

BETHLEHEM CITY COUNCIL MEETING
10 East Church Street - Town Hall
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania
Tuesday, December 1, 2015 - 7:00 PM

INVOCATION

Reverend James Harper, of Notre Dame of Bethlehem 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 R. Waldron, and J. William Reynolds, 7.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of October 20, 2015 were approved.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

4. OLD BUSINESS.

A. Members of Council

None.

B. Tabled Items

None.

C. Unfinished Business

None.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

A. *Director of Planning and Zoning - Multimodal Grant for Wayfinding and Signage Program*

The Clerk read a memorandum from Darlene Heller, Director of Planning and Zoning dated November 24, 2015 requesting a Resolution in support of a grant application to PennDOT for development of signs as part of an overall wayfinding and signage program for the City. The requested grant is in the amount of \$200,000 for construction and installation of signs throughout PennDOT's Multimodal Program.

President Reynolds stated Resolution 9 C is on the agenda.

6. REPORTS

A. *President of Council*

B. *Mayor*

C. *Parks and Public Property Committee*

Chairman Reuscher stated the Parks and Public Property Committee met tonight on Tuesday, December 1, 2015 at 6 pm in Town Hall prior to the City Council Meeting at 7 pm. The Committee voted to recommend the gift of Real Estate which is a portion of property

around 1830 Main Street. The Law Bureau will submit a Resolution to Council to accept the property. The Administration also provided an update on the stable locations for the Mounted Police Unit.

7. ORDINANCES FOR FINAL READING

A. *Bill No. 39 – Intermunicipal Agreement – Allentown – Shared Lane Markings – Network*

The Clerk read Bill No. 39 – 2015, Intermunicipal Agreement – Allentown – Shared Lane Marking Network on Final Reading.

Voting AYE: Mr. Recchiuti, Ms. Reuscher, Mr. Stellato, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, Mr. Evans, and Mr. Reynolds, 7. Bill No. 39 – 2015, now known as Ordinance No. 2015-37 was adopted on Final Reading.

B. *Bill No. 40 – Intermunicipal Agreement – Easton – Shared Lane Markings – Network*

The Clerk read Bill No. 40 – 2015, Intermunicipal Agreement – Easton – Shared Lane Marking Network on Final Reading.

Voting AYE: Mr. Recchiuti, Ms. Reuscher, Mr. Stellato, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, Mr. Evans, and Mr. Reynolds, 7. Bill No. 40 – 2015, now known as Ordinance No. 2015-38 was adopted on Final Reading.

8. NEW ORDINANCES

None.

9. RESOLUTIONS

A. *Certificate of Appropriateness – 10 West Fourth Street*

Mr. Recchiuti and Mr. Stellato sponsored Resolution 2015-280 that granted a Certificate of Appropriateness to alter the approved plans for an addition to the front of the storefront at 10 West Fourth Street.

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

B. *Certificate of Appropriateness – 308 East Third Street*

Mr. Recchiuti and Mr. Stellato sponsored Resolution 2015-281 that granted a Certificate of Appropriateness to install new signs at 308 East Third Street.

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

C. *Approving Resolution for Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant*

Mr. Recchiuti and Mr. Stellato sponsored Resolution 2015-282 that authorized an application for a Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant in the amount of \$200,000 from the PA Department of Transportation to be used for pedestrian and vehicular wayfinding signs.

Mr. Recchiuti queried if a matching grant from the City would be needed.

Ms. Karner stated she does not believe there is. The funding we have received to date is from private contributions so there is no City budgeted amount for this program.

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

10. NEW BUSINESS

Finance Committee Meeting

Chairman Recchiuti announced a Finance Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 8, 2015 at 6 pm in Town Hall on the subject of Excess Gaming Revenue.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT

Council Answering Citizen's Questions at the Podium, Conflict of Interest

Stephen Antalics, 737 Ridge Street, informed he would like to go back to the last Council Meeting to the comments made by one on Council concerning answering citizen's questions at this podium. Mr. Antalics noted it was quite an exchange and in a sense nothing was resolved. He would like to go back in some time when one Council person was involved in operations which to many it appeared to be a conflict of interest. At that time taking care of the City's business would have been that Members of Council would have asked questions concerning, not the appearance of, but the actual conflict of interest. There were no questions asked but members of the public asked questions from this podium. Mr. Antalics advised these were very legitimate questions that involved the welfare of the community and those questions were not answered. They should have been answered because the public had a right to know that their City was being mismanaged by a member City Council. Mr. Antalics pointed out that this went on for three or four Council Meetings with no answers. A Grand Jury met and found out that there was a conflict of interest. Mr. Antalics mentioned in a way the Grand Jury brought shame upon the City because the City Council was not doing its duty; it was not asking questions at the table or answering questions from this podium. This would have avoided the entire process and what happened would have happened in a logical way. Mr. Antalics stressed that Council did not do their job. The bottom line is that this answers the Council person who brought up the idea of whether questions be answered, and the answer is absolutely. With a developer, as he said last time, there are strings attached and if this developer has an issue before Council and anyone on Council has accepted this developer's money, the public here knows that there possibly could be a conflict of interest. In some cases the person who has the appearance of conflict of interest recuses themselves. If anyone on Council has taken money from a developer who has an issue before them, they should make that public and say they have accepted money and they want you to know that they are acting objectively and not responding to the special needs of the developer. Mr. Antalics noted that would be expected and would fix the image of squeaky clean. Many people feel there is a conflict of interest, or the appearance of a conflict of interest, and what should happen is the comment that they understand and will not recuse themselves because they will vote properly. Mr. Antalics thinks Council is responsible to do their duty, promote the best of the community, and listen to people who are here and respond according to questions. Mr. Antalics remarked that his five minutes are up but on other occasions you have allowed two, three or four minutes extra.

President Reynolds does not think he has allowed extra minutes.

Mr. Antalics remarked he timed a person that had an extra three and a half minutes before they were told their five minutes is up. They were told at eight and a half minutes that their five minutes was up. Mr. Antalics thinks citizens should be treated consistently.

Restricting the Type of Martin Tower Retail

Bill Scheirer, 1890 Eaton Avenue, remarked he has not been to these meetings since the first Council hearing about Martin Tower, so he might be out of date. The last information he has is that the retail will be around 360,000 square feet which would be seven times the neighborhood retail in the original zoning of 50,000 square feet. Mr. Scheirer advised this is still quite a bit and he is just wondering if sufficient attention has been paid to the idea of restricting the kinds of retail at Martin Tower so that it would not conflict with the two downtowns. Obviously, there is not much you can do about Westgate Mall at this point that might become another blighted area. As for competition with the two downtowns, just as an extreme example, if it should be required that only big box stores could be at Martin Tower that obviously would not compete with the downtown. Mr. Scheirer reiterated that he may be out

of date with this and if so, he apologizes. He hopes that sufficient attention has been paid to that idea.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

ATTEST:

City Clerk