

BETHLEHEM CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
10 East Church Street - Town Hall  
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania  
Tuesday, September 20, 2016 - 7:00 PM

INVOCATION

Pastor James Muske, of Saint Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church, offered the invocation which was followed by the pledge to the flag.

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-Dipini, Adam Waldron, and J. William Reynolds, 7.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT (on any subject not being voted on this evening-5 minute time limit)

President Reynolds mentioned this is the first meeting where we will be taking the traditional Second Courtesy of the Floor and moved it up to the beginning.

*Psychiatric Hospital on Center Street*

Barry Anderson, 213 Dewberry Avenue, stated he is at this meeting because his home at 213 Dewberry Avenue is effectively across the street from the proposed psychiatric hospital treatment center aka, the benign named Bethlehem Behavioral Hospital. He is surrounded on two sides by the Bethlehem Catholic High School and he knows that it is spring when he hears them play in the ball field directly behind his home. Mr. Anderson stated throughout the spring and summer the ball field is a hub of activity almost every day and he knows that summer is winding down when he hears the whistles for football practice. Throughout the school year the parking lot is often filled with cars late into the evening as Bethlehem Catholic hosts its many activities. The school children use his sidewalks in front of his home on the way to and from school and countless joggers run by and couples of various stages of life walk by hand in hand. Mr. Anderson added that young families walk their dogs while they are pushing their children in strollers. At the cemetery across the street the grieving stop by to pay their respects and spend quiet time with their departed loved ones. This neighborhood is not unlike many neighborhoods in Bethlehem, there is the old money with their fine homes and properties comingled with the more modest parcels of the middle class. We have the professionals; we have the everyday working folks. Mr. Anderson stated that the homes and properties are well maintained with a sense of pride and place. He continued surely any reasonable person would agree that with this neighborhood as with similar residential neighborhoods that this is no place to build a psychiatric hospital, a treatment center. Acadia Healthcare has described their target patients as acutely psychotic, a danger to themselves and possibly others. Mr. Anderson is at this meeting to ask for Council's help in discouraging the development of this proposed psychiatric hospital and treatment center. He expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to speak and is confident that Council will make the correct decision to join us in turning away this troublesome potentially dangerous proposal.

President Reynolds believes that we received an email today that the plans to be introduced at the Planning Commission Meeting on Thursday about this hospital have been withdrawn at least temporarily. President Reynolds queried if the Administration would want to make any comments on those plans.

Mayor Donchez reported that he received notification this afternoon that they withdrew their proposal for Thursday's meeting.

Alicia Karner, Director of Community and Economic Development noted that at this point we have no reason to believe that it will be resubmitted. She did not want President Reynolds to use the word "temporarily". She added we do not expect that it was a temporarily withdrawal.

President Reynolds remarked that Ms. Karner expects it to be a permanent withdrawal.

Ms. Karner replied essentially.

*Double and Triple Parking at Thomas Jefferson Elementary School*

Anthony Bubick, 434 Milton Street, informed he is a crossing guard at Thomas Jefferson Elementary School. He remarked that he went to the Parking Authority about the double and triple parking that is taking place at this school, but no action has been taken. They said it is a Police problem. Mr. Bubick is asking if something can be done. The busses have problems there and today bus 96 was in the crosswalk and there were cars triple parked in front of the school. There are signs up that say No Parking and Stop and Drop off Only. He noted everyone knows it but they still park there. He is asking if something can be done about this.

President Reynolds remarked that Police Chief Mark DiLuzio is at this meeting and he can have a conversation with Mr. Bubick about this particular situation.

*Treatment Centers*

Stephen Antalics, 737 Ridge Street, noted that a comment was made earlier that he feels obliged to respond to. He queried how many people have your neighbors shovel your sidewalk or say hello to you every time they see you? He does because he has good neighbors next to him. They are residents of a halfway house and rehabilitation center for drug addicts run by Sister Virginia, called Stephen's Place. Mr. Antalics noted he speaks to them and knows they had a bad break, but they are being rehabilitated. He mentioned there are two kinds of drug addicts, the ones we know about and the ones we do not know about. Clearly the unknown addict is more dangerous, because they will steal from his own mother or harm her to gain money. Mr. Antalics remarked the addict who is looking for treatment is safe, he is known, and is least likely to do harm to anyone. He expressed we should be thankful there are agencies willing to support these needy people to bring them back to society. Mr. Antalics has heard people say they do not want this next to their house and that their kids will suffer or their home will be broken into. The house he bought in Bethlehem has the best view of the City, the Morning Call newspaper took a picture of it that he sees every morning. He heard from about 15 people that he would not want to live there because there are addicts living next door. These people shovel his sidewalk, they say hello and they are good guys. Mr. Antalics highlighted he has more respect for them than many citizens of Bethlehem, but most people in Bethlehem do not live next door because they feel they are dangerous. Society suffers from an attitudinal problem, fear. An addict in treatment is not feared because he or she is known so he urges everyone to rethink their attitudes and how you will act on anyone coming before you willing to build an institution to help these needy people. Mr. Antalics stated you do not know, the way an addict is on the verge of becoming very, very dangerous and you do not know that and when you find out it just might be too late.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT (on Ordinances and Resolutions to be voted on this evening-5 Minute Time Limit)

None.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. Members of Council

*Next Council Meeting*

President Reynolds reminded everyone that our next City Council Meeting on Tuesday, October 4, 2016 at 7 pm will take place at Clearview Elementary School, 2121 Abington Road, Bethlehem.

B. Tabled Items

C. Unfinished Business

6. COMMUNICATIONS

A. *Mayor – Amending Article 531 – Parking Generally*

The Clerk read a memorandum from Mayor Robert J. Donchez to which is attached a proposed Ordinance to amend Article 531-Parking Generally, Section 531.01 (b) relating to the parking and standing of motor vehicles.

President Reynolds stated the Ordinance can be listed on the October 4 agenda for First Reading.

B. *Housing and Community Development Planner – FY 2017 CDBG and HOME Programs*

The Clerk read a memorandum from Allyson Lysaght, Housing and Community Development Planner attached to which are the FY2017 CDBG and HOME program requests received by the City. Funding recommendations were made and presented to the Mayor. The Department has reduced an anticipated CDBG amount by approximately 6.5%, which would be an anticipated CDBG amount of \$1,191,370 and a HOME award of \$319,272.

*Motion –Schedule Public Hearing*

President Reynolds stated he will accept a motion to schedule a Public Hearing for Tuesday, October 18, 2016 at 7 pm in Town Hall.

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

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

President Reynolds stated the Public Hearing will be held on Tuesday, October 18, 2016 at 7 pm in Town Hall.

C. *Director of Budget and Finance – Amending Article 153 – Police Pension Fund*

The Clerk read a memorandum from Mark Sivak, Director of Budget and Finance to which is attached a proposed Ordinance to amend Article 153-Police Pension Fund to change the employee contribution rate in the Police Pension Fund for employees hired on or after January 1, 2012 based on their pension contribution. The change was negotiated in the last Police contract and the new contribution rate for the employee became effective on July 1, 2015.

President Reynolds stated the Ordinance can be listed on the October 4 agenda for First Reading.

D. *Business Administrator – Amending Article 107 - Departments*

The Clerk read a memorandum from David L. Brong, Business Administrator attached to which is an Ordinance to amend Article 107-Departments, and documentation that provides detail about the Administration's plan to consolidate the City organization, including pertinent organization charts. Attrition in the Parks and Public Property Department has served as the catalyst to consolidate operations as follows: the Bureau of Recreation will report to the Mayor. The Bureau of Grounds Maintenance (formerly Parks Maintenance) will report to the Director of Public Works. The Bureau of Facilities (formerly Buildings Maintenance) will report to the Director of Public Works. Matt Dorner, Engineering lead, will be assigned to expand the role of Deputy Director, Public Works in order to assist this new organization. Concurrently the study of the parks system will lead to a strategy for the parks system. The strategy will be developed by the Department of Community and Economic Development.

President Reynolds stated he will refer this to Human Resources and Environment Committee and the Parks and Public Property Committee for a joint Committee Meeting. The Clerk will coordinate the meeting date with the Committee Members and the Administration.

7. REPORTS

A. *President of Council*

B. *Mayor*

1. *Administrative Order – Sharon Zondag – Bethlehem Authority*

Mayor Donchez appointed Sharon Zondag to membership on the Bethlehem Authority effective through January, 2018. Mr. Martell and Mr. Evans sponsored Resolution 2016-191 to confirm the appointment.

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

2. *Administrative Order – James A. DePietro – Fine Arts Commission*

Mayor Donchez appointed James A. DePietro to membership on the Fine Arts Commission effective through January, 2017. Mr. Martell and Mr. Evans sponsored Resolution 2016-192 to confirm the appointment.

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

*Committee Meeting Announcement*

Chairman Callahan announced that the Finance Committee met tonight Tuesday, September 20, 2016 at 6 pm in Town Hall. The Committee voted to recommend that City Council adopt an Ordinance for the following: Amending the General Fund Budget Northampton County Grant for South Side Streetscape Improvements-Department Contracts, Amending Sewer Fund-MIPP Sampling/Surcharge – Chemicals – Department Contracts. The Committee also received a presentation on the 2015 Draft Audit.

8. ORDINANCES FOR FINAL READING

A. *Bill No. 27 – 2016 – Dedication of Streets – Emery Street, Spillman Drive, Lynn Avenue, Commerce Center Boulevard, Harvard Avenue, Gilchrist Drive, Feather Way*

The Clerk read Bill No. 27 – 2016 – Dedication of Streets – Emery Street, Spillman Drive, Lynn Avenue, Commerce Center Boulevard, Harvard Avenue, Gilchrist Drive, Feather Way on Final Reading.

Voting AYE: Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, Mr. Colón, Mr. Evans, Mr. Martell, Ms. Negrón-Dipini, and Mr. Reynolds, 7. Bill No. 27 – 2016 now known as Ordinance No. 2016-27 was adopted on Final Reading.

9. NEW ORDINANCES

None.

10. RESOLUTIONS

A. *Authorizing Execution of Highway Safety Project Grant – DUI Program*

Mr. Evans and Mr. Colón sponsored Resolution 2016-193 that authorized and directed the Mayor and Controller to sign all necessary grant documents for the Highway Safety Project Grant NO. IDP-2017-Bethlehem City-00022 on its behalf.

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

*Motion – Considering Resolutions 10 B through 10 D as a Group – Certificates of Appropriateness*

Mr. Callahan and Mr. Evans moved to consider Resolutions 10 B through 10 D as a group.

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

*B. Certificate of Appropriateness – 516 Main Street*

Mr. Evans and Mr. Colón sponsored Resolution 2016-194 that granted a Certificate of Appropriateness to replace the existing sign with a new sign for the new business at 516 Main Street

*C. Certificate of Appropriateness – 531 Main Street*

Mr. Evans and Mr. Colón sponsored Resolution 2016-195 that granted a Certificate of Appropriateness to replace the signage at 531 Main Street.

*D. Certificate of Appropriateness – 544 Main Street*

Mr. Evans and Mr. Colón sponsored Resolution 2016-196 that granted a Certificate of Appropriateness to replace two signs and add a third wall sign at 544 Main Street as well as replacing the blade sign on the Main Street corner.

Voting AYE on Resolutions 10 B through 10 D: Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, Mr. Colón, Mr. Evans, Mr. Martell, Ms. Negrón-Dipini, and Mr. Reynolds, 7. The Resolutions passed.

11. NEW BUSINESS

*Committee Meeting Announcement*

Chairman Martell announced a Community Development Committee Meeting that was previously scheduled for Wednesday, October 5, 2016 at 6 pm in Town Hall has been rescheduled to Monday, October 3, 2016 at 5:30 pm in Town Hall. The subject is the FY 2017 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnership Programs Review.

*Black Lives Also Matter Public Forum Meeting*

Mr. Martell stated that everyone knows that along with the Mayor and Chief of Police the Bethlehem NAACP in late August held a public forum on Community Policing. It was entitled “Black Lives Also Matter”. They talked a lot about things that are going on in the community. Mr. Martell queried if the Police Chief would like to give an update in terms of anything that came out of that meeting, and if there are any steps being taken in relation to some of the things that were discussed.

Police Chief DiLuzio remarked since that meeting in August they have had neighborhood meetings in different churches that he has attended, and with other groups in the area, including senior citizens homes. He attended many of these meetings with Captain William Dosedlo, who is in charge of our Community Policing and many of our officers. Chief DiLuzio stated that they do the SRO Program at Christmas time; they provide food for children and underprivileged families in the school district at Thanksgiving and Christmas. He added that they do food drives and coordinate with the teachers to distribute food to the needy families. We also have a Coats for Kids Project every year. He remarked it is remarkable to see how many students have only one or two coats for their whole family. The Police Chief stated that people donate good coats or we purchase some from the area merchants. He continued many are donated to this program too, and the officers distribute them to the needy families. We have an Adult Police Academy, which is every Wednesday. The program started two weeks ago. It is opened to citizens to see what we actually do. He remarked many comment that they had no idea all the Police Department does until they go through the Academy. Chief DiLuzio added that they also have a Juvenile Police Academy that takes place in the summer each year. The Department budgets to do one per year, and last year they stretched that budget and did two sessions. He noted we had such a high turnout of kids and parents that we had to turn people away this year, but he does not want to do that next year. Chief DiLuzio added that the school district and about 20 to 30 local businesses help every year with funding all these programs. We have a great partnership with the business community, many citizens in town, and many community groups. We recently contacted Guillermo Lopez Jr. who assisted us

years ago in our Community Policing efforts when we had a major addition within the City. Over the years Community Policing fell to the way side. Police Chief DiLuzio stated when he took over the Department in 2014, it was one of his initiatives to bring this back because it is real simple and it works. He noted that Mr. Lopez will be coming in a doing training for many of our new officers that never had Community Policing and never worked on that initiative. Chief DiLuzio stated he also brought in representatives from the LGBT community to train officers regarding domestic violence cases and an overall cultural awareness. We have a very good relationship and appreciate their assistance. He added that October 7 is National Coffee Day and we will partake in that. We are also working with Wells Fargo in a Big Brother/Big Sister initiative called "Bigs in Blue", which was started in Miami, Florida years ago. Chief DiLuzio noted there are a lot of Community Policing things that the Police Department is involved in, and there are a lot of outreach programs that extend into the community. The programs he mentioned are just some of them. He noted that he will keep Council updated on the programs and if you feel Council would like to come to any of them, they are always welcome.

Mr. Martell thinks two things that came out of forum are the need for new types of training and the Community Policing. Bethlehem has not been wrapped up in some of the tragedies that have happened nationwide and much of that is because of these programs, many are not new.

Chief DiLuzio remarked that many of these programs went away because of funding, but then came back. Many of them were started by funding from Washington and the funding does go up and down, but we are bringing them back. He expressed instead of using federal funding we are trying to partner with many of the area businesses. We can get them more involved in their community by helping to underwrite some these programs, and it is working.

Mr. Martell noted if Council can help in any way with the budget season, please let us know.

*100 Trees for 100 Years Project*

Mr. Colón mentioned that last Saturday we wrapped up the 100 Trees for 100 Years project in the City. This was a project that he was able to work on through many of the steps throughout the way with the small steering committee. He thanked the Parks Department, Public Works and any other City department that worked with the various aspects of the program needs such as dropping off water during this dry summer and helping us stay cold and borrowing tools and other things along the way. Mr. Colón noted that we are told about things we could do better in the City, but that was a good example of a project that we got right. We put 100 trees in City parks. It was a collaborative effort from the department heads to the guys and gals who helped deliver what we needed and supported us. All the volunteers were thanked on Saturday. Everyone was appreciative of the support and the effort.

*Center Street Psychiatric Hospital*

Mr. Callahan asked Ms. Karner about the property at Center Street for the hospital for Acadia Healthcare and if they gave any reason why they wanted to withdraw.

Ms. Karner replied no. Essentially they asked that it be withdrawn and then be removed from further consideration by the City.

Mr. Callahan asked if they own the property now or was the sale from Mr. Atiyeh contingent upon approval of this.

Ms. Karner stated they do not typically see the terms of agreement of sales; that is a privately negotiated agreement so she cannot speak to that.

Mr. Callahan queried as of right now the property is still owned by whom?

Ms. Karner stated to her knowledge it is owned by, she is not sure if it is an individual or a corporate entity but to Mr. Callahan's point, Mr. Atiyeh.

*LERTA Zone*

Mr. Callahan remarked that at the last Council Meeting we had a lively discussion about the LERTA zone. He referenced a recent meeting with the Bethlehem Area School District and asked Ms. Karner if there is any news that could be shared with Council at this time.

Ms. Karner stated they are crafting a letter to send to City Council and the Administration.

Mr. Callahan asked what their position is on this.

Ms. Karner informed they want to see what City Council is going to do next.

Mr. Callahan queried as far as what?

Ms. Karner noted in response to your request for information that we are putting together.

Mr. Callahan asked if the school district is in favor of the LERTA zone as it is?

Ms. Karner informed they want to not have to address this issue on multiple levels. She cannot speak to what they are in favor of.

*LEPOCO Peace Center*

Ms. Negrón-Dipiní wanted to say she had the honor to participate at the LEPOCO Peace Center at the Peace Pole dedication and thank the Mayor for the proclamation. Ms. Negrón-Dipiní knows they were very happy to have a proclamation from the Mayor's office. She was honored to be there and present the proclamation. She mentioned they took a walk to the Peace Pole at Moravian followed by a walk to the Channel 39 at Steel Stacks. She highlighted there were a nice group of people there hoping that peace may prevail.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

ATTEST:

City Clerk