

BETHLEHEM CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
10 East Church Street – Town Hall  
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania  
Tuesday, June 2, 2015 – 7:00 PM

INVOCATION

Reverend Don Garrett, of Unitarian Universalist Church, offered the invocation which was 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 D. Recchiuti, Cathy Reuscher, Louis N. Stellato, Adam Waldron, and J. William Reynolds, 6. Eric R. Evans was absent, 1.

PUBLIC HEARING

*Zoning Ordinance Amendments-Section 1306.01 (a)-Impervious Coverage-Section 1318.28-Tree Conservation, and SALDO Amendments-Section 1347.10-Recreation and Land Fees*

Prior to the consideration of the regular Agenda items, President Reynolds called to order a Public Hearing to review and accept public comment on amendments to the Zoning Ordinance to amend Sections 1306.01 (a), creating a maximum impervious coverage in the R-R and R-S Districts; Section 1318.28, entitled Tree Conservation; and Section 1347.10 of the Suburban and Land Development Ordinance, entitled Recreation Land and Fees.

*Communication 5 A - City Planning Commission – Zoning Ordinance Amendment – Impervious Coverage*

The Clerk read a memorandum dated May 15, 2015 from Tracy E. Samuelson, Assistant Director of Planning and Zoning, attached to which is the Zoning Ordinance amendment on impervious coverage that was reviewed by the Planning Commission at its meeting on May 14, 2015. The Commission concurred with City Council's amendment to change the maximum impervious coverage in the RR District to 50%. The maximum impervious coverage in the RS District would remain at 75%. This amendment was recommended for approval by a 5-0 vote of the Planning Commission Members at their May 15, 2015 meeting.

*Communication 5 B – Lehigh Valley Planning Commission – Zoning Ordinance Amendments – Tree Conservation and SALDO Amendments – Recreation Fees*

The Clerk read a letter from the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission (LVPC) concerning the Zoning Ordinance on Tree Conservation. The Ordinance does not conflict with the County Comprehensive Plan. The amendment allows for a one-to-one tree replacement at a new development, instead of the previous proposal of two new trees for each removed, while only development in the RR (Rural Residential) and CM (Office Research Center) Districts must still replace trees at a two-to-one ratio. LVPC warns that this provision increases the likelihood of a net loss of trees on site at any new development, since the regulation does not and has never required replacement of unhealthy trees or those below a certain size. Furthermore, construction and earth disturbance can damage otherwise healthy trees. LVPC encourages the City to review our model regulations on *Woodlands* for details on tree protection methods that help to conserve natural resources, when development activity might otherwise pose a threat. The SALDO amendment on recreation fees is a matter of local concern.

*Communication 5 C – Lehigh Valley Planning Commission – Zoning Ordinance Amendments – Various*

The Clerk read a letter from the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission (LVPC) regarding the impervious coverage Ordinance amendment. The percentage of coverage is a matter of local concern. Consistent with our comments on February 27, 2015, the recommendation is simply that a "Maximum Impervious Coverage" exists for all districts in the Ordinance.

*Director of Planning and Zoning - Presentation*

Darlene Heller, Director of Planning and Zoning stated she would like to start with the zoning amendment regarding impervious coverage, which City Council had seen before at the March 17, 2015 meeting. Ms. Heller informed they previously sent comments to Council back in February or March,

2015. Those comments went to the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission and the City Planning Commission. Ms. Heller pointed out as of right now we have no impervious coverage requirements in Residential Zoning Districts, although we do have them in Non-Residential Zoning Districts. The proposal is to create a maximum impervious coverage in RS and RR Districts. Ms. Heller related that RR is our lowest density Residential District and RS is the next lowest density. She continued that this was originally sent to Council with a maximum impervious coverage proposed at 75% for both of those zoning districts and Council chose to table the Ordinance to take another look at this. Ms. Heller noted in the RR Zoning District, where we allow the larger lots, Council recommended that the impervious coverage be reduced to 50% and we concur with that percentage. The Planning Commission unanimously concurred with that and the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission did as well. Ms. Heller informed this is the second time that Council is taking a look at this Ordinance. She added there was some discussion back and forth the last time this Ordinance was before Council. She believes that the current amendment is in keeping with prior discussions.

Ms. Heller continued with the next amendment regarding tree conservation. We adopted a new Zoning Ordinance in 2012 and created provisions for some environmental issues. One of those issues is tree conservation as were provisions for solar energy, LEED buildings and green roofs. She continued, regarding tree conservation we wanted to maintain the tree canopy that we have in the City. Ms. Heller noted they created provisions where you need to replace two trees for one tree with any land development or subdivision proposal. This would be City wide. Ms. Heller noted the goal is to be taking the tree canopy and really protecting our natural wooded areas and because our development is occurring in the areas more like CB, which are our downtowns, and IR-R, which is the Bethlehem Steel site and BethWorks area, the development is occurring in the area where we want to target significant development. Ms. Heller stated in areas where we already allow a maximum 90% building coverage on a lot there is really no practical way that a developer can replace trees two for one on those parcels. It is just impractical. Since we want to maintain the tree canopy we felt that a one for one replacement was reasonable. The overall goal is to protect the tree canopy and to protect naturally wooded areas so we want to retain the two for one tree replacement in the CM District, which is the South Mountain area, the areas with naturally wooded areas and steep slopes, and RR District, which is Rural Residential, where we have most of our natural areas. Ms. Heller informed for those areas we would still require the two for one replacement but in the other areas of the City where we allow greater development and where we want to target development we would go to a one for one tree replacement. Ms. Heller added even then it will be difficult for some developers to replace the trees one for one but there is a provision in that section that allows a developer to provide a contribution to the city in lieu of planting a tree. That money goes into an escrow account where we can then replant those trees in a City park or it can be used for street trees. Ms. Heller thinks that is a fair and reasonable alternative because it still retains the tree canopy within the City and we can retain it within the urban core areas. Ms. Heller mentioned the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission letter does have some comments to it, and it does note that it does not conflict with the County Comprehensive Plan but they also did have some additional comments. Ms. Heller does not think that the amendment that we are proposing to Council is conflicting with the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission comments because their comments want us to retain naturally wooded areas, which we also want to do. She added that is why we are not revising the provisions for RR or CM Zoning Districts.

Ms. Heller remarked the third communication is really out of the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO), rather than the Zoning Ordinance. The Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (PMPC) outlines the provisions under which we can create a Zoning Ordinance and a SALDO. It outlines the provisions for collecting recreation fees and how those fees can be utilized once collected by a municipality. Ms. Heller noted what Council has in their packet is a memo from our Solicitor's Office to the Recreation Director regarding recent changes to the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code that give us more flexibility on how we can spend those recreation fees and the timeline in which they are to be spent. Previously, the fees could only be used for the purpose of providing park and recreational facilities accessible to development. The change now broadens the use of these fees so that they can be used to acquire, operate or maintain such facilities, in addition to building new facilities, and it also allows a greater geographic range in which those funds can be spent. Ms. Heller noted additionally, there is no time limit in which the funds need to be spent. She noted previously there was a three-year time limit and that has been removed. Attached to the Solicitor's memo is a brief amendment that deletes a couple of sections that limit the geographic area, where the funds can be spent, and notes that the reuse of the funds can be broader to include acquiring, operating or maintaining parks. Ms. Heller noted this ordinance is just to allow us more flexibility in how we spend the funds that we are already collecting from development.

Ms. Reuscher stated she wanted to thank the Planning Commission for looking at the impervious coverage Ordinance again. She knows that this was not easy to table this and send it back to the Planning Commission, but she thinks what we have here is in the best interest of the City.

Regarding the tree conservation ordinance, Ms. Reuscher noted it was mentioned in lieu of planting a tree that a developer could make a donation that would go towards planting a tree somewhere else in the City but queried would there be a priority given to parks that are within the area of that development. This is so we are not having trees planted in West Bethlehem when the development is in South Bethlehem.

Ms. Heller informed most recently they have collected some fees that have not been spent. For most of the development what we want to do is have those trees be planted on the development site. Ms. Heller added there have been a few developments where that has not been practical but right now the first project would be street trees along Fourth Street. She continued we have not really talked about what the next priorities would be. Ms. Heller believes they are always trying to keep the tree canopy full in the certain core areas.

Ms. Reuscher stated that is helpful and she is happy to hear about the priority for Fourth Street.

*Public Comment*

Albert Bernotas, 1004 Johnston Drive, thinks the City is making terrific progress with the impervious coverage Ordinance. Mr. Bernotas mentioned he moved to Bethlehem over 30 years ago. One of the reasons he liked to come to Bethlehem was that it was a City that had sidewalks, with Police and Fire services and it had a densely populated area that is like a City with many asphalt, sidewalks and stores close together. Mr. Bernotas added that Bethlehem also had a very rural atmosphere when you get to the outer boundaries of the City, especially in the RR area. Mr. Bernotas noted it never occurred to him that there was unlimited impervious coverage in the RR area because it was so rural. He was able to move into Bethlehem and still feels like he was in the suburbs. He knows that the Zoning Office and Planning Office had no problem with impervious coverage and that is why it was not addressed in the new Zoning Ordinance in 2012. Mr. Bernotas mentioned he just read the letter from the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission and he was not aware that they recommended that there should be an impervious maximum coverage for all residential areas. In the future it may come that we may get a little more restrictive in the RR areas especially with larger lots, such as over one, or two, or three acres. Mr. Bernotas noted if someone subdivides a big lot they could get down to 15,000 feet and if you have 50% impervious coverage that is the same as if you have 50% impervious coverage on a four acre lot. He added a four acre lot with asphalt does not appear very attractive to him. Mr. Bernotas is very much in favor of what is going on tonight with impervious coverage.

The Public Hearing was adjourned at 7:20 pm. President Reynolds informed the three Ordinances will be on the June 16, 2015 agenda for First Reading.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of May 20, 2015 were approved.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

4. OLD BUSINESS.

A. Members of Council

None.

B. Tabled Item

1. Bill No. 17 - Amending Article 1306.01(a) of the Zoning Ordinance - Dimensional Regulations for the R-R Residential District, Creating Maximum Impervious Coverage in the R-R and R-S Districts

C. Unfinished Business

None.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

D. *Director of Parks and Public Property – Recommendation for Award – David Hornung Architecture Planning Inc.*

The Clerk read memorandum from Ralph Carp, Director of Parks and Public Property recommending a contract with David Hornung Architecture Planner, Inc. for architectural services pertaining to the Skateplaza's Shade Canopy, which is to be constructed over the "10-stair" obstacle. The term of the contract is 120 Days from the Notice to Proceed. The fee for the contract will not exceed \$1,520.

President Reynolds stated Resolution 9 D is on the agenda.

E. *Director of Water and Sewer – Recommendation for Award – Hach Company*

The Clerk read a memorandum from Edward J. Boscola, Director of Water and Sewer recommending a contract with Hach Company for sanitary sewer flow monitoring service with five flow meters located at key areas throughout the City. The term of the contract is one year from the Notice to Proceed. The cost of the contract is \$32,220.

President Reynolds stated Resolution 9 E is on the agenda.

F. *City Solicitor – Use Permit Agreement – ArtsQuest - Sabor Event*

The Clerk read a memorandum from City Solicitor William P. Leeson, Esq., attached to which is a proposed Resolution and associated Use Permit for the Sabor Event at ArtsQuest. The duration of the agreement is June 19-20, 2015. The location is First Street from Polk Street to the eastern terminus and Founders Way from Second Street to First Street.

President Reynolds stated the Resolution can be listed on the June 16, 2015 agenda.

G. *City Solicitor – Use Permit Agreement – ArtsQuest - Women's World Cup Soccer Viewing Party*

The Clerk read a memorandum from City Solicitor William P. Leeson, Esq. attached to which is a proposed Resolution and associated Use Permit for the Women's World Cup Soccer Viewing Party at ArtsQuest. The duration of the agreement is June 8, 2015 to July 5, 2015. The location is First Street from Polk Street to the eastern terminus and Founders Way from Second Street to First Street

President Reynolds stated the Resolution can be listed on the June 16, 2015 agenda.

H. *City Solicitor – Use Permit Agreement – ArtsQuest - July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration*

The Clerk read a memorandum from City Solicitor William P. Leeson, Esq. attached to which is a proposed Resolution and associated Use Permit for the July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration at ArtsQuest. The duration of the agreement is July 4, 2015. The location is First Street from Polk Street to the eastern terminus and Founders Way from Second Street to First Street

President Reynolds stated the Resolution can be listed on the June 16, 2015 agenda.

I. *City Solicitor – Use Permit Agreement – ArtsQuest - Streets*

The Clerk read a memorandum from City Solicitor William P. Leeson, Esq. attached to which is a proposed Resolution and associated Amendment to Use Permit Agreement for various streets for Musikfest from August 2 through August 19, 2015. The permittee is ArtsQuest.

President Reynolds stated the Resolution can be listed on the June 16, 2015 agenda.

J. *Mayor – Request to Fill Vacancy – Electrical Bureau*

The Clerk read a memorandum from Mayor Robert J. Donchez requesting to fill the position of Electronic Technician in the Electrical Bureau. The budgeted salary range is \$41,483.29 - \$58,024.95.

President Reynolds stated Resolution 9 G is on the agenda.

K. *Director of Public Works – Recommendation for Award – Joao Bradley Construction Co.*

The Clerk read a memorandum from Michael Alkhal, Director of Public Works recommending a contract with Joao Bradley Construction Co. for the installation of four (4) 16" Water Line Crossings on PA State Route 512 as part of the Water Line Extension Project into East Allen Township and ahead of the re-paving of the road by PennDOT. The term of the contract is 60 calendar days from the Notice to Proceed. The price of the contract is \$129,200.

President Reynolds stated Resolution 9 F is on the agenda.

6. REPORTS

A. *President of Council*

B. *Mayor*

*911 Center*

Mayor Donchez reported the Senate Committee dealing with 9-1-1 did pass an amendment including Allentown and Bethlehem for four years which will take us through 2019. Mayor Donchez mentioned he spoke to Senator Pat Browne this afternoon and he is very hopeful that this will pass the House and the final version that Bethlehem and Allentown will be in for an additional four years.

7. ORDINANCES FOR FINAL READING

None.

8. NEW ORDINANCES.

None.

9. RESOLUTIONS

A. *Approving Records Destruction – Tax Bureau*

Mr. Recchiuti and Mr. Stellato sponsored Resolution No. 2015-122 that authorizes the disposition of records from the Tax Bureau as listed on exhibit A.

Voting AYE: Mr. Stellato, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, Mr. Recchiuti, Ms. Reuscher and Mr. Reynolds, 6. The Resolution passed.

B. *Approving Records Destruction – Health Bureau*

Mr. Recchiuti and Mr. Stellato sponsored Resolution No. 2015-123 that authorizes the disposition of records from the Health Bureau as listed on exhibit A.

Voting AYE: Mr. Stellato, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, Mr. Recchiuti, Ms. Reuscher and Mr. Reynolds, 6. The Resolution passed.

C. *Authorizing Application – Redevelopment Assistance Capital Grant Program - \$4,000,000 – Lehigh Valley Charter High School for the Performing Arts*

Mr. Recchiuti and Mr. Stellato sponsored Resolution No. 2015-124 that authorized the application for a Redevelopment Assistance Capital Grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in the amount of \$4,000,000 for the purpose of assisting Lehigh Valley Charter School for the Performing Arts in the construction of a new school in the City of Bethlehem, Northampton County, Pennsylvania. The grant will be passed through the City of Bethlehem to Lehigh Valley Charter School for the Performing Arts and the City is authorized to execute a Cooperation Agreement with Lehigh Valley Charter School for the Performing Arts for the administration of the project. The City of Bethlehem has been assured by Lehigh Valley Charter School for the Performing Arts that it will assume the full local share of the project costs, which will be in excess of the \$4,000,000 grant, and also assume responsibility for the project's ongoing operating and maintenance costs.

Mr. Stellato queried about the \$4,000,000 and mentioned he thought that \$3,000,000 has already

been approved to be spent.

Alicia Karner, Director of Community and Economic Development stated she can attest to the fact that the first award was for \$3,000,000 and went through City Council probably about two years ago. An additional \$1,000,000 was allocated for this project. Whenever we update a Resolution, the Commonwealth does not want to deal with separate Resolutions. They want to see one Resolution for the full amount.

Mr. Stellato noted this is not \$4,000,000 we are approving here, it is \$1,000,000.

Ms. Karner mentioned it is \$1,000,000 more but everything will come in line to reflect the \$4,000,000.

Voting AYE: Mr. Stellato, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, Mr. Recchiuti, Ms. Reuscher and Mr. Reynolds, 6. The Resolution passed.

*D. Authorizing Contract – David Hornung Architecture Planning Inc.*

Mr. Recchiuti and Mr. Stellato sponsored Resolution No. 2015-125 that authorized the execution of a contract with David Hornung Architecture Planning Inc. for professional services for the Skateplaza Shade Canopy project.

Voting AYE: Mr. Stellato, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, Mr. Recchiuti, Ms. Reuscher and Mr. Reynolds, 6. The Resolution passed.

*E. Authorizing Contract – Hach Company*

Mr. Recchiuti and Mr. Stellato sponsored Resolution 2015-126 that authorized the execution of a contract with Hach Company for sanitary sewer flow monitoring service with five flow meters located at key areas throughout the City.

Voting AYE: Mr. Stellato, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, Mr. Recchiuti, Ms. Reuscher and Mr. Reynolds, 6. The Resolution passed.

*F. Authorizing Contract – Joao Bradley Construction Co.*

Mr. Recchiuti and Mr. Stellato sponsored Resolution 2015-127 that authorized the execution of a contract with Joao Bradley Construction Co. for the installation of four (4) 16" Water Line Crossings on PA State Route 512 as part of the Water Line Extension Project into East Allen Township and ahead of the re-paving of the road by PennDOT.

Voting AYE: Mr. Stellato, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, Mr. Recchiuti, Ms. Reuscher and Mr. Reynolds, 6. The Resolution passed.

*G. Request to Fill Vacancy - Mayor*

Mr. Recchiuti and Mr. Stellato sponsored Resolution 2015-128 that approves the filling of the position of Electrician in the Electrical Bureau.

Voting AYE: Mr. Stellato, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, Mr. Recchiuti, Ms. Reuscher and Mr. Reynolds, 6. The Resolution passed.

*Motion – Considering Resolutions 9 H through 9 L as a Group – Certificates of Appropriateness*

Mr. Callahan and Mr. Recchiuti moved to consider Resolutions 9 H through 9 L as a group.

Voting AYE: Mr. Stellato, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, Mr. Recchiuti, Ms. Reuscher and Mr. Reynolds, 6. The Resolution passed.

*H. Certificate of Appropriateness – 702 East Fourth Street*

Mr. Stellato and Mr. Callahan sponsored Resolution 2015-129 that granted a Certificate of Appropriateness to install signs on the exterior of the building at 702 East Fourth Street.

I. *Certificate of Appropriateness – 826 East Fourth Street*

Mr. Stellato and Mr. Callahan sponsored Resolution 2015-130 that granted a Certificate of Appropriateness to move the existing sign from 817 East Fourth Street to 826 East Fourth Street.

J. *Certificate of Appropriateness – 326 Polk Street*

Mr. Stellato and Mr. Callahan sponsored Resolution 2015-131 that granted a Certificate of Appropriateness to replace the existing sliding glass doors with a new barn-like garage door at 326 Polk Street.

K. *Certificate of Appropriateness – 521 East Fourth Street*

Mr. Stellato and Mr. Callahan sponsored Resolution 2015-132 that granted a Certificate of Appropriateness to replace the existing hanging sign with a new sign on the front of the building, also, to install new way-finding signs on the back of the building and front of the building at 521 East Fourth Street.

L. *Certificate of Appropriateness – 25 East Third Street*

Mr. Stellato and Mr. Callahan sponsored Resolution 2015-133 that granted a Certificate of Appropriateness to replace the existing signage with new franchise signage at 25 East Third Street

Voting AYE on Resolutions 9 H through 9 L: Mr. Stellato, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, Mr. Recchiuti, Ms. Reuscher and Mr. Reynolds, 6. The Resolutions passed.

President Reynolds asked Mayor Donchez if he has a request for Council to add one of the Communications to the agenda.

Mayor Donchez noted Solicitor William Leeson brought to his attention that Communication 5 G- Use Permit Agreement – ArtsQuest - Women’s World Cup Soccer Viewing Party on page 2, indicates the first few soccer matches are scheduled for June 8, 2015 from 6 pm to 11 pm and June 12, 2015 from 5 pm to 12 midnight. This would be taking place before the next Council Meeting. Mayor Donchez is asking if this Resolution could be voted on this evening.

President Reynolds believes that this would take a motion to add this to the agenda.

Council Solicitor John J. Spirk, Esq., remarked it would take a motion and a second to suspend the rules and add this to tonight’s agenda and then vote on that to add it to the Agenda.

Mr. Callahan made the motion and Mr. Recchiuti seconded the motion.

President Reynolds asked the Clerk to call the roll on the motion to add the Resolution for Communication 5 G to the agenda. It would be Resolution 9 M.

Voting AYE: Mr. Stellato, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, Mr. Recchiuti, Ms. Reuscher and Mr. Reynolds, 6. The Resolution passed.

M. *Authorizing Use Permit Agreement – ArtsQuest - Women’s World Cup Soccer Viewing Party*

Mr. Callahan and Mr. Recchiuti sponsored Resolution 2015-134 that authorized a Use Permit Agreement between the City and ArtsQuest for use of First Street from Polk Street to the eastern terminus and Founders Way from Second Street to First Street for the Women’s World Cup Soccer Viewing Party. The duration of the agreement is June 8, 2015 to July 5, 2015.

Voting AYE: Mr. Stellato, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Callahan, Mr. Recchiuti, Ms. Reuscher and Mr. Reynolds, 6. The Resolution passed.

Mayor Donchez thanked President Reynolds.

10. NEW BUSINESS.

*Committee Meeting Announcement*

Chairman Recchiuti announced a Finance Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 16, 2015 at 6 p.m. in Town Hall on the following subjects: Transfer of Funds and Budget Adjustments; Parking Authority Bond.

*Saucon Park*

Mr. Callahan queried about Saucon Park and if the situation has improved now that we have police presence at the park on the weekends.

Police Chief Mark DiLuzio informed things are getting much better at Saucon Park. Extra Police patrol began in May. Police Chief DiLuzio stated that on the weekends the pavilions are full and there has been no more damage to the parks and people are obeying the rules. He added that the residents in the area are very happy to see the Police in cars, on bicycles and on foot. Police Chief DiLuzio pointed out this is working right now.

Mr. Callahan thanked Police Chief DiLuzio.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT.

*Public Reading of Declaration of Independence, Voters, Newly Elected Officials, Saucon Park*

Tom Carroll, 248 East Union Boulevard, announced that on July 4, 2015 there will be a public reading of the Declaration of Independence again at City Hall at 11:00 a.m. Mr. Carroll informed among the participants confirmed to be reading at this point include Judge Emiddio "Emil" Giordano from the Court of Common Pleas of Northampton County, as well as Mayor Donchez. Mr. Carroll pointed out he has not confirmed with Police Chief DiLuzio. Mr. Carroll mentioned Representative Steve Samuelson communicated that as long as they will not keep him in Harrisburg for the budget he would be there as well. Mr. Carroll stated on a personal note he wanted to congratulate the three soon to be new Members of Council. Mr. Carroll informed he is Judge of Elections in his Ward and he noticed about a 30% increase from last year's primary to this year's primary and it seems to him that the voters were very enthused to come to vote for their choice of City Council. He believes that is a good indication of the health of the City of Bethlehem and the interest the residents of Bethlehem have in City government. Mr. Carroll can attest that several of his friends and family members wish to thank the Police for their increased presence at Saucon Park.

*American Democracy, Newly Elected Officials*

Stephen Antalics, 737 Ridge Street, stated he wanted to follow up on various comments of Bill Moyers on the erosion of American Democracy. The classical Town Hall is open to everyone in the town community and held at the local municipal building; attendees are allowed to voice their opinions and ask questions of public figures and elected officials. Mr. Antalics stated during a phone conversation he was informed of the fact that the late James Delgrosso, when he was President of Council, publicly stated that we who are sitting at this table are not important. All we do is propose and vote on Ordinances and keep an eye on the Administration. The real importance is the podium. Mr. Antalics noted this is the podium as exemplified by the classical Town Hall meetings. He continued this podium has eroded over the years to now we only have five minutes to speak. Mr. Antalics feels there is no need for a timer, rather someone could be gaveled for speaking too long.

Mr. Antalics noted if Stephen Hawkings decided to honor the City, and come before Council at this podium and relate to us, his theory to unite Quantum Mechanics and Relativity, Mr. Hawkings would have to stop when the red light illuminates, before he was through speaking. We would never get the unifying theory because you cannot speak after five minutes and there are no comments after the five minutes. Council does not speak to anyone like they did when Mr. Delgrosso was President of Council. Back then there was an exchange. Mr. Delgrosso said what happened here at the podium expressed the welfare of the community and the City. They listened and there was an exchange of conversation. Some years ago there was a citizen's evaluation of elected Council members and over 100 people filled out the survey agreeing to the quality of who was sitting at the table. Mr. Antalics noted you cannot do this anymore because at the last Council meeting, the majority of the people here at the meeting were Boy Scouts. Mr. Hoppey noted at a previous meeting that we do not see the

people who used to attend the Council meetings regularly because they have lost interest due to the fact that they feel they are not listened to. Mr. Antalics suggests and urges the people who will be elected not to fall into the trap. He expects the new people on Council to be able to give the government back to the people.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

ATTEST:

City Clerk