

BETHLEHEM CITY COUNCIL MEETING
10 East Church Street – Town Hall
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania
Tuesday, November 15, 2016 – 7:00 PM

INVOCATION

Reverend Edward A. Thompson, Senior Pastor, Second Baptist 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

The Minutes of November 1, 2016 were approved.

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

Water Bill

Bill Scheirer, 1890 Eaton Avenue, referred to the bill payment options for the quarterly water, sewer, and recycling bill and mentioned that four times a year a check has to be sent in the mail or brought into City Hall to pay the bills. Mr. Scheirer does not understand why the City cannot do what the other utility services do that allow for the opportunity to have the quarterly amount deducted from an individual's checking account. He mentioned a notice of the bill could be sent a few weeks in advance and if there are any concerns they could be investigated prior to paying the bill. He feels that the option to pay the quarterly bill would help the quality of life a little bit.

Medical Marijuana Zoning/Recycling Center/Illick's Mill/Spring Garden School Parking/City Paving

Dana Grubb, 2420 Henderson Place, concurred with Mr. Scheirer's suggestion for utility bill payment. He continued that Williams Township and Hanover Township are taking an aggressive approach to zoning for the advent of the medical marijuana industry to address production, processing and sale. He expressed the need to be proactive and his hope that the City will develop a similar proposal to address the issue. Mr. Grubb also advised that the cardboard compactor at the Theis/Cornfeld Recycling Center has been out of operation for almost two months. He expressed concern about comingling flat board and corrugated cardboard during this time period and when in the past it needed to be separated. Mr. Grubb noted he drove past Illick's Mill and saw work was being done on the building and hopes the City is using the Secretary of the Interior's standards for rehabilitation on a National Register property. He continued that the main reason he is at City Council tonight is regarding the parking issues at Spring Garden School. He remarked that parents are parking in the surrounding neighborhoods in private property driveways and blocking residential driveways. He mentioned that people are also parking in the parking lots associated with the Townhouses along North Boulevard and blocking access to these private parking lots. He referenced his own experience recently of being stuck in a traffic jam while trying to exit his parking court on a private access road, and that of a former Police Captain who had to drive across his lawn to access his driveway due to it being blocked. He stressed the need for enforcement and mentioned he spoke with the Police Chief about the traffic and parking issues in this area. Mr. Grubb then spoke about street paving and overlay. He mentioned that several contractors commented to him about the quality of street paving in the City. He noted that they expressed to him that they do not see anyone out sealing cracks and many streets are have just a scratch course put on the streets. Mr. Grubb stated he has not seen the milling machine operating since it was purchased. He remarked that an individual with nearly fifty years in the overlay business stated it is a waste of time and material to put a course on a road.

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
- B. Tabled Items
- C. Unfinished Business

6. COMMUNICATIONS

A. *Director of Budget and Finance – 2016 State Aid - Pension*

The Clerk read a memorandum dated November 4, 2016 from Mark W. Sivak, Director of Budget and Finance regarding the 2016 Pension State Aid. A direct deposit for State Aid in the amount of \$3,661,578.86 was received on September 26, 2016. The proceeds have been allocated as follows:

Police – MMO	\$ 961,658.70
Fire – MMO	\$ 961,658.70
Reimbursement – Pension Bond Payment 5/01/16	\$ 496,630.73
Reimbursement – Pension Bond Payment 11/01/16	<u>\$1,241,630.73</u>
Total	\$3,661,578.86

President Reynolds stated Resolution 10 A is on the agenda.

7. REPORTS

A. *President of Council*

B. *Mayor*

1. *Administrative Order – Steve Glickman – Fine Arts Commission*

Mayor Donchez reappointed Steve Glickman to membership on the Fine Arts Commission effective through November, 2019. Mr. Waldron and Ms. Negrón-Dipiní sponsored Resolution 2016-218 to confirm the reappointment.

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

2. *Administrative Order – Gretchen Rice – Bethlehem Revitalization and Improvement Authority*

Mayor Donchez reappointed Gretchen Rice to membership on the Bethlehem Revitalization and Improvement Authority effective through November, 2021. Mr. Waldron and Ms. Negrón-Dipiní sponsored Resolution 2016-219 to confirm the reappointment.

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

8. ORDINANCES FOR FINAL READING

A. *Bill No. 32 – 2016 – Amending Article 107 – Departments*

The Clerk read Bill No. 32 – 2016 – Amending Article 107 – Departments, on Final Reading.

Voting AYE: Mr. Martell, Ms. Negrón-Dipiní, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, Mr. Colón, Mr. Evans, and Mr. Reynolds, 7. Bill No. 32 – 2016 now known as Ordinance 2016-32 was adopted on Final Reading.

B. *Bill No. 33 – 2016 – Amending Article 927 – Sewer Rental*

The Clerk read Bill No. 33 – 2016 – Amending Article 927 – Sewer Rental, on Final Reading.

Voting AYE: Mr. Martell, Ms. Negrón-Dipini, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, Mr. Colón, Mr. Evans, and Mr. Reynolds, 7. Bill No. 33 – 2016 now known as Ordinance 2016-33 was adopted on Final Reading.

9. NEW ORDINANCES

A. *Bill No. 34 – 2016 – Intermunicipal Agreement - City of Bethlehem/Borough of Hellertown – Traffic Signal*

The Clerk read Bill No. 34 – 2016 – Intermunicipal Agreement – City of Bethlehem/Borough of Hellertown – Traffic Signal, sponsored by Mr. Waldron and Ms. Negrón-Dipini, and titled:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM, COUNTIES OF LEHIGH AND NORTHAMPTON, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING AN INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM AND THE BOROUGH OF HELLERTOWN RELATED TO THE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF A TRAFFIC SIGNAL ALONG HELLERTOWN ROAD / SR412 AT THE INTERSECTION OF KICHLINE AVENUE AND I-78.

Voting AYE: Mr. Martell, Ms. Negrón-Dipini, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, Mr. Colón, Mr. Evans, and Mr. Reynolds, 7. Bill No. 34 – 2016 was passed on First Reading.

B. *Bill No. 35 – 2016 – Adopting the 2017 General Fund Budget*

The Clerk read Bill No. 35 – 2016 – Adopting the 2017 General Fund Budget, sponsored by Mr. Waldron and Mr. Colón, and titled:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM, COUNTIES OF LEHIGH AND NORTHAMPTON, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, ADOPTING THE GENERAL FUND BUDGET FOR 2017.

President Reynolds noted that the next eleven Ordinances all have to do with the budget. As we know, we have to vote on these twice. We will be voting on these Ordinances once today and then the second time at our Council Meeting on December 20, 2016. The votes on the budget today are not the final votes.

Voting AYE: Mr. Martell, Ms. Negrón-Dipini, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, Mr. Colón, Mr. Evans, and Mr. Reynolds, 7. Bill No. 35 – 2016 was passed on First Reading.

C. *Bill No. 36 – 2016 – Adopting the 2017 Water Fund Budget*

The Clerk read Bill No. 36 – 2016 – Adopting the 2017 Water Fund Budget, sponsored by Mr. Waldron and Ms. Negrón-Dipini, and titled:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM, COUNTIES OF LEHIGH AND NORTHAMPTON, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, ADOPTING THE WATER FUND BUDGET FOR 2017.

Voting AYE: Mr. Martell, Ms. Negrón-Dipini, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, Mr. Colón, Mr. Evans, and Mr. Reynolds, 7. Bill No. 36 – 2016 was passed on First Reading.

D. *Bill No. 37 – 2016 – Adopting the 2017 Sewer Fund Budget*

The Clerk read Bill No. 37 – 2016– Adopting the 2017 Sewer Fund Budget, sponsored by Mr. Waldron and Ms. Negrón-Dipiní - and titled:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM,
COUNTIES OF LEHIGH AND NORTHAMPTON,
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, ADOPTING
THE SEWER FUND BUDGET FOR 2017.

Voting AYE: Mr. Martell, Ms. Negrón-Dipiní, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, Mr. Colón, Mr. Evans, and Mr. Reynolds, 7. Bill No. 37 – 2016 was passed on First Reading.

E. *Bill No. 38 – 2016 – Adopting the 2017 Golf Course Enterprise Fund Budget*

The Clerk read Bill No. 38 – 2016 – Adopting the 2017 Golf Course Enterprise Fund Budget, sponsored by Mr. Waldron and Ms. Negrón-Dipiní, and titled:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM,
COUNTIES OF LEHIGH AND NORTHAMPTON,
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, ADOPTING
THE GOLF COURSE ENTERPRISE FUND BUDGET FOR 2017.

Voting AYE: Mr. Martell, Ms. Negrón-Dipiní, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, Mr. Colón, Mr. Evans, and Mr. Reynolds, 7. Bill No. 38 – 2016 was passed on First Reading.

F. *Bill No. 39 – 2016 – Adopting the 2017 Liquid Fuels Fund Budget*

The Clerk read Bill No. 39 – 2016 – Adopting the 2017 Liquid Fuels Fund Budget, sponsored by Mr. Waldron and Mr. Colón, and titled:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM,
COUNTIES OF LEHIGH AND NORTHAMPTON,
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, ADOPTING
THE LIQUID FUELS FUND BUDGET FOR 2017.

Voting AYE: Mr. Martell, Ms. Negrón-Dipiní, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, Mr. Colón, Mr. Evans, and Mr. Reynolds, 7. Bill No. 39 – 2016 was passed on First Reading.

G. *Bill No. 40 – 2016 – Adopting the 2017 Capital Budget for Non-Utilities*

The Clerk read Bill No. 40 – 2016 – Adopting the 2017 Capital Budget for Non-Utilities, sponsored by Mr. Waldron and Mr. Colón, and titled:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM,
COUNTIES OF LEHIGH AND NORTHAMPTON,
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, ADOPTING
THE 2017 CAPITAL BUDGET FOR NON-UTILITIES.

Voting AYE: Mr. Martell, Ms. Negrón-Dipiní, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, Mr. Colón, Mr. Evans, and Mr. Reynolds, 7. Bill No. 40 – 2016 was passed on First Reading.

H. *Bill No. 41 – 2016– Adopting the 2017 Capital Budget for Water Utilities*

The Clerk read Bill No. 41 – 2016 – Adopting the 2017 Capital Budget for Water Utilities, sponsored by Mr. Colón and Mr. Evans, and titled:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM,
COUNTIES OF LEHIGH AND NORTHAMPTON,
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, ADOPTING
THE 2017 CAPITAL BUDGET FOR WATER UTILITIES.

Voting AYE: Mr. Martell, Ms. Negrón-Dipiní, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, Mr. Colón, Mr. Evans, and Mr. Reynolds, 7. Bill No. 41 – 2016 was passed on First Reading.

I. *Bill No. 42 – 2016 – Adopting the 2017 Capital Budget for Sewer Utilities*

The Clerk read Bill No. 42 – 2016 – Adopting the 2017 Capital Budget for Sewer Utilities, sponsored by Mr. Colón and Mr. Evans, and titled:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM,
COUNTIES OF LEHIGH AND NORTHAMPTON,
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, ADOPTING
THE 2017 CAPITAL BUDGET FOR SEWER UTILITIES.

Voting AYE: Mr. Martell, Ms. Negrón-Dipini, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, Mr. Colón, Mr. Evans, and Mr. Reynolds, 7. Bill No. 42 – 2016 was passed on First Reading.

J. *Bill No. 43 – 2016 – Adopting the 2017 Community Development Budget*

The Clerk read Bill No. 43 – 2016 – Adopting the 2017 Community Development Budget, sponsored by Mr. Colón and Mr. Evans, and titled:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM,
COUNTIES OF LEHIGH AND NORTHAMPTON,
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, ADOPTING
THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BUDGET FOR 2017.

Ms. Negrón-Dipini informed she will abstain from voting on this Ordinance because she is a Board Member for CACLV and they will be receiving funding.

Voting AYE: Mr. Martell, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Colón, Mr. Evans, and Mr. Reynolds, 5. Voting NAY: Mr. Callahan, 1. Abstain: Ms. Negrón-Dipini, 1. Bill No. 43 – 2016 was passed on First Reading.

K. *Bill No. 44 – 2016 – Adopting the 2017 9-1-1 Fund Budget*

The Clerk read Bill No. 44 – 2016 – Adopting the 2017 9-1-1 Fund Budget, sponsored by Ms. Negrón-Dipini and Mr. Colón, and titled:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM,
COUNTIES OF LEHIGH AND NORTHAMPTON,
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, ADOPTING
THE 9-1-1 FUND BUDGET FOR 2017.

Voting AYE: Mr. Martell, Ms. Negrón-Dipini, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, Mr. Colón, Mr. Evans, and Mr. Reynolds, 7. Bill No. 44 – 2016 was passed on First Reading.

L. *Bill No. 45 – 2016 – Adopting the 2017 Tax Rate for All City Purposes*

The Clerk read Bill No. 45 – 2016 – Adopting the 2017 Tax Rate for All City Purposes, sponsored by Mr. Colón and Mr. Evans, and titled:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM,
COUNTIES OF LEHIGH AND NORTHAMPTON,
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, FIXING
THE TAX RATE FOR ALL CITY PURPOSES
FOR THE YEAR 2017.

Mr. Evans emphasized he wanted to thank the Administration for bringing this budget proposal to Council. He remarked we have a number of budget hearings ahead of us but on the surface the fact that we have been given a proposal that includes no property tax increase but includes increase funding for roads and no cuts to our public safety sector is an exciting start. Mr. Evans advised there is a lot of work to do on this but he again wanted to thank the Administration for the hard work in bringing this together. He looks forward to reviewing it and is very excited for all of what we have in moving forward for 2017.

President Reynolds added that we do have several budget meetings coming up and he knows that the Administration worked hard on the budget throughout the year with many difficult decisions. He knows that Mayor Donchez has made some decisions in the past 10 months, and the three years that have not always been universally popular either inside City Hall or with the budget in general, but he wanted to echo the comments made by Mr. Evans in that there are a lot of good things in the proposed budget. President Reynolds expressed that Mr. Sivak, Mr. Brong and all of the department heads are forced to make difficult decisions on a day-to-day basis. We on Council vote for this but you live with this on a day-to-day basis as far as getting the most out of our excellent employees. President Reynolds would also like to repeat what he said at the last meeting in that there is a lot of uncertainty about the Casino Host Fee and what that will mean for us. He recognized that Mr. Brong provided an update at the last City Council meeting. President Reynolds believes the more information we can get in that particular area during the budget process, the more comfortable Council will be going forward. He remarked it is a huge question mark for the Administration, the taxpayers, City Council and all of our departments. He stressed that we need to take a look at all of the options even if there are ones that we are likely never to use. President Reynolds continued no one wants to be in the situation where we are saying to the Administration every few weeks that we have not heard anything and what is our plan or what is our plan if we have not heard anything from Harrisburg. We do have four or five budget hearings coming up and he is looking forward to that process when we look at all the details and hard work that the Administration has done.

Voting AYE: Mr. Martell, Ms. Negrón-Dipini, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Colón, Mr. Evans, and Mr. Reynolds, 6. Voting NAY: Mr. Callahan, 1. Bill No. 45 – 2016 was passed on First Reading.

10. RESOLUTIONS

A. *Approving Allocations – 2016 Pension State Aid*

Mr. Waldron and Ms. Negrón-Dipini sponsored Resolution 2016-220 that authorized the appropriate City officials hereby to allocate \$3,661,578.86 of the 2016 General Municipal Pension System State Aid among the City's pension plans as stated in the Resolution.

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

B. *Certificate of Appropriateness – 402 North New Street*

Mr. Colón and Mr. Callahan sponsored Resolution 2016-221 that granted a Certificate of Appropriateness to repaint the trim on the exterior of the building at 402 North New Street.

Mr. Waldron informed he will be abstaining due to a financial conflict.

Voting AYE: Mr. Martell, Ms. Negrón-Dipini, , Mr. Callahan, Mr. Colón, Mr. Evans, and Mr. Reynolds, 6. Abstain: Mr. Waldron, 1. The Resolution passed.

11. NEW BUSINESS

Setting Date for Adoption – 2017 Budget

President Reynolds stated he will accept a motion to set the date of the adoption of the 2017 budget for Tuesday, December 20, 2016 at 7 pm in Town Hall.

Mr. Waldron made the motion and Mr. Colón seconded the motion.

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

Announcement – First Budget Hearing

President Reynolds announced the First Budget Hearing is scheduled for Monday, November 21, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in Town Hall on the following budgets: Water Fund Revenue and Expenses, Water Capital budget, Sewer Fund Revenue and Expenses, and the Sewer Capital Budget.

Committee Meeting Announcements

Chairman Callahan announced a Finance Committee meeting on Tuesday, December 6, 2016 in Town Hall at 5:30 pm on the following subject: Third Quarter 2016 Gaming Revenue – Excess Gaming Revenue.

Casino Host Fee/Bill Paying/Medical Marijuana

Mr. Callahan mentioned there was an article in one of the newspapers about the Rivers Casino in Pittsburgh and that they are coming to a close agreement, maybe not yet signed, of a \$10 million Host Fee. This is an agreement between the City and the Casino. Mr. Callahan asked if there is any talk of any movement with the Sands Casino in that direction.

Mayor Donchez reported he has discussed this with Sands Casino President and we will have further discussions on it. He knows it was an issue the President was going to discuss with corporate.

Mr. Callahan advised he wanted to thank Mr. Grubb for mentioning a few of the things that need to be brought up tonight. Mr. Callahan queried if there is any way for us to have online payments for the water and sewer bill as Mr. Scheirer had mentioned.

Mr. Brong stated we have changed how we bill, how we manage the data that goes back and forth between the City and the billing agent, how we present and how we make use of the technology. A constituent portal known as egov is on our systems where customers have the ability to go online, find out their balance and pay with a credit card. That is as far as we have taken it. Mr. Brong explained we do have interest to begin to talk about electronic bill presentment to customers and not send a mail package through the USPS. At that point the discussion about alternatives to payment, essentially reverse ACH with customers. He remarked they will be talking about it.

Mr. Callahan mentioned in an article in The Morning Call the Bethlehem Township Solicitor brought up some major, and what he felt were big concerns regarding the advancement of the legalization of medical marijuana. He could not be quoted on what was in the article but from what he understood the Solicitor was encouraging Bethlehem Township to come up with some type of zoning or to put something in their zoning code, because if they did not, it was possible that someone could just move into some neighborhood and open up this type of business anywhere. Mr. Callahan noted when Mr. Grubb spoke during Public Comment he recalled the newspaper article. Mr. Callahan then asked the Law Bureau if they would know what the thought process would have been for asking the township look at their zoning regarding this matter.

Assistant Solicitor Matthew Deschler stated he has not seen the article but will mention this to Solicitor Leeson to look into this.

Mr. Callahan remarked he wants to make sure that we are covered as a City and that there is no way this type of business could be put into some residential area.

Mr. Martell noted he has had some conversations with the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission, and their interpretation right now, is that it would be a retail use. It could go anywhere that is already zoned for retail. It is not as if it could just go into a residential neighborhood unless it is already zoned for retail. Mr. Martell added there might be further discussion about if we really want it in every retail zoned area, but it is not as if it is currently under State law, that it is a free for all.

New Street Restoration

Mr. Martell asked Michael Alkhal, Director of Public Works for an update on the construction on New Street near Union Boulevard.

Mr. Alkhal related that the restoration work is still ongoing. Everything is going according to what we scoped out initially and provided Council with the update a few weeks ago. It is expected to be done by Thanksgiving. The only difference lately is that we had

another leak on the main in that closed section of the road and we worked with Water and Sewer and made the decision to replace the rest of the line just to make sure once we restore the road and sidewalks that we have no other further issues on that block.

Chairman Colón announced a Human Resources and Environment Committee Meeting before the next Council Meeting on Tuesday, December 6, 2016 at 6 pm in Town Hall on the following subject: The proposed 2017 budget - Personnel.

Elementary School Parking/Casino Host Fee

Mr. Evans noted it seems like we have had a rash of complaints about parking when students are picked up at schools. He understands mostly it is at the elementary schools where this is happening. Mr. Evans remarked the middle schools have different setups and the high schools have big parking lots due to the number of student who drive themselves to school. He noted that it might be time to have conversations with the school district. Mr. Evans does understand that there are 16 elementary schools with most of them in the City, but some are in the township and Fountain Hill. Mr. Evans advised he lives across the street from Governor Wolf Elementary School and there have been a few times when he was not able to get in or out of his driveway because people do park in front of driveways. He noted that the neighborhood schools were built so that most of the students could walk to school and some living further away were bussed to school. Now there are so many cars at the beginning and end of the school day and it is a challenge for the crossing guards. Many do not use the crosswalks with their children. He added that we have had a few speakers here at City Council in the past few months, from crossing guards to parents, who have noticed this problem. Mr. Evans hopes this can be looked at jointly with the School District and Dr. Roy.

Mr. Evans also wanted to mention what Mr. Callahan spoke about with the Rivers Casino. He thinks that the fact that they are coming to an agreement or are very close to an agreement with the City of Pittsburgh, is a good sign. He expressed that would set a good precedent for the rest of the State, and would be a level of comfort for us in putting together a budget.

President Reynolds remarked when he was in elementary school they just walked home together with classmates in the neighborhood. Slowly over the years there are more and more cars and perhaps open enrollment has led to increased traffic or possibly there may be more students due to full day kindergarten. President Reynolds mentioned a family member who attends Spring Garden School and they are not able to leave now without an adult there as proof to pick them up. He recognized that it is a problem that we all hear about with people darting across the street and where cars park. Some of this is unavoidable, but it is a double edged sword with having schools in the middle of our neighborhoods. President Reynolds stated we also hear from people who live around Thomas Jefferson, William Penn, Calypso elementary schools who have commented that sometimes the people who pick up their children are not always polite.

Community Forum on Ethics Ordinances

President Reynolds remarked that Ms. Negrón-Dipiní has an event coming to Town Hall this Thursday, November 17th at 7 pm, a Community Discussion on Ethics Ordinances and we received an email about an event that precedes the forum on Thursday. He asked for an explanation on this.

Ms. Negrón-Dipiní stated Barbara Diamond is a member of the Northampton County League of Women Voters and she invited the members of the panel to her house since they will be driving from different places to meet the group that has been working on putting this together. They thought it was a great opportunity for Members of Council to be there and ask questions and talk to them before the meeting.

President Reynolds mentioned this is an invitation as far as City Council Members going there to ask any questions of them or talk about what may or may not be discussed that night or proposed. He asked if that is correct.

Ms. Negrón-Dipiní stated that is correct.

President Reynolds queried if she check with either the Law Bureau or Council Solicitor Spirk to see if theoretically everyone did show up and had a conversation, whether that would be or not be a Sunshine Law violation.

Ms. Negrón-Dipiní thinks not because the idea is not to have a conversation about a decision that would be made as Council; it is just to have questions about ethics in general. The panel is presented by the League and the panel is to advocate the community about ethics, not about anything that will be decided here on Council. It is just an opportunity for communication.

President Reynolds was not referring to the panel that would be here on Thursday he is talking about the event beforehand.

Ms. Negrón-Dipiní pointed out the idea is to give every Member of Council an opportunity to talk to them directly one on one and to meet and ask any question they want. It has nothing to do with anything that would be presented on the panel. She believes that the Sunshine Law is when you get together enough Members of Council, any legal body to make decisions and talk about decisions that would be made as a body and that is not the intention of this at all.

President Reynolds just wanted to be clear, that there was no checking as to whether this would violate the Sunshine Law.

Ms. Negrón-Dipiní stated there was no checking because there will be no decision made out of that.

12. ADJOURNMENT

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

ATTEST:

City Clerk