

BETHLEHEM CITY COUNCIL MEETING
10 East Church Street - Town Hall
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania
Tuesday, February 16, 2016 - 7:00 PM

INVOCATION

President Reynolds asked for a moment of silence which was followed by the pledge to the flag. The Reverend Brendon M. Laroche, of Holy Infancy Roman Catholic Church, offered the invocation.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

1. ROLL CALL

President Reynolds called the meeting to order. Present were Bryan G. Callahan, Michael G. Colón, Eric R. Evans, Shawn M. Martell, Olga Negrón-Dipiní, Adam R. Waldron and J. William Reynolds, 7.

CITATIONS

Honoring Christopher Danyluk, Jeffrey Herzog, and Michael J. Martinko, Sr.

President Reynolds stated that the Citations for Christopher Danyluk, Jeffrey Herzog, and Michael J. Martinko, Sr. on the occasion of their retirements will be mailed to them since they were unable to attend the Meeting.

Executive Session

President Reynolds announced that City Council met in Executive Session this evening Tuesday, February 16, 2016 at 6:30 pm in the Mayor's Conference Room. The purpose of the Executive Session was regarding personnel, litigation and investigation matters.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

4. OLD BUSINESS.

A. Members of Council

None.

B. Tabled Items

1. Approving Contract - Maser Consulting, P.C. - Bethlehem Southside Intermodal Site Study - Riverport

C. Unfinished Business

None.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

A. *Mayor - Resolution - Elimination of Veteran Homelessness*

The Clerk read a memorandum from Mayor Robert J. Donchez to which is attached a Resolution to join the Mayor in supporting the Mayor's Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness. Mr. Thomas Applebach, Director of the Lehigh County Office of Veterans

Affairs will be in attendance this evening to answer any questions Council may have regarding the matter.

President Reynolds stated Resolution 9 A is on the agenda.

B. Bethlehem Parking Authority and South Side Bethlehem Hotel Associates, LP – Street Vacation Graham Place

The Clerk read a petition from Attorney James L. Broughal representing the Petitioners Bethlehem Parking Authority and South Side Bethlehem Hotel Associates, requesting the vacation of a street one block in length known as Graham Place which is located immediately adjacent to property owned by the Petitioners. The portion of Graham Place is bound by Vine Street and South New Street. The Petitioners own a majority of the property on both sides of Graham Place. The Bethlehem Parking Authority desires to construct a 626 space public garage known as the New Street Parking Garage. Upon construction of the garage public access along this portion of Graham Place will not be allowed.

Motion –Schedule Public Hearing

President Reynolds stated he will refer this petition to the City Planning Commission, Lehigh Valley Planning Commission, Public Works and Utilities for review and comments. President Reynolds will also accept a motion to schedule a Public Hearing for Tuesday, April 5, 2016.

Mr. Waldron and Mr. Callahan moved to schedule the Public Hearing.

Voting AYE: Mr. Martell, Ms. Negrón-Dipini, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, Mr. Colón, Mr. Evans, and Mr. Reynolds, 7. The Motion passed.

President Reynolds stated the Public Hearing will be held on Tuesday, April 5, 2016.

C. Director of Budget and Finance – Recommendation for Award – PFM Asset Management LLC

The Clerk read a memorandum from Mark Sivak, Director of Budget and Finance recommending a contract with PFM Asset Management LLC for Arbitrage Rebate compliance services. PFM is the City's financial advisor. The term of the contract is two years with the option to renew two additional one-year periods. The fee for the contract is \$7,000.

President Reynolds stated Resolution 9 B is on the agenda.

D. Director of Budget and Finance – Recommendation for Award – Tri-State Financial Group, LLC

The Clerk read a memorandum from Mark Sivak, Director of Budget and Finance recommending a contract with Tri-State Financial Group for Business Privilege and Mercantile Tax Collection. The term of the contract is two years with the option to renew two additional one-year periods. The fee for the contract is \$120,000.

President Reynolds stated Resolution 9 C is on the agenda.

E. City Solicitor – Use Permit Agreement – AAUW 2016 Book Fair

The Clerk read a memorandum from City Solicitor William P. Leeson, Esq. to which was attached a proposed Resolution and Use Permit Agreement for the 2016 Book Fair. The Permittee is the American Association of University Women, Bethlehem Branch. The event is scheduled for March 21, 2016 – April 26, 2016 and the premises is the Memorial Pool Building.

President Reynolds noted the Resolution can be listed on the March 1 agenda.

F. Director of Planning and Zoning – Recommendation for Award – Tangram Design LLC

The Clerk read a memorandum from Darlene Heller, Director of Planning and Zoning recommending an amendment to a contract for the Signage and Wayfinding program with Tangram Design to include development of a directional map, interpretive signs and some logo

redesigns. The contract will be extended through June 30, 2017. The additional cost for the amended contract is \$36,080.

President Reynolds stated Resolution 9 D is on the agenda.

6. REPORTS

A. *President of Council*

B. *Mayor*

7. ORDINANCES FOR FINAL READING

None.

8. NEW ORDINANCES

None.

9. RESOLUTIONS

A. *Elimination of Veteran Homelessness*

Mr. Martell and Ms. Negrón-Dipini sponsored Resolution 2016-033 to join the Mayor in supporting the Mayor's Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness.

Voting AYE: Mr. Martell, Ms. Negrón-Dipini, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, Mr. Colón, Mr. Evans, and Mr. Reynolds, 7. The Resolution passed.

B. *Approving Contract – PFM Asset Management LLC*

Ms. Negrón-Dipini and Mr. Colón sponsored Resolution 2016-034 that approved a contract with PFM Asset Management LLC for Arbitrage Rebate compliance services.

Voting AYE: Mr. Martell, Ms. Negrón-Dipini, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, Mr. Colón, Mr. Evans, and Mr. Reynolds, 7. The Resolution passed.

C. *Approving Contract – Tri-State Financial Group, LLC*

Ms. Negrón-Dipini and Mr. Colón sponsored Resolution 2016-035 that authorized a contract with Tri-State Financial Group, LLC for Business Privilege and Mercantile Tax collection.

Voting AYE: Mr. Martell, Ms. Negrón-Dipini, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, Mr. Colón, Mr. Evans, and Mr. Reynolds, 7. The Resolution passed.

D. *Approving Contract – Tangram Design LLC*

Ms. Negrón-Dipini and Mr. Colón sponsored Resolution 2016-036 that authorized a contract amendment with Tangram Design LLC to include the development of a Directory Map, Interpretive Signage and redesign of the South side and Eastern Gateway signage and logos.

Mr. Waldron asked for a general update of where we are with this project as far as the timeline and the investment thus far.

Alicia Karner, Director of Community and Economic Development informed we have gone through a long public process and so we are close to wrapping up the final placement in this design and so forth. We now need to work on the specs, the exact placement of the signs. We know what all of the locations are that will be on the signs, it is just where are we putting them and working with Public Works to hire a firm to make the signs and erect them.

Mr. Waldron queried if they will be erected in house.

Ms. Karner remarked they are talking to Public Works about that, she is not sure if that has been determined yet.

Mr. Waldron then asked about the investment, the dollar amount thus far.

Ms. Karner reported the City has invested nothing and there is not the expectation that the City will have to budget for the signs.

Mr. Waldron queried about the timeline.

Ms. Karner stated they are hoping the first signs will go up this Spring.

Voting AYE: Mr. Martell, Ms. Negrón-Dipiní, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, Mr. Colón, Mr. Evans, and Mr. Reynolds, 7. The Resolution passed.

Motion – Considering Resolutions 9 E through 9 J as a Group – Certificates of Appropriateness

Mr. Callahan and Mr. Colón moved to consider Resolutions 9 E through 9 J as a group.

Voting AYE: Mr. Martell, Ms. Negrón-Dipiní, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, Mr. Colón, Mr. Evans, and Mr. Reynolds, 7. The Motion passed.

E. Certificate of Appropriateness – 13 East Third Street

Mr. Waldron and Mr. Callahan sponsored Resolution 2016-037 that granted a Certificate of Appropriateness to install a new sign at 13 East Third Street

F. Certificate of Appropriateness – 15 East Third Street

Mr. Waldron and Mr. Callahan sponsored Resolution 2016-038 that granted a Certificate of Appropriateness to install a new signs at 15 East Third Street.

G. Certificate of Appropriateness – 12 West Fourth Street

Mr. Waldron and Mr. Callahan sponsored Resolution 2016-039 that granted a Certificate of Appropriateness to remove the old sign and replace with a vinyl cling window sign at 12 West Fourth Street.

H. Certificate of Appropriateness – 425 Wyandotte Street

Mr. Waldron and Mr. Callahan sponsored Resolution 2016-040 that granted a Certificate of Appropriateness to install new storefront signs showing the “Jackson Hewitt” business logo at 425 Wyandotte Street.

I. Certificate of Appropriateness – 47 East Market Street

Mr. Waldron and Mr. Callahan sponsored Resolution 2016-041 that granted a Certificate of Appropriateness to repaint the exterior of the building at 47 East Market Street.

J. Certificate of Appropriateness – 446 Center Street

Mr. Waldron and Mr. Callahan sponsored Resolution 2016-042 that granted a Certificate of Appropriateness to replace the front entry enclosure at 446 Center Street.

Voting AYE on Resolutions 9 E through 9 J: Mr. Martell, Ms. Negrón-Dipiní, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, Mr. Colón, Mr. Evans, and Mr. Reynolds, 7. The Resolutions passed.

10. NEW BUSINESS

Finance Committee Meeting Announcement

Chairman Callahan announced a Finance Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 9, 2016 at 6:00 pm in Town Hall and the subjects will be the Budget Adjustment and Transfers, 2015 Year End Review, and the 2014 Audit.

Benches at Bus Station on Guetter Street

Mr. Callahan expressed he had some elderly residents ask him if it is possible to get some benches at the bus station on Guetter Street. He is not sure if that would be LANTA's responsibility or ours, but some elderly residents stated they have problems standing up for a long period of time and asked if there is a possibility that the City could provide a few benches for people to sit down.

Mayor Donchez reported that they will discuss the issue.

Thanking Mr. Appelbach for work with Veterans Affairs

Mr. Martell thought it was appropriate to take some time to pass along our admiration and thanks to Mr. Appelbach for all he does with the Lehigh County Veterans Affairs. This is one of the topics that when you look at the Federal Election cycle, everyone says we will help the veterans but to this day it is a national embarrassment. There are thousands that are homeless. These are people who served in wars for us and put their life on the line. Mr. Martell stated that it is a real tragedy sometimes the way these individuals get treated when they come home. It is not necessarily something that we cut ribbons for or what people see every day but the efforts of Mr. Appelbach are something we are all proud to be a part of. Mr. Martell also congratulated Mayor Donchez for signing onto this and letting Council be a part of it. Mr. Martell just wanted to let Mr. Appelbach know that the work he does every day is tough work. It is honorable work and we appreciate all that you do.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT

Veterans Homelessness Project; Guetter Street Benches; South Side Parking Structure

Peter Crownfield, 407 Delaware Avenue, stated that the Veterans Homelessness project is a great initiative. There is a sort of strange implication that maybe it is okay for other people to be homeless or maybe the same approach should be used for all homeless. That is housing first, and makes a lot of sense. This has been proven in cities out west and it saves enormous amounts of money compared to trying to provide services to homeless.

Mr. Crownfield is quite sure from walking on the north side of the City that there are a few benches on Guetter Street by the bus stop, but maybe they need more.

Mr. Crownfield remarked that what he really wants to talk about is the parking structure that is planned for the south side. Mr. Crownfield mentioned that at the last meeting Professor Al Wurth stated that the Parking Authority will end up having to increase fees elsewhere to pay for this structure. Well, of course they already announced that they intend to raise the fees in all of the other garages specifically to pay for this structure, so he was right on that. Mr. Crownfield supposes it will also eventually wind up increasing street parking also, although that has not been announced. Mr. Crownfield noted that all of the businesses here in Bethlehem will have to deal with increased parking costs in order to subsidize the development on the south side that is already being subsidized by the CRIZ. He wonders why should the people who have to park here to go to Main Street pay so that they can have subsidized parking over there.

Bethlehem Residents as Department Heads; Martin Tower, Parking Garage Transparency

Stephen Antalics, 737 Ridge Street, mentioned if Charlie Brown who was Department Head of Parks and Public Property lived in Quakertown or Perkasio or Coplay or Whitehall or Lehighton or Bangor what would the Ice House be called? It would probably be called the Ice House instead of the Charlie Brown Ice House. It is called the Charlie Brown Ice House because Mr. Brown lived in the City of Bethlehem. Mr. Antalics added that Mr. Brown got to know people and became aware of what the community is and had developed love of his job and his community and met new people. The Ordinance stating the head of different Departments needed to live in the City was then said that the law, the Ordinance, was unconstitutional, which was false. Mr. Antalics mentioned if that was reinstated as an Ordinance then the people who make the decisions concerning the welfare of the City would be in the City and

learn to get a sense of the community from people they may know as neighbors or they would be in the City on weekends and not going to their homes away from Bethlehem. Mr. Antalics noted also the fact is that the people who live in the building where they are proposing a parking garage the welfare of the people does not come into consideration because there is no sense of the people concerned with the people because they do not know who they are because they do not live within the City. He added the fact is that the people who are concerned with their well-being were outraged because they did not hear about the plan for the parking garage that came to them at 3 pm of the night it came before City Council; they were never consulted or asked how they felt about it. If they lived in the City or might have been neighbors to the site they might even ask the people. Mr. Antalics mentioned looking at the Martin Tower, there were discussions going on behind scenes without Council and the public was not aware of the discussions between the developer and the Administration. To him this is bothersome because the parking garage and the zoning of Martin Tower were done without people knowing about it which is contrary to a policy of the City Administration talking about transparency. Mr. Antalics stated two major issues never met the guidelines of transparency; it was done privately behind the scenes. In the best interest of the community, we need to have an Ordinance that says heads of Departments will live in the City. They would then be in the City on the weekends rather than driving from homes far away and would have a full time job as a citizen of Bethlehem.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

ATTEST:

City Clerk