

BETHLEHEM CITY COUNCIL MEETING
10 East Church Street - Town Hall
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania
Tuesday, April 21, 2020 - 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

The minutes from February 4, 2020, February 18, 2020, March 3, 2020, March 17, 2020, and March 21, 2020 were approved.

Public Comment via Telephone

President Waldron explained public comment will be different than any time we have done before in the history of Bethlehem. We have put a lot of work into structuring this to try to make it as close to what we have done in the past as possible. Allowing public comment is not only important to us but also part of the requirement under law. We went back and forth with different options as far as people coming and writing in emails. We thought the best way to do this would be with audio much like when people come and they speak to us and they are able to give their remarks and their inflections more accurately to their message in a way that email or text may not be able to do that. We set up a system here with the phone number where folks are able to call in and give their remarks. President Waldron noted he has the phone next to him and he will put the caller on speaker. There is a button the phone that says do not disturb which he has not yet pressed. As soon as he does that it will allow the phone lines to ring for anyone who would like to comment, call in and make a public comment. The standard rules and structure applies as far as the 5 minute time limit. We will have two public comment periods. The first public comment period will be for any subject not being voted on this evening. The second public comment will be for any resolution or ordinance that is on the agenda. President Waldron remarked when folks call in the first thing they will want to do is mute their YouTube view so that we do not have that background feedback noise. Then they will be able to state their name and address and give their comments to City Council.

GoToMeeting

President Waldron noted that he and Mr. Callahan are here in person and the other Council Members are joining us via GoToMeeting at home and can hear any remarks that are called in to City Council. He noted the phone number to call into the meeting. We will give an opportunity for anyone who wants to make a remark to call in. We will essentially have a

window and when that phone stops ringing we will know that no one else wants to make a comment. He remarked there is a few second lag between what we are broadcasting and what the YouTube is showing. We will allow for plenty of opportunity for that. We will go live with public comment at this point.

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

GoToMeeting

Ed Gallagher, 49 W. Greenwich Street noted that he appreciates what Council is doing in trying to have a meeting. He does hope that a few folks call in with questions or comments. There may be some bumps the first time around but he thanked Council for running the meeting this way.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT (on ordinances and resolutions to be voted on by Council this evening - 5 Minute Time Limit)

Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019 Resolution

Lynn Rothman, 870 Wafford Lane, remarked that tonight she is speaking on behalf of the Members of the Environmental Advisory Council. Members include Elizabeth Behrend, Elisabeth Cichonski, Benjamin Felzer, Benjamin Guthrie, Brian Nicas, and Michael Topping. She then read a letter to Council and the Mayor that supports the resolution on the agenda tonight urging the United States Congress to enact the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019.

We are writing in strong support of the Resolution coming before Council on April 7th, urging the United States Congress to enact the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019 ("EICD Act"). Congresswoman Susan Wild co-sponsored H.R. 763, a bipartisan bill designed to spur clean energy development and reduce carbon pollution through the establishment of the EICD Act. As stated in the Resolution, "in October 2018, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change issued a special report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels warning that global warming is likely to reach 1.5°C between 2030 and 2052 if it continues to increase at the current rate. Moreover, the United Nations climate science body stated that we have only 12 years left to make significant changes to global energy production and infrastructure in order to limit global warming to moderate levels." The EAC commends our liaison J. William Reynolds for bringing forth this Resolution and his continuing dedication to combat climate change. We advise City Council to adopt this Resolution and thank you as always for your consideration.

Ms. Rothman added she wanted to thank President Waldron as well as the entire City staff, the Mayor and the Administration for all you are doing for your service during this difficult time.

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

6. COMMUNICATIONS

A. *Director of Planning and Zoning – Zoning Text Amendment – Definition of Bed and Breakfast*

The Clerk read a memorandum dated February 28, 2020 from Darlene Heller, Director of Planning and Zoning reporting that the City Planning Commission approved a proposed zoning text amendment ordinance at their February 13, 2020 meeting. The commission approved the proposed ordinance with some changes shown in redline. The proposed amendment amends Article 13, Section 1302.12, of the City Zoning ordinance related to the definition of a Bed and Breakfast.

President Waldron stated a motion to schedule a public hearing will be considered at a future Council Meeting.

B. *Director of Public Works – Recommendation of Award – De Paul and Company, Inc.*

The Clerk read a memorandum dated March 4, 2020 from Michael Alkhal, Director of Public Works recommending a contract with DePaul and Company Inc. for the work related to 2020 curb ramp projects. The term of the contract is 120 days. The price for the contract is \$535,100 with no renewals.

President Waldron stated Resolution 10 C is on the agenda.

C. *City Solicitor – Sublease Agreement – The Appalachian Mountain Club – Illick's Mill at Monocacy Park*

The Clerk read a memorandum dated March 26, 2020 from City Solicitor William P. Leeson, Esq. with an attached resolution approving an amended sublease agreement between the City of Bethlehem and the Appalachian Mountain Club.

President Waldron stated Resolution 10 E is on the agenda.

D. *Councilman Reynolds – Resolution related to protecting economic security of residents and businesses during the COVID-19 public health emergency*

The Clerk read a memorandum dated March 17, 2020 from Councilman J. William Reynolds with an attached proposed resolution related to protecting the economic security of resident and businesses during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

President Waldron stated Resolution 10 D is on the agenda.

E. *Councilman Reynolds – Support Resolution – Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019*

The Clerk read a memorandum dated April 7, 2020 from Councilman J. William Reynolds with an attached proposed resolution urging the United States Congress to enact the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019.

President Waldron stated Resolution 10 F is on the agenda.

- F. *Director of Public Works – Recommendation of Award – Wexcon, Inc. – Linden Street Storm Sewer Replacement Project*

The Clerk read a memorandum dated April 8, 2020 from Michael Alkhal, Director of Public Works, recommending a contract with Wexcon, Inc. for work related to the Linden Street storm sewer replacement project. The contract term runs 90 days from the notice to proceed. The cost is \$229,443. There are no renewals.

President Waldron stated Resolution 10 I is on the agenda.

- G. *Director of Water and Sewer Resources – Recommendation of Award – CMR Construction Inc. – Drexel Heights Pressure Improvement*

The Clerk read a memorandum dated April 14, 2020 from Edward Boscola, Director of Water and Sewer Resources recommending a contract with CMR Construction Inc. for work related to Drexel Heights Pressure Improvements. The Contract shall run for 90 calendar days from the Notice to proceed. The fee for the contract is \$153,280 with no renewals.

President Waldron stated Resolution 10 J is on the agenda.

- H. *Director of Water and Sewer Resources – Recommendation of Award – LB Industries – Wastewater Treatment Plant Bar Screen and Detritor Replacement – General Construction*

The Clerk read a memorandum dated April 14, 2020 from Edward Boscola, Director of Water and Sewer Resources recommending a contract with LB Industries, Inc. for work related to the Wastewater Treatment Plant bar screen and detritor replacement project. The cost is \$1,494,873.65. There are no renewals.

President Waldron stated Resolution 10 K is on the agenda.

- I. *Director of Water and Sewer Resources – Records Destruction*

The Clerk read a memorandum dated April 14, 2020 from Edward Boscola, Director of Water and Sewer Resources requesting Council to consider a Resolution for the Destruction of Records from the Water and Sewer Resources Department as listed on the attached exhibit. The Director has reviewed the Municipal Records Retention Act and the records fall within categories where destruction is permitted.

President Waldron stated the Resolution can be placed on the May 5, 2020 agenda.

- J. *Director of Budget and Finance – Proposed Ordinance – General Fund Adjustments*

The Clerk read a memorandum dated April 13, 2020 from Mark W. Sivak, Director of Budget and Finance requesting an adjustment to the General Fund with an attached proposed budget adjustment ordinance.

President Waldron stated Ordinance 9 A is on the agenda for First Reading.

K. *Director of Budget and Finance – Proposed Ordinance – CDBG Fund Adjustments*

The Clerk read a memorandum dated April 13, 2020 from Mark W. Sivak, Director of Budget and Finance requesting an adjustment to the Community Development Block Grant Fund with an attached proposed budget adjustment ordinance.

President Waldron stated Ordinance 9 B is on the agenda for First Reading.

L. *Director of Budget and Finance – Proposed Ordinance – Liquid Fuels Fund Adjustments*

The Clerk read a memorandum dated April 13, 2020 from Mark W. Sivak, Director of Budget and Finance requesting an adjustment to the Liquid Fuels Fund with an attached proposed budget adjustment ordinance.

President Waldron stated Ordinance 9 C is on the agenda for First Reading.

M. *Director of Budget and Finance – Proposed Ordinance – Golf Fund Adjustments*

The Clerk read a memorandum dated April 13, 2020 from Mark W. Sivak, Director of Budget and Finance requesting an adjustment to the Golf Fund with an attached proposed budget adjustment ordinance.

President Waldron stated Ordinance 9 D is on the agenda for First Reading.

N. *Director of Water and Sewer Resources – Recommendation of Award – Suburban Water Technology, Inc. – Shady Lane Public Well Water System Manganese Reduction*

The Clerk read a memorandum dated April 15, 2020 from Edward Boscola, Director of Water and Sewer Resources recommending a contract with Suburban Water Technology, Inc. for work in connection with the Shady Lane Public Well Water System Manganese Reduction project. The term of the contract runs through December 31, 2020 and there are currently no renewals.

President Waldron stated Resolution 10 L is on the agenda.

O. *Director of Community and Economic Development – CDBG HOME COVID Action Plan Amendment Resolution*

The Clerk read a memorandum dated April 16, 2020 from Alicia Miller Karner, Director of Community and Economic Development with an attached proposed resolution. The memorandum recommends a substantial amendment to the fiscal year 2019 Community Development Block grant action plan in connection with providing additional economic development support to businesses and to retain jobs that are at risk from the impacts of the COVID-19 disaster.

President Waldron stated Resolution 10 M is on the agenda.

7. REPORTS

A. *President of Council*

B. *Mayor*

1. *Administrative Order – Matthew Wolf – Fine Arts Commission*

Mayor Donchez reappointed Matthew Wolf to membership on the Fine Arts Commission effective through March, 2023. Mr. Callahan and Mr. Waldron sponsored Resolution No. 2020-054 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. *Administrative Order – Angela Delgrosso – Human Relations Commission*

Mayor Donchez appointed Angela Delgrosso to membership on the Human Relations Commission effective through April, 2023. Mr. Callahan and Mr. Waldron sponsored Resolution No. 2020-055 to confirm the appointment.

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

3. *Administrative Order – Michael Colón – Human Relations Commission*

Mayor Donchez reappointed Michael Colón to membership on the Human Relations Commission effective through March, 2023. Mr. Callahan and Mr. Waldron sponsored Resolution No. 2020-056 to confirm the appointment.

Mr. Colón informed he will abstain for the vote for himself.

Dr. Van Wirt related she thanks Mike for stepping up and that she appreciates it.

Voting AYE: Ms. Crampsie Smith, Ms. Negrón, Mr. Reynolds, Dr. Van Wirt, Mr. Callahan, and Mr. Waldron, 6. Abstain: Mr. Colón, 1. The Resolution passed.

4. *Administrative Order – Christopher Spadoni – Redevelopment Authority Board*

Mayor Donchez reappointed Christopher Spadoni to membership on the Redevelopment Authority Board effective through March, 2025. Mr. Callahan and Mr. Waldron sponsored Resolution No. 2020-057 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.

COVID-19 Update

Mayor Donchez related he would like to give a summary and then will turn to Kristen Wenrich, Health Director and Robert Novatnack, Emergency Management Director. We have had two press conferences, one by way of the media where questions were submitted and the second one from the citizens, they submitted about 60 questions. He wanted to thank the citizens of Bethlehem during these trying times; it is a great example of community spirit. They have made close to 1,000 masks for our City workers and we certainly appreciate it. Many people are going through very challenging and difficult times. He also wanted to thank the City workers, all the Department Heads, they have done an outstanding job especially Police, Fire and EMS and Ms. Wenrich and Mr. Novatnack have been working on fumes, working 7 days a week and he appreciates that. Mayor Donchez again thanked the public for their cooperation with some of the decisions we have made and also the great cooperation we have received from Lehigh County and Northampton County, the colleges and the Bethlehem Area School District and the two hospitals. We are in constant communication with the two hospitals and he really wanted to commend them for their partnership with the City during these challenging times. We did submit to City Council the financial update on the City's finances and he added that Eric Evans, Business Administrator is watching this meeting on YouTube and is available for any questions. We did get good news last week from Wind Creek that they intend to make their quarterly payments that is a plus because we do not know how long this will be going. We know we will take a hit financially. The Storm Water Program we were planning on implementing in July 1 of this year now will be postponed until January of 2021. Because of the cease on construction it is unlikely we will open Memorial Pool this year, but we will make the final decision on that within the next week to 2 weeks. It is our intention to open up the pools, we are discussion internally whether to open up 3 or 4 pools and should we go with the regular schedule or have more of a smaller schedule. We are also in communication with our sister cities. Right now we are leaning towards opening the pool. Mayor Donchez added they have a hiring freeze and the Mayor is the only person that would be able to hire someone during this difficult period. We did make some changes to the Public Works and Water Department. Rather than stagger shifts, we decided to go to two shifts, 7 am to 3 pm and 3 pm to 11 pm. That has been very effective. He believes we are basically the only City around here that went to two shifts. Mayor Donchez thanked the Unions for agreeing to do that. As of today all of the City workers have at least two masks and we certainly have more being made and he again wanted to thank the public for their cooperation. We are continuing street cleaning, he knows there was some confusion about that but street cleaning is continuing throughout the City 7:00 am to 3:00 pm but the street cleaning regarding the Parking Authority moving their cars and being ticketed, that has ceased. Basically, the garages have been open with parking for free, no one is being ticketed throughout the City, and meters are free. He pointed out except if there is a violation of public safety, for example parking in front of a fire hydrant. Mayor Donchez noted Governor Wolf made reference to this today, but we did this a few weeks ago, we extended the Earned Income Tax and the Business Privilege Tax to July 15, 2020. We extended the Real Estate Tax with a discount up to May 11, 2020 and we extended payment for the whole Real Estate Tax from May 29, 2020 to August 10, 2020. We understand these are very difficult and challenging times for many people so we are trying to show some compassion and we made that decision and Council was informed of this 3 or 4 weeks ago. Mayor Donchez related he issued a press release this afternoon that effective tomorrow morning at 9:00 am the Compost Center will open, not the Recycling Center. The Compost Center will be open from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm but the public must wear masks and the workers will wear masks and it will be only for drop offs. People wishing to utilize the facility will be required to wear a mask for safety as well as the safety of the City employees. People that are not wearing masks will not be permitted to enter. There will be no loading of mulch or compost materials,

they will only be accepting drop offs. He has received quite a few calls and in fact that was the most popular question submitted to him when we had the press conference last week. He knows many people are home cleaning their yards, we have had a few wicked storms where many trees and tree branches came down. Mayor Donchez believes this is the right thing to do to open the Compost Center beginning tomorrow, only for drop offs with no picking up mulch or compost at this time. On the financial end, this was going to be a bond year where we usually take out a bond between \$5 and \$6 million dollars. He and Mr. Evans will be glad to discuss this further but we will probably put the bond off until 2021 or 2022 and defer \$5 and \$6 million dollars of capital spending until next year. Another question that was popular last week was about Musikfest. As of today no decision has been made regarding Musikfest 2020. Mayor Donchez explained that he, Mr. Evans and Ms. Karner met with Musikfest this morning and they are evaluating everything on their financial end too and evaluating all of their programs for the rest of the year. We do not know what Governor Wolf's policy will be post April 30, 2020 regarding sporting events, concerts, and large gatherings. We are in communication and are meeting weekly but as of today no decision has been made. We have always had a very good partnership with ArtsQuest and Kassie Hilgert. Musikfest is very important for many vendors who end up financially in the black because of the festival but we have to really be concerned about public safety and the health of the public. As of today no decision has been made but there will be a point of when a decision and announcement will be made in the future. Mayor Donchez added that the City of Bethlehem as of today, we have about 18 to 20 vacancies and because of the great cooperation between the Administration and City Council of the last 7 years we have made tremendous improvements building up our total fund balance, putting more tablets out there for the workers and also with cross-training workers. Our financial picture is much better than some of our surrounding sister Cities. We are looking at all the options, we are looking at the options if we would have to furlough workers, that would be the absolute last decision he would make and it would have to be dire straits for that to happen. We have asked our workers to do a lot of work. Especially with the unemployment it would really not be much of a win for the City financially with the way the Federal Government set up the special unemployment compensation. But we are at a point watching our finances; we are certainly looking at the rest of the year financially and are already looking at the 2021 budget. Mayor Donchez remarked they have already made some decisions pertaining to the rest of the year and possibly into 2021. He will now ask Ms. Wenrich to give an update on her end and added that she has done an outstanding job along with Mr. Novatnack. We are fortunate to have them here.

Ms. Wenrich related that the Bethlehem Health Bureau continues to investigate all positive cases of COVID-19 in our jurisdiction. We determine all of the close contacts. She knows there is a lot of discussion nationally and statewide about contact tracing. That is something that we continue to do for all of our positive cases. So we work to identify those close contacts and assist the individual in notifying those close contacts to they can be placed in quarantine. As of yesterday's numbers on April 20, 2020 we have 376 cases of COVID-19 and 3 deaths in the City of Bethlehem. We are working with Wayne Wastler, our GIS Manager on a map and we are now transitioning that into a data dashboard so the data she will go over here tonight will be on a data dashboard. We have the first draft completed today and are going to go through it and make sure our calculations are accurate and we hope to have that displayed publicly and that will be updated on a daily basis. Ms. Wenrich continued to say that out of the 376 cases, 39 of those individuals have been hospitalized, so about 10% and that is what we are seeing statewide that 10% of the cases are being hospitalized. We have a little over 20% positivity rate so we are able to look at all of the negative tests as well as the positive tests and figure out that positivity rate. We

are a little over 20% in Bethlehem which again is comparable to the State rate. We are also looking at our demographic data so that can provide better insight in order to look at what is occurring in Bethlehem and to see if we need to do any additional education or outreach to certain groups. As of yesterday 45.7% of our cases were non-Hispanic and 39.3% were Hispanic and 14.8% were unknown. She added that 66% of our cases were White, 12.5% of our cases are African-American and 1.6% Asian, 5.5% were other races and 13.3% were unknown. We are continuing to work with key community leaders to provide education for specific populations in our City including the African-American and Latino population. As you can see from the data, we do have a significant amount of Hispanics that are cases and although 12.5% of our cases are African-American they are hospitalized at about 25% rate when we are looking at all of our hospitalizations. Those are the two groups nationally and statewide groups that they are looking at reaching out to because we are seeing some health disparities. Ms. Wenrich explained when looking at our data by age distribution our community has a higher percentage of COVID positive cases falling in the younger age group, the 25-49 year old age group as compared to the State as well as with hospitalizations. We are seeing our rates a little bit higher in that age group. Our average age for cases is 46.9 in the City of Bethlehem. It is also important to note that we are starting to see quite a bit of household infection. The Department of Health classifies symptomatic household contacts of a lab confirmed COVID case as a probable case without doing lab testing. At this point if somebody in a household tests positive and if they have a household member that has become symptomatic they are not recommended for testing but then are counted as a probable case. Ms. Wenrich remarked when they are initially doing their interviews with cases we are asking about symptomatic household members and then we are also conducting follow ups within a certain time period of all of our positive cases to see how they are feeling, determine if hospitalizations occurred and then we are also asking about symptomatic household contacts. She can say that is not something that is being done statewide but we felt it is important because that is something that is now being entered into the case count. So we are now looking at our probable cases as well as our confirmed cases. Additionally, those with mild symptoms are not recommended to get tested. She knows there has been a lot of discussion as far as where our numbers are and the flattening of the curve and the State Department is pleased to see that the rates are not growing as fast as they once had been when we are looking at daily case counts. Statewide they had been doubling every few days at one point. That is not the case anymore. The one thing to caution is our testing numbers have also decreased. Lehigh Valley Health Network had put in testing criteria last week so they are looking at testing certain priority groups because of a shortage of tests. They are looking at 65 and older and looking at people with chronic complicated conditions to do testing. Then if you factor in now that household contacts who are symptomatic are not getting tested of course your testing numbers will come down. Ms. Wenrich pointed out throughout this outbreak we continue to work with the non-profit sector to make sure that the needs for vulnerable populations such as the elderly and homeless are addressed. As was mentioned before and in previous press conferences portable toilets and handwashing facilities have been placed near the homeless encampments. In addition, we worked to secure hotel space for homeless individuals who need to be isolated or quarantined. We are currently working with both Lehigh Valley Health Network and St. Luke's to medically monitor these individuals. Currently right now we have 1 City of Bethlehem homeless person that is placed under isolation. We are also collaborating with New Bethany Ministries and the Conference Suites to implement some mitigation strategies for the homeless population in an effort to control the spread of COVID-19 in the community. We are working with New Bethany to provide some transitional housing to ensure that families and individuals have access to space, social distancing, and self-quarantining as well. Over the last two weeks we

have started seeing an increase in the number of outbreaks in long term care facilities. We currently have 3 outbreak situations. One of those facilities has transferred the patients out so we are now dealing with 2 long term care facilities that currently have outbreaks. The Department of Health did hire a consulting firm ECRI to handle infection control measures and work with these facilities so we have been serving as a liaison and try to connect all of our long term care facilities to this resource, but specifically these two. One did have a virtual call on Friday and they did see some important things to note that should be worked on so they are in current consultation with the one facility and we are in the process of connecting the other facility to this consultation firm. Ms. Wenrich added they have assigned staff to follow up on calls from employees complaining about potential COVID-19 exposures at their workplace. That is really the most frequent call that we are receiving in the Health Bureau, it is just employees concerned about some of their conditions at their worksite. Any complaint we get she has a staff person assigned and they are doing follow up on complaints, contacting those businesses, providing education and mitigation efforts and making sure that they are aware of the current guidance.

President Waldron thanked Ms. Wenrich for her presentation and also for all the work she has done this far with her team and department and also what is ahead. There has been a lot of talk about whether we are at the peak of the outbreak and when we are at the peak of the outbreak that may mean we are halfway to go as far as the infection rate, hospitalization, and what the deaths would be. That is baring all of the social distancing that folks have to go through. There is clearly a long way to go, not necessarily weeks or even months. Some of the information he has looked at has been talking about that there will be some firm of social distancing and some version of what we have been working through over the past weeks until there is a usable vaccine. This is something that will not just go away over time. President Waldron asked Ms. Wenrich to talk a little bit about what she thinks at least here locally what the timeline would be within the City. The big question on everyone's mind is when are things going to open up and when are things going to get back to normal but the new normal looks something like this room and what you are seeing out in the streets when you walk around and there are not many people around. It is a scary and depressing time for a lot of individuals and families. People are turning to question the reality of the information that they are getting so when we are able to have these conversations he believes this is really helpful to folks to hear what the data is showing and what experts who are thoughtful and knowledgeable about their presentation and the message that they are bringing to the public what their thoughts are. The big question at this point is what do the next few weeks and months look like in the City of Bethlehem look like in Ms. Wenrich's opinion.

Ms. Wenrich remarked as she said earlier one of the concerns is just as far as testing because our overall number of tests has gone down. When you have healthcare networks that are now changing their criteria as far as who they can test you are not going to have as many cases. There is concern statewide and federally about getting enough tests and getting enough people tested. We are committed in trying to follow up and get the probable case count but that is not being done just because of the public health structure across the State. It is a little bit difficult when we are relying on these numbers but when you are throwing probably cases and you are not testing people some health departments cannot do the contact tracings so when you do not have all those components together it is difficult to see what the true number is. As far as the peak last week was when we heard that was the target timeframe for that peak. Our cases in Bethlehem have been a little bit sporadic. Over the weekend we might get 5 or 7 cases and then on Monday we will get 30 so we are a little bit up and down. We have been in the 30's and we

have been as low as 5. From the Secretary of Health's standpoint she is really looking for a sustained trend because the statewide numbers have been a little bit up and down as well. Over the Easter holiday weekend the cases dropped and a few days later they went back up. There is a mass testing site that is opening up at the Mohican Sun or just opened up so now you will have more tests that will be done. Philadelphia and Montgomery County had testing sites so that was increasing the number of overall tests and positives that were happening. This is a very fluid situation, you have more mass testing sites, more testing being done and then you will see more positives.

President Waldron remarked those changes locally in the criteria of not testing the probable cases is that just access to the test.

Ms. Wenrich stated yes, the State made that decision that was put out in their guidance. LVHN was having a difficult time as far as securing test kits. She knows they have been in conversations with the Department of Health and whether or not they will change that criteria based on getting additional tests she is not sure at this point. The other thing that is important to note when talking to her counterpart in Allentown their cases are through the roof and a lot higher than we are. Yesterday when she was on a call with United Way there were some State Representatives on that call and they are treating this when we reopen Governor Wolf stated it will be region by region even though our case counts might not be as extreme as Allentown or what Lehigh County is seeing, our region will be lumped together when we are looking at reopening the State.

President Waldron asked what the criteria will look like to reopen a region.

Ms. Wenrich noted they are looking at incident rates and right now Lehigh County has the number one incident rate in the State. So they will be looking at case counts and death rates as well.

President Waldron mentioned those numbers do not have to get to zero but they will have to plateau to a certain level.

Ms. Wenrich stated correct, so they are looking at northeast and southeast right now, those are the two regions in the State when you are looking at a number of cases that are the highest.

President Waldron noted it seems like Bethlehem is doing fairly well as far as some of the averages that were referenced.

Ms. Wenrich stated that we are. As for the case counts we are definitely seeing that younger population with the hospitalizations we are seeing that more in the younger population than statewide so that is a concern.

President Waldron queried if there is any driver in Ms. Wenrich's mind that could cause that.

Ms. Wenrich explained they are not really sure; there is nothing that we are seeing at this point. We are in the process of analyzing data so that is something that could come out over the next few weeks.

Mr. Callahan thanked Ms. Wenrich and Mr. Novatnack. This has been a very difficult time for everybody in the City, the State and in the United States. He also wanted to compliment the Mayor and all of his staff members going through this difficult time. It is comforting to our citizens that our basic City services are doing the best they can with the issues we are being confronted with right now. He just wanted to thank everyone for their hard work and dedication to our residents.

Mr. Colón asked what the total cases are here in the City of Bethlehem.

Ms. Wenrich stated 376 and that was as of yesterday. Hopefully with the dashboard the goal is that at noon each day we will be updating the case count so there should be daily updates.

Mr. Colón asked if that includes nursing homes.

Ms. Wenrich remarked any resident in the City of Bethlehem.

Mr. Colón asked if she has a rough number of how many positive cases Allentown has. He knows just for comparison obviously their population is greater than ours.

Ms. Wenrich stated they are well over a thousand but she is not sure of the exact number.

Mr. Colón thanked Ms. Wenrich and all of her staff for all the work they are doing.

Ms. Crampsie Smith thanked Ms. Wenrich for the hard work she and her staff are doing, we really appreciate it. She asked as far as the cases go are they seeing any pockets or geographical areas in the City where there are higher cases that are positive. This may be a concern because of the demographics of those certain areas.

Ms. Wenrich informed they are working on a heat map right now as part of the data dashboard. The two areas that have the nursing home outbreaks are certainly areas of concern but that is just because of the number of patients in those nursing homes. Other than that she has not seen any thing as far as geographic trending. That is something we are working on and should have available this week.

Ms. Crampsie Smith remarked when we talk about the contact tracers she was in a webinar where they were speaking about that and she assumes that takes a lot of time and effort. She asked if Ms. Wenrich is okay with manpower doing that at this point and could this be a problem in the future with having enough human resources to do the contact tracing.

Ms. Wenrich informed they are fine right now because they as reassigned staff to help our nurses work with the investigations. The Allentown Health Bureau Director has been having conversations with the two healthcare networks because they are willing to provide us with some of their furloughed workers if need be. At this point we do not need that resource but it is there if and when we need it.

Ms. Crampsie Smith mentioned the one thing they talked about and this was from a doctor at John Hopkins and we have medical students doing it right now but they perceive that in the future we could need more people to do it. They had mentioned graduate students in the health sciences within the local colleges. She just wanted to throw that out there as a possibility. She does know a lot of people that are in graduate school that have internships on hold at this point because they do not have that contact of person to person.

Ms. Wenrich noted that could certainly be a possibility. We would certainly need somebody that was educated and that you could train because it does take a certain specialty to be able to do contact tracing interviewing. But at this point if need be we would look at all options.

Ms. Crampsie Smith again thanked Ms. Wenrich and her staff for their great work and added to stay safe.

Ms. Wenrich stressed she wanted to thank her staff publicly. Although she is working 7 days a week she also has staff members who are working 7 days a week and they have been doing a phenomenal job, especially her management team. It has been a team effort working on this so she wanted to recognize them as well.

Mr. Novatnack remarked he wanted to touch on a few topics and wanted to start off with the supply chain. He noted the supply chain for Bethlehem is strong, whether it is the N95 masks or the surgical masks or the cloth masks that we have. Our EMS personnel are fully staffed and funded and are doing a phenomenal job under the direction of Tom Decker. We have had only one City employee that tested positive and it was not in Public Safety, it was in another department but that is a tribute to those guys who are out in the front lines of EMS, Fire, and Police. To have no one else test positive from those ranks is really pretty impressive for the City of Bethlehem. The calls are down for Police and Fire but the calls are a little slower, they are working them in slow motion. Some of the folks upon arrival, they are given instructions to stay 6 feet away and to get more information and how to follow up is a little bit different than it used to be, it is not up close and personal anymore unless they have to do that. Most of the time they keep their distance using the social distancing and that is working really well. Mr. Novatnack added that folks seem to understand it, the Bethlehem folks are cooperating with the Police upon arrival. That is working really well. The Fire Department has been out on calls; they are backing up our EMS. He noted that EMS is only committing one paramedic to the building to survey the situation to see what is going on. In the past they would have two go in with the Fire guys, they step back a little bit to see what is going on. They assess the situation and deem what is appropriate and how to handle the call. Public Safety is functioning really well and is fully staffed. On the other side Lehigh County and Northampton County have been great partners with us, whether it comes to equipment, N95 masks or surgical masks they have been a big help for us. If we burn through what is called the burn rate, if we use 100 masks within 2 or 3 days he will get 100 replaced from Northampton County who they are working with now. But if they could not get those masks from Northampton County we have Lehigh County to help us out. Everything is working well with Northampton County and he gives them a lot of credit. They talk daily and even on the weekend, this job has become a 7 day a week job. Mr. Novatnack continued to say that as for masks in general for the public who is watching, you do not need surgical masks or N95 masks all you need is a cloth mask. We are trying to save all the surgical masks and N95's for patient care. Just like the cloth mask he is wearing now and he sees others

wearing, that is what is needed to wear out in public and to honor the social distancing of 6 feet. That is very important for everyone. He pointed out that he speaks to Police Chief Mark DiLuzio and Deputy Chief Scott Meixell daily. There are not big issues going on, there are some domestic calls but most of the calls are down. The Bethlehem Service Center is busy, we are getting a lot of complaints for businesses that do not have people masking inside and we are doing follow ups on those with phone calls made to those businesses by the Health Department or the Zoning Department. We are just checking in to see what is going on in those businesses, because this is only just evolving, we are all figuring this out. We are trying to follow the CDC guidelines and the Department of Health. Mr. Novatnack mentioned with continuity of government everything is working well under Mayor Donchez. We are 2 or 3 deep in every position; everything is being addressed in a timely manner. We have meetings on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday in Town Hall observing all the rules, everything is going well. If someone cannot answer a question they have someone right behind them who can. So continuity of government is very important at this time. As for daily changes, every time we see something new every 2 or 3 days, there seems to be another change coming from Harrisburg or from the Pennsylvania Department of Health and we are adapting to them on a daily basis. Mr. Novatnack noted that the City Health Department goes through conference calls and changes are made. Even now our guidelines here at City Hall to mask and do the social distancing is working, so he gives a lot of credit to the cleaning crews that come in here and take care of City Hall. To have no one in here test positive is really a plus for all of our workers here in the City that is under the guidance of Michael Alkhal, Director of Public Works.

President Waldron thanked Mr. Novatnack and noted that he is obviously kind of burning the candle at both ends making sure that things are functioning as close to normal as they can. It seems like the impact in City Hall here has been relatively minimal with a workforce of 600 people and there is only 1 positive test that does not spread out, that is exactly a testament to the social distancing and the practices that folks are taking within the City to make sure that they are not infecting others potentially. As for the mask wearing, he thinks the point needs to be driven home a bit more even so that the mask is not for your individual protection but also for the protection of everyone around you. There has been more than a little data showing that you can be a non-symptomatic carrier potentially spreading the virus and not knowing it. That is the reason for the mask wearing which he does think will be the new normal for quite some time as we figure out what our community will have to do to respond to make sure that individuals are staying safe as well as the people who we are interacting with. As much as you want to hole up in your house there are essentials that you need and you need to go out into the world and there are minor interactions you will have with folks. Taking those protections with social distancing, mask wearing, and hand washing, you cannot do enough of those things. President Waldron is glad to hear that this is happening within City Hall. He feels comfortable and confident that there is a plan that was laid out years in advance, many things were thought of and the things we have not thought of we are making them up as we go. That is because everything is a limited resource as this time from the masks to time and energy and manpower. All those things need to be managed as best they can and it seems like that is happening currently within the City. President Waldron thanked Mr. Novatnack for implementing the emergency plan in a way that he probably never envisioned he would have to.

Mr. Novatnack reported he may have changed it already. He used to talk about Police, Fire and EMS being public safety along with our 911 Center which Northampton County does now. But what he has learned through this whole episode so far is that there are 4 parts to it. He

noted it is Police, Fire, EMS, and our City Health Department, (referred to on the City website as the "Health Bureau"). If we did not have this Health Department functioning at full throttle here he does not know how we could get this done. They have been wonderful to work with giving him advice through Ms. Wenrich and her staff, giving the Mayor advice and following through on every patient and detail which you would not see if we did not have a Health Department. Mr. Novatnack admires all the work that they are doing, everyone on their staff have come through for him and he has questions, they have answers to the things he has questions to. He cannot say enough that it is Police, Fire, EMS, and now the Health Department, now there are 4 critical parts to public safety.

President Waldron thanked him for pointing that out and added that clearly all of the world keeps turning to within this pandemic that there are other health concerns, and other medical emergencies that are still acquiring attention and still getting attention within the City. We would like say thanks for that as well.

Mr. Callahan thanked Mr. Novatnack for all of the work he has done.

President Waldron queried if Mayor Donchez would like to keep Mr. Novatnack or Ms. Wenrich at this meeting and added for our agenda purposes he does not see any other reason that they need to be here. So minimizing exposure as well as allowing them some much needed rest is a good idea.

Mayor Donchez thanked President Waldron and added that they will have an early meeting tomorrow.

President Waldron thanked Ms. Wenrich and Mr. Novatnack for being here in person at this meeting.

Mayor Donchez added that it is heartwarming to see the City workers being on the call of duty and the great cooperation we have had from all the entities and the public. We have a thousand masks that have been made with more coming. It is great and what Bethlehem is all about. We are very fortunate as of today that we only have one positive in the City. He does not know if he was asked that question six weeks ago if he would have given the answer of only one. So we are very fortunate and are working very hard at sanitizing everything constantly and it is paid off so far and hopefully that will continue.

8. ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE

A. *Bill No. 06 – 2020 – Establishing Article 1738 – Residential Rental Units*

The Clerk read Bill No. 06 – 2020 – Establishing Article 1738 – Residential Rental Units, on Final Reading.

President Waldron noted it has been a while since we last had this conversation. He cannot recall the First Reading of this but here we are again.

Mr. Reynolds asked how the hiring freeze could potentially delay or if the hiring freeze includes the positions that are included in here as well as is the program going to be delayed because of the current crisis going on.

Mayor Donchez stated that Alicia Karner, Director of Community and Economic Development could answer the question about the administrative person and how much work has been done. In answer to the hiring freeze those would be the only 2 positions that once we are ready to move that he would move forward on. He would not delay those two positions to say January 1, 2021 because they pay for themselves in a sense. If we are ready to move those are the only 2 positions that are vacant out of 20 or so in the City that he would move on.

Ms. Karner informed that the administrative person was hired and was hired in advance to help organize. That was something that was funded and the 2020 budget. She has been working to gather the data and outline the plan in which we are going to reach out to those residential units that will be in the first year of licensing and inspection. She does want to note that we cannot currently go into properties to inspect unless there is an emergency circumstance and that would be under the building code section. All of the housing inspections have been suspended for the time being and to certainly bring people on would be at a point in which we are allowed to go in and do those inspections again and issue those Certificates of Occupancy.

Mr. Reynolds asked if we had a date by which we wanted to launch the new inspections.

Ms. Karner stated we can start at any point. It can be a rolling process. We had actually wanted when we sent this to Council last year had hoped we could get it implemented for the beginning of 2020. It probably was a good thing in retrospect that it was delayed because of this inability to go in and do the inspections. With the work that we are doing administratively we can kick it off and we have separated the City by ward and precinct basically and have identified on a monthly basis which ones would get notification for licensing and then the inspections come behind that. Probably this will be at a 6 week or so interval.

Mr. Reynolds thinks we have all seen the generic thoughts on a residential market in general, we have seen the data that something like 67% of renters made their rental payment for April when generally that number is around 86%. He asked if as the year goes on we will start to see some of those longer term economic consequences that it will have an effect on both the quality of our rentals and the ability of landlords to keep up with the codes. Obviously we need them to for providing safe housing for people who often are unable to advocate for themselves. He is looking to see if they thought ahead at all of any type of general potential conclusions for what this could mean for the rental situations in Bethlehem.

Ms. Karner informed she believes that the quality of housing becomes more important particularly if we have a growing low to moderate income population. When you have a catastrophic event like this pandemic that impacts families the quality of housing that they live in becomes more and more important. She explained that far too often we believe it is okay to allow poor people to live in substandard housing and she has a completely different philosophy on that. She thinks it is a basic human right to have a code compliant property and so there is no right for a landlord to make money off of a property that is not an inherent right. She does believe it is a right for housing. So that puts us in a position of needing to go above and beyond to ensure that

families have adequate, safe housing. If that group of people in the City grows, it becomes more important for us to get into those properties and ensure that compliance.

Mr. Reynolds agrees but thinks that we are going to see some landlords if there are relying on rental income on a month to month basis as an income source rather than a long term investment, he thinks as a City and he shares the same goal as Ms. Karner mentioned but we need to be prepared for and increase focus on making sure that we are keeping all of our housing stock up to code. He does think that it will be more difficult for some people to be able to keep the housing stock up to code with the economic recession that we are likely entering into. This is the right thing but we need to be vigilant about making sure that people continue to have safe places to live in the City of Bethlehem.

President Waldron noted that Ms. Karner had stated we are not doing any inspections currently but what is the metric for when those inspections can start again.

Ms. Karner stated what we are asking for anybody who has assumed a property as is, whether that was a result of a sale or the result of a move as a rental unit to accept that property as is and to call us within 30 days of our ability to go out and do an inspection so we can schedule an inspection. We are going to receive a lot of phone calls with a lot of pent up demand for inspections. While we do not expect that inspections will be completed within 30 days we would like that phone call within 30 days so we can set it up.

President Waldron asked if there are criteria to let her know when those inspections can start again.

Ms. Karner informed it is the Governor who put the say on the inspections. So once the Governor allows the inspections to occur we can go out and do those.

President Waldron imagines that is one of the lower tier essential functions.

Ms. Karner explained it is hard to know, there has been a lot of conversation about construction and certainly there is a difference, she does not want to cause confusion about code construction and then our rental and sales inspections in the housing bureaus. There has been a lot of pressure placed on construction and it is hard to separate those. She does suspect that it will be less about where on the spectrum it is and more about where we are located as Ms. Wenrich had mentioned earlier, we are in a hot spot. She suspects we will be trailing behind even if other areas are allowed to go out and do housing inspections, we may not be able to initially.

President Waldron asked if the City is currently doing any new building inspections.

Ms. Karner noted the only building inspections we are doing are for those construction activities that had received a waiver from the State DCED office that are medical related. Medical supply chain was granted an exemption under Homeland Security and emergencies. If you wake up and your hot water heater has exploded over night we can issue an emergency permit to replace the hot water heater, we have done a few of those. We have to report to the Commonwealth every month, the permits we issue. There has been a lot of question about whether or not we can just tell people the permit is issued and go back and formerly issue it later. Unfortunately with that reporting system we use that is not possible.

Mr. Callahan remarked when the inspections start to ramp up will there be any type of priority we will give in the initial 2 months. He thinks what we need to do and his main concern is to get our economy back up and running and getting people back to work with money in their pockets. So the people that are moving in right now they are accepting the apartment as is until the inspection can be done.

Ms. Karner stated that is correct.

Mr. Callahan related when the inspections do get ramped up and get started is it possible or would you suggest that we do new construction and smaller construction projects like patios and decks, things that small businessmen are doing. He would hope that the first month of the startup that we concentrate on the inspections and permits to get people back to work.

Ms. Karner explained that would be two entirely different kinds of inspectors. The residential inspectors are not State certified so they are not the folks who are going to go out and inspect your foundation or your new patio or deck that you built onto your house. Those are the code officials and they continue to work under emergency basis and on those projects that are underway that are eligible for construction. The housing inspectors are an entirely different group; they could not go out and do those inspections you are referring to get the economy going. They are specifically geared to doing existing buildings that are predominately residential in nature for tenants, for sale inspections, for regulated rental, rooming houses, and those kinds of inspections.

Mr. Callahan then asked about new construction, is that a totally different inspector.

Ms. Karner stated yes, that is a totally different inspector. They are State certified and they are nationally certified in some instances.

Voting AYE: Mr. Colón, Ms. Crampsie Smith, Ms. Negrón, Mr. Reynolds, Dr. Van Wirt, Mr. Callahan, and Mr. Waldron, 7. Bill No. 06 – 2020 now known as Ordinance No. 2020-08 was passed on Final Reading.

9. NEW ORDINANCES

A. *Bill No. 09-2020 – Amending 2020 General Fund – Adjustments*

The Clerk read Bill No. 09-2020 – Amending 2020 General Fund – Adjustments, sponsored by Mr. Callahan and Mr. Waldron and titled:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM,
COUNTIES OF LEHIGH AND NORTHAMPTON,
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING
THE 2020 GENERAL FUND BUDGET

Voting AYE: Mr. Colón, Ms. Crampsie Smith, Ms. Negrón, Mr. Reynolds, Dr. Van Wirt, Mr. Callahan, and Mr. Waldron. 7. Bill No. 09 – 2020 was passed on First Reading.

B. *Bill No. 10-2020 – Amending 2020 Community Development Block Grant Budget – Adjustments*

The Clerk read Bill No. 10-2020 – Amending 2020 Community Development Block Grant Budget – Adjustments, sponsored by Mr. Callahan and Mr. Waldron and titled:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM,
COUNTIES OF LEHIGH AND NORTHAMPTON,
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING
THE 2020 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT BUDGET

Mr. Reynolds believes this is the \$800,000 dollars we are getting through the Cares Act for CDBG. He is asking Ms. Karner to talk about the process that we will see over the next however long it takes for us to come up with a plan for how we will spend this funds.

Ms. Karner explained this is the funding that we are getting as an entitlement community for the CDBG or COVID, we were made aware of this and sent this to Council almost immediately. It is a bit of an evolving situation. There is constant guidance from HUD we are on conference calls and there is another one on Friday to talk about how we go about presenting this plan to HUD. We know that we are allowed to work through an abbreviated process. We request waivers to the standard 30 day period and the standard public comment period. We will need to publicly advertise a plan for 5 days and then bring it to Council, have an ad, the things that we particularly do and bring it to Council for Resolution. We are evaluating what we can do with these funds. As you know what is on the agenda later this evening is a small business grant program. We are kicking around other ideas that may relate to rental or mortgage assistance. It might involve greater business assistance. Everything though has to go to addressing impacts associated with COVID. None of those additional funds can be used for any of the other CDBG eligible programs. Largely assessing need within our community and to categorize the phase that we are currently in because it seems as if HUD wants the plan for all those funds at one time we will present a plan to Council for all of those funds at that time. She queried if that answers the question.

Mr. Reynolds noted it does. He asked if we have to plan to spend all the money in 2020 or do we have to spend all the money in 2020 and do we know if there is any limitation there.

Ms. Karner noted there is some question about receipt of those funds, when exactly we are going to get them. First we were under the impression they were going to be delivered or at least accessible immediately, and then it was appeared to be later in this year when we typically receive our allocation. That kind of threw a wrench into anything we wanted to do to address the current crisis. We are now hearing from HUD that they may make those funds available to us a little more immediately. It is targeted for the 2020 year and our goal will be to spend those funds quickly. There is a significant State allocation that despite being an entitlement community if we can show need and she believe as an affected community we can, we will be able to access even the State funds which is not the norm. She would advocate spending those monies and try to access additional funding.

Mr. Reynolds remarked that \$800,000 dollars is a lot of money and we are dealing with a situation here where everyday regulations that generally we have to follow are getting waived or whatever it might be. So keeping Council in the loop as far as both when we find out exactly when that money is coming to us even if it is not a situation where it is on the Council agenda that is a necessity. He does not know if we will have a lot of different pots of money to be able to

spend on things related to COVID, it has not come through in either one of the stimulus bills passed in Washington. Municipal funding did not get into the stimulus deal that they closed on today. We need to take focus on these funds and potential for what they can do throughout the community.

Ms. Negrón informed she had heard from small businesses in our community that include restaurants, nail salons, hair salons, and barber shops that they are not being able to tap the incentives that have been passed down from the Governor. They might not need as much money as a bigger company might but they still need help. She hopes that there is a direct connection with our small businesses. As was mentioned there is the possibility for rental and mortgage payments, she has heard so many people where one person gets sick in the household and everyone else does. She has talked to many individuals where there are 4 adults in the household working and all are positive and are staying at home with children and having trouble getting unemployment benefits. She is sure that Ms. Karner is thinking about that but she hopes she has that in her mind to work with the Health Bureau considering families where the household is not only one person out of work but there might be both mother and dad out of work and struggling to get unemployment. She is listening to the voice of the people on a daily basis about small businesses and the families without jobs and are waiting for unemployment.

Ms. Karner mentioned about the first comment Ms. Negrón made about businesses and will jump ahead a little on the agenda. One of the reasons we think it is so important to move forward with the small business relief fund, and we are encouraging all businesses to apply, is to get a handle on what kind of businesses are accessing what resources. That would be whether it is based on size. We know that this is not the first relief package that we will put out to the community and understanding the need today and understanding who is able to tap into the PPP (Paycheck Protection Program) or the disaster grants or even some of the smaller grants will be helpful to us in crafting subsequent programs.

Ms. Crampsie Smith thanked Ms. Karner for all her work during this pandemic and challenging time. She wanted to reiterate again, she knows many people who are suffering and she is worried about small businesses. On Thursday the United States House of Representatives is going to agree to another \$300 billion and another \$50 billion in small business loans so that is a plus. Anything that she can do or Council can do to expedite any of this, if we need to have a special meeting, whatever it takes this is important to get the resources and money to those in need.

Mr. Callahan asked if businesses can sign up on the City website for this.

Ms. Karner noted that is the next CDBG substantial amendment Resolution but yes that will be posted for access tomorrow. It is not a race to the finish line; this is something that will remain up for a while unlike some other programs. We do not want people to crash our website; we are not working on a first come first served basis. It will be a fillable pdf form that people can download, complete, and then email to us. She urges patience.

Mr. Callahan asked if that will be on the website under Community and Economic Development.

Ms. Karner stated yes, and there are also links under the COVID website and we are also sending it out in a lot of different ways. There is also an English and Spanish application process and then our website can be translated as well.

Mayor Donchez noted it will be on the website and also on Facebook and Twitter as well.

Ms. Karner stressed they will put it out on all the channels for the next week or so.

Voting AYE: Mr. Colón, Ms. Crampsie Smith, Ms. Negrón, Mr. Reynolds, Dr. Van Wirt, Mr. Callahan, and Mr. Waldron. 7. Bill No. 10 – 2020 was passed on First Reading.

C. *Bill No. 11-2020 – Amending 2020 Liquid Fuels Fund Budget – Adjustments*

The Clerk read Bill No. 11-2020 – Amending 2020 Liquid Fuels Fund Budget – Adjustments, sponsored by Mr. Callahan and Mr. Waldron and titled:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM,
COUNTIES OF LEHIGH AND NORTHAMPTON,
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING
THE 2020 LIQUID FUELS FUND BUDGET

Voting AYE: Mr. Colón, Ms. Crampsie Smith, Ms. Negrón, Mr. Reynolds, Dr. Van Wirt, Mr. Callahan, and Mr. Waldron. 7. Bill No. 11 – 2020 was passed on First Reading.

D. *Bill No. 12-2020 – Amending 2020 Golf Course Enterprise Fund Budget – Adjustments*

The Clerk read Bill No. 12-2020 – Amending 2020 Golf Course Enterprise Fund Budget – Adjustments, sponsored by Mr. Callahan and Mr. Waldron and titled:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM,
COUNTIES OF LEHIGH AND NORTHAMPTON,
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING
THE 2020 GOLF COURSE ENTERPRISE FUND BUDGET

Voting AYE: Mr. Colón, Ms. Crampsie Smith, Ms. Negrón, Mr. Reynolds, Dr. Van Wirt, Mr. Callahan, and Mr. Waldron. 7. Bill No. 12 – 2020 was passed on First Reading.

10. RESOLUTIONS

A. *Approve Records Destruction – Police Department*

Mr. Callahan and Mr. Waldron sponsored Resolution No. 2020-058 that authorized the disposition of Police Department public records, as stated in Exhibit A.

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

B. *Approve CDBG HOME Action Plan Amendment Resolution*

Mr. Callahan and Mr. Waldron sponsored Resolution No. 2020-059 that authorized the Community Development Block Grant Action plan Amendment for FY 2019 for the City of Bethlehem for the period from January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019, and that the Mayor is authorized to provide the necessary assurances and certifications to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and to submit the FY 2019 Action plan Amendment for HUD Approval.

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

C. *Approve Contract – DePaul and Company Inc. – Curb Ramps Project*

Mr. Callahan and Mr. Waldron sponsored Resolution No. 2020-060 that that authorized to execute an agreement with DePaul and Company, Inc. for work related to the 2020 02 Curb Ramps Project.

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

D. *Approve Resolution related to protecting the economic security of residents and businesses during the COVID-19 public health emergency*

Mr. Callahan and Mr. Waldron sponsored Resolution No. 2020-061 that encourages the Mayor's Administration to investigate feasible options for helping to protect the survival of our residents and local businesses in response to the COVID-19 health emergency, including working closely with the federal and state government, financial institutions, educational institutions, and non-profits and publicize economic assistance options.

Mr. Reynolds informed that he originally brought this resolution forward for the March 17, 2020 Council Meeting. We could not vote on this because we did not have a quorum and then we did not have a meeting on April 7, 2020. He thinks priority number one has obviously been public health since this situation started to unfold. He wanted to thank Mayor Donchez, the Administration, Mr. Novatnack, and Ms. Wenrich for their tireless work involving every department in the efforts that we heard about. What this resolution is about is what the second priority is. We need to as a City just kind of commit ourselves to understanding and planning for the economic and social consequences of this pandemic on our businesses and our residents. We need to make a statement that we are going to be creative and come up with City wide initiatives to deal with the short term and long term consequences here. The past month we have gone off to a good start. Ms. Karner talked before about the utilization of the CDBG funds for our businesses. The Mayor had announced delaying deadlines for some of our taxes. Mr. Reynolds believes we need to do more of that. People will look to us and that is really our role. A lot of times City government will look at what is in front of us, did we pick up the leaves, did we move the snow, did we fix the potholes, and those things are important. This pandemic has kind of blown open just how many citizens we have that live paycheck to paycheck and even if they have jobs and work fulltime they are not necessarily secure economically. Those things have far reaching implications for our community. Obviously solving every problem does not fall on City government but we need to work with our school district, non-profit community, private business, and other levels of government. We need to play the leading role and we need to play

the organizing role as a voice to bring everybody together who is needed to solve these community issues. He then gave an example, last year we did our citywide communication survey and he wanted to talk about the results of this for a few months, one of the big recommendations in there is how we need to make sure that we have community wide broadband for all of our citizens. Before this was something that people would look at and say that makes a lot of sense and is that City government's role. When we look at what we have seen over the last several weeks about the amount of people that do not have broadband connections and the implications for not just school but for our healthcare system, because people are unable to do video visits. They are unable to call into their doctor sometimes and then they have to leave their houses to go places and potentially get other people infected. Mr. Reynolds remarked we can talk about all those different indirect results all night long but the bottom line is that we need to be at the center of the creative solutions. We need to be the ones and it will not happen today or tomorrow. The Administration has done a good job so far trying to think about how we can be creative about these types of things. These community wide issues or problems are ones where people are looking to us to say we do not have to find all the answers but we need to play a role. This resolution is about committing the City to play that role and to invest in spending our time and our money and our energy in coming up with those creative solutions that will help deal with the consequences of this pandemic.

President Waldron remarked in a time where there is much uncertainty on not only an individual and family level as small to medium to large business level but on a government and institutional level any effort that we can take as City Council to show we are supportive of what the challenges are ahead is a good move. This is definitely one of those signs that show we as City Council and City government are taking those efforts seriously.

Mr. Callahan agrees with Mr. Reynolds and added that he has some information he would like to pass on. As a teacher at Northeast Middle School he was shocked when he heard the data that the school district with all the online Zoom meetings, the school district went out and bought some additional hot spots and they also made an agreement with RCN and Service Electric to provide free internet availability to kids. Out of the approximately 750 kids we have a Northeast which services one of the biggest lower income areas of the City, Marvins and Pembroke, we only had 8 children out of all of those that did not have access to the internet. He thought that was an amazing job on part of the school district and he wanted to thank them for doing everything they did to get these kids connected so they can continue to learn. Mr. Callahan supports this resolution 100% and agrees with Mr. Reynolds that this is important in the future that we have people connected in the City of Bethlehem.

Dr. Van Wirt stated she agrees that universal broadband has been pushed forward and as a municipality we need to understand and make available to our citizens and in fact the mass testing site up in Wilkes-Barre you cannot access it unless you have the internet. This is showing us the broad disparity in access that we have and she hopes that we can put this as a priority as a City for our citizens. She thanked Mr. Reynolds and added that she wants to work with him on making this happen.

Ms. Crampsie Smith totally agrees with this and noted that it is vitally necessary to the basic existence of many individuals and families as we have seen through this pandemic. She can attest to the fact that in her school district the kids are fortunate to have I-Pads, many do not have internet and while Service Electric and RCN are providing it, this is small and is not really doing

the job for some of the kids. It has caused a lot of emotional trauma for them. She is hoping that as a City and a community we can make this work so we can alleviate some of the emotional distress it is causing for people.

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

E. Approve Appalachian Mountain Club Sublease Agreement

Mr. Callahan and Mr. Waldron sponsored Resolution No. 2020-062 that authorized to execute a Sublease Agreement for Illick's Mill at Monocacy Park between the City of Bethlehem and The Appalachian Mountain Club, a non-profit corporation, and such other agreements and documents as may be necessary.

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

F. Approve Resolution – Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019

Mr. Callahan and Mr. Waldron sponsored Resolution No. 2020-063 that urges the United States Congress to enact without delay the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019; and that the Bethlehem City Council expresses gratitude to our Congressional Representative Susan Wild for having become a co-sponsor of the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019. Bethlehem City Council urges other Pennsylvania municipalities to similarly call on their federal Representatives to co-sponsor the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019.

Mr. Reynolds informed he wanted to thank the Environmental Advisory Council and also the Citizens Climate Lobby, and specifically Martha Christine. The EAC has been talking about this at several meetings and he has had conversations with Ms. Christine back in 2019. The bill currently has over 80 sponsors in the U. S. House including our own Congresswoman Susan Wild. Once again, he wanted to thank the EAC, Citizens Climate Lobby, and Ms. Christine for bringing this to our attention.

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

G. Certificate of Appropriateness – 438 High Street

Mr. Callahan and Mr. Waldron sponsored Resolution No. 2020-064 that granted a Certificate of Appropriateness to replace an existing picket fence, construct a trash and recycling enclosure, and extend a bluestone walk to meet the sidewalk at 438 High Street.

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

H. Certificate of Appropriateness – 29 East Third Street (Bank of America)

Mr. Callahan and Mr. Waldron sponsored Resolution No. 2020-065 that granted a Certificate of Appropriateness to replace 4 exterior lights and add 6 new light fixtures at 29 East Third Street (Bank of America).

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

I. Approve Contract – Wexcon, Inc. – 2020 03 Linden Street Storm Sewer Replacement Project

Mr. Callahan and Mr. Waldron sponsored Resolution No. 2020-066 that that authorized to execute an agreement with Wexcon, Inc. for work related to the Linden Street Storm Sewer Replacement Project.

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

J. Approve Contract – CMR Construction, Inc. – Drexel Heights Pressure Improvements

Mr. Callahan and Mr. Waldron sponsored Resolution No. 2020-067 that that authorized to execute an agreement with CMR Construction, Inc. for work related to the Drexel Heights Pressure Improvements project.

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

K. Approve Contract – LB Industries, Inc. – 2019 11 WWTP Bar Screen and Detritor Replacement – General Construction

Mr. Callahan and Mr. Waldron sponsored Resolution No. 2020-068 that that authorized to execute an agreement with LB Industries, Inc. for general construction work related to the WWTP Bar Screen and Detritor Replacement project.

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

L. Approve Contract – Suburban Water Technology, Inc. – Shady Lane Public Well Water System Manganese Reduction

Mr. Callahan and Mr. Waldron sponsored Resolution No. 2020-069 that that authorized to execute an agreement with Suburban Water Technology, Inc. for work related to the Shady Lane Public Well Water System Manganese Reduction.

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

M. Approve CDBG HOME COVID Action Plan Amendment Resolution

Mr. Callahan and Mr. Waldron sponsored Resolution No. 2020-070 that approved the Community Development Block Grant Action Plan Amendment for FY 2019 for the City of Bethlehem for the period from January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019 and that the Mayor is authorized to provide the necessary assurances and certifications to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and to submit the FY 2019 Action Plan Amendment for HUD approval.

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

COVID-19

Mr. Colón informed he wanted to thank the Bethlehem Medical Reserve Corp. We had all been forwarded the memo from Northampton County Executive McClure about two weeks ago and it was about 2 volunteers from the Medical Reserve Corp. who had come up to Gracedale to volunteer. Mr. Colón works at Gracedale full-time and Dr. Van Wirt spends a lot of time in the building also and that is greatly appreciated. Moving forward he wishes everyone the best. Personally and professionally he sees this every day at work what the impact is of individuals and families as we deal with COVID-19. He encourages everyone who is listening to this via YouTube and whatever methods to continue getting their news and information from reliable outlets and ask everyone to follow the guidelines. As Ms. Wenrich had touched on, over 300 people are positive here in the City of Bethlehem but over 75,000 residents are impacted. Nobody in the community is not touched by COVID-19 and if everyone can continue to patiently follow the guidelines and do what we need to do it will keep going from there.

Ms. Crampsie Smith just wanted to say a huge thank you to everybody in the community that has been really working hard and doing what they can to help us during these trying times. It is a challenging time and as they say during times like this we really need to look for the helpers. For herself and other families it is comforting to see so many helpers within the City and community in Bethlehem, especially the Department Heads, the employees, and the citizens. She knows many citizens are doing things on an individual basis like making masks and getting food for the elderly to those on a more macro level like people within our community and groups. She applauds those helpers because that is really comforting at this time. Ms. Crampsie Smith just wants us to continue to be safe and be well.

Mr. Callahan wanted to acknowledge and say hello to our Solicitor Mr. Spirk who has been sitting there very quiet.

Thanks to IT Department/City Employees

President Waldron thanked our IT department, to Ricardo Maldonado and Jonathan Palsi who have sat with us this evening and put this program together for us to meet virtually and allow for public comment to continue. He also thanked all the City employees at City Hall who are putting in extra effort and extra diligence and continue services as uninterrupted as possible. In a time where people can feel isolated and alone he has had some opportunities to be out in the community, whether at the grocery store or walking in the neighborhood with his family and he

sees instances for people who are going out of their way to be extra helpful and extra courteous to strangers in a time where it takes all of us to make a little bit extra effort to step up and be part of the solution. He is seeing that time and time again and it is a reminder that we do live in a great town and a great community. President Waldron thanked everyone for joining us this evening in what will likely be our new normal for a few meetings to continue our remote viewings. It is nice to see everyone's faces.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

ATTEST:

Robert G. Vidoni, Esq.