

BETHLEHEM CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
10 East Church Street – Town Hall  
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania  
Tuesday, October 17, 2017 – 7:00 PM

INVOCATION

Senior Pastor Noël Sanabria, Vertical Church Bethlehem, 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 Bryan G. Callahan, Michael G. Colón, Eric R. Evans, Shawn M. Martell, Olga Negrón, Adam R. Waldron and J. William Reynolds, 7.

*Executive Session*

President Reynolds announced that City Council met in Executive Session this evening, Tuesday, October 17, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the Mayor's Conference Room. The purpose of the Executive Session was to receive an update from the Administration on pending litigation matters.

CITATIONS

*Honoring Cheryl Jordan*

President Reynolds presented a Citation to Cheryl Jordan on the occasion of her retirement from the Police Department Communications Center after twenty-two years of service. The Members of Council applauded Ms. Jordan and wished her well in her retirement.

*Honoring John Hrkach, Kevin Dennis, Michael Ogrodnick, Richard Lechman*

President Reynolds stated that the Citations for John Hrkach on his retirement from the Public Works Department, Electrical Bureau and Bureau of Streets Maintenance, Kevin Dennis on his retirement from the Department of Water and Sewer Resources, Michael Ogrodnick on his retirement from the Police Department, and Richard Lechman on his retirement from the Department of Public Works and Bureau of Streets Maintenance will be mailed to them since they were unable to attend this evening.

PUBLIC HEARING

President Reynolds stated prior to the consideration of the regular Agenda items; City Council will conduct a Public Hearing to consider the Proposed 2018 CDBG and HOME Programs. President Reynolds called the public hearing to order.

Allyson Lehr, Housing and Community Development Planner related that once again we are working with a reduced CDBG and HOME allocation at about 5% projected decrease in our funding for next year. This is a lot better than we thought we might be at this point. Our projected CDBG for next year is a little over \$1.2 million and our projected HOME funds will be \$319,000 dollars. Ms. Lehr informed 15% of those HOME funds are required to be set aside for a CHDO, which is a Community Housing Development Organization and that will be CACLV as it has been for the past few years. She continued on to say that as was mentioned at the Community Development Committee Meeting last week, she had reported that we received our 2017 allocation on October 3<sup>rd</sup> even though our program begins on the first of January. Ms. Lehr reported we are spending that at a rapid rate. We have had some really good partners get invoices to us so that we can clear out some of that money and be in good standing with HUD. Ms. Lehr noted there is one slight adjustment in the line items that she presented to the Community Development Committee last week. Within the course of budget negotiations, \$95,000 was taken out of capital projects for Public Works and moved into the administrative line item. Ms. Lehr explained the reason for this is that we see some planning studies coming up in the next year that will help us leverage implementation funds, if we get those studies done. Instead of taking the funds from the General Fund to pay for those studies, we can pay for them with CDBG.

Ms. Lehr explained once again we are funding most of our City programs that we have funded in the past, Police, Streets, Parks, Grounds, etc. She noted that Blight Remediation again is an important part of what we are doing. We have committed another \$100,000 dollars for the acquisition of blighted properties and she is helping the RDA to help take some of those properties. We put in some funding for public service projects such as Sharecare which is elderly care giving, the YWCA which is a youth program. Ms. Lehr advised Hogar Crea has come in and asked for funding to help them with operational support to get an accreditation for Magellan Health to become a certified opioid treatment center. We are definitely interested in funding that and seeing if we can get them up to capacity. She noted that we will be doing some of our fair housing activities, homeless outreach through New Bethany and we will support the Hispanic Center once again. Unfortunately we were not able to fund EMS because HUD does not consider ambulances lifesaving equipment. Ms. Lehr expressed they had a clean audit this past June which was great for the first time in several years; they found no findings or concerns.

Mr. Martell reported at the Community Development Committee Meeting we voted unanimously to recommend this budget. He reiterated his thanks to Ms. Lehr and her department for all the work that goes into planning and carrying out the CDBG and HOME programs; it is not an easy process. There are a lot of deserving partners and he knows that they do the best they can to reach out to people to identify the programs that will have that maximum impact and get the results that have been demonstrated over the past few years. Mr. Martell denoted it is good to see there are a lot of long term partners with this as well as new, that is something we can take heart in that there are many unsung heroes that are committed and others attracted into this program.

Ms. Lehr emphasized it is very rewarding work.

Ms. Negrón noted at the Community Development Committee meeting everyone had time to share, but then Ms. Lehr mentioned the HOME program. She is super excited because the East End Properties are receiving money for eight affordable units, and this is in her neighborhood. This is the eastern gateway for the south side of Bethlehem and is a very important property. She has been talking with the owner for a long time and was happy to see that it was included in there because it will be a big difference for him especially when we talk about affordable units.

Ms. Lehr reported this is for eight affordable units, which is great and just like Councilman Martell stated; this is someone new in the City. The gentleman is interested in doing development projects, so we wanted to take a chance to support his efforts.

President Reynolds recalled that once again we try to do more with less as far as CDBG is concerned. We have this conversation it seems like every year. He continued, with regards to the current uncertainty in Washington, D. C. and our federal budget, it is unconscionable when you look at the value that these programs provide to communities, and then look at the cuts to these programs. President Reynolds thanked Ms. Lehr and Alicia Karner, Director of Economic Development and the staff for going through this process. Sometimes you can say yes to a request, and sometimes you have to say no. He understands that is not an easy task.

*Public Comment*

None.

President Reynolds remarked the Resolution to approve CDBG and HOME programs will be placed on the November 8, 2017 Council agenda. President Reynolds adjourned the Public Hearing at 7:07 pm.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None.

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

*Mayoral Candidate/Write-In*

Arthur Curatola, 813 Laufer Street, advised he is running for Mayor of Bethlehem as a write-in candidate. He has ideas that could be enforced to make our City a lot better. However, he cannot get any of the press or radio stations or television stations to submit his views. They stated he is a write-in and is not really on the ballot therefore he is not official and they cannot do anything. Mr. Curatola does not know where they got that idea. Everyone he talked to did not want to go ahead and do anything for a write-in. He does not know if that is a law here, but it should not be. He stated if someone is serious about doing something for the City, their view should be heard; that is known as freedom of press, but we are not getting freedom of press. Mr. Curatola queried if Council wants to look into that matter or not. He continued we need to make sure things are done right and safe, and there are a lot of things that are not safe here in the City that need to be looked at. Mr. Curatola stated the Parking Authority had placed a cinder block

right across where his property is for over ten years and if someone trips over that he will get sued, not the Parking Authority. They have the parking lot but he has the house on the one side. We both own that little walkway. Mr. Curatola wishes that could be looked into. He added that there are no cameras in that lot so if someone breaks into those cars we do not know who they are. He thinks that should also be looked into.

### *Feral Cats*

Pastor Larry Vandever, Nazareth, stated he is the administrator for The Coalition for Feral Cats of Lehigh Valley. Pastor Vandever reported the feral cat situation is not just local; it is all over the place. The problem is caused by us, we are not only at times nasty to ourselves; we are nasty to animals also. If you find a creature that is hurt you are supposed to take care of that animal even if it is your enemy's animal. He read an excerpt from an Associated Press article regarding feral cats in New York and their practical purpose of eliminating rats in the city. Pastor Vandever mentioned people think that the way to get rid of the cats is to get rid of them, murder them. He pointed out for over 30 years this has been tried, and has been proven not to work. The next thing was putting a ban on feeding the feral cats but they can live weeks without food; they will not give up their site just because they are starving. They still multiply. Pastor Vandever reported the proper way to take care of them and the humane way to take care of this is called TNR which is Trap, Neuter/Spay, and Return; this stops the population growth immediately. Pastor Vandever mentioned also the cats that can be domesticated, we get them adopted. Once you get the cats fixed the howling, the screaming and the fighting will stop. When you try to starve the cats out they become dumpster divers. When they are trapped they get their shots, they de-flea them, and they are neutered and are put back and become a very good neighbor. We have found that by taking care of them like this it works in many ways to benefit a community. He remarked we are taking care of a colony right now in the Bethlehem Township area that started out with eleven cats three years ago, and now we have four. All seven that we had trapped were adopted. We go there every day morning and night to feed the cat, but do not leave food out due to it attracting other wildlife. Pastor Vandever reported they have stopped illegal activities because people know we are there every day at the same time, they see our presence. Right now we are taking care of 52 cats. We need an Ordinance to be adopted for people who abandon cats. The reason we have feral cats is that when a cat gets pregnant they are tossed out of the door. The mother cat they just trapped was very gentle, she could be picked up and she was supposed to be a wild cat. A feral cat is a true wild animal that has been born in the wild. Most are feral cats; the older ones are actually abandoned or lost cats. The five that we had trapped are now part of his family and are great cats. Pastor Vandever would like to meet with Council and a woman named Martha Kahan from No Nonsense Neutering. The only way to take care of this properly is to trap/neuter and return.

President Reynolds queried if someone from the Administration could speak to Pastor Vandever.

Mayor Donchez reported that Kristin Wenrich, Health Director has been working with various organizations and so we could certainly have her reach out to Pastor Vandever.

Heather Ortiz, 229 East Garrison Street, mentioned she is at this meeting to also speak about feral cats. She has also reached out to Mayor Donchez and Ms. Wenrich and she has spoken with Officer Weber of animal control. She stressed they have a huge problem on Garrison Street

with feral cats. She has twice taken in cats from the side of her house that had illnesses. She has two dogs and one of her dogs is afraid of these cats; the other dog will chase them and try to get them. Ms. Ortiz added that her daughter loves all animals and she has been trying to help these cats. What she is afraid of is that her daughter will get bitten by one of these cats and need rabies shots. Ms. Ortiz has gone to everyone she could in regards to these cats and she is getting nowhere and she does not know what to do. She is glad that someone else is bringing it up because something has to be done before something happens to one of our residents with these feral cats. Ms. Ortiz does not want something to happen with her dogs or her kids. She does believe trap/neuter/release is the best option because that is the only way to stop the kittens. She knows in her backyard there are at least three sets of kittens right now, one set is about six weeks old and there some just a few days old. There was one in her yard yesterday where she had to call a rescue to come get because it was five days old and it was abandoned by the mother. Ms. Ortiz hopes that something can be done so these cats do not get put out into the cold and freeze to death.

President Reynolds reported they will certainly follow up with Ms. Wenrich as well to see what the issues are and what solutions she can think of.

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

*Open Data Program and the Open Data Online Portal*

Carole Reese, Hellertown, noted she is at this meeting on behalf of Moravian College. She is here to speak in favor of the Ordinance presented tonight for First Reading and first vote for the creation of the Open Data Program and the Open Data Online Portal for the City of Bethlehem. She knows in general they have done a good job in describing what this program is all about in terms of providing data to the public and to the citizenry and government officials who probably use this data every day. Ms. Reese expressed that transparency is a good thing; it actually takes away anecdotal evidence and actually produces the facts so that people can have at their fingertips the data and information that they crave. She can say from the higher education perspective they are very excited about this particular program. We do have representatives from Lehigh University also sitting at the table to help guide from our perspective how this goes about. Ms. Reese believes bringing in all of these different people, citizens, corporations, higher education, the health network to come together with City officials to say how do we do this best is a great way to get this built. The higher education community is excited because we love data, we have researchers, and faculty who actually talk about the City that we live and work in. We have students who are very curious, we have entrepreneurs and entrepreneurial programs at the colleges and they create data at their fingertips to know where is the best place to present this particular proposal, where is the best place to locate in your business. Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corporation would love to have access to this to be able to present to corporations that may be thinking about relocating, that Bethlehem would be a great place to be and they could show the facts in a moment. Ms. Reese takes this very personally in terms of the college because all of the three colleges in Bethlehem, Northampton Community College, Lehigh University and Moravian College are lead partners of Community Schools. She oversees the Community School at William Penn Elementary and can say to have data at her fingertips about the neighborhood where our families and children live would be very valuable to enable them to give and plan the appropriate interventions that

can support the education of these students. Ms. Reese highlighted that she works closely with Dr. Roy with Liberty High School and Freedom High School to do all kinds of planning of initiatives and partnerships. Again, to have data about what the demographics are like, what the businesses are like, who would maybe want to partner with us would be just wonderful. She remarked the possibilities are endless. We are doing this right and she just wanted to Council to hear from their perspective that Moravian College is in very much support of this Ordinance.

5. OLD BUSINESS

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

6. COMMUNICATIONS

A. *Director of Budget and Finance – 2017 Pension State Aid*

The Clerk read a memorandum dated October 3, 2017 from Mark W. Sivak, Director of Budget and Finance regarding the 2017 Pension State Aid. A direct deposit for State Aid in the amount of \$3,854,132.85 was received on September 29, 2017. The proceeds have been allocated as follows:

Reimbursement-Pension Bond Payment 05/01/17	\$1,043,619.93
Reimbursement-Pension Bond Payment 11/01/17	<u>\$2,810,512.92</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,854,132.85</b>

President Reynolds stated Resolution 10 A is on the agenda.

B. *Request for Intermunicipal Liquor License Transfer – 2174 West Union Boulevard*

The Clerk read a correspondence from Attorney Robert J. O'Hara, Esq. representing Giant Food Stores, LLC, requesting approval of an Intermunicipal Liquor License Transfer of a Lehigh County liquor license acquired by Giant Food Stores from the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board via public auction conducted in July, 2017. The licensed premises shall be 2174 West Union Boulevard, Bethlehem, Lehigh County. Attorney O'Hara is requesting a public hearing to be scheduled regarding the Intermunicipal Liquor License Transfer.

*Motion – Schedule Public Hearing*

President Reynolds stated he will accept a motion and a second to schedule a Public Hearing on Wednesday, November 8, 2017 at 7:00 pm in Town Hall.

Mr. Callahan and Mr. Evans moved to schedule the Public Hearing.

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

President Reynolds stated the Public Hearing will be held on Wednesday, November 8, 2017 at 7:00 pm in Town Hall.

C. *Director of Water and Sewer Resources – Recommendation of Award – Joao & Bradley Construction Company*

The Clerk read a memorandum dated October 9, 2017 from Edward J. Boscola, Director of Water and Sewer Resources recommending a price increase for a contract with Joao & Bradley Construction Co., Inc. due to additional work regarding unforeseen conditions and actual quantities versus estimated quantities of material delivered to the East Goepp Street Water Main Replacement project. The increased amount of the contract is \$66,079.05.

President Reynolds stated Resolution 10 B is on the agenda.

D. *Director of Water and Sewer Resources – Recommendation of Award – Tank Industry Consultants*

The Clerk read a memorandum dated October 9, 2017 from Edward J. Boscola, Director of Water and Sewer Resources recommending a contract with Tank Industry Consultants for inspection of the 5 million gallon water storage tank. The term of the contract is from the notice to proceed until April 30, 2018. The fee for the contract is \$7,550.00.

President Reynolds stated Resolution 10 C is on the agenda.

E. *Assistant City Solicitor – Civil Service Board Rules and Regulations*

The Clerk read a memorandum dated October 10, 2017 from Assistant City Solicitor, Matthew J. Deschler, Esq. to which is attached a proposed Resolution to approve the rules and regulations for the City's civil service that were adopted by the Civil Service Board on October 3, 2017.

President Reynolds stated the Resolution can be placed on the November 8 agenda.

F. *City Solicitor – Use Permit Agreement – Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce by and through its Downtown Bethlehem Association – Christmas City Village*

The Clerk read a memorandum dated October 12, 2017 from City Solicitor William P. Leeson, Esq. to which is attached a proposed Resolution and Associated Use Permit Agreement with the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce by and through its Downtown Bethlehem Association for the Christmas City Village. The duration of the agreement is October 30, 2017 through January 2, 2018 and the location is Nevin Place adjacent to the Sun Inn Courtyard and Main Street from Broad Street to Church Street.

President Reynolds stated Resolution 10 D is on the agenda.

G. *Director of Water and Sewer Resources – Recommendation of Award – Coburn Chemicals*

The Clerk read a memorandum from Edward J. Boscola, Director of Water and Sewer Resources recommending a contract with Coburn Chemicals for Magnesium Hydroxide for the Waste Water Treatment Plant. The term of the contract is December 1, 2017 through November 30, 2018. The fee for the contract is \$157,450. The renewal term is three, one-year extensions.

President Reynolds stated Resolution 10 E is on the agenda.

H. *Director of Water and Sewer Resources – Recommendation of Award – Univar USA, Inc.*

The Clerk read a memorandum from Edward J. Boscola, Director of Water and Sewer Resources recommending a contract with Univar USA for Sodium Hydroxide for the Water Filtration Plant. The term of the contract is December 1, 2017 through November 30, 2018. The fee for the contract is \$114,855. The renewal term is three, one-year extensions.

President Reynolds stated Resolution 10 F is on the agenda.

I. *Purchasing Director – On-Line Auction*

The Clerk read a memorandum dated October 12, 2017 from Sandra Steidel to which is attached a list of vehicles that will be sold at the next on-line auction to be held within the next 60 days. Council will be advised when the auction date is confirmed.

President Reynolds stated if Council has no objection the property listed; the same may be added to the on-line auction. If Council would like to discuss a specific item, the same shall be removed from the list and discussed at the next Council Meeting on November 8, 2017. President Reynolds queried if any Member of Council would like to discuss a specific item, have it removed from the list, and discussed at the next City Council Meeting on Wednesday, November 8, 2017.

Mr. Callahan mentioned the golf superintendent expressed during the summertime that they were in need of a dump truck. He queried if the dump truck on the list is currently working.

Mr. Alkhal stated he will speak to Mr. Callahan after the meeting.

President Reynolds stated a memo will be sent to the Purchasing Director that City Council has no objections to the property listed.

## 7. REPORTS

A. *President of Council*

*Northside 2027 Meeting*

President Reynolds reminded everyone that the first Northside 2027 meeting will be held tomorrow at Moravian College in their new health sciences building, "The Sally" – Room 121. Everyone here has shown support in the past and he thinks tomorrow will be a great day

for us. This first meeting is at 4:00 pm as a way to allow for both school district staff, Moravian staff, City staff to be there and future meetings will be later on in the day to balance it out. This will be an opportunity for the City, for himself and for Mayor Donchez to share what some of our ideas are related to Northside 2027. He can certainly provide an update to all that are unable to make the meeting as well as what will come out of the meeting.

*Committee of the Whole Meeting/Climate Action Plan*

President Reynolds pointed out that we have the Committee of the Whole Meeting coming up on December 13, 2017 at 6:00 pm in Town Hall regarding our Climate Action Plan, and between now and then he encourages everyone to attend one of the Environmental Advisory Council Meetings. They have taken the lead in doing a lot of research having to do with the policies and at the December 13, 2017 meeting we will have an opportunity to talk about where we are going, what our ideas are as far as what 2018 will hold with the Climate Action Plan. There are many areas, one has to do with policy and another has to do with the City updating its own carbon footprint goals and also coming up with a City wide program that hopefully we will be able to announce and install. President Reynolds stated that he and Mayor Donchez had a successful meeting with one of our energy suppliers and when you look around at all aspects of this, the EAC, citizens, environmental organizations, Moravian, Lehigh, it will come together with us creating a Climate Action Plan. He believes it will be the first of its type as far as the Lehigh Valley is concerned, and as a mid-sized City, but it will really be the model of how to do this type of thing going into the future.

*Congratulation-EMS Award*

President Reynolds stated on behalf of City Council he would like to congratulate the EMS Bureau who recently received the American Heart Association's Mission: Lifeline® EMS Gold Plus Award for implementing quality improvement measures for the treatment of patients who experience severe heart attacks.

B. *Mayor*

1. *Administrative Order – Tomacene Nickens – Civil Service Board*

Mayor Donchez reappointed Tomacene Nickens to membership on the Civil Service Board effective through October, 2021. Mr. Evans and Mr. Waldron sponsored Resolution 2017-196 to confirm the reappointment.

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

C. *Community Development Committee Meeting*

Chairman Martell stated the Community Development Committee met on Tuesday, October 10, 2017 at 6:00 pm in Town Hall. The members of the Committee unanimously recommended that City Council adopt the appropriate Resolution at the November 8 City Council Meeting for the 2018 CDBG and HOME Programs.

D. *Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting*

Chairman Evans stated the Parks and Recreation Committee met on Tuesday, October 10, 2017 at 7:00 pm in Town Hall. The Committee reviewed the Municipal Golf Course operations, identified challenges, and discussed options for the future. We invited all season pass holders and got the word out and as a result the meeting was very well attended. We received valuable feedback from the golfers who were in attendance. The Committee requested a follow up from the Administration regarding these discussions in the first quarter of 2018.

8. ORDINANCES FOR FINAL READING

A. *Bill No. 32 - 2017 - Amending General Fund Budget - Health Bureau Grants - Adjustments*

The Clerk read Bill No. 32 - 2017 - Amending General Fund Budget - Health Bureau Grants - Adjustments, on Final Reading.

Voting AYE: Mr. Martell, Ms. Negrón, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, Mr. Colón, Mr. Evans, and Mr. Reynolds, 7. Bill No. 32 - 2017 now known as Ordinance No. 2017 - 32 was passed on Final Reading.

B. *Bill No. 33 - 2017 - Amending Non-Utility Capital Improvement Budget - FEMA Grant*

The Clerk read Bill No. 33 - 2017 - Amending Non-Utility Capital Improvement Budget - FEMA Grant, on Final Reading.

Voting AYE: Mr. Martell, Ms. Negrón, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, Mr. Colón, Mr. Evans, and Mr. Reynolds, 7. Bill No. 33 - 2017 now known as Ordinance No. 2017 - 33 was passed on Final Reading.

9. NEW ORDINANCES

A. *Bill No. 34 - 2017 - Establishing Open Data Program and Open Data Online Portal*

The Clerk read Bill No. 34 - 2017 - Establishing Open Data Program and Open Data Online Portal, sponsored by Mr. Evans and Mr. Martell and titled:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM,  
COUNTIES OF LEHIGH AND NORTHAMPTON,  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA,  
ESTABLISHING AN OPEN DATA PROGRAM AND  
OPEN DATA ONLINE PORTAL

President Reynolds commented that Council Rules allows the Council President to serve two year terms and as he saw he would be term limited in 2017 he thought about what would be the best way to move forward to accomplish goals that he had. This is his tenth year on City Council and he realized that City Council by design, the way our charter and the way the Third Class City Code is, is often a reactive body. The Administration proposes things, we vote on

them, we compromise, we weigh the pros and cons and partly that is designed because we have professionals in house and also this is a part time job for us; we have full time jobs. President Reynolds started to think about what are the priorities of people on City Council and what has he heard of priorities out there. One of the things he heard about and he saw other cities doing was open data. He first saw this in 2013 when President Obama issued an executive order that made open data a practice in government. What open data really does, as Ms. Reese had discussed before, is it really takes internal city data and turns it over to our community, turns it over to our entrepreneurs, to our social service providers, to our health networks, to our institutions of higher learning, to everyone who wants to take a look at it. President Reynolds has said many times the creativity and imagination of Bethlehem is not limited by City Hall. He has looked how other Cities do this. He explained that Philadelphia has an extensive open data program, Pittsburgh does and actually one of Pittsburgh's open data coordinators for the last four years has been a young woman he was an intern with at Representative Steve Samuelson's office, Laura Meixell. He went out there and visited to see how they did this. He reached out and what you saw was really a way to transform the future of city government. What it allows people to do is use our data, use data that is privately collected for uses that we cannot even imagine. When you look at what people are able to do with it and what they have done in other cities with it this is really remarkable in how they have become more efficient in delivering City services, how small businesses are able to use it. It is not just the idea that we have data but how do we make it accessible and easy to use. The days when people would just call City Hall and ask questions or come here and ask for reports needs to be over. One of the ultimate goals, and he knows we are at the beginning or somewhere in the middle of the process, is hopefully we can create a Bethlehem app that allows future citizens to go onto their smartphone and access different services and data that we have. He related that what we have done over the last year since he released Bethlehem 2017 in January was perform a great deal of research. President Reynolds remarked that Ms. Kelchner and Mr. Vidoni did a lot of research and we put together a working group that included representatives of St. Luke's Health Network, Lehigh Valley Health Network, Moravian College, Lehigh University, citizens that specialize in open data that use this in their professional lives. We looked at what other cities do to see what we can do. President Reynolds thanked Solicitor Leeson and his office who reviewed our open data Ordinance, and Council Solicitor Spirk who had an opportunity to look through it. President Reynolds remarked that part of the reason we do not do things around here is not necessarily that we chose not to, but we do have limited staff. One thing that Mr. Brong and Mayor Donchez have done a great job with is doing more with less, and looking at how do we hold the line on taxes as well as we can, and how do we find a way to get our employees to do as much as possible in the most efficient way. Part of this was City Council stepping up and leading the way with issues we were passionate about. He remarked that open data is one topic that Mr. Martell has had a lot of experience with, and has focused on as well. He remarked that Mr. Martell has been a great resource in moving forward with this subject. President Reynolds expressed based on experience, initiatives do not generally work if everyone is not on the same page. There is a way to and not to go about making policy. When he brought up many of these ideas, open data and the Open Bethlehem Program, he received nothing but 100% support from Mayor Donchez, Mr. Brong and the Administration. President Reynolds recalled that Mr. Brong took it on himself with other department heads to really see how we can do this in City Hall; he would like to thank him for that. He was hoping that Mr. Brong would make a few comments on what he has done in looking into open data this year, and where we are internally as far as an open data program is concerned.

Mr. Brong reported we are behind the eight ball, most of the community's do this but the City of Bethlehem does not so we are trailing behind a little bit. There are some packages and providers out there that do it really well. We are working with one of them right now that he thinks will revolutionize not just transparency within the City but from his standpoint also the operation of our City as well. Mr. Brong explained the presentation of data and the effort that it takes and the questions that it raises and the answers that it demands are things that we do not even discuss right now and we should be. Unfortunately, we cannot because there is no easy way to do it with the way we are set up right now. There is a tremendous opportunity that we are on the cusp of implementing here. He will say the one thing that has delayed us just a little bit is our interfaces, the ability to refresh data for public consumption from the data that we work with every day. There has to be a handoff and we want that handoff to be seamless. We do not want people to be sitting around worrying about refreshing data on a routine basis; we want that to happen automatically. At the moment there is an interface being developed and once that is developed, which he thinks is a matter of probably a month at this point, we will begin.

President Reynolds mentioned one of the things that open data has the opportunity to do is make internal City operations more efficient. He knows that is one thing that Mr. Brong has been excited about from the beginning of this initiative. President Reynolds stated he would be remiss if he did not say a thank you to the Administration for being involved. We received a few emails and a few could not be here tonight including our representatives from the community, Moravian College, Lehigh University, St. Luke's, Lehigh Valley Health Network who are excited to be involved in this going forward. This platform that we are on the cusp of will deliver data to the citizens, academia, businesses and many more. This data has enumerable benefits that we are not sure of yet.

Mr. Martell remarked that President Reynolds should be commended for this initiative. He related that Mr. Brong mentioned that there are cities that are doing this, but most of them are bigger cities like New York, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, Chicago and so forth and then you see a few mid-tier cities like Pittsburgh. The ones that are in our ballpark, are for some reason more down south and out west. When you look at the Mid-Atlantic region you are not seeing a lot of this. Mr. Martell believes this is a progressive thing and for our size it took a little bit of creativity and a lot of partnership from the community members. He continued to say that open data is really a democratic thing and that was echoed and mirrored in the process by which we got to this point today. There were community members involved, members of the Administration, Council Members, various non-profit partners and various different people involved in getting us to this particular point. That is what you will see going forward. One of the reasons Mr. Martell likes open data is because another term for it would be open government. Essentially what you are doing is taking all of the information the government has that they use, that we use on a day to day basis to make decisions and are turning that information over to the public and saying here are the facts. Mr. Martell noted that Ms. Reese mentioned that allows people then to be more engaged. You are talking about increasing transparency, increasing accountability. You can look at examples we have done here with the meeting we had about the Golf Course, and when we went over the Parks and Pool Study at various times. We brought people into Council chambers, put the data, charts and numbers up on the board and everyone who was at those meetings would agree those conversations were incredibly robust and comprehensive. There were a lot of nuance suggestions and comments

that came out of that process. Mr. Martell stated essentially what this program will do is take that information and put it out on a portal that people can access at their leisure, at any time. They will be seeing that information and be able to participate in the democratic process armed with that same information. This is one of the reasons when you look at organizations like the Sunlight Foundation, the foundations that are focused on transparency, accountability, and ethics in government, you will see one of their major pillars is advocating for open data. Mr. Martell thinks this is something very progressive for the City to be doing and he is proud of the work that everyone put into this. He mentioned this is already happening, this is not theoretical, and these things you will see. He noted Ms. Reese mentioned looking at school district data and when you overlay school district data with economic data, health data and overlay all of this information on a neighborhood you now have a really comprehensive set of information that not just government officials, but interested citizens can look at too. We can then come up with evidence based solutions to solve problems well before they would have been solved otherwise. You can look at budget information; look at real time traffic data which helps support things like public transportation, the streets department and people driving to work. Mr. Martell added you could look at the environmental impacts and pinpoint areas and times where pollution is starting to kick up and make references as to what is going on there. We could look at walkability of neighborhoods, which are more walkable and why is that and also look at crime in real time. Mr. Martell noted this is also for recreation, to look at maps and parks, trails and connections in real time. You can overlay the Bike Bethlehem locations connecting with real time traffic data connected with real time trails and parks and connections and all of a sudden have an integrated system. Mr. Martell thinks this is something where there are an endless amount of benefits for accountability, transparency, efficiency, and lower transaction costs because the many requests can free up some of the government interactions. You are supporting small business who do not necessarily have the budget to get this information, but now it is accessible. Mr. Martell is excited about this and he wanted to say thank you to all of the people who worked on this. The benefits and foresight will be proven as times go on.

Mr. Waldron thanked President Reynolds and the working group that worked on this as well as the public and private partnership that has started and will take off from this. He noted that the process of bringing this legislation forward is the way things are supposed to go as far as creating something working with the Administration and the legal department. That would be to make sure that those who are implementing this on a daily basis can do that, have that back and forth conversation on what this should look like when it is presented to Council. Obviously a lot of time and thought went into that in respecting the process. Mr. Waldron thinks this will start us into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and push us into the 22<sup>nd</sup> because we really do not know where the legacy of something like this will take us. What it really does is it takes not only the entire community of 74,000 people in the public/private partnership but it opens it up to even more than that, not just the 600 minds that work for the City, but it opens it up to whoever within our community or beyond who want to take a look at this data. That is because this data is information and that information is power and we are empowering the people by creating this open data plan. Obviously Mr. Waldron will support this tonight and he thinks this will pass 7-0 because the positives that could come from this are limitless and exponential. He will support this 100%, and is excited to see where this will take us.

Ms. Negrón informed she echoes what her colleagues have said. She is excited to see the City of Bethlehem a star as it always is. This is especially when we talk about transparency and being open to the community, because that is what we are supposed to be doing. It is also really nice to see someone from Moravian who has been involved in this process to be here and speak on it. She thanked all who put this together.

Mr. Colón also echoed what has been said and thanked everyone who worked hard on this, from his colleagues on Council to everyone in the Administration and to the community partners and different non-profits. There is a lot to be realized within these data sets and this will serve the City as a whole, not just City government but different people with different interests, whether it is a business or a non-profit.

Mr. Callahan reported much of what he wanted to say has been said. He thanked President Reynolds and everyone who worked on this. In the last six months we came a long way. We had Mr. Martell's Ethics Training Ordinance that was passed, we had the Gift Ban Ordinance that was passed last month and with this Open Data Program and Portal the bottom line on all of this is that this is a big win/win for the City of Bethlehem and taxpayers. Mr. Callahan noted this is all about transparency, which is always a good thing in City government.

Mr. Evans reported he agrees with what was said by everyone in support of the Ordinance.

President Reynolds mentioned this is the start of something and he does have that dream about a Bethlehem app that we could put together in the near future. No one person gets something done around here. He thanked everyone because this is a step in transforming the way the City does business. The limits of creativity and imagination in the City go far beyond what is in City Hall. We work very hard, our professionals work very hard, our department heads work very hard and this will hopefully make everyone's job a little bit easier.

Voting AYE: Mr. Martell, Ms. Negrón, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, Mr. Colón, Mr. Evans, and Mr. Reynolds, 7. Bill No. 34 - 2017 was passed on First Reading.

## 10. RESOLUTIONS

### A. *Approving Allocations - 2017 Pension State Aid*

Mr. Evans and Mr. Waldron sponsored Resolution 2017-197 that authorized the appropriate City officials hereby to allocate \$3,854,132.85 of the 2017 General Municipal Pension System State Aid among the City's pension plans as stated in the Resolution.

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

### B. *Authorizing Contract - Joao & Bradley Construction Co., Inc.*

Mr. Evans and Mr. Waldron sponsored Resolution No. 2017-198 that authorized to execute an agreement with Joao & Bradley Construction for the East Goepp Street Water Main Street Replacement project.

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

C. *Authorizing Contract – Tank Industry Consultants*

Mr. Evans and Mr. Waldron sponsored Resolution No. 2017-199 that authorized to execute an agreement with Tank Industry Consultants for a 5 million gallon Southwest Water Storage Tank Inspection.

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

D. *Authorizing Use Permit Agreement – Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce by and through its Downtown Bethlehem Association – Christmas City Village*

Mr. Evans and Ms. Negrón sponsored Resolution No. 2017-200 that authorized the execution of a 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 the Sun Inn Courtyard) and Main Street from Broad Street to Church Street for the Christmas City Village for the time period November 17, 2017 through December 23, 2017, according to the Agreement.

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

E. *Authorizing Contract – Coburn Chemicals*

Mr. Evans and Mr. Waldron sponsored Resolution No. 2017-201 that authorized to execute a contract with Coburn Chemicals for Magnesium Hydroxide for the Waste Water Treatment Plant.

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

F. *Authorizing Contract – Univar USA, Inc.*

Mr. Evans and Mr. Waldron sponsored Resolution No. 2017-202 that authorized to execute a contract with Univar USA, Inc. for Sodium Hydroxide for the Water Filtration Plant.

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

G. *Certificate of Appropriateness – 518 Main Street*

Mr. Evans and Mr. Waldron sponsored Resolution No. 2017-203 that granted a Certificate of Appropriateness to install new two blade signs at 518 Main Street (Healing Hands).

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

11. NEW BUSINESS

*Puerto Rico Fundraiser Music Concert/Levitt Pavilion*

Ms. Negrón mentioned because of the disaster in Puerto Rico there will be an influx of Puerto Ricans who will come to the Lehigh Valley. She thanked the Mayor, and mentioned they had a meeting a few weeks ago with the Latino Advisory Board and she thanked him for opening up for the discussion. She continued to say that Community Action had a meeting with key members of the community and we are moving forward to be ready. We are calling this "Estamos Listos", which means "we are ready". This is something that has touched her personally because her family is in Puerto Rico. Ms. Negrón pointed out that her daughter is at this meeting, and she was in Puerto Rico when Hurricane Maria hit the island. She was happy to have her back, but she is going back tomorrow back to Puerto Rico to bring her mother and father to Bethlehem. Ms. Negrón informed on Sunday, November 5, 2017 she is getting together with various Latino leaders and we are doing a music festival at the Levitt Pavilion. She remarked that she is calling everyone because we are going to help two different causes with this event. One is the Hispanic Center will have a booth on site and they will be collecting coats, hats, gloves and clothing donations. She is hoping that the community will come and help. We will also raise money; she has been working with the Concilio-Unidas PA in Philadelphia which is the Hispanic center. They are channeling the money to Puerto Rico to a foundation. People can make donations. We are also looking for sponsorships and it is all tax-deductible. The idea is to have music and get together; we will have live views from Puerto Rico on the big screen at the Levitt Pavilion. We will be recording the concert live so people in Puerto Rico can see the concert to show we are getting together as a community and are opening our arms to them. She thanked Pastor Sanabria for the prayer made this morning and he will be in communication and the church will be helping us as well. They actually stepped up to the plate and are going to be sponsoring families, which is amazing. Ms. Negrón explained the event is on Sunday, November 5, 2017 from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm and she hopes that everyone can attend and help Puerto Rico.

President Reynolds thanked Ms. Negrón for all the work she has done on this cause. He remarked at Allen High School, where he teaches, he heard a few of his 10<sup>th</sup> graders talking about this as well. He is glad to hear that everyone in her family is doing well.

*Car break-ins-West Bethlehem*

Mr. Waldron mentioned that Members of Council as well as the Administration have received some emails about the west side regarding break-ins and thefts that have gone on there. He asked Chief Mark DiLuzio for some information on this. Mr. Waldron heard there was an uptick in those crimes.

Chief DiLuzio reported he received the same emails concerning vehicle break-ins in West Bethlehem from Lehigh Street to Broad Street and Second Avenue up to Thirteenth and Fourteenth Avenue. These are car break-ins, they go on all year and there is no major uptick or increase in them than any other part of Bethlehem. Most of the people committing these crimes are young adults; they do it for substance abuse problems. Chief DiLuzio explained most of these crimes occur between midnight and 4:00 to 5:00 am. Usually they go through a neighborhood and try car doors and look for unlocked cars. For some reason we leave our wallet and phones and cash on the dash, computers and everything that is easily to pawn in the black market and this is what is occurring on the west side. The last group of individuals they arrested were from Allentown, they lived right on the border in East Allentown and they were committing crimes in both those neighborhoods. Chief DiLuzio stressed there is no major increase, there are some in one area and then it moves to another area. We also have them on the east side and center City and the south side. This is something that occurs all year. The temperature is important also, you will see a difference in crime numbers come the fall of the year. People tend to close their windows in the fall of the year, so outside crime at night will take place. In the summertime we tend to sleep with our windows open for ventilation so people tend to hear things in the summer months. In the fall of the year towards Christmas you will see commercial robberies, burglaries and theft will take a minor increase. Criminals do not like the cold weather, you will see an increase from the end of mid-March to June and in the summertime it will level off because criminals do not like the heat either. Temperatures and events in the City do cause increases in crime but there is no major rash where we have hundreds of people coming to town ransacking cars. He does have extra patrols out in the area and there will be plain clothes officers out also from his street crime units and they will be looking for basically anybody between midnight and 5:00 am walking around with a backpack. Usually when they find someone they will have 4 or 5 phones or anything people leave in cars in the backpacks and then you can connect them to the vehicles. Chief DiLuzio reported it is an easy crime because we leave our cars unlocked. They just walk down the street and try handles on the cars. You would be amazed how many cars are open on the street so it is a problem.

Mr. Waldron can attest to that because he lives in that neighborhood and this happened to his car as his car was unlocked. He just wanted to get a feel for this because some of his neighbors have been reaching out to him to understand if this is typical and what the Bethlehem Police Department is doing with this. So it seems you are on top of this.

Chief DiLuzio stated we do a computer program where all of the pawn shops submit the information into what they buy with serial number and who because they take the driver license identifications. We match that up against all of our burglary and theft reports daily, it solves a lot of crimes.

President Reynolds asked if we have any block watches operating in that neighborhood.

Chief DiLuzio informed we had one on the west side where we usually meet at the Church of the Manger and we have some off of Pennsylvania Avenue by Eaton Avenue.

Mr. Waldron noted there is the Mount Airy Neighborhood Community and they meet at Broad and Fifteenth at the Church there and Mary Toulouse runs that and this might be an opportunity to get reconnected.

Chief DiLuzio stated he can contact her and we can get some information out there.

President Reynolds knows we have heard this in other parts of the City and the meetings with the group at the Church of the Manger can do a lot with contacts. There is also the Moravian Church on Third Avenue and a few other places in that neighborhood that might be willing to host a block watch.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

ATTEST:

City Clerk