

BETHLEHEM CITY COUNCIL MEETING
10 East Church Street - Town Hall
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania
Tuesday, July 19, 2016 - 7:00 PM

INVOCATION

Reverend Debra K. Hess, St. Thomas UCC Church, offered the invocation which was followed by the pledge to the flag.

Passing of Former Mayor Gordon B. Mowrer

President Reynolds stated that after the Invocation he would like everyone to remain standing for a moment of silence for former Mayor Gordon B. Mowrer who passed away this morning.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

1. ROLL CALL

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

ADA Compliant Doors

Martin Romeril, 26 West Market Street stated he has a point of order before the meeting starts.

President Reynolds stressed there is public comment at the beginning of the meeting for five minutes for people who wish to speak on any Ordinance or Resolution to be voted on, and there is a second public comment at the end of the meeting on any subject with a five minute time limit.

Mr. Romeril remarked that this precedes all of that; it is not about any item you are going to vote on.

President Reynolds reiterated that would be a topic for the second public comment.

Mr. Romeril interjected that he came before City Council 258 days ago and pointed out that the Rotunda ADA compliant doors were not operable since November 4, 2015 for any meeting taking place in the Rotunda. He wanted to notify Council of this issue, and that there may be people who cannot get into the building because the doors do not work. Mr. Romeril thought this should precede any business as next Tuesday will be the 36th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Mr. Romeril remarked that 258 days is more than enough time to find parts and would hope that someone in City government would address this as soon as possible

President Reynolds asked the Administration to look into this matter and do something about this as soon as possible.

CITATIONS

Honoring Bambi Coyle, Matthew Palmer, and Robert M. Simons

President Reynolds presented a citation to Robert M. Simons on the occasion of his retirement from the Fire Department after more than 21 years. The Members of Council applauded Mr. Simons and wished him well in his retirement.

President Reynolds stated that the Citations for Bambi Coyle and Matthew Palmer on the occasion of their retirement will be mailed to them since they were unable to attend the Meeting.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Prior to the consideration of the regular Agenda items, City Council will conduct two Public Hearings, the first Public Hearing is to receive public comments on the request for the Intermunicipal Transfer of a Restaurant Liquor License owned by Bella Luna, LLC to Sarat, LLC, 530 Pembroke Road, Bethlehem. The second Public Hearing to accept recommendations concerning the location of boundaries for a new LERTA district to include Main St. starting at W. North St. and continuing to the intersection of W. Laurel St.; W. Laurel St. from Main St. to Grenadier Blvd.; Grenadier Blvd. from W. Laurel St. to E. Fairview St.; E. Fairview St. from Pine St. to Maple St.; Maple St. from E. Fairview St. to E. Broad St.; E. Broad St. from Maple St. to N. New St.; N. New St. from E. Broad St. to W. Raspberry St.; W. Raspberry St. from Guetter St. to W. North St.; W. North St. from Guetter St. to Main St., and extend the LERTA Program for the new boundaries as stated through December 31, 2022.

Public Hearing No. 1

Intermunicipal Transfer of Retail Restaurant Liquor License to 530 Pembroke Road

President Reynolds called to order the First Public Hearing to review and accept public comment on the request for the Intermunicipal Transfer of Restaurant License No. R-19093 owned by Bella Luna LLC, formerly licensed to conduct business at 3417 Sullivan Street, Easton to Sarat, LLC, 530 Pembroke Road Bethlehem, Northampton County, Pennsylvania.

Attorney Theodore Zeller Esq. stated he is at this meeting to represent Sarat LLC. He informed that Sarat LLC is the tenant of the premises at 530 Pembroke Road, Bethlehem, PA, 18018 and sole owner of Sarat is Rachel Spagnola. Attorney Zeller noted that the name of the restaurant is Adagio and has been open for about eight months. Many more likely know it as The Lantern. He pointed out that The Lantern operated there for years; this is not the same liquor license. Attorney Zeller reported City Council approved a liquor license transfer for this property, however that transaction fell through. Unfortunately that Resolution does not work for this license. They once again had to go through the process to obtain another liquor license transfer. Attorney Zeller acknowledged they are here again to let Council know what his client is doing at that property and hopefully that meets with approval. Attorney Zeller communicated that the restaurant is named Adagio, and is more of a fine dining establishment, Ms. Spagnola is originally from Northampton County and her mother graduated from Lehigh University and her brother graduated from Moravian College. She took this on as an investment and has worked in restaurants before and her family has been in the restaurant business, so she has the skills to take on this investment. Attorney Zeller handed out some photos of this property to Council and had extra copies for the public. He mentioned as you can see you are not looking at the Lantern Restaurant anymore. There was some stone work done on the front door and that continues around the parking lot and there are native plants around the building. The entryway has had a significant facelift. Attorney Zeller noted the last photo shows the banquet facility, which is in the basement of the building and well insulated for sound. This is a mixed area with residential and commercial uses. There are garages immediately around the facility and a Salvation Army building is across the street, which allows Adagio to use the parking lot. There is a good relationship between the Salvation Army and Adagio. Attorney Zeller pointed out this facility will be open Tuesdays through Saturdays 11:00 AM to 10:00 PM and on Sundays from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. The only exception to those hours could be if the banquet room is in use and they require different hours on Sunday for the banquet area, but they do not see that being open past 10:00 PM. There will be no live entertainment except to the extent that it would be part of the banquet use, if there was a wedding reception or some other type of function that would require live music. Attorney Zeller communicated that the banquet area seats 175 patrons and the upstairs seats 125. They currently have 25 employees. The of liquor license will add an additional ten employees and if this takes off there will hopefully be more employees. Attorney Zeller then handed out menus to Council and noted this is not a burger and hot dog type of place. The restaurant is more of a fine dining restaurant. The liquor license is not the primary source of focus of the business but it will complement the food. Attorney Zeller acknowledged that they have transmitted the necessary notice to the City Clerk that they have provided the appropriate notice to the residents within 500 feet pursuant to the local Ordinance and posted the property.

President Reynolds remarked that we had gone over much of this back when it was under construction and noted that you are doing what you said you would be doing with the construction and landscaping the property. We had approved this before, and it is unfortunate that the transaction fell through. President Reynolds turned to his fellow Council Members for to offer the opportunity to comment.

Mr. Colón remarked that it was mentioned that the downstairs seats 175 people and that is primarily the banquet area.

Attorney Zeller stated that is correct.

Mr. Colón queried how many vehicles the parking lot will accommodate.

Ms. Spagnola reported about 30 vehicles. Attorney Zeller noted there is also use of the Salvation Army parking lot.

Ms. Spagnola informed that the Salvation parking lot has close to 100 spaces.

Mr. Colón advised he is familiar with the area so if there was a banquet there the parking would not have to necessarily spill into the neighborhood too much with the available parking.

Mr. Callahan thanked Ms. Spagnola for investing in our City. He added that he worked at The Lantern years ago, and at that time it was crowded all of the time. It is in a residential area but there is plenty of parking. Mr. Callahan wishes them well.

Mr. Evans stated he echoes the same sentiments. He thanked Attorney Zeller for the presentation and Ms. Spagnola for the investment in the City. Although The Lantern was a great place that many of us frequented and over the past year and a half you have done a terrific job with the property. Mr. Evans remarked that the inside and outside are beautiful and added that he has enjoyed dining at Adagio and would recommend it to anyone. Mr. Evans added that he has been in the banquet room downstairs in the winter time and it is excellent. He continued he has another banquet to attend at Adagio in the near future and he wishes them the best of luck.

Public Comment

Stephen Antalics, 737 Ridge Street mentioned there is another person named Spagnola with whom he has had very good contact and knowledge of over the years. He remarked Mr. Spagnola is civic minded and very liberal with giving contributions to religious organizations on the south side. He strongly urges that Council have no problem with this.

Mary Galvin, 636 Atlantic Street, stated she is at this meeting to address her concern with the Bethlehem Police.

President Reynolds noted that currently this public comment has to do with the public hearing about this liquor license, and she is welcome to speak under the second public comment about any topic.

President Reynolds stated the appropriate Resolution for the Intermunicipal liquor license transfer will be placed on the August 2, 2016 Council agenda.

President Reynolds adjourned the first Public Hearing at 7:20 PM.

Public Hearing No. 2

President Reynolds called to order the Second Public Hearing to accept recommendations concerning the location of boundaries for a new LERTA district to include Main St. starting at W. North St. and continuing to the intersection of W. Laurel St.; W. Laurel St. from Main St. to Grenadier Blvd.; Grenadier Blvd. from W. Laurel St. to E. Fairview St.; E. Fairview St. from Pine St. to Maple St.; Maple St. from E. Fairview St. to E. Broad St.; E. Broad St. from Maple St. to N. New St.; N. New St. from E. Broad St to W. Raspberry St.; W. Raspberry St. from Guetter St.

to W. North St.; W. North St. from Guetter St. to Main St., and extend the LERTA Program for the new boundaries as stated through December 31, 2022.

Communication 5 A – City Planning Commission – Amending Article 342 – Establishing a New LERTA District

The Clerk read a memorandum dated July 15, 2016 from Darlene Heller, Director of Planning and Zoning regarding establishing a new LERTA District. At the July 14, 2016 Planning Commission meeting the Commission unanimously voted to recommend adoption of the revisions to Article 342 as presented at the meeting with the clarification that “residential” be included in the Ordinance and Resolution to confirm that residential is a permitted use.

Allyson Lysaght, Housing and Community Development Planner communicated they are proposing that a new LERTA District be established on the north side of Bethlehem. This includes the area with the boundaries of Locust Street on the north, Main Street on the west and Maple Street on the east and Broad Street on the south. We do have an attached map in the packet for Council. We wanted to make sure we captured both sides of the street so no one is excluded from this program. Ms. Lysaght noted that LERTA is the Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance Act and was created in 1977 by Pennsylvania State Legislature. It is designed to encourage property improvements in deteriorated areas by increasing the taxes owed on a new assessed value over time rather than all at once. LERTA is not a tax break. She continued we are not forgoing any revenue; you will always be collecting the base tax on any assessed value but any increase in taxes on the new assessed increased value will be phased in over time. Ms. Lysaght informed this LERTA they are proposing will be in effect from January 1, 2017 and will continue for five years. Property owners would be able to take advantage of this for five years and have a 10 year abatement of their taxes. LERTA itself is industrial, commercial, and business property related. There are two statutes that make up this LERTA statute. The traditional LERTA statute is for commercial, industrial and business property and then there is something called Act 42 which is the residential portion of the LERTA. We need to use both of these statutes because this is a mixed use district. Ms. Lysaght noted there are many commercial buildings along Linden and Broad Streets and there are many residential properties. We are really focused on deteriorated dwellings and we are a little bit concerned about this district because it borders three schools in the Bethlehem Area School District. Ms. Lysaght informed those schools are Thomas Jefferson Elementary, William Penn Elementary and Liberty High School. We have been in talks with the two other taxing authorities, which is the Bethlehem Area School District and Northampton County Council. They do need to approve this by Resolution, although you do not need all three taxing bodies to approve a LERTA. In the spirit of cooperation and to have the most impact, it does help if you have all three taxing bodies on board. Ms. Lysaght mentioned as a background we went to the Bethlehem Area School District to get a sense of how they felt about enacting a LERTA and Superintendent Dr. Roy asked us to move our boundaries out towards Maple Street to the east instead of stopping the district at Linden Street because he was a little concerned about the properties around Thomas Jefferson Elementary School. Ms. Lysaght stated she wanted to give an example of how a LERTA works for anyone who was not at the Community Development Committee Meeting. If a property is assessed at \$70,000 and a person makes a substantial improvement that would trigger a reassessment. Under the Northampton County Ordinance it needs to be a usage change, such as a square footage change or a de-conversion, which is something we are interested in. If the property is reassessed at \$100,000 you would have a \$30,000 additional assessed value. The taxes on that \$30,000 would be phased in over 10 years rather than the property owner being hit with that increased assessed tax rate the first year. For people who are moderate or middle income this can really be an incentive to make some changes to a property that perhaps they would not do otherwise. Ms. Lysaght advised they are very aware that LERTA in and of itself is not going to be the measure that changes this neighborhood or will really incentivize people to do major renovations, but they are hoping that by stacking it with other incentives that the City currently has will encourage people to make a major change. One of the things we are very interested in is de-converting the multi-unit homes that are in this area into single unit family homes. She added that 63% of the residential units in this district are rentals. This is something that they think might stabilize this neighborhood and something that Dr. Roy and the School District are interested in seeing. Ms. Lysaght referenced the additional documents regarding the economic stresses of this area. There are sheriff sales and bank controlled properties that are probably not particularly different than the rest of the City. We have not studied the rest of the City's numbers on this but you can see that it is showing some signs of economic distress. She noted certainly for children living in this area

having houses that are up for foreclosure or being sold as sheriff sales is not a good thing for them. The handout also shows the number of vacancies along the commercial corridors of Linden and Broad Streets, including the stretch of Broad Street that we are very concerned about in the vicinity of the Boyd Theatre. Ms. Lysaght communicated the final thing that shows some economic distress in this area is the number of free and reduced lunches. Councilman Martell spoke to the percentages that had gone up in the past ten years and it has gone up anywhere from 10 to 20 points in the number of children receiving free and reduced lunches in this district. The new LERTA district was presented to the Planning Commission last week. We wanted to bring to their attention that in 2012 the City had a blight study done and there is a significant overlap between the area that was certified as blighted in that study and this area. So there is some history of the City acknowledging that this neighborhood is in a little bit of a distress. Ms. Lysaght noted just to get a sense of the number of parcels and the number of assessments we are talking about she had polled two blocks of parcels just to see what an average assessed value is and the average assessed value is less than \$40,000. We do not think that any major renovations would trigger an assessment that would be too onerous but again, it could make a major difference in people who are considering a renovation. One of the most important things about this LERTA is that it is one of the only incentives that the City has to use with rental properties and since 63% of the residential units in this district are rental properties it is one of the only things we can offer a landlord in terms of incentives. Ms. Lysaght noted that, our housing rehabilitation program, which is really successful, is only for owner occupied units. It could be stacked with a LERTA. Someone could take advantage of the \$20,000 deferred payment loan and then get a 10 year tax abatement. We have an exterior building improvement loan which is up to \$60,000 in deferred payment loans and low interest loans and it could also be stacked with a LERTA. Ms. Lysaght added one of the things they are most interested in is using CDBG funds to de-convert some of these multi-unit houses into single unit family homes. We feel this area is very critical to our downtown. This seems like something we can offer. We are not giving up anything right away but could be something that incentivizes property owners to do some major renovations.

Mr. Martell remarked they talked about this at the Community Development Committee Meeting and he wanted to commend the Administration for addressing the issue. This is one of the most important things that we are looking at right now in terms of trying to stabilize this neighborhood and in terms of people wanting to be able to walk to where they want to go, and be close to amenities. There are many young families and middle income families that cannot afford to live in what we call the downtown area. On the other hand, this neighborhood is perfect for them. Mr. Martell added historically neighborhoods like this have been in many instances, the heart of the City of Bethlehem. They are comprised of blue collar and hard-working people helping each other out. In his mind the inertia of neighborhoods is important; it is either stable or trending the other way. Statistics were talked about and when you look at those statistics it is difficult to say that it is not trending.

Ms. Lysaght informed they are worried if we do nothing it will continue to trend downward. There is nothing to lose with trying this LERTA program in this area.

Mr. Martell is not sure that everyone is aware to the degree to which it is on the borderline. There are 36 vacancies on Broad and Linden Streets in terms of commercial properties and retail properties. There are currently 63 sheriff sales in the residential portion of the neighborhood and we are not completely through the year yet. Mr. Martell added that on average with the three schools there is a 15% increase since 2015 with free and reduced lunches. The two elementary schools are above 20% so there are some risk factors that are being shown. LERTA is a tool that has been shown in other parts of the City that over time increase property values whereby increasing the tax rolls.

Ms. Lysaght stated we have had very successful commercial and industrial LERTAs most notably in LVIP. Obviously you are going from a zero assessed land value to a \$1 million of assessed value. We have talked to some other municipalities such as Harrisburg and Erie. They have had success with people taking advantage of this and that is all we can ask.

Mr. Martell commended Ms. Lysaght and the Administration for taking this on and he thinks it is important to protect our neighborhoods.

President Reynolds stated with no public comment Bill No. 23 - 2016 will be listed on the August 2, 2016 Council agenda for First Reading and the Resolution will be placed on the August 16, 2016 Council agenda along with Final Reading of Bill No. 23 - 2016.

President Reynolds adjourned the Second Public Hearing at 7:32 PM.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

President Reynolds mentioned that Mayor Donchez requested that Council withdraw Ordinance 8 A - Bill No. 21 - 2016 to establish Article 740 - Anti-Panhandling that was on this evening's agenda. The Ordinance will not be considered tonight.

Stephen Antalics, 737 Ridge, mentioned for clarification is President Reynolds saying that Anti-Panhandling is off the books forever.

President Reynolds remarked that would be a conversation for Mayor Donchez. It is his proposal so that would be his determination and Mayor Donchez can speak about this during the Mayor's report if he chooses to do so.

Mr. Antalics queried if any comments about the Anti-Panhandling Ordinance - Article 740 would not be allowed during this Courtesy of the Floor.

President Reynolds stated no, but we do have a second Courtesy of the Floor that is five minutes long at the end of the meeting and any topic can be addressed at that time. That would be the time you would be able to speak about this particular Ordinance.

Mr. Antalics informed it is somewhat of a Catch-22.

4. OLD BUSINESS.

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

None.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

- B. *Public Safety Committee Chairman - Establishing Article 740 - Anti Panhandling - Amendments to Ordinance*

President Reynolds reiterated that this has been withdrawn.

- C. *Public Safety Committee Chairman - Establishing Article 742 - Anti-Graffiti*

The Clerk read a memorandum from Adam Waldron, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee regarding proposed new Article 742 - Anti-Graffiti. The Public Safety Committee and Community Development Committee unanimously recommended that City Council adopt the Ordinance to establish new Article 742.

President Reynolds stated Bill No. 22 - 2016 - Establishing Article 742 - Anti-Graffiti is on the agenda for First Reading.

- D. *Director of Public Works - Recommendation for Award - Vollers Excavating and Construction - Greenway*

The Clerk read a memorandum from Michael Alkhal, Director of Public Works recommending a contract with Vollers Excavating & Construction for the construction of the

South Bethlehem Greenway Phase 4 Project from Sixth Street to Auburn Street. The term of the contract is 180 calendar days from the notice to proceed. The fee for the contract is \$462,250.

President Reynolds stated Resolution 9 D is on the agenda.

- E. *Director of Public Works – Recommendation for Award – Traffic Planning and Design, Inc. – East Fourth Street Sidewalk and Pedestrian Improvements*

The Clerk read a memorandum from Michael Alkhal, Director of Public Works recommending a contract with Traffic Planning & Design, Inc. for construction inspection services over the course of construction of East Fourth Street Sidewalk & Pedestrian Improvements Project as required by PennDOT. The term of the contract is 12 months from the notice to proceed. The fee for the contract is \$37,297.95.

President Reynolds stated Resolution 9 E is on the agenda.

- F. *Director of Planning and Zoning – Multimodal Transportation Grant*

The Clerk read a memorandum from Darlene Heller, Director of Planning and Zoning requesting a Resolution in support of the submission of a Multimodal Transportation Fund grant in the amount of \$122,500. The grant would support a continued phase of sign manufacture and installation. Partner sponsorships are in place to cover the required match for the grant request.

President Reynolds stated Resolution 9 F is on the agenda.

- G. *Director of Public Works – Recommendation for Award – Traffic Planning and Design, Inc. – Lynn Avenue Bridge Inspection*

The Clerk read a memorandum Michael Alkhal, Director of Public Works recommending a contract with Traffic Planning and Design to provide construction inspection services over the course of construction of the replacement of the Lynn Avenue Bridge Project as required by PennDOT. The term of the contract is 18 months from notice to proceed. The fee for the contract is expected to be approximately \$372,000. This request is being made in this manner and prior to receiving the actual price proposal in order to avoid further delays on this project.

President Reynolds stated Resolution 9 G is on the agenda.

- H. *Director of Public Works – Recommendation for Award – Gaver Industries Inc. – East Fifth Street Pedestrian Improvements*

The Clerk read a memorandum from Michael Alkhal, Director of Public Works recommending a contract with Gaver Industries dba Barker & Barker Paving for the replacement of deficient curb and sidewalk, upgrading handicap ramps, milling and overlaying East Fifth Street between Williams Street and Arnold Street, and removing street trees and rehabilitating a drainage swale. The term of the contract is 45 calendar days from notice to proceed. The fee for the contract is \$200,336.

President Reynolds stated Resolution 9 H is on the agenda.

- I. *City Solicitor – Use Permit Agreement for Public Property – Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce by and through its Downtown Bethlehem Association – 2016 Harvest Fest*

The Clerk read a memorandum dated July 14, 2016 from William P. Leeson, Esq., City Solicitor, to which was attached a proposed Resolution and Associated Use Permit Agreement between the City and the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce, by and through its Downtown Bethlehem Association, for use of Nevin Place adjacent to the Sun Inn Courtyard, and Main Street from Broad Street to the Route 378 Bridge Off-Ramp for 2016 Harvest Fest. The duration of the event is October 8, 2016.

President Reynolds stated Resolution 9 I is on the agenda.

J. *City Solicitor – Use Permit Agreement – ArtsQuest – Sangria Fest and Lehigh Welcome Back*

The Clerk read a memorandum dated July 14, 2016 from William P. Leeson, Esq., City Solicitor, to which was attached a proposed Resolution and Associated Use Permit Agreement between the City and ArtsQuest, for use of First Street from Polk Street to the Eastern Terminus and Founders Way from First Street to Second Street for the 2016 Sangria Fest and Lehigh Welcome Back. The duration of the event is August 27, 2016.

President Reynolds stated Resolution 9 J is on the agenda.

K. *City Solicitor – Use Permit Agreement – Has Anyone Seen My Balloon Inc.?*

The Clerk read a memorandum dated July 14, 2016 from William P. Leeson, Esq., City Solicitor, to which was attached a proposed Resolution and Associated Use Permit Agreement between Richard Scott Kelley and Has Anyone Seen My Balloon?, Inc. and the City of Bethlehem for use of the listed City properties for a Hot Air Balloon Take Off for the time period August 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016, according to the Agreement. The locations are Bayard Park, Clearview Park, Saucon Park, John Glenn Park and Illick's Mill complex.

President Reynolds stated Resolution 9 K is on the agenda.

L. *City Solicitor – Use Permit Agreement – Mount Airy Neighborhood Association – West Side Farmer's Market*

The Clerk read a memorandum dated July 14, 2016 from William P. Leeson, Esq., City Solicitor, to which was attached a proposed Resolution and it Associated Amendment No. 1 to the Use Permit Agreement between the Mount Airy Neighborhood Association and the City of Bethlehem to add September 3, 2016 to the list of dates that the Farmer's Market will be open.

President Reynolds stated Resolution 9 L is on the agenda.

President Reynolds stated the Clerk will read the added Communication 5 M.

M. *Mayor – Withdraw Pan-Handling Ordinance*

The Clerk read a memorandum from Mayor Robert J. Donchez regarding the Pan-Handling Ordinance. "I am requesting the Pan-Handling Ordinance be withdrawn. The Administration will review the proposal and make revisions before resubmitting it before City Council for review. The Administration would welcome any comments and/or amendments from City Council."

6. REPORTS

A. *President of Council*

B. *Mayor*

1. *Administrative Order – Connie Postupack – Historical and Architectural Review Board*

Mayor Donchez appointed Connie Postupack to membership on the Historical and Architectural Review Board effective through June, 2019. Mr. Colón and Mr. Callahan sponsored Resolution 2016-145 to confirm the appointment.

Voting AYE: Mr. Colón, Mr. Evans, Mr. Martell, Ms. Negrón-Dipiní, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, and Mr. Reynolds, 7. The Resolution passed.

2. *Administrative Order – Gordon Barry – Electrician's Examining Board*

Mayor Donchez reappointed Gordon Barry to membership on the Electrician's Examining Board effective through July, 2019. Mr. Colón and Mr. Callahan sponsored Resolution 2016-146 to confirm the reappointment.

Voting AYE: Mr. Colón, Mr. Evans, Mr. Martell, Ms. Negrón-Dipiní, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, and Mr. Reynolds, 7. The Resolution passed.

3. *Administrative Order – Luke Cunningham – Electrician’s Examining Board*

Mayor Donchez reappointed Luke Cunningham to membership on the Electrician’s Examining Board effective through July, 2019. Mr. Colón and Mr. Callahan sponsored Resolution 2016-147 to confirm the reappointment.

Voting AYE: Mr. Colón, Mr. Evans, Mr. Martell, Ms. Negrón-Dipiní, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, and Mr. Reynolds, 7. The Resolution passed.

4. *Administrative Order – Dale Sensenig – Electrician’s Examining Board*

Mayor Donchez reappointed Dale Sensenig to membership on the Electrician’s Examining Board effective through July, 2019. Mr. Colón and Mr. Callahan sponsored Resolution 2016-148 to confirm the reappointment.

Voting AYE: Mr. Colón, Mr. Evans, Mr. Martell, Ms. Negrón-Dipiní, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, and Mr. Reynolds, 7. The Resolution passed.

5. *Administrative Order – Alison Pilorz – Sister City Commission*

Mayor Donchez reappointed Alison Pilorz to membership on the Sister City Commission effective through July, 2019. Mr. Colón and Mr. Callahan sponsored Resolution 2016-149 to confirm the reappointment.

Voting AYE: Mr. Colón, Mr. Evans, Mr. Martell, Ms. Negrón-Dipiní, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, and Mr. Reynolds, 7. The Resolution passed.

Anti-Panhandling Ordinance/Commend Police Officers/Wilson-Kramer Building/Former Mayor Gordon B. Mowrer

Mayor Donchez believes his memorandum regarding Anti-Panhandling stated his position. As to Mr. Antalics question, the Administration is withdrawing the Ordinance. It will be reviewed and possibly be resubmitted to City Council sometime in the future.

Mayor Donchez stressed that he wanted to commend Police Officer Hobson, Police Officer Beals and Police Officer Joniec for saving a person from jumping off the Broad Street Bridge. They did an outstanding public safety job.

Mayor Donchez informed he did send Council a recommendation for the Wilson Kramer building and we have until the second meeting in August to make a final decision. He would welcome any comment or discussion and is hoping to have another tour of the facility for the new Council Members. He is recommending that we not accept this due to the reasons in his memorandum.

Mayor Donchez expressed we lost a giant in Bethlehem in politics this morning, someone he knew very well, Gordon Mowrer. Mayor Donchez mentioned that Gordy was a friend who served us with distinction and integrity for many, many years. We all know that he had tremendous love for his family, the City and for his faith. His love was unmatched and Bethlehem was very fortunate to have him serve us for a good many years in so many different ways. There is no question that Bethlehem is a much better place because of the contributions of Mayor Gordon Mowrer.

C. *Committee Reports*

Community Development Committee

Chairman Martell stated the Community Development Committee met tonight, Tuesday, July 19, 2016 at 5:30 PM in Town Hall. The members of the Committee unanimously recommended the Ordinance to amend Article 342 – Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance to full Council for consideration as well as a Resolution that sets the boundaries for

the new LERTA district. The members also received an update on the City's Economic Incentive Program. The update was for information only and no action was taken by the Committee.

7. ORDINANCES FOR FINAL READING

A. *Bill No. 20 – 2016 – Amending Article 146 – Environmental Advisory Council*

The Clerk read Bill No. 20 – 2016 – Amending Article 146 – Environmental Advisory Council on Final Reading.

Voting AYE: Mr. Colón, Mr. Evans, Mr. Martell, Ms. Negrón-Dipiní, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, and Mr. Reynolds, 7. Bill No. 20-2016 now known as Ordinance No. 2016-21 was adopted on Final Reading.

8. NEW ORDINANCES

A. *Bill No. 21 – 2016 – Establishing Article 740 – Anti-Panhandling*

President Reynolds reiterated that Bill No. 21 – 2016 was withdrawn.

B. *Bill No. 22 – 2016 – Establishing Article 742 – Anti-Graffiti*

The Clerk read Bill No. 252 – 2016 – Establishing Article 742 – Anti-Graffiti, sponsored by Mr. Colón and Mr. Callahan:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM,
COUNTIES OF LEHIGH AND NORTHAMPTON,
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, ESTABLISHING
ARTICLE 742 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF
THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM TITLED “ANTI-GRAFFITI” AND
ESTABLISHING PROHIBITED OFFENSES INVOLVING
INTENTIONAL DEFACEMENT OF PROPERTY

Voting AYE: Mr. Colón, Mr. Evans, Mr. Martell, Ms. Negrón-Dipiní, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, and Mr. Reynolds, 7. Bill No. 22 – 2016 was passed on First Reading.

9. RESOLUTIONS

A. *Authorizing Use Permit Agreement for Public Property – Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce – Downtown Bethlehem Association – 2016 Bethlehem VegFest*

Mr. Colón and Mr. Callahan sponsored Resolution 2015-150 that authorized execution of the Use Permit Agreement between the City of Bethlehem and the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce through the Downtown Bethlehem Association, for use of various City properties for the 2015 VegFest on August 20, 2016 from 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM. according to the Agreement.

Voting AYE: Mr. Colón, Mr. Evans, Mr. Martell, Ms. Negrón-Dipiní, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, and Mr. Reynolds, 7. The Resolution passed.

B. *Authorizing Use Permit Agreement for Public Property – ArtsQuest – Allentown Diocese Event*

Mr. Colón and Mr. Callahan sponsored Resolution 2015-151 that authorized execution of the Use Permit Agreement between the City of Bethlehem and ArtsQuest for the use of First Street from Polk Street to the City's Terminus and Founder's Way from Second Street to First Street for an Allentown Dioceses Event on September 25, 2016 from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM.

Voting AYE: Mr. Colón, Mr. Evans, Mr. Martell, Ms. Negrón-Dipiní, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, and Mr. Reynolds, 7. The Resolution passed.

C. *Authorizing Use Permit Agreement – ArtsQuest – OktoberFest 2016*

Mr. Colón and Mr. Callahan sponsored Resolution 2015-152 that authorized the execution of a Use Permit Agreement between the City and ArtsQuest for use of First Street from Polk Street to the City's Terminus and Founder's Way from Second Street to First Street for OktoberFest 2016 on September 30, 2016 through October 2, 2016 and October 7, 2015 through October 9, 2016, according to the Agreement.

Voting AYE: Mr. Colón, Mr. Evans, Mr. Martell, Ms. Negrón-Dipiní, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, and Mr. Reynolds, 7. The Resolution passed.

D. *Approving Contract – Vollers Excavating and Construction – Greenway*

Mr. Colón and Mr. Callahan sponsored Resolution 2016-153 that authorized a contract with Vollers Excavating & Construction for the South Bethlehem Greenway Phase IV.

Voting AYE: Mr. Colón, Mr. Evans, Mr. Martell, Ms. Negrón-Dipiní, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, and Mr. Reynolds, 7. The Resolution passed.

E. *Approving Contract – Traffic Planning and Design, Inc. – East Fourth Street Sidewalk and Pedestrian Improvements*

Mr. Colón and Mr. Callahan sponsored Resolution 2016-154 that authorized a contract with Traffic Planning and Design, Inc. for the East Fourth Street Sidewalk and Pedestrian Improvements.

Voting AYE: Mr. Colón, Mr. Evans, Mr. Martell, Ms. Negrón-Dipiní, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, and Mr. Reynolds, 7. The Resolution passed.

F. *Authorizing Multimodal Transportation Grant – Commonwealth Financing Authority – Wayfinding Program*

Mr. Colón and Mr. Callahan sponsored Resolution 2016-155 that authorized a Multimodal Transportation Fund grant of \$122,000 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority to be used for a comprehensive pedestrian and vehicular Wayfinding Program.

President Reynolds asked Darlene Heller, Director of Planning and Zoning for an explanation of the Wayfinding Program. He understands that we have not received the grant yet but he is just asking for an explanation of what the funds will be utilized for with this program.

Ms. Heller expressed that this is a project we have been working on for a while. We have been working with Tangram Associates to do some design of the signage program which is complete. We are under contract now with a company to manufacture the signs and we have a pre-construction meeting in a few weeks. She noted they expect to see some signs installed sometime by the end of August. Ms. Heller highlighted that we have additional funds from sponsors where we can move into a Phase II and then we would consider the funding with this grant to be Phase III. We would be doing directional signage throughout the north and south side core areas, the downtown areas and the main gateway entrances of Route 412 and Route 378 into the City.

President Reynolds queried if the entire grant would be used for the signs.

Ms. Heller communicated yes. It would be used for the manufacture and installation of the signs.

Mr. Colón asked if this is a 100% match because she mentioned the funds are secured.

Ms. Heller stated this grant is a 30% match. She noted the City does have sponsors from several different entities and there is enough sponsorship that we can match the required amount.

Voting AYE: Mr. Colón, Mr. Evans, Mr. Martell, Ms. Negrón-Dipiní, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, and Mr. Reynolds, 7. The Resolution passed.

G. *Approving Contract – Traffic Planning and Design Inc. – Lynn Avenue Bridge Inspection*

Mr. Colón and Mr. Callahan sponsored Resolution 2016-156 that authorized a contract with Traffic Planning and Design, Inc. for the Lynn Avenue Bridge Replacement Construction Inspection Services.

Voting AYE: Mr. Colón, Mr. Evans, Mr. Martell, Ms. Negrón-Dipini, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, and Mr. Reynolds, 7. The Resolution passed.

H. *Approving Contract – Approving Contract – Gaver Industries Inc. – East Fifth Street Improvements Project*

Mr. Colón and Mr. Callahan sponsored Resolution 2016-157 that authorized a contract with Gaver Industries dba Barker & Barker Paving for the East Fifth Street Improvements Project.

Voting AYE: Mr. Colón, Mr. Evans, Mr. Martell, Ms. Negrón-Dipini, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, and Mr. Reynolds, 7. The Resolution passed.

I. *Authorizing Execution of Use Permit Agreement for Public Property – Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce, by and through its Downtown Bethlehem Association – 2016 Harvest Fest*

Mr. Colón and Mr. Callahan sponsored Resolution 2016-158 that authorized the execution of an Associated 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 Nevin Place (adjacent to Sun Inn Courtyard) and Main Street from Broad Street to Church Street for the 2016 Harvest Fest on October 8, 2016, according to the terms of the Agreement.

Voting AYE: Mr. Colón, Mr. Evans, Mr. Martell, Ms. Negrón-Dipini, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, and Mr. Reynolds, 7. The Resolution passed.

J. *Authorizing Use Permit Agreement – ArtsQuest – SangriaFest and Lehigh Welcome Back 2016*

Mr. Colón and Mr. Callahan sponsored Resolution 2016-159 that authorized the execution of a Use Permit Agreement between the City of Bethlehem and ArtsQuest for the use of First Street from Polk Street to the Eastern Terminus and Founders Way from Second Street to First Street for the Sangria Fest and Lehigh Welcome Back. The event date for the Sangria Fest is August 27, 2016 from 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM and 7:00 PM to 11:00 PM for the Lehigh Welcome Back event.

Mr. Callahan queried if the Sangria Fest is going on until 11:00 PM or will this be two different events.

Jane Persa, Acting Parks and Public Property Director stated she is not familiar with this but would find out and provide the information to Mr. Callahan.

Mr. Callahan is curious because it is listed as two different events with the Sangria Fest being from 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM and the Lehigh Welcome Back from 7:00 PM to 11:00 PM.

President Reynolds remarked that on the Resolution it says event date August 27, 2016: (a.) Sangria Fest from 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM and (b.) Lehigh Welcome Back from 7:00 PM to 11:00 PM.

Mayor Donchez reported that they will check this.

Voting AYE: Mr. Colón, Mr. Evans, Mr. Martell, Ms. Negrón-Dipini, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, and Mr. Reynolds, 7. The Resolution passed.

K. *Authorizing Use Permit Agreement – Has Anyone Seen My Balloon?*

Mr. Colón and Mr. Callahan sponsored Resolution No. 2016-160 that authorized a Use Permit Agreement with Richard Scott Kelley and Has Anyone Seen My Balloon?, Inc. and the City of Bethlehem for use of the listed City properties for a Hot Air Balloon Launches for the time period August 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016, according to the Agreement.

Voting AYE: Mr. Colón, Mr. Evans, Mr. Martell, Ms. Negrón-Dipini, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, and Mr. Reynolds, 7. The Resolution passed.

L. *Authorizing Use Permit Agreement – Mount Airy Neighborhood Association – West Side Farmer’s Market*

Mr. Colón and Mr. Callahan sponsored Resolution No. 2016-161 that authorized an amendment for the Use Permit Agreement with the Mount Airy Neighborhood Association and the City of Bethlehem for use of Rose Garden for the West Side Farmer’s Market and to add September 3, 2016 to the event dates.

Voting AYE: Mr. Colón, Mr. Evans, Mr. Martell, Ms. Negrón-Dipini, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, and Mr. Reynolds, 7. The Resolution passed.

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

Mr. Callahan and Ms. Negrón-Dipini moved to consider Resolutions 9 M through 9 R as a group.

Voting AYE: Mr. Colón, Mr. Evans, Mr. Martell, Ms. Negrón-Dipini, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, and Mr. Reynolds, 7. The Motion passed.

M. *Certificate of Appropriateness – 245 East Church Street*

Mr. Colón and Mr. Callahan sponsored Resolution 2016-162 that granted a Certificate of Appropriateness to paint the entire exterior of the rear structure at 245 East Church Street.

N. *Certificate of Appropriateness – 230 East Wall Street*

Mr. Colón and Mr. Callahan sponsored Resolution 2016-163 that granted a Certificate of Appropriateness to remove the deteriorated wood windows and replace them with Andersen Woodwright windows at 230 East Wall Street.

O. *Certificate of Appropriateness – 559 Main Street*

Mr. Colón and Mr. Callahan sponsored Resolution 2016-164 that granted a Certificate of Appropriateness to replace trim and windows and to repaint brick, stucco, foundation, wood cornice, brackets, storefronts, windows, window frames, sills, chimneys and entrance ceilings at 559 Main Street.

P. *Certificate of Appropriateness – 42 East Church Street*

Mr. Colón and Mr. Callahan sponsored Resolution 2016-165 that granted a Certificate of Appropriateness to remove existing roofing and replace with GAF Slateline Shingles at 42 East Church Street.

Q. *Certificate of Appropriateness – 420 Main Street*

Mr. Colón and Mr. Callahan sponsored Resolution 2016-166 that granted a Certificate of Appropriateness to repaint the entrance door and install a sign above the storefront at 420 Main Street.

R. *Certificate of Appropriateness – 459 Old York Road – Luckenbach Mill*

Mr. Colón and Mr. Callahan sponsored Resolution 2016-167 that granted a Certificate of Appropriateness to change the location of a previously approved sign from the north wall to the west wall at 459 Old York Road – Luckenbach Mill.

Voting AYE on Resolutions 9M through 9R: Mr. Colón, Mr. Evans, Mr. Martell, Ms. Negrón-Dipini, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, and Mr. Reynolds, 7. The Resolutions passed.

10. NEW BUSINESS

PADCED Application Appeal/Former Mayor Gordon Mowrer

Mr. Callahan remarked as the liaison to the Parking Authority he wanted to let everyone know that the Secretary for the Department of Community and Economic Development issued a ruling last week that concerned the challenge to the application to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development to issue the Parking Authority debt for the New Street garage. In their conclusion the Secretary wrote: "Because counts 1-6 of the complaint failed to raise any genuine issues of material fact within the jurisdiction of the department and because of this the City is entitled to a dismissal of all 6 counts of the complaint as a matter of law and the complaint should be dismissed in its entirety section 12 PA Code 11.7." Mr. Callahan congratulated the City on outcome and mentioned that although the complainants do have the option of appeal, the Parking Authority can ask a court or a judge for damages or for a bond to be posted. Mr. Callahan does not if the complainants are planning to appeal. Mr. Callahan appreciates the fact that the challenge was dismissed, and expressed his hope to soon see construction of the garage.

Mr. Callahan wanted to echo the comments made by Mayor Donchez about former Mayor Gordon Mowrer. Mr. Callahan remarked he had the privilege of observing behind the scenes for ten years as to what a Mayor does on a daily basis. He mentioned about two months after Mayor Donchez was sworn in he asked him if he is having fun yet and the Mayor chuckled. Mr. Callahan expressed a Mayor's job is a 24/7 commitment. It is an intense job and there are sacrifices made by the family. Mr. Callahan sends his condolences out to Mayor Mowrer's family and expressed his thanks for all he did for the City, as Mayor, as a Member of City Council and as a Minister. Mr. Callahan noted that Mayor Mowrer poured his heart out to the City and he appreciates all that he, with the support of his family, did for the City of Bethlehem. Mr. Callahan reiterated his appreciation for comments made by Mayor Donchez.

Former Mayor Gordon Mowrer

Mr. Evans remarked that former Mayor Gordon Mowrer had a great life. He expressed it was an honor and pleasure to have the opportunity to serve with him on Council for a few years, and on top of that he was able to sit next to him. Mr. Evans acknowledged that Mayor Mowrer was invaluable as a Member of Council through the years with all of the time and all that he gave to the City of Bethlehem. Mr. Evan related it was a joy to read his book that he put together a few years ago titled "The Comeback Kid". He encouraged everyone to read it because it did show a little bit about what it means to be a Mayor. In addition, his personal experiences are something very unique throughout the history of the City of Bethlehem. Mr. Evans stressed Gordon did have a great life; he was a true asset to the City and certainly will be missed.

Mr. Colón informed that since he is new to Council he did not have the strong relationship with Mayor Mowrer as did others. As a young person at City Hall he has great deal of respect for anyone who sat at the Council dais and in the Mayor's chair. It was wonderful to see Mayor Mowrer on stage at the 275th Anniversary of Bethlehem a few weeks ago. Mr. Colón knows many of the people in the City appreciated the opportunity to see Mayor Mowrer at the City's celebration, especially given these unfortunate circumstances. Mr. Colón hopes that his family finds peace in the near future.

Commend Police Officers /Gordon Mowrer/ Saucon Park

Mr. Martell agrees with what was said about former Mayor Mowrer. We are fortunate in this City, especially for some of the younger Councilmen to have many good role models and no more so than Mr. Mowrer. He hopes that his family and the people that do know him well can find some solace in his memory and legacy and influence on the City that will far out live him. Mr. Martell added that our Police force should be recognized for the work they did this past Sunday in saving that gentleman in distress on the Broad Street Bridge. Mr. Martell also

thanked the Police for taking care of Saucon Park this summer. He commented there is a difference from last year.

Ms. Negrón-Dipini thanked former Mayor Gordon Mowrer for raising her as a good community leader and for sharing his wisdom with her, and for always having a smile.

President Reynolds pointed out that Gordy was a special person. He served as a young man and then he decided he did not have quite enough public service. He ran for City Council in 2003. He wanted to come back and that speaks to how popular he was. When he returned to serve once again in city government he was welcomed back with open arms. President Reynolds communicated that when he himself was elected to Council eight years ago in 2008 Council Meetings were a lot different. They were a lot more contentious but Gordy had a way of sitting through those meetings and listen to everything and make his decisions. He often did not speak for very long but he always had a way of summing up what the feeling was at the moment.

President Reynolds stated he learned a lot from Mayor and Councilman Mowrer. Gordon told him early on that when things go on in politics, you need to have a short memory. He told the story about when served one term as Mayor and decided to run for reelection. He and Mayor Donchez were on opposite sides in that particular campaign in 1977. The story Mayor Donchez tells as well is that on the day that Gordy lost the election, he actually was one of the first to go and say congratulations to Mayor Paul Marcincin for winning, because he cared more about Bethlehem than the politics. Probably only his faith and his family were ahead of Bethlehem. President Reynolds pointed out that when on Council with Gordy people would say things and Gordy would just say that "I heard that before in 1975", or would lean over to me and say "they said worse about me". He was a voice of reason at a tumultuous time for the City. President Reynolds related he would give Gordy a ride home when he could not drive his Mustang anymore and he would talk about how much he loved his grandkids and his wife and being young. President Reynolds noted when he saw him about a month ago at the Rotary celebration the last words he said that night was that he loved Bethlehem and that is who he was. If we all could be like Gordy Mowrer the world would be a better place. He is resting peacefully now.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT

NAACP Rally

Greg Zahm, 224 East Macada Road, thanked City Council for the commitment they make in being on Council. He is a teacher in the School District and it is out of his concern for all of the men and women that he comes in contact with, his own three sons and all of the residents of the City that he comes to this meeting tonight. He is concerned about the social division that we are experiencing in this Country. He also wants to say thank you to the men and women of the Police Department. He has benefited personally from their protection in his life time and he is grateful for that. He was present at the recent rally that the NAACP sponsored on Payrow Plaza and saddened that there was not representation from Council or from the Mayor's office, but he sent an email and got great responses from many of you and he spoke to several and is thankful for that. Mr. Zahm knows that the announcement was not done as well as it could have been and he believes that you would have been there had you had more notice and that really matters to him and to many. Mr. Zahm noted his oldest son really spurred discussion in his family and he felt that we all had to be at the rally. He felt it was necessary to come to this meeting and ask out of respect and humility as to what dialogue has taken place recently or what forum exists now to discuss the social division that we are experiencing in the Country or what thoughts do you have and what plans do you think we should have as a City to get ahead of the curve. He asks this so that we can prevent a tragedy to the young men and women of the City who have a noble career in trying to protect us all.

President Reynolds related that Mayor Donchez sent out a press release yesterday announcing that a forum will take place in August 22, 2016 in Town Hall. The Mayor, Chief of Police, Esther Lee from the NAACP and Members of Council received this memo and he is sure that we will be here. In the memo it talked about some of the things we do regarding that dialogue and the public trust, and the positive interactions between our community and our

Police and how we can further that trust and dialogue. President Reynolds noted he is looking at that opportunity to continue that dialogue.

Mr. Zahm queried where this will be.

Mayor Donchez noted it will be at 6:00 PM on August 22, 2016, here in Town Hall and handed a copy of the press release to Mr. Zahm.

Anti-Panhandling Ordinance/Courtesy of the Floor

Stephen Antalics, 737 Ridge Street, stated that following up on the First Courtesy of the Floor about the Anti-Panhandling proposed Ordinance. He feels the City is making a mountain out of a molehill. He has been approached many times with people asking for money for bus fare or a meal. He noted that they generally do this with a sense of shame and it is rare that he has ever been approached a second time. He stated he did contact his own little survey group and everyone that he asked mostly agreed with him that they have never been accosted beyond a humble request. Mr. Antalics expressed technically the first time you are accosted or asked for whatever you are breaking the law if the law were in place and then it becomes a matter of how many times must you be approached before you break the Ordinance. Mr. Antalics remarked that commonsense is good sense and judgement in practical matters such as this. He feels all of the conditions in the proposed Ordinance come under the matter of an assault and if you are being assaulted then you take it upon yourself to call the Police. Mr. Antalics stated this Ordinance should not appear before the public. He stressed use commonsense and do not put a burden on the Police. He continued allow the individual citizen to determine when they are being accosted and if they are being assaulted then they are free to call the Police. Mr. Antalics mentioned at the last Council Meeting he had an exchange between himself and a Member of Council and he recalled some time ago that a Member of Council was very upset with someone in the audience regarding public comment about political donations. Mr. Antalics suggested when a speaker at the podium makes a comment and that comment is addressed in a negative way by someone on Council, that comment then looks to the audience the City Council Member is right, but he or she might be very wrong. So either people on Council, if they disagree, do not say anything, which was suggested at the last meeting, or if a Council person takes it upon himself or herself to comment, allow the person being accosted to respond. That person on Council could be wrong. Mr. Antalics noted Council should amend the Courtesy of the Floor to fit good judgement.

Cars parked in the Street/Per-Capita Tax

Frank Donchez, 530 Fifth Avenue, stated he is not related to the Mayor. He has two items he would like to talk about and the first is parking. Mr. Donchez noted he is a real estate appraiser. He had mentioned to Mayor Donchez about angled parking as is done on Main Street. He has at his home a car that has been there for over a month. He knows there was a three-day Ordinance and knows it is hard to police that but this car has been over there for over a month. Mr. Donchez does not know where this person is who owns this car but it is a bit of an eyesore. At the beginning of this meeting there was talk about LERTA and how to keep a neighborhood nice. He can say being in real estate that neighborhoods can decrease in value with this type of \$50 car with old tires parked in the street. The car has an inspection sticker and is registered so he cannot do anything about it. There is a truck down the street that has no registration and has been there for a few months. Mr. Donchez pointed out if you let people park cars wherever they want and leave them there it does not help a neighborhood. He used to live in a single home in Hanover Township but he does love the City and when we let things like this go, the city will deteriorate. He is not saying that you need to police all of the time, but having a car parked outside his home for a month is uncalled for. Mr. Donchez thinks we should start moving these cars out of here. There should be an Ordinance that says cars cannot just sit in the street for a month. Mr. Donchez noted when he had a single home he had a 3-car garage and did not care, but now he is in the City and he thinks there should be something done about this matter. Mr. Donchez also wanted to talk about the Per-Capita tax. He thinks that should be eliminated and believes it was brought up in 1946. In 1954 it was \$10. He pointed out that he was a tax assessor and he was a supervisor for Lehigh County and in charge of other assessors. If you can put in a City tax of .00001 mil you would eliminate that \$10 tax.

Mr. Donchez tried to call but was put on hold for 28 minutes. That is his opinion and he wanted to get this across, he has requested this once before to get rid of the per-capita tax.

President Reynolds queried if someone from the Administration could talk to Mr. Donchez after the meeting. Mayor Donchez said someone will follow-up with Mr. Donchez

Police Problems/Drug Dealers

Mary Galvin, 636 Atlantic Street, mentioned that she is the homeowner of 636 Atlantic Street and that she pays taxes. She related she has always lived on the south side of Bethlehem, on Evans Street, the 900 block of Sixth Street and then purchased her Atlantic Street home in 1977. When she purchased her home it was very quiet, very clean and Lehigh students at rented at 634 Atlantic, and elderly people living in that neighborhood, but now there are not any decent people living there, just herself. The issues right now are twofold, and they pertain to the Bethlehem Police. She expressed she has been having an issue a neighbor at 638 Atlantic Street who she claims is a drug dealer. The last time she was here she spoke with Mr. Callahan and Mayor Donchez. They are aware of the drug dealer situation. She related that the neighbor is a family of four or five and she has an army of drug dealers underneath her. Ms. Galvin stated her second issue is the Bethlehem Police. She has called regarding this woman many times. The neighbor has lived there for almost four years and she is about to leave. On Sunday night, one of the neighbor's sons let their pit bulls loose, and the pit bulls were ready to attack her dogs. There is a chain link fence between the yards and Ms. Galvin stated if she did not have her 2x4 and hit the fence, her dogs would have probably been destroyed. This is not the first time this has happened. She continued the neighbor yelled out of her second floor window that before she moves out she will kill Ms. Garvin. Ms. Galvin stated she knows this woman is serious. When the Police arrived she spoke to one of the officers, badge number 411, and she told him what happened and that she wanted to press charges. The officer said he would go talk to her but she felt like he did not care. Ms. Galvin fears for her life and the life of her loved ones. She noted that she has two full time jobs, is fearful for her mother who is alone at home. Sometimes her brother is there but he does work also. She remarked that she is not getting the satisfaction of the Bethlehem Police lately. Every time she calls the police she is told she is the one who starts this and she is the instigator. Ms. Galvin does not even want to see this woman but she is always waiting for her outside, especially in the summer. Last night she had another Police officer, badge 419, accompany her to her home. Once again, this neighbor was waiting for her outside her house. She expressed that the neighbor also parks her car in front of the fire hydrant. Ms. Galvin referenced the mission of the Police Department as stated on the City's website and stressed that right now she feels so frustrated with the Bethlehem Police because she feels she is not getting the community support at all. She remarked she always feels like she is seen as the instigator and that she is the criminal, but she stated she is not the criminal; her neighbor is. They allow her to do whatever she wants. Ms. Galvin pointed out that she fears for her life and remarked if something happens to her she will blame her neighbor and if she does not do it, she will send someone else to do that dirty job. Ms. Galvin will do anything she can to protect her life if the Bethlehem Police will not.

President Reynolds queried if Mayor Donchez had an opportunity to speak to Ms. Galvin.

Police Captain William Dosedlo reported he has spoken to her and that the Police Chief is aware of this as well.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

ATTEST:

City Clerk