

BETHLEHEM CITY COUNCIL MEETING
10 East Church Street - Town Hall
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania
Tuesday, July 3, 2018 - 7:00 PM

INVOCATION

President Waldron asked for a moment of silence followed by the pledge to the flag. He asked everyone to keep former Councilwoman Jean Belinski, who passed away this week, in their thoughts. He highlighted the fact that she served us well on Council for many years.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

1. ROLL CALL

President Waldron called the meeting to order. Present were Bryan G. Callahan, Michael G. Colón, Shawn M. Martell, Olga Negrón, J. William Reynolds, Paige Van Wirt, and Adam R. Waldron, 7.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes from June 19, 2018 were approved.

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

Parking Lot/Trees

Eddie Rodriguez, 701 Main Street, explained he is at this meeting to talk about the parking lot that was constructed on Old York Road and Union Boulevard. He is concerned about trees that are going to grow at a fast pace. He remarked when it gets windy there will be many leaves travelling all over the place. There is a meter on Union Boulevard that is not manned and he sees that you have to use quarters only. He wonders how anyone would be able to get the correct change and if anyone would have the correct change. He is concerned that would cause a backup of traffic or maybe accidents. Mr. Rodriguez noted as he speaks there are people using the parking lot and not even paying. He does not think anyone will pay to park in this parking lot because no one is monitoring the lot. He noted that although there is the modernized system now, it will not work in that area. He would prefer to put meters up there. Mr. Rodriguez informed he is also concerned about the weight of on particular tree that is by the creek, he believes that tree should come down. There are many old trees in the City that should be coming down. He found a tree by Governor Wolf School that was old and the very next day it fell. He called the City Forester, Cindy Smith to notify her of tree that need to be taken down in the City and will be calling her again on the matter.

President Waldron noted with concern to the parking criticisms, Council and the Administration has very little oversight on some of those issues, those issues are handled by the Parking Authority. They have monthly meetings that Mr. Rodriguez could attend to address

those concerns. He thinks that the Parking Authority will find those violators and put a ticket on their windshield.

Mr. Callahan suggested as the liaison to the Parking Authority he will notify them of this.

Tree/Pipe Problem

Armstrong Millien, 1909 Renwick Street, explained he has come to Council Meetings four times about his concern but no one seems to care. He has lived at this address for almost 19 years now. He has a tree problem but every time he goes to the office of the City Forester he feels like they are laughing at him and that they do not care. Mr. Millien pointed out that he has pictures to give to the Mayor and Council. The first picture is the very last tree that was put in. They had a bad storm that took the tree down but there was still the stump. He was waiting for the City to remove the tree but he had to take it out himself. He even tried to take the stump out so no one could get hurt. During that storm he had to move away and get a hotel room to sleep because he could not stay there. With the other pictures you can see that the basement pipe on the ground does not work at all. He had gotten an estimate of \$16,000 to fix this which is money he does not have. He had to run his own pipe so when he takes a shower the water goes straight into the basement and he has to scoop it out before he goes to work. Mr. Millien wants his own pipe, so he can take a shower. The next picture shows the drain line which is useless; he has that estimate of \$16,000 to get that fixed. He has his own pipe to run the water to the street. He has a bathroom in the basement that he cannot use so if someone uses the bathroom upstairs that all goes into the basement. So no one can use that bathroom in the basement. Mr. Millien pointed out that his wife has a problem with breathing and he even went to show the City a doctor's paper but they do not care. No one knows his life, they only care about money. Last week he found out they sent a letter that if he does not pay they will send him to collection. Mr. Millien does not know what to do, he is seeking help. He needs to come to the City to explain his problem to get help. He cannot take a shower freely, every time he takes a shower he has to go in the basement with a bucket to scoop out the water if the pipe does not work. He thinks the City just wants to collect money from people, what is the reason? Is there a chapter in the books that says he has to have a tree in front of his house? He would like to see that. Mr. Millien explained his tree in front of his house is hurting him. He has suffered with this basement for a long time. This problem started since he has had two trees in front of his house, those trees are still hurting him now. The pictures he showed were taken today.

President Waldron understands the frustration that Mr. Millien and his family are going through. He can imagine this is not an enjoyable situation for him and his wife. We are sorry about that. The debt collection receipt is for a new tree.

Mr. Millien stated yes, it is \$933 dollars which is money he does not have.

President Waldron explained there is a City Ordinance that says if a tree is cut down it is the responsibility of the homeowner to replace that tree. Obviously the circumstances are a little bit different if that tree is causing damage to the drain line, he would think. President Waldron noted he is not an expert on that, no one on Council is. He would encourage Mr. Millien to reach out to our Director of Public Works, Michael Alkhal who is here this evening. He can speak to Mr. Millien after this meeting.

Mr. Millien stated he will try to come back to speak to Mr. Alkhal and explain himself one more time and bring more proof. He queried if anyone on Council wants to come with him to his home so he can show his problem.

President Waldron noted that is a generous offer however, we do have a meeting and agenda in front of us that we need to focus on now. He pointed out that Mr. Alkhal is at this meeting and can take some time to speak to Mr. Millien privately because he is the person who is more knowledgeable about the things he is talking about.

Mr. Millien thanked Council for their time and letting him speak.

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

Appropriate Mental Health Services Ordinance

Adrian Shanker, 522 West Maple Street, Allentown, stated he is the Executive Director of Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center. He thanked City Council for considering the Appropriate Mental Health Services Ordinance which would ban the harmful, discredited, and unscientific practice of conversion therapy within the City of Bethlehem. Conversion Therapy is discredited by every single healthcare organization that represents hundreds of thousands of healthcare practitioners throughout the County. Bethlehem would become the seventh municipality in Pennsylvania to ban this practice following Allentown, Reading as well as Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, State College and Doylestown. Mr. Shanker added that there is an opportunity here for the City of Bethlehem to continue to be seen as a progressive City where people can really be themselves. Council has letters from Valley Youth House and KidsPeace detailing the importance of banning this practice within the City. The letter from KidsPeace is from the Chief Medical Officer and CEO and specifically talks about how, as a mental health serving organization, they do not allow any of their providers to utilize this discredited practice because it would be harmful to their patients. Mr. Shanker pointed out that this is the most important thing; this is a public health issue. The risks of conversion therapy include substance abuse, anxiety, depression, and suicide risk. That is why there have been so many States and Municipalities that ban this practice. Mr. Shanker stressed it is also important to recognize that this is a practice that happens. The UCLA School of Law had a study this year that showed 20,000 LGBT youth across the Country are subject to conversion therapy from a healthcare professional themselves. So this is a real problem that Bethlehem City Council has the opportunity to help to resolve here, within the City.

Skyline West Project

Dana Grubb, 2420 Henderson Place, explained it is no secret overtime that he has developed strong feelings about developers and the projects that they bring to City Hall. He is appearing tonight to ask Council's continued support for the proposed Skyline West Project. He encourages Council's approval of the rezoning request for the parcel that adjoins the lot fronting on West Broad Street. He recognizes that this is a challenging project, and it is faced with its fair share of governmental review steps and the topography makes engineering the proposed project very interesting. Mr. Grubb explained that is partly why he has been intrigued by the proposal from the start. He lived in that neighborhood for the first six years of his life, and remembers that

area very differently than it looks today. He has expressed his support at a number of meetings when he has been able to attend them. Mr. Grubb firmly believes the completion of this project is going to enhance Bethlehem's north side business district. It will introduce more residents into the district and residents with more disposable income which will hopefully support our downtown businesses. Despite appearances they are all not doing as well as some people might think they are. Mr. Grubb is trusting that Council all feels the same way and vote to expand the CL zoning into the Institutional area.

Appropriate Mental Health Services Ordinance

Kathy Krablin representing Valley Youth House at 3400 High Point Boulevard stated she would like to read a letter from our President and CEO, Thomas Harrington in regards to the ban on conversion therapy. This letter is addressed to the Members of City Council. "As President & CEO of Valley Youth House, I respectfully urge you to join with the growing number of states across the nation and municipalities across Pennsylvania, including Allentown, Reading and Philadelphia to ban the harmful practice of "conversion therapy" in Bethlehem. "Conversion therapy," or reparative therapy" includes a range of practices designed to "convert" or "repair" someone's gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation. The premise for this belief is that identifying as LGBTQ is not normal and must be "fixed." Such practices have been rejected by every mainstream medical and mental health organization for decades. They include the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association, the National Association of Social Workers, and the World Health Association, to name just a few. Minors are especially vulnerable to this type of "therapy." A report published by San Francisco State University found that LGBTQ youth rejected by their parents or caregivers were more than eight times more likely to attempt suicide, nearly six times more likely to report high levels of depression, and more than three times more likely to use illegal drugs than those youth who were not rejected. Valley Youth House is an LGBTQ affirming organization that provides street outreach, housing and supportive services, along with a range of other services, for foster care and homeless youth in 14 Pennsylvania counties, including Northampton and Lehigh. As many as 40 percent of homeless youth nationwide identify as LGBTQ, and we at Valley Youth House work hard to ensure that all youth entering our doors feel safe in our care. As an integral part of our agency's mission, we have established Pride housing programs in the Lehigh Valley and Philadelphia specifically to meet the complex needs of LGBTQ youth, and we continue to partner with Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center to run Project Silk, a drop-in center for LGBTQ youth in downtown Allentown. We look forward to hearing that the Bethlehem City Council has voted to ban the practice of conversion therapy in Bethlehem, joining with us and the multitude of others who wish to create a welcoming home for LGBTQ community members across the Lehigh Valley.

Sincerely,
Thomas R. Harrington
President & CEO

Reverend Beth Goudy, Pastor of the Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley stated they are sharing space with the Church of the Manger at 1401 Greenview Drive. She pastored there for 19 years and 95% of the people who attend the Metropolitan Community Church identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Transgender. She has seen firsthand the damage done from conversion therapy; it is long lasting and painful. She is here to say that God creates

kids perfectly and there is no need for conversion therapy. Reverend Goudy encourages Council to ban conversion therapy in the City of Bethlehem.

5. OLD BUSINESS

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

6. COMMUNICATIONS

A. *Police Chief – Records Destruction – Police Department*

The Clerk read a memorandum dated June 15, 2018 from Police Chief Mark DiLuzio requesting Council to consider a Resolution for the Destruction of Records from the Police Department listed on the attached exhibit. Police Chief DiLuzio has reviewed the Municipal Records Retention Act and the records fall within categories where destruction is permitted.

President Waldron stated the Resolution can be listed on the July 17 agenda.

B. *Director of Water and Sewer Resources – PA DEP Resolution – Official Sewage Facilities Plan*

The Clerk read a memorandum dated June 20, 2018 from Edward Boscola, Director of Water and Sewer Resources requesting a Resolution approving a revision to the Official Sewage Facilities Plan for the required Sewage Facilities Planning Module for Project Mustang, 1125 Easton Road. The Resolution is required by Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

President Waldron stated Resolution 10 C is on the agenda.

C. *Director Budget and Finance – Audit Proposal 2018, 2019, and 2020*

The Clerk read a memorandum dated June 21, 2018 from Mark W. Sivak, Director of Budget and Finance to which is attached proposed fees for audit services for years ending in December 31, 2018, 2019, and 2020. The contract with Maher Duessel allows for a three year extension to their current contract and the Administration recommends continuing their service.

President Waldron stated the Resolution to appoint the auditors can be placed on the July 17 agenda.

D. *Director of Public Works – Recommendation of Award – Nyce Construction Inc. – 2018-09 Linden Street Storm Sewer Replacement Project*

The Clerk read a memorandum dated June 27, 2018 from Michael Alkhal, Director of Public Works recommending a contract with Nyce Construction for the Linden Street Storm Sewer Replacement Project. The term of the contract is 90 calendar days from the Notice to Proceed and the fee for the contract is \$257,321.60.

President Waldron stated Resolution 10 D is on the agenda.

E. *Assistant City Solicitor – Bethlehem Parking Authority Lease Agreement – Celtic Fest*

The Clerk read a memorandum dated June 28, 2018 from Assistant City Solicitor Edmund J. Healy, Esq. to which is attached a Resolution to authorize a lease agreement with the Bethlehem Parking Authority for three parcels near Ohio Road and the Monocacy Creek for paid parking during Celtic Fest.

President Waldron stated the Resolution can be placed on the July 17 agenda.

7. REPORTS

- A. *President of Council*
- B. *Mayor*

Remembering Jean Belinski

Mayor Donchez stressed he wanted to echo the comments made by President Waldron concerning Jean Belinski. He attended the service at the gravesite yesterday. Mayor Donchez noted that he served with Jean for a number of years on Council and many times he agreed with her, although sometimes he disagreed with her. No one could argue the point that she cared about Bethlehem by serving on the School Board and for the City of Bethlehem for many years. He concluded saying this is a loss to the community.

C. *Community Development Committee Meeting*

Chairman Martell stated the Community Development Committee met on Tuesday, July 3, 2018 at 5:15 pm in Town Hall. Members received a presentation on the Blight Remediation and Mitigation Plan. This was for information only and there was no action required by the Committee. The Committee also reviewed the Ordinance to establish a new Article entitled “Appropriate Mental Health Services” and unanimously voted to recommend the proposed Ordinance to full Council for consideration. The First Reading is on the agenda tonight.

8. ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE

None.

9. NEW ORDINANCES

- A. *Bill No. 18 – 2018 – Zoning Map Amendment – Rezoning I to CL District – Parcel bordered by Conestoga Street, Other lands of the FDA, PA Route 378, and 143 West Broad Street*

The Clerk read Bill No. 18 – 2018 – Zoning Map Amendment – Rezoning I to CL District – Parcel bordered by Conestoga Street, Other lands of the FDA, PA Route 378, and 143 West Broad Street, sponsored by Mr. Colón and Mr. Martell and titled:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING PART 13 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM, PENNSYLVANIA, AS AMENDED, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM, PENNSYLVANIA, BY AMENDING THE CITY ZONING MAP.

Voting AYE: Mr. Martell, Ms. Negrón, Mr. Reynolds, Dr. Van Wirt, Mr. Callahan, Mr. Colón, and Mr. Waldron, 7. Bill No. 18 – 2018 was passed on First Reading.

B. *Bill No. 19 – 2018 – Amending Article 1501 – Fire Safety and Code Enforcement Inspection Fees*

The Clerk read Bill No. 19 – 2018 – Fire Safety and Code Enforcement Inspection Fees, sponsored by Mr. Colón and Mr. Martell and titled:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM, COUNTIES OF LEHIGH AND NORTHAMPTON, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING ARTICLE 1501 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM TITLED FIRE SAFETY AND CODE ENFORCEMENT INSPECTION FEES

Voting AYE: Mr. Martell, Ms. Negrón, Mr. Reynolds, Dr. Van Wirt, Mr. Callahan, Mr. Colón, and Mr. Waldron, 7. Bill No. 19 – 2018 was passed on First Reading.

C. *Bill No. 20 – 2018 – Establishing New Article 1122 – Appropriate Mental Health Services*

The Clerk read Bill No. 20 – 2018 – Establishing New Article 1122 – Appropriate Mental Health Services, sponsored by Mr. Colón and Mr. Martell and titled:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM, COUNTIES OF LEHIGH AND NORTHAMPTON, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, ESTABLISHING ARTICLE 1122 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM, TITLED “APPROPRIATE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES”, PROVIDING FOR THE PROHIBITION OF CONVERSION THERAPY FOR MINORS

Mr. Callahan explained he wanted to reiterate some things he said at the Community Development Committee Meeting a few hours ago. He had conversations with Adrian Shanker about six months ago when he learned about conversion therapy. He supported what Mr. Shanker wanted to propose, and said that he would get an Ordinance together regarding the matter. Mr. Callahan informed that conversion therapy can pose critical health risks to young kids in the LGBT community. The fact that there are people out there who think that they need to be repaired is quite bizarre to him. That is the whole reason why he wanted to put this Ordinance forward. Mr. Callahan does hope that this passes 7-0 tonight. He stated that our job is to protect the physical and psychological welfare of minors including Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Question youth and protect minors against exposure to serious harms caused by conversion therapy. We have had eleven national organizations and doctors organizations that have said that the aspects of conversion therapy are bizarre. He pointed out the rate of suicide in kids that

are exposed to it is astronomically higher than kids that have not been. Mr. Callahan explained as a teacher and educator in the Bethlehem Area School District in the last 25 years, he has seen numerous kids who are struggling with their sexuality every day. It is not an illness, it is not a sickness, and they are human beings. They are born that way. Mr. Callahan thinks it is incumbent on us, as a City, to make sure that conversion therapy is not going on and that kids are not exposed to that in the City of Bethlehem. Mr. Callahan thanked Mr. Shanker, Ms. Krablin, and Reverend Goudy for coming to this meeting and supporting the Ordinance.

Mr. Reynolds commented that he wanted to thank Mr. Callahan for bringing this forward. This will pass 7-0 tonight and he thinks this is a commentary on America 2018 that we even need to be here to do things like this. It is a ridiculous idea, and it is ridiculous that people would think that this is even necessary or something that should be done. But if there is one thing the last few years has taught it is that just because there are things that are ridiculous, does not mean that there are not people trying to do them. Mr. Reynolds added that he wanted to thank everybody here for being engaged in this issue and being engaged in this radical notion that people are equal and that people are people. He sees many people tonight, who we on Council have stood next to, sat next to, went to the same rallies. Mr. Reynolds mentioned being engaged in the process, showing up, writing emails, saying we will not do this, will not win every battle, but it has won some battles. This is one small step that will further that longer battle that people are fighting. Mr. Reynolds again thanked Mr. Callahan for bringing this forward and he thanked everyone who showed up tonight to show support because it does matter.

Mr. Colón noted as he said at the Community Development Committee Meeting, this is really a no-brainer. What we are voting on here is promoting accepting and supporting each other here in the City for who we are and also for protecting our youth. He thanked Mr. Callahan and Mr. Shanker and everyone involved in this and everyone for coming out tonight.

Voting AYE: Mr. Martell, Ms. Negrón, Mr. Reynolds, Dr. Van Wirt, Mr. Callahan, Mr. Colón, and Mr. Waldron, 7. Bill No. 20 – 2018 was passed on First Reading.

10. RESOLUTIONS

A. *Authorizing Use Permit Agreement – ArtsQuest – Yuengling Summer Concert Series*

Mr. Colón and Mr. Martell sponsored Resolution No. 2018-127 that authorized the execution of a Use Permit Agreement with ArtsQuest for the Yuengling Summer concert Series on August 17, 2018, September 5, 2018, September 18, 2018, September 22, 2018 and September 28, 2018.

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

B. *Authorizing Use Permit Agreement – Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce by and through its Downtown Bethlehem Association – 2018 Bethlehem VegFest*

Mr. Colón and Mr. Martell sponsored Resolution No. 2018-128 that authorized execution of the Use Permit Agreement between the City of Bethlehem and the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce by and through its Downtown Bethlehem Association, for use of various

City properties for the 2018 VegFest on July 14, 2018 from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM according to the Agreement.

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

C. *Approving Resolution – Plan Revision for New Land Development – Official Sewage Facilities Plan*

Mr. Colón and Mr. Martell sponsored Resolution No. 2018-129 that authorized to execute a Resolution to adopt and submit to the Department of Environmental Protection for its approval a revision to the "Official Sewage Facilities Plan" of the municipality the above referenced Sewage Facilities Planning Module.

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

D. *Authorizing Contract – Nyce Construction Inc. – 2-18 09 Linden Street Storm Sewer Replacement Project*

Mr. Martell and Mr. Reynolds sponsored Resolution No. 2018-130 that authorized to execute an agreement with Nyce Construction Inc. for the 2018 09 Linden Street Storm Sewer Replacement Project.

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

Motion – Considering Resolutions 10 E through 10 K as a group

Mr. Martell and Ms. Negrón moved to consider Resolutions 10 E through 10 K as a group.

Voting AYE: Mr. Martell, Ms. Negrón, Mr. Reynolds, Dr. Van Wirt, Mr. Callahan, Mr. Colón, and Mr. Waldron, 7. The Motion passed.

E. *Certificate of Appropriateness – 832 Hawthorne Road*

Mr. Martell and Mr. Reynolds sponsored Resolution No. 2018-131 that granted a Certificate of Appropriateness to demolish the rear garage and dispose of all resulting debris at 832 Hawthorne Road; existing concrete foundation is to remain.

F. *Certificate of Appropriateness – 702 East Fourth Street*

Mr. Martell and Mr. Reynolds sponsored Resolution No. 2018-132 that granted a Certificate of Appropriateness for removal of the existing slate roof sheathing and replacing with architectural shingles at 702 East Fourth Street.

G. *Certificate of Appropriateness – 419 Adams Street*

Mr. Martell and Mr. Reynolds sponsored Resolution No. 2018-133 that granted a Certificate of Appropriateness for installing two new windows and for altering the front picture window, as required by the City of Bethlehem building inspector to satisfy life safety issues at 419 Adams Street.

H. Certificate of Appropriateness – 324 West Fourth Street and 327 Broadway

Mr. Martell and Mr. Reynolds sponsored Resolution No. 2018-134 that granted a Certificate of Appropriateness for the creation of a weather-tight enclosure around the entire building structure by installing new windows, new storefronts and new doors in all exterior openings at 324 West Fourth Street and 327 Broadway.

I. Certificate of Appropriateness – 715-721 East Fourth Street

Mr. Martell and Mr. Reynolds sponsored Resolution No. 2018-135 that granted a Certificate of Appropriateness for renovations to the front façade of the building at 715-721 East Fourth Street.

J. Certificate of Appropriateness – 322-324 Fillmore Street

Mr. Martell and Mr. Reynolds sponsored Resolution No. 2018-136 that granted a Certificate of Appropriateness for renovations to the front façade of the building at 322-324 Fillmore Street.

K. Certificate of Appropriateness – 326-328 Fillmore Street

Mr. Martell and Mr. Reynolds sponsored Resolution No. 2018-137 that granted a Certificate of Appropriateness for renovations to the front façade of the building at 326-328 Fillmore Street.

Voting AYE on Resolutions 10 E through 10 K: Mr. Martell, Ms. Negrón, Mr. Reynolds, Dr. Van Wirt, Mr. Callahan, Mr. Colón, and Mr. Waldron, 7. The Resolutions passed.

11. NEW BUSINESS

A. Rescheduling Time of City Council Meeting – August 7, 2018 – 5:30 PM

President Waldron stated he will accept a motion to reschedule the time of the City Council Meeting on Tuesday, August 7, 2018 to 5:30 PM instead of 7:00 PM, since the Meeting occurs during the week of Musikfest.

Mr. Callahan and Mr. Reynolds made the motion to reschedule the City Council Meeting on Tuesday, August 7, 2018 to 5:30 PM instead of 7:00 PM.

Voting AYE: Mr. Martell, Ms. Negrón, Mr. Reynolds, Dr. Van Wirt, Mr. Callahan, Mr. Colón, and Mr. Waldron, 7. The Motion passed.

White Tree Lights on Main Street

Mr. Callahan noted he has had several requests by businesses on Main Street. He mentioned that in Stone Harbor and Avalon, New Jersey they keep the white lights on the trees in the main shopping area lit all year long. A few business owners asked him if he could bring up to Council, the Mayor and the Administration, a request to keep the white Christmas tree lights on during the entire year in the evening. They thought it would bring a spark and a vibe to Main Street. He pointed out that not all of the businesses on Main Street are doing as well as everyone thinks they are and they are just looking to add some spark to the business district. Mr. Callahan knows there might be concerns that it might diminish the special feeling we have with only having the lights on during the Christmas Season. If you go to some of the bigger Cities like Philadelphia, New York and San Francisco, there are areas where they have the white lights lit at night time. Mr. Callahan just wanted to present the idea and see if there is any thought on this request.

Tree and Drainage Issue

Ms. Negrón mentioned that she talked to Mr. Alkhal about the gentleman who came to speak again about his tree and pipe problem. She is hoping that he could get a Deferred Payment Loan (DPL) to fix his problem. She is sure if an inspector went to his home right now they would see that it is horrible. As a homeowner, she knows that the older a house; the more things break down and it is scary to see how much things cost. She hopes he can get the application and at least start the process and maybe get some money to help fix that problem of the drain issue in his house.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

ATTEST:

City Clerk