

BETHLEHEM CITY COUNCIL MEETING
10 East Church Street - Town Hall
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania
Tuesday, April 2, 2019 - 7:00 PM

INVOCATION

Pastor Paul Patrick, Second Baptist Church, offered the Invocation which was followed by the pledge to the flag.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

1. ROLL CALL

President Waldron called the meeting to order. Present were, Bryan G. Callahan, Michael G. Colón, Shawn Martell, Olga Negrón, J. William Reynolds, Paige Van Wirt, and Adam R. Waldron, 7.

CITATIONS

Honoring Captain Anthony Leardi

President Waldron stated that the Citation for Captain Anthony Leardi on the occasion of his retirement from the Bethlehem Police Department after 25 years of service will be mailed to him since he was unable to attend this evening.

Honoring Matthew Seyfried

President Waldron stated that the Citation for Matthew Seyfried on the occasion of his retirement from the Bethlehem Fire Department after 20 years of service will be mailed to him since he was unable to attend this evening.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of March 19, 2019 were approved.

Communication 6 I and Resolution 10 H addition

President Waldron announced we received a Communication and Resolution from Michael Alkhal, Director of Public Works regarding a request for approval by City Council of a contract award and respective Resolution. President Waldron announced the Clerk will read Communication 6 I into the record so anyone may comment during public comment. He will accept a motion later on in the agenda to add the Resolution.

Communication 6 I – Director of Public Works – Recommendation of Award – F. A. Rohrbach, LLC

The Clerk read a memorandum dated March 29, 2019 from Michael Alkhal, Director of Public Works recommending a contract with F. A. Rohrbach, LLC for design and construction of

ADA accessible curb ramps. The term of the contract is 90 calendar days from the notice to proceed and the fee for the contract is \$504,030.

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

Communications Survey/Bethlehem Moment

Ed Gallagher, 49 West Greenwich, thanked Mayor and Council for taking that extra step in approving the citizen appointments to committees. He gives a tip of the hat to Councilman Reynolds and Mayor Donchez for the roll out of the communications survey. Mr. Gallagher has been looking forward to that and hopes for good things to come on the other side of that. Mr. Gallagher called attention to a new thread on his Bethlehem Gadfly blog called "Candidates for Election". In addition, Mr. Gallagher stated he is looking for volunteers for the Bethlehem Moment. Mr. Gallagher continued with Bethlehem Moment number nine and recognized Mr. Callahan for his equal pay proposal. He remarked he has nine granddaughters and thought about a lot of novels in the 18th and 19th Century of women trying to be self-sufficient and economically stable and was quite moved by Mr. Callahan's proposal, thus the theme of his Bethlehem Moment. Mr. Gallagher spoke about Mary Penry who had a very difficult life. She was born in Wales, lived in desperate circumstances, and upon the death of her father she and her mother moved in with family in Philadelphia. Her situation was worst for many reasons, and at the age of 19 she learned of the Sisters House from famed artist, Johann Valentine Haidt, whose portraits were seen in museums around town, and she then came to Bethlehem. Ms. Penry was a bookkeeper, accountant, translator, and a town guide. The Sister's House gave her and other women the choice to remain single. Mr. Gallagher informed the Sister's House gave Mary Penry and other single women life.

Rails to Trails Concern

Olivia Funghini, 1853 Norwood Street, stated they moved to Bethlehem around two and a half years ago. She remarked there are four wheelers and dirt bikes that are speeding up and down the trail behind their home. There is noise pollution; there is the danger of the people walking. She informed that she bicycles back and forth to work on that trail in warm weather. Ms. Funghini explained she has been met with speeding cyclists on the trails. We also have eagles that have eagle chicks and her other concern is for their safety because they are supposed to be protected. She wonders what can be done about this. She has spoken to the Police but they feel there is no way they can really sit on the trail or monitor those trails because cars can get on them. She did see Police on the horses on Third Street so she is wondering if that is possibility. The Police suggested that they attend a City Council Meeting. She did contact someone on Facebook with Rails to Trails and never received an answer.

President Waldron is not sure if she has reached out to our Police Chief Mark DiLuzio who is at this meeting. He might be able to speak to her after this meeting and discuss what can be done.

The Three Bethlehem's

Stephen Antalics, 737 Ridge Street, remarked back in the late 1800's there were three Bethlehem's, three boroughs. There was West Bethlehem, Bethlehem and South Bethlehem, all independent. Two did not get along at all; Bethlehem and South Bethlehem were antagonistic. The Borough of South Bethlehem was doing quite well and thought about becoming a Third Class City in 1890. This concerned the Borough of Bethlehem because if that happened it would be a hard time for the Borough of Bethlehem. They started to have meetings to encourage the incorporation of the three boroughs. It did not go well between the Borough of Bethlehem and South Bethlehem in terms of the exchanges. The Bethlehem Times at that time was a Borough of Bethlehem vehicle and the editor did not look kindly on the south side. Mr. Antalics read the news article about one of the meetings where the Borough of South Bethlehem, the Borough of Bethlehem and West Bethlehem met to discuss consolidation; however the Borough of South Bethlehem declined to debate. Mr. Antalics remarked taken that into account you understand why it took over 25 to 30 years for the City to come together.

Recreation Director Retirement

Jane Persa, 1933 Paul Avenue, remarked she is retiring shortly and expressed how much she loved her job and the fun she had through the years. She noted, some days were long, but the years were short. She is truly grateful for having the opportunity to serve our citizens of Bethlehem for the last 40 years. Ms. Persa wanted to personally thank Mayor Donchez and the current Administration as well as Members of City Council for the support and friendship over the last years. She has worked for six Administrations beginning with Mayor Paul Marcincin who hired her in 1978 upon graduation from Penn State, to now Mayor Robert Donchez who she has known since she was 16 years old working at her father's drugstore up the street from his house. Ms. Persa has watched the City grow from the support of Bethlehem Steel to the majesty of what we now call Steel Stacks. She continued to say the collective vision of City Council working with these Administrations has transformed our City into a destination for visitors from around the world. Regardless of the Administration or who was on City Council, neither ever wavered in their commitment to the citizens of Bethlehem. People have asked her what she enjoyed most about her job and she really has to say it has been watching all the young people she has hired over the years become leaders, teachers, Police officers, doctors, lawyers, and giving back to their community. Those include people such as Councilman Reynolds, Business Administrator Eric Evans, Deputy Police Commissioner Scott Meixell, and Senator Lisa Boscola, who truly have made a difference in their communities. She highlighted there are a lot of exciting recreation projects underway right now, such as the renovation of Memorial Pool, Friendship Park, and the Rose Garden. Ms. Persa is truly confident that our recreation organization and its new leader will bring these projects to fruition. Finally, and most importantly, she looks forward to enjoying our parks and recreation facilities with her three grandchildren.

President Waldron thanked Ms. Persa for her remarks and for her 40 years of time in serving the City. Her retirement is well deserved and well-earned considering she has worked for the City longer than most of Council Members up here have been alive. Council and the audience applauded Ms. Persa on her retirement.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT (on ordinances and resolutions to be voted on by Council this evening - 5 Minute Time Limit

None.

5. OLD BUSINESS

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

6. COMMUNICATIONS

A. *Mayor – Recommendation of Removal of Art Work from City Collection*

The Clerk read a memorandum dated March 27, 2019 from Mayor Robert J. Donchez to which is attached a proposed Resolution and exhibit allowing for the removal of several pieces of art from the City's collection. The pieces removed will be transferred to the Boutique at the Rink and any proceed from the sale of the pieces will be donated to the cancer community of the Lehigh Valley.

President Waldron stated Resolution 10 E is on the agenda.

B. *Director of Water and Sewer Resources – Recommendation of Award – Maser Consulting, P.A. – Fire Pump Station Rehabilitation*

The Clerk read a memorandum dated March 26, 2019 from Edward Boscola, Director of Water and Sewer Resources recommending a contract with Maser Consulting for engineering services for one of the City's pumping stations near the south side mountain top campus. The term of the contract is 12 months from the Notice to Proceed and the fee for the contract is \$89,800.

President Waldron stated Resolution 10 C is on the agenda.

C. *Director of Water and Sewer Resources – Recommendation of Award – D'Huy Engineering, Inc. – Wastewater Treatment Plant Electrical Systems Evaluation*

The Clerk read a memorandum dated March 26, 2019 from Edward Boscola, Director of Water and Sewer Resources recommending a contract with D'Huy Engineering for engineering services for the Wastewater Treatment Plant electrical systems evaluation. The term of the contract is from the Notice to Proceed until September 30, 2019 and the fee for the contract is \$28,000.

President Waldron stated Resolution 10 D is on the agenda.

D. *Fire Chief – Records Destruction – Fire Department*

The Clerk read a memorandum dated March 27, 2019 from Fire Chief Warren Achey requesting Council to consider a Resolution for the Destruction of Records from the Fire Department listed on the attached exhibit. Chief Achey has reviewed the Municipal Records Retention act and the records fall within categories where destruction is permitted.

President Waldron stated the Resolution can be placed on the April 16 agenda.

- E. *City Solicitor – Use Permit Agreement – BEDCO, SouthSide Arts District, and Ruth, Inc. t/a Molly’s Irish Grille and Sports Pub (as SubPermittee) – Southside Arts and Music Festival*

The Clerk read a memorandum dated March 28, 2019 from City Solicitor William P. Leeson, Esq. to which is attached a proposed Resolution and Associated Use Permit Agreement. The Permittee is BEDCO, SouthSide Arts District, and Ruth, Inc. t/a Molly’s Irish Grille and Sports Pub (as SubPermittee). The event is the SouthSide Arts Music Festival. The location is the Greenway between New Street and Adams Street and the duration of the agreement is May 4, 2019.

President Waldron stated the Resolution can be placed on the April 16 agenda.

- F. *City Solicitor – Use Permit Agreement – Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce by and Through its Downtown Bethlehem Association – Tunes at Twilight*

The Clerk read a memorandum dated March 27, 2019 from City Solicitor William P. Leeson, Esq. to which is attached a proposed Resolution and Associated Use Permit Agreement. The permittee is the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce by and through its Downtown Bethlehem Association. The Event is the Tunes at Twilight and the location is Nevin Place (adjacent to the Sun Inn Courtyard). The duration of the agreement is May 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30th, June 6, 13, 20, and 27th and July 11 and 18th, 2019.

President Waldron stated the Resolution can be placed on the April 16 agenda.

- G. *City Solicitor – Use Permit Agreement – Lehigh Little League Amendment to UPA for Public Property*

The Clerk read a memorandum dated March 28, 2019 from City Solicitor William P. Leeson, Esq. to which is attached a proposed Resolution and Associated Amendment No. 1 to the Use Permit Agreement with Lehigh Little League for a food truck to operate concessions for the League.

President Waldron stated Resolution 10 F is on the agenda.

- H. *City Solicitor – Use Permit Agreement – BEDCO, SouthSide Arts District, and Ruth, Inc. t/a Molly’s Irish Grille and Sports Pub (as SubPermittee) – Spring on the SouthSide Event*

The Clerk read a memorandum from City Solicitor William P. Leeson, Esq. to which is attached a proposed Resolution and Associated Use Permit Agreement. The permittee is BEDCO, SouthSide Arts District, and Ruth, Inc. t/a Molly’s Irish Grille and Sports Pub (as SubPermittee) and the event is the Spring on the SouthSide Event. The location is New Street between Fourth Street and Morton Street. The duration of the Agreement is April 27, 2019.

President Waldron stated the Resolution can be placed on the April 16 agenda.

7. REPORTS

A. *President of Council*

B. *Mayor*

Jane Persa Retirement

Mayor Donchez advised he wanted to acknowledge the service of Jane Persa to the City of Bethlehem. He has known Jane since she was at Liberty High School and Penn State. He is a good friend of her family; they had a business half a block from his home. He has known the Persa family for many, many years. Mayor Donchez stressed Jane is the ultimate professional and a person of integrity and has given her heart to the City of Bethlehem for many years. She certainly will be missed and he just wanted to say thank you to Jane for her service to the City of Bethlehem and for her passion for recreation and for the kids. There is no question that our recreation program in the City of Bethlehem is a much better place because of someone by the name of Jane Persa. Mayor Donchez remarked the person who will be replacing Jane, Ms. Evans has been selected as the replacement and with the reorganization of the Public Works and Parks and Public Property she will be reporting this coming Monday to Director Michael Alkhal.

State of the City

Mayor Donchez remarked when the Mayor started to give the State of the City speech at ArtsQuest that is sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, we broke from the tradition that the Mayor would give the State of the City at the first Council Meeting after the election. It is a tradition that the budget speech is given the first Friday after the election and then the State of the City is always in February or March. He would like to do this every year at a City Council meeting. He thanked Council for the opportunity. He thanks City Council for their support for the last five and a half years, and remarked we have accomplished a lot together.

State of the City – Mayor Donchez

Bethlehem continues to be a robust city, and apparently, an “underrated city”, as Reader’s Digest called us this past year. I tend to agree. From our vibrant downtowns, our distinct neighborhoods, our parks and schools, the city welcomes investors and residents alike, and we even welcomed a new sister city this year, Foiano di Val Fortore, Italy. We continue to work to ensure Bethlehem remains a place where we can live, work, learn and play. I am committed to public safety, economic development and providing an unparalleled quality of life for our residents.

While my administration continues to manage the responsibilities of municipal government, many of the things we’ve come to appreciate and enjoy about Bethlehem, are done in partnership, with the tireless efforts of our community organizations.

Bethlehem is fortunate to have high quality educational institutions in our city, and we appreciate our partnerships with Lehigh University, Moravian College and Northampton Community College. Thanks to their investments, we have new educational buildings, a joint public safety substation with Lehigh University, and Northampton Community College’s Center, for Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

The Bethlehem Area School District continues to work closely with us, lending their support to the Northside 2027 Neighborhood Plan, and by partnering with our health department, to develop a plan aimed at improving health outcomes for students. Our pools were fully staffed with lifeguards this year, thanks to our ability to offer a low cost lifeguard certification course, for school district students.

The city's health care facilities are second to none, with both St. Luke's University Health Network and Lehigh Valley Health Network ranked in the top ten hospitals in Pennsylvania. Finally, our economic partners, BEDCO, LVEDC, and the Chamber, ensure that the city is seen as the vibrant city it is, with many opportunities for business growth.

Earlier this year, I took part in an interview for Public Radio International, regarding the economic evolution of Bethlehem. Also interviewed was Alan Berube, an expert in the economies of older industrial cities at the Brookings Institute. He ranks cities from "strong" to "vulnerable", and puts Bethlehem in the top category. He said "strong" cities share some common characteristics: "The first is that they have an innovation engine," he said. "In a lot of cases, the ability of them to grow new kinds of products, companies and jobs, is tied to having a research university nearby." Secondly, he says, "successful industrial cities have also reinvested in their downtowns, bringing jobs and people back into the core, after decades of suburban sprawl".

To our great benefit, we do have a world class research university right here in south Bethlehem, and to our credit, we have invested in innovation, small business and our downtowns, and Bethlehem is indeed, strong.

Lehigh University has anchored our south side for 154 years, and continues to grow and invest in Bethlehem. As part of President Simon's \$1 billion dollar Path to Prominence campaign, Southside Commons is under construction, and will bring 428 students to the edge of downtown. Last month, the city approved a new health sciences building, which will expand Lehigh's academic footprint, and bring a new host of experts to our city, while Bridge West, the newest on campus housing complex, will create a dynamic campus hub for students. With Lehigh's focus on innovation, and the city's commitment to supporting small businesses, Bethlehem has morphed into a city where small businesses want to locate.

This past fall, the city's KIZ program was awarded the gold medal for our Partnerships with Educational Institutions, at the annual International Economic Development Council conference. In 2018, the KIZ facilitated 7 KIZ tax credit applications totaling more than \$400,000 dollars and awarded almost \$100,000 dollars in related grants. In 2019, the KIZ will continue to identify and facilitate small-scale manufacturing space in the Southside, to respond to demand from entrepreneurs.

Elsewhere on the Southside, the Factory project has resulted in the repurposing of a former Bethlehem Steel building. The Factory is a team of experienced operators with \$250M dollars of investable capital, who acquire meaningful equity stakes in high potential food, beverage and pet health companies, and partner with them, to rapidly build value. The project will bring dozens of new companies to South Bethlehem, with the goal that as accelerator companies located at the Factory grow, they will choose to locate in Bethlehem. This one-of-a-kind facility is spearheaded by Richard Thompson, the former CEO of FreshPet, American Italian Pasta Company, and Meow Mix.

Bethlehem continues to transition vacant brownfield land, into new development, businesses, and job creators in Lehigh Valley Industrial Park VII and Majestic Realty Center in South Bethlehem. In response to the steady demand of the e-commerce market, QVC announced they will make Bethlehem home for their distribution center. Candlewood Suites, a 101 room hotel, opened last year, and represents some of the first development in the industrial park fronting Route 412. RJ Schinner has established operations in the industrial park, Curtiss Wright is expanding, and SunCup has recently located their juice production and bottling operations, in a 180,000 square foot building on Easton Road.

Investment in our downtowns has resulted in the completion of Greenway Commons. At the eastern end of Third Street, 510 Flats opened, along with the new retail tenants, and the second building on that site is scheduled to break ground this spring. The Goodman building, once on the brink of demolition, has been stabilized and is now on the verge of complete redevelopment.

Brinker Lofts, located at Fourth and Adams Streets, is poised to offer new housing and retail space for our downtown, the first project in the city to utilize the new Opportunity Zone Program. Just last month, City Council gave the first approvals to an expanded venue for arts and culture, with the \$15 million reconstruction of the Banana Factory on Third Street, enhancing our already vibrant Southside Arts District.

Streetscape improvements are in the design phase for South New Street, with the goal of developing a corridor between Morton Street and the Fahy Bridge, that improves safety for bikers and pedestrians, calms traffic in the area, and incorporates new lighting and design elements.

On the Northside, I am optimistic that the Boyd and the connected storefronts will be redeveloped. This is an exciting project for the downtown, and will enliven the Broad St. corridor, a key focus of our Northside 2027 planning study.

Development as a whole in the city has been remarkable, but also highlights the changing landscape of Bethlehem and of the retail market. We welcomed approximately 30 new businesses to Bethlehem last year and are happy to have them here.

In 2018, we saw Moravian College take ownership of the Moravian Bookshop to ensure this important landmark would not close. Thanks to the leadership of President Grigsby, the bookshop retains its status as the oldest operating bookstore in the United States, and brings Moravian students into the downtown shopping district.

In the fall of 2018, the Westgate Mall was sold, and we anticipate positive changes for that shopping center soon.

And while we acknowledge the nostalgia associated with Martin Tower, the definitive plan to demolish the tower, and redevelop the 53 acre site, provides the opportunity for new jobs and new opportunities on that site.

One of the biggest changes the City may see in 2019 will be the transfer of ownership, if approved by the Pennsylvania Gaming Board, of the Sands casino and the surrounding property to Wind Creek. The prospective owners have already indicated they will make an immediate

investment of \$190 million in the area, in the form of a new hotel and the renovation of Machine Shop 2. This is the most positive news we've had for that site in years, and I look forward to a strong working relationship with the new owners.

To give you an idea of the tremendous amount of investment Bethlehem is experiencing, let me share some statistics with you: 2018 saw the most construction permits pulled in the City's history at 8,404. The total estimated cost of construction in the city last year, based on these permits, was \$295 million dollars. Outside of the Sands Casino, this investment exceeded any prior year by almost \$54 million dollars. And to show how much the city has grown and how much confidence people have in investing in their homes and businesses, the estimated construction costs over the last four years exceeds those of the previous four years by \$370 million dollars.

Seeing how the development and redevelopment worlds change, Bethlehem will continue to fund and support programs like Enterprise Zone, CRIZ and LERTA, that help grow businesses, and will advocate for smart and effective economic development programs.

Having the City in a strong financial position, allows the city to support the number programs and services it offers. The city maintains an A+ bond rating from S&P. It is always a goal of my administration, to eliminate waste and cut costs wherever possible. In many cases, the old way of doing things can't be continued - it's costly and inefficient. In 2018, Public Works switched to LED streetlights, and our curbside recycling contract was rebid, resulting in a savings of \$120,000 dollars in 2019.

We negotiated new labor contracts at the golf course to reduce labor expenses, while negotiating a new lease with the Clubhouse Grill, to increase revenue to the City. And for the 5th year in a row, we increased our collection rate of Business Privilege and Mercantile taxes.

It's easy to see how technology and shifting attitudes about shopping, personal interactions, and other everyday tasks, are changing how we do things. Managing City government is no different. As we learn of more efficient ways of conducting business with emerging technologies, the city is shifting to new ways of operating.

Our inspectors will be using tablets in the field, to upload data to our platform, rather than relying on paper and transcription back in the office. By the end of 2019, 3,500 of our water customer's meters will have been converted to drive-by meter reading. Antennas for remote meter reading will be installed this year, completely changing how your water meter is read. LED lights are being installed in fixtures throughout the city to reduce costs in both electricity and labor.

Our City's website is being totally revamped as I speak, so that residents and visitors can get information more quickly. This website will interface with our open data platform, which will allow viewers to see how funds are spent down to the line item, learn about specific projects in depth, and interact with the city in a totally new way.

Citizens can now even attend a city council meeting, without leaving home, thanks to the ability of live streaming their meetings.

But even as the city evolves, we need to stay true to our core community values. The first of those is Public Safety. I am pleased to say that the overall crime rate in Bethlehem fell by 4.2% in 2018, with the most serious crimes, Part 1 offenses, dropping by 26.3% from 2017. According to Chief DiLuzio, these results can be attributed to the return to "basic policing". Last year, dash cameras were installed on all police cars and this year, body camera implementation will be completed.

Our Police and Health Departments responded to the increase in overdoses by creating the BPAIR program, in which a drug addicted person, can call or show up to the police department, and request assistance in finding treatment, with no criminal consequences. The police department is now assisting other departments in the county, with scaling up this program, and our fire department has added Naloxone to appropriate engines, which has resulted in 15 lives saved by our firefighters while waiting for the arrival of EMS to a scene. In all, 165 residents were revived with Naloxone in the city last year. To provide an additional safety net for residents battling addiction, our health department implemented a home visiting program, for residents who recently overdosed, in an effort to facilitate entry into treatment.

This year, the Fire Department's Engine #5 will be replaced, with another Engine replacement planned for later this year. An additional goal in 2019 is to continue upgrading our decade-old vehicle rescue equipment, to ensure that we have the most advanced apparatus to assist our residents. One example of our commitment to advanced lifesaving equipment is the recent purchase of 5 LUCAS automatic chest compressors, allowing our EMT's hands to be free and allowing compressions to be done seamlessly. They have used this 10 times already. Our Paramedics will be able to maximize the efficiency of their efforts, and reduce the risk of injury to themselves, or other first responders, while saving lives. He believes the cost is \$15,000 each and we purchased 5.

2019 will bring one of the biggest changes to how the city operates with the finalization of the 911 center consolidation with Northampton County. And later this year, look for the roll out of a new Bethlehem App that will allow communication between residents and the city in a fast and easy way.

Our Water Department received its eleventh consecutive AWOP Award, which is the water industry's way of recognizing ongoing efforts to ensure that our drinking water is safe and meets high quality standards.

If anyone was driving around the city in 2018, you noticed the amount of street reconstruction being done. Our public works department paved 3.1 miles of road, installed numerous curb ramps, reconstructed W. Garrison Street, improved the pedestrian access near Liberty H.S., and made numerous storm sewer upgrades.

For 2019, my administration has allocated \$2 million dollars for the upgrade of our streets this coming year. New lighting along West Broad Street, storm water replacements on East Boulevard, and the total reconstruction of Carlton Avenue, are some of the improvements we will be undertaking.

As the world evolves into a more tech savvy, online place, the existence of our neighborhood parks becomes critical. Our parks provide vital green space for people to relax, a place for our after school and summer programs to keep our kids engaged in positive activities,

and provides a natural community hub for people to interact. The National Recreation and Parks Association has found that young people who live in poor or minority neighborhoods, are 50 percent less likely to have a park near their homes. This is not the case in Bethlehem, where we have 30 parks and 5 pool facilities located throughout the city. Because we realize how important these recreation opportunities are, in 2019, we will investment \$7 million dollars in our recreation facilities. Our recreation department will implement more after school programs for our youth – something we have been hearing is needed through our neighborhood studies and outreach.

Last year, I announced many of the upcoming projects to address the condition of our parks and pools. This year, I can talk about their completion. Phase 5 of the Greenway was completed; the redesign and reconstruction of Memorial Pool will begin in early summer, thanks to over \$1.5 million in grants received for the project. The iconic Rose Garden is moving closer to its redesign, including new signage and pathways, trees, benches, and bike racks.

A new play system and other upgrades are coming to Friendship Park in late spring this year. And because of a \$60 thousand dollar commitment from Northampton County Executive McClure, the City will begin to examine the feasibility of a pedestrian bridge over the Lehigh River, linking our north and south sides.

Just as I'm committed to improving these recreational facilities, I'm committed to improving the neighborhoods that surround them. The city finalized our comprehensive blight study last year, and is now moving into implementing the policy and operational changes from that study. Our housing inspections increased by 10% last year from the same period in 2017, but there is room for improvement. Using the data from the blight study, we are targeting investment in key neighborhoods to stem any potential decline. We assisted our homeowners with over \$300,000 dollars in federal funds for critical housing improvements, allowing more of our residents to remain in their homes.

Last year, I announced that the city was awarded a grant in conjunction with Northampton County and the City of Easton which will allow us to remove lead paint and repair critical safety issues. I can now elaborate on that information and share that close to \$1 million will be invested in city homes, reducing the risk of harm to our most vulnerable populations.

Because of my commitment to strong neighborhoods, and in conjunction with Councilman Reynolds, we undertook a planning study of the Northside 2027 neighborhood last year. This area has affordable homes, excellent schools, is walkable to the downtown and is an example of Bethlehem's diversity in residents, housing stock and land use. Through public meetings, my neighborhood walks, surveys, and focus groups, we have sought to capture the most pressing issues needing attention. This study will be complete in early June, and we anticipate implementation shortly thereafter.

As the city continues to change and evolve, it is our responsibility to ensure it moves forward in a direction that is positive for all constituents. By investing in our small businesses, supporting innovation and technology, taking steps to guarantee the health of our housing stock and neighborhoods, and maintaining partnerships with those who support these goals, the city is destined to continue its evolution from industrial powerhouse to a city which offers unrivaled opportunity for all.

He again wanted to thank Members of Council for their support and hopefully we will have a very good 2019 but much of this was accomplished with Council's support.

C. *Human Resources and Environment Committee Meeting*

Chairman Reynolds announced a Human Resources and Environment Committee Meeting was held on Monday, April 1, 2019 at 6:00 pm in Town Hall. The Committee reviewed the proposed Ordinance to amend Article 145 - Bethlehem Human Relations Commission, regarding wage equality. The Committee received input from the Bethlehem Human Relations Commission and Committee Members expressed their thoughts on the proposal. Several concerns and questions had been raised and it was agreed upon that everybody was going to go back and take a look at some of the issues that were raised and come up with an Ordinance that would allow us to schedule another meeting and go forward. The Committee took no action and there was not recommendation at this time.

8. ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE

None.

9. NEW ORDINANCES

None.

10. RESOLUTIONS

A. *Records Destruction - Police Department*

Ms. Negrón and Mr. Callahan sponsored Resolution No. 2019-080 that authorized the disposition of the following public records in the Police Department as stated in Exhibit A.

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

B. *Authorizing Use Permit Agreement - St. Luke's University Health Network - 2019 Boutique at the Rink*

Ms. Negrón and Mr. Callahan sponsored Resolution No. 2019-081 that authorized a Use Permit Agreement for public property with St. Luke's University Health Network for the Earl E. Schaffer Ice Rink for the 2019 Boutique at the Rink on April 29, 2019 to June 3, 2019, according to the agreement.

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

C. *Authorizing Contract - Maser Consulting, P.A.*

Ms. Negrón and Mr. Callahan sponsored Resolution No. 2019-082 that authorized to execute an agreement with Maser Consulting for the Fire Pump Station Rehabilitation.

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

D. Authorizing Contract – D’Huy Engineering, Inc.

Ms. Negrón and Mr. Callahan sponsored Resolution No. 2019-083 that authorized to execute an agreement with D’Huy Engineering for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Electrical System Evaluation.

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

E. Authorizing Deaccession of Artwork

Ms. Negrón and Mr. Callahan sponsored Resolution No. 2019-084 that authorized to execute the attached deaccession documents for the removal of the damaged pieces of art from the City’s collection.

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

F. Authorizing Use Permit Agreement

Ms. Negrón and Mr. Callahan sponsored Resolution No. 2019-085 that authorized to execute Amendment No. 1 with the Lehigh Little League for the purposes indicated therein (authorizing a food truck in substitution for operation of a concession stand).

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

G. Certificate of Appropriateness – 321 South New Street (Lara Bly Designs)

Ms. Negrón and Mr. Callahan sponsored Resolution No. 2019-086 that granted a Certificate of Appropriateness to install the company name in the window at 321 South New Street (Lara Bly Designs).

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

President Waldron asked for a motion to add Resolution 10 H to the agenda.

Ms. Negrón and Mr. Callahan made the motion to add 10 H to the agenda.

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

H. Authorizing Contract – F. A. Rohrbach, LLC

Ms. Negrón and Mr. Callahan sponsored Resolution No. 2019-087 that authorized to execute an agreement with F. A. Rohrbach, LLC for the 2019-01 curb ramp project.

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

11. NEW BUSINESS

Finance Committee Meeting

Chairman Callahan announced the Finance Committee will be meeting on Tuesday, April 16, 2019 at 6:00 pm in Town Hall. The subject will be budget adjustments.

Recycling Center/Illick's Mill Road

Mr. Callahan noted he has spoken before about moving the Recycling Center from Illick's Mill Road and when Council was the top of the Martin Tower building recently, he was able to see all around the City. He expressed from that view, looking northeast there is a road that comes off of where the driving range is located. If you pull into the Recycling Center and go straight back there is a road there that goes straight back to the compost center. He wondered if that is our road.

Michael Alkhal, Director of Public Works noted that is an access road.

Mr. Callahan asked Mr. Alkhal if it is possible to send to Council an overhead view of that lot. He pointed out that when he was looking at this, there is a baseball field and where left field is located he saw a tree and a big area where he thinks the three or four containers we have for the Recycling Center could be located. Mr. Callahan has talked to Ms. Karner about this. He knows she has concerns about not having anybody go through the Compost Center to get back to that area. He can see from an overhead view it looks like that area is more than sufficient to put the recycling containers there and get them off of Illick's Mill Road, which is in the heart of our parks and recreation system. Mr. Callahan believes this is a possibility and will solve a lot of problems. It will also help us not to have to deal with any issues with going through the Compost Center and turning left off of Eaton Avenue.

Mr. Alkhal reported he will look into this and see what we can put together and what is feasible.

Martin Tower Site

Mr. Callahan remarked when they had an opportunity to look at the Martin Tower site plan he thought back to when City Council rezoned the property. He noted there were many concerns that residents and business owners had at that time. City Council wanted a limited amount of retail and that is what we got. The fear of having a third downtown will not be seen by Main Street businesses. Mr. Callahan sees this as a good plan and he knows there is a lot more residential planned for the site than the school district wanted, but that is the key of why we made the decision. He informed if you go back to that time period, the school district wanted more business and fewer students, and the Main Street businesses did not want a lot of businesses, so there was a lot of competing interests. Mr. Callahan thinks that the residents in that area of west Bethlehem wanted

more retail and more places to go shopping. He sees this as a good compromise by Council at that time and it will be a good plan. This will be a place where residents on that side of town will be able to go to doctor appointments, shop and there will be a few restaurants in that area too. Mr. Callahan is proud of the developers doing what they did and doing the right thing.

Jane Persa Retirement

Mr. Colón offered Ms. Persa his best wishes in her retirement. He, like many on City Council, look forward to seeing Ms. Persa on the trails and in the parks with her grandchildren.

Connecting Bethlehem Survey

Mr. Reynolds noted he wanted to give an update on the Connecting Bethlehem Communication Survey that was launched last week. As of yesterday we had 361 responses. He informed that Mr. Vidoni had a conversation today with Alex Karras in the Mayor's Office about putting the survey out through our different email lists that will help us develop a strategy moving forward with this endeavor.

Jane Persa Retirement

Mr. Reynolds added that Ms. Persa hired him for his first job when he was a teenager, and he appreciates that often times she was the good cop to the Parks Director's bad cop when teenagers did teenage things. He thinks that was a good balance. He knows that Ms. Persa has given her life to the City. Many weddings and families grew out of the parks and pools, including people who stayed in Bethlehem partly because of those connections. Mr. Reynolds stressed Ms. Persa deserves a lot of credit for that. He is happy to know that she will still be around and again thanked her for all she has done for the City of Bethlehem.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

ATTEST:

City Clerk