

CITY OF BETHLEHEM

DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND SEWER RESOURCES INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Michael Colon, City Council President

FROM: Edward J. Boscola, PE, Director of Water and Sewer Resources

RE: Request for Municipal Adoption of the Palmer Township Act 537 Plan

DATE: August 13, 2025

Please find attached for Council's review and approval a Resolution adopting the Palmer Township Act 537 Plan.

Sanitary sewage from a small portion of Palmer Township flows through Bethlehem Township and then the City of Bethlehem to the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant. Intermunicipal agreements are in place to reflect this arrangement.

Per this Act 537 Plan, Palmer Township will be redirecting sewage flow from approximately 165 mostly residential units, that currently goes to the Easton WWTP, to the Bethlehem WWTP. Palmer Township will abandon a 50 year old pump station which is at the end of its useful life and will redirect the flow via new gravity lines through Bethlehem Township and the City for treatment. Development in this area of Palmer Township and the adjacent area of Bethlehem Township over the past 50 years has made it more economical and feasible to make this change rather than rebuild the pump station.

The Resolution is required per the Pennsylvania Sewage Facilities Act and rules and regulations of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection because flow from Palmer Township is being added to the collection and treatment system of the City of Bethlehem.

The City of Bethlehem WWTP has the treatment capacity to accept this additional flow. The Department of Water and Sewer Resources concurs with the Plan and recommends adoption of the Plan by Resolution.

The City's WWTP serves all or parts of the following municipalities: City of Bethlehem, Hanover Township Northampton County, Hanover Township Lehigh County, Hellertown Borough, Fountain Hill Borough, Bethlehem Township, Freemansburg Borough, City of Allentown, Salisbury Township, Lower Saucon Township, Palmer Township, Lower Nazareth Township and East Allen Township.

Council's consideration of this matter will be greatly appreciated. Please feel free to contact me at 610-865-7207 or EBoscola@bethlehem-pa.gov should you have any questions or need additional information

By: 

Copies to: J. William Reynolds, Mayor
J. Spirk, Solicitor
E. Evans
W. Reese
File

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-_____

**A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE PALMER TOWNSHIP ACT 537
SEWAGE FACILITIES PLAN UPDATE**

RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM, NORTHAMPTON AND LEHIGH COUNTIES, PENNSYLVANIA (hereinafter "the municipality").

WHEREAS, Section 5 of the Act of January 24, 1966, P.L. 1535, No. 537, known as the "Pennsylvania Sewage Facilities Act", as amended, and the Rules and Regulations of the Department of Environmental Protection (Department) adopted thereunder, Chapter 71 of Title 25 of the Pennsylvania Code, requires the municipality to adopt an Official Sewage Facilities Plan providing for sewage services adequate to prevent contamination of waters and/or environmental health hazards with sewage wastes, and to revise said plan whenever it is necessary to meet the sewage disposal needs of the municipality, and

WHEREAS, Palmer Township has prepared an Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan Update to evaluate sewage management within the Sheridan Drive Pump Station service area within Palmer Township, and

WHEREAS, the Planning Area is located within the Lehigh River watershed, which is classified by PADEP as Warm Water Fishes, Migratory Fishes (WWF, MF), and

WHEREAS, the Selected Alternative to be implemented includes constructing a sewer extension to the Bethlehem Township collection and conveyance system, which is owned and operated by the Bethlehem Township Municipal Authority (BTMA). Wastewater will then be further conveyed to the City of Bethlehem's WWTP for treatment and disposal, which is also located within the Lehigh River watershed. This sewer extension will eliminate the need for the Sheridan Drive Pump Station in its entirety. The Selected Alternative is proposed to be implemented by December 2026, and

WHEREAS, the Selected Alternative will be financed directly through Palmer Township and will not impact and/or establish user rates, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Bethlehem of Northampton and Lehigh Counties, has found the Palmer Township Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan Update adequate for the wastewater disposal and management needs of the City and hereby adopts the Palmer Township Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan Update, as a revision to the Official Plan of the municipality. The City of Bethlehem hereby assures the Department of the proper and

timely implementation of the revised Plan as required by law. (Section 5, Pennsylvania Sewage Facilities Act as amended).

Sponsored by /s/ _____

/s/ _____

ADOPTED by Council this day of , 2025.

/s/ _____
President of Council

ATTEST:

/s/ _____
City Clerk

I, Tad J. Miller, City Clerk of the City of Bethlehem hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of Resolution No. 2025-____, adopted _____, 2025.
