

BETHLEHEM CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
10 East Church Street – Town Hall  
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania  
Tuesday, July 18, 2017 – 7:00 PM

INVOCATION

Reverend Gracher L. Selby, Pastor, St. John AME Zion Church, offered the invocation 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, Olga Negrón, Adam R. Waldron and J. William Reynolds, 6. Shawn M. Martell was absent, 1.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of July 5, 2017 were approved.

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

President Reynolds announced before Public Comment that there are two Resolutions that will be added to the agenda when we reach Agenda Item 10 – Resolutions. These are Certificates of Appropriateness. The Clerk will read the two Certificates of Appropriateness.

*Certificate of Appropriateness – 58 East Wall Street*

The Clerk read Resolution 10 H requesting a Certificate of Appropriateness to replace the existing fence at 58 East Wall Street.

*Certificate of Appropriateness – 574 Main Street*

The Clerk read Resolution 10 I requesting a Certificate of Appropriateness to install signs and an ATM machine at 574 Main Street.

*Carlton Avenue/Webster Street, Cars Near Intersections*

Stephen Antalics, 737 Ridge Street reported after his comments at the last meeting he was quite impressed by the 5-year plan of the City to address the Carlton Avenue problem. His comments at three previous Council Meetings were not about a long term plan, but to do something with the street surface because of the hardship health wise with the bouncing up and down in a car seat and repairs to an automobile. He would be happy with a milling of the surface but it has been well paved so that will make everyone on Carlton Avenue happy. Mr. Antalics noted there has been a gentleman that has come to a number of City Council meetings

complaining about cars at Webster and certain streets on the south side impinging into the intersection. Mr. Antalics feels that this gentleman's point was well taken and he is pleased to observe coming down Fifth Street all the curbs are painted yellow. He expressed that is rather impressive. His advice to people who have an issue is that brow beating and badgering and public shame go a long way.

*Bedbugs*

Danielle Koch, 647 Alaska Street advised she recently had to call the Health Bureau because she owns a home on Alaska Street and it is attached to another home that has bedbugs. She called the Health Bureau and they told her that there is no Ordinance against bedbugs. She spoke to the Mayor's Office, Code Enforcement, Housing, North Penn Legal and they all basically told her this is something she has to deal with. Ms. Koch does not feel as a taxpayer and single mother that she has to deal with this. She does not know what she can do. She has looked at the City's website and the definition in Article 1161.01 mentions a public or common nuisance and she does think that bedbugs are a common nuisance. Ms. Koch reported that no one would want these in their homes. She did not bring them in, she wants them gone and would like for that landlord to get an experienced exterminator over there and get them out. She noted if cockroaches are included in this Ordinance she is pretty sure that bedbugs should be in the Ordinance too. She reiterated that she feels bedbugs should be added to this Ordinance because if anyone else has a home connected to someone with bedbugs and they come into your home, she could put all the money in the work into getting rid of them but if the other property does not, that will not do her any justice. Ms. Koch did email everyone on Council today with this story. The exterminator that was supposedly there cannot show her a license and cannot give her any supporting documents so she does not believe this is a real exterminator.

Mayor Donchez reported that he will have Alicia Karner, Director of Community and Economic Development speak to Ms. Koch after the meeting.

Ms. Koch stated she appreciates that very much.

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. *City Solicitor-Intermunicipal Agreement-City of Bethlehem, the Bethlehem Authority and Upper Saucon Township*

The Clerk read a memorandum dated July 11, 2017 from William P. Leeson, Esq., City Solicitor recommending a proposed Ordinance and Associated Intermunicipal Agreement between the City of Bethlehem, the Bethlehem Authority, and Upper Saucon Township related to water service to be provided within the City's franchise service territory encompassing a portion of Upper Saucon Township.

President Reynolds stated the Ordinance can be placed on the August 1, 2017 agenda.

*B. City Solicitor-Highway Safety Project Grant-DUI Program*

The Clerk read a memorandum dated July 11, 2017 from William P. Leeson, Esq., City Solicitor recommending a Highway Safety Project Grant Proposal and Budget summary to be submitted by the Bethlehem Police Department to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. The grant will provide funds for a DUI program, sobriety checkpoints and expand DUI enforcement operations.

President Reynolds stated the Resolution can be placed on the August 1, 2017 agenda.

*C. Director of Recreation-Recommendation of Award-URDC*

The Clerk read a memorandum dated July 13, 2017 from Jane Persa, Director of Recreation recommending a contract with URDC for the Monocacy Park Master Plan and Memorial Pool Feasibility Study. The term of the contract is nine months from the Notice to Proceed and the fee for the contract is \$87,000.

President Reynolds stated Resolution 10 D is on the agenda.

*D. Director of Planning and Zoning-Commonwealth Financing Authority Grant Application*

The Clerk read a memorandum dated July 13, 2017 from Darlene Heller, Director of Planning and Zoning recommending a Resolution in support of a grant application to the Commonwealth Financing Authority for South New Street corridor improvements. The requested amount of \$1,549,650 is for design, engineering and construction of the corridor improvements.

President Reynolds stated Resolution 10 E is on the agenda.

7. REPORTS

*A. President of Council*

*B. Mayor  
AWOP Award/Police Department Study/Gas Leak-Lehigh University Area*

Mayor Donchez remarked that the Water Treatment Plant has been selected again to receive the prestigious Area Wide Optimization Program Award for 2016 and this is the 9<sup>th</sup>

consecutive year that we have received the award. Mayor Donchez wanted to congratulate Edward Boscola, Director of Water and Sewer and his team for doing a great job. Mayor Donchez added that they released a copy of a study of our Police Department done by DeSales University and Kutztown University that included very positive and favorable comments regarding our Police force. We did have a gas leak issue over by Lehigh University today and he will ask Fire Chief Warren Achey to provide an update.

Chief Achey reported the Fire Department responded to a gas line leak near Lehigh University. A gas line was hit by a backhoe operator, it was a high pressure line and around 14 or 15 buildings were evacuated. All this was precautionary; there was no gas in these buildings. A good number of our on duty forces were there this afternoon and the only injury we had was heat exhaustion. The call came at around 10:00 am and by 1:30 pm everything was wrapped up and Lehigh was back to normal. Chief Achey added that they did initiate Emergency Management and Bethlehem Police were on the scene and backfilling with Lehigh Police to keep people out of the area. He noted that Lehigh Police assisted us with going into the buildings and making sure they were evacuated. All of our emergency services were on scene and working together.

8. ORDINANCES FOR FINAL READING

None.

9. NEW ORDINANCES

A. *Bill No. 26 - 2017 - Amending General Fund Budget*

The Clerk read Bill No. 26 - 2017 - Amending General Fund Budget, sponsored by Mr. Evans and Mr. Colón and titled:

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

Voting AYE: Mr. Colón, Mr. Evans, Ms. Negrón, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, and Mr. Reynolds, 6. Bill No. 26 - 2017 was passed on First Reading.

B. *Bill No. 27- 2017 - Amending Non-Utility Capital Budget*

The Clerk read Bill No. 27 - 2017 - Amending Non-Utility Capital Budget, sponsored by Mr. Evans and Mr. Colón and titled:

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

Voting AYE: Mr. Colón, Mr. Evans, Ms. Negrón, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, and Mr. Reynolds, 6. Bill No. 27 – 2017 was passed on First Reading.

C. *Bill No. 28 – 2017 – Amending Community Development Budget*

The Clerk read Bill No. 28 – 2017 – Amending Community Development Budget, sponsored by Mr. Evans and Mr. Colón and titled:

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

Ms. Negrón stated she needs to abstain from voting on this Ordinance because she is a Board Member for CACLV.

Voting AYE: Mr. Colón, Mr. Evans, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, and Mr. Reynolds, 5. Abstain: Ms. Negrón, 1. Bill No. 28 – 2017 was passed on First Reading.

10. RESOLUTIONS

President Reynolds stated he will accept a motion and a second to add Resolutions 10 H and 10 I to the agenda.

Mr. Callahan and Mr. Mr. Colón moved to add Resolutions 10 H and 10 I to the agenda.

Voting AYE: Mr. Colón, Mr. Evans, Ms. Negrón, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, and Mr. Reynolds, 6. The Motion passed.

A. *Transfer of Funds – Water Capital Budget – Service Lines New/Renewal*

Ms. Negrón and Mr. Evans sponsored Resolution No. 2017-148 that transferred \$87,846 in the Water Capital Budget from the Fire Pump Station Eng/RE and the Rt 412 Main Replacement Account to the Service Line New/Renewal Account for 20 water service laterals for a portion of Garrison Street between Main and New Street.

Voting AYE: Mr. Colón, Mr. Evans, Ms. Negrón, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, and Mr. Reynolds, 6. The Resolution passed.

B. *Transfer of Funds – Water Capital Budget – Replace Rehab Distribution System*

Ms. Negrón and Mr. Evans sponsored Resolution No. 2017-149 that transferred \$314,761 in the Water Capital Budget from the 5 MG SW Tank Engineering Account to the Replace Rehab Dist. Syst. Account for emergency repair service performed on the North New Street water main break repair in the Fall of 2016.

Voting AYE: Mr. Colón, Mr. Evans, Ms. Negrón, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, and Mr. Reynolds, 6. The Resolution passed.

C. *Transfer of Funds – Water Capital Budget – Filtration Boiler Replacement*

Ms. Negrón and Mr. Evans sponsored Resolution No. 2017-150 that transferred \$60,000 in the Water Capital Budget from the SCADA System Upgrade to the Filtration Boiler Replace Account for a new boiler for the Water Filtration Plant.

Voting AYE: Mr. Colón, Mr. Evans, Ms. Negrón, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, and Mr. Reynolds, 6. The Resolution passed.

D. *Authorizing Contract – URDC*

Ms. Negrón and Mr. Evans sponsored Resolution No. 2017-151 that authorized the execution of an agreement with URDC for the Monocacy Park Masterplan and Memorial Pool Feasibility Study.

Mr. Evans queried if this is the same group that did the comprehensive Parks and Pool Study and what the timeline is for this part.

Jane Persa, Recreation Director stated this is the same group and added that JoAnn is here from URDC and once we award the contract it will be at least nine months until we get the plans and the study completed. She estimates that puts Memorial Pool renovations for the following year, which would be 2019.

Mr. Evans mentioned we will get results from this study roughly next summer.

Ms. Persa stated that is correct.

Mr. Evans asked if this will include Parks as well as Memorial Pool.

Ms. Persa informed it will include the Monocacy Park complex. This is just for the Monocacy Park complex as a continuation of the in-depth study that they just did for all of the Parks and Pools.

Mr. Evans mentioned the pocket Parks are not included.

Ms. Persa stated not in this study.

Mr. Evans remarked that will be our discussion for next summer.

Voting AYE: Mr. Colón, Mr. Evans, Ms. Negrón, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, and Mr. Reynolds, 6. The Resolution passed.

E. *Authorizing Grant Application – Commonwealth Financing Authority*

Ms. Negrón and Mr. Evans sponsored Resolution No. 2017-152 that authorized and directed to execute all application forms necessary to apply for the \$1,549,650 Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant from the Commonwealth Financing Authority for the South New Street corridor from Morton Street to the Fahy Bridge to address pedestrian, bicycle, transit and traffic calming improvements.

Mr. Waldron stated he was hoping for a little more information about this project.

Ms. Karner reported with the construction and activity on the south side we talked about the north/south streets and connectivity with Lehigh University in particular. We have a good east/west connection but not north/south in that area of town. The Multimodal grant opportunity allows us to focus on one of the main corridors which is New Street. Ms. Karner noted there is an obligation to put up 70% of the funds. We have some in the City and we are looking to partner with others in that area including Lehigh University and some of the private developers to come up with a 30% match and apply for sidewalks, amenities, crosswalks and all of what goes along with making that corridor a gateway corridor.

Mr. Waldron questioned regarding what we are asked to approve this evening, where is the \$1.5 million coming from.

Ms. Karner stated that is the application amount so that is what we are applying for. What you typically see with State Grant programs is the need for an authorizing Resolution.

Mr. Waldron queried of that amount what would the City be asked to give.

Ms. Karner reported we have \$80,000. When that road converted from a PennDOT road to a local road, they gave us funds for improvements so some of those funds are part of the match. So that is \$80,000 that we had so that will be a portion of the match money that we are anticipating using. We had previously committed funds to the crosswalk there as well, the Greenway crosswalk, and we could have moved forward with that a few years ago but we decided not to with the construction so there will be funding available through that source as well.

Mr. Waldron asked what amount the City would be contributing.

Ms. Karner stated as of right now the \$80,000.

Voting AYE: Mr. Colón, Mr. Evans, Ms. Negrón, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, and Mr. Reynolds, 6. The Resolution passed.

*Motion – Considering Resolutions 10 F through 10 I as a group – Certificates of Appropriateness*

Mr. Callahan and Mr. Evans moved to consider Resolutions 10 F through 10 I as a group.

Voting AYE: Mr. Colón, Mr. Evans, Ms. Negrón, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, and Mr. Reynolds, 6. The Motion passed.

F. *Certificate of Appropriateness – 265 East Market Street*

Mr. Evans and Mr. Callahan sponsored Resolution No. 2017-153 that granted a Certificate of Appropriateness to install a roof over the rear door at 265 East Market Street.

G. *Certificate of Appropriateness – 407 Center Street*

Mr. Evans and Mr. Callahan sponsored Resolution No. 2017-154 that granted a certificate of Appropriateness to install solar panels on the roof at 407 Center Street.

H. *Certificate of Appropriateness – 58 East Wall Street*

Mr. Evans and Mr. Callahan sponsored Resolution No. 2017-155 that granted a Certificate of Appropriateness to replace the existing fence at 58 East Wall Street.

I. *Certificate of Appropriateness – 574 Main Street*

Mr. Evans and Mr. Callahan sponsored Resolution No. 2017-156 that granted a Certificate of Appropriateness to install signs and an ATM machine at 574 Main Street.

Voting AYE on Resolutions 10 F through 10 I: Mr. Colón, Mr. Evans, Ms. Negrón, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, and Mr. Reynolds, 6. The Resolutions passed.

11. NEW BUSINESS

*Committee Meeting Announcement*

Chairman Waldron announced there will be a Public Safety Committee Meeting on Tuesday, August 15, 2017 at 6 PM in Town Hall. The subject will be an update about the 911 Funding as well as a review of 2017 Musikfest.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

ATTEST:

City Clerk