Inc., to consolidate two (2) existing parcels and to establish an “Accessory Parking Lot” for the church located at 1710 Chestnut Street, along with associated improvements.
- **President Bowers called for the vote and this passed 7-0.**
- **The Assistant City Clerk read [Resolution 36-2024](#) into record** – A Resolution approving the Preliminary/Final Land Development Plan for 2701 Industrial Road submitted by Navnitlal Zaver to construct a 143-stall commercial parking lot to serve as overflow parking for the Farm Show Complex and adjacent properties, along with associated improvement.
- **President Bowers called for the vote and this passed 7-0.**
- **The Assistant City Clerk read [Resolution 37-2024](#) into record** – A Resolution approving the disposal and destruction of certain equipment owned by the City of Harrisburg which has exhausted its useful life for City operations, or has nominal value, no value, or less value than the disposal costs.
- **President Bowers moved this to the Parks, Recreation & Enrichment Committee.**
- **The Assistant City Clerk read [Resolution 39-2024](#) into record** – A Resolution to consider the application for a Certificate of Appropriateness to demolish the property and expand the surface lot located at 1511 North Front Street, Harrisburg, PA, which the City of Harrisburg’s Historical Architectural Review Board recommends be denied.
- **President Bowers moved this to the Building & Housing Committee.**

#### OLD BUSINESS

- **Councilman Rodriguez provided a statement outlining his reasons for supporting the reconsideration of Resolution 26-2024.**
- **Councilman Rodriguez moved, seconded by Councilwoman Davis to reconsider Resolution 26-2024.**
- **The Assistant City Clerk read [Resolution 26-2024](#) into record.**
- **President Bowers called for a vote to reconsider Resolution 26-2024 and this passed 5-2, with Councilman Jones and President Bowers voting in the negative.**
- **President Bowers opened the floor to entertain discussion on Resolution 26-2024.**

- **Councilwoman Rawls provided a statement noting her reason for opposing Resolution 26-2024.**
- **Councilman Jones provided a statement noting his reason for opposing Resolution 26-2024.**
- **President Bowers provided a statement noting her reason for opposing Resolution 26-2024.**
- **Mayor Williams was present, and responded to the statements of opposition made by Councilwoman Rawls, Councilman Jones, and President Bowers.**
- **The Assistant City Clerk read [Resolution 26-2024](#) into record.**
- **President Bowers called for a vote on Resolution 26-2024 and this passed by a vote of 4-3, with Councilman Jones, Councilwoman Rawls, and President Bowers voting in the negative.**

#### NEW BUSINESS

- Councilwoman Rawls announced the [Tour-de-Belt](#) event occurring over the weekend in Harrisburg.

#### ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.