

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL
For Candidates for City Council Vacancy
Seat of Eric R. Evans – Resignation Effective February 4, 2018
Vacancy to be Filled from March 6, 2018 to January 6, 2020

from Carol S. Ritter 2-8-2018

1. What uniquely qualifies you to serve on Bethlehem City Council?
I love Bethlehem and have spent over 20 years engaging the community, building strong relationships and bringing downtown (north and south) stakeholders together. I believe I have the experience, commitment and institutional knowledge to serve on city council.
2. If this were a campaign for City Council, list the top three (3) priorities of your campaign platform. Economic development, Public Safety and Strengthening both Downtowns while preserving the historical significance of the area.
3. As several development projects are considered in the City, do you feel that Bethlehem can honor its architectural history while simultaneously promoting economic growth and business? I do, I think the history of Bethlehem is so vital to the community, but as any entrepreneur understands, growth and change are not only necessary they are inevitable. Preserving the unique history while moving the city forward makes sense.
4. Do you feel that transportation is an important issue for the City of Bethlehem, and if so, how do you envision the City better meeting its transportation needs in the future? Designated bike lanes, pedestrian bridges, safe walking areas, continuous conversations with LANTA to meet the needs of the community are all ideas that can be explored.
5. Several Members of City Council have stated it is their preference to select someone who will not seek election next year. If selected for this Council position, would you run for a seat on City Council in the Primary election this spring? Yes _____; No X. You may provide additional comments, if any. I currently have no intention to run for city council in the next election year.
6. What is one issue you believe Bethlehem is currently not properly addressing and if on City Council how would you help in this area? Looking at traffic patterns and traffic issues on Main Street. Exploring improvements for pedestrian safety especially at dusk and dark.
7. What do you think about the idea of a pedestrian bridge over the Lehigh River, and what are your thoughts for potential funding sources? Yes, it's a great way to safely connect the north and the south side of Bethlehem and open up that gateway for both residents and visitors. Like any major project, city, state and federal and state funding would be explored, however, a capital campaign with naming rights attached might work as well for area businesses.
8. What can be done to encourage more constituent participation in local Government, particularly in the budget process? My experience is very strong in gathering a

crowd and I believe that people bring people to causes. In addition, strong leadership can help to engage constituents. More ad hoc committees, standing committees that are 'issue or project specific' are good ways to involve the community and give people an opportunity to express ideas and opinions while feeling like they are contributing to the city.

9. What should be done with our golf course? I would first look at the past 10 years to discover the financial health of the golf course. After careful review and hearing from the citizens, an informed decision can be made.
10. What are your thoughts for the long term best solution for the pools in the City? I'm a big believer in swimming as a life long sport. Pools offer a safe place for children in the summer months when schools are not in session. However, the cost effectiveness of the pools needs to be considered. There may be solutions, like reducing the number of pools that may make city pools more cost effective.
11. Within the next several years, the Parking Authority will need to replace the Walnut Street garage. How do you think the Authority and the City should plan for the financial and business impact of the construction of a new garage? The plan might explore all viable options and be focused on reducing the impact on the merchants, residents and visitors/shoppers. Safe, temporary lots should be made available, perhaps with shuttle service, and may help alleviate some of the issues with the demolition and construction of a new garage.
12. One of City Council's most important functions is to pass the yearly budget for Bethlehem. What ideas would you bring to City Council that involve the area of finances? As with any decision that involves running the city efficiently, I would gather as much information as possible, seek out expert advice, listen to constituents concerns so that a reasonable, educated, informed decision can be made.
13. Making decisions on City Council often involves seeking compromises that balance the individual self-interests of multiple groups of people. How do you feel you can contribute to the culture of compromise that is necessary to a functioning legislative branch of government? When deliberating on an issue, I believe that all parties come to the table with their ideas on what the outcome should be. Like all relationships, compromise and the ability change are two of most important attributes.
14. 2017 saw City Council create several new initiatives relating to municipal climate action, neighborhood investment, open data and efficient city government. How do you feel you can participate in and add to these initiatives? I have a strong interest in building communities, as demonstrated by my career and volunteer commitments throughout the last several decades. Addressing climate issues and investing in our neighborhoods is all part of building strong, safe, attractive communities.

Respectfully submitted: Carol S. Ritter