

BETHLEHEM CITY COUNCIL REORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
OLD COUNCIL

Monday, January 6, 2020 - 7:00 PM
10 East Church Street - Town Hall
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

INVOCATION

Minister Mable Humphrey, Grace Deliverance Baptist 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 G. Colón, Grace Crampsie Smith, Olga Negrón, J. William Reynolds, Paige Van Wirt and Adam R. Waldron, 7.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of November 19, 2019 were approved.

President Waldron announced there will be a Communication and Resolution related to a contract approval request that will be added to the agenda tonight. The resolution will be added as agenda item 10 E. President Waldron asked the Clerk to read Communication 6 C to provide the public to comment if they wish.

Communication 6 C

The Clerk read a memorandum dated December 23, 2019 from Michael Alkhal, Director of Public Works recommending a contract with WSP for services related to preparation of a climate action plan. The contract shall run for 13 months from the notice to proceed. The cost is \$80,000 and no renewals are anticipated.

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

Health and Safety Issue

Artie Curatola, 813 Laufer Street, informed he would like to speak about a health and safety issue that no one should have to go through. His home has a common trap for 5 other houses in his row. That means someone can put in something to stop up their toilet but it does not stop up their toilet, it goes in his trap and he gets all that stuff in his basement, about 3 inches or more. Christmas Eve he came home and saw this in his basement and he could smell this for weeks and actually his one cat died from it. He saw little piles of water under his water heater and then he saw all that mess he quickly got buckets and shoveled it out. That did not work

because he had to get a plumber to release the trap. This went on and on until finally he got the plumber. Mr. Curatola reported he got sick from this and during Christmas day there were over 50 buckets he brought up the steps. He did not care what it costs, he got a professional cleaning crew and fortunately they said they would make sure the insurance company paid for it but how long will they continue to do that? This will keep happening because it has for about every year. They tell him this is grandfathered in. This is a health issue for him and it could be a health issue for the City. This needs to be addressed and these people have to be responsible for their own mess. Mr. Curatola noted there is a big cast iron pipe that separates his basement to his dirt cellar which he can trip over some day which is a safety issue for him.

Historical Vignette

Johanna Brams, 1727 Elm Street informed she will give the Bethlehem Moment. "January 1873, 147 years ago Lucy Evelyn Packer Linderman is recovering from a serious horse and carriage accident on the ice-covered what is now Packer Avenue – just down the hill from Lehigh University, founded by her father Asa. She, at 41, and her sister Mary Hannah Packer, at 34, are the two surviving female adults of Asa Packer's seven children. Lucy is considered beautiful and an image of her, with her stylish clothes and carefully coiffed and braided hair, show a handsome woman, a leader of Bethlehem society, married to a doctor, Garrett Linderman, who showed up in the cholera epidemic some years before – and is now a Lieutenant in her father's businesses. An image of young Mary, on the other hand, shows her as short, plump, with coke bottle glasses and plainly dressed. At 34 she would be considered a spinster, dedicated to serving her family's needs. A contemporary narrative says: "There were suitors . . . who were anxious for the hand of Miss Packer, but she stubbornly avoided all advances in that direction." Mary was known as somewhat of a recluse, as result of an accident and subsequent eye ailments that had led to her being blind in one eye, and with limited vision in the other. Lucy survived the accident but dies later that year, in July, of pneumonia – contracted as she attempted rehabilitation in a spa in mountains to the north. Asa Packer, grief-stricken, builds Linderman Library in Lucy's honor in 1875 and dies in 1879. Within five years, by 1884, all the remaining members of the Packer family – two brothers and Asa's wife – also pass – and Mary Hannah Packer is the only surviving member of the family. Mary may be reclusive and nearly blind, but she is not stupid. A woman ahead of her time, she recognizes that she cannot inherit the fabulous Packer fortune – built on canal boats and what would become the Pennsylvania Railroad and Bethlehem Steel – in her chosen unmarried status. In order to take advantage of the then recently passed Women's Marriage Act – which guaranteed married women the right to inheritance – she enlists Charles Cummings, a former conductor on the railroad and a loyal family friend – to marry her. She pays him 100,000 dollars – worth about \$ 2 and a half million dollars today – and has him sign one of the first pre-nuptial agreements in the state. Charles and Mary never live together and are divorced in 1893. Upon her marriage, Mary Hannah Packer Cummings, as the sole heir to the Packer fortune, inherits \$54 and a half million dollars – worth about \$1.5 billion today. She becomes the most wealthy woman in the country and second in wealth in the world – to only Queen Victoria. She travels around the world 17 times. She becomes a philanthropist and is considered a bit of a Bohemian, a patron of the arts, literature, and music. She builds Packer Church at Lehigh, and supports the university well and repeatedly over the years. She also builds All Saints Episcopal Church down the hill from her house in Mauch Chunk (now Jim Thorpe) in 1906. Mary Hannah Packer Cummings died in 1912, the only member of her immediate family to see the 20th century. There are many accounts of sightings of her ghost, still

short and plump, plainly dressed and with coke-bottle glasses — as she wanders about — checking on the properties she built.

Council Presidency

Mary Toulouse, 1528 West Market Street remarked she is at this meeting to talk about the reorganization of City Council and the City Council Presidency. She first would like to thank President Adam Waldron for his steady hand of leadership over the last two years. He has done a fine job; it has been a lot of work and very much appreciated. Looking forward to 2020 a new year and a new term she would like to express her support for Olga Negrón as the next President of City Council. Olga has been an outstanding Council Member for the last several years. She sponsored a number of important legislative initiatives and served as a voice for a diverse number of communities and concerns within the City. Having worked for a law firm and served as Council Vice-President she is well prepared and normally next in line to handle the job of President. Although there may be other willing and qualified candidates for President, this is 2020, the hundredth anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment which is a milestone in women's rights and women's right to vote and responsibilities. Let's celebrate this anniversary in Bethlehem by electing Olga Negrón to be President of Council.

Chris Woods, 521 East Fifth Street, explained he would also like to voice support for Ms. Negrón for City Council President. She is experienced, well respected in the community and is the voice he hears everywhere he goes on the south side of Bethlehem. She is the Council Member he knows who is in the community more than anyone else. Mr. Woods believes she is the right person for the job.

Peg Church, 435 Brighton Street, remarked she is another person saying she is in support of Olga Negrón in this leadership position. She is well qualified, experienced, she is a very good listener and is accessible to all elements in the community and has good connections and background. She is well qualified and Ms. Church thinks she would do very well and hopes that Council will consider her.

Margarita Gonzales Rivera, 1349 Lynn Avenue, informed she is at this meeting to give her support to Olga Negrón. Any situation you might have, you can go to Olga and if she does not have the answer for your situation she will say she might not know but she will get back to you. She responds because she cares. Ms. Rivera was new to the community when she and her husband first met Olga. There was a group, the PRCC and they did the Puerto Rican Festival and that where they met her. She encourages them to be a part of the community. Bethlehem is a happening place and is the place to be. When you have people like Olga in your community it makes you feel like you made the right choice of moving here. She explained Olga is a loyal community member and she is the best for the position because she is always thinking of the people of the community.

Santiago Rivera, 1349 Lynn Avenue, stated he wanted to speak about his neighbor, friend and current Council Member Olga Negrón. He met Olga in 2002 when he and his wife first decided to relocate to Bethlehem. He was told that if he wanted to get involved in the community that he should meet Olga Negrón. At the time Olga and others were all on the mission to relaunch the Puerto Rican Festival under the auspices of the PRCC or the Puerto Rican Cultural

Coalition. As year one of this even turned into year two and so forth he met more and more of his community members. He noticed one person start to lead the pack as a community organizer and later a community leader. That person he saw rise through the ranks was Olga Negrón. Sometime later he saw her become a City Councilwoman designated and then she was elected as a Councilwoman. That represents the community support for her and the work she does and has done for so many years for our community. He cannot think of anyone more committed to or an advocate or more leadership driven to represent the people of the City of Bethlehem than Olga Negrón.

Barbara Diamond, 425 Center Street, informed she also wanted to thank President Waldron for his service, this is a time consuming job and is not always easy. But she is also here to speak in support of Olga Negrón as the next President of Council. She thinks a change in leadership would be valuable. One of the things that has concerned her over the last several months is a breakdown in order and decorum in the way meetings have been handled. This has been reported in the local newspapers. For example in a November 20, 2019 article in the Morning Call titled "Mayor Robert Donchez criticizes Councilman for unwarranted personal attacks." The Mayor is quoted as saying "for the most part the meetings proceed normally but the departures are having a disproportionate negative impact on working relationships and Council's reputation." Council Members have been unfairly challenged to choose between engaging at the risk of escalation or answer with silence. It is the responsibility of the President of Council to assert control and to maintain decorum and that has not happened. Ms. Diamond explained this matter is important for a number of reasons. The Council has to work together to get business done. Public confidence in government is also affected when this spills out into the public. The Council's reputation is at stake. She believes that Councilwoman Olga Negrón is an excellent choice for President. She served as Vice-President for two years and she has extensive experience serving on a variety of community boards. She also has a long list of significant awards and honors for public service. She would bring an important perspective as a woman and a Latino to the important role of President. She hopes Council will elect Olga Negrón as President.

Connor Burbridge, 225 Laury Street, informed he is at this meeting to support Olga Negrón for Council President. He is here with a group of his neighbors from south Bethlehem. We think she is a great community leader. Mr. Burbridge noted when he first moved to south Bethlehem he went to a local community group where Olga talked about her work preparing in the Lehigh Valley for Puerto Rican refugees from Hurricane Maria. Her work within that shows her strategic thinking and strong leadership. He then spoke to her after that meeting about things he would like to do in the community and Olga offered her card and was there to talk to him about the ways to get involved and she took time out of her day over the course of the next few weeks to tell him the best people to get in contact with. This kind of transparency is the direction he believes City Hall needs to go.

Al Wurth, 525 Sixth Avenue, explained he has been before Council many times so that is why he will not say who he encourages Council to vote for with the President of Council because he thinks it might be the kiss of death if you knew who he supported. He does want to offer a few thoughts. He is a Political Scientist and he noted it is really important to think about appearances and the role of City Council in a City that is a Democratic stronghold like Bethlehem. Most of the people who run here do not have any opponents because the Republicans do not field

candidates. The Democrats have many things on their agenda but the most important thing might be the 2020 election. One of the things that need to happen is to have the Democrats themselves mobilized. In a town like Bethlehem one way to mobilize the Democrats would be to encourage groups that were not traditionally less likely to participate in politics. That would include Latinos and women. He believes this is the first time we have ever had three women on Bethlehem City Council. He does not want to tell Council what their jobs are and he does not want to tell the Democratic Party what to do but he does think it would behoove the Democratic Party to have an image of inclusiveness especially with the 2020 election approaching. We also have the first woman Representative in our Congressional District in quite a long time also. Mr. Wurth believes that women were also the highest vote getters in both of the two last elections.

Bethlehem Moment

Ed Gallagher, 49 West Greenwich Street, reported he wanted to take advantage of a full house tonight and a very intelligent full house to make a pitch for the Bethlehem Moment. We just had a good example from Johanna Brams of the Bethlehem Moment. This is a feature he has been organizing. Every meeting we try to have someone do a Bethlehem Moment and he will publish those on his blog, the Bethlehem Gadfly. This is a new year so he would like to thank the people who did the moments last year and they include Lynn Rothman, John Smith, Kate McVey, Olga Negrón, Jim Petrucci, Joe Petrucci, Barbara Diamond, Stasia Browne Pallrand, Steve Repasch, Rayah Levy, Robert Bilheimer, and Alan Lowcher. Mr. Gallagher remarked his schedule is filled through the first third of 2020 but there are many people in the audience here that would be great volunteers to do the Bethlehem Moment. He hopes Council Members, the Mayor and the Department Heads will do a Bethlehem Moment and that we see elected officials participating in this celebration of Bethlehem history. Mr. Gallagher pointed out that in mid-December the Morning Call newspaper published a letter from Magistrate Nancy Matos-Gonzales about a differential in enforcement of marijuana laws between the Bethlehem Police and the Lehigh University Police. He would like to hear something about that. Is the intention of that decriminalization being undercut by Police practice? Mr. Gallagher informed he wanted to speak about the ethics controversy, will we hear more about that. We had a situation in which a Councilman called out a member of the Administration and charged the Mayor with dereliction of duty. Time has gone by on those things but he would like to hear what is happening.

Council Presidency

Justin Collins, 817 Carlton Avenue, explained he is at this meeting for Olga Negrón. He does not have anything better to say than what has been said already about her. He just wants Council to see the exasperation on his face, hear his heartbeat beating quickly. He expects to come here in some situations but not this one and that is frustrating to him. He wants to know why he is here and why did he put his child to bed to come here for this.

Kiera Wilhelm, 105 East Market Street, informed she admired Olga Negrón before she knew her personally. She had heard her speak at numerous public gatherings, always impassioned but measured, speaking not only to truly be heard but to make sure whatever population she was representing felt understood. We always benefitted from what Olga had to say. She is now honored to say that she knows Olga personally and knows she is dedicated, honest, hardworking, caring, energetic, ethical, passionate, fair and willing to be an alternate

voice in a room full of opinions. Ms. Wilhelm noted with Olga what you see is what you get and there are many things that she admires about Olga as a leader. Ms. Wilhelm thanked President Waldron for his service but change is good and in her opinion it shows forward thinking for any organization, board or Council to choose a shift in leadership. In a room full of individuals qualified for this role she is pleased to voice her support for Olga Negrón as the new City Council President.

Dana Grubb, 2420 Henderson Place, stated for the last weeks of 2019 and now tonight with the swearing in of new Council Members Bethlehem City Council has entered a new era, with the seating of 3 women among its 7 members. To the best of his recollection that is historic for our City and Council. He does not believe that Bethlehem has ever had 3 women serving at the same time on Council. To the male members of Council the women are no longer coming, they are here. This Council has an opportunity to create more history and he strongly urges them to do it. Mr. Grubb is aware that Councilwoman Negrón is interested in serving as your and our City Council President. She is more than capable, she is devoted to Bethlehem and exemplifies a wonderful story of success and has the proper demeanor to fulfill such an obligation. She has also served as Vice-President for the last two years. Not since Councilwoman Dolores Caskey in the 1980's has a woman filled this role, it is time to name another Council President and just as importantly, the first Latina in the person of Olga Negrón. He is sure that Dolores Caskey would be smiling from the heavens and knowing her she would strongly endorse it. Do the right thing and make history in the process.

Bruce Haines, 63 West Church Street, remarked just like Al Wurth he is concerned being up here by supporting Olga Negrón. However he is up here to tell you that Olga has bipartisan support. Mr. Haines stated he is a Republican, an old white guy, conservative businessman and he believes that Olga represents the opportunity to bridge the gaps that exist between conservative Republicans like him and ultra-liberal Democrats like Al Wurth. Mr. Haines has worked with Olga on the Ethics Ordinance in Bethlehem, on business opportunities, on a variety of things and he finds her to be the best listener that he has ever been engaged with of anyone on Council. He believes it would be a bipartisan decision to elect Olga as your City Council President.

Seth Moglen, 726 Hillside Avenue, reported he wanted to thank Council President Waldron and all the Members of Council as well as the Mayor and Members of the Administration, he know how hard you all work and seriously you take the concerns of the residents of the City. He is here to speak on the behalf of Olga Negrón and hopes she will be the next President of Council. He does not want to repeat what others have said. He has had the good fortune to serve on executive boards with Olga and in a range of settings in which he has seen the depth of her knowledge about the City of Bethlehem. The discipline and serious attention she gives to the legal, to the practical, to the institutional dynamics before us but always first and most importantly to the lives of ordinary people in the City. It is extraordinary that we have the opportunity to have as the President of City Council someone with such a degree of institutional knowledge and commitment and also someone who is beloved. That will guarantee this Council the kind of respect and attention from the citizens of Bethlehem. Mr. Moglen is asking Council as they cast their votes to take seriously what you have heard from your neighbors.

Marlin Shuster, 616 Montclair Avenue, informed she supports Olga because she is experienced and has demonstrated great community leadership. She is qualified, smart and who she would like to be her Council President.

Jenny Gilrain, 417 Cherokee Street, explained she is at the meeting to speak on behalf of Olga Negrón. She has been with Olga on the council of Holy Infancy Church for an entire year and witnessed her love of community and the people in it. She also saw her deep commitment and thoughtfulness and evenhandedness. So please take her wishes into consideration.

Kim Carrell-Smith, 833 Carlton Avenue, informed she wanted to thank the City electricians for the great Christmas Trees this year. It was fabulous and it really did so much for the City as a whole. She kept hearing tourists and residents say this is the most beautiful City they have ever seen. She also thanked all of Council for the hard job you do all the time as City Council people and to the City Administration. She knows that some of us come here feeling cranky and we are ready to take you on. We do appreciate what you do and that is why we show up. Ms. Carrell-Smith pointed out that Olga Negrón represents a new kind of leadership in Bethlehem that is needed and that will be both from the Latino community but also the fact that she is a woman and one of three women on City Council. If you look at her experience, you can see all she has done. Ms. Carrell-Smith related Olga has a combination of community organizing experience and has done an amazing job. She has been a manager of many things and she has managed meetings beautifully and has a quiet way of bringing people together and sitting back and listening. She noted that Roger Hudak, the long-time Chairman of the Mayor's South Side Task Force has said about Olga that she is a dynamo. She does have boundless energy so that does sum it up. She is balanced and is a good listener. Please hear these voices from our community.

Bill Scheirer, 1890 Eaton Avenue, stated first he would like to thank Mr. Waldron for his service as President of Council. One thing he has done is to show that a little gentle humor can go a long way in difficult situations. Mr. Scheirer noted that he and Mr. Haines are on opposite sides of the political spectrum and we were both on the Citizens Ethics Committee. One night he heard himself saying to Mr. Haines that he will defend to the death your right to be mistaken but we agree 100% on local issues and particularly when it comes to Olga Negrón. Mr. Scheirer seconds everything that has been said tonight about Olga. The year 2020 as was pointed out is a very symbolic year to have the second woman President of City Council. Also, it will be interesting if a slightly heavier gavel will make a difference in Council climate. Let's hope that 2020 is a year to see more clearly.

Ziona Brotleit, 412 Second Avenue, remarked she echoes the praises we have heard already tonight for Olga Negrón. She will add observing how she moved from a new Member of Council, a fairly green one to one who demonstrates experience, hands on actively being involved in everything. She has demonstrated how committed she is to the role. Ms. Brotleit noted Olga is worked to gain expertise and thereby utilize her organizational and leadership skills for the position. She supports giving Olga Negrón the responsibilities of Council President.

Catherine Kimock, 1424 Center Street, related she only heard this morning that she had the opportunity to come out and support Olga Negrón for Council President. She heard some amazing things at this meeting and she echoes everything she has heard. Ms. Kimock remarked

to Olga that they both have a very deep love of this community. She is going into being a fourth generation of being a Bethlehem resident. Today is the day that her father was born and passed away two years ago and he was a good friend of Mayor Paul Marcincin, they grew up together. Ms. Kimock explained her father was a history teacher and her parents went to Moravian College. She knows this town and the history of it. She comes out in support of issues when they have deep meaning to her. Ms. Kimock reported that Olga would be the best choice.

Freedom of Speech

Stephen Antalics, 737 Ridge Street, stated let us for a moment consider the term freedom of speech but freedom of speech in the confines of this room. We have the freedom of speech what was called Courtesy of the Floor. Historically, way back, people who spoke before Council could speak their minds unlimited. There was a healthy exchange between ideas, a true democracy. That freedom of speech has been diminished, it went down to 12 minutes and after time it got worse and went down to 5 minutes with the installation of the timer with the light that will tell you when to sit down. People were cut off in the middle of what they wanted to say because the timer said 0:00. What does that tell you in regards to elected officials responding to public opinion, what do they think? Time is a good indication of that. If we look at freedom of speech from who is behind that table and if we look at it carefully there are two types of freedom of speech expressed by members of that table, objective or subjective, both very different. With objective speech you discuss issues, they can become very acrimonious and nasty but they are objective. The alternative of objective freedom of speech is subjective which can be very dangerous. Subjective freedom of speech can involve personalities and this body suffered a tremendous deterioration in its image by the free allowance of subjective freedom of speech to allow Members of Council to attack one another, unabated. This created a serious problem in terms of our opinion of them. Mr. Antalics informed Council that you sit there because you asked us to put you there by voting for you and you then agreed to become servants of our welfare. If you consider the welfare of Council then what needs to happen is strong powerful control of subjective freedom of speech to prevent that kind of character assassination. It has happened. Mr. Antalics remarked what we heard here is a person who might be able to control that. He is asking Council if they are truly our servants and respect the will of the people who put you there he thinks you have a very clear image of what is our will. The question now becomes do you support the will of the public who put you there or a political choice.

Council Presidency

Lisa Rosa, 822 Fernwood Street, explained she is at this meeting because she agrees with Olga. Ms. Rosa was born and raised in Bethlehem and is proud of Bethlehem. Many here know who she is. She served on Boards, she was appointed on the Task Force for many years. But then one day a gentleman pulled a gun on her and her entire life disappeared, from her home, her kids, her husband, everything is gone. She ended up going to Virginia for 3 years to get her health back because she felt she was going to die. But she has decided to come back home and was disappointed because everything she worked hard to build it almost all gone. Ms. Rosa has spoken to officers from other Cities, we are down 32 officers and some of you know why. She noted that there are many looking for apartments that cannot find anything. Ms. Rosa came back to Pennsylvania in March and back to Bethlehem in July and still cannot find an apartment. Then she comes to her new City Council Meeting to make a difference and she saw people attacking

each other and people putting down the City. Ms. Rosa is very happy and hopes that Olga will be voted in as the next President of Council because she is as dedicated as Olga is to Bethlehem. Ms. Rosa noted she is very ashamed of a few on Council. She has worked in the City; she worked in dispatch and inspections and has been dedicated. She had to leave because of her health. We all need to work together whether we are a Republican or a Democrat and that is the problem with the government today. We all need to compromise. She noted at the last meeting it was stated that the City was down 2 inspectors but when you fire the head of the Inspections, you eliminated a position. Ms. Rosa hopes that Olga can mentor her because she is going to be around and she plans to be around for a long time.

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. *Human Resources Director – Recommendation of Award – Preferred EAP – Employee Assistance Services*

The Clerk read a memorandum dated December 22, 2019 from Michelle Cichocki, Human Resources Director recommending a contract with Preferred EAP for Employee Assistance Services. The term of the contract shall run from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020. The fee for the contract is \$14,000 with no renewals.

President Waldron stated Resolution 10 A is on the agenda.

B. *Director of Public Works – Recommendation of Award – Keiko Tsuruta Cramer, ASLA, Principal WRT Design – S. New Street Streetscape Enhancement Project*

The Clerk read a memorandum dated December 20, 2019 from Michael Alkhal, Director of Public Works recommending a contract with Keiko Tsuruta Cramer, ASLA, Principal WRT Design for the South New Street Streetscape Enhancement Project. The term of the contract runs through December 31, 2020. The fee for the contract is \$70,645.

President Reynold stated Resolution 10 B is on the agenda.

7. REPORTS

A. *President of Council*

1. *Councilmanic Appointment – Jane K. Gill – Bethlehem Area Public Library Board*

President Reynolds reappointed Jane K. Gill to membership on the Bethlehem Area Public Library Board, effective until January, 2023. Dr. Van Wirt and Ms. Negrón sponsored Resolution No. 2020-001 to confirm the reappointment.

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

2. *Councilmanic Appointment – Joyce Hinnefeld – Bethlehem Area Public Library Board*

President Reynolds reappointed Joyce Hinnefeld to membership on the Bethlehem Area Public Library Board, effective until January, 2023. Dr. Van Wirt and Ms. Negrón sponsored Resolution No. 2020-002 to confirm the reappointment.

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

2. *Annual Report*

President Waldron presented his Annual Report for 2019, as follows:

During 2019, Bethlehem City Council held 24 regular meetings and 14 Committee Meetings, adopted 272 Resolutions, and passed 51 Ordinances. Below are some highlights from City Council's 2019 legislative year.

- In order to increase transparency, City Council began live video streaming City Council regular and committee meetings to allow citizens to watch meetings remotely. Council thanks the City's Information Services Bureau for their continued help with this project.
- City Council reviewed and took action on several financial matters during 2019. Council approved the issuance of tax exempt general obligation bonds in the maximum aggregate principal amount of \$6,000,000 to finance various non-utility capital projects and equipment purchases. Council also approved the issuance of two series of tax exempt general obligation bonds in the combined maximum aggregate principal amount of \$72,000,000 to refinance existing general obligation bonds and notes in order to reduce the City's debt service costs. Additionally, Council reviewed and approved a number of budget adjustments.
- As part of the transition moving 911 operations from the City of Bethlehem to Northampton County, Council adopted an ordinance authorizing an Agreement for Intermunicipal Cooperation between Northampton County and the City regarding transfer of a City-owned 911 trunked radio network to Northampton County. City Council also adopted a resolution authorizing the sale of City-owned 911 communications equipment to Northampton County, and a resolution

authorizing a Communications Sites Lease Agreement leasing certain City property to Northampton County for use in connection with 911 system operation.

- In connection with the City Administration's continuing efforts to reduce blight and maintain and improve the condition of City housing stock and rental units, Council passed an ordinance establishing Article 1719, titled Grounds and Procedures for Denying Selected Permits and Authorizations for the Purpose of Promoting Property Revitalization. Also related to blight prevention and remediation and inspections, Council received a proposed ordinance from the Administration establishing Article 1738, titled Residential Rental Units. Council referred this proposed ordinance to the Community Development Committee for consideration.
- Council approved various grant applications including grants for the funding of a library elevator, Monocacy Way improvements, a pedestrian bridge study, Rose Garden improvements, sewer and water infrastructure, and Northside 2027 pedestrian safety improvements.
- In conjunction with the Mayor, department heads, and an ad-hoc working group, Council designed and distributed an English and Spanish language communication survey to better understand how citizens receive information about City government operations through various City communication channels including print newsletters, email, social media, and online postings.
- Council considered two proposed ordinances designed to prevent perpetuation of gender-based wage inequality by prohibiting and/or regulating employer inquiries into prospective employee wage histories, as well as employer reliance on wage histories for determining compensation. These proposed ordinances were referred to the City Council Human Resources and Environment Committee for review.
- In the City Council Public Safety Committee, Council received updates on the transition of 911 service to Northampton County and enforcement of Article 744, Marijuana Possession, which was established in 2018. Also related to public safety, Council adopted a resolution approving an updated City emergency operations plan developed to outline procedures for coordinating emergency responses to natural or man-made emergency events.
- Council conducted its second Financial Accountability Incentive Reporting hearing to evaluate the effectiveness of economic development incentives and increase transparency. These annual hearings are conducted to review administration reports submitted to Council pursuant to Article 349 Economic Development Incentive Reporting and Evaluation, established in 2018.
- In connection with City pensions, Council passed an ordinance amending the City's Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System Plan. Council also passed an

ordinance amending Article 156, titled City of Bethlehem Pension Fund, to better reflect the current structure of the City's pension plans.

- Council received and considered several rezoning requests in 2019.
- Council also adopted a resolution increasing various recreation-related fees.
- Additionally, Council passed ordinances amending Article 925, titled Stormwater Management Regulations, and Article 941, titled Parks.
- In coordination with the Mayor, Council managed ad-hoc working groups comprised of City representatives related to climate action planning, municipal communications, and the City's open data program.
- In connection with reducing pervasive plastic pollution, Council passed a resolution urging the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to enact statewide legislation to mitigate or eliminate the harm caused by the distribution, use, and discarding of single-use plastic bags.
- Council also adopted a resolution supporting the passage of proposed federal Medicare for All legislation. Council also adopted a resolution supporting Governor Tom Wolf's Restore Pennsylvania initiative to enable new infrastructure funding for environmental and recreation projects across the state, including infrastructure and maintenance in state parks, local water quality improvements, and funding for new hiking, biking, and trail projects.
- In support of the Fair Funding Formula for Pennsylvania schools, City Council adopted a resolution encouraging Pennsylvania to enact legislation making the distribution of state education funding more equitable by reducing per-pupil funding disparities between wealthy and economically disadvantaged school districts.
- Council also authorized a number of contract requests, use permit agreements, and certificates of appropriateness, and approved Councilmanic Appointments and Administrative Orders appointing members to various City boards, commissions, and authorities.

President Waldron added there was a significant structural change within the City Council Clerk's Office. Historically for a number of years there were 3 full-time employees within the Clerk's Office. In an effort to be more resourceful much like the Administration has asked all their department heads to do, with doing more with less we have made a transition to 2 full-time employees within that office while the workload has stayed the same. We have asked Mr. Vidoni and Ms. Kelechava to take on larger roles and continue the same wonderful level of service both to City Council and as well to the residents that have contact with our Clerk's office. President Waldron did want to point that out and he wanted to thank them for all the hard work they did in a difficult transition and in filling new roles.

B. Mayor

Congratulations to Council Members/Marijuana Ordinance Views/Death of Individual in Police Custody

Mayor Donchez congratulated the new Members of Council and he looks forward to working with all Members of Council for the next two years. Regarding what Mr. Gallagher had to say, Police Chief Mark DiLuzio and Deputy Chief Scott Meixell will be meeting with the new District Attorney in the next few weeks to discuss the Marijuana Ordinance since Bethlehem is in two Counties. We will see what his position is since he will be taking over for District Attorney John Morganelli. We do know the view of Lehigh County District Attorney Martin. That will be followed up by a meeting with Judge Matos. Mayor Donchez remarked on the matter regarding the delay of Council's awareness of the death of an individual while in custody of the Bethlehem Police he would like to make two points. First, the subject of this inclusion with Council simply was not addressed while the Administration's attention was directed towards respect for the family's privacy. The investigation was a personal matter while we were awaiting the District Attorney's review. He did not issue a directive, not to go in front of Council and in retrospect the subject and notification should have been considered and notification should have been given sooner and for that Mayor Donchez apologizes. Second, going forward he commits that when such sensitive matters do occur we will include notification to Council and to the public at a proper time and in a proper manner as appropriate under the circumstances.

8. ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE

A. *Bill No. 57-2019 – Article 531 – Parking Fines*

The Clerk read Bill No. 57-2019 – Article 531 – Parking Fines, on Final Reading

Voting AYE: Mr. Colón, Ms. Crampsie Smith, Mr. Reynolds, Mr. Callahan, and Mr. Waldron, 5. Ms. Negrón and Dr. Van Wirt, 2. Bill No. 57 – 2019 not known as Ordinance No. 2020-01 was passed on Final Reading.

B. *Bill No. 58 – 2019 – Article 533 – Meters – Overtime Parking Violations*

The Clerk read Bill No. 58 – 2019 – Article 533 – Meters – Overtime Parking Violations, on Final Reading.

Voting AYE: Mr. Colón, Ms. Crampsie Smith, Mr. Reynolds, Mr. Callahan, and Mr. Waldron, 5. Ms. Negrón and Dr. Van Wirt, 2. Bill No. 58 – 2019 now known as Ordinance No. 2020-02 was passed on Final Reading.

9. NEW ORDINANCES

None.

10. RESOLUTIONS

A. *Authorizing Contract – Preferred EAP*

Dr. Van Wirt and Ms. Negrón sponsored Resolution No. 2020-003 that authorized to execute a contract with Preferred EAP for Employee Assistance Services.

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

B. *Authorizing Contract – Keiko Tsuruta Cramer, ASLA, Principal WRT Design*

Dr. Van Wirt and Ms. Negrón sponsored Resolution No. 2020-004 that authorized to execute a contract with Keiko Tsuruta Cramer, ASLA, Principal WRT Design for the South New Street Streetscape Enhancement Project.

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

C. *Certificate of Appropriateness – 321 Adams Street (Brinker Lofts)*

Dr. Van Wirt and Ms. Negrón sponsored Resolution No. 2020-005 that granted a Certificate of Appropriateness to install a gate for access to the courtyard area from the Greenway at 321 Adams Street.

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

D. *Certificate of Appropriateness – 202 East Third Street (Webster Place)*

Dr. Van Wirt and Ms. Negrón sponsored Resolution No. 2020-006 that granted a Certificate of Appropriateness to add a 2-story rear addition with flat roof, stucco facades and double-hung windows at 202 East Third Street.

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

E. *Authorizing Contract – WSP*

Dr. Van Wirt and Ms. Negrón sponsored Resolution No. 2020-007 that authorized to execute a contract with WSP for services related to preparation of a Climate Action Plan.

Mr. Reynolds related it has been a long road to get to this place as far as our Climate Action Plan. When he introduced the idea of a Climate Action Plan three years ago it was a long time ago and working with the EAC and our Administration and having a lot of meetings about this we are here and we can be confident that we will be going to get this plan written in 2020. He created the idea of how do we get everybody in Bethlehem who cares about sustainability and the environment together and working in the same direction in a kind of organic manner. Not just that we would produce a plan that we can put on a shelf somewhere that people will say, yes we

came up with a plan but it is not what we want to do. He wanted to give the Administration credit with working with the EAC, we have talked about what kind of goals are we looking for, what can we do in-house and what are the types of things that our City staff can do so if we hire someone to do work that will be work that we cannot do. Much of it has been about how are we going to set up that structure that is a semi-permanent structure where we will be able to lobby both the City and the State and the Federal levels for important climate and sustainability initiatives. Mr. Reynolds advised we are looking at a City wide energy reduction plan; we are going to be looking at sustainability initiatives and an education piece. Many people think this is not even a thing. We are going to have this group talk a lot as we go forward about how climate is a social justice issue and also a lot of people care about these issues, whether they are the pedestrian bridge or food co-ops or walkability initiatives. It is all about how these are tied into coming up with a climate action plan that reflects that and those priorities. Mr. Reynolds reiterated he wanted to thank the Administration, Mayor Donchez and Michael Alkhal for helping to put together the RFP. He also wanted to thank Lynn Rothman, the Chair of the EAC. This is a big deal and as 2020 goes on and there are public meetings announced and progress announced we will be happy and will show what Cities are able to do when they stand up on lead issues such as this one.

Dr. Van Wirt stressed she is a stickler for following procedure. She is fully in support of spending this money on this project but when it comes to public notification she just wanted to check in with Solicitor Spirk. She queried what our rules are when we are putting something on the agenda that has not been announced to the public. She wants to make sure that we are doing everything right because the public needs a certain amount of notice she thought, from the way our rules are dictated. She asked if we are following our own rules when we put items like this on the agenda at the last minute. She hopes we are but is just trying to understand better.

Solicitor Spirk noted in terms of the Sunshine Act as long as the public knows about it before the time for public comment is present we are in compliance. We do have Council rules or guidelines about when things are submitted to the City Clerk's Office, so that something can be put on the agenda.

Mr. Vidoni explained there was an administrative issue. The intent was to submit the contract request by the deadline. There was something that happened internally and it did not make it on the agenda but the intent was to submit it by the deadline, which is Thursday at Noon before the Council Meeting.

Solicitor Spirk noted that Thursday at Noon before the next Council Meeting is when the matter of procedure that the Clerk's Office has set up that request so the documents get there by that time to be put on the agenda in a timely fashion. Occasionally for whatever reason there are things that come late to the City Clerk and in terms of the State law so long as it is announced prior to the time for public comment, we are in compliance.

Dr. Van Wirt does understand but believes this is a slippery slope. This has nothing to do with the subject matter at hand, she believes the people who actually take the time to go onto the City's website and look at the agenda and may say they might want to come down and talk about something or write a letter. We should try to follow that as best as possible although she does understand that lapses happen. She just wanted to understand the rules better.

President Waldron explained the process in this instance was that he received a phone call this morning from Mr. Vidoni about adding this onto the agenda. The Public Works department was under the impression that this was submitted in time and they had submitted it on their end but we did not receive it. They were under the impression it would be on this agenda. Always his first, second and third question would be if we are going to add something is it time sensitive and if not we will just push it for another two weeks. President Waldron noted that Mr. Vidoni followed back up with the Public Works department and they felt like there was a time sensitive issue with this contract so that it could be started as soon as possible. President Waldron stressed in every instance that it is not in fact, he always tries to defend the policy of the Clerk's Office to not accept anything after that Thursday Noon deadline in order to not create a precedent or a slippery slope. Every time one of these issues does come up there is a lot of deliberation before it gets added to the agenda and then if you do recall at the beginning of this agenda he did announce that we would be adding this Resolution and Mr. Vidoni did read it which would allow for public comment at the beginning of the meeting based on the vote that would be pending.

Dr. Van Wirt mentioned we can all see the fallacy in that approach. But she does hear what was said and thanks President Waldron for addressing this.

Mr. Reynolds added this is something that was talked about last year. The Administration put out a request for proposal for consultants back in July or August of last year. The EAC had talked about this and we have had different conversations. Mr. Reynolds had called the Administration even after the Administration and the EAC had talked about this as the public meeting there that they had brought forward a recommendation. Mr. Reynolds asked when we would be voting on the contract and Mr. Alkhal had informed that we could not vote on the contract until the money was appropriated in the 2019 budget. Part of the reason there might have been a little bit of a hiccup is because it was not a general contract where it was that we approved the budget and then the Administration puts out the contract the following year, after the money was approved. This was one based on the timeline as far as when the EAC and the Administration had felt confident to come forward with the RFP, it became a situation where it did not make sense to wait until January to contact all the different consultants. You go through that process and then the contract will be awarded as soon as we had approved the money in the budget. It was when we had a budget hearing in November 2019 that the EAC members came to support that contract as well. Mr. Reynolds does understand Dr. Van Wirt's point but in this specific case there was a lot of discussion on it. Ideally, it would be a situation where it would be on the agenda before so we never have to add anything.

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

11. NEW BUSINESS

Thank You

President Waldron explained at this point he wants to give any Member of Council-Elect, the four members being sworn in this evening, Dr. Van Wirt, Mr. Reynolds, Mr. Colón and Ms. Crampsie Smith an opportunity to reach out to their supporters who came out to support them and what part they played in getting them up here and up here again. He wanted to allow them

the opportunity to speak to some of those people who are in the room this evening if anyone would like to make any comment, although they do not have to by any means.

Dr. Van Wirt remarked that so many of you were instrumental in both her initial campaign and her second one. Her heart goes out to you because it is legitimate work and important stuff that you did and she says thanks. The person she owes the most to is her husband, Tim, he is her kitchen cabinet, her finance chairman, her political consultant, her nursing home specialist and he is her everything. She thanked him for everything he did and continues to do so.

Mr. Colón thanked his fiancée Erin for coming out tonight and for holding the bible and the handsome gentleman that looks like him with the gray hair who is his father.

Ms. Crampsie Smith thanked everyone who helped her get elected. It has been an honor. She has been fortunate even though tonight she will be installed as an elected official she was appointed about 4 months ago and it was really great to serve the last 4 months, she enjoyed it. Unfortunately most of her family is not here tonight because her nephew is a basketball coach and has a big game. She is fortunate that her daughter Shannon made the trip here from Harrisburg today and she will be holding her bible. Her friends, Karen, Katie, Judy and Anna and all her other friends, she really appreciates them.

Mr. Reynolds thanked everyone as well. Often time because of the design of the meetings we do not take a minute, probably for the best, to talk about ourselves and our own stories. This is a special day for his colleagues, Dr. Van Wirt, Mr. Colón, Ms. Crampsie Smith as well as our current City Council people. He pointed out that all of us would agree from that time that you knock on your first door you realized that people in this community love this community. Every year Bethlehem becomes more than it was before and every year he seems to find himself sitting in rooms of people that have more and more people that are committed to the same goals. Mr. Reynolds advised it is our strength and he wanted to just thank a few people who are here tonight who probably did not think they would be here until 8:30 or 9:00 pm. He sees his old boss, State Representative Steve Samuelson who he wanted to thank for being our State Rep and being a model for how we should be elected officials and how we should treat people. Anyone that walks in his door on Broad Street deserves his attention and he knows that Representative Samuelson does not like attention but he rarely gets the opportunity to get them here. He wanted to thank the two best role models he has and that is his fiancée Natalie who is here as well as his Mom who probably wishes that he never ran for office but at the same time being married to or being the son or daughter to someone an elected official is not an easy job. They see our stress on a day to day basis and they know these meetings can be long and this job can be difficult. They hear and read things they know are not true and they bite their tongue and they say how do you do it? But they also remind us that the loudest voices are not the only voices and strength comes from kindness and love and integrity. Mr. Reynolds just wanted to take the opportunity to thank both his Mom and Natalie for coming, for the support and the patience with this life that often times takes us out many nights.

President Waldron remarked he cannot resist one of the best kept secrets in Bethlehem; we do have a Treasurer here who will be sworn in this evening, Ms. Kaija Farber.

Epiphany/Thank You

Ms. Negrón remarked that today is the Epiphany and just because we are the Christmas City she wanted to say thank you for keeping the lights on the Christmas Tree in Payrow Plaza on until today. This is a very important day for our community. She added that we celebrate the 12 days of Christmas 12 days before Christmas but if you really count the 12 days of Christmas they are the 12 days from the 25th of December until today which is when the King of Kings is named the King of Kings. She also thanked everyone for their support for her leadership, people that she did not even know or that she has only just seen around. Thank you, it means the world to her.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned sine die at 8:45 p.m.

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert G. Vidoni". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

Robert G. Vidoni, Esq.
City Clerk

BETHLEHEM CITY COUNCIL REORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
NEW COUNCIL

Monday, January 6, 2020 - 7:00 PM
10 East Church Street - Town Hall
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

1. ROLL CALL OF HOLD-OVER MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

The Clerk called the Roll of the Hold-Over Members of Council. Present as Hold-Over Members were: Bryan G. Callahan, Olga Negrón and Adam R. Waldron, 3.

2. PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES OF ELECTION

The Clerk affirmed that the Certificates of Election for the Controller, and Members of Council had been presented.

3. SWEARING-IN CEREMONIES

A. *Treasurer – Kaija Farber*

Stephen G. Baratta, Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, Northampton County, administered the Oath of Office to Kaija Farber, duly elected Treasurer, for the four-year term ending January 2024.

B. *Members of Council – Michael G. Colón, Grace Crampsie Smith, J. William Reynolds and Paige Van Wirt*

Stephen G. Baratta, Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, Northampton County, administered the individual Oaths of Office to Michael G. Colón, Grace Crampsie Smith, J. William Reynolds and Paige Van Wirt, duly elected Members of Council.

4. ROLL CALL OF NEWLY CONSTITUTED COUNCIL.

The Clerk called the Roll of the Newly Constituted Council. Present were: Bryan G. Callahan, Michael G. Colón, Grace Crampsie Smith, Olga Negrón, J. William Reynolds, Paige Van Wirt, and Adam R. Waldron, 7.

5. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION - PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL.

John J. Spirk Esq., City Council Solicitor, conducted the Nominations and Election for the President of Council, to serve for the years January 2020 - January 2022, pursuant to the Rules of Council that were revised and adopted December 21, 2011. Attorney Spirk noted in accordance with the Rules of City Council and Roberts Rules of Order the election procedure will be as follows. He will ask for nominations for the Office of President. Each Council Member may nominate no more than one person, no second is required. Attorney Spirk stated that after each nomination for the Office of President he will ask if there are any additional nominations. When there are no additional nominations, he will declare the nominations closed. There is no need for a

motion to close nominations. Attorney Spirk informed they will then proceed to the election, and he will ask the Clerk to call the roll. Each Council Member will respond by declaring his or her vote by stating the name of the person they are voting for President. A Council Member is allowed to vote for him or herself. A Council Member can also vote for any member even if that person has not been nominated. Attorney Spirk reported that four votes are required for election and after the President is elected we will repeat the same process for Council Vice-President.

NOMINATIONS - PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL - January 2020 - January 2022

Dr. Van Wirt nominated Olga Negrón.

Ms. Crampsie Smith nominated Adam R. Waldron.

Ms. Crampsie Smith remarked because there are two candidates it might be appropriate for them to give us some input as to why they feel they would be best suited for this position.

Mr. Reynolds added that Mr. Waldron and Ms. Negrón are great Council people and that we have two great nominees. He knows from being Council President from 2014-2017 a lot of the job involves running the meetings and it is not a job that gets more access or has any control of any additional budget funds but much of the job has to do with running these meetings. We would be wise to hear from both Ms. Negrón and Mr. Waldron about their own ideas and what they bring to the Presidency including the running of the meetings.

Mr. Waldron would correct the record, there is one perk, and you do get an extra \$500 dollars if you are the President of Council. Mr. Waldron was unsure if he was going to run but that \$500 dollars will buy a lot of diapers. He was unsure so he took some time over this Christmas break and reached out and called and spoke to every Member of Council. He also talked to some other people that he holds their opinion in well regard about what their thoughts were on him serving. It has been the precedent that the President of Council serves for two terms and then would essentially be term limited out. Mr. Reynolds did that and served for two terms and was term limited out of serving again. At that point he had been the Vice President of Council for two years and had been on Council for four years. He would say that the Vice President position did not prepare him at all for taking over and running the meeting. The only role as Vice President is to run a meeting if the President is not there that evening. Mr. Waldron noted in his time as Vice President he did run one Committee of the Whole Meeting when Mr. Reynolds was unable to attend. In his two years as President he did miss one Council Meeting for the birth of his second set of twins, when he was in the hospital. There has not been a large circumstance where the Vice President has needed to step in. He would look at the Committee roles as a Committee Chair and how those meetings are run very similarly to what the role is as President of Council. However, there is a lot more pressure with running a City Council Meeting versus a Committee Meeting as those meetings tend to be more relaxed and free flowing. Mr. Waldron did reach out to Members of Council and did speak to everyone about their views including talking to Ms. Negrón about her desire to step up and serve as President. During his conversations with everyone on Council he did not receive any negative feedback about his style or management of running the meetings, which he took to heart and took that advice to mean that he was doing a fine job running the meetings. If he were to continue as President of Council he would have a similar approach to

the way he has ran the meetings in the past two years. He will stand by his record of service in the way that he runs meetings. He has been criticized a bit about allowing people to speak too much but that is a criticism he will take, whether that is Members of Council or members of the public. He does have what is called a soft gavel and he thinks in his opportunity to limit speech he has chosen repeatedly not to do that. He does not think that limiting ideas that you are not in agreeance with or unpopular is the way to a healthy dialogue. Mr. Waldron believes you combat unpopular ideas with better ideas and that has been his approach to running a facilitating these meetings and he would bring that to the table if he was elected to serve a second term to continue as Council President. One of the legacies that he is most proud of and that he will stand behind is the addition of the live streaming and in an effort to be more transparent and allow more access to people and allow a better audio and visual record, it is easy to look at, that is one of the things he championed in his time as President. That has been a very successful use of technology because it allows for more conversation which is always a good thing. Whether you agree with those ideas or not, he thinks knowing what someone else thinks and having the ability to understand and to articulate is a positive things, whether you like those ideas or you think they are terrible. He believes that everyone should have an opportunity to be heard. Mr. Waldron has asked Members of Council publicly and privately if they did have any feedback from him in the management of the meetings. He has received a little bit of feedback but nothing to the point where anybody felt he should take a much different approach to the way he manages in keeping order to the room. It is an imperfect science and it is a difficult balancing act from moment to moment but he is willing to continue those conversations with Members of Council if he is elected to serve as President to see how we can allow for an even more productive dialogue that would make people feel as included as possible, open up City Hall to as many residents as we can get here and to hear their input as well. If Council's will is for him to serve another term he would be happy to do so. He added that it has been a pleasure to serve as President of Council even though sometimes it is a challenging and difficult position. He did enjoy his time and he thinks his ability to be patient and understanding is one of his strengths. He added that that 90% is running this meeting and the other 10% is probably the communication with Members of Council as well as the Clerk's Office. As referenced earlier, he got a phone call from Mr. Vidoni mid-morning to add something to the agenda that was time sensitive. Since he has the ability to be self-employed he is often able to take phone calls and check emails and text messages during the day that are time sensitive. He knows with other Members of Council in the past that has been a challenge to wait until the end of the work day to catch up on some of those issues. Mr. Waldron believes that also uniquely qualifies him to serve in this role.

Ms. Negrón remarked this is hard for her to do because she does not like talking about herself. She heard so much tonight, more than she expected and she thanked everyone for that. She thanked Mr. Waldron for mentioning that for the two years as Council Vice President, that really does not give you any kind of experience, she only presided in one meeting when his twins were born so that does not really mean anything. She is glad he mentioned that but however, actually almost 53 years ago her father was in the Rotary and by the age of 10 she attended those Rotary Club Meetings. She was always intrigued by Robert's Rules and leading these meetings. All through her life that is all she has done. Through her life leadership is something that is part of her nature and she is very comfortable doing. Although she has been told she is the quiet one, you do not have to say much in order to make a point. She thinks that actions are much more powerful. Ms. Negrón explained that she understands Robert's Rules and has plenty of experience

as President and Vice President, not just locally or with non-profit organizations State-wide, she has done it and she is ready. She attended Council Meetings before she was on Council and she did not want to run for City Council but the people told her she should run, we want you to be our representative. She listened and at that point there was never a Latino woman elected so she gave it a chance and she made it because all of you voted for her. She takes her leadership role seriously and that is what she does through all her work. She also mentioned she works not just in the non-profit but with State Representative Steve Samuelson who is here with us and with the City of Allentown. She has been appointed by Governor Wolf and Governor Rendell to serve on advisory boards for their Administrations. That is something she does with passion and takes very seriously. She works for a law firm and they have been very supportive of her and she is very flexible and is able to be in Bethlehem Wednesday's and Friday's and is able to meet with constituents. Many said tonight that she is available and that is what she does, she takes this very seriously. Ms. Negrón stated thanks for the support and she is hoping that Members of Council listened to the people who elected us in here and elect her for President of Council.

Attorney Spirk asked the Clerk to Call the Roll.

ELECTION - PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL - January 2020 - January 2022

Voting for Mr. Waldron: Mr. Colón, Ms. Crampsie Smith, Mr. Reynolds, Mr. Waldron, 4.

Voting for Ms. Negrón: Mr. Callahan, Ms. Negrón, Dr. Van Wirt, 3.

The Election of Mr. Waldron as President of Council for the years January 2020 - January 2022 was adopted by a vote of 4 in favor.

6. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION - VICE PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL - January 2020 - January 2022

John J. Spirk, Esq., City Council Solicitor conducted the Nominations and Election for the Vice President of Council, to serve for the term January 2020 - January 2022.

NOMINATIONS - VICE PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL - January 2020 - January 2022.

Ms. Negrón nominated Paige Van Wirt.

Mr. Callahan nominated Michael G. Colón.

Mr. Reynolds commented that during his 12 years on City Council he has learned a lot and is a better elected official than he was before. He can say that these decisions are much less important than the overall relationship between the Members of Council themselves, the Members of Council and the public and the Members of Council and the Administration. The potential for great things to happen in this room comes down to our ability to work together. Now that he is not President anymore he actually has a better perspective on how things should be in order for us to have the best City that we have. Mr. Reynolds knows when we have these elections sometimes

it seems as if people are voting for different people but he can say the future of the City comes down to our ability to work together and establish relationships. He just wanted that to be said.

Mr. Waldron advised before we get into a conversation about Dr. Van Wirt and Mr. Colón, he would turn to Ms. Negrón and see in fact if she would want to continue as Vice President in that role or not.

Ms. Negrón stated no thank you.

Mr. Colón thanked Mr. Callahan for the nomination. He had reached out to President Waldron back in the fall talking to him knowing that this moment might come up after we had the reorganization knowing we would have to vote for President and Vice President. At that time back in the fall he had told President Waldron that he was very content and happy with the job he had been doing and would gladly as he did tonight support him if he wanted to continue as President of Council. When it comes to the role of Vice President it is not something he had given any thought to, he had no prior discussions with any Members of Council of anyone who wanted it. He does appreciate the nomination and if the other 6 Members of Council would want him to represent this body as the Vice President that is the role he would gladly fill in with the understanding there is probably not another set of twins coming into the Waldron household anytime soon. But in the event that President Waldron cannot be there he would gladly fill in that role in his absence.

Dr. Van Wirt thinks there is some lack of clarity about the role of Vice President and what it really means. If it truly is a symbolic position, certainly you fill in when the President is not there, she does think there is some real power in the symbolism even of a Vice Presidential role. When Mr. Grubb spoke it hit her hard because it has been almost 40 years since there has been a female President of City Council. That is not for want of qualified candidates. She would ask us to ask ourselves why is that. We lost an opportunity tonight that would have meant a lot to many people in this community, a lot of women in this community, a lot of people from the south side, a lot of Puerto Rican people in this community. Dr. Van Wirt would say that she would accept this role as Vice President because she does think the time has come for leadership of women on City Council and she will even say a female Mayor of Bethlehem. She would accept this role.

Attorney Spirk asked the Clerk to Call the Roll.

ELECTION - VICE PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL - January 2020 - January 2022

Voting for Dr. Van Wirt: Ms. Negrón, Mr. Reynolds, Dr. Van Wirt, 3.

Voting for Mr. Colón: Mr. Callahan, Mr. Colón, Ms. Crampsie Smith, Mr. Waldron, 4.

The Election of Mr. Colón as Vice President of Council for the term January 2020 - January 2022 was adopted by a vote of four in favor.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Robert's Rules of Order

Peg Church, 435 Brighton Street, queried when a person becomes either a Council Member or President of Council are there any guidelines to them being mentored or coached or learning the Robert's Rules of Order. One of the concerns that comes to her mind with Robert's Rules of Order is that one person should not be attributing motives to another person. She questions that all Members of Council understand that fundamental part of Robert's Rules of Order. So getting back to her question again, are there any standards, we do get tested and quizzed, she comes from working in the public school system where there is not much that they do not test. Do people learn Robert's Rules of Order or is it okay if they know nothing about them and do not have competency in that area.

President Waldron stated he takes it that is not a rhetorical question.

Ms. Church remarked anyway people want to answer and assure all of us as citizens that there is some rigor to the role of Council person in regards to Robert's Rules of Order. Again, with the special emphasis and understanding a person should not be attributing motives to someone else, to what someone is saying. When that happens it is not a First Amendment thing, they need to stop according to Robert's Rules of Order.

President Waldron remarked that Robert's Rules of Order does not allow for clapping, but again he has a soft gavel.

Ms. Church noted she does not consider that an answer.

President Waldron noted he is trying to answer. There is no official training for the President of Council in regards to Robert's Rules of Order. There are ongoing conversations between the Council President and the Solicitor of City Council who is an expert on Robert's Rules of Order. Those conversations happen fluidly sometimes within the meeting as he will often turn over to Solicitor Spirk for advice. Those conversations happen also privately when he will ask Solicitor Spirk for his opinion on how things can be handled and get his personal thoughts on the approach to Robert's Rules as well as City Council Rules which also govern how our meetings are run.

Ms. Church remarked to her it seems like on the job training.

Respect

Lisa Rosa, 822 Fernwood Street, related that this is very disappointing to her but she guesses that is how this happens. She mentioned the Council Meeting that became out of hand and President Waldron stated he likes to rule with a softer hand but sometimes the softer hand does not work, especially when you are attacking your own members, it shows a lack of respect. If there is one thing in an Hispanics world, respect is very important. You do not show disrespect to other people, you do not laugh in their faces and you do not talk about them. Ms. Rosa noted she does not lie because if you start with one lie and many will come after that. What she has seen here she hopes that you all listen to the concerns of everyone that has spoken tonight. Listen to the

fact that you have ruled with a soft hand and in ways she does appreciate it because she has been given more time to talk. She does not mean to be rude or disrespectful but it does not look good for the City if you are fighting amongst each other and it is in the newspaper. You must realize these reporting's are on YouTube, everyone in the world can see them. Think about your actions before doing them because she wants pride in her City and does not want to be embarrassed answering questions from other people. Ms. Rosa uses Facebook to help other people because she has had many things happen in her life that she has overcome. She tries to help people who have depression and who are suicidal. People need to realize that everyone is watching and that you are representing us. All she asks is that you respect each other as well as everyone here that comes out of their homes and wants a safe home to live in.

Sewer Trap

Artie Curatola, 813 Laufer Street, mentioned the problem he spoke about before he has a solution for but ran out of time. The solution for the people that are grandfathered in that have their trap used by 5 or 10 other people in a row of houses is that they put in an amendment to the Article that is on that grandfathered in situation. That way everybody will be responsible for any of the waste that goes into the basement of the person that has that trap, not that it will all fall to that person. One of the things that could assure that is every single house has to put a straight fit main line back water valve onto each of their houses blocking anything that would block the trap to the neighbor. They will be responsible for their own waste, they their own toilets would overflow if they block it with anything, not that it would go all the way down to someone else's property. Mr. Curatola explained this is affordable and is about \$150 for the valve and about \$200 for maintenance. Everyone should be able to do that if they are going to use the trap of the other person. There should be money put in escrow or so much rent should be paid each month, maybe \$40 dollars for each person to use the trap. Then that could take care of the maintenance situation of the trap.

Election of Council President

Ed Gallagher, 49 Greenwich Street, would like to say that the way he thinks of you all is as family. So what he will say is not against any individual. He thinks of you all as family and tries to write on Gadfly about you all as family. He used a line from the Mayor's Op-Ed as a headline on his blog this week that Bethlehem will continue to be the jewel of the Lehigh Valley. He is disappointed tonight. He thinks Bethlehem had a chance to do something bold, and did not. He is not sure why. It does not seem like the kind of choice that would have bothered lots of other places. So he is disappointed in his family tonight.

Marino Hernandez, 422 Taylor Street, advised he thinks Council has a lot of nerve voting how you voted tonight, against the will of the people. Except for Ms. Negrón and Dr. Van Wirt, you do not represent the will of the people, you represent special interest. He had a feeling Council was going to vote that way and he is very disappointed. It seems like you serve other interests. We will remember this vote.

8. REPORTS

A. *President of Council*

President Waldron stated he wanted to take this moment to thank Judge Baratta for coming out to administer the oaths of office for the newly elected Treasurer and Council Members. We appreciate your participation. He also would like to thank all friends, family members, and residents who joined us this evening as our newly elected members were sworn in. He would also like to congratulate Treasurer Kaija Farber, Councilman Colón, Councilwoman Crampsie Smith, Councilman Reynolds, and Councilwoman Van Wirt who were each sworn in tonight.

B. *Mayor*

9. BENEDICTION

Minister Mable Humphrey, Grace Deliverance Baptist Church, offered the Benediction.

President Waldron thanked Minister Mable Humphrey and everyone who came out for this meeting tonight.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert G. Vidoni".

Robert G. Vidoni, Esq.
City Clerk