

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

INVOCATION

Father Clifton E. Bishop, Jr., Pastor of Incarnation of Our Lord Parish, 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 of June 16, 2015 were approved.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Adding Communication and Resolution to the Agenda

President Reynolds announced that a Communication regarding a professional service contract with Advanced Storage Technology for the design of the Salt Storage Facility and the respective Resolution approving the contract will be added to the Agenda this evening. President Reynolds stated a Motion will be accepted later in the Agenda under Resolutions to add the Resolution for the professional service contract and Public Comment will be accepted on this matter. President Reynolds requested the Clerk to read the Communication.

K. *Director of Public Works – Recommendation for Award – Advanced Storage Technology, Inc.*

The Clerk read a memorandum from Director of Public Works, Michael Alkhal recommending a contract with Advanced Storage Technology, Inc. to provide design plans and specifications for a new salt storage building. The term of the contract is 21 days from receipt of signed agreement and the price to the City for initial term is \$13,000.

None.

4. OLD BUSINESS.

A. Members of Council

None.

B. Tabled Item

None.

C. Unfinished Business

None.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

A. *Mayor – Ordinance Amending Article 935 Entitled Municipal Waste Collection and Disposal*

The Clerk read a memorandum from Mayor Robert J. Donchez attached to which is an informational memorandum regarding the Zoned Haulers Pilot Program and an Ordinance

amending Article 935 – Municipal Waste Collection and Disposal, that would change the pick-up time in South Bethlehem from 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 a.m. during the Pilot Program.

President Reynolds stated he is referring this to the Community Development Committee.

B. Police Department – 2015 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant

The Clerk read a memorandum from Police Captain Ashley Heiberger, attached to which is a Resolution for the 2015 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant. The grant will be used by the Police Department to continue improvements in computer hardware and software. A public hearing must be held to give interested persons opportunity to comment regarding the funding to be received by the Police Department.

President Reynolds accepted a Motion from Mr. Waldron and Mr. Recchiuti to schedule a Public Hearing on July 21, 2015.

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

C. Moravian College – Street Vacation – Durham Street and Orchard Street

The Clerk read a petition from Attorney Paul A. Florenz of Kolb, Vasiliadis & Florenz, LLC, representing Moravian College requesting the vacation of Durham Street, from its intersection with Orchard Street to Main Street and vacation of Orchard Street from its intersection with Durham Street to West Laurel Street. Moravian College owns 100% of the property on both sides of Durham and Orchard Street and proposes to erect a new Health Science Building on the lot bordered by Orchard Street and Durham Street.

President Reynolds stated he will refer the petition to the Planning Bureau, Lehigh Valley Planning Commission, Public Works and the utilities for review and comments.

President Reynolds accepted a Motion from Mr. Recchiuti and Mr. Waldron to schedule a Public Hearing on September 1, 2015.

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

D. Moravian College – Zoning Map Revision – Rezoning RT to I District

The Clerk read a petition from Attorney Paul A. Florenz of Kolb, Vasiliadis & Florenz, LLC, representing Moravian College requesting an amendment to the City's Zoning Map by changing the zoning of the block bordered by Durham Street, Main Street, West Laurel Street, and Orchard Street from an RT Zone District to an Institutional Zone District. Moravian College owns 100% of the property within this block and proposes to erect a new Health Science Building on this property.

President Reynolds stated he will refer the request to the Planning Bureau and the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission for review and comments.

President Reynolds accepted a Motion from Ms. Reuscher and Mr. Callahan to schedule a Public Hearing on September 1, 2015.

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

E. Director of Parks and Public Property – Recommendation for Award – Lehigh Valley Planning Commission

The Clerk read a memorandum from Parks and Public Property Director, Ralph Carp, recommending a contract with Lehigh Valley Planning Commission for preparation of the Monocacy Creek Act 167 Plan. The estimated completion date is September 30, 2016. The fee

for the contract will not exceed \$98,676.77. Funding is provided by a Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection grant.

President Reynolds stated Resolution 9 I is on the agenda.

F. *Director of Parks and Public Property – Recommendation for Award – Wildlands Conservancy*

The Clerk read a memorandum from Parks and Public Property Director, Ralph Carp, recommending a contract with the Wildlands Conservancy for preparation of an environmental study of the Monocacy Creek. The estimated completion date is September 30, 2016. The fee for the contract will not exceed \$45,000. Funding is provided by a Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection grant.

President Reynolds stated Resolution 9 J is on the agenda.

G. *City Solicitor – Use Permit Agreement – Vela Strategic Marketing & Public Relations and ArtsQuest – Mack Trucks Annual Conference*

The Clerk read a memorandum from City Solicitor William P. Leeson, Esq., attached to which is a proposed Resolution and associated Use Permit Agreement with Vela Strategic Marketing & Public Relations and ArtsQuest for the Mack Trucks Annual Conference on July 22, 2015. The location is First Street from Founders Way to the eastern terminus.

President Reynolds stated Resolution 9 K is on the agenda.

H. *City Solicitor – Use Permit Agreement – Star of Bethlehem Festival – Star Bar Pop Up Bar Event*

The Clerk read a memorandum from City Solicitor William P. Leeson, Esq., attached to which is a proposed Resolution and associated Use Permit Agreement for the Star Bar Pop Up Bar Event. The permittee is the Star of Bethlehem Festival, Inc. The duration of the agreement is July 18, and the location is Nevin Place (adjacent to the Sun Inn Courtyard).

President Reynolds stated Resolution 9L is on the agenda.

I. *City Solicitor – Grant Agreement Resolution – PennDOT – TAP Grant*

The Clerk read a memorandum from City Solicitor William P. Leeson, Esq., attached to which is a proposed Resolution for the Transportation Alternatives Program Federal-Aid Reimbursement Grant Agreement for the Fourth Street Pedestrian Improvements Project.

President Reynolds stated the Resolution will be on the July 21, 2015 Agenda.

J. *City Solicitor – Grant Agreement Resolution – PennDOT – Highway Safety Project Grant*

The Clerk read a memorandum from City Solicitor William P. Leeson, Esq., attached to which is a proposed Resolution for the Highway Safety Project Grant that will provide funds through September 2016 to address highway safety issues with intervention strategies targeting schools, community and family, health care, enforcement and industry/workforce. An authorizing Resolution is required by PennDOT to process the City's grant proposal.

President Reynolds stated the Resolution will be on the July 21, 2015 Agenda.

6. REPORTS

A. *President of Council*

B. *Mayor*

Mayor Donchez noted they have advertised the Citizens Academy. Registration begins in August. The sessions start in September and conclude in October.

Mayor Donchez reported that since the Legislature in Harrisburg incorporated Allentown and Bethlehem back into the 911 fund they will have a meeting this Friday, July 10, 2015. He continued, we are meeting with all entities: Lehigh County, Northampton County, Bethlehem, and Allentown, along with Mr. Mateff and the consultant, to review the process and discuss the possibility of a study. We hope to have more information at the next City Council meeting.

7. ORDINANCES FOR FINAL READING

A. *Bill No. 26-2015 – Amending Section 1318.28 - Zoning Ordinance*

The Clerk read Bill No. 26 – 2015, Amending Section 1318.28 of the Zoning Ordinance, on Final Reading.

Voting AYE: Mr. Callahan, Mr. Evans, Mr. Recchiuti, Ms. Reuscher, Mr. Stellato, Mr. Waldron and Mr. Reynolds, 7. Bill No. 26-2015 now known as Ordinance 2015-25, was adopted on Final Reading.

B. *Bill No. 27-2015 – Amending Article 1347.10 – Recreation Land and Fees*

The Clerk read Bill No. 27 – 2015, Amending Article 1347.10 of the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance Entitled Recreation Land and Fees, on Final Reading.

Voting AYE: Mr. Callahan, Mr. Evans, Mr. Recchiuti, Ms. Reuscher, Mr. Stellato, Mr. Waldron and Mr. Reynolds, 7. Bill No. 27-2015 now known as Ordinance 2015- 26, was adopted on Final Reading.

C. *Bill No. 17-2015 – Amending Article 1306.01 (a), Impervious Coverage in RR and RS Districts*

The Clerk read Bill No. 17-2015 – Amending Article 1306.01 (a), Impervious Coverage in RR and RS Districts, on Final Reading.

Voting AYE: Mr. Callahan, Mr. Evans, Mr. Recchiuti, Ms. Reuscher, Mr. Stellato, Mr. Waldron and Mr. Reynolds, 7. Bill No. 17-2015 now known as Ordinance 2015-27, was adopted on Final Reading.

8. NEW ORDINANCES

A. *Bill No. 28-2015 – Amending General Fund Budget for 2015.*

The Clerk read Bill No. 28 – 2015, Amending the General Fund budget for 2015, sponsored by Mr. Evans and Mr. Waldron and titled:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM,
COUNTIES OF LEHIGH AND NORTHAMPTON,
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING
THE GENERAL FUND BUDGET FOR 2015.

Mr. Recchiuti remarked that Ordinances 8A, 8B, and 8C, were reviewed by the Finance Committee prior to the June 16 City Council meeting and were recommended for approval.

Voting AYE: Mr. Callahan, Mr. Evans, Mr. Recchiuti, Ms. Reuscher, Mr. Stellato, Mr. Waldron and Mr. Reynolds, 7. Bill No. 28 – 2015 was passed on First Reading.

B. *Bill No. 29-2015 – Amending the 2015 Capital Budget for Non-Utilities*

The Clerk read Bill No. 29 – 2015, Amending the 2015 Capital Budget for Non-Utilities, sponsored by Mr. Evans and Mr. Waldron and titled:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM,
COUNTIES OF LEHIGH AND NORTHAMPTON,
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING
THE 2015 CAPITAL BUDGET FOR NON-UTILITIES

Voting AYE: Mr. Callahan, Mr. Evans, Mr. Recchiuti, Ms. Reuscher, Mr. Stellato, Mr. Waldron and Mr. Reynolds, 7. Bill No. 29 – 2015 was passed on First Reading.

C. *Bill No. 30 – 2015 – Amending the 2015 Water Capital Fund Budget*

The Clerk read Bill No. 30-2015 – Amending the 2015 Water Capital Fund Budget, sponsored by Mr. Evans and Mr. Waldron and titled:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM,
COUNTIES OF LEHIGH AND NORTHAMPTON,
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING
THE 2015 WATER CAPITAL FUND BUDGET

Voting AYE: Mr. Callahan, Mr. Evans, Mr. Recchiuti, Ms. Reuscher, Mr. Stellato, Mr. Waldron and Mr. Reynolds, 7. Bill No. 30 – 2015 was passed on First Reading.

9. RESOLUTIONS

A. *Approve Hiring – Custodian I*

Mr. Waldron and Mr. Evans sponsored Resolution No. 2015-149 that approves the filling of the position of Custodian I in the Parks and Public Property Department.

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

B. *Declaring Special Condition – Parking Fines – Musikfest 2015*

Mr. Waldron and Mr. Evans sponsored Resolution No. 2015-150 that declared a Special Condition under Article 531 of the Codified Ordinances for increased parking fines during Musikfest 2015 for the period from 12:00 Noon, Friday, August 7, 2015 through 11:59 PM on Sunday, August 16, 2015, with the areas to be affected on the North Side and South Side shown on attached Exhibit A.

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

C. *Authorizing Use Permit Agreement – ArtsQuest – BMX Event*

Mr. Waldron and Mr. Evans sponsored Resolution No. 2015- 151 that authorized a Use Permit Agreement with ArtsQuest for the BMX Bike Event on July 11, 2015.

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

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

Mr. Waldron and Mr. Evans sponsored Resolution No. 2015-152 that authorized a Use Permit Agreement with ArtsQuest for the Yuengling Summer concert Series on July 12 and 20, 2015 and September 25, 2015.

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

E. *Transfer of Funds – Non-Utility Capital Budget – Emergency Response Truck*

Mr. Waldron and Mr. Evans sponsored Resolution 2015-153 that transferred \$24,000 in the Non-Utility Capital Budget from the 9-1-1 Console Upgrade Account to the Emergency Response Truck due to the need to fit out a mass arrest van purchased in 2014 through a Northampton County gaming Grant.

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

F. Transfer of Funds – Non-Utility Capital Budget – Salt Storage Facility

Mr. Waldron and Mr. Evans sponsored Resolution 2015-154 that transferred \$400,000 in the Non-Utility Capital Budget from the Fire Apparatus Replacement Plan and \$100,000 in the 9-1-1 Console Upgrade Account to the Salt Storage Facility to replace the City's aging salt storage facility.

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

G. Transfer of Funds – Water Capital Budget – Service Line New/Renewal

Mr. Waldron and Mr. Evans sponsored Resolution 2015-155 that transferred \$30,000 in the Water Capital Budget from the SCADA System Upgrade to the Service Line New/Renewal for various water main/service line repair parts.

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

H. Transfer of Funds – Water Capital Budget – Replace Rehabilitate Distribution System

Mr. Waldron and Mr. Evans sponsored Resolution 2015-156 that transferred \$20,000 in the Water Capital Budget from the SCADA System Upgrade to the Replace Rehabilitate Distribution System for additional flowable fill and other materials for the repairs.

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

I. Authorizing Contract – Lehigh Valley Planning Commission

Mr. Waldron and Mr. Evans sponsored Resolution 2015-157 that authorized the execution of an agreement with the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission for professional services for the Monocacy Creek Act 167 Update Project.

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

J. Authorizing Contract – Wildlands Conservancy

Mr. Waldron and Mr. Evans sponsored Resolution 2015-158 that authorized the execution of an agreement with the Wildlands Conservancy for professional services for the Monocacy Creek Act 167 Update Project.

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

K. Authorizing Use Permit Agreement – Vela Strategic Marketing & Public Relations – ArtsQuest – Mack Truck Annual Conference

Mr. Waldron and Mr. Stellato sponsored Resolution 2015-159 that authorized a Use Permit Agreement with Vela Strategic Marketing & Public Relations and ArtsQuest for the Mack Truck Annual Conference on July 22, 2015 from 7 pm to 10 pm.

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

L. *Authorizing Use Permit Agreement – Star of Bethlehem Festival – Star Bar Pop Up Bar Event*

Mr. Waldron and Mr. Evans sponsored Resolution 2015-160 that authorized a Use Permit Agreement with the Star of Bethlehem Festival for the Star Bar Pop Up Bar Event on July 18, 2015 from 8:30 am to 10:30 pm.

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

Motion – Considering Resolutions 9 M through 9 P as a Group – Certificates of Appropriateness

Mr. Waldron and Mr. Mr. Callahan moved to consider Resolutions 9 M through 9 P as a group.

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

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

Mr. Waldron and Mr. Evans sponsored Resolution 2015-161 that granted a Certificate of Appropriateness to install awnings at 702 East Fourth Street.

N. *Certificate of Appropriateness – 29 East Third Street*

Mr. Waldron and Mr. Evans sponsored Resolution 2015-162 that granted a Certificate of Appropriateness to replace the door and modify the exterior for ADA compliance at 29 East Third Street.

O. *Certificate of Appropriateness – 313 East Third Street*

Mr. Waldron and Mr. Evans sponsored Resolution 2015-163 that granted a Certificate of Appropriateness to paint the building and trim, replace, awning, install lighting and remove rear tent and replace with pergolas at 313 East Third Street.

P. *Certificate of Appropriateness – 321 East Third Street*

Mr. Waldron and Mr. Evans sponsored Resolution 2015-164 that granted a Certificate of Appropriateness to install signage and fencing at the new school building at 321 East Third Street.

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

Motion – Considering adding Resolution 9 Q to the Agenda.

Mr. Callahan and Mr. Stellato moved to consider adding Resolution 9 Q to the Agenda

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

Q. *Authorizing Contract – Advanced Storage Technology, Inc.*

Mr. Waldron and Mr. Evans sponsored Resolution 2015-165 that authorized the execution of an agreement with Advanced Storage Technology, Inc. for the winter storage operations replacement upgrade project.

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

10. NEW BUSINESS

Committee Meeting Announcements

Mr. Recchiuti announced a Finance Committee Meeting that will take place on Tuesday, August 18 at 6:00PM in Town Hall, prior to the City Council meeting. The subject will be the Second Quarter Financial Review.

Mr. Callahan announced the Community Development Committee meeting that will take place next Tuesday, July 14 at 6:00PM in Town Hall to discuss the Zoned Hauling Pilot Program for the Southside.

Congratulations on AWOP Award

Mr. Callahan took a moment to congratulate Mr. Boscola and everyone in the Water Department for receiving an Area Wide Optimization Program Award (AWOP) for being one of the top water filtration plants in Pennsylvania for water quality.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT

Local Performing Artists

Artie Curatola, 813 Laufer Street stated he was born and raised in the area and wanted to express an idea that would bring money into the City and help support more jobs, especially for the local performing artists and musicians. He noted he has been in the entertainment business since the early 1960s. He mentioned he worked for well know agencies such as the William Morris Agency and now owns his own agency that is active in supporting local performers. His proposal is any public event or private party that is open to the public would be charged \$125. He suggested half of the fee would go to the City, half would go to support local performing artists and 15% would go to song writer guilds to give a little bit more back to the songwriters. Mr. Curatola stated he has been a BMI song writer since 1982 and has written 2000 songs. He mentioned he wrote a Beastie Boys song under his stage name. He is concerned that due to technology the DJ business is going to overtake the performing artists. He noted many DJs play events for a small amount; sometime free. He feels the DJs and clubs are making money while the performing artists are not. Mr. Curatola feels there needs to be a tax on the clubs that are getting DJs for free. Mr. Curatola expressed the \$125 is not much considering that they pay local bands approximately \$300 to play. He continued to suggest a penalty if the tax is not paid by a venue. He concluded that we have to start giving credit where credit is due and support local artists and bring in more money for the City.

Martin Tower Rezoning

Bruce Haines, 63 West Church Street referenced The Express-Times front page story today titled "Mixing It Up - Bethlehem proposes new zoning for Martin Tower to allow variety of offices, retail, restaurants, entertainment and homes." He stated as an historic downtown merchant he is very disturbed by this proposed zoning change. He feels zoning changes favoring developers is often not in the best interest of the city and this particular zoning change undercuts the downtown business districts. He referenced the Allentown NIZ with its lucrative subsidies that undercut any regional rental rates available. Mr. Haines feels rezoning the Martin Tower parcel will effectively create a third downtown. He remarked the 50 acre parcel is larger than the downtown business district and feels the property was inappropriately granted 53 acres of the 130 acres designated for the CRIZ. He added, the CRIZ provides no benefit for residential use with a great incentive for retail and office use. Mr. Haines continued the development of the malls in the 1960s and 1970s and life style centers such as the Promenade severely impacted the downtown. He remarked, as a residential property, the Martin Tower site would represent a great sustainable new demand for downtown, however, with the proposed zoning it would create its own downtown that would draw business away from the established downtowns. Mr. Haines feels the net effect is that the property is best suited for residential rather than undercut core downtown businesses.

Dana DeVito, 34 West Church Street stated she is the General Manager of the Moravian Book Shop and serves on the Downtown Bethlehem Association of the historic northside. She commented the Moravian Book Shop shares the concerns of the Hotel Bethlehem and other

merchants regarding the possible zoning changes for the Martin Tower property. Ms. DeVito feels rezoning this site would be a huge threat to the viability of what they feel is an iconic shopping district. She mentioned experiencing the effects of the NIZ and noted they have been wooed to Allentown to expand the shop. Ms. DeVito remarked they needed to relocate some of their business to remain viable and noted the foot traffic in downtown Bethlehem has diminished. She added, the book shop is seriously considering shrinking its footprint to remain viable and expanding in those communities where retail is thriving. Ms. DeVito continued the use of the Martin Tower site as residential and office has long been seen by retail merchants and the restaurants as a spark to reignite the renewal of our downtown. She is asking to consider any and all repercussion of any zoning change and how it would affect the vitality of Main Street and anchor businesses. Ms. DeVito concluded expressing if we are not here or cannot stay here, the blight we see consuming Broad Street will follow up to Main Street.

Neville Gardner, 381 Biery's Bridge Road, stated he is the owner of Donegal Square and McCarthy's Red Stag Pub, and the current President of the Downtown Bethlehem Association (DBA). He remarked he is not speaking on behalf of the DBA, although he may be doing so in about a week. Mr. Gardner noted he is echoing the feelings that Ms. DeVito and Mr. Haines expressed tonight. He feels if the Martin Tower area is developed into suitable residential and office space it could be a fantastic asset. He isn't sure if it is the most effective use of the CRIZ. He continued, we would like to see it continue as residential and office, rather than retail, hotel, and restaurant use. He agrees with Ms. DeVito and Mr. Haines that it would cause additional competition that we really don't need right now. The Downtown Business Association will talk about this and he will come back and express their opinion in the future.

Interaction with Council

Stephen Antalics, 737 Ridge Street, remarked he will be continuing to speak about the interactive democracy at City Council meetings. Mr. Antalics stated the issue of the Benner project has been well aired and since all the public comments in terms of concerns are known he looked back on the November 19, 2013 Council meeting minutes regarding the Maze Garden. He mentioned he reviewed the minutes and looked at some comments made by people which duplicated those made during the Benner project discussion. He noted the following comments from the public. Someone remarked that "unfortunately one of the lessons the students in particular learned here tonight was that they are invisible. She communicated this makes her sad and it seems as if she talked to the air." Along that same line someone commented that "Council does not demonstrate their ability to see the big picture." Another individual remarked that "he does not know how to approach the government currently because of the perplexing behavior at these meetings." Another stated that "City Council Members are representatives of the public but it seems they cannot accept public participation aside from him standing up at the podium." Mr. Antalics continued with several additional comments from the second Public Comment of that particular Council meeting. He noted to any candidates looking for public office that when you take the oath of office it does not mean they are joining the club. They should act independently for the people who voted them into office.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

ATTEST:

City Clerk