

BETHLEHEM CITY COUNCIL MEETING
10 East Church Street - Town Hall
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania
Tuesday, December 17, 2024 - 7:00 PM

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

1. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by President Colón. Present were Bryan G. Callahan, Grace Crampsie Smith, Hillary G. Kwiatek, Colleen Laird, Rachel Leon, Kiera Wilhelm, and Michael G. Colón, 7.

President Colón announced that tonight's scheduled Public Hearing involving 815 Pennsylvania Avenue has been postponed at the request of the petitioner's attorney. An anticipated new date will be announced.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

December 3, 2024

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

What is Being Done?

Resident Harry Faber noted the irony of the people of Bethlehem being able to enjoy the holiday season while those in the Middle East are suffering as the conflict continues. He particularly noted the waste of money being spent on weapons of mass destruction. He asked what Council is doing toward ending the conflict or at least not contributing to it. Are members at least asking whether the City should divest from investments that are contributing to the killing?

Thanks for Supporting the Ice House

Resident Doug Roysdon thanked the City for its continued support of the Ice House and programming there, specifically the Recreation Department for its efforts throughout the year. He announced that there will be nearly 200 shows there in 2025. They will put 900-1,000 local artists on the Ice House stage ranging from actors to bands to comedians. The Ice House has evolved into an artist-led venue. This group is looking to restructure to prepare for long-term sustainability of the building and programming there.

Opposes Federal Use of Tax Money

Resident Arthur Curatola agreed with Mr. Faber that tax dollars are being spent on killing innocent women and children in the Middle East as well as Ukraine. Everyone does not agree with funding foreign conflicts. The money could be used to help the homeless.

Dose of Humility

Resident Mary Jo Makoul reminded that she suggested during the first Council meeting of 2024 a New Year's resolution for all: humility. She said she has tried to be more cognitive of this resolution. She asked the members of Council and the Administration to take time for self-reflection on this subject during the holiday season. She wished all a Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah.

Ceremony/Size of Hotel/Traffic Worries

Resident William Scheirer complimented the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony. He also observed that the recently approved hotel on East Third Street has been dubbed a "boutique" hotel suggesting a smaller facility than standard hotels. However, he said this hotel will include 141 rooms, which compares to the 125 rooms of the Hotel Bethlehem. He believes the term "boutique" was included to suggest smaller and less intrusive to gain City approval. Lastly, Mr. Scheirer again lamented speeding in town, especially concern for narrower streets further impacted by parking. He mentioned a situation on Conestoga Street where cars park in front of a double house on a curve. Two lanes are nearly narrowed to one, and the curve further limits safety. He concluded that the 10 police officers below the roster goal are sorely needed for traffic enforcement.

Several Traffic Concerns

A woman who introduced herself only as Theresa also discussed traffic concerns with the short timing of a left turn arrow at the intersection of Illick's Mill and Schoenersville roads. Traffic backs up during high traffic periods. She asked that this be reviewed and perhaps time added to allow more traffic to turn left during the light cycle. She also suggested providing a three-way stop sign or speed bump between East Washington Avenue and Pembroke Road. She additionally was concerned about traffic congestion on Main Street resulting from valet parking across from Tapas, limited parking because of the reconstruction of the Walnut Street Garage, and parking demand in general.

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

Questions Budgeted Adjustment

Resident Valerie Noonan attended the budget hearings and questioned item 8O. on tonight's agenda involving the Organized Crime Drug Task Force. She recalled hearing that this a federal program involving Bethlehem Police Department participation. Officers' wages would be paid as overtime, and the funding source would come through the state. She asked for clarification because she saw a \$5,000 budget adjustment listed on tonight's agenda.

More Traffic Comments

Resident Mary Jo Makoul was grateful for the City addressing the traffic situation at Union Boulevard and Eaton Avenue. This has been long overdue. She also hoped for improved pedestrian signals at Main and Broad streets. She was concerned that the turn signal onto

Pennsylvania Avenue is too short and allows only perhaps one car through per light cycle. Ms. Makoul also would like to see collaboration among Bethlehem, Allentown, and PennDOT to improve the intersection of Hanover Avenue, West Broad Street, and Eaton and Club avenues. She was further worried what will happen if apartments are added at the former Bennett Toyota lot. If that project gets approved, she believes the developer should be responsible for bearing the cost of traffic improvements.

Support for Proposed Improvements

Resident William Scheirer also supported the need for improvements where Union Boulevard and Pennsylvania and Eaton avenues converge.

Recommends More Speed Humps

Resident Arthur Curatola suggested using speed bumps to control traffic at intersections that are known to be problematic.

4. OLD BUSINESS

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

5. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Crampsie Smith

Ms. Crampsie Smith asked Mr. Alkhal for any updates on plans for improving signals in the area of Union Boulevard and Pennsylvania and Eaton avenues as well as Broad Street and Club Avenue. She recognized that this would include discussions with PennDOT and Allentown.

Mr. Alkhal said minor signage and road paint improvements have been made near the proposed apartment development. A roundabout has been discussed. There is nothing concrete in the Capital Plan. The situation is still being evaluated by both Bethlehem and Allentown because roughly half of the intersection is in each municipality.

Ms. Crampsie Smith asked for a cost estimate to construct a roundabout.

Mr. Alkhal said a couple of million dollars. Even more critical would be the ability to acquire the required right-of-way that would be necessary for use of the land.

Ms. Leon

Ms. Leon asked whether the City has the right to place speed bumps wherever it wants. She also wondered who determines the timing of traffic lights.

Mr. Alkhal said the City can determine whether it wishes to place speed humps on any City-controlled street. He believed there have only been three placed on “cut-through” streets.

There are none on collector or main roads. Generally, the procedure would be for abutting property owners to initiate a petition. If parameters are met, there would need to be 75 percent approval by abutting property owners. As for traffic signal timing, all signals are maintained, owned and operated by the City, but all are permitted by the state. Timing is done by traffic counts at the a.m. and p.m. peaks. Counts and conditions may change over time, so it can be worth revisiting. He believes the point about the Illick's Mill timing mentioned earlier may have merit. A new traffic count could be conducted. This situation will be reviewed.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

Editor's note: There were no Communications 6A or 6B because these items were associated with a Public Hearing scheduled for this meeting but postponed at the applicant's request.

C. *Director of Public Works – Memo – 2024 41 Traffic Signal Upgrades on Pennsylvania Ave., Union Blvd. and Eaton Ave. – Traffic Planning and Design, Inc.*

The Clerk read a November 26, 2024 memorandum and proposed Resolution from Michael Alkhal, Director of Public Works. Mr. Alkhal recommends a contract with Traffic Planning and Design, Inc. of Bethlehem to provide design and permitting of traffic signal upgrades for the intersections of Pennsylvania Avenue, Union Boulevard, and Eaton Avenue. The cost is \$57,850. The completion deadline is December 31, 2025. There are no renewals. Traffic Planning and Design submitted the lower of two bids received.

President Colón stated that Resolution 10 A is on the agenda.

D. *Director of Human Resources – 2025 03 Preferred Employee Assistance Program*

The Clerk read a December 2, 2024 with an attached Resolution from Michelle Cichocki, Director of Human Resources, recommending a contract with Preferred EAP of Allentown for the Employee Assistance Program. The cost is \$12,000 per year. The contract period is January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2026. There are no renewals.

President Colón stated that Resolution 10 B is on the agenda.

E. *Business Administrator – Memo – 2025 04 Website Maintenance and Support – DSA&D*

The Clerk read a December 10, 2024 memorandum with an attached Resolution from Business Administrator Eric Evans. Mr. Evans recommends a contract with KSA&D of Allentown to provide website maintenance and support. The cost for the three-year contract is \$93,887. KSA&D developed the current City website in 2019. The City has been pleased with the level of service received.

President Colón stated that Resolution 10 C is on the agenda.

F. *City Solicitor – Amendment No. 1 to Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement with Fountain Hill – Yard Waste Facility Usage for 2025*

The Clerk read a December 11, 2024 memorandum with an attached Resolution and associated Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement from City Solicitor John F. Spirk, Jr. Solicitor Spirk recommends Amendment No. 1 to the agreement already in place between the City and Fountain Hill involving the usage of the City's Yard Waste Facility. The amended agreement would run from January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025.

President Colón stated that Resolution 10 D is on the agenda.

G. *City Solicitor – Amendment No. 1 to Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement with Hanover Township, Northampton County – Yard Waste Facility Usage for 2025*

The Clerk read a December 11, 2024 memorandum with an attached Resolution and associated Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement from City Solicitor John F. Spirk, Jr. Solicitor Spirk recommends Amendment No. 1 to the agreement already in place between the City and Hanover Township, Northampton County, involving the usage of the City's Yard Waste Facility. The amended agreement would run from January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025.

7. REPORTS

A. *President of Council*

President Colón wished all a joyous holiday season and a peaceful new year. He thanked residents who attend the meetings, the Administration for its support, and Council colleagues as well. Although there may be disagreements from time to time, they generally are not dysfunctional. He looked forward to working with everyone in the new year.

B. *Mayor*

Mr. Evans presented the Mayor's Report for the evening.

7B1. Administrative Order No. 2024-40 Danielle Joseph – Zoning Hearing Board

Mayor Reynolds appointed Danielle Joseph to the Zoning Hearing Board. The appointment is effective through January of 2030. Ms. Wilhelm and Ms. Leon sponsored Resolution 2024-269 to confirm the appointment.

Ms. Leon asked whether training is necessary for applicants who are appointed to certain authorities, boards or commissions, especially one such as the Zoning Hearing Board in which the position deals with land use issues that really shape the City.

President Colón did not believe so. The education generally comes on the job and is learned during the process under the guidance of other members, a solicitor, and gained experience.

Mr. Evans believed this to be correct. He added that applications put forth have been vetted by the Mayor and are presented to Council after it is believed that the applicant would take the position seriously and would be in a position to perform the tasks well.

Mr. Callahan added that the state additionally offers seminars for planning and zoning members.

Solicitor Spirk said that at least the Zoning Hearing Board has its own solicitor to assist in providing the law on matters. Solicitors can provide additional guidance on general questions.

Ms. Crampsie Smith was glad this background matter was being discussed. Some of these authorities, boards and commissions meet more frequently and have more intense discussions than others. Some residents have contacted her and noted the importance of having training or relevant qualifications. She believed it was an important point that those who are appointed have relevant qualifications and no conflicts of interest.

Voting AYE: Ms. Crampsie Smith, Ms. Kwiatek, Ms. Laird, Ms. Leon, Ms. Wilhelm, Mr. Callahan, and Mr. Colón, 7. The Motion passed.

7B2. Administrative Order No. 2024-41 Sharon Wiles-Young – Zoning Hearing Board

Mayor Reynolds reappointed Sharon Wiles-Young to the Zoning Hearing Board. The reappointment is effective through January of 2030. Ms. Wilhelm and Ms. Leon sponsored Resolution 2024-270 to confirm the reappointment.

Ms. Kwiatek said she has known the applicant for a number of years and supported her reappointment.

Voting AYE: Ms. Crampsie Smith, Ms. Kwiatek, Ms. Laird, Ms. Leon, Ms. Wilhelm, Mr. Callahan, and Mr. Colón, 7. The Motion passed.

Mr. Evans advised that Mayor Reynolds and Director of Community and Economic Development Laura Collins are attending an event at the Bethlehem Emergency Shelter this evening involving participants who are unhoused and BES staff. He also said that three officers graduated from the academy and joined the police force. The Administration is completing a report on the South Bethlehem Community Center Feasibility Study. A date will be set for one or meetings in January to discuss the findings. Mr. Evans thanked all for participation and positive comments regarding the annual City budget. There appears to be a shared vision. He attributed success to “the fact that we have a sustainable, efficient budget that has a great investment in public safety, an investment in our critical infrastructure, and that is done in a responsible way,” he said. “We appreciate working with Council these past number of weeks into the last couple of months on the process. So, thank you.”

8. ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE

President Colón said he would accept a motion and a second to consider budget Ordinances 8A through 8K as a group. He suggested this as a matter of efficiency because there are so many. He said individual Ordinances could be pulled out and voted on separately if not all were routine.

Ms. Laird made a motion, seconded by Ms. Leon, to consider Ordinances 8A through 8K as a group.

Voting AYE: Ms. Crampsie Smith, Ms. Kwiatek, Ms. Laird, Ms. Leon, Ms. Wilhelm, Mr. Callahan, and Mr. Colón, 7. The Motion passed.

A. *Bill No. 45-2024 – Bill No. 45-2024 – Adopt 2025 General Fund Budget*

The Clerk read Bill No. 45-2024 Adopt 2025 General Fund Budget, sponsored by Ms. Wilhelm and Ms. Crampsie Smith and titled:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM,
COUNTIES OF LEHIGH AND NORTHAMPTON,
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, ADOPTING
THE GENERAL FUND BUDGET FOR 2025

Voting AYE: Ms. Crampsie Smith, Ms. Kwiatek, Ms. Laird, Ms. Leon, Ms. Wilhelm, Mr. Callahan, and Mr. Colón, 7. Bill No. 45-2024, now known as Ordinance 2024-46, passed on Final Reading.

B. *Bill No. 46-2024 – Bill No. 46-2024 Adopt 2025 Water Fund Budget*

The Clerk read Bill No. 46-2024 Water Fund Budget, sponsored by Ms. Wilhelm and Ms. Crampsie Smith and titled:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM,
COUNTIES OF LEHIGH AND NORTHAMPTON,
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA,
ADOPTING THE WATER FUND BUDGET FOR 2025

Voting AYE: Ms. Crampsie Smith, Ms. Kwiatek, Ms. Laird, Ms. Leon, Ms. Wilhelm, Mr. Callahan, and Mr. Colón, 7. Bill No. 46-2024, now known as Ordinance 2024-47, passed on Final Reading.

C. *Bill No. 47-2024 – Bill No. 47-2024 Adopt 2025 Sewer Fund Budget*

The Clerk read Bill No. 47-2024 Sewer Fund Budget, sponsored by Ms. Wilhelm and Ms. Crampsie Smith and titled:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM,
COUNTIES OF LEHIGH AND NORTHAMPTON,
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA,
ADOPTING THE SEWER FUND BUDGET FOR 2025

Voting AYE: Ms. Crampsie Smith, Ms. Kwiatek, Ms. Laird, Ms. Leon, Ms. Wilhelm, Mr. Callahan, and Mr. Colón, 7. Bill No. 47-2024, now known as Ordinance 2024-48, passed on Final Reading.

D. *Bill No. 48-2024 – Bill No. 48-2024 Adopt Golf Course Enterprise Fund*

The Clerk read Bill No. 48-2024 Golf Course Enterprise Fund, sponsored by Ms. Wilhelm

and Ms. Crampsie Smith and titled:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM,
COUNTIES OF LEHIGH AND NORTHAMPTON,
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, ADOPTING
THE GOLF COURSE ENTERPRISE FUND BUDGET FOR 2025

Voting AYE: Ms. Crampsie Smith, Ms. Kwiatek, Ms. Laird, Ms. Leon, Ms. Wilhelm, Mr. Callahan, and Mr. Colón, 7. Bill No. 48-2024, now known as Ordinance 2024-49, passed on Final Reading.

E. *Bill No. 49-2024 – Bill No. 49-2024 Adopt 2025 Liquid Fuels Fund Budget*

The Clerk read Bill No. 49-2024 Liquid Fuels Fund Budget, sponsored by Ms. Wilhelm and Ms. Crampsie Smith and titled:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM,
COUNTIES OF LEHIGH AND NORTHAMPTON,
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, ADOPTING
THE LIQUID FUELS FUND BUDGET FOR 2025

Voting AYE: Ms. Crampsie Smith, Ms. Kwiatek, Ms. Laird, Ms. Leon, Ms. Wilhelm, Mr. Callahan, and Mr. Colón, 7. Bill No. 49-2024, now known as Ordinance 2024-50, passed on Final Reading.

F. *Bill No. 50-2024 – Bill No. 50-2024 Adopt 2025 Capital Budget for Non-Utilities*

The Clerk read Bill No. 50-2024 Capital Budget for Non-Utilities, sponsored by Ms. Wilhelm and Ms. Crampsie Smith and titled:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM,
COUNTIES OF LEHIGH AND NORTHAMPTON,
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, ADOPTING
THE 2025 CAPITAL BUDGET FOR NON-UTILITIES

Voting AYE: Ms. Crampsie Smith, Ms. Kwiatek, Ms. Laird, Ms. Leon, Ms. Wilhelm, Mr. Callahan, and Mr. Colón, 7. Bill No. 50-2024, now known as Ordinance 2024-51, passed on Final Reading.

G. *Bill No. 51-2024 – Bill No. 51-2024 Adopt 2025 Capital Budget for Water Utilities*

The Clerk read Bill No. 51-2024 Capital Budget for Water Utilities, sponsored by Ms. Wilhelm and Ms. Crampsie Smith and titled:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM,
COUNTIES OF LEHIGH AND NORTHAMPTON,
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, ADOPTING
THE 2025 CAPITAL BUDGET FOR WATER UTILITIES

Voting AYE: Ms. Crampsie Smith, Ms. Kwiatek, Ms. Laird, Ms. Leon, Ms. Wilhelm, Mr. Callahan, and Mr. Colón, 7. Bill No. 51-2024, now known as Ordinance 2024-52, passed on Final Reading.

H. Bill No. 52-2024 – Bill No. 52-2024 Adopt 2025 Capital Budget for Sewer Utilities

The Clerk read Bill No. 52-2024 Capital Budget for Sewer Utilities, sponsored by Ms. Wilhelm and Ms. Crampsie Smith and titled:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM,
COUNTIES OF LEHIGH AND NORTHAMPTON,
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, ADOPTING
THE 2025 CAPITAL BUDGET FOR SEWER UTILITIES

Voting AYE: Ms. Crampsie Smith, Ms. Kwiatek, Ms. Laird, Ms. Leon, Ms. Wilhelm, Mr. Callahan, and Mr. Colón, 7. Bill No. 52-2024, now known as Ordinance 2024-53, passed on Final Reading.

I. Bill No. 53-2024 – Bill No. 53-2024 Adopt 2025 Community Development Block Grant Budget

The Clerk read Bill No. 53-2024 Community Development Block Grant Budget, sponsored by Ms. Wilhelm and Ms. Crampsie Smith and titled:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM,
COUNTIES OF LEHIGH AND NORTHAMPTON,
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA,
ADOPTING THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
BLOCK GRANT BUDGET FOR 2025

Voting AYE: Ms. Crampsie Smith, Ms. Kwiatek, Ms. Laird, Ms. Leon, Ms. Wilhelm, Mr. Callahan, and Mr. Colón, 7. Bill No. 53-2024, now known as Ordinance 2024-54, passed on Final Reading.

J. Bill No. 54-2024 – Bill No. 54-2024 Adopt 2025 Storm Water Fund Budget

The Clerk read Bill No. 54-2024 Storm Water Fund Budget, sponsored by Ms. Wilhelm and Ms. Crampsie Smith and titled:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM,
COUNTIES OF LEHIGH AND NORTHAMPTON,
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, ADOPTING
THE STORM WATER FUND BUDGET FOR 2025

Voting AYE: Ms. Crampsie Smith, Ms. Kwiatek, Ms. Laird, Ms. Leon, Ms. Wilhelm, Mr. Callahan, and Mr. Colón, 7. Bill No. 54-2024, now known as Ordinance 2024-55, passed on Final Reading.

K. *Bill No. 55-2024 – Bill No. 55-2024 Fix 2025 Tax Rate for All City Purposes*

The Clerk read Bill No. 55-2024 Tax Rate for All City Purposes, sponsored by Ms. Wilhelm and Ms. Crampsie Smith and titled:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM,
COUNTIES OF LEHIGH AND NORTHAMPTON,
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, FIXING
THE TAX RATE FOR ALL CITY PURPOSES
FOR THE YEAR 2025

Voting AYE: Ms. Crampsie Smith, Ms. Kwiatek, Ms. Laird, Ms. Leon, Ms. Wilhelm, Mr. Callahan, and Mr. Colón, 7. Bill No. 55-2024, now known as Ordinance 2024-56, passed on Final Reading.

Ms. Kwiatek thanked the Administration for the great presentations during the three hearing nights and for being open to answering questions. She noted that last year, a majority of Council members voted to increase taxes. It is not always easy to make that decision, but most believed it was the more responsible action. Some line items that pushed up the total budget were wise investments, including adding more paramedics and replacing some much-needed emergency radio equipment. This year a tax increase was not necessary, and some of that was because the harder and responsible choice was made last year to raise taxes. She also praised the realistic numbers presented throughout so that no one is caught by surprise if a best-case scenario does not unfold.

Ms. Laird also thanked those responsible for preparing a responsible, well-balanced budget as well as the time taken to explain everything thoroughly during the hearings and preparation sessions. There are exciting initiatives and good plans within this budget. Many throughout our community will benefit from the way the money is being spent.

Ms. Wilhelm additionally complimented the amount of work done in preparing the budget as well as the openness and explanations. She noted that in her three years on Council, not a single amendment has been introduced by Council. This speaks volumes in terms of similar goals.

Ms. Leon also thanked community members for following the process. She, too, has served on Council for three years and said that the most community members have contacted her this year with questions and interest in budget matters. It is great to know that people care.

President Colón said his first meetings attended were budget hearings 10 years ago, even before he was on Council. He remained convinced that these are the most important meetings of the year because planning for spending is the starting point of city government. "That's really the nuts and bolts of how city government works where we dedicate our dollars and where our money comes from," he said. "If you can understand that, you can understand a lot of what goes on in here throughout the year."

L. *Bill No. 56-2024 – Bill No. 56-2024 – Police Vehicle Replacement (3) – Budget Adjustment – Non-Utility Capital Fund*

The Clerk read Bill No. 56-2024 Police Vehicle Replacement (3) – Budget Adjustment, sponsored by Ms. Leon and Ms. Kwiatek and titled:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM,
COUNTIES OF LEHIGH AND NORTHAMPTON,
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA,
AMENDING THE 2024 CAPITAL BUDGET FOR NON-
UTILITIES

Voting AYE: Ms. Crampsie Smith, Ms. Kwiatek, Ms. Laird, Ms. Leon, Ms. Wilhelm, Mr. Callahan, and Mr. Colón, 7. Bill No. 56-2024, now known as Ordinance 2024-57, passed on Final Reading.

M. *Bill No. 57-2024 – Bill No. 57-2024 – Police Vehicle Replacement (2) – Budget Adjustment – Non-Utility Capital Fund*

The Clerk read Bill No. 57-2024 Police Vehicle Replacement (2) – Budget Adjustment, sponsored by Ms. Leon and Ms. Kwiatek and titled:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM,
COUNTIES OF LEHIGH AND NORTHAMPTON,
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING
THE 2024 CAPITAL BUDGET FOR NON-UTILITIES

Voting AYE: Ms. Crampsie Smith, Ms. Kwiatek, Ms. Laird, Ms. Leon, Ms. Wilhelm, Mr. Callahan, and Mr. Colón, 7. Bill No. 57-2024, now known as Ordinance 2024-58, passed on Final Reading.

N. *Bill No. 58-2024 – Bill No. 58-2024 – Roster Duty – Budget Adjustment – General Fund Budget*

The Clerk read Bill No. 58-2024 – Roster Duty – Budget Adjustment, sponsored by Ms. Leon and Ms. Kwiatek and titled:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM,
COUNTIES OF LEHIGH AND NORTHAMPTON,
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA,
AMENDING THE GENERAL FUND BUDGET FOR 2024

Voting AYE: Ms. Crampsie Smith, Ms. Kwiatek, Ms. Laird, Ms. Leon, Ms. Wilhelm, Mr. Callahan, and Mr. Colón, 7. Bill No. 58-2024, now known as Ordinance 2024-59, passed on Final Reading.

O. *Bill No. 59-2024 – Bill No. 59-2024 Organized Crime Task Force Budget – Budget Adjustment – General Fund Budget*

The Clerk read Bill No. 59-2024 Organized Crime Task Force Budget – Budget Adjustment, sponsored by Ms. Leon and Ms. Kwiatek and titled:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM,
COUNTIES OF LEHIGH AND NORTHAMPTON,
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA,
AMENDING THE GENERAL FUND BUDGET FOR 2024

Ms. Kwiatek noted the earlier question about this matter under Public Comment. She wanted to confirm that the \$5,000 would be coming to the police as money being granted to the City for participation in the Task Force.

Police Chief Michele Kott said that was correct. This is not a City outlay.

Voting AYE: Ms. Crampsie Smith, Ms. Kwiatek, Ms. Laird, Ms. Leon, Ms. Wilhelm, Mr. Callahan, and Mr. Colón, 7. Bill No. 59-2024, now known as Ordinance 2024-60, passed on Final Reading.

P. *Bill No. 60-2024 – Bill No. 60-2024 Amend Health Immunization Account – Budget Adjustment – General Fund Budget*

The Clerk read Bill No. 60-2024 Health Immunization Account – General Fund Budget, sponsored by Ms. Leon and Ms. Kwiatek and titled:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM,
COUNTIES OF LEHIGH AND NORTHAMPTON,
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING
THE GENERAL FUND BUDGET FOR 2024

Voting AYE: Ms. Crampsie Smith, Ms. Kwiatek, Ms. Laird, Ms. Leon, Ms. Wilhelm, Mr. Callahan, and Mr. Colón, 7. Bill No. 60-2024, now known as Ordinance 2024-61, passed on Final Reading.

9. NEW ORDINANCES

None.

10. RESOLUTIONS

A. *Approve Resolution – 2024 41 Traffic Signal Upgrades on Pennsylvania Ave., Union Blvd., and Eaton Ave. – Traffic Planning and Design, Inc.*

Ms. Wilhelm and Ms. Leon sponsored Resolution No. 2024-271 that authorized to execute an Agreement with the Traffic Planning and Design, Inc. to provide design and permitting of traffic signal upgrades at Union Boulevard and Pennsylvania and Eaton Avenues.

Ms. Laird said she is pleased to see this moving forward. She especially noted the need for better pedestrian safety at an intersection that likely would be travelled by those shopping for food. This is not currently the case.

Ms. Kwiatek noted the pedestrian safety concerns and those regarding speeding vehicles. She asked if there would be a community engagement process as improvements are implemented.

Mr. Alkhal said no. This is a standard upgrade project. There is not a formal public comment period. However, like all other intersections, whatever is required for the upgrade would be according to meeting all of today's standards including pedestrian accommodations, provisions for the hearing impaired, and all other criteria. Traffic counts will be conducted. After implementation, if new concerns arise, the public can comment and the City can review the situation.

Voting AYE: Ms. Crampsie Smith, Ms. Kwiatek, Ms. Laird, Ms. Leon, Ms. Wilhelm, Mr. Callahan, and Mr. Colón, 7. The Resolution passed.

B. Approve Resolution – 2025 03 Preferred Employee Assistance Program

Ms. Wilhelm and Ms. Leon sponsored Resolution No. 2024-272 that authorized to execute an Agreement with Preferred EAP for Employee Assistance Program services for years 2025 and 2026.

Voting AYE: Ms. Crampsie Smith, Ms. Kwiatek, Ms. Laird, Ms. Leon, Ms. Wilhelm, Mr. Callahan, and Mr. Colón, 7. The Resolution passed.

C. Approve Resolution – 2025 04 Website Maintenance and Support – KSA&D

Ms. Wilhelm and Ms. Leon sponsored Resolution No. 2024-273 that authorized to execute an Agreement with KSA&D to provide website maintenance and support.

Voting AYE: Ms. Crampsie Smith, Ms. Kwiatek, Ms. Laird, Ms. Leon, Ms. Wilhelm, Mr. Callahan, and Mr. Colón, 7. The Resolution passed.

D. Approve Resolution – Amendment No. 1 to Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement with Fountain Hill – Yard Waste Facility Usage for 2025

Ms. Wilhelm and Ms. Leon sponsored Resolution No. 2024-274 that authorized to execute Amendment No. 1 to the Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement with Fountain Hill involving use of the City's Yard Waste Facility.

Voting AYE: Ms. Crampsie Smith, Ms. Kwiatek, Ms. Laird, Ms. Leon, Ms. Wilhelm, Mr. Callahan, and Mr. Colón, 7. The Resolution passed.

E. Approve Resolution – Amendment No. 1 to Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement with Hanover Twp. – Yard Waste Facility Usage for 2025

Ms. Wilhelm and Ms. Leon sponsored Resolution No. 2024-275 that authorized to execute Amendment No. 1 to the Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement with Hanover Township, Northampton County, involving use of the City's Yard Waste Facility.

Voting AYE: Ms. Crampsie Smith, Ms. Kwiatek, Ms. Laird, Ms. Leon, Ms. Wilhelm, Mr. Callahan, and Mr. Colón, 7. The Resolution passed.

F. Certificate of Appropriateness – HCC – 2024.11#848 – 335 Shawnee Street

Ms. Wilhelm and Ms. Leon sponsored Resolution No. 2024-276 that authorized to demolish an existing 2 1/2-story masonry factory building and neighboring 1-story semi-demolished garage.

Voting AYE: Ms. Crampsie Smith, Ms. Kwiatek, Ms. Laird, Ms. Leon, Ms. Wilhelm, Mr. Callahan, and Mr. Colón, 7. The Resolution passed.

G. Certificate of Appropriateness – HCC – 2024.11#849 – 312 East Fourth Street

Ms. Wilhelm and Ms. Leon sponsored Resolution No. 2024-277 that authorized to demolish an existing stone wall, abandoned wells and existing asphalt access before re-grading the resulting area.

Voting AYE: Ms. Crampsie Smith, Ms. Kwiatek, Ms. Laird, Ms. Leon, Ms. Wilhelm, Mr. Callahan, and Mr. Colón, 7. The Resolution passed.

H. Certificate of Appropriateness – HARB – 25 East Wall Street

Ms. Wilhelm and Ms. Leon sponsored Resolution No. 2024-278 that authorized to replace the existing garage roof shingles at the rear of the property with GAF Slateline shingles in the Antique Slate color.

Voting AYE: Ms. Crampsie Smith, Ms. Kwiatek, Ms. Laird, Ms. Leon, Ms. Wilhelm, Mr. Callahan, and Mr. Colón, 7. The Resolution passed.

I. Certificate of Appropriateness – HARB – 60 East Church Street

Ms. Wilhelm and Ms. Leon sponsored Resolution No. 2024-279 that authorized to construct a new one-story Family Room addition on the East side of the home toward the rear.

Voting AYE: Ms. Crampsie Smith, Ms. Kwiatek, Ms. Laird, Ms. Leon, Ms. Wilhelm, Mr. Callahan, and Mr. Colón, 7. The Resolution passed.

J. Certificate of Appropriateness – HARB – 459 Main Street

Ms. Wilhelm and Ms. Leon sponsored Resolution No. 2024-280 that authorized to install a 36-inch round, double sided, carved sign with the text “Sonny Moon” on an existing scroll bracket.

Voting AYE: Ms. Crampsie Smith, Ms. Kwiatek, Ms. Laird, Ms. Leon, Ms. Wilhelm, Mr. Callahan, and Mr. Colón, 7. The Resolution passed.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned 8:17 PM.

ATTEST:

Tad J. Miller
City Clerk