

BETHLEHEM CITY COUNCIL MEETING
10 East Church Street – Town Hall
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania
Tuesday, August 16, 2016 – 7:00 PM

INVOCATION

President Reynolds asked for a moment of silence 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 G. Colón, Eric R. Evans, Shawn M. Martell, Olga Negrón-Dipini, and J. William Reynolds, 6. Adam R. Waldron was absent, 1.

Congratulations to the Waldron Family

President Reynolds remarked that Councilman Waldron is not here this evening due to his welcoming two young children to his family this morning, a girl and a boy. He added that both Mom and the babies are healthy and doing well. We extend our congratulations to the Waldron family.

PUBLIC HEARING

President Reynolds stated prior to the consideration of the regular Agenda items, City Council will a Public Hearing to accept recommendations concerning the location of boundaries of a deteriorated area or areas for which area proposed to include Main St. starting at W. North St. and continuing to the intersection of W. Laurel St.; W. Laurel St. from Main St. to Grenadier Blvd.; Grenadier Blvd. from W. Laurel St. to E. Fairview St.; E. Fairview St. from Pine St. to Maple St.; Maple St. from E. Fairview St. to E. Broad St.; E. Broad St. from Maple St. to N. New St.; N. New St. from E. Broad St. to W. Raspberry St.; W. Raspberry St. from Guetter St. to W. North St.; W. North St. from Guetter St. to Main St., and extend the LERTA Program for the new boundaries as stated through December 31, 2022. This Public Hearing is taking place due to a revised proposed Ordinance and Resolution that now references the residential LERTA statute Act 42 of 1977.

Allyson Lysaght, Housing and Community Development Planner mentioned we went through this a few weeks ago, but in the interest of public information we wanted to hold another Public Hearing to include the residential portion of this which is Act 42 in addition to the commercial and business portion that was referenced at the last Public Hearing. She continued at the Public Hearing last time did speak extensively about the residential portion of the program so she is not sure if she should go through that again.

President Reynolds informed the reason we are doing this is because the residential portion was not included in the Ordinance.

Ms. Lysaght stated that is correct even though the Public Hearing touched upon the residential portion.

President Reynolds noted we did discuss the residential aspect of the LERTA program, but it was not in the Ordinance at that time.

President Reynolds then recognized Council Members and the public for comments and with no comments he stated Bill 23 – 2016 is listed on the agenda for First Reading and the Resolution will be placed on the September 6, 2016 Council agenda along with Final Reading of Bill 23 – 2016.

President Reynolds adjourned the Public Hearing at 7:05 pm.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of August 2, 2016 were approved.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

4. OLD BUSINESS.

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

None.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. *Director of Community and Economic Development – Recommendation for Award – Campbell DeLong Resources, Inc.*

The Clerk read a memorandum from Alicia Karner, Director of Community and Economic Development recommending a contract with Campbell Delong Resources, Inc. to conduct a two day seminar for City landlords on proper tenant vetting processes, crime awareness, fair housing, eviction proceedings and City/State landlord-tenant law. The estimated completion date is December 31, 2016. The fee for the contract is \$15,000.

President Reynolds stated Resolution 9 C is on the agenda.

- B. *Director of Community and Economic Development – Recommendation for Award – Christine Ussler, Artefact, Inc.*

The Clerk read a memorandum from Alicia Karner, Director of Community and Economic Development recommending a contract with Christine Ussler, Artefact to provide historic preservation services. The term of the contract is four years, ending December 31, 2019. The fee for the contract is \$100 per historic review.

President Reynolds stated Resolution 9 D is on the agenda.

- C. *Director of Public Works – Proposed Ordinance to Accept Streets in LVIP VII*

The Clerk read a memorandum from Michael Alkhal, Director of Public Works to which is attached a proposed Ordinance for the dedication of roadways for street purposes. The roadways are in the Lehigh Valley Industrial Park VII and include Emery Street, Spillman Drive, Lynn Avenue, Commerce Center Boulevard, Harvard Avenue, Gilchrist Drive, and Feather Way.

President Reynolds stated Ordinance 8 E is on the agenda for First Reading.

- D. *Councilman Evans – Amendment to Rules of Council – Rule 3A – Order of Business*

The Clerk read a memorandum from Councilman Eric R. Evans to which is attached a proposed Resolution to amend Rule 3A of the Rules of Council, which is the order of business. Consideration is requested to move the Public Comment on any subject to the beginning of the City Council meeting, prior to Public Comment on Ordinances and Resolutions to provide relief for the public to express their views without having to wait until the end of a Council meeting, which can take several hours, depending on the business to be addressed on any given City Council night.

President Reynolds stated the Resolution will be placed on the September 6, 2016 agenda.

E. *City Solicitor – Use Permit Agreement – Runner’s World – Runner’s World Half Marathon and Festival*

The Clerk read a memorandum dated August 11, 2016 from City Solicitor William P. Leeson, Esq. to which is attached a proposed Resolution and Associated Use Permit Agreement between the City and Runner’s World for the use of First Street from Polk Street to City’s Terminus and Founder’s Way between Second Street and First Street, and South Mountain Park for the Runner’s World Half Marathon and Festival. The duration of the agreement is October 14, 2016 through October 16, 2016.

President Reynolds stated the Resolution will be placed on the September 6, 2016 agenda.

F. *City Solicitor – Use Permit Agreement – Mount Airy Neighborhood Association – West Bethlehem Farmer’s Market*

The Clerk read a memorandum dated August 11, 2016 from City Solicitor William P. Leeson, Esq. to which is attached a proposed Resolution and Associated Amendment No. 2 to the Use Permit Agreement with the Mount Airy Neighborhood Association to add October 1 and October 8 to the list of dates for the West Side Farmer’s Market at the Bethlehem Rose Garden.

President Reynolds stated the Resolution will be placed on the September 6, 2016 agenda.

G. *Legal Assistant – Records Destruction Request – Solicitor’s Office*

The Clerk read a memorandum from Erin P. Hefferan, Legal Assistant, requesting Council to consider a Resolution for the Destruction of Records from the Office of the Solicitor listed on the attached exhibit. Ms. Hefferan has reviewed the Municipal Records Retention Act and the records fall within categories where destruction is permitted.

President Reynolds stated the Resolution will be placed on the September 6, 2016 agenda.

H. *Deputy Director of Community and Economic Development – Recommendation for Award – Retail Strategies*

The Clerk read a memorandum from Amy Burkhardt, Deputy Director of Community and Economic Development recommending a contract with Retail Strategies for the Downtown Marketing Analysis and Implementation. The term of the contract is September 1, 2016 – August 31, 2017. The fee for the contract for the initial term of one year for cost of services and budget allowance is \$70,000.

President Reynolds stated Resolution 9 E is on the agenda.

6. REPORTS

A. *President of Council*

B. *Mayor*

1. *Administrative Order – Hillary Rose Harper – Fine Arts Commission*

Mayor Donchez appointed Hillary Rose Harper to membership on the Fine Arts Commission effective through December, 2016. Mr. Martell and Mr. Colón sponsored Resolution 2016-169 to confirm the appointment.

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

2. *Administrative Order – Kathy Zelko-Lund – Fine Arts Commission*

Mayor Donchez appointed Kathy Zelko-Lund to membership on the Fine Arts Commission effective through May, 2018. Mr. Martell and Mr. Colón sponsored Resolution 2016-170 to confirm the appointment.

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

3. *Administrative Order – Kenneth Miller – Electrician’s Examining Board*

Mayor Donchez appointed Kenneth Miller to membership on the Electrician’s Examining Board effective through July, 2019. Mr. Martell and Mr. Colón sponsored Resolution 2016-171 to confirm the appointment.

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

Musikfest

Mayor Donchez stressed he wanted to thank all of the City employees and especially Police Chief Mark DiLuzio, Fire Chief Robert Novatnack, ArtsQuest President Kassie Hilgert and her staff, the Lancaster Mounted Unit, the State Police LCB agents, Northampton County Emergency Management, the FBI, and the merchants for all they did to make this year’s Musikfest a successful event. He remarked they worked on this since February during monthly meetings and we were very fortunate to have a record low number of arrests.

Police Chief DiLuzio reported that Musikfest was very good this year. There were 16 arrests total during the event and most of them very minor. When you compare this to other years as in 2011 we had 81 arrests, you can see 16 is a low number. This is the first time in a 12 year period that we have had two consecutive years of low arrests. Chief DiLuzio remarked that much of that is due to the yearlong planning that takes effect immediately after Musikfest, and the direct cooperation among Federal, State and Local agencies that we bring in with the newer problems we have currently with a festival this size. Chief DiLuzio thanked all of the departments that helped this year. He noted there is a report he will have available tomorrow and if anyone has any questions just give him a call.

President Reynolds speaks for Council in thanking Chief DiLuzio and Chief Novatnack for all of their hard work. He knows that for the City it is 10 days but for them there are months of planning going into this prior to the festival. There are always problems that arise but President Reynolds noted every time he spoke to the Chiefs, they had everything under control. He added that we all recognize all the hard work put into this when we were at Musikfest.

Chief DiLuzio informed it was a good team effort by everybody.

Committee Meeting Announcement

Chairman Callahan announced that the Finance Committee met tonight Tuesday, August 16, 2016 at 6 pm in Town Hall. The Committee reviewed and recommended that Council adopt Ordinances for the following: Amending the General Fund, City Health, Recycling and the Northampton County Revitalization Grant; amending the Community Development Budget – CDBG and HOME programs. The Administration also provided a Second Quarter Financial Review.

7. ORDINANCES FOR FINAL READING

None.

8. NEW ORDINANCES

A. *Bill No. 23 – 2016 – Amending Article 342 – Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance*

The Clerk read Bill No. 23 - 2016 - Amending Article 342 - Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance, sponsored by Mr. Martell and Mr. Colón:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM,
COUNTIES OF LEHIGH AND NORTHAMPTON,
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING
ARTICLE 342 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES
ENTITLED LOCAL ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION TAX
ASSISTANCE - ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT AREA

Mr. Martell mentioned that this was discussed several times, once in a Committee Meeting and once at a previous Council Meeting. He believes it is important to bring out a few points about this area before we vote. He is sure everyone is familiar with this neighborhood. It is a great neighborhood, great for young families, and is a close knit neighborhood. Mr. Martell noted that everyone when they run their campaign says they want to work to strengthen neighborhoods in an area where you want to walk to school, walk to parks, walk to downtown. Mr. Martell remarked that this area provides that for many people and has for quite some time. The Administration has correctly identified that the trend here is not going in the right direction. He added, to date there are 36 vacancies in the commercial corridor on Linden and Broad and 63 Sheriff Sales just this year alone. From about 2005 until now the schools have seen a 15% increase in free or reduced lunches. In the two elementary schools that number is over a 20% increase, so the trend is not going where we would like it to go. Mr. Martell is happy to see the Administration take this on. The LERTA zone is something we have seen work in other parts of the City and he is confident it will work in these neighborhoods. When you look at this in terms of what LERTA does, the price of doing it is really nothing. He continued, you are hoping to turn the neighborhood around, and what you would do is strengthen the community and give support, and in the long run, it will be something that will bring in more tax revenue by helping to increase the property values. Mr. Martell thinks this is a win/win decision and is a great step. He hopes that the County and School District approves this as well.

Voting AYE: Mr. Martell, Ms. Negrón-Dipini, Mr. Callahan, Mr. Colón, Mr. Evans, and Mr. Reynolds, 6. Bill No. 23 - 2016 was passed on First Reading.

B. Bill No. 24 - 2016 - Amending Article 149 - Blighted Property Review Committee

The Clerk read Bill No. 24 - 2016 - Amending Article 149 - Blighted Property Review Committee, sponsored by Mr. Martell and Mr. Colón:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF
BETHLEHEM, COUNTIES OF LEHIGH AND
NORTHAMPTON, COMMONWEALTH OF
PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING IN ITS ENTIRETY
ARTICLE 149 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES
RELATING TO BLIGHTED PROPERTIES

Voting AYE: Mr. Martell, Ms. Negrón-Dipini, Mr. Callahan, Mr. Colón, Mr. Evans, and Mr. Reynolds, 6. Bill No. 24 - 2016 was passed on First Reading.

C. Bill No. 25 - 2016 - Amending Community Development Budget

The Clerk read Bill No. 25 - 2016 - Amending Community Development Budget, sponsored by Mr. Martell and Mr. Colón:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM,
COUNTIES OF LEHIGH AND NORTHAMPTON,
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING
THE 2016 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BUDGET

Voting AYE: Mr. Martell, Ms. Negrón-Dipini, Mr. Callahan, Mr. Colón, Mr. Evans, and Mr. Reynolds, 6. Bill No. 25 - 2016 was passed on First Reading.

D. *Bill No. 26 – 2016 – Amending General Fund Budget*

The Clerk read Bill No. 26 – 2016 – Amending General Fund Budget, sponsored by Mr. Martell and Mr. Colón:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM,
COUNTIES OF LEHIGH AND NORTHAMPTON,
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING
THE 2016 GENERAL FUND BUDGET

Voting AYE: Mr. Martell, Ms. Negrón-Dipini, Mr. Callahan, Mr. Colón, Mr. Evans, and Mr. Reynolds, 6. Bill No. 26 – 2016 was passed on First Reading.

E. *Bill No. 27 – 2016 – Dedication of Streets – Emery Street, Spillman Drive, Lynn Avenue, Commerce Center Boulevard, Harvard Avenue, Gilchrist Drive, and Feather Way*

The Clerk read Bill No. 27 – 2016 – Dedication of Streets – Emery Street, Spillman Drive, Lynn Avenue, Commerce Center Boulevard, Harvard Avenue, Gilchrist Drive, and Feather Way, sponsored by Mr. Martell and Mr. Colón:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM,
COUNTIES OF LEHIGH AND NORTHAMPTON,
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, DEDICATING
PIECES OF LAND FOR STREET PURPOSES; AUTHORIZING
AND DIRECTING THE CITY ENGINEER TO REVISE THE
LINES AND TO PLACE UPON THE GENERAL PLAN OF
STREETS OF THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM THE PORTION OF
STREETS HEREIN DEDICATED.

Voting AYE: Mr. Martell, Ms. Negrón-Dipini, Mr. Callahan, Mr. Colón, Mr. Evans, and Mr. Reynolds, 6. Bill No. 27 – 2016 was passed on First Reading.

9. RESOLUTIONS

A. *Approving Contract of Sale of Land – Bethlehem Armory – 301 Prospect Avenue*

Mr. Martell and Mr. Colón sponsored Resolution 2016-172 that approved the contract for sale of land for the Bethlehem Armory at 301 Prospect Avenue by the Redevelopment Authority.

Mr. Martell stated he has some questions for Tony Hanna, Director of the Redevelopment Authority. He noted Council received the email regarding the process, and it speaks well of the project that there were so many applicants. Mr. Martell mentioned it is his interpretation that what we would be approving tonight would be the concept of what was submitted to you. In other words we would be approving roughly 79 apartments and potentially a technology center. This is what we all received in presentation provided to Council.

Mr. Hanna noted that is part of what you are approving. Actually the Resolution itself authorizes the Redevelopment Authority to enter into an agreement of sale which incorporates the three options that you have seen. So it is essentially endorsing what the Redevelopment Authority and the selection committee has already endorsed. Mr. Hanna mentioned they went through a process where they received ten proposals, six of which were multi-family. We went through a very deliberative process and came up with what we felt was the best proposal from Peron Development. It was very close; the multi-family submissions were good, but because Peron acquired an adjacent property they had more flexibility and had more green space and more on-site parking than some of the other proposals. Mr. Hanna thinks the process was a good one and what you are approving tonight is essentially endorsing what the Redevelopment Authority has already approved.

Mr. Martell mentioned that everyone he has talked to are excited about concept and logistics of and the potential of this redevelopment project. Of course, as with any project there questions about details such as parking and sidewalks, but that is something that is not to be dealt with yet.

Mr. Hanna noted that will be something dealt with through the land development process, the zoning hearing process, through Ms. Karner's Department, Public Works and others where they will be reviewing the process like any other project in the City. Mr. Hanna stressed there will be ample opportunities for the public to weigh in and work with the developer and come up with a project that everybody is happy with. Mr. Hanna believes it is a good project for the neighborhood and a good project for the City.

Mr. Martell mentioned that this will be also going before the Planning Commission.

Mr. Hanna stated they will go before the Planning Commission, Zoning Hearing Board and there is also a Committee Meeting next week, and that is where former Mayor John Callahan is willing to meet with any members of the neighborhood that are interested in the project.

Mr. Martell reiterated that everyone he has talked to are excited about the redevelopment of the property and not just the generic redevelopment, but what the plans are, and many people feel comforted by the fact that there already has been public outreach by Peron and a scheduled plan to continue that dialogue. He thinks this is a great project and he is happy that so many people were applying. He added this will be a good addition to the City.

Mr. Callahan mentioned that he will not be voting on this tonight due to a possible conflict with the company that his brother works for.

President Reynolds remarked that Mr. Martell touched on many of the things he was going to say. He pointed out that with this we are looking to put a lot of people close to our downtown business corridor. He continued we have heard how important it is to have people living close to our downtowns. This project will be a good addition to our downtown. If any resident has concerns or questions about the plan there will have multiple opportunities to voice concerns and support for the project.

Voting AYE: Mr. Martell, Ms. Negrón-Dipini, Mr. Colón, Mr. Evans, and Mr. Reynolds, 5. Mr. Callahan abstained. The Resolution passed.

B. Authorizing Execution of Highway Safety Project Grant – Community Traffic Safety Project

Mr. Colón and Mr. Callahan sponsored Resolution No. 2016-173 that authorized the approval of necessary grant documents for Highway Safety Project Grant No. CTSP-2017-Bethlehem City-00017.

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

C. Approving Contract – Campbell DeLong Resources, Inc.

Mr. Callahan and Mr. Evans sponsored Resolution No. 2016-174 that authorized the execution of a contract with Campbell DeLong Resources, Inc. for landlord training services.

Mr. Colón queried how we plan to get the information out to the landlords about this.

Ms. Karner stated there are a few different ways they will be providing the information such as putting it on the website. We also have a letter that will be mailed out to people who are localized landlords just because we think there is a higher potential for them to attend the meeting, and they will be submitting this information to the media.

Mr. Colón asked if there is any cost for landlords to attend.

Ms. Karner informed there is no cost.

Mr. Colón noted it is two days, so one seminar for two days.

Ms. Karner related it is a choice of either, two different sessions.

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

D. *Approving Contract – Christine Ussler, Artefact, Inc.*

Mr. Colón and Mr. Callahan sponsored Resolution No. 2016-175 that authorized the execution of a contract with Christine Ussler, Artefact, Inc. for historic preservation services for HUD funded projects.

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

E. *Approving Contract – Retail Strategies*

Mr. Callahan and Mr. Evans sponsored Resolution No. 2016-176 that authorized the execution of a contract with Retail Strategies for downtown market analysis and implementation.

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

10. NEW BUSINESS

Committee Meeting Announcement

Chairman Callahan announced a Finance Committee Meeting will occur on Tuesday, September 20, 2016 in Town Hall at 6 pm. The subject will be the 2015 audit.

Black Lives Also Matter Forum/ Bike Bethlehem/ Musikfest

Mr. Martell wanted to make everyone aware that on Monday, August 22, 2016 at 6 pm in Town Hall there will be a community forum hosted by the Mayor, Police Chief Mark DiLuzio and Esther Lee entitled “Black Lives Also Matter.” It will be a forum where community relations will be discussed.

Mr. Martell thanked the reporters who came yesterday to cover the launch of Bike Bethlehem, which is a fantastic initiative and will be a great addition to the City. He commended the Mayor, Ms. Karner and all the staff that put all the work into this program. Mr. Martell knows there were times when we were not sure how it was going to get off the ground, and at that point St. Luke’s came in and supplied the funds to get that going. There was also support from the Bethlehem Public Library and Cutter’s Bike Shop. Mr. Martell wanted to thank them for that partnership and for the leadership in getting that going. It will be great for exercise and for tourism in the City, and a way for people to get round for job interviews and pick up groceries. We have seen this work in other areas.

Mr. Martell also commended Chief DiLuzio and Chief Novatnack and everyone that put work into Musikfest. There were many meetings coming up to the festival. He noted some people say the attendance was down and that was why there was not a lot of crime but he does not believe that. There was a lot of effort and hours that went into keeping that number low, and everyone safe and able to enjoy the festival.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mount Airy Neighborhood Association Meeting/Bike Share Program

John Callahan, 329 Biery’s Bridge Road, stated there will be meeting of the Mount Airy Neighborhood Association at 7 pm on August 23, 2016 at the West Side Moravian Church which is at the corner of Third and Prospect. This meeting is to talk about the Armory project and to give us an opportunity to further discuss the plan and get more feedback from the neighbors. Mr. Callahan pointed out that the Bike Share program is tremendous and he hopes that really takes off and expands. This is something he wanted to accomplish before he left office as Mayor of Bethlehem but did not get a chance to do it. He remarked like a lot of great things in Bethlehem there are a hundred reasons why you should not do them. From dog parks

to skate parks, there are liability reasons and all sorts of reasons, but these things ultimately do benefit the quality of life in the City. Mr. Callahan noted while there may be a hundred reasons not to do them there is one really good one, because it makes the City better. This is a great example of that. It is small now, but whoever worked on this he congratulates because it will be something great for Bethlehem with the trails we have and with the Greenway. He always had a vision of Bethlehem being a little mini Hilton Head where people could move around the City on a bicycle and really enjoy all we have to offer.

Water Bill Issue

Kevin Hosten, 641 Seventh Avenue, mentioned he had a water bill issue that he would like to discuss and asked if this is the time to speak about this.

President Reynolds remarked that he can speak about this now and often times we try to put the person in touch with the individual department. He noted Mr. Boscola, Director of Water and Sewer Resources is in attendance tonight.

Mr. Hosten noted he purchased his property about two years ago and normally his water bill was around \$170 every quarter and this on particular quarter it went up to \$1,500. He contacted someone at the Water Department and they told him he used over 20,000 gallons of water, and obviously he did not use that amount of water. He tried to resolve the issue, but he did not get anywhere with this so he is at this meeting to get this resolved. He contacted the Mayor's office and they directed him to come to this meeting.

President Reynolds noted City Council can hear your issue, but that particular issue is one that is more an administrative issue with a certain department. The Administration is here and if they would like to meet with you they can after the meeting.

Mayor Donchez informed that Mr. Boscola will meet with him after the meeting.

First House in Bethlehem

Rick Rupnik, 3349 Hill Road, Slatington stated he produces an historical Bethlehem calendar; and while he was doing that he did some work to determine the setting of the first house of Bethlehem. He noted the 275th Anniversary of Bethlehem and continued to say the City was named within this first house which sits behind Hotel Bethlehem. Mr. Rupnik mentioned his research was detailed in the Bethlehem Press article last Wednesday. His reason for presenting it here is that consistent with what historical cities like Philadelphia, New York and Boston do, he is requesting that a marker be placed at the location of the first house. We know that 275 years ago there was only one structure in Bethlehem and he thinks that deserves a marking. Mr. Rupnik noted he is presenting it here because it would require funding and cooperation by Hotel Bethlehem, which is a business and uses this area as a parking access. There is an image showing the location of the first house in the Bethlehem Press article. The first building was built in 1741 and it was demolished in 1823 so they could build the Eagle Hotel. At that time they kind of dismissed any sentimentality about the importance of the first home. Mr. Rupnik noted they currently experience the same difficulty where that would require access for cars to be going in and out. He concluded even something as simple as painting a large rectangle that occupies the footprint of where the first house stood and adding a star which is traditional to Bethlehem would be fitting and suitable.

President Reynolds mentioned that Mayor Donchez and the Administration can take that into consideration.

Cement Reservoir Break In

Stephen Antalics, 737 Ridge Street, mentioned at the last Bethlehem Authority meeting he heard a police report was filed on August 10 where someone attempted or did break into the building at the water site at the Star of Bethlehem where there is located a cement reservoir. He remarked he thought at about this and is very concerned. Mr. Antalics stated at the Bethlehem Authority meeting he mentioned this was reported on the 10th but asked when did the incident actually occur, and no one knew. The second question he asked was if you attached significance to the act what would you call it, but he received no answer. He queried how perpetrators got to the site and to do what they did without being detected. He expressed we

need to look at extremes, such as was this a possible act of terrorism, since we do not know the motive. Mr. Antalics noted this raises the question of possibility versus probability. The possibility is 100% that it could be an act of terrorism and the probability might be low. He noted Homeland Security has written extensively on the vulnerability of water sources in this country. Mr. Antalics mentioned most metropolitan areas probably have a very secure water supply because of the fact that they are a metropolitan area and a lot of damage could be done. Security there would be extremely high. He posed the question of what is unique about Bethlehem, and highlighted there is another Bethlehem in the Middle East. A terrorist group with a religious bent wishing to do some terroristic act in America might find Bethlehem a nice choice because of the significance and the possibility of less security. Mr. Antalics stated this is extreme, but it is possible so you need to look at the probably aspect of this. He knows the City's chemistry lab looks at routine water quality, but today there are agents that are very dangerous, and in low concentrations can do very damaging effects. He asked if a study of the site could be done to determine how to make and disarm secondary levels of detection after they once are in the building. He remarked he does not know if anyone got into the water, but based on the process to obtain a police report he may not know until November. Mr. Antalics is concerned that people should have been detected before they got close to the building and that no one knows how long they were there.

President Reynolds noted that the five minute public comment time expired for Mr. Antalics.

Mr. Antalics mentioned other people have been given additional minutes and he would appreciate if he does not get cut off. Mr. Antalics concluded that no one should be close to that building. The welfare of the citizens is at stake, and we will not find out until we have fevers or health problems.

Bill Scheirer, 1890 Eaton Avenue, noted that Mr. Antalics does raise a topic of serious concern. He expressed we have read that ISIS is losing territory in Iraq and Syria so they are looking for what they call soft targets such as restaurants, concern halls, people watching fireworks to name a few. Mr. Scheirer stated that is why he was kind of relieved to hear that Musikfest was so quiet this year. We have all heard that the various parts of our infrastructure are vulnerable and in particular water supplies, which can be poisoned. Mr. Scheirer added that Mr. Antalics raised an interesting point about the symbolic value of the name Bethlehem to these people who may be home grown terrorists who have been radicalized by the social media. He added we need to think about more protection of Bethlehem's infrastructure even if it means raising taxes because quality of life and safety are our objectives.

President Reynolds remarked that Mr. Boscola had sent some information to Council today about this issue, and this is something that he is on the forefront of as well.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

ATTEST:

City Clerk