

BETHLEHEM CITY COUNCIL MEETING
10 East Church Street – Town Hall
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania
Tuesday, August 1, 2017 – 7:00 PM

INVOCATION

Reverend Amy B. McClenithan, Central Assembly of God, offered the invocation followed by the pledge to the flag.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

1. ROLL CALL

President Reynolds called the meeting to order. Present were Michael G. Colón, Eric R. Evans, Shawn M. Martell, Olga Negrón, Adam R. Waldron and J. William Reynolds, 6. Bryan G. Callahan was absent, 1.

Welcome to Boy Scout Troop 362

President Reynolds welcomed Boy Scout Troop 362 from Bethlehem and thanked them for being part of the civic process. He encouraged Members of Council to introduce themselves after the meeting, and answer any questions the Boy Scouts might have regarding any of the Merit Badges they are working on.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of July 18, 2017 were approved.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT (on any subject not being voted on this evening - 5 minute time limit)

Economics

Daniel Krasnick, 1316 Beverly Avenue stated that Mr. Antalics came to him and asked who he was. Mr. Krasnick reported he had been a teacher for a long time and was treasurer for the BEA, found money missing and ultimately invested quite a lot of their money properly. His area of expertise has always been mathematics, and he taught math at Liberty High School for a number of years. He remarked that in school he could not put together a string of words that made a coherent sentence but at the age of 15 or 16, what he did regarding that and how he was able to talk and ultimately become an attorney, was working on magic tricks. Mr. Krasnick provided a magic trick with cards while he spoke. He noted that he wanted to talk about economics. He reflected he was looking at budgetary things and realized what an incredible job everyone does here. He stated even comparing the City government, albeit smaller than the United States Government, both entities make the same decisions every day. The decisions you have to make basically counter balance each other. He continued you have to worry about unemployment versus inflation, but another way to look at this is that full employment and growth are the same things. Growth and inflation is exactly the same thing. Anybody on a fixed

income, can be behind the whole year even if you had a cost of living adjustment. The costs go up, but because you do not get the adjustment until the end of the year, you are again behind the next month. Mr. Krasnick mentioned even with cost of living adjustments it does not help your case and you are always behind the eight ball. Our municipality has to do that every single time when they consider certain projects, which one to approve and which one not to approve. He finds that an incredible thing because you want the growth, but ultimately there is more money flowing in here. Then things will be more expensive and that in and of itself is a problem for those on a fixed income. You cannot fire all of your essential services when times are bad either because that makes the City a worse place to live. Mr. Krasnick informed this is what he does for a living, although he does not take money for it. He referenced the Taxes for Teachers, and stated all the money he takes from teachers he donates back to the high schools in terms of scholarships. He handed out business cards and noted that if anyone wants to know who he is they could hand them the card.

South Side/Morton Street 7 Story Building

Bill Scheirer, 1890 Eaton Avenue noted the other speaker mentioned growth. Mr. Scheirer stated growth is good up to a point and is a very relevant municipal issue. We can define it or characterize it in certain terms. He pointed out that Council may be facing a case soon regarding 13 West Morton Street where a developer wants to erect a seven-story building in an area where there are three and four story buildings. This departs from the streetscape that was designated an Historic District. Mr. Scheirer queried whether this is a good thing. He expressed the Mayor, right or wrong, has been quoted as saying that in 15 of 20 years we will not recognize Third Street or Fourth Street. He continued to say that Third Street is pretty well gone, but Fourth Street is largely intact. Mr. Scheirer finds this street to have an atmosphere that is very relaxing, and different from Main Street, although he does like Main Street. He expressed the fact that Main Street is different; more focused, and he is glad we have Main Street. He hopes we can keep Fourth Street the way it is. Mr. Schierer does not want to see a lot of big buildings along Fourth Street because he feels we would lose something in that respect. He stated that he is Vice President of the South Bethlehem Historical Society, but he is not speaking for the Society regarding the Morton Street project. He highlighted that the Society will be taking this up at the next meeting in September. But as an individual, if this comes before you, he asks that Council keep in mind the values of historic preservation and not treat every new thing, every sign of growth as necessarily a good thing. He concluded we want good and sustainable growth.

Stephen Antalics, 737 Ridge Street informed he wanted to speak about what Mr. Scheirer had mentioned. Regarding the building on Morton Street, only seven stories is in mind, which is what can happen on Fourth Street. He pointed out that on Fourth and Vine there will be a nine-story building. He remarked that would dwarf the seven story building, and you would never see it. He stated that Mr. Scheirer is right. Mr. Antalics related the Ordinance protecting Fourth Street and the south side was violated by Council, and stated do not repeat a massive blunder by looking at this building on Morton Street. He finished by saying keep the south side the way it should be.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT (on Ordinances and Resolutions to be voted on this evening - 5 Minute Time Limit)

None.

5. OLD BUSINESS

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

6. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. *Councilman Callahan – Amending Article 117 – Officers and Employees – Adding Restriction On Acceptance of Gifts*

The Clerk read a memorandum dated July 28, 2017 from Councilman Bryan Callahan to which is attached a proposed Ordinance to Amend Article 117 titled Officers and Employees to include restriction on acceptance of gifts.

President Reynolds stated the Ordinance can be placed on the August 15, 2017 agenda.

- B. *City Solicitor – Use Permit Agreement – Celtic Fest, Inc. d/b/a Celtic Cultural Alliance – Celtic Classic 2017, 2018, and 2019*

The Clerk read a memorandum dated July 25, 2017 from William P. Leeson, Esq., City Solicitor to which is attached a proposed Resolution and Associated Use Permit Agreement with Celtic Fest, Inc. d/b/a Celtic Cultural Alliance for the 2017, 2018, and 2019 Celtic Classic Highland Games and Festival for various City properties and Streets.

President Reynolds stated the Resolution can be placed on the August 15, 2017 agenda.

- C. *City Solicitor – Use Permit Agreement – McCarthy’s Irish Pub Celebration*

The Clerk read a memorandum dated July 25, 2017 from William P. Leeson, Esq., City Solicitor to which is attached a proposed Resolution and Associated Use Permit Agreement. The Permittee is McCarthy’s Irish Pub Inc. and the event is the McCarthy’s Irish Pub Celebration. The duration of the agreement is September 23, through September 24, 2017. The location is Walnut Street from Main Street to Guetter Street.

President Reynolds stated the Resolution can be placed on the August 15, 2017 agenda.

7. REPORTS

- A. *President of Council*
- B. *Mayor*

8. ORDINANCES FOR FINAL READING

- A. *Bill No. 26 – 2017 – Amending General Fund Budget*

The Clerk read Bill No. 26 - 2017 - Amending General Fund Budget, on Final Reading.

Voting AYE: Mr. Evans, Mr. Martell, Ms. Negrón, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Colón, and Mr. Reynolds, 6. Bill No. 26 - 2017 now known as Ordinance No. 2017-26 was adopted on Final Reading.

B. Bill No. 27- 2017 - Amending Non-Utility Capital Budget

The Clerk read Bill No. 27 - 2017 - Amending Non-Utility Capital Budget, on Final Reading.

Voting AYE: Mr. Evans, Mr. Martell, Ms. Negrón, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Colón, and Mr. Reynolds, 6. Bill No. 27 - 2017 now known as Ordinance No. 2017-27 was adopted on Final Reading.

C. Bill No. 28 - 2017 - Amending Community Development Budget

The Clerk read Bill No. 28 - 2017 - Amending Community Development Budget, on Final Reading.

Ms. Negrón stated she needs to abstain from voting on this Ordinance because she is a Board Member for CACLV.

Voting AYE: Mr. Evans, Mr. Martell, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Colón, and Mr. Reynolds, 5. Abstain: Ms. Negrón, 1. Bill No. 28 - 2017 now known as Ordinance No. 2017-28 was adopted on Final Reading.

9. NEW ORDINANCES

A. Bill No. 29 - 2017 - Intermunicipal Agreement between the City of Bethlehem, the Bethlehem Authority, and Upper Saucon Township Related to Water Service

The Clerk read Bill No. 29 - 2017 - Intermunicipal Agreement between the City of Bethlehem, the Bethlehem Authority, and Upper Saucon Township Related to Water Service, sponsored by Mr. Evans and Ms. Negrón and titled:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM, COUNTIES OF LEHIGH AND NORTHAMPTON, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING AN INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM, THE BETHLEHEM AUTHORITY AND UPPER SAUCON TOWNSHIP RELATED TO WATER SERVICE TO BE PROVIDED WITHIN THE CITY'S FRANCHISE SERVICE TERRITORY ENCOMPASSING A PORTION OF UPPER SAUCON TOWNSHIP.

Voting AYE: Mr. Evans, Mr. Martell, Ms. Negrón, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Colón, and Mr. Reynolds, 6. Bill No. 29 - 2017 was passed on First Reading.

10. RESOLUTIONS

A. *Authorizing Execution of Highway Safety Project Grant – DUI Program*

Mr. Evans and Ms. Negrón sponsored Resolution No. 2017-157 that authorized the Highway Safety Project Grant.

Voting AYE: Mr. Evans, Mr. Martell, Ms. Negrón, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Colón, and Mr. Reynolds, 6. The Resolution passed.

B. *Certificate of Appropriateness – 7 East Third Street*

Mr. Evans and Ms. Negrón sponsored Resolution No. 2017-158 that granted a Certificate of Appropriateness to install signs to replace the existing signs at 7 East Third Street.

Voting AYE: Mr. Evans, Mr. Martell, Ms. Negrón, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Colón, and Mr. Reynolds, 6. The Resolution passed.

C. *Certificate of Appropriateness – 738 East Fourth Street*

Mr. Evans and Ms. Negrón sponsored Resolution No. 2017-159 that granted a Certificate of Appropriateness to reface the projecting sign with the new business signage at 738 East Fourth Street.

Voting AYE: Mr. Evans, Mr. Martell, Ms. Negrón, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Colón, and Mr. Reynolds, 6. The Resolution passed.

11. NEW BUSINESS

None.

12. ADJOURNMENT

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

ATTEST:

City Clerk