

CITY OF BETHLEHEM

Inter-Office Memorandum

SUBJECT: Establishing Climate Action Plan Policy Goals
and Climate Change Working Group Resolution

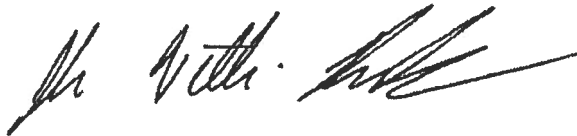
TO: Members of City Council

FROM: J. William Reynolds, President of Council

DATE: January 13, 2017

Attached is a proposed Resolution to establish Climate Action Plan policy goals and a Climate Change Working Group for the City of Bethlehem.

I would ask the Members of Council to consider the Resolution at the Tuesday, February 7, 2017 City Council Meeting.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. William Reynolds". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

J. William Reynolds, President of Council

cc: John F. Spirk, Jr., Esq.

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-

ESTABLISHING CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP

WHEREAS, The City Council (“City Council”) of the City of Bethlehem (“City”) believes that climate change caused by human activities, including greenhouse gas emissions, poses a significant threat to our City and its residents in terms of the economy, public health, and the environment;

WHEREAS, In 2006, the Mayors of the cities of Bethlehem, Allentown, and Easton, signed the Three City Proclamation endorsing the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement;

WHEREAS, City Council wishes to build on the substantial progress made by Mayor Donchez, past administrations, and the City of Bethlehem Environmental Advisory Council in combating climate change and promoting environmentally-sensitive City operations;

WHEREAS, City Council is committed to doing its part to fight climate change and believes that local government, working collaboratively with interested citizens and community stakeholders, should lead by example by adopting energy conservation, sustainability, and other environmentally-sensitive operating practices, many of which also benefit the City financially by promoting efficient use of taxpayer resources;

WHEREAS, City Council believes that the best way to sustain forward progress is by reaching out to the community to develop new partnerships and working to identify ways to make better, data-driven decisions, integrating open data and other analytics, in our efforts to protect the environment, and City Council endorses this policy goal;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Bethlehem Charter Commission Report of Findings and Recommendation, dated July 27, 1959, which sets forth the City’s current form of government, City Council is charged with establishing the policies by which the City is governed; and

WHEREAS, City Council wishes to establish a climate change working group to perform the functions described below.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Bethlehem, as follows:

1. *Establishment of Climate Action Group.* Within thirty (30) days of the adoption date of this resolution (“Resolution Date”), the President of City Council will consult with the Mayor and his administration and appoint individuals to serve on a climate change working group (“Climate Change Working Group” or “Working Group”). The Working Group may include and/or interface with any individuals or entities City Council thinks appropriate in consultation with the Mayor and his administration, including without limitation, Environmental Advisory Council members, members of the public, outside organizations, elected officials, and

representatives from City offices. Following the Working Group's establishment, City Council shall provide the Working Group with guidance on the desired scope and contents of the Working Group Documents (defined below).

2. *Climate Change Working Group Functions.* The Working Group's primary functions shall include, without limitation, the following: (1) research municipal climate change action plan best practices; (2) prepare Working Group Documents; (3) prepare recommendations for incorporating open data and benchmarking into City operations where financially and operationally feasible; (4) recommend legislative action (defined below), if any, and perform other tasks as requested related to City activities with climate change implications; (5) prepare status reports and presentations for City Council and the public; and (6) actively engage the community to solicit ideas and develop collaborative solutions to City-related climate change challenges. In addition to its other functions, the Working Group will provide a forum for the development of ideas to promote energy conservation, sustainability, and other environmentally-sensitive municipal operating practices.

3. *Working Group Documents and Public Presentation.* Within six (6) months from the Resolution Date and after engaging with interested members of the public and community stakeholders, the Working Group shall submit a draft climate change report and/or plan with any supporting documentation ("Working Group Documents") to City Council and present them to City Council at a public meeting.

4. *Legislative Documents.* If legislative action is deemed appropriate by City Council, the Working Group shall consult with the City Council Solicitor, the City Solicitor, and the Mayor and his administration and recommend proposed legislative documents, including, without limitation, proposed ordinances and/or resolutions and supporting documents (together, "Legislative Documents"). The Working Group shall submit drafts of any proposed Legislative Documents to City Council within one (1) year of the Resolution Date.

Sponsored by: _____

ADOPTED by Council this _____ day of _____, 2017.

President of Council

ATTEST:

City Clerk