

BETHLEHEM CITY COUNCIL MEETING
10 East Church Street – Town Hall
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania
Tuesday, May 5, 2015 – 7:00 PM

INVOCATION

Pastor James Muske, of the St. Matthew Lutheran 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, Eric R. Evans, Michael D. Recchiuti, Cathy Reuscher, Louis N. Stellato, Adam Waldron, and J. William Reynolds, 7.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes April 21, 2015 were approved.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

4. OLD BUSINESS.

A. Members of Council

None.

B. Tabled Item

1. Bill No. 17 – Amending Article 1306.01(a) of the Zoning Ordinance – Dimensional Regulations for the R-R Residential District, Creating Maximum Impervious Coverage in the R-R and R-S Districts

C. Unfinished Business

None.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

A. *Director of Parks and Public Property – Recommendation for Award – Bi-State Construction Company, Inc.*

The Clerk read a memorandum from Ralph Carp, Director of Parks and Public Property, recommending a contract with Bi-State Construction Company, Inc. to repair the stone walls along the banks of the Monocacy and Saucon Creeks. The term of the contract is 90 days from Notice to Proceed. The estimated cost is \$214,585.

President Reynolds stated Resolution 9 A is on the agenda.

B. *Mayor – Request to Fill Vacancy – Mayor’s Chief of Staff*

The Clerk read a memorandum from Mayor Robert J. Donchez requesting to fill the position of Chief of Staff in the Mayor’s Office. The budgeted salary is \$57,000.

President Reynolds stated Resolution 9 B is on the agenda.

C. *Mayor – Request to Fill Vacancy – Legal Assistant*

The Clerk read a memorandum Mayor Robert J. Donchez requesting to fill the position of Legal Assistant in the City Solicitor’s Office. The budgeted salary is \$45,599.

President Reynolds stated Resolution 9 C is on the agenda.

D. *Mayor – Request to Fill Vacancy – Purchasing Director*

The Clerk read a memorandum from Mayor Robert J. Donchez requesting to fill the position of Purchasing Director in the Bureau of Purchasing. The budgeted salary is \$87,403.

President Reynolds stated Resolution 9 D is on the agenda.

6. REPORTS

A. *President of Council*

B. *Mayor*

1. *Administrative Order – Rogelio Ortiz – Bethlehem Housing Authority*

Mayor Donchez appointed Rogelio Ortiz to the Bethlehem Housing Authority effective through May, 2016. Mr. Stellato and Mr. Evans sponsored Resolution 2015 – 98 to confirm the appointment.

Voting AYE: Mr. Recchiuti, Ms. Reuscher, Mr. Stellato, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, Mr. Evans, and Mr. Reynolds, 7. The Resolution passed.

Police Situation

Mayor Donchez remarked that Police Chief Mark DiLuzio will give Council a brief update on the five and a half hour standoff last evening.

Police Chief DiLuzio informed Council that they had a situation last night at 1860 Stanford Drive. A 37 year-old male had a rifle and wanted to commit suicide by cop and shoot the police when they arrive at the scene. Police Chief DiLuzio noted there was a standoff for about five and a half to six hours. Our Emergency Response Team was there along with our Crisis Negotiation team. There was some minor damage done to the residence he was in, although the homeowner was fine with that. The gentleman was subsequently taken into custody around 5:45AM when he came out of the house and surrendered after some negotiations. Police Chief DiLuzio pointed out there were no injuries to officers and no injuries to the resident. The resident is presently in Lehigh County Prison in their hospital ward unit. He first was checked at the hospital and then committed to prison. Police Chief DiLuzio added he wanted Council to be aware of the situation in the event they receive any emails. He added, it did become a little noisy and some of the residents did not sleep all night due to the bullhorn communication back and forth in the neighborhood, but most understood and were thankful in the morning that it ended peacefully.

President Reynolds thanked Police Chief DiLuzio on behalf of Council for his work for what he is sure was a stressful situation.

7. ORDINANCES FOR FINAL READING

A. *Bill No. 23 – 2015 - Amending Article 117, Officers and Employees*

The Clerk read Bill No. 23 – 2015 – Amending Article 117, on Final Reading.

Voting AYE: Mr. Recchiuti, Ms. Reuscher, Mr. Stellato, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, Mr. Evans, and Mr. Reynolds, 7. Bill No. 23 – 2015 now known as Ordinance 2015 – 22, was adopted on Final Reading.

B. *Bill No. 24 – 2015 – Amending Article 531, Parking Generally*

The Clerk read Bill No. 24 – 2015 – Amending Article 531, on Final Reading.

Mr. Recchiuti remarked that Mayor Donchez had a press release this week where he stated that there would be some changes at Saucon Park. It was reported in the newspaper that the fine increase that we are voting on tonight would pay for that but he wondered if that is accurate.

Mayor Donchez believes so but he will let Police Chief DiLuzio speak to that matter.

Police Chief DiLuzio stated there was a question raised by one of the reporters about the difference in the fines and if the difference would pay for any of this extra police coverage. He replied yes to the reporter. Police Chief DiLuzio noted, we also told the press we do not know what the total cost of this program will be. He added we will have to evaluate the program every two to three weekends. If we put a big push in the beginning of the season, beginning with this coming weekend, which will be May 9 - May 10 and Mother's Day weekend, we will be giving out warnings and advising people to obey the new regulations. Police Chief DiLuzio informed after that we will have the enforcement. He added we actually do not have the tickets with the new fines on them in our physical custody at this point.

Mr. Recchiuti mentioned he anticipated his next question, which was what would be the cost of this. Mr. Recchiuti queried as to who would be collecting these fines. Would it be the Parking Authority since they generally collect our parking fines?

Police Chief DiLuzio noted yes, if it is a Parking Authority ticket, but we do not know right now who will collecting the fines. He continued, we have another meeting next week on the actual ticket. This is a work in progress right now; we are getting ready for the Spring season.

Mr. Recchiuti related there will be two Police Officers and inquired if this will be Roster Duty.

Police Chief DiLuzio replied yes, it will be Roster Duty. There will be two Police Officers on a Saturday and two Police Officers on a Sunday, and this will also include the Holiday. The officers will be on bikes, foot patrol, and in Police vehicles. He added they will patrol the park area in Saucon Park, Travelers Lane, Fire Lane, and Ravena Street along with a few of the other areas that go into City streets abutting the park. Police Chief DiLuzio mentioned approximately 200 residents from that area came to the meeting we had regarding Saucon Park.

Mr. Recchiuti queried as to the source of the money paying for the Roster Duty.

Police Chief DiLuzio believes this is through the Parks Department.

Mr. Recchiuti mentioned we have not seen anything come to the Finance Committee yet for transferring of funds.

Police Chief DiLuzio pointed out at this time he has an account number from the Parks Department that we are starting with, and we will have to manage that as we go through the year. We may not keep two Police Officers at the park every weekend as we go through the Summer.

Mayor Donchez mentioned he will get an answer regarding the Parking Authority.

Mr. Recchiuti added this should come to the Finance Committees if the Administration is going to transfer money.

Voting AYE: Mr. Recchiuti, Ms. Reuscher, Mr. Stellato, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, Mr. Evans, and Mr. Reynolds, 7. Bill No. 24 - 2015 now known as Ordinance 2015 - 23, was adopted on Final Reading.

C. *Bill No.25 - Intergovernmental Service Territory Agreement - City of Bethlehem and The Northampton Borough Municipal Authority*

The Clerk read Bill No. 25 - 2015 - Intergovernmental Service Territory Agreement - City of Bethlehem and the Northampton Borough Municipal Authority, on Final Reading.

Voting AYE: Mr. Recchiuti, Ms. Reuscher, Mr. Stellato, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, Mr. Evans, and Mr. Reynolds, 7. Bill No. 25 - 2015 now known as Ordinance 2015 - 24, was adopted on Final Reading.

8. NEW ORDINANCES.

None.

9. RESOLUTIONS

A. *Authorizing Contract – Bi-State Construction Company, Inc.*

Mr. Stellato and Mr. Recchiuti sponsored Resolution No. 2015-99 that authorized the execution of a contract with Bi-State Construction Company, Inc. for the Stone Wall Restoration at (2) two City Parks.

Voting AYE: Mr. Recchiuti, Ms. Reuscher, Mr. Stellato, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, Mr. Evans, and Mr. Reynolds, 7. The Resolution passed.

B. *Approve Hiring – Mayor’s Chief of Staff*

Mr. Stellato and Mr. Evans sponsored Resolution No. 2015-100 that approved the filling of the position of Chief of Staff in the Mayor’s Office.

President Reynolds queried who this is replacing.

Mayor Donchez reported this is replacing Patrick Fligge who has decided to go back to work at Muhlenberg College.

President Reynolds asked how much longer he will be in his current role.

Mayor Donchez stated he believes his last day will be May 22, 2015, the Friday before Memorial Day weekend.

President Reynolds wondered when he started with the City.

Mayor Donchez noted it was about three weeks ago.

Voting AYE: Mr. Recchiuti, Ms. Reuscher, Mr. Stellato, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, Mr. Evans, and Mr. Reynolds, 7. The Resolution passed.

C. *Approve Hiring – Legal Assistant*

Mr. Stellato and Mr. Recchiuti sponsored Resolution No. 2015-101 that approved the filling of the position of Legal Assistant in the Solicitor’s Office.

Voting AYE: Mr. Recchiuti, Ms. Reuscher, Mr. Stellato, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, Mr. Evans, and Mr. Reynolds, 7. The Resolution passed.

D. *Approve Hiring – Purchasing Director*

Mr. Stellato and Mr. Recchiuti sponsored Resolution No. 2015-102 that approved the filling of the position of Purchasing Director in the Bureau of Purchasing.

Mr. Stellato mentioned he has been working with the Purchasing Department these past few weeks going over some basic purchasing policies with David Brong, Business Administrator, Mark Sivak, Director of Budget and Finance, Gene Auman, Deputy Controller, Carey Ruhf, Water and Sewer Department Business Manager, and thanked them for their efforts. This has been a major process in the way we will do business, and it will be a change from the paper system to a paperless system. Mr. Stellato believes some of the changes will be very beneficial, saving costs and time. He continued, we had a meeting today and one of the attendees mentioned that she will save 45 minutes to an hour based on some of the discussions we had regarding the change in the process. Mr. Stellato reported that good things will happen. He added it will be a cultural change for most of us, so we will have to address that issue.

Voting AYE: Mr. Recchiuti, Ms. Reuscher, Mr. Stellato, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, Mr. Evans, and Mr. Reynolds, 7. The Resolution passed.

Motion – Considering Resolutions 9 E through 9 K as a Group – Certificates of Appropriateness

Mr. Waldron and Mr. Recchiuti moved to consider Resolutions 9 E through 9 K as a group.

Voting AYE: Mr. Recchiuti, Ms. Reuscher, Mr. Stellato, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, Mr. Evans, and Mr. Reynolds, 7. The Motion passed.

E. *Certificate of Appropriateness - 29 West Fourth Street*

Mr. Stellato and Mr. Recchiuti sponsored Resolution 2015-103 that granted a Certificate of Appropriateness to install new sign on the front of the store at 29 West Fourth Street.

F. *Certificate of Appropriateness - 701 East Fourth Street*

Mr. Stellato and Mr. Recchiuti sponsored Resolution 2015-104 that granted a Certificate of Appropriateness to modify the tile base installed on the storefront at 701 East Fourth Street.

G. *Certificate of Appropriateness - 29 East Third Street*

Mr. Stellato and Mr. Recchiuti sponsored Resolution 2015-105 that granted a Certificate of Appropriateness to alter the building for ADA compliance at 29 East Third Street.

H. *Certificate of Appropriateness - 127-129 East Third Street*

Mr. Stellato and Mr. Recchiuti sponsored Resolution 2015-106 that granted a Certificate of Appropriateness to remove the existing 1960's vintage storefront and re-create a side entrance to the apartments above and new storefront at 127-129 East Third Street.

I. *Certificate of Appropriateness - 119-123 East Third Street*

Mr. Stellato and Mr. Recchiuti sponsored Resolution 2015-107 that granted a Certificate of Appropriateness to paint the exterior of the building at 119-123 East Third Street.

J. *Certificate of Appropriateness - 120 West Third Street*

Mr. Stellato and Mr. Recchiuti sponsored Resolution 2015-108 that granted a Certificate of Appropriateness to paint artwork on the red brick wall along Third Street at 120 West Third Street.

K. *Certificate of Appropriateness - 17 East Third Street*

Mr. Stellato and Mr. Recchiuti sponsored Resolution 2015-109 that granted a Certificate of Appropriateness to issue a COA for a sign installed without HCC review at 17 East Third Street.

Voting AYE on Resolutions 9 E through 9 K: Mr. Recchiuti, Ms. Reuscher, Mr. Stellato, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, Mr. Evans, and Mr. Reynolds, 7. The Resolutions passed.

10. NEW BUSINESS.

Rescheduling Second City Council Meeting in May

Mr. Callahan and Mr. Evans moved to reschedule the second City Council Meeting in May to Wednesday, May 20, 2015 at 7:00 PM in Town Hall, since Tuesday, May 19, 2015 is Primary Election Day.

Voting AYE: Mr. Recchiuti, Ms. Reuscher, Mr. Stellato, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, Mr. Evans, and Mr. Reynolds, 7. The Motion passed.

Police and Fire Negotiations

Mr. Recchiuti mentioned to Mayor Donchez that he has heard that there has been some movement on the contract negotiations with our Police and Fire Unions and asked if he had any comments.

Mayor Donchez advised he will let Mr. Brong speak to that.

Mr. Brong informed last week the Police Union ratified our proposal. The negotiations concluded with a settlement on the terms of the contract. This is a three-year contract done by design in order to give us the ability to take a good hard look at legislation as it exists, if it exists, on the Affordable Care Act, as it gets serious around the 2018 timeframe. The Fire Union voted down our first contract proposal fairly substantially, and on the heels of the Police ratifying their contract we engaged

the Fire Union again. The Fire Union is voting on the contract a second time, probably in the next 45 minutes. Mr. Brong noted we will find out this evening whether they had a change of heart or whether we are going to reach a settlement through negotiations, or through Act 111 arbitration.

President Reynolds, in following up on the process Mr. Brong just spoke of, queried when the Fire Union first voted on the first proposal from the Administration.

Mr. Brong stated it was sometime in the beginning of April.

President Reynolds remarked they voted down the contract as Mr. Brong said fairly substantially. The Police Union voted for their contract last week so now the Fire Union is reconsidering the same proposal. President Reynolds asked if this is correct.

Mr. Brong stated not particularly. The Administration had to clarify some things. There were some unfortunate misconceptions. We clarified those misconceptions and made a few modifications at the Union's own request, and that was acceptable to give this another try.

President Reynolds queried if they do not vote for the current proposal would the next step be arbitration.

Mr. Brong remarked it would be arbitration and the arbitration date is scheduled for the latter part of May. It does not mean we will stop talking. He continued, settlement is always the best alternative, so we will see what happens.

President Reynolds remarked that our Police contract is officially settled.

Mr. Brong stated yes. The contract is unexecuted, but it is a temporary agreement at this point.

President Reynolds remarked that he thinks that certainly one of the things we look at as far as uncertain costs going forward sometimes have to do with these contracts. The Administration and the Police Union deserve credit for coming to an agreement. Several of us are Union members and we know that not everyone walks away from these conversations or discussions happy but he certainly thinks that the Administration deserves a lot of credit as does the Union for coming to an agreement before it got to that stage of arbitration. President Reynolds hopes that same type of agreement can be reached with the Fire Union.

Mr. Brong informed he does also.

911 Funding

President Reynolds mentioned he saw in the newspaper that in Harrisburg he believes the House passed the updated 911 Funding. He asked Mayor Donchez for an update on what has happened and what might be taking place in the future.

Mayor Donchez remarked on their final vote the House of Representatives did reject the amendments of Representative Peter Schweyer. The Bill that passed the House will now move to the Senate, but the Bill does not include funding in for Allentown or Bethlehem. The funding would go to the County. Mayor Donchez stated as of yet, he has not seen the total Bill. The request of the Chair and the leadership in Harrisburg, and the majority, basically want to keep it County wide. He added, our hope now is that when it moves to the Senate, possibly Senator Lisa Boscola and Senator Pat Browne, might force a Conference Committee. Mayor Donchez reported this is a fluid situation but in the House of Representatives, the Bill was defeated. Allentown and Bethlehem, for the most part, are not included in the Bill.

President Reynolds queried if we have a timeframe by which we think the Senate would take this up and if this is something that will be solved when they do the budget.

Mayor Donchez stated it seems like there might be some momentum to have this issue resolved by the end of June.

President Reynolds mentioned although we had undertaken a study with some of our regional partners, the worst case scenario is if they pass this new funding that cuts out the Cities.

Mayor Donchez informed all four parties decided to put a hold on the study based on the fluid situation in Harrisburg, and the fact that this is moving through the process.

President Reynolds inquired about how much transition time we are looking at and when the new funding formula would go into effect.

Mayor Donchez stated that is something that needs to be discussed. He noted he met with a representative of the Governor's office on Thursday and the representative requested that he send to him all the information dealing with 911. He would then present our records to the Governor. The representative also requested information pertaining to the CRIZ because of some of the ambiguous parts in the CRIZ legislation. Mayor Donchez reported that information was sent out this morning at his request.

President Reynolds wondered what the philosophy was behind waiting on doing the study. He commented, it appears that if the Senate passes something, we may get backed into whatever a transition might be, without having enough time to look at other options.

Mayor Donchez noted he will ask Police Chief DiLuzio to respond since he was involved more directly in the negotiations, but the feeling of the four parties was if Harrisburg would exclude Allentown and Bethlehem, and make us join Lehigh and Northampton County, there was no reason to have the study simply because of the fact that Harrisburg will have spoken. The question really is will it need a one, two or three year transition time for it to be implemented. We have talked to people that include Bob Haffner and his counterpart in Allentown, and the feeling is that we would not be able to do transition in one year.

Police Chief DiLuzio added basically what Mayor Donchez said in reference to the study is if the State cuts the funding and cuts us, and tells us Allentown and Bethlehem must go to Lehigh County or Northampton County, that study would have been useless. We could not do anything with it. It would give us numbers but only if we are able to combine together, or with the County, or with the Cities. If the State mandates and tells us where we need to go, then that is it.

President Reynolds noted he understands that, but pointed out that in the legislation they are saying that it would say that Bethlehem has no choice but to go with Northampton County.

Police Chief DiLuzio stated yes, at that point.

President Reynolds wondered, if that is the case would the west side of Bethlehem fall under Lehigh County or Northampton County.

Police Chief DiLuzio informed that he does not know at this time and that will be a big issue.

President Reynolds stated that seems like the type of thing we would want to study beforehand.

Police Chief DiLuzio pointed out that would not be in this study. This is the type of study that is more for our costs and what would be cost effective. Since we are the only city in the Commonwealth that resides in two counties, we would need to sit down with PEMA and the State to establish how we would break up the City for 911 services.

President Reynolds does understand that this is everyone's last option, but it would seem to him that we should get as much information as possible about what all the options are regarding transition costs. He understands how the scope of the study should change and how the scope of what we could do would change, there but it seems like the longer we wait to start looking into these issues, the less options we will have.

Police Chief DiLuzio added that the other issue with the study is the more we place in that study for them to study, the cost of that study will go up. The cost for the study is being divided among four parties. At this point, the County is saying we will hold off on our portion of the study.

President Reynolds remarked if he were them he would hold off on the study also because the Counties for a long time talked about the fact that they would like to have Allentown and Bethlehem.

Police Chief DiLuzio stated President Reynolds is correct but they do not have the basic facilities to support this.

President Reynolds remarked that is not what he is saying. He stated what he is saying is that the county's self-interest and our self-interest are not necessarily the same thing.

Police Chief DiLuzio agreed.

President Reynolds noted if the Counties wanted Bethlehem and Allentown to have no choice but to join Northampton County or Lehigh County, they would say let's not do a study because if the State passes the updated formula, they would say the County would have no option but to take on the respective City's 911 Center. President Reynolds thinks we are little bit on our heels and it seems as if we are going to be forced a few months from now, with our backs against the wall, to be saying this is our only alternative because we did not look at the other options.

Mayor Donchez pointed out since this is such a fluid situation, the feeling was that we would wait until the end of April or the first week in May just to see if it would pass the House because this legislation in prior years has always been introduced, and did not go anywhere. We agreed that we would reconvene, probably in the middle of May, to discuss the issue about the study due to the fact that it did pass the House by a wide margin, and now it is moving over to the Senate. Mayor Donchez noted many of the parts of the study were put together and it cost each party about \$12,000, so it was roughly \$50,000 for the study. He stated, knowing now that it passed the House, and the Bill is into the Senate, we will probably reconvene the four parties sometime within the next two weeks or so.

Police Chief DiLuzio added part of that study is the concern by the Counties, that if they have to take the Cities, how they would incorporate that. The same questions that President Reynolds is posing are the ones the Counties and Cities are talking about as well. He added, we are all waiting on Harrisburg.

President Reynolds understands that and since the legislation is fluid he thinks we should be able to turn around and tell the people in the City of Bethlehem the reason why we cannot hold onto the 911 Center. It is not just because they cut our ability to get the allocated 911 funding, but we should be able to say what the cost would be if we were to hold onto the Center. He stated, we all agree on the great level of service provided by our own 911 Center.

Police Chief DiLuzio informed the Mayor requested we do our own internal study and whether we can stand alone, but that is something he does not have all the numbers for at the moment. He gave a rough estimate over the course of several meetings at Council. Mr. Haffner, the City's 911 Director, and I, are still looking at what it would cost us in manpower, versus what we have now and what we can manage fairly.

President Reynolds pointed out Police Chief DiLuzio certainly knows more about this than any of us with the service and managing of it, but at the same time the idea of doing an internal study that looks at our own self interest here is valuable to do as soon as possible.

Police Chief DiLuzio stressed they are doing that study. He stated he does not want to confuse the one study that the Mayor was talking about and our own internal study. The internal study is the one they are working on closely with the Mayor, Mr. Haffner, and Mr. Brong regarding personnel costs.

President Reynolds thinks that if it is a situation where we need to make changes as we did with the budget last year to put out what the true cost is, we would then be able to explain to people why we need to do this.

Police Chief DiLuzio informed he has no problem with transparency.

President Reynolds added, considering that this now passed the House, he wondered if we have a timeframe by which the Administration would be able to have these internal numbers and perhaps present the different options to Council.

Police Chief DiLuzio cannot give a timeframe yet, they need to wait for Harrisburg.

President Reynolds stated he is not referring when Harrisburg will pass this Bill. He is referring to what the internal costs would be for the City of Bethlehem if Harrisburg passes this Bill.

Police Chief DiLuzio stated that is what they are doing now internally.

President Reynolds queried of how long it would be until their study is complete.

Police Chief DiLuzio noted he would say probably mid June.

Mayor Donchez added within the next two or three weeks we will see how fast this moves in the Senate and hopefully Senator Boscola and Senator Browne will be able to at least negotiate some type of compromise. Even if it were to pass the Senate to the negative, there would have to be a transition time. The Mayor continued, we would have to look into whether the whole City goes to Northampton County or one third goes to Lehigh County and the rest of the city to Northampton County. To this extent we will have to discuss if the vote is negative against the Cities of Bethlehem and Allentown.

Mr. Recchiuti shares some of the concerns of President Reynolds. We funded a budget in December with the assumption that we are going to get funding from the State. The State's fiscal year does not match with our fiscal year so the 2015-2016 State budget is not going to include money coming back to us. Mr. Recchiuti queried when July 1 approaches will we all of a sudden have our 911 operations going to Northampton County. He added that we need to have a plan. We will have a hole in our budget. Mr. Recchiuti continued, we are already putting \$2.1 million into 911 this year and we budgeted an assumption of \$1.3 or \$1.4 million dollars from the State. If we are not getting that funding, we then have a \$600,000 hole in our 911 budget that we have to make up somehow in the middle of the year. Mr. Recchiuti agrees with President Reynolds. We need a plan, so that on July 1, 2015, when the State's fiscal year takes effect, we know the transition time.

Mayor Donchez noted they are also hoping with Bob Mateff's new role in Harrisburg, that there will be a compromise in Conference Committee, but if not, we have to be prepared. He noted, Mr. Mateff is very supportive of Bethlehem. We have the internal costs, but both Allentown and Bethlehem will have to look at the logistics of merging if necessary, with the Counties. He does not believe we can do this overnight. Mayor Donchez stressed this is an important issue that we are all aware of.

Mr. Recchiuti added, if we are going to be required to merge with the County, then he does not think that Northampton County is ready to take us on today. They will need time. Mr. Recchiuti pointed out he went to the Northampton County 911 Center a few years ago. He does not think they have the facilities or the room for us to manage our call volume and their own call volume. Mayor Donchez stated he agrees.

President Reynolds mentioned as far as Mr. Mateff is concerned, when he worked for Northampton County, would he be wrong in saying that at that time Mr. Mateff brought up the idea of the City of Bethlehem joining Northampton County.

Police Chief DiLuzio stated yes, at one point but this is something that the County has to be prepared for it. He did not want to quote Mr. Mateff but he was very supportive of our own 911 Center.

President Reynolds seems to remember a time on City Council with the previous Administration when this was discussed and the County 911 Center was fairly vocal about the idea that they could take on the City of Bethlehem and that this was a good idea. Mayor Donchez mentioned that is correct and he agrees with that.

President Reynolds pointed out that Mayor Donchez said that Mr. Mateff is now supportive of Bethlehem's 911 Center.

Mayor Donchez advised going back about four or five years ago, the County Administration was obviously interested in consolidating the City of Bethlehem. Our discussions with Mr. Mateff, although he is not here and he does not want to speak for him, were very positive to try to keep Bethlehem independent and working with the County to try and reduce costs with common software and things like that. Mayor Donchez stressed he found Mr. Mateff to be very helpful.

President Reynolds noted he is just not sure when there had been that shift by which Mr. Mateff went from being in favor of Bethlehem 911 going to Northampton County or keeping its own 911 Center. He noted Mr. Mateff is now working for PEMA, who clearly had a role in creating this legislation. President Reynolds informed he was on the PEMA transition team for Governor Wolf and he was at those meetings and listened to them talk about it 911. PEMA's general feeling, as are the people there who were on that committee, and he is guessing new employees as well, is that the County model rather than the current City model and the regional model is the way of the future. President Reynolds asked if that is correct.

Mayor Donchez stated he agrees with that. He believes that PEMA, and the feeling of many in Harrisburg, is to regionalize 911. It is not even County wide, but to regionalize. Mayor Donchez added they brought Mr. Mateff in the last year and a half to our review the Wilson/Kramer Facility, as

a possible regional center. He noted that is how we got to discussing and talking with him about Wilson/Kramer and 911. Mayor Donchez noted it was his interpretation that it was always a very positive experience working with Mr. Mateff in the last year and a half.

President Reynolds commented he is not sure why we would think he would be an ally in this particular situation but he certainly hopes that he is. President Reynolds thanked Police Chief DiLuzio for his hard work and the time spent looking at this issue, and that the last option of having any changes to our 911 system.

Police Chief DiLuzio advised we still have communications as of yesterday and that the FOP wrote letters to the State Senators on this exact issue.

President Reynolds understands that there is a lot of fluidity in this matter but he is asking the Administration to keep Council in the loop as far as the potential options, which he thinks are not too early to start studying.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT.

Low Impact Transitional Office Use - RT District

Clint Walker, 123 East Church Street, who owns that property with his wife, is at this meeting to encourage candidates in this next City Council election in two weeks to provide their thoughts about this proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance, which would permit more of the large properties on West Market Street to have businesses operating out of them. Mr. Walker mentioned right now three addresses on West Market Street have businesses and they were grandfathered in when the Zoning Code was put into effect. As far as he is aware the proposal to amend the Zoning Code to allow many more businesses on West Market Street, came from the Mayor's Office. He added, when Darlene Heller, Director of Planning and Zoning, drafted the proposals she did not consult the Bethlehem Historic District Association or Historic Bethlehem Partnership. Mr. Walker pointed out that this strikes him, to put mildly, as an oversight. He knows it is unreasonable to ask their position on some legislation that does not exist in hard copy, but he would like to encourage all City Council candidates to put their thoughts on their websites regarding the zoning amendment. The citizens of the Historic District came out in mass for the Planning Commission meeting on April 9. Nine of the property owners in the Historic District spoke against the latest proposal, three non-resident friends of the Historic District spoke against it, and fourteen others of us stood up to be counted as being opposed to rezoning West Market Street. Mr. Walker added no one at the Planning Commission meeting spoke in favor of the rezoning. Mr. Walker stressed this City is a beauty. It is unique and we want to keep it this way. He reiterated asking Council candidate to please put on your website your thinking about the proposals to amend the Zoning Code to change West Market Street not in a low impact way, which is the name of the proposal. He added it seems like a major impact to us.

Article 1714

Stephen Antalics, 737 Ridge Street, mentioned he spoke at the Historic Conservation Commission Meeting that they should probably self-dissolve and referred to Codified Ordinance 1714. He commended the Commission for how they spoke on two properties. One was a garage door and one was a sign, and they turned those down because it violated Article 1714. There was a serious question raised at the property at 24-30 West Fourth Street, which is a total violation of Article 1714 and was further exacerbated. He commented, the rationale for approving that to him is bogus. Mr. Antalics mentioned now the property at Third and New Streets is in the target sights again and what is causing quite a bit of cynicism in the community is that the hearing at City Council, for the Fourth Street building, had a full house at the meeting. The vast majority voted against it, and that vast majority voted for you people to represent their best interest. Mr. Antalics sees another serious problem in that the Certificate of Appropriateness specifically says that you are voting on an historic aspect of the site. The discussion on the Certificate of Appropriateness was based on economics and not historical content with the property on 24-30 West Fourth Street. Mr. Antalics stated this makes no sense and that Article 1714 is being violated. He suggested to the Historic Conservation Commission that they should self-dissolve because Article 1714 is being seriously violated. Mr. Antalics noted it is either economics or historical content so he urges City Council to revoke its own Ordinance because it does not mean anything. Mr. Antalics pointed out there is something amiss there and the public knows this and there is great cynicism in this body to be able to support their best interests. One candidate running for office publicly stated that that candidate will not accept money from a developer and that is commendable because when the individual supports you by giving donations to your campaign what they are asking you is to run the government in our best interests.

Mr. Antalics believes that large donations raise serious questions. He strongly urges Council to come clean and say history does not matter and revoke Article 1714.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

ATTEST:

City Clerk