

BETHLEHEM CITY COUNCIL REORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
OLD COUNCIL

Tuesday, January 2, 2018 - 7:00 PM
10 East Church Street - Town Hall
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

INVOCATION

Noél Sanabria, Senior Pastor, Vertical Church Bethlehem, 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, Adam R. Waldron and J. William Reynolds, 7.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of December 19, 2017 were approved.

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

Peron Project at the Bethlehem Armory

Christine Roysdon, 421 Second Avenue, informed she is speaking on behalf of neighbors in the Armory area and for the Mount Airy Neighborhood Association. As City Council knows the Zoning Hearing Board has approved numerous variances mostly about parking related to the Peron Project at the Bethlehem Armory. Yet the project remains very short on parking spaces, short of the zoning standard. She knows there is a huge agenda tonight but given that you will be considering this matter very soon she hopes Council will spend a few minutes thinking about some of the issues that remain with this. Ms. Roysdon explained there is little to no room for any additional cars on any block of Second Avenue, the street on which the Armory is founded next to Prospect Avenue. She thinks a formal assessment of the current parking situation in the neighborhood surrounding the Armory is critical to Council's ability to make a good decision on the vacation of the 300 block which is what you will be voting on in a few weeks. The vacation she should add would not improve that parking situation at all. The developers have also proposed that a 100 year old Second Avenue ramp which has been unused since the construction of Route 378 be made available as additional public parking. A recent newspaper story did suggest that the ramp might be taken down as part of the new project for rehabilitating the Hill to Hill Bridge. Last week yet another article suggested that the engineering firm who will be designing the bridge is opening an office in Allentown. If the bridge planners will soon begin their work and be considering this ramp why not wait for the vote until that situation is clear. The third point she wanted to make is that although this project is centered on the Historic

Bethlehem Armory no use has been identified yet for the Armory. Ms. Roysdon added that the developers have indicated that they will need another whole process of going through the Zoning Hearing Board and looking for variances in order to arrive at any use for that building or any parking for that building. So she thinks it is quite premature for Council to be voting on a vacation for a street when there are so many unanswered questions. The neighborhood already deals gamely with Celtic Fest, Musikfest and all of the other festivals that are in Bethlehem and they deserve a very thoughtful process on this question. Ms. Roysdon thanked Council for their time and attention.

Article 717 – Noises

Arthur Curatola, 813 Laufer Street, explained he wanted to speak about Article 717 – Noises, and mentioned with many entertainers and musicians this is a concern. He wanted to talk about Article 717.01 and he found a new discovery on this. He spoke with Mike Milan who is with Lehigh County District Attorney's office, who thinks he is on target with this. If you look at the Article on the top it says Noise Ordinance and it mentions no more than 40 decibels but people do not read the exceptions. When you get down to the bottom with exception 7 it says all businesses that are in a residential district that have entertainment on the outside are exempt from the Noise Ordinance. So all of these places that have entertainment on the outside you are not doing right with them according to the law, you cannot tell them to stop their music. This Article does not need to be changed, it is already there. It also says from the hours of twelve noon to twelve midnight which is two hours past the curfew. So if you hear music off in the distance and it is in the business district you cannot say anything about it. Mr. Curatola reported that musicians are struggling enough as it is and maybe people need to invest in ear plugs if they do not like the music. We need to start thinking and legislating for the middle class and the poor. Mr. Curatola added that if you look at the rest of the Article, one section says for political purposes so if you are having entertainment in a park where you have a speech you can do that too. Now if it is religious, religion does not only mean something that is with God religiously. If you are having a family gathering that is religiously, once a year or a block party once a year, you are exempt. They cannot tell you to turn it down or cut the volume but if they are using foul language that would be a different Ordinance.

South Side Trash

Stephen Antalics, 737 Ridge Street, noted there have been many discussions with this body concerning trash and trash cans. Bethlehem is developing a new slum district and he is speaking about the south side. When classes are in session or even now just drive down Hillside Avenue or Fillmore or Fifth Street and you will see these massive trash containers on the sidewalk. Sometimes they are overflowing with trash which is very undignified. Mr. Antalics queried if Ordinances are being enforced to prevent this. Of course these houses are not single family homes; some agencies can own up to 35 properties. So concern for the appearance for the south side is secondary to profit but who suffers, the people who live on the south side suffer. Who is causing these problems? They are non-resident people, they are not south side residents, and they are transients. To give an example, drive through the north side and see if you see a similar situation on some of the non-popular streets on the north side but you will not see a similar example. Why is that? It is because the Ordinances are being enforced there more often than on the south side. Mr. Antalics knows one person on Council lives on the south side but he

suggests that the others on Council drive on the south side to see what he is saying. The people on the south side have said to him that when they take a walk they are disgusted, they have to walk over trash and sometimes there is a bad odor during the summertime. Mr. Antalics stated all he is asking is that we all be treated equally under the law and he thinks we deserve that and that is the responsibility of Council.

President Reynolds remarked that Mr. Antalics could have a conversation with Ms. Karner after the meeting tonight about this situation.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT (on ordinances and resolutions to be voted on by Council this evening - 5 Minute Time Limit)

None.

5. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Members of Council
- B. Tabled Items
- C. Unfinished Business

6. COMMUNICATIONS

A. *Council President Reynolds and Council Member Martell - Establishing Article 349 - Economic Development Incentive Reporting and Evaluation, Creating the Financial Accountability Incentive Reporting (F.A.I.R.) Program*

The Clerk read a memorandum dated December 27, 2017 from President of Council J. William Reynolds and Councilman Shawn M. Martell requesting Council's consideration for the attached propose Ordinance to establish new Article 349 titled Economic Development Incentive Reporting and Evaluation, creating the Financial Accountability Incentive Reporting (F.A.I.R.) Program. This proposed new Article includes provisions to support more efficient City resource allocations by establishing a system for periodic evaluations of economic development incentives and related programs. It will also make the City budgeting process more transparent and effective; improve transparency and educate the public about the types of costs incurred in connection with economic development; support development of improved procedures for holding recipients accountable; and improve the City's capacity to collect economic development data in support of the City efforts to help local businesses and spur economic growth.

President Reynolds stated he will refer this to the Community Development Committee, which has scheduled a meeting on Tuesday, January 16, 2018 at 6:00 pm to review the Ordinance.

B. *Director of Public Works - Recommendation of Award - D'Huy Engineering*

The Clerk read a memorandum dated December 11, 2017 from Michael Alkhal, Director of Public Works recommending a contract with D'Huy Engineering for specification preparation and construction services for various bridge projects. The term of the contract shall run for 9 months from the notice to proceed. The fee for the contract is \$17,200.

President Reynold stated Resolution 10 A is on the agenda.

C. *Director of Water and Sewer Resources – Recommendation of Award – S. C. Engineers, Inc.*

The Clerk read a memorandum dated December 20, 2017 from Edward J. Boscola, Director of Water and Sewer Resources recommending a contract with S. C. Engineers, Inc. for the 2018 annual consulting services for the Industrial Pretreatment Program and miscellaneous assignments. The term of the contract shall run from January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018. The fee for the contract is \$20,000.

President Reynolds stated Resolution 10 B is on the agenda.

7. REPORTS

A. *President of Council*

1. *Councilmanic Appointment – Kathy A. Fox – Environmental Advisory Council*

President Reynolds appointed Kathy A. Fox to membership on the Environmental Advisory Council to fill the vacated seat of Kalyna Procyk, effective until January, 2021. Mr. Colón and Mr. Callahan sponsored Resolution 2018-001 to confirm the appointment.

President Reynolds added that Ms. Fox is kind of a de-facto member of the EAC for a while now. She has been coming to all of the meetings and has done a lot of research and work associated with our Climate Action Plan. He knows she is thrilled to be joining the EAC and we are thankful for her service.

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

2. *Annual Report*

President Reynolds presented his Annual Report for 2017, as follows:

City Council adopted 56 Ordinances and 254 Resolutions, and conducted 22 Committee meetings.

Some of the Ordinances adopted by City Council include:

- An Ordinance that amended Article 342 – LERTA that provided for the continuation of the south side LERTA and expanded boundaries on the south side of Bethlehem, and
- Council amended Article 342 – (LERTA) a second time this year and adopted a Resolution to expand the LERTA boundaries to provide a tax incentive for residents and commercial property owners in a designated area on the north side

of Bethlehem. The Northside 2027 Advisory Committee was established in conjunction with the Administration, to receive neighborhood improvement recommendations to invest in and revitalize several north Bethlehem neighborhoods that surround Thomas Jefferson and William Penn Elementary Schools. The unique partnership, involves the City of Bethlehem, Elected Officials, Bethlehem Area School District, Moravian College, small businesses, and residents. The Committee held its first meeting at Moravian College in October.

- Revisions were made to Article 1161-Health Nuisances, to include provisions for the regulation of running bamboo.
- The Members of Council adopted an Ordinance to establish Article 104 - Requirements for Ethics Training for City Council Members. The first training session will take place this year and will be provided by the State Ethics Commission.
- An Ordinance was adopted to authorize the 2017 General Obligation Bond for the refunding of GO Bonds, and providing for the City Capital Improvement Projects, the Sewer improvement project, and Land Acquisition project.
- Council also adopted an Ordinance to refinance the 2011 Guaranteed Lease Revenue Bond to realize an estimated savings of \$700,000 over 2018 and 2019 and the City assets were conveyed from the Bethlehem Authority back to the City.
- Council adopted an Ordinance to amend Article 117 - Officers and Employees to include restrictions on acceptance of gifts.
- The Community Development Committee initiated discussions with the Administration to establish a Financial Incentive Accountability Reporting program for the various tax incentive programs. An Ordinance to establish the program was introduced at the City Council Meeting tonight.
- In the area of Planning and Zoning, City Council amended the Zoning Ordinance to include definitions and regulations for medical marijuana, and to clarify regulations pertaining to hospitals, behavioral health facilities and psychiatric facilities.
- City Council adopted an Ordinance to Establish Article 1741-Short Term Lodging Facilities to provide registration and safety standards for owners and visitors of short term lodging facilities.

Among Resolutions approved by City Council in 2017 were:

- A Resolution to redefine the responsibilities of the Parks and Public Property Committee and the Public Works Committee as it relates to Rule 8 of the Rules of Council was adopted by City Council.
- Resolutions were adopted to establish a Climate Action Working Group 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. A Social Media Working Group was established to build on and sustain the significant progress made by the City in utilizing social media to communicate with City residents. In addition, an Open Data Working Group was established to improve openness and transparency in government, and to promote more efficient use of taxpayer resources, good governance, and sustainable accountability for the benefit of all City residents.
- Council approved a Resolution to amend Section 106 of the Business Privilege and Mercantile Tax Regulations
- Inter-municipal Liquor License transfers were authorized by Resolution for Turkey Hill, 1140 Hellertown Road and Giant Foods at 2174 West Union Boulevard.
- A Resolution was adopted approving the rules and regulations for the City's Civil service that were adopted by the Civil Service Board on October 3, 2017.
- Resolutions in support of grant applications were approved for various grants, such as a PennDOT TASA grant for the South Bethlehem corridor connections. He would like to thank Ms. Heller for applying for that grant. The City recently was awarded \$500,000 dollars that will help to improve crosswalks at three intersections; add four handicapped ramps on four streets and increase lighting in the area frequented by pedestrians and bicyclists. So thank you Ms. Heller, Mr. Alkhal and Mr. Dorner of Public Works also for your efforts to secure this grant. Highway Safety Project Grants for the City's DUI program and Community Traffic Safety project; DCED grant for the Monocacy Trail connections, to name a few.
- Authorization was given for 23 Use Permit Agreements throughout the year for special events in the City.
- The adoption of the 2018 Budget was finalized at the City Council Meeting on Tuesday, December 19, 2017, and set a real estate tax of 17.55 mills for City of

Bethlehem residents of Northampton County and 5.55 mills for City of Bethlehem residents of Lehigh County, reflecting a 2.3% increase from the 2017 tax rate.

Mayor/Council Partnership

President Reynolds stated he would like to take this opportunity to thank his colleagues for their time and cooperation in 2017. As his presidency of the past four years ends as Council rules require he does want to say a few general comments. If you look at the general cooperation between City Council and the Administration over the past few years, he and Mayor Donchez have had conversations about this before, he does not think there has ever been better communication or cooperation between this Board and the Administration than we have had over the past four years. When you look at what we have accomplished together and when you look at the financial picture of the City and the tough decisions that were made you can look at the fact that our credit rating has improved four notches. Four years ago we had Triple B and now we up to A+. We also have had favorable audits over the past four years. President Reynolds thinks that the Administration deserves a lot of credit, all of the Department Heads as well as the people on City Council. It is not hard to look around at State government, Federal government and many ways that government appears to be broken when there is not a lot of compromise, when you do not see people putting aside politics. We do have disagreements but there are no bad people around here, everyone here cares and is passionate about the City. He does have to give a lot of credit to Mayor Donchez and the Administration. Four years ago we had a close contentious Mayoral election and he remembers that we sat down and said to each other that politics is politics and it stays out of this room. Whatever happens on Election Day and whatever happens in the political realm that does not come into this room. One thing that we have been able to do is that everyone in here has been able to put politics aside to do what is best for the City of Bethlehem. President Reynolds wanted to thank Mayor Donchez because he does not believe that there has ever been a year more than 2017 when City Council was able to accomplish what we were able to accomplish as far as initiatives and things like that. Every time he suggested something to Mayor Donchez, he always just said, let's do it and how do we find a way to do it. There was no ego or who should propose it or how should we go about doing it, it always was if this is something City Council wants to do we will make it work for the City. President Reynolds thanked the Administration and he also wanted to thank his colleagues for allowing him to serve for the past four years. It has been an experience that he treasures and he appreciates everyone's support over the past four years.

B. *Mayor*

Mayor/Council Partnership

Mayor Donchez stressed he wanted to echo the comments made by President Reynolds. He has been attending these meetings since he was in high school and the relationships many times between the Mayor and City Council were adversarial. He wanted to compliment President Reynolds and his leadership and all of the Members of City Council for the partnership that we have worked together over the last four years. We have really accomplished a lot together of the last four years and he is looking to accomplish a great deal with City Council over the next four years. Mayor Donchez noted that he and President Reynolds have been friends for a

long time and we did have a spirited contest but we do put the City first, he appreciates and values that very much. We do have to keep Bethlehem moving forward so he wanted to thank President Reynolds for his leadership and partnership and the whole Administration over the past four years during President Reynolds tenure over the past four years, also the cooperation of all Members of City Council.

Police Department/Bethlehem Township

Mayor Donchez mentioned that two weeks ago there was a tragedy in Bethlehem Township where we had a murder and a suicide and he did receive a letter from the Township Manager that he wanted to read a make a part of the record. Mayor Donchez wanted to compliment Police Chief Mark DiLuzio on his leadership and the professionalism of our Police Department.

“On behalf of the Bethlehem Township Board of Commissioners I want to express my deepest gratitude to you and to the Bethlehem City Police Department for the role in assisting the Bethlehem Township Police Department on Friday, December 22, 2017. I have come to understand that your office basically self-dispatched themselves in the Bearcat in order to save Bethlehem Township Officer John Meehan and a civilian that had gotten trapped by a gunman. (Mayor Donchez remarked that you can see this vehicle in our garage with the bullet-hole markings in it.) I was also able to watch the body camera video from Officer Gonzalez who was inside the Bearcat with your officers and Pennsylvania State Police Officers. It was amazing to me that when the Bearcat took fire that the Officers maintained the professionalism and bravery and continued with the mission. It is easy to sit in a meeting and talk about the importance of mutual aid but the Bethlehem Police Department went above and beyond on Friday. They showed up for us and saved lives on Friday afternoon and I cannot thank you and your team enough.”

Mayor Donchez stressed this is the mark of the people we have that work for the City in the departments that we have here in the City of Bethlehem. We are very fortunate to have a first class Police Department led by Chief DiLuzio. This could have been a bigger tragedy than what had taken place just two weeks ago. Mayor Donchez thanked Chief DiLuzio and added he should relay that to his men. Mayor Donchez explained he just wanted to make that email from the Bethlehem Township Manager part of the record.

President Reynolds highlighted on behalf of Council he knows he can say we have the finest Police Department around and he wanted to thank Chief DiLuzio for his leadership and for all of our brave men and women who step up like they did in that terrible tragedy.

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE

None.

9. NEW ORDINANCES

None.

10. RESOLUTIONS

A. *Authorizing Contract – D’Huy Engineering*

Mr. Colón and Mr. Callahan sponsored Resolution No. 2018-002 that authorized to execute a contract with D’Huy Engineering for the specification preparation and construction services for various bridge projects.

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

B. *Authorizing Contract – S. C. Engineers*

Mr. Colón and Mr. Callahan sponsored Resolution No. 2018-003 that authorized to execute a contract with S. C. Engineers, Inc. for annual consulting services for the Industrial Pretreatment Program and miscellaneous assignments.

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

C. *Certificate of Appropriateness – 21 East Third Street*

Mr. Colón and Mr. Callahan sponsored Resolution No. 2018-004 that granted a Certificate of Appropriateness to install signs at 21 East Third Street.

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

11. NEW BUSINESS

Committee Meeting Announcement

Chairman Martell announced a Community Development Committee Meeting will occur on Tuesday, January 16, 2018 at 6:00 pm in Town Hall. The subject will be establishing the new Article 349 – Economic Development Accountability Incentive Reporting and Evaluating, Creating the Financial Accountability Incentive Reporting (F.A.I.R.) Program.

Thanks to City Clerk Staff

Mr. Martell also wanted to echo the sentiments that were made by President Reynolds and the Mayor as well in terms of commending everyone for their work in 2017. He also would like to personally thank Ms. Kelchner, Mr. Vidoni and Solicitor Spirk. They always work hard and when you look through that list of various things that we did in 2017, for every one hour of work that goes on here there is about 50 to 100 hours of work that goes on behind the scenes. He just wanted to recognize that. Mr. Martell also wanted to mention that there have been a lot of tough conversations that have happened over the last two years but we all can be proud of those conversations. These past two years have been some of the most rewarding work that he has been a part of and he knows in 2018 and 2019 there will be many difficult conversations but he is looking forward to tackling that with everyone here.

President Reynolds echoes Mr. Martell's comments about the City Clerk staff, Ms. Kelchner, Mr. Vidoni and Solicitor Spirk, they are the unsung heroes. It might look easy but it is not, putting together these agendas and making sure we have everything, that all of the legal notices go out at the proper time. There is all the cooperation of the departments as far as when we get these things to vote on, that is not an easy job. President Reynolds thanked Ms. Kelechava who also works in the City Clerk's Office and types up the minutes of these meetings which can be a tedious job as well. Often times we call them at the end of the day, many of us being teachers, because that is the only time we can talk to them or first thing in the morning and they are always available so he just wanted to recognize and thank the City Clerk staff.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned sine die at 7:35 p.m.

ATTEST:

City Clerk

BETHLEHEM CITY COUNCIL REORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
NEW COUNCIL

Tuesday, January 2, 2018 – 7:00 PM
10 East Church Street - Town Hall
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

1. ROLL CALL OF HOLD-OVER MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

The Clerk called the Roll of the Hold-Over Members of Council. Present as Hold-Over Members were: Michael G. Colón, Shawn M. Martell, and J. William Reynolds, 3.

2. PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES OF ELECTION

The Clerk affirmed that the Certificates of Election for the Controller, and Members of Council had been presented.

3. SWEARING-IN CEREMONIES

A. *Controller – George Yasso*

Stephen G. Baratta, Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, Northampton County, administered the Oath of Office to George Yasso, duly elected Controller, for the four year term ending January 2020.

B. *Members of Council – Bryan G. Callahan, Eric R. Evans, Olga Negrón and Adam R. Waldron*

Stephen G. Baratta, Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, Northampton County, administered the individual Oaths of Office to Bryan G. Callahan, Eric R. Evans, and Adam R. Waldron, duly elected Members of Council, for their four year terms ending January 2022.

Northampton County District Justice Nick Englesson, administered the Oath of Office to Olga Negrón, a duly elected Member of Council, for her four year term ending January 2022.

4. ROLL CALL OF NEWLY CONSTITUTED COUNCIL.

The Clerk called the Roll of the Newly Constituted Council. Present were: Bryan G. Callahan, Michael G. Colón, Eric R. Evans, Shawn M. Martell, Olga Negrón, J. William Reynolds, and Adam R. Waldron, 7.

5. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION - PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL.

John J. Spirk Esq., City Council Solicitor, conducted the Nominations and Election for the President of Council, to serve for the years January 2018 – January 2020, pursuant to the Rules of Council that were revised and adopted December 21, 2011. Attorney Spirk noted in accordance with the Rules of City Council and Roberts Rules of Order the election procedure will be as follows. He will ask for nominations for the Office of President. Each Council Member may nominate no more than one person, no second is required. Attorney Spirk stated that after each

nomination for the Office of President he will ask if there are any additional nominations. When there are no additional nominations, he will declare the nominations closed. Attorney Spirk informed they will then proceed to the election, and he will ask the Clerk to call the roll. Each Council Member will respond by declaring his or her vote by stating the name of the person they are voting for President. A Council Member is allowed to vote for him or herself. A Council Member can also vote for any member even if that person has not been nominated. Attorney Spirk reported that four votes are required for election and after the President is elected we will repeat the same process for Council Vice-President.

NOMINATIONS - PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL – January 2018 - January 2020

Mr. Reynolds nominated Adam R. Waldron.

Attorney Spirk asked the Clerk to Call the Roll.

ELECTION - PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL – January 2018 - January 2020

Voting for Mr. Waldron: Mr. Callahan, Mr. Colón, Mr. Evans, Mr. Martell, Ms. Negrón, Mr. Reynolds, Mr. Waldron, 7.

The Election of Mr. Waldron as President of Council for the years January 2018 - January 2020 was adopted by a vote of seven in favor.

6. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION - VICE PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL – January 2018 - January 2020

John J. Spirk, Esq., City Council Solicitor conducted the Nominations and Election for the Vice President of Council, to serve for the term January 2018 - January 2020.

NOMINATIONS - VICE PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL – January 2018 - January 2020.

Mr. Callahan nominated Olga Negrón.

Attorney Spirk asked the Clerk to Call the Roll.

ELECTION – VICE PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL – January 2018 – January 2020

Voting for Ms. Negrón: Mr. Callahan, Mr. Colón, Mr. Evans, Mr. Martell, Ms. Negrón, Mr. Reynolds, Mr. Waldron, 7.

The Election of Ms. Negrón as Vice President of Council for the term January 2018 - January 2020 was adopted by a vote of seven in favor.

7. REPORTS

A. *President of Council*

President Waldron highlighted he wanted to take this moment to thank Judge Baratta and Judge Englesson for coming out to administer the oaths this evening for the newly elected Controller Mr. Yasso as well as the other Members of Council. He thanked the family members for their participation as well and any friends who came out to support us. President Waldron mentioned this is a family affair in the truest sense to be a Member of Council to serve your City and that support means a lot to the Members of Council. President Waldron stated he would also like to congratulate Controller George Yasso, colleagues Councilman Callahan, Evans, and Councilwoman Negrón who were sworn in this evening. On behalf of City Council he would also extend congratulations to Mayor Donchez who was sworn in earlier today.

B. *Mayor*

Mayor Donchez congratulated all of the new Members of Council. He is looking forward to working with President Waldron and Vice-President Negrón as the leadership of City Council. Mayor Donchez stressed that his door is always open, an appointment is never needed. We need to keep Bethlehem moving forward.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

9. BENEDICTION

Noél Sanabria, Senior Pastor, Vertical Church Bethlehem, offered the Benediction.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Comments/President Waldron

Before adjourning President Waldron thanked everyone on Council for their support in electing him as President of Council. He looks forward to serving Council as well as the City of Bethlehem and in working with his colleagues and the City Clerk's office as well as the Administration. He does agree with Mr. Reynolds and Mr. Martell's comments earlier about the unilateral support we have for each other in being able to work together. He looks forward to continuing that as well. In addition, President Waldron wanted to thank President Reynolds for his four year service as President of City Council which was not an easy or envious position coming into what he described with the Mayoral Primary four years ago. President Waldron stressed if there was no term limit for President Reynolds he would have supported him again this evening in that position. So he wanted to thank President Reynolds for his leadership in that time as well as congratulations to Ms. Negrón on her leadership role as Vice-President. It shows a lot that Council is able to be unanimous in some of these decisions and is able to support one another both publicly and privately. President Waldron stated he is honored and humbled to lead this Council.

Comments/Vice-President Negrón

Ms. Negrón thanked the Members of Council for the support of her leadership role as Vice-President. She knows we have had back and forth conversations the past few weeks and this shows where all of us are in terms of what we want for the leadership of our community. She looks forward to working with all of Council.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

ATTEST:

City Clerk