

BETHLEHEM CITY COUNCIL MEETING
10 East Church Street – Town Hall
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania
Wednesday, May 20, 2015 – 7:00 PM

INVOCATION

Father Alexandros Petrides, of Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox 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.

Welcoming Boy Scouts from Troop 362

President Reynolds welcomed Boy Scouts from Troop 362, East Hills Moravian Church, who are at the Meeting tonight to work on their Citizenship in the Community and Communication Merit Badges. President Reynolds mentioned their Troop Leader is Dr. Sally Haggerty. President Reynolds thanked the Boy Scouts for coming to this Meeting and noted Members of Council are happy to answer any questions they may have after the Meeting.

CITATIONS

Honoring Mary Jo Reed

President Reynolds stated that a Citation honoring Mary Jo Reed on the occasion of her retirement from the Purchasing Department after twenty-two and a half years of service will be in the City Clerk's Office for her to pick up tomorrow since she was unable to attend the meeting.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of May 5, 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. *Legal Bureau – William A. Karras, Esq., Legal Assistant, Records Destruction – Tax Bureau*

The Acting Clerk read memorandum from William A Karras, Esq., Legal Assistant, requesting Council to consider a Resolution for the Destruction of Records from the Tax Bureau listed on the attached exhibit under the Municipal Records Retention Act. Attorney Karras has reviewed the Act and the records fall within categories where destruction is permitted.

President Reynolds stated the Resolution can be listed on the June 2, 2015 agenda.

B. *Director of Public Works – Recommendation for Award – Gaver Industries*

The Acting Clerk read a memorandum from Public Works Director, Michael Alkhal, recommending a contract with Gaver Industries, Inc. to design and construct 37 curb ramps; milling roadway, overlaying bituminous material, and installing permanent pavement markings along Lehigh Street; and construct two driveway aprons beneath the Hill-to-Hill Bridge. The term of the contract is 75 days from the Notice to Proceed. The estimated cost is \$624,210.

President Reynolds stated Resolution 9 B is on the agenda.

C. *Director of Community and Economic Development – Recommendation for Award - RACP*

The Acting Clerk read a memorandum from Alicia Miller Karner, Director of Community and Economic Development, attached to which is a proposed Resolution authorizing the submission of an application for the a Redevelopment Assistance Capital Grant (RACP) for the Lehigh Valley Charter High School for the Performing Arts in the amount of \$4 million for the construction of a new school. The Resolution authorizes the preparation of a cooperation agreement between Lehigh Valley Charter High School for the Performing Arts and the City for the project administration. The Lehigh Valley Charter High School for the Performing Arts was previously awarded \$3 million to construct the new building in South Bethlehem. The Mayor received notification on October 7, 2014 that an additional \$1 million in RACP funding has been approved for the project.

President Reynolds stated the Resolution can be listed on the June 2, 2015 agenda.

D. *Director of Community and Economic Development –Recommendation of Award – Triad Associates*

The Acting Clerk read a memorandum from Alicia Miller Karner, Director of Community and Economic Development, recommending a contract with Triad Associates to provide technical services related to CDBG and HOME project implementation, execution and closeout, development of departmental methodologies for monitoring sub-recipients and in-house CDBG and HOME activities and development of strategies for maximizing the drawdown of available federal funding. The term of the contract is April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016. The amount of the contract is a maximum of \$50,000.

President Reynolds stated Resolution 9 A is on the agenda.

E. *Legal Bureau – William A. Karras, Esq., Legal Assistant, Records Destruction – Health Bureau*

The Acting Clerk read a memorandum from William A. Karras, Esq., Legal Assistant, requesting Council to consider a Resolution for the Destruction of Records from the Health Bureau listed on the attached exhibit under the Municipal Records Retention Act. Attorney Karras has reviewed the Act and the records fall within categories where destruction is permitted.

President Reynolds stated the Resolution can be listed on the June 2, 2015 agenda.

F. *Director of Water and Sewer Resources – Recommendation for Award – Michael F. Ronca, Joao & Bradley Construction Co.*

The Acting Clerk read a memorandum from Water and Sewer Resources Director, Edward J. Boscola, recommending a contract with Michael F. Ronca & Sons, Inc. and Joao & Bradley Construction Co. for emergency on-call service to perform installation and repairs of water distribution and wastewater collection system infrastructure and any related facilities on an as-needed basis. This is for work beyond the capabilities of City workforce. The term of the contract is the 2015 calendar year. The price of the contract is as follows: Unit pricing is established which will offer a degree of certainty and control on expenses. Quotes will be solicited on a time and material basis and will depend on the nature and extent of the service to be provided. Typical cost events in recent past have ranged from \$50,000 to \$200,000. The budgeted appropriations will be from the 2015 Water Capital budget and the 2015 Sewer Capital budget.

President Reynolds stated Resolution 9 C is on the agenda.

G. *Director of Public Works – Recommendation for Grant – TAP Grant*

The Acting Clerk read a memorandum from Michael Alkhal, Director of Public Works, requesting a Resolution to authorize the execution of an agreement for the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Federal Aid-Reimbursement Grant agreement for the Fourth Street Pedestrian Improvements Program. The \$400,000 in funds will be utilized to replace deficient sidewalk and add ADA compliant curb ramps along Fourth Street. The Resolution is a standard requirement of PennDOT.

President Reynolds stated Resolution 9 D is on the agenda.

6. REPORTS

A. *President of Council*

B. *Mayor*

None.

7. ORDINANCES FOR FINAL READING

None.

8. NEW ORDINANCES.

None.

9. RESOLUTIONS

A. *Authorizing Contract –Triad Associates.*

Mr. Stellato and Mr. Callahan sponsored Resolution No. 2015-110 that authorized the execution of a contract with Triad Associates for technical services related to the CDBG and HOME programs.

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

B. *Authorizing Contract – Gaver Industries*

Mr. Callahan and Mr. Stellato sponsored Resolution No. 2015-111 that authorized the execution of a contract with Gaver Industries Inc. for the installation of curb ramps, street overlay, and driveway apron construction.

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

C. *Authorizing Contract – Michael F. Ronca & Sons, Inc. and Joao & Bradley Construction Co.*

Mr. Recchiuti and Mr. Callahan sponsored Resolution No. 2015-112 that authorized the execution of a contract with Michael F. Ronca & Sons, Inc. and Joao & Bradley Construction Co. for emergency on call services.

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

D. *Approve PennDOT TAP Grant Agreement*

Mr. Recchiuti and Mr. Callahan sponsored Resolution No. 2015-113 that authorized to execute a Transportation Alternatives Program Federal Aid-Reimbursement Grant Agreement and such other agreements and documents as are deemed by the City Solicitor to be necessary and/or related thereto, with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, for the Fourth Street Pedestrian Improvements Project, all in accordance with the Agreement made a part hereof.

Voting AYE: Ms. Reuscher, Mr. Stellato, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, Mr. Evans, Mr. Recchiuti,

and Mr. Reynolds, 7. The Resolution passed.

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

Mr. Recchiuti and Mr. Callahan moved to consider Resolutions 9 E through 9 L as a group.

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

E. *Certificate of Appropriateness – 438 Center Street*

Mr. Callahan and Mr. Stellato sponsored Resolution 2015-114 that granted a Certificate of Appropriateness to remove the existing concrete steps and replace with marble faced steps at 438 Center Street.

F. *Certificate of Appropriateness – 438 Center Street*

Mr. Callahan and Mr. Stellato sponsored Resolution 2015-115 that granted a Certificate of Appropriateness to replace the fence at the sides and rear of the property at 438 Center Street.

G. *Certificate of Appropriateness – 44 East Wall Street*

Mr. Callahan and Mr. Stellato sponsored Resolution 2015-116 that granted a Certificate of Appropriateness to replace the storm/screen door with a new natural finish red oak door with either Adirondack or Fineview panel design at 44 East Wall Street.

H. *Certificate of Appropriateness – 46 East Wall Street*

Mr. Callahan and Mr. Stellato sponsored Resolution 2015-117 that granted a Certificate of Appropriateness to replace the storm/screen door with a new natural finish red oak door with either Adirondack or Fineview panel design at 46 East Wall Street.

I. *Certificate of Appropriateness – 239 East Church Street*

Mr. Callahan and Mr. Stellato sponsored Resolution 2015-118 that granted a Certificate of Appropriateness to replace the siding on the western half of a twin home at 239 East Church Street.

J. *Certificate of Appropriateness – 501 Main Street*

Mr. Callahan and Mr. Stellato sponsored Resolution 2015-119 that granted a Certificate of Appropriateness to install a double faced sign mounted on a metal bracket at 501 Main Street.

K. *Certificate of Appropriateness – 425 Main Street*

Mr. Callahan and Mr. Stellato sponsored Resolution 2015-120 that granted a Certificate of Appropriateness to install a free standing double faced sign, pole mounted on a bracket at 425 Main Street.

L. *Certificate of Appropriateness – 534 Main Street*

Mr. Callahan and Mr. Stellato sponsored Resolution 2015-121 that granted a Certificate of Appropriateness to approve colors for window, trim and accent colors for façade originally approved April 2015 at McCarthy's Red Stag Pub and Whiskey Bar at 534 Main Street.

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

10. NEW BUSINESS.

Decorative Lighting for West Bethlehem Historic District

Mr. Callahan recognized the ongoing efforts throughout the years to enhance various areas of the City and inquired whether it would be possible to add some historic street lighting in the Mount Airy Historic District. He mentioned he was driving in the area of Prospect Avenue, between Eighth and Fifteenth Avenues and thought this would be a great asset. Mr. Callahan noted he is not sure of the boundaries for this district but queried what the cost would be to add historic lighting in the area of

Prospect Avenue between Eighth and perhaps Sixteenth Avenues. Mr. Callahan believes that at some point we need to do something for the west side of Bethlehem and thought this would be a good start.

Mr. Alkhal remarked they could put a quick preliminary plan together and work out the details and estimated costs. They could then discuss the information to see if this would be feasible.

Mr. Callahan queried how many acorn lights were put on Broad Street.

Mr. Alkhal remarked the most recent project involving acorn lighting was on North Street, which was part of the North Street Reconstruction Project. Mr. Alkhal stated he does not recall exactly how many lights were installed, but the cost of the project that went from New Street to Center Street on North Street was \$100,000. Mr. Alkhal pointed out that is for the decorative lighting and underground conduits. Mr. Alkhal noted the acorn lighting on North Street was not LED lighting.

Mr. Callahan questioned if we received any grants for that project.

Mr. Alkhal stated that the project was funded with CDBG money.

Mr. Alkhal reiterated that he can put together a concept plan along with estimated costs and then they can discuss this matter.

Boy Scouts

Mr. Callahan stated he also wanted to thank all the Boy Scouts for coming to this meeting. He added that every time he sees scouts in uniforms it reminds him of when he was a Webelo in Cub Scouts and later as a Boy Scout. He continued he would spend his summers at a Boy Scout Camp in upstate New York where he would have a great time. Mr. Callahan just wanted to welcome the Scouts to this meeting and hopes they enjoy their time in Scouts because when they get older they will look back and reminisce on the camping days and the winter jamborees, all of which will provide some great memories.

9-1-1 Update

Mr. Evans pointed out he wanted to thank Mayor Donchez for copying Council on the memo earlier today from Robert Haffner, 9-1-1 Director. The update is appreciated. Mr. Evans believes it is critically important that Council continue to be in close communication because this is a touch and go situation. Mr. Evans commented that we will continue to be hopeful as they move forward in Harrisburg. He added, until that time, Council would appreciate being kept informed of any new developments.

Pothole

Mr. Stellato informed he wanted to thank Mr. Alkhal for fixing one particular pothole at the four way stop sign on Catasauqua Road.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT.

Saucon Park Police Presence, Five Minute Time Limit, Time Council Meeting Starts

Alan Hoppey, 1303 Beverly Avenue, remarked at the last Council Meeting there was talk about having a Police Patrol at Saucon Park. Mr. Hoppey stated what baffled him was that Council talks about controlling Police overtime but now there are officers at Saucon Park on Roster Duty. He suggested, and thinks that many people would appreciate it, if some retirees from the Police Department, could be considered to patrol the park. Mr. Hoppey stated for every officer you have at Saucon Park you could hire three part time people. Mr. Hoppey thinks the City should give this some thought. He continued, it will still cost, but now you would have three to one, although three may be too many. Mr. Hoppey remarked that it was mentioned about the amount of people who come to Council Meetings. He recalled a time when you could not find a seat in Town Hall. Mr. Hoppey expressed that it takes more than five minutes to get a point across. He continued, at one time we had 12 minutes, and before that public comment was not timed. When public comment was reduced down to 12 minutes he thought at the time that this was a fair amount of time. Mr. Hoppey explained if the President of Council does not want you speaking anymore he can hit the gavel and that person will be done. Mr. Hoppey noted if he would ask Council a question right now, the chances are he will not get an answer. The third point he wanted to express this evening is that at one time, Council meetings

started at 7:30PM. He mentioned there were many people at the meeting during that period because it did not interfere with their dinner hour. Mr. Hoppey reiterated that he suggests that the City hire Police retirees to patrol Saucon Park. Mr. Hoppey added that Council may not be aware but people in Civil Service are not under Social Security. Mr. Hoppey continued, a part time opportunity would really be appreciate by retirees. He concluded, if you go that route, please hire someone who is a resident of this City.

Democratic Process, Five Minute Time Limit

Stephen Antalics, 737 Ridge Street, stated he wanted to thank Mr. Hoppey for what he said and he would like to continue those thoughts. Mr. Antalics noted that journalist Bill Moyers recently spoke at Lehigh University and said he is drawn to some dark conclusions about the waning strength of the American Democratic process. Mr. Antalics stated that there were a number of times at a meeting like this when Town Hall was filled with attendees, the time to speak was unlimited, and there was discussion back and forth. Those faces are not here anymore. Mr. Antalics mentioned he has talked to a number of these people and they feel insulted to be limited to have just have five minutes to speak. They feel cut off and get no answers. Mr. Antalics added he has received a number of phone calls from people and they encourage him to continue to get former attendees more interactive with the group that currently attends the meetings.

Mr. Antalics informed with the recent election, which is very promising, someone very kindly sent him an email. He conferred with other previous attendees and they encouraged him to read the email.

Mr. Antalics conveyed the story sent to him in the email regarding monkeys, continually being prevented by other monkeys, from reaching for a banana; eventually resigning themselves to the fact that they will never be able to reach their goal. He expressed he feel this is how government operates and why elections are needed to bring about change. Mr. Antalics noted the point he is making is that he hopes that the incoming people to City Council get the message. He hopes the newcomers will fulfill what they say in their campaign literature, because maybe it will bring Council back to the civility of when it interacted with us, the people who elected them.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

ATTEST:

Acting City Clerk