

BETHLEHEM CITY COUNCIL MEETING
10 East Church Street - Town Hall
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania
Wednesday, November 3, 2021 - 7:00 PM

INVOCATION

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

1. ROLL CALL

President Waldron 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

October 5, 2021

3. PUBLIC COMMENT (on any subject not being voted on this evening - 5 Minute Time Limit)

Walnut Street Garage

George Kimball, 645 Main Street, stated he did not want to bore everyone like he did at the last meeting about the Walnut Street Parking Garage. But he will talk about something he is concerned about with that garage. You are going to be replacing it with a new garage, as he understands on Third Street and Polk, on the south side. If the south side needs a parking garage that is well and good but what are you going to do with the people on the north side, he would guess there are 500 to 1,000 apartments on the north side that live in the commercial district where they cannot park on the street. On the commercial side if you live in one of those apartments you cannot park on the street, you have to park in a garage. Do you have any plans on how the people who use the Walnut Street Garage will get to the south side and park their car or does that not make a difference. You knew that garage was coming down years ago; you could have taken the Boyd Theater and all those stores that have been condemned and put up a garage there. You could redo the garage behind the Brew Works. The Walnut Street Garage has been falling down for years and you are taking a Band-Aid now and are fixing it with a Band-Aid when that garage is falling apart. What are you going to do about the parking for all the people who live in that commercial section in Bethlehem?

President Waldron stated to clarify, City Council took no action on the Polk Street Garage, and we were not involved in that decision or process at all. Furthermore, the Walnut Street Garage has no pending legislation before us or in the near future as far as we are aware and no request has been made of Council to review that. If you want to talk specifically about the parking displacement, he encourages Mr. Kimball to attend one of the Parking Authority Meetings; those are posted on their website of when those meetings would be. Those are the folks who will be making the decisions about if Walnut Street would come down and the process of reallocating those spaces.

Mr. Kimball stated you are telling him that the Walnut Street Garage has no plans to be torn down.

President Waldron expressed that is not what he is saying, he is saying that we have no legislation in front of Council. We can only make decisions on things that are in front of us. The Parking Authority and that Board would be the folks who make that decision.

Mr. Kimball mentioned what about the approval to build the parking garage on Third and Polk.

President Waldron pointed out Council had no decision in that process that is the Parking Authority and the Administration under the guidance of the Mayor.

Mr. Kimball wondered if the Parking Authority has a free hand to do anything they want in Bethlehem.

President Waldron stated no and asked Mayor Donchez to comment.

Mayor Donchez explained that the Polk Street Garage will start construction probably sometime in 2022 with a 12 month construction period of time. It will be a 715 car space and they have about 650 leases. The Walnut Street Garage is scheduled to be replaced probably around 2023. So there is a committee looking at that and the next Administration will be looking at that. There will be a transformation of that block especially with the Boyd project that has been announced. But the Walnut Street Garage is scheduled to be demolished and rebuilt.

Mr. Kimball informed he dropped off a picture to the Mayor's office of the Walnut Street Garage. That garage did not deteriorate over-night; it has taken that garage a long time to get to the shape it is in. They are replacing the concrete.

President Waldron asked Mr. Kimball to address his comments to Council and added that he is over the 5 minute time limit. He would add this is an issue that Mr. Kimball should approach to the Parking Authority Board. They have public meetings similar to this where you would be able to address your concerns and possibly get some answers from the folks who are making those decisions. City Council is not involved in that process.

Mr. Kimball remarked that he tried going to the Parking Authority Board but that is like talking to a wall.

South Side/Quorum of Council

Stephen Antalics, 737 Ridge, 1201 Butztown Road, stated he has in front of him quite a number of plans and they all have to do with the south side historic district. The south side master plan, the revitalization of Bethlehem's south side and The City of Bethlehem Historic Preservation for the south side which is quite impressive but also the Sasaki report which is extensive and it addresses the south side. It said that the health of the community is dependent upon a core residential single family dwelling. But the core residential single family dwelling on the south side includes Carlton, Wyandotte, Birkel, Van Buren, Fillmore, Hayes, and a few other streets. But what happened? The city wisely in their definitions called a single family as 5

unrelated. That core district is now student housing. So it went from a stable community to a transient student community. Also in these studies the city also passed Article 1714 to delineate what is historic on the south side. But you approved a 9 story building on Fourth Street, you approved a 6 story building at Third and New Streets, you approved a 9 story building on Third Street, and an 8 story building on New Street. That is a violation of Article 1714 and all of these plans which said what he just explained, not to do that. The south side has suffered and all that has happened on the south side is against the will of the people on the south side because their opinions have not been solicited. You have voted against the will of the south side. Clearly something has to be done about the south side. From history, he thinks the best way to cure the south side is to get rid of the south side. If any situation happens on the north side in the historic area of Church and Wall Street you practically need a resolution from Council to be able to sneeze. Mr. Antalics asked, how can we get rid of the south side? All of this money being given out by the Federal Government, you might consider this as an option, bypass the Lehigh River, if you bypass the Lehigh River you do not have the south side, you have the City of Bethlehem. So you have done the community a service. It is absurd but what has happened to the south side equally has been absurd. There is complete disregard and disrespect for that area and for the people of the south side. As a point of order, at the last Council Meeting at one point there were only 3 people sitting at that table because a number of Council Members had vacated the room or the chamber and there was no quorum. The Solicitor also vacated the chamber. So only 3 members were sitting there which is not a quorum. Should the meeting have been held up?

Green Stormwater Infrastructure

Kendall, 304 West 8th Street informed she wanted to talk about the runoff. She has been living in Bethlehem for 4 years now. She is a Lehigh University student. The south side has a lot of developed mountainous area where when it rains it is like a river in the street. Considering climate change we are all hear about COP26 which is happening now. It is not just something that can be dealt with later on. She knows that Bethlehem has a Climate Action Plan and she has a recommendation which would be helpful in dealing with the issue of runoff. She explained that runoff is polluting the Lehigh River; it is flooding and causing a lot of harm. She has been researching this issue because she realizes it is a big problem here. Looking at the Capital Management Plan there is a lot of fixes to the decrepit storm water system we have here. We have a combined sewer system and she knows there was a facility built in 2016 to deal with overflow events. That is one step in the right direction. A Stormwater Management fee was just passed which shows that the city has some commitment to recognizing the problem with impervious surfaces and causing runoff. It is not just environmental, this is economic and it also is a health and safety issue. There are a lot of fixes done to different catch basins or to pipes that have leaks. Just by having a plan to repair the pipe does not address the problem. If there is going to be more intense flooding in the future then the pipes will need to be repaired again. She thinks there is a solution which is green infrastructure which is basically using plants, soil, and other natural techniques to filter, store, and use up water through evapotranspiration. This has been recognized by the city but it needs to be implemented in cases that are not just directly looking to manage stormwater. Every new development of the city needs to be looked at through the lens of can we implement any green stormwater infrastructure here. There are many opportunities like the Broad Street Transportation Plan; they have a lot of curb bump-outs to protect people when they are trying to cross the street. That could be made into a stormwater bump-out and you can store water and stop flooding in the street. There are other plans like turning Linden Street into a two way street. The EPA has a study on their website that

synthesizes case studies of cities that have used green stormwater infrastructure and they have shown that it is 15% to 80% less and it saves on costs up front and that is better over time. We need to address the problem of runoff and flooding rather than just fixing a pipe or make the pipe bigger that would still pollute the river. When you look at this type of development that is really when you can be more cost effective and implement more and store water. Philadelphia has a huge green stormwater infrastructure program and they have managed 2.7 billion gallons since implementing in 2011. Lancaster manages 33.3 million gallons annually and they have a big program. Our waterways matter and should be cared for. It is basically planting a tree with some soil and gravel underneath and that counts because over time that stores water and will not affect the pipes so those will last longer and it would keep the streets from flooding. That would increase property value in Bethlehem.

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. *Director of Water and Sewer Resources – Recommendation of Award – Brendan Stanton, Inc. dba BSI Electrical Contractors – WWTP West Influent Pump Room Upgrades – Electrical Construction*

The Clerk read a memorandum dated October 20, 2021 from Edward J. Boscola, Director of Water and Sewer Resources recommending a contract with Brendan Stanton, Inc. dba BSI Electrical Contractors for WWTP West Influent Pump Room Upgrades – Electrical Construction. The term runs 270 days to substantial completion and 300 days to final completion from the date of the notice to proceed. The cost is \$515,000. There are no renewals.

President Waldron stated Resolution 10 A is on the agenda.

B. *Director of Water and Sewer Resources – Recommendation of Award – Eastern Environmental Contractors, Inc. – WWTP West Influent Pump Room Upgrades – General Construction*

The Clerk read a memorandum dated October 20, 2021 from Edward J. Boscola, Director of Water and Sewer Resources recommending a contract with Eastern Environmental Contractors, Inc. for WWTP West Influent Pump Room Upgrades – General Construction. The term runs 270 days to substantial completion and 300 days to final completion from the date of the notice to proceed. The cost is \$1,341,300. There are no renewals.

President Waldron stated Resolution 10 B is on the agenda.

C. *Housing and Community Development Planner – Recommendation of Award – Community Action Development Corporation of Bethlehem – Northside 2027 Neighborhood Activities*

The Clerk read a memorandum dated October 21, 2021 from Christina Roseberry, Housing and Community Development Administrator recommending a contract with Community Action Development Corporation of Bethlehem for Northside 2027 neighborhood marketing and branding professional planning services and Northside 2027 neighborhood planning and conceptual professional services related to Friendship Park. The term runs December 1, 2021 to December 31, 2022. The cost is \$50,000. There are no renewals.

President Waldron stated Resolution 10 C is on the agenda.

D. *Chief of Police – Firearm Purchase - Boddie*

The Clerk read a memorandum dated October 20, 2021 from Michelle L. Kott, Chief of Police with an attached resolution and agreement for the purchase of a duty weapon by a retired officer of the Bethlehem Police Department. Pursuant to the Third Class City Code, retired officers may purchase their duty firearms at fair market value.

President Waldron stated Resolution 10 D is on the agenda.

E. *Director of Water and Sewer Resources – Recommendation of Award – R-III Construction, Inc. – Hecktown Road Water Main Relocation*

The Clerk read a memorandum dated October 28, 2021 from Edward Boscola, Director of Water and Sewer Resources, recommending a contract with R-III Construction, Inc. for Hecktown Road Water Main Relocation. The term runs from the notice to proceed until December 31, 2021. The cost is \$772,700 per change order. There are no renewals.

President Waldron stated Resolution 10 E is on the agenda.

F. *Director of Public Works – Recommendation of Award – K. C. Mechanical Service Inc. – PC Rodgers Street Facility Construction*

The Clerk read a memorandum dated October 28, 2021 from Michael Alkhal, Director of Public Works recommending a contract with K. C. Mechanical Service, Inc. for Rodgers Street Facility Construction plumbing services. The term runs 180 days. The cost is \$174,000. There are no renewals.

President Waldron stated Resolution 10 F is on the agenda.

G. *Director of Public Works – Recommendation of Award – Billitier Electric, Inc. – EC Rodgers Street Facility Construction*

The Clerk read a memorandum dated October 28, 2021 from Michael Alkhal, Director of Public Works recommending a contract with Billitier Electric, Inc. for Rodgers Street Facility Construction electrical work. The term runs 180 days. The cost is \$135,921. There are no renewals.

President Waldron stated Resolution 10 G is on the agenda.

- H. *Director of Public Works – Recommendation of Award – K. C. Mechanical Service, Inc. – HVAC Rodgers Street Facility Construction*

The Clerk read a memorandum dated October 28, 2021 from Michael Alkhal, Director of Public Works recommending a contract with K. C. Mechanical Service, Inc. for Rodgers Street Facility Construction HVAC work. The term runs 180 days. The cost is \$127,000. There are no renewals.

President Waldron stated Resolution 10 H is on the agenda.

- I. *Director of Planning and Zoning – Multimodal Grant Submission – Broad Street Active Transportation Plan Implementation*

The Clerk read a memorandum dated October 28, 2021 from Darlene Heller, Director of Planning and Zoning with an attached resolution authorizing an application for a Multimodal Transportation Fund grant of \$985,500 from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation to be used for the Broad Street Active Transportation Plan – Phase 1.

President Waldron stated Resolution 10 I is on the agenda.

- J. *Director of Public Works – Revised Ordinance Determination of Stormwater User Fee Credits and for Appealing Stormwater User Fee Determinations*

The Clerk read a memorandum dated October 28, 2021 from Michael Alkhal, Director of Public Works with an attached proposed ordinance amending Article 929A, titled Determination of Stormwater User Fee Credits and Appealing Stormwater Fee Determinations. The amendment adds credit determination tables along with making conforming changes related to the credits.

President Waldron stated the proposed ordinance will be on the November 16, 2021 agenda for First Reading.

7. REPORTS

- A. *President of Council*

- B. *Mayor*

Congratulations

Mayor Donchez congratulated Mayor-Elect J. William Reynolds and Councilwoman Grace Crampsie Smith and Council-Elect Kiera Wilhelm, Hillary Kwiatek, and Rachel Leon on their official election win.

- 1. *Administrative Order – Iris Linares – Bethlehem Housing Authority*

Mayor Donchez reappointed Iris Linares to membership on the Bethlehem Housing Authority effective through October, 2026. Mr. Colón and Dr. Van Wirt sponsored Resolution No. 2021-189 to confirm the reappointment.

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

2. *Administrative Order – Salvatore Verrastro – Codes Board of Appeals*

Mayor Donchez reappointed Salvatore Verrastro to membership on the Codes Board of Appeals effective through November, 2024. Mr. Colón and Dr. Van Wirt sponsored Resolution No. 2021-190 to confirm the reappointment.

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

3. *Administrative Order – Karyn Havas – Board of Health*

Mayor Donchez appointed Karyn Havas to membership on the Board of Health effective through January, 2025. Mr. Colón and Dr. Van Wirt sponsored Resolution No. 2021-191 to confirm the appointment.

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

C. *Community Development Committee Meeting (Dr. Van Wirt)*

Dr. Van Wirt announced we had a Community Development Committee Meeting on Thursday, October 21, 2021 at 6:00 PM in Town Hall. The Committee held the annual Financial Accountability Incentive Reporting hearing required by Article 349 and reviewed the economic development incentive reports submitted by the Administration. The meeting was for informational purposes only and no actions were taken.

8. ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE

B. *Bill No. 29-2021 – Amend 2021 Capital Budget for Non-Utilities - Adjustments*

The Clerk read Bill No. 29-2021 – Amend 2021 Capital Budget for Non-Utilities – Adjustments sponsored by Mr. Colón and Mr. Waldron and titled:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM,
COUNTIES OF LEHIGH AND NORTHAMPTON,
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING
THE 2021 CAPITAL BUDGET FOR NON-UTILITIES

Controller George Yasso explained that he has addressed this agenda item 8 A at the Finance Committee Meeting a few weeks ago about this transfer. The transfer did include some other moving parts but he only took issue with the cash reserve balance portion of it. He did

address the Finance Committee and it was not supported unanimously so he did want to address the full Council with his main concern being granting access to cash reserves in order to essentially fill in a budget that was underestimated. The Administration will site extraordinary circumstances, brutal economic conditions, a strong cash position, a relatively low ask in terms of the overall cash. However, he does think there are too many moving pieces, this is too circumstantial. Mr. Yasso added even the quantifiable pieces to this, it is not like we are dealing with an ordinance parameter on the cash balance versus the amount, there is no real precedent set and in his opinion the answer should be no. Remember this was a pandemic budget that was already bolstered with cash reserves and he does understand there are unforeseen economic factors when the budget went through. The other circumstances we will talk about he is sure are that the Administration is up against it with this particular project, it has been a long time coming. There are climate issues that are at play with this as well and obviously you guys are already approving a lot of contracts that have to do with this, including the HVAC and others. He knows they are up against this and he has worked with them to get as far as we could but he just does not feel it is a good idea to finish this budget with a cash balance, to open that door. He does not think it is a good idea at all. He is happy to answer any questions.

President Waldron thanked Mr. Yasso for his comments.

Dr. Van Wirt stated she agrees with Mr. Yasso. She did not support this on the original vote and she will not be supporting it tonight. She does not think we should be taking cash reserves for this project.

Ms. Crampsie Smith related she just wanted clarification. She asked if the amount of the cash reserve is \$150,000.

Mr. Alkhal stated yes.

Ms. Crampsie Smith thanked Mr. Yasso for his comments. She does agree that she does not like taking money from cash reserves but she does know this project is very necessary and has been a long time coming. She used to live over by where the buildings were and they were a terrible eyesore and not safe. She asked if there are any other alternatives, anything else we could do.

Mr. Evans noted that is a good question and the response was that we had a good debate and discussion at the Finance Committee about this. We are in a pinch with this contract and most of you know the back story. Rodgers Street buildings have been on the Capital Plan for over 10 years since he joined Council. He thought this was something that needed to be handled. Like many things this has been pushed back and pushed back and we finally got it underway. The buildings were demolished and there was asbestos that was removed prior to that. They were demolished successfully and during that period as Mr. Alkhal can speak of with the bids we started to see bids coming in very high and they were for the whole project over a few hundred thousand dollars. We did huddle up and looked for other options, what other accounts or what can we postpone or cancel. At this point because of what was already been said by Controller Yasso we cannot cancel this project. Those buildings are down and we have workers there from our Grounds Bureau as well as Facilities and Streets that work out of there that need this building to be put together in a timely manner. The general contractor was already approved and the amount short is to cover the 3 contracts that Council has in front of them tonight which is the

electrical, the HVAC, as well as a plumbing contract. We saw this as an extraordinary event that is a small amount, the ask is for \$150,000 for a large project. We reviewed other accounts, we did move money out of a capital account that we thought was unused and the Ice Rink Account, there were remnants of when we did a thorough investigation of what other funding or projects that could be cancelled or postponed and that got us to this point. The fact that it is a small amount on a large project that our cash balance is stable, that this is rare. We do not come to Council asking for cash reserves, especially with our operating budget as well as our capital budget. Another indication is that we have gone 3 years without filling up our accounts and last year normally it would have been a borrowing year but because of the pandemic we did not do anything. Some of those accounts that may have been there to take care of this are not there because they are running on empty because we have gone a third year without replenishing our capital accounts. It is a number of things that have come together to put us in this position. We felt it was fair, when we looked at those factors, this is a one-time event. This is an important project, we need to get this done and this is a small ask. Our cash account is stable and that is why we have brought this to Council.

Mr. Reynolds thanked Mr. Yasso for his comments. If you take a look at this \$150,000 dollars and we are talking about the pandemics, effect here on this particular project. Because of the pandemic and the fact that there are supply issues and other things there are many more projects than there are bidders which is driving up the cost of projects. This is partly related to the pandemic. We are getting these ARP funds that are supposed to make up for lost money within the city. That is indirect loss of money with the city and if we said no to this \$150,000 dollars today it would be \$150,000 that would just be spent out of those ARP funds whenever we approve the budget. Mr. Reynolds explained it is a situation if we take that \$150,000 out of the cash balance now or whether or not we take that \$150,000 dollars out of the ARP funds we are using to make up for this project. At the end of the day he does not think there is a difference between that. He would say that if Council feels strongly about that, and that we should take \$150,000 dollars from somewhere else that indirectly we also have the option then during the budget process by which someone could cut \$150,000 dollars and put it back in the cash balance away from where they think that money should be spent. There are different options today or later on if that is what someone is looking to do. He will be supporting this \$150,000 dollar transfer today. He thinks this is a project that needs to get done and he absolutely thinks that Mr. Yasso is doing the right thing by talking about why taking money out of the cash balance is not necessarily our wisest option. But from a practical point of view whether or not we take that money out right now or we approve it in the budget and push it off for two months with the weather issues, he does not see that there is much of a difference. But absolutely just like we had a long conversation last year about the fact that we took \$1 million dollars out of the cash balance to not have to make any more painful cuts or raise taxes anymore, that is not something we want to do. Our strong cash position allowed us the opportunity to do this and when the pandemic came along it drove up the price of all these different projects, obviously that was not something anyone wanted to do. Mr. Reynolds noted he has had conversations with Mr. Evans and Mr. Alkhal about how we drive the cost of this project down, we have gone through this and talked about it before and he is comfortable with approving the \$150,000 dollars.

Voting AYE: Ms. Crampsie Smith, Mr. Reynolds, Mr. Callahan, Mr. Colón and Mr. Waldron, 5. Voting NAY: Ms. Negrón, and Dr. Van Wirt, 2. Bill No. 29-2021 now known as Ordinance No. 2021-29 was passed on Final Reading.

9. NEW ORDINANCES

None.

10. RESOLUTIONS

A. *Approve Contract – Brendan Stanton, Inc. dba BSI Electrical Contractors – WWTP West Influent Pump Room Upgrades – Electrical Construction*

Mr. Colón and Dr. Van Wirt sponsored Resolution No. 2021-192 that authorized to execute a contract with Brendan Stanton, Inc. dba BSI Electrical Contractors for WWTP West Influent Pump Room Upgrades Electrical Construction.

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

B. *Approve Contract – Eastern Environmental Contractors, Inc. – WWTP West Influent Pump Room Upgrades – General Construction*

Mr. Colón and Dr. Van Wirt sponsored Resolution No. 2021-193 that authorized to execute a contract with Eastern Environmental Contractors, Inc. for WWTP West Influent Pump Room Upgrades – General Construction.

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

C. *Approve Contract – Community Action Development Corporation of Bethlehem – Northside 2027 Neighborhood Activities*

Mr. Colón and Dr. Van Wirt sponsored Resolution No. 2021-194 that authorized to execute a contract with Community Action Development Corporation of Bethlehem for Northside 2027 Neighborhood Marketing and Branding professional planning services and Northside 2027 Neighborhood Planning and Conceptual professional services for Friendship Park.

Dr. Van Wirt queried if Ms. Karner could explain a little bit more about this. She always has concerns when we float a contract for one community amenity and we have many community amenities that perhaps might need this type of input as well. She is just asking for an explanation.

Ms. Karner noted several years ago we started working with the community to develop the Northside 2027 Neighborhood Plan. We had a pre-pandemic robust community response in wanting to be part of that conversation and there were 5 goals identified, 2 of which are included in the contract before you. Goal number one was a safe and vibrant public realm and that was about creating safe neighborhoods and improving public spaces, Friendship Park. Another goal of the 5 was building on the resident driven vision for the neighborhood and creating a brand. As part of the LERTA when we had furthered the concept of crafting the LERTA for the neighborhood and engaged Northampton County and the Bethlehem Area School District, Northampton County wanted to know what the city was going to put into it. If you recall at the

time we only give up 10% of our taxes, we only abate 10% for this neighborhood unlike the county and school district that abate 50. As an offset to that we said we would invest funds into this neighborhood directly on an annual basis through our budgeting process. These are the funds that we are proposing using with our partner CADCB, the Community Action Development Corporation of Bethlehem. We partnered very well with them on the south side and they are doing good work with us on Northside 2027 and these were the two areas identified by the ongoing committees that came out of this planning process to look at both Friendship Park and the branding of the neighborhood.

Dr. Van Wirt asked if there would be an ancillary south side correlation to this process with the south side LERTA.

Ms. Karner explained we have been doing this process on the south side since the Sasaki Plan in the late 1990's. We have the MPP on the south side in which we had been able to raise with CADCB hundreds of thousands of dollars, not just 50 to invest back in that neighborhood. We have used those dollars for the last 20 years to raise millions of dollars in investment. There were projects like the Skateplaza, the Greenway, small business investment, façade improvements, housing improvements; the list is significant on the south side.

Dr. Van Wirt knows it might be more of a challenge but of course having this community identified target, is there a process in place on the south side, although she knows we are talking about Northside 2027 but are we also having the same process happening on the south side allowing the neighborhood to determine their own goals. She added then using direct LERTA money to support those neighborhood goals.

Ms. Karner noted we have been doing that with Southside Vision and Community Action Corp of Bethlehem since the late 1990's. There is a community committee, and a community advisory committee and then individual committees that vet projects and determine how to spend those dollars. That is what we modeled Northside 2027 off of. It has been such a good process for us on the south side we wanted to replicate that success.

Mr. Reynolds added that Ms. Karner did take the words out of his mouth as far as the Northside 2027, that model is a lot of what was done on the south side with Vision 2014. One of the things also we have run into on with Northside 2027 is that people want to do things, we want to paint things, we want to redesign things but you do not want to do individual projects that have different color schemes. This is something that the people feel strongly about. In community conversations it has come up a lot. To add to Ms. Karner's point, a lot of the conversations has been about what has gone on in the south side and what has worked on the south side and how we create that same type of energy that has been created in Third, Fourth, and Fifth Street through Southside Vision 2014 and all the planning with the neighborhoods and the CACLV.

Ms. Negrón noted the reason she is sitting here is because of her involvement with the Southside Vision 2014. Like Ms. Karner said there were many committees and were all made by city leaders and residents. She took a lot of pride in her committee because it was empowering. The Administration was there to listen and they did listen. We wanted lights, we wanted sidewalks, we wanted facades, we wanted after school programming and she was pleased when

Councilman Reynolds pushed for the north side because this works. She appreciates the Administration taking that part in it and she is glad it is happening on the north side.

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

D. Approve BPD – Firearm Purchase - Boddie

Mr. Colón and Dr. Van Wirt sponsored Resolution No. 2021-195 that authorized an agreement to effectuate the transfer of the City issued handgun assigned to Simon Boddie a Retired City Police Officer.

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

E. Approve Contract – R-III Construction, Inc. – Hecktown Road Water Main Relocation

Mr. Colón and Dr. Van Wirt sponsored Resolution No. 2021-196 that authorized to execute a contract with R-III Construction, Inc. for Hecktown Road Water Main Relocation.

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

F. Approve Contract – K. C. Mechanical Service, Inc. – PC Rodgers Street Facility Construction

Mr. Colón and Dr. Van Wirt sponsored Resolution No. 2021-197 that authorized to execute a contract with K. C. Mechanical Service, Inc. for Rodgers Street Facility Construction Plumbing Services.

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

G. Approve Contract – Billitier Electric Inc. – EC Rodgers Street Facility Construction

Mr. Colón and Dr. Van Wirt sponsored Resolution No. 2021-198 that authorized to execute a contract with Billitier Electric, Inc. for Rodgers Street Facility Construction electrical work.

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

H. Approve Contract – K. C. Mechanical Service Inc. – HVAC Rodgers Street Facility Construction

Mr. Colón and Dr. Van Wirt sponsored Resolution No. 2021-199 that authorized to execute a contract with K. C. Mechanical Service, Inc. for Rodgers Street Facility Construction HVAC work.

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

I. Approve Multimodal Grant Submission – Broad Street Active Transportation Plan Implementation

Mr. Colón and Dr. Van Wirt sponsored Resolution No. 2021-200 that authorized the City of Bethlehem of Northampton the Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant request of \$985,500 from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation to be used for the Broad Street Active Transportation Plan – Phase 1.

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

Motion – Considering Resolutions 10 J through 10 O as a group – Certificates of Appropriateness

Dr. Van Wirt and Ms. Negrón moved to consider Resolutions 10 J through 10 O as a group.

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

J. Certificate of Appropriateness – 822 East Fourth Street

Mr. Colón and Dr. Van Wirt sponsored Resolution No. 2021-201 that granted a Certificate of Appropriateness to replace 13 aluminum hopper windows located on the three-story rear building on each façade at grade with Pella single-hung fiberglass windows, custom-fabricated to fit existing openings at 822 East Fourth Street.

K. Certificate of Appropriateness – 306 Brodhead Avenue

Mr. Colón and Dr. Van Wirt sponsored Resolution No. 2021-202 that granted a Certificate of Appropriateness to add vinyl signage to be applied to the bottom divisions of front-facing windows at 306 Brodhead Avenue.

L. Certificate of Appropriateness – 925 Prospect Avenue

Mr. Colón and Dr. Van Wirt sponsored Resolution No. 2021-203 that granted a Certificate of Appropriateness to replace wood casement windows with aluminum-clad wooden casement windows with SDL (simulated divided lites) and 7/8-inch exterior muntins at 925 Prospect Avenue and also to replace two French doors with two single-leaf, aluminum-clad wooden doors.

M. Certificate of Appropriateness – 117 East Third Street

Mr. Colón and Dr. Van Wirt sponsored Resolution No. 2021-204 that granted a Certificate of Appropriateness to replace the awning fabric and add the new business name and logo at 117 East Third Street.

N. Certificate of Appropriateness – 321 Wyandotte Street

Mr. Colón and Dr. Van Wirt sponsored Resolution No. 2021-205 that granted a Certificate of Appropriateness to demolish existing steps at the main entrance and replace with a deeper landing at the doors, longer tread depths and curved wing walls for a wider base landing at 321 Wyandotte Street.

O. *Certificate of Appropriateness – 407-409 Vine Street*

Mr. Colón and Dr. Van Wirt sponsored Resolution No. 2021-206 that granted a Certificate of Appropriateness to restructure the street-level recessed front façade at 407-409 Vine Street with new windows and door in-kind and stucco exterior siding (at 409 Vine Street only). The existing transom will have singles removed to be replaced with wood paneling/trim to recall a likely original condition.

Dr. Van Wirt wanted to say how much she appreciates that Council gets the full minutes from the HARB meetings. While they may be a bit daunting in terms of the density she has learned so much just by reading them and it really helps us understand what they struggle with. It also makes her understand how much care is put into these decisions and how much thanks she has for the HARB members and all of our historic boards for the work they do to help our city maintain its beauty and historic grace. She wanted to say thanks to whoever helped power that we can get these and now read them. She hopes we can get them in advance of the meetings because she really finds them useful.

Voting AYE on Resolutions 10 J through 10 O: Ms. Crampsie Smith, Ms. Negrón, Mr. Reynolds, Dr. Van Wirt, Mr. Callahan, Mr. Colón, and Mr. Waldron, 7. The Resolutions passed.

11. NEW BUSINESS

A. *Setting Date for Adoption of the 2022 Budget*

President Waldron stated he will accept a motion to set the date for adoption of the 2022 Budget on Tuesday, December 21, 2021 at 7:00 pm in Town Hall. President Waldron clarified the budget has not been presented to Council, we are just going through the formality of scheduling the date in which we will adopt the final budget that is proposed and potentially amended by Council.

Mr. Colón and Ms. Crampsie Smith made the motion.

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

2022 Budget Hearing Schedule

President Waldron announced the 2022 Budget Hearing Schedule, as follows:

2022 BUDGET HEARING SCHEDULE

Tuesday, November 9, 2021 - 6:00 PM

First Budget Meeting

1. Water Fund Revenue and Expenses
2. Water Capital Budget
3. Sewer Fund Revenue and Expenses
4. Sewer Capital Budget
5. Public Works Department

6. Liquid Fuels Fund
7. Storm Water Fund
8. Non-Utility Capital Fund
9. Fire Department

Monday, November 22, 2021 - 6:00 PM

Second Budget Meeting

1. Police Department
2. Community and Economic Development Department
3. Community Development Block Grant Fund

Monday, November 29, 2021 - 6:00 PM

Third Budget Meeting

1. Golf Course Enterprise Fund
2. Administration
3. Council, Mayor, Treasurer, Controller, Law Bureau
4. General Fund Revenue
5. General Expenses
6. Civic Expenses
7. Debt Service

Tuesday, November 30, 2021 - 6:00 PM

Final Budget Meeting

(This meeting will only occur if necessary)

Tuesday, December 14, 2021 - 6:00 PM

Backup Budget Meeting

(This meeting will only occur if rescheduling of a prior budget meeting is necessary)

Halloween Parade/Election

Ms. Crampsie Smith wanted to say congratulations to our Health Director, Kristen Wenrich for being the Grand Marshall at the Halloween Parade this past Sunday. She added kudos and a huge thank you to her and all the health care professionals, especially Dr. Van Wirt for all they have been through for the last year and a half, this has been daunting. It was great that we were able as a city to come together and celebrate them and express our gratitude. It was a great parade and a great day in Bethlehem. Also, kudos to Councilman Reynolds as being Mayor-elect, she looks forward to working with him on the other side of the table.

Mr. Callahan congratulated everyone who won yesterday in the election also. Our city is going to be heading in a great direction and he applauds everyone who participated, even the people who lost in the county and state races. It is a great process we have here in the United States and everyone being a part of it is a great thing.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 pm.

ATTEST:

Robert G. Vidoni, Esq.
City Clerk