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AGENDA FOR SPECIAL PURPOSE EMERGENCY MEETING OF  
BETHLEHEM CITY COUNCIL  
SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2020 - 9:00 AM  
TOWN HALL – 10 EAST CHURCH STREET – BETHLEHEM PA

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Pledge to the Flag.

1. Roll Call.
2. Public Comment. (on any subject not being voted on this evening – 5 Minute Time Limit)
3. Public Comment. (For public comment on Resolution to be voted on by Council this evening – 5 Minute Time Limit)
4. Resolution: Joint Declaration of Disaster Emergency by the City Council of the City of Bethlehem and the Mayor.
5. Adjournment.

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

Authorization for

JOINT DECLARATION OF DISASTER EMERGENCY  
BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM  
AND THE MAYOR OF THE CITY

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Bethlehem that the Mayor and the President of City Council are hereby authorized to execute the JOINT DECLARATION OF DISASTER EMERGENCY BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM AND THE MAYOR OF THE CITY proposed this date by the Mayor. The proposed Proclamation is hereby adopted in full:

- 1) as a declaration of findings by Council;
- 2) as Council's authorization and Proclamation of the disaster emergency; and
- 3) as Council's authorization for the duration and legally required authorization to extend the Proclamation for the duration of the governor's Proclamation of the disaster emergency in the Commonwealth.

Sponsored by ADOPTED by Council this \_\_\_\_\_ day of March, 2020.

Sponsored by /s/ \_\_\_\_\_

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_

ADOPTED by Council this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_

President of Council

ATTEST:

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_

City Clerk

# **BACKGROUND DOCUMENT**



# **CITY OF BETHLEHEM**

## **JOINT PROCLAMATION OF DISASTER EMERGENCY BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM AND THE MAYOR OF THE CITY**

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania Governor Thomas Wolf declared on March 6, 2020 an imminent disaster and emergency in existence in the Commonwealth, and further issued a Proclamation with respect to the disaster and emergency caused by the ongoing worldwide pandemic from spread of the COVID-19 virus - also known as the Coronavirus - wherein the Governor stated:

WHEREAS, this threat of imminent disaster and emergency situation throughout the Commonwealth is of such magnitude and severity as to render essential the Commonwealth's supplementation of emergency resources and mutual aid to the county and municipal governments of this Commonwealth and to require the activation of all applicable state, county, and municipal emergency response plans.

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to the provisions of Subsection 7301(c) of the Emergency Management Services Code, 35 Pa. C.S. § 7101, et seq., I do hereby proclaim the existence of a disaster emergency throughout the Commonwealth.

WHEREAS, Governor Wolf also Proclaimed on March 6, 2020:

STILL FURTHER, I hereby urge the governing bodies and executive officers of all political subdivisions affected by this emergency to act as necessary to meet the current exigencies as legally authorized under this Proclamation, namely, by the employment of temporary workers, by the rental of equipment, and by entering into such contracts and agreements as may be required to meet the emergency, all without regard to those time consuming procedures and formalities normally prescribed by law, mandatory constitutional requirement excepted.

WHEREAS, a pandemic disaster caused by the COVID-19 virus has caused and imminently threatens to cause injury, damage, and suffering to the persons and property in the City of Bethlehem; and

WHEREAS, the disaster emergency endangers the health, safety and welfare of a substantial number of persons residing in the City of Bethlehem, and threatens to create problems greater in scope than the City of Bethlehem may be able to resolve; and

WHEREAS, emergency management measures are required to reduce the severity of this disaster and to protect the health, safety and welfare of affected residents in the City of Bethlehem:

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the undersigned Mayor of the City of Bethlehem, and the President of City Council, authorized by resolution duly adopted by Council concurrent herewith, pursuant to the provisions of Section 7501 of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Services Code, (35 PA C.S., Section 7501), as amended, do hereby proclaim the existence of a disaster emergency in the City of Bethlehem.

FURTHER, we direct the City of Bethlehem Emergency Management Coordinator to coordinate the activities of the emergency response, to take all appropriate action needed to alleviate the effects of this disaster, to aid in the restoration of essential public services, and to take any other emergency response action deemed necessary to respond to this emergency declared by the Governor and by the City.

FURTHER, we authorize officials of the City of Bethlehem to act as necessary to meet the current demands of this emergency, namely: by the employment of temporary workers, by the rental of equipment, by the purchase of supplies and materials, and by entering into such contracts and agreements for the performance of public work as may be required to meet the emergency, all without regard to those time-consuming procedures and formalities normally prescribed by law, mandatory constitutional requirements excepted.

STILL FURTHER, we authorize and direct:

- 1) that this Proclamation shall take effect immediately, with the full force and extent authorized under law, upon execution by all persons whose signatures are required below;
- 2) that this Proclamation shall remain in effect concurrent with and for the duration of the disaster emergency declared by the Governor;
- 3) that such extensions as may be required by law to continue the Proclamation in force and effect for such duration are deemed and are hereby authorized; and
- 4) that this Proclamation may be amended and continued by the City as it deems necessary notwithstanding amendment or ending of the Governor’s Proclamation.

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Robert J. Donchez, Mayor

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Adam R. Waldron, City Council President

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Robert G. Vidoni, Esquire, Clerk, City Council

Date: \_\_\_\_\_