

BETHLEHEM CITY COUNCIL MEETING
10 East Church Street - Town Hall
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania
Tuesday, February 1, 2022 - 7:00 PM

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

1. ROLL CALL

President Colón called the meeting to order. Present were Grace Crampsie Smith, Hillary G. Kwiatek, Rachel Leon, Paige Van Wirt, Kiera L. Wilhelm, and Michael G. Colón, 6.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

December 21, 2021.

Appointment of a New Council Member

President Colón announced tonight we will be appointing a new member of Council later on tonight's agenda to fill our City Council vacancy that was created when Mayor J. William Reynolds resigned from City Council. Tonight during the second public comment period after all in attendance had a chance to comment the candidates for the Council vacancy will have the option to speak about their candidacy. After we hear from the candidates who wish to speak we will proceed with the rest of the agenda for tonight. When we reach agenda item 10 E, the resolution to appoint our 7th Member of Council, we will go through the process of nominating and appointing a new Council Member. Prior to nominations tonight Council Members will all have an opportunity to make comments and discuss the appointment that is on the agenda tonight.

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

Bethlehem Police Department

Michelle Downing, 626 W. Lehigh Street, informed she came to speak to Council tonight because like many others she is a survivor of domestic abuse and like many others she was ashamed to report it. At the time she was in fear that her partner was going to lose their career. Recently she believes that the Bethlehem Police Department was brought into a civil matter and it is likely that they were even unaware of the history or what circumstances they were walking into when the 911 system was weaponized by an individual who is well aware of the police procedure in response. What they did not know and did not ask her about is that she is currently recovering from a traumatic brain injury which causes her to struggle with things like her balance, stairs, and emotional regulation. It is not the first time that she has been considered to appear intoxicated and that has not matched the accurate assessment of her real physical state. Ms. Downing added the police informed her that they had received a 911 call because of a potential of self-harm and she was assisted to sit down inside her own home and then escorted to the hospital for what was reported to be for her own protection. While she does understand the rationale and desire to

stand on procedures, that procedure happened to be weaponized against her to create an opportunity to remove items from her home including 2 beloved pets who she has not seen and has no knowledge of since the day this occurred. She would like to stress that while the situation regarding her precious pets may be a civil matter and it may seem trivial to some people, the ownership of at least one of those pets predates her marriage and to this day she does not know where they are or if they are even alive. She has engaged numerous county and city agencies and she feels like she has not been heard. Ms. Downing is in her own right, she is a respected, educated, and well knowledgeable professional in a field of mental health and she has served the Lehigh Valley for almost 15 years now. She understands these procedures more intimately than the average citizen does. She knows what will happen, if you call 911 and ask for a welfare check or say that someone is going to harm themselves, but that did not protect her from being protected in this situation. She would be more than willing to allow the system to run its course but again, she has two living creatures that she had not heard from in almost two weeks now, and she does not know if they are alive. She also mentioned that a few hours before the Bethlehem police showed up at her house she had to have her oldest and third dog euthanized in the middle of her living room floor. Since that incident she has experienced severe trauma symptoms and she works from her bedroom with the doors closed and her curtains drawn because she is afraid that the police will show up again. Whether or not that is rational, that is trauma. If she would need to call for help at this point in time she would not activate the 911 system and she would not call again. Ms. Downing informed she is unable to move on from this situation and has received little to no response from the Bethlehem Police Department despite following all of the rules and filling out all of the correct paperwork. She is coming before Council because she remains unheard and she would appreciate some assistance.

President Colón explained to Ms. Downing that our Chief of Police Michelle Kott is at this meeting tonight and she is welcome to speak to her or to hang around after the meeting to talk to any Members of Council individually.

Executive Session

Stephen Antalics, 737 Ridge, 201 Butztown Road remarked at the last Council Meeting there was an appointment for a Solicitor for Council and also an appointment for Assistant Solicitor for the Administration. Both items were on the agenda for that meeting which became public on January 14, 2022. Subsequent to that meeting he was informed that possibly the person appointed as Assistant Solicitor to the Administration was also a candidate for Council Solicitor. It gave him reasons to ask questions tonight. The first question is when was the person offered by the Administration the position as Assistant Solicitor, since it was on the agenda for the January 3, 2022 meeting. So it was some time quite prior to that. Number two, did the Administration know that this person they were considering for Assistant Solicitor was also seeking position the position of Council Solicitor. Was the person appointed by the Administration for the Administration position informed the Administration that they had applied for the Council Solicitor position? Since the choice of the Solicitor was made at Council's previously unannounced January 10, 2022 Executive Session did the Administration have knowledge of the results thereby clearing the way for its selection for the Assistant Solicitor position. Mr. Antalics noted should not the deliberations at a Council Executive Session be kept secret until publicly announced. So were the meeting results leaked to the Administration and who might be responsible? That raises serious questions for him. Going back to the January 18, 2022 meeting he spoke to some professionals who practice law and they have had problems with the January

18, 2022 meeting. The fact that the resolution read Brian J. Panella, Esq. is hereby appointed to City Council Solicitor because the decision was made at the Executive Session and also was confirmed at the Council Meeting. In a sense of transparency and openness which we would expect of Council, he feels that resolution should have read Council will hereby appoint a Solicitor based upon our reviews and read the list of the candidates for the position and then vote publicly for that person. This was all done in secrecy because the meeting on January 10, 2022, the Executive Session meeting was never announced at the January 3, 2022 meeting, so there is secrecy here. The last time City Council to the best of his knowledge had a Solicitor appointed at an Executive Session and that goes back to John Morganelli and Council at that time said they will go into Executive Session to vote for Solicitor and the names of the candidates were mentioned at the open meeting and then he was appointed Solicitor at the Executive Session and then announced at the next public meeting. Mr. Antalics would hate to see this Council with these new members getting off on a foot where there is a lack of transparency and the need for secrecy. He looks forward to some answers.

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

Council Vacancy Candidates

Anna Smith, 631 Ridge Street, remarked a week and a half ago she was planning to speak this evening under very different circumstances. She had hoped to introduce herself and her thoughts on the future of our city in support of her own application to Council. But she is here tonight to present her thoughts on why you should not nominate her or someone like her to fill the vacancy on Council. You can make that historic nomination this evening and she wanted to discuss briefly why this matters so much. Like most communities in the Lehigh Valley our city faces significant challenges in assuring access to affordable and quality housing for individuals of all income levels. We need to act locally to address the impacts of climate change with an eye on environmental justice. We need to make sure we are addressing public health and safety using a comprehensive approach that leaves no one behind and that centers the inherent worth of every individual who calls our city home. We need to ensure that our youth have equitable access to sports, parks, recreation, after school and summer programming that provide opportunities for community building. We need to support the small businesses that are crucial to building livable connected neighborhoods recognizing that women and entrepreneurs of color in our community are leading the way. We need to make decisions balancing the everyday livability of our city and the limitations of a budget that has relied on debt to make ends meet. Ms. Smith pointed out we have an excellent team of Council Members here prepared to meet these challenges but as folks who know her have heard that the best possible plans, policies and proposals are developed from community engage processes that draw on the experiences and knowledge of stakeholders from all backgrounds. It is up to Council Members to engage stakeholders throughout our city in these discussions and to represent the perspective of community members here in Town Hall. She is focusing on who could engage more members of our community and highlight perspectives that have been under-represented historically in this rotunda. She is convinced there is one candidate before you this evening who has a head start when it comes to building the relationships necessary to broaden the reach and representation of your work due to a lifetime of experience as a resident and trusted educator. There is one applicant whose deep ties to our community and ability to add representation which has been missing from Bethlehem City Council since its incorporation and this could be transformative as you collectively tackle the challenges facing our

community. Ms. Smith decided to withdraw her application for Council because she believes that the appointment of Bethlehem's first Black Council Member is long overdue. She is happy to support the historic nomination of Dr. Wandalyn Enix to City Council. However, she would add that you have a number of other candidates with valuable experience and desire to serve our community here this evening. Council is not the only body that requires dedicated volunteers with deep community ties. She hopes that this initial call for applications can kick start an effort to increase representation on all of our City's Authorities, Boards, and Commissions. Also that you seriously consider the creation of some sort of Citizen City Government Academy, something like that to prepare qualified candidates from all backgrounds and areas of the city for service on the many extremely important ABC's that shape our community. Increasing representation and diversity in every aspect of our city's work will make our community stronger. You have the power to begin that process of engagement now. She looks forward to supporting this and being a part of this in any way she can.

Rayah Levy, 1609 Stanford Road, pointed out she will also be reading a letter from another individual besides herself. She remarked that Wandalyn Enix is highly educated and well qualified for the position on City Council. The fact that her family has a deep rooted history dating back to the 1920's, the fact that she was born, raised, and educated in Bethlehem are all added pluses. However, the quality that stands out most is her involvement in the community where she lives, in Bethlehem. Even though many of us live in communities all of our lives, yet so many of us do not get involved. Dr. Enix is not that person, the injustices that she faced while living in Bethlehem are the catalysts that drove her to see to it that all people are treated justly and fairly. Imagine a child being shunned or scorned because their teacher refused to distribute cupcakes their mother made to celebrate a birthday, or imagine a time when you had to clean up your brother's vomit because the janitor refused to do it because of the color of his skin. Dr. Enix was that child. The time has come for us to take a page out of the history book of the early Moravians that settled here in Bethlehem 280 years ago. As a community they were ahead of their time when it came to equity, diversity, and inclusion. Even though it was a period in history when slavery was the law of the land they defied those laws by not adhering to society's hatred to its individuals. They provided housing, healthcare, childcare, eldercare, and education for all their brethren. The Indigenous and Black's ate, slept, worked, and buried alongside the Moravian Europeans. Ms. Levy stated in closing there is a reason the Moravian's named this city Bethlehem, it was supposed to be that light, that example of what brotherhood and sisterhood should mean. Therefore the time has come for Members of City Council to change the narrative, let us be an example to other majority White communities. She added to show them that representation matters show them that you are not just chatting, a term that her son's generation often uses, meaning talking just for talking sake. Nominate your first African-American, Dr. Wandalyn Enix for the vacant seat on City Council and add to the tapestry one of the descendants of an enslaved generation that built and bled for what is America. She then read a letter from Liza Holzinger; she was the Director of Development and Public Relations Coordinator and a retired Bethlehem Area Public Library Staff. She lives at 301 Carver Drive. She said, "I would like to voice my support for Dr. Wandalyn Enix to be appointed to the vacant City Council seat. The mission statement on the City of Bethlehem's website reads in part, today Bethlehem is experiencing and economic and cultural renaissance promising a future as bright as the city's past. I firmly support that the past two years of increased awareness of racial inequality will inform City Council's decision tonight. Now is your chance to live into the city's mission statement. Dr. Enix's family has resided in Bethlehem for over 100 years. Like many Black families in the city they were educated, worked, and were productive citizens in a city that even today does not represent them

in governing body. Dr. Enix is well educated and her community service and professional resume makes her exceptionally qualified to serve as a Council Member. She is endorsed by the Bethlehem NAACP and I respectfully ask you to make the historical appointment for Dr. Wandalyn Enix to City Council."

Bud Hackett, 201 East Macada Road, explained he would like to provide some public input on the selection criteria and process for the new Council Member. Tonight is such an important night for at least one candidate for the people of Bethlehem and such an important time for the city. The new Mayor and Council are so lucky to have received \$34 million dollars from President Biden but the City's Business Manager has warned of 7% plus tax increases in the coming years, so big decisions need to be made over the next few months. It is his hope and the hope of many in the city that Council would choose a highly qualified person to join their ranks. Mr. Hackett is sure the criteria includes experience, skills, character, and of course politics. He would ask that you consider the concept of balance for City Council. He understands it is an all Democratic City Council and there is a certain saneness of thought among the members. Remember the old expression "When two people always agree one of them is unnecessary." Please consider that Council may be better off with a new Council Member that offers a balance to the group think we have on Council right now, the level of agreement you have. Maybe someone with a different view would actually help Council Members look at different perspectives on key issues. Maybe someone with a private sector view could help Council, someone who does not work in the public sector or in the non-profit sector, someone who has had to struggle making a payroll and has to employ people and has had the experience of finance, accounting and product operations. It is a different perspective. Mr. Hackett added that City Council would be better if there were more Council Members with a different, more balanced approach to managing the city.

Margot Hillman, 1256 Moffitt Avenue, explained she is at this meeting to support the appointment of Dr. Wandalyn Enix to City Council as has been noted, a number of impressive candidates have applied for the open seat. We are fortunate. Why Dr. Enix? That is because in addition to her qualifications and history of service her cover letter is the only one that mentions issues that concern Ms. Hillman very much. These include affordable housing and homelessness.

Jonathan Irons, 1204 West Market Street, wanted to make a statement about the appointment tonight of a new Council Member. There is absolutely a need to change representation in the city and in our local governments. That is something he is committed to and seeing the changing faces on Council now is very refreshing and seeing a lot of engagement in the process and seeing applicants who are interested in being appointed, that is encouraging. There are a lot of candidates that are well qualified and to him one of the qualities he is searching for is that engagement piece. That is because as many of you know getting people to get involved in municipal government is very hard. He has some experience both in education and in community organizing and he knows that talking about issues is difficult, there is a lot of misinformation around and in general the government process is very bureaucratic and hard to understand. It is easy to just walk away and not pay attention. The active engagement is a process that needs to be designed from the ground up and have a lot of structure and intent. He is looking for the qualities of an individual who has the ability to do that engagement, the people who have the community organizing experience. Mr. Irons remarked there are several candidates who have that, Allison Mickel has that experience, both in her University career and in community organizing and also Darian Colbert, he has a great deal of experience and particularly

working with young people. Mr. Irons is an educator and he is looking forward to the future of Bethlehem and looking at engaging young people and getting kids in middle school and high school involved in local government that would be a great asset to the city and a great asset to our agenda to make progress. Mr. Irons is asking Council to consider those things in your nomination tonight.

Bill Scheirer, 1890 Eaton Avenue, remarked he wanted to add that if you go into the original cemetery, God's Acre, and stand at the main aisle and look to your left, the first grave is a settler who unfortunately died during the first winter and the second one says Daniel, an Indian Boy age 9. Mr. Scheirer informed he would like to support Dr. Wandalyn Enix for the Council vacancy. We are fellow members of the Board of Directors of the South Bethlehem Historical Society. Dr. Enix is thoughtful, insightful, and incisive, she will bring to the Council not only her academic credentials and experience but a profound and appreciative knowledge of the history of Bethlehem. She is working on a book about Bethlehem's Black history using in part which she learned from her father Ernest Enix, who was a WWII veteran, a Union official at the Bethlehem Steel, a Church Deacon, and founder of the Colored Voters Association who supported Mayor Pfeifle. During the Administration of Mayor Ken Smith a small park at the corner of Pawnee and Mohican Streets was named after Mr. Enix. Her grandfather who was the son of former slaves worked on the construction of the Hill-to-Hill Bridge. Prior to being a professor at Montclair University, Dr. Enix taught in the Bethlehem Area School District and was the Executive Director of an affordable Child Care Center with 150 children and 32 full time employees. Wandalyn's mother was a descendent of Creek Indians, making her multi-racial and an example of the future of America, which is becoming a multi-racial society for the essence of America, is not a race but rather an idea.

Barbara Diamond, 425 Center Street, noted she is also at this meeting to support the appointment of Dr. Enix. She has a long history of community service and she would be an excellent candidate.

Seth Moglen, 726 Hillside Avenue, related he is also at this meeting to enthusiastically support the nomination of Wandalyn Enix for Bethlehem City Council. You have seen her resume, she has had a long experience as a teacher in the Bethlehem public schools, and has had decades of experience as a teacher and scholar. She is a lifelong member of the Bethlehem NAACP and past president of the NAACP. He added that he wanted to speak about the exclusion of African-Americans in the City of Bethlehem. As some of you know he has been at work on a book about the city from first contact to the present. African descendent people preceded the Moravians in Bethlehem. There were enslaved Black people living in south Bethlehem before the Moravians came. At every moment in the city's history African-Americans have contributed to the wealth and vitality of the city. Every moment they have experienced extraordinarily intense, systematic, sustained, and intentional exclusion. It is true that the Moravians created a remarkably egalitarian community but African descendent people were the only enslaved members of that congregation. The Bethlehem Steel Corporation was so determined not to hire African-Americans that they even went to the length of creating special trains to import Mexican laborers here at a time when European immigration had been curtailed in the 1920's. Mr. Moglen added that African-Americans were so systematically excluded from most major employers in the city; entire generations left the city because they could not find dignified employment. It is so long past due if we correct this history of exclusion. Like others here he is enormously excited and optimistic about our new Council and our new Mayor and our

opportunity to create a more equitable and inclusive city now. But a crucial step in that direction is for us to expand the people who are in positions to make decisions in the city. Professor Enix has all of the qualifications necessary to be a superb Member of City Council and she will bring a perspective that Council has not ever had before. The time has come and this is an exciting day in the history of our city.

Stephen Antalics, 737 Ridge, remarked he has spoken to a number of people over the years who were regulars at Council. The comments were that some of these people really do not know the city. You would expect someone who is going to manage the city should have two things, intelligence and knowledge of the city. There was a time back with Bob Donchez, Mike Schweder, Jean Belinski, Maggie Szabo, Paul Calvo, they were all born in the city and the city did well under their supervision. He personally does not know Dr. Enix but what he has learned this evening, he does not want to be rude but if you took her years in the city and added all the years of the people currently on Council, she might weigh you in the terms of the number of years. He apologizes if it offends anybody but that is on his mind. Mr. Antalics thinks that Council has the obligation to bring to Council intelligence and experience of the city because to rule a city you must know the city.

Candidates for the Council Appointment

Darian Colbert, 337 W. Lehigh Street, remarked before he begins speaking he wanted to celebrate Dr. Wandalyne Enix, just listening to her credentials and rich history, he wanted to celebrate her as an elder of Black people in this community. He wanted to share a phrase and then tell a true story. The phrase is that "I believe people are the greatest asset on Planet Earth." We are way more powerful together. The story he would like to tell takes place in Haiti, literally 4 days after the earthquake. He had the privilege to lead a team into the Dominican Republic and then to Haiti by ground zero. When we got down there we already had 2 team members down there and they were dealing with different things. The night before, what he did not know was that someone thought they were in trouble so they reached out to our Congressmen and said we are in trouble, send the Marines. But the Marines did not come right away so we came in 4 days later and he gets down and made a makeshift triage and we begin taking care of people. Then the Marines showed up and they could see that he was leading things so the Marine asked for two people which Mr. Colbert then brought over to him. Then this Marine took a pen looking thing and pointed it up into the sky and pressed a button, he said he was communicating to our satellite and he declared this location a safe house. Mr. Colbert was surprised, this earthquake happened and devastated that entire community, there were houses and bodies all around us so he wondered how this is a safe house. The Marine said this is a safe house because of the relationship that your team has with the people. Mr. Colbert stated that is what Bethlehem has the potential to be. He believes all of us in this room have a piece of the answer, which means our solutions must come from our togetherness. We are greater than me, so he wanted to thank everyone for sharing this with him and he wanted to celebrate all of the Council applicants, he knows Allison Mickel very well.

Michael Cunningham, 2017 Lincoln Street, related this is an incredible opportunity to be here and speak before everyone. It is a testament to the strength of our community that there are so many high quality individuals willing to step up and apply for this position. He is an Airforce Veteran, he was a nuclear weapons maintainer and currently he is the Infrastructure Manager for IT at Northampton Community College. Previous to that he was the Information Technology

Manager at ArtsQuest. He also did IT for the Bethlehem Area School District and a little waiting tables in between. He gave in his application for City Council because of a very basic thought. He cares very deeply about Bethlehem; he also feels he is uniquely qualified because he has lived here from more than one perspective. After his enlistment in the Airforce he came here with a little more than the clothes on his back, he struggled to make ends meet like many folks in Bethlehem do every single day. He walked a few miles to and from work to clean and wait on tables. He took the bus across town to put himself through college. He met a lot of good people along the way, people he is still friends with today, some in this very room tonight. Mr. Cunningham added that he met his wife here, right down the street; life has been good for him. They bought a house here in town and he cannot say enough how much he loves Bethlehem. Adopting this city was his best defining decision in his life. Putting roots down in Bethlehem has shown him things we should be concerned about, not only for ourselves but for others as well. Living in a successful and thriving community requires constant care from all of us. As a member of Council and as a member of the community he would focus on preserving the unique small town characteristics of Bethlehem while keeping up with the needed development, housing and infrastructure changes that would be required in our not so distant future. This city is experiencing serious issues with housing availability and cost. We are pricing our residents out of their own neighborhoods. Mr. Cunningham sees this every day on the south side; he is Vice President at the National Sokols. He meets many members of the community; he also works within the health desk of Northampton Community College and talks to all people in all walks of life. He wanted to stress that we need to keep up on the development and housing and infrastructure changes that will be required but it is squeezing the way things have developed. Inflation is hitting folks very hard and it is causing it to be extremely difficult to find housing, to pay for rent. There are single apartments for \$1,300 a month and that makes it difficult. His own brother has been trying to move here for 6 months and cannot find a place. He would want to make sure there is an equitable parking solution for the public on the south side before there is any further massive development. We all know more is coming and there is too much available parking that sits empty devoted to private entities. As the city grows he does believe that problem will become worse, as the site down by Bethlehem Steel developers more and large housing complexes come in all these big parking spots available currently are owned by hospitals and other companies. There is nowhere to go, especially during Musikfest as he is sure everyone is aware. Mr. Cunningham added we have a lot of derelict buildings and vacant lots in town which are eyesores for this community. He is happy about the Boyd Theater being torn down and the rebuilding there; finally we see something done with that. He feels strongly about helping the city move on from that kind of stuff. This is a beautiful town and it deserves to look beautiful. In terms of our local government, he can see the time spent and the devotion required for this task. However, he feels while Council and others are seemingly more accessible than ever before, thankfully for the streaming of this meeting, we are simply not meeting the voters where they are. When he goes out and talks to the town about things that people care about and rarely discuss in these meetings, he believes in engaging the people in smart and direct and easy to understand ways. Why should he be on City Council? The answer is that the people who know him would say that he is a sincere, pragmatic, and honest person. He is willing to fight passionately for what he believes in and he has the temperament to be civil. He is not interested in a career of politics or political advancement; he simply wants what is best for his friends, family, loved ones, and this city. He did ask folks on line if there was anything he could address for them here. He was told that the Monocacy Creek sign on Main Street has been dangling out of place for about half a year. Many folks messaged him that they are very upset with the way UGI repaves the roads after fixing the water mains and gas maintenance. That causes a lot of

potholes as evidence from his drive over here in front of Liberty High School. Thank you for your time and consideration and for all your service to the city. He also thanked everyone who applied for this appointment it speaks volumes about the quality of people in this town.

President Colón added there is another Michael here, Michael Alkhal, Director of Public Works and he is probably taking notes on your comments.

Todd Dietrich, 2337 Woodcrest Avenue, noted he was happy to see that we do not only have 11 applicants but each of us have different backgrounds and skills that could be employed by Council. Yet we all have one thing in common, we care about Bethlehem and want to see it succeed. He has been an active volunteer in the community for many years and the warm welcome he received from the Downtown Bethlehem Association during the very rainy spring cleanup back in 2011 was one of the things that influenced him to buy a home here later that year. Over time he has discovered that Bethlehem has various groups doing good things and he has been fortunate enough to find some he has given his time to. In addition to volunteering with fixtures in the city like Godfrey Daniels and ArtsQuest, he also took it upon himself to try to help the community in his own small ways. Mr. Dietrich explained back in 2015 he noted that while there have been some Bethlehem groups on social media many were filled with a lot of complaints and people wishing things would just go back to the way they used to be but very few had suggestions for how we could make things better. Seeing he had the power to do something he created the Friends of Bethlehem, PA group on Facebook, initially with only one rule. That rule is if you are going to complain about something you also have to suggest a way we can fix it. That group now nearly has 11,000 members sharing about Bethlehem in a positive and constructive manner. His professional career has taken him across the United States working with school districts implementing national school lunch programs software and he got to see the very real impact that poverty and hunger have on our nation and how thoughtful programs can make a huge impact improving society. Later, his work with schools as they implemented financial management and human resources systems gave him firsthand experience with decisions that go into balancing long term obligations like pensions and capital projects along with every day services that also need to be provided without drastic tax increases. Mr. Dietrich explained his current role as a senior project manager for an Ecommerce software company has him working with clients up and down the western hemisphere from small businesses looking to take their first step into selling online to large multi-nationals as they make the next big shift in their company. He feels that his volunteer and professional experience make him a strong candidate for the vacancy on City Council but he also understands that no matter who is selected tonight 10 people will leave not filling that role. It is hope that whoever applied will continue to find ways to help the community. Members of Council, you have a very good problem because you have some excellent candidates to choose from. Regardless of who is selected there will be criticism and suppositions about why someone was chosen over someone else but he knows that City Council will be well served by whoever fills that role in the next two years.

Dr. Wandalyne Enix, 489 Vera Circle, explained she is honored to be here tonight. She wants to be a Member of Bethlehem City Council for many, many reasons. To boil it down to a few reasons, they are these. First, she thinks because of her many and different experiences in education and in this city her many different and many experiences she could bring a different perspective to City Council. During her 44 years in education as you have read she taught at Broughal Middle School and at Nitschmann Middle School when they were Junior High Schools. She taught urban studies, how development impacted a city's shape, size, its people, and its

places and things. Broughal was a family school for two generations of the Enix family it was a source of family pride. She taught the history of African-Americans and civics at Liberty High School and she had to know Bethlehem to bring it to school children. This she did for 11 years. Dr. Enix explained she then went on to direct an affordable childcare program caring for children of our most vulnerable families. We kept 150 children ages, 1 to 10 years of age in Allentown. Working with younger children gave her a perspective she did not have at that time. It let her see a community, that a community's real value is how it impacts its most vulnerable people, its youngest, it's oldest, it's poor, and it's sick. That work she did for 4 years, Volunteers of America Children's Center. She went on to teach courses, undergraduate at Montclair in New Jersey, and award winning teach education program. She also taught grad students earning their Masters, she taught a course called Education in the Inner City. Dr. Enix thought she would tell a little bit about Montclair State University since she spent almost 30 years there. She had her students go out into the inner city and mentor homeless children who lived in shelters away from their families. Also she had her students take children who needed emotional support on visitations to zoo's and to the museums or she would simply have them work with the children who needed help with their homework. While at the same time her graduate students and she discussed the economics of the cities, the politics of the cities, housing issues, development dilemmas and how they impacted education. She was not just a professor lecturing inside the classroom; she personally went to schools in Newark, Patterson, and East Orange. The basis of much of her work was Montclair State University's philosophy called Critical Thinking and critical thinking is what she would bring to City Council. You read her thoughts about college towns of which we are, you read her thoughts about mixed use development and Bethlehem's most crushing need is to develop creative, affordable, and entry level housing while we at the same time must act to protect real estate tax expenses for our marginalized people. Perhaps a restructuring of the real estate taxes so that our seniors could live out their lives in their homes. She said restructuring and not necessarily forgoing necessary tax increases. How can anybody be against that? You read her thoughts about creating more opportunities for business and industry to have a skilled craft workforce and despite her almost 30 years at Montclair you see from her resume that she contributed to our beloved Bethlehem. She pointed out that Bethlehem is a great community; we are heading for a World Heritage status, so let's get together so that we can recognize our diverse south side and its rich ethnic untold history. Let's get together so that we can make Bethlehem an even greater community.

Scott Hawk, 450 High Street, remarked he is a 30 year resident of Bethlehem. His history with Bethlehem goes back to 1968; his father was an Assistant Manager at Woolworths on Main Street. He lives now in south New Jersey and when he comes back to town now he comes to see what has changed. Everybody in this room understands the tremendous change that has happened in Bethlehem, economic change, development, good and bad over the last 30 years. We moved to Hellertown in 1992 and he never worked in Bethlehem until last year, because he worked in north New Jersey. He was one of those people that coming from Philadelphia after Bethlehem he did not want to live in New Jersey for all the same reasons folks are moving here from New Jersey. We lived in Hellertown and did the commute so he is very familiar with the problems of folks who are trying to stay in a place that they can raise their family that was the main attraction for us. We raised 3 kids here and after about 10 years after living in Lower Saucon we decided to move into town because we were always coming over that hill, because his daughter was Irish dancing at the Silk Mill on Broad Street and his 2 sons went to the Charter Arts High School. We moved into the historic district about 12 years ago and got heavily involved in the community and that includes the Historic District Association. Mr. Hawk added

that he and his wife both held Chair positions over the past year. He became an electorate here after he retired from Verizon, he became an election official and worked his first election in this building. That is because after years of volunteering and helping out in all the kids things, the scouts and sports, he wanted to do something a little bit more adult and in the community. While his kids were in high school, the Charter High School was building their building on the south side and he became the Chairman of the foundation. That is when he first got involved in south side politics. He sat at many meetings as we got approval for the various signs, construction permits, and other things. That taught him about the importance of economic development in areas of the city that were truly blighted and needed the investment. After leaving Verizon he started his own consulting business so he could work more local and that is what brings him here today. Now, working and living in Bethlehem he could spend some time with the board. He noted that he does not represent anybody; he thinks he represents everybody and that is the main point. He ran the first diversity council at Verizon in 1996 because the diversity council had no white people on it and that is an important consideration when we talk about diversity, it is not the color of our skin, it is our attitudes. He then said something that may astonish everyone in this room, but he is a registered Republican, which makes him perhaps the most diverse person in this entire room.

John Marquette, 360 Conestoga Street Apt. 6, remarked it was an honor to apply for this position. He put his heart and soul into the application package. In summary, he is an old white male and he thinks he represents in many ways historically, the past. He brings competence here and when he looks around the room especially when he hears the words of one other person, Dr. Enix, he saw diversity he did not represent. He believes in equality and the way to equality is by the practice of equity. He would serve the city well but how would his service contribute to the city's goals of diversity, equity, and inclusion. If another candidate can serve as well as he and contribute to inclusion and equity he urges Council to make that choice. Thank you for considering my application.

Allison Mickel, 1204 W. Market Street, explained she is honored to be considered for a vacancy on Bethlehem City Council and is grateful for the chance to speak today. She is grateful because these speeches represent one more step in the process of gathering information about all of those who have applied to serve our city in this capacity, a process which has been thorough but is not yet complete. She is a direct person so she feels the need to acknowledge that there has been reporting that Council is under pressure to make a specific appointment tonight. But tonight offers a chance to know all of the candidates and their commitments better than we could express in our cover letters and questionnaire responses. Ms. Mickel hopes that everyone in this room and everyone watching on YouTube is making the most of that opportunity. She is an anthropologist at Lehigh University and her research focuses on governance and representation specifically in the cultural heritage sector. That means she spends a lot of time meeting diverse communities and getting to know what is important to them as well as attending meetings with municipal and national officials. She looks for the successes where people are hearing one another and collaborating as well as the break downs where there is some sort of disconnect between what stakeholders want versus the decisions that are getting made. She would like to bring this experience to Council because Bethlehem residents should feel adequately and correctly represented by City Council. In turn, Council should be able to make decisions on the best information possible regarding resident's needs and priorities. Ms. Mickel has done her research in Jordan so she has immersed herself in communities with people as varied as people living in caves and city based entrepreneurs like the person who built the first microbrewery in

Jordan. In order to do this she has to put aside any preconceived notions and value judgements and get to know people on their own terms. She cannot assume that people want to meet her and want to come to her table and tell her their hopes for the future that requires careful and intentional relationship building and outreach. She brought the same care and commitment to meaningful and humbling engagement to the Lehigh Valley in a number of roles in which she has served. She had collaborated with a number of our education and cultural institutions like Historic Bethlehem, the NMIH, Wind Creek, the Steel Workers Union, and Liberty High School. She has built relationships with other non-profits, with religious clergy, with law makers and with people who do not belong to any of those visible groups because they have been historically and systemically excluded from them. Those are the people she is hoping to represent by serving on City Council. Her local involvement and area of specialty have both taught her a lot about the real ways in which cities can make a difference for their residents. Instituting a mandatory inclusionary zoning ordinance in Bethlehem would go a long way towards addressing affordable housing. We are not caught in a bind between satisfying developers and displacing families here in Bethlehem, programs like community benefits agreements can help mediate and appease those parties. Even something like public safety which seems like something we can never all see eye to eye on, we can use evidence and data from other comparable cities to invest in programs that address poverty, programs that reduce crime, make the city safer, and save us money, things we all actually want. Since she one day would like to sit where you are sitting she finds herself thinking what you would want to hear from a candidate. For her, she would want to hear that they are knowledgeable about city government, prepared to listen and learn about experiences different from their own, that they recognize that oppression in Bethlehem and anywhere else is intersectional and complicated and systemic. Ms. Mickel knows that Council wants to make an historic nomination tonight, nominating someone ready to do the really difficult work to uproot that systemic intersectional oppression especially when it means challenging the status quo that is historic. She hopes Council sees her as a candidate prepared and willing to do that, but she is not the only one. Her fellow applicant Darian Colbert has been at the forefront of racial justice organizing efforts for years, he is not just speaking at rallies, he is leading them and make them happen and uplifting the youth behind them. There are a number of opportunities tonight to make an historic nomination to City Council and she looks forward to celebrating the appointment of the person best prepared to make tangible change for the most vulnerable in the city we all love.

Anna Zawieruch, 341 B. Spring Street, thanked Mayor Reynolds and Council for giving her this opportunity to present herself and she wanted to thank the Mayor and Council Members for their dedication and participation in the governance of the City of Bethlehem. She is seeking appointment to City Council as she is invested in the future of Bethlehem. She has lived in many different countries, cities, and boroughs but the Lehigh Valley has been her main residence for the last 30 years. She has made her home in West Bethlehem for the past 6 years. Bethlehem is a very special place; it has a long and deep history. The city is a beautiful tapestry that is rich with history in the transformation that we American's have experienced since the founding of this nation. She believes there are few such cities on the east coast that have as much to offer and as much potential as Bethlehem. Ms. Zawieruch is seeking this position as an experienced public servant. She has been a teacher for over 25 years, she served on the North Catasauqua Borough Council at which time she was the head of the Civil Service Commission. Additionally, she served on the Zoning Board for the borough of Fountain Hill. She seeks this position because it is important for her to take on civic duties because she believes you get out of your community what you put into it. Through actively working for and supporting her community she is

fulfilling her civic duties, something that she values very much. What quality does a Council person have to have, she is asked. She does think it is important that at Council person is open minded. Through her extensive travels and a commitment to reading extensively she knows she could bring fresh perspectives to the Council as well as being open to perspectives others than hers. Another quality that a Council person must have especially in today's world is inclusivity. The City of Bethlehem is a beautiful tapestry, but what makes it so is the diversity we have here in the many different cultures present in our community. Only by allowing all voices to be heard can the fabric of our city remain vibrant and enduring. As a Council person she would hope to utilize her language skills, she is fluent in French, Dutch, as well as proficient in Spanish, which she believes would be an asset for any Council person in Bethlehem where more than 30% of the population speaks a Latin based language. As a Council person she would focus on 3 main campaign platforms, affordable housing, more green space, and stimulate economic growth. She would want the Council to work on grants that would help build affordable housing. She would look to take stock of what our housing inventory is especially underused or vacant properties and make them available to add to the city's housing inventory. Likewise with green spaces, preserve and improve what we have here at the same time as increase our green spaces. Finally, in terms of economic growth she believes we need to give small businesses as much support as possible through effective policies that will attract and sustain businesses in our community. Ms. Zawieruch explained when she was a Council Member for the borough of North Catasauqua she was head of the Civil Service and she had extensive experience overseeing the budget and services provided including the Police recruitment program. This past experience will help her ensure that our valuable service has the resources they need while ensuring the city gets the most from the investment it makes. As a previous business owner she feels enormously comfortable in roles of fiscal responsibility and garnered further expertise as a Math Teacher responsible for teaching finance courses. In conclusion, if she had the honor of being a member of this honorable Council she would be committed to the work necessary to help run a city with so much potential and so much history. She understands the role of the Council is to actively listen to its constituents and at times make hard decisions for long term gains that will positively impact all community members. She also needs to add that one of the candidates said there is only one of us that is going to be elected but all the candidates who have spoken tonight are a powerful group and if somehow those who are not elected could come together and put all the potential into Bethlehem we have a lot to work with.

President Colón asked if there was anyone he missed who wanted to speak. He just wanted to make sure everyone had an opportunity to speak.

5. OLD BUSINESS

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

6. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. *Emergency Management Director – Emergency Operations Plan – Updating City Officials*

The Clerk read a memorandum dated January 20, 2022 from Robert Novatnack, Emergency Management Director with an attached resolution authorizing the Mayor to adopt an

updated City Emergency Operations Plan as required by Pennsylvania's Emergency Management Code.

President Colón stated Resolution 10 A is on the agenda.

B. Chief of Police – Firearm Purchase - Knappenberger

The Clerk read a memorandum dated January 21, 2022 from Chief of Police Michelle Kott with an attached resolution and agreement for the purchase of a duty weapon by a retired officer of the Bethlehem Police Department. Pursuant to the Third Class City Code, retired officers may purchase their duty firearms at fair market value.

President Colón stated Resolution 10 B is on the agenda.

C. Director of Public Works – Lease Agreement – Winning Touch Tennis

The Clerk read a memorandum dated January 24, 2022 from Michael Alkhal, Director of Public Works with an attached proposed resolution authorizing execution of a lease agreement between the city and Winning Touch Tennis, Inc. The lease premise is the Sand Island Tennis Facility at River Street. The term runs from March 1, 2022 through October 31, 2022. The lessee has the option to terminate by April 15, 2022 if they have not secured at least 100 memberships. In lieu of paying rent, the lessee would agree to make certain improvements to the facilities per section 7 of the lease.

President Colón stated Resolution 10 C is on the agenda.

D. Housing & Community Development Administrator – Records Destruction Resolution

The Clerk read a memorandum dated January 27, 2022 from Christina Roseberry, Housing and Community Development Administrator, requesting Council to consider a Records Destruction resolution for the Community and Economic Development Department records listed in the attached exhibit. Per the Municipal Records Retention act, destruction of the records is permissible.

President Colón stated the Resolution can be placed on the February 15, 2022 agenda.

7. REPORTS

A. President of Council

B. Mayor

Mayor Reynolds noted he has several reports and will start by turning to our Police Chief Michelle Kott who he asked to report on a situation that occurred last week that he thought was a story that needed to be told.

Incident

Police Chief Kott thanked Mayor Reynolds for letting her share this information with not only City Council but everyone here as well and watching on YouTube. Last week on January 25, 2022 Members of the Bethlehem Police Department were dispatched to the 400 block of Hayes Street for a domestic issue between two individuals. Upon arrival on scene our officer made contact with one of the parties in his vehicle and was able to positively confirm his identity. The male was extremely cooperative until the female officer was able to confirm that a PFA, a protection from abuse order was in play. When attempting to find out the status of the other individual that was involved the male in the vehicle proceeded to try to flee from the officer while doing so that individual drove his vehicle into a telephone pole causing significant damage to not only his vehicle but putting his vehicle in a precarious situation over on Sullivan Street. The vehicle was tangled in brush and a fence. Our officers responded and attempted to make contact with the male who had proceeded to take a knife and hold it against his throat. Our officers retreated a safe distance and began to communicate with the male through the skills they acquired through various trainings we have been sending our officers to. Police Chief Kott explained throughout this incident approximately 20 officers from the Bethlehem Police Department arrived on scene and were able to secure the location to make sure that passerby people were not in a situation where they could be injured, where they were able to maintain communication with the individual who they could see was in crisis and in need of assistance. These officers did an outstanding job in freezing temperatures communicating with the individual and having it come to a successful and peaceful resolution where the male was able to put down the weapon, exit the vehicle and peacefully surrender to the officers who were able to have that individual get into contact with city paramedics and be taken to the hospital for medical care. This is just one of the many incidents that our officers and our social worker, our paramedics, and our Fire Department handle on a regular basis. Some of the other incidents that may have not cause more attention or notice would be first responding officers coming to another house peacefully talking to an individual that was involved in a domestic with a knife. Again, later in the month where an individual that dialed a suicide prevention hotline, which later dialed the Bethlehem Police Department and asked us for a welfare check. Our officers were able to go out and talk for hours through a door to the individual who eventually opened the door and allowed them to help get him the care he needed. Our officers attend various trainings throughout the year; there are a number of trainings involving verbal de-escalation. These include Eastern PA Regional Crisis Intervention Team and Suicide Training, Introduction to Crisis Intervention Training through Northampton County, Crisis Negotiation Seminars, and Mental Health First Aid for Juveniles, interview and interrogation, high impact supervision, basis squad critical decision making for complex incident. Police Chief Kott thanked Mayor Reynolds for providing her the opportunity to showcase some of the outstanding work of our officers.

Mayor Reynolds thanked Chief Kott and added we have had a lot of conversations about how we respond to these types of incidents and these are the things we are constantly talking about. Later on this year we will be talking about how well our social workers are working within the departments and some of our further ideas. One of the things he was aware of regarding this situation was that he and his Director of Equity and Inclusion Janine Santoro had gone to a meeting later on that day and one of the officers had come shortly after this incident had occurred. This officer did not search for any type of recognition and then Mayor Reynolds asked about how things were going and he shared this particular incident with him. He could have not been at that meeting and not been engaged. Mayor Reynolds feels strongly that there are always things we can work on, we have a lot of ideas. He speaks with Chief Kott every day about these things, the things we are doing well and the things that we can do better with. This was an

incident whereas the work of the department helped to save this individuals life. He noted that Chief Kott left out some of the details as far as where it was going at one point with people in the neighborhood. He thought that this needed some public recognition. He then turned to Janine Santoro to give a report.

Social Media/Bethlehem Corner

Ms. Santoro mentioned she was grateful we got to hear from all of these wonderful candidates for City Council. Two of the things she heard many of them say is this need for engagement and this need to reflect our history. One of the things our Administration is going to be doing is communicating with individuals through our social media through something called Bethlehem Corner. This will be a way for us to communicate very openly about some of our internal things we have going on, things going on within City Hall and our departments. This is also a way for us to engage out in the community and with people; this could be businesses or people that are telling us about their work. This could be non-profit but it could also be people that unveiling the history of Bethlehem that is not part of the dominant narrative. Ms. Santoro pointed out that our first Bethlehem Corner came out today and it was with Rayah Levy, who is here tonight and who talked about African-American Heritage Center. Part of this is just trying to let people know that there is a full history of Bethlehem. This is a history that is an oral history and a history that we find is passed down. We have some folks here tonight that spoke about that history. That will be part of this Administration, we understand the need for cultural preservation for historical preservation and we want to do that in a way that shows that history is not just what has happened in the past, that there is a clear thread that runs to the present. Ms. Santoro added that today is the first day of Black History Month and we are deliberate with our posts this month about our Black History but we also know that it is not just this month we will be doing that. This will be part of our culture moving forward of amplifying all of our stories throughout the year. We hope you look out for that and engage with us in that way as well.

Council Appointment

Mayor Reynolds remarked as far as engagement is concerned, we talked a lot about is what that pandemic recovery needs and engagement will look like. Laura Collins, Director of Community and Economic Development and her department and Ms. Santoro have been doing a lot of research looking at platforms and different things with community meetings to reach out to our community to see where our resources need to be put as we come out of this pandemic. That includes affordable housing and a bunch of things we will talk about in the next several weeks. Mayor Reynolds remarked as being someone on Council who sat through several of these Council appointments he can say that this is one of the harder parts of the job because there are so many qualified candidates. Everybody that spoke tonight, if Council could pick 8 or 9 of you, they would do that because of the breadth of experience that the people in this room are bringing. We had gotten the copies of the letters of interest and the resumes from the City Clerk's Office and talked about the hope for that anybody that put their name in that we can find a place for you on one of our Authorities, Boards, or Commissions. We have a lot of Authorities, Boards, and Commissions that need people to attend the meetings and be part of city government and part of the different work that makes our community special. Mayor Reynolds can say if people are interested in that, we have your information and we may reach out to you and please reach out to us as well. There are different appointment times, not everything is up this week, and sometimes it is in a few months. But he wanted everyone to know that we are committed to try to find a

space for you. There is a transition to that and this came up with one of the speakers. He thinks that we often time get into the trap of Bethlehem of this competition of local experience. That some way how long you have lived in this city somehow makes your experience more valuable than others do. As he said, there are 8 or 9 people here that should be on City Council but it is not a competition. People that have been living here for one year or ten years, or twenty years and he is talking about the 6 people up here, when he voted for them he did not make the decision by how long they have lived in Bethlehem. That is a trap that the city has gotten in for far too long. It is a problem. His parents are from New Jersey and they bought a house in 1979 and his mother and father would joke around about the fact that it did not matter how many little league games they coached or how many PTA meetings they attended that if they said to someone they are from New Jersey there is a certain response from some people. His father had a doctorate and his mother had a master's degree, upper middle class, white privileged people and they had to deal with that. Also, that is nothing compared to what is going on in this country now and it will not go on in Bethlehem. Mayor Reynolds pointed out it is ridiculous to him that we are still in this kind of implicit competition about somehow if you have been here for twenty years that makes your experience more valuable. Nobody's experience is more valuable than anybody else's is. It is one of the things we talk about; we do not have one Bethlehem identity. Ms. Santoro talked about how we are trying to tell different stories that have not been told. He is absolutely a product of that traditional Bethlehem identity, growing up in Bethlehem and going to Moravian College and there is nothing wrong with that. But we do not aspire to one identity, we do not ask people to fit into one identity. What we try it do is build institutions that welcome people from different places. Mayor Reynolds remarked that affordable housing could be a problem for you if you have been here for two months or twenty years. These issues are problems no matter how long you have been living in Bethlehem. We have not always has been as welcoming, either when it comes to race or identity. We could go back and look at the decisions that were made 120 years ago, and how they created some of the systemic inequities. We get to City Hall every day and we try to talk about these inequities and look for a plan to fix them and that is what we do as an Administration. Mayor Reynolds pointed out that is what the people in this room are about and whatever decision City Council makes tonight, there are many that are fantastic, he thinks it is a situation that as a city we need to get past whether or not someone has lived here for a few years or not. Specifically he is talking about the 6 people on Council now; none of them are a better Council person than the other one because they grew up in New Jersey, New York, or Connecticut or somewhere else. It does not matter, it comes down to whether or not they want to serve their community and whether or not they value people's experience. The 6 of Council do right now and whoever the 7th person is; they will do that as well.

8. ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE

None.

9. NEW ORDINANCES

None.

10. RESOLUTIONS

A. *Authorize Emergency Operations Plan – Updating City Officials*

Ms. Leon and Mr. Colón sponsored Resolution No. 2022-018 that authorized to adopt the City of Bethlehem Emergency Operations Plan, dated February 1, 2022 which has been developed to outlined basic operations and procedures to be implemented in the event of an incident either man-made or natural that requires a coordinated response.

Voting AYE: Ms. Kwiatek, Ms. Leon, Dr. Van Wirt, Ms. Wilhelm, Ms. Crampsie Smith, and Mr. Colón, 6. The Resolution passed.

B. Approve Firearm Purchase – Knappenberger

Ms. Leon and Mr. Colón sponsored Resolution No. 2022-019 that authorized to execute an agreement to effectuate the transfer of the city issued handgun to Keane Knappenberger, a retired City Police Officer.

Ms. Kwiatek informed that she will be voting no on this tonight. This has nothing to do with Captain Knappenberger and his service which has been honorable. This is a vote of principle; she is opposed in principle to the government facilitation of the purchase of a deadly weapon to a civilian. She has sat in the audience here over the last several years and listened as these votes came up and they were all unanimous to transfer these weapons. She wanted to open the conversation about why we do this when there are enough handguns owned by civilians. She will be voting no on this and she will also be voting no on all of them in the future. Again, this is not about Captain Knappenberger or his service, not about any individual person, it is on principle.

Ms. Wilhelm thanked Ms. Kwiatek for her comments. She also has questions about this policy and she thanked Chief Kott for taking the time to explain that to her. It occurs to her that if she has questions others may have questions as well and she wondered if Chief Kott would be willing to take a moment tonight to explain this policy to us in greater detail to help us understand.

Police Chief Kott explained that this is a fairly standard practice that occurs across the country. When first responders in regard to Police Officers, Sheriff's, Wildlife and Game Commission Officers serve honorably for a designated amount of time and are retiring in good standing, many municipalities or agencies enable them to purchase their service weapon upon retirement. Doing some quick record checking she was able to discover that our department has engaged in this practice since 2010. For the past few years due to the increase in retirements and turnover in 2018 we had 4 officers that purchased their service weapon, in 2019 it was 6, in 2020 it was 7, and in 2021 it was another 6. There are various reasons for why our officers want to purchase that service weapon; she cannot say one covers all of it because each person is an individual. There is a sentimental value she is sure for some people. There is the 20 plus years of putting on a badge, putting on the uniform and having that as a tool in which you may have to utilize to save someone's life or save your own life, for some people that could be a reason to purchase that. For others, if they are someone that wants to have that and put it in a gun safe or just have that as a memento of their time here, it is difficult to go over all the different reasons that an individual would want that to commemorate their service with the city. A little specific background about the Bethlehem Police Department's policy, as she mentioned the quick record check has been in place since 2010. With the Third Class City Code we are able to do it as long as the firearm is sold at fair market value. How do we come to that? We are able to reach out to

firearm suppliers and dealers in the Lehigh Valley and in the area to find out how much a new firearm that is similar to the one that our officers are issued costs. Then speak to them further about a used firearm. The Glock firearm that our officers are issued, a new model would be somewhere between \$500 to \$600 dollars. Because of the training that we require here in the City of Bethlehem which is so much more than what the state requires for an officer to qualify with their service pistol, the weapon has been utilized a number of times throughout an officers career as well as exposed to the elements when the officers are out in the rain, sleet, snow, severely hot Musikfest weather. That affects the fair market value as well and that is how we came to that \$300 dollars. The transfer does not just occur by an individual coming in and paying with cash or a credit card or a check, it has to be done at a firearms dealer. That is done for a number of reasons, it is the law but also it enables the firearms dealer to conduct a PICS (Pennsylvania Instant Checks System) check. Just because someone is an officer does not mean that they are not exempt from going through the PICS check that will show the firearms dealer that they are someone who is permitted to own a firearm. To those wondering, would you not know that in the first place? Yes, but there a number of times where an individual may retire and by the time the request to purchase the firearm comes before Council and is voted on, that is extremely important. To make sure that individuals that should not own firearms are not able to have them. All of our officers would go through that PICS check as well. If our officers did not purchase the firearm, which is an option, because of the wear and tear that firearm is put through would be traded back into the firearms supplier and then that firearms supplier would be able to sell it to an individual they choose or they can sell it to a wholesale supplier such as Army and Navy. Then anyone would be able to go in and purchase the firearm through that wholesale supplier. Chief Kott understands this is a polarizing topic and people feel strongly about it. She knows that our officers are extremely well trained with not only going down to a range and firing at a non-moving piece of paper but what she considers to be so much more important, when not to use that firearm. What is behind where you are pointing that firearm where you may have to fire that firearm that is something we take great pride in, doing that training beyond what is required and really having an individual know how to safely handle that service weapon.

Mayor Reynolds added that a few years ago with our previous Police Chief he had asked whether or not we could take the dollars from the sale of these and put that towards some type of anti-gun violence cause which was not done under our former Police Chief. When you play the situation out, what is the value of selling it to him and taking that \$300 and putting that towards something anti-gun violence or also the symbolic value, should we be selling guns to police officers? That is one that comes down to your thoughts; there are many things he would personally value if he was a police officer as far as his sentimental things he would take with him. It is not his place for what someone else values. If it is the will of Council that it is not something, taking that money and putting it towards anti-gun violence versus the symbolic value, that is not something he would disagree with.

Chief Kott added that is a great point, the funds received from the purchase go into an escrow account. Historically that money is in that escrow account to purchase new firearms for new officers, replacement parts in case there are any malfunctions, equipment we may need for our range. Those are conversations that Mayor Reynolds and she have had about organizations such as Cease Fire PA and others as well. Another thing that came to mind is that the service weapon that they are purchasing is the pistol we do not sell anything else to our officers that an individual would not be able to purchase at a firearm dealer. That is the only thing being offered

and again, it is for a member in good standing that has spent 20 plus years in the service of the individuals in our city and our community.

Ms. Leon remarked that Chief Kott answered one of her questions already. We have spoken before and her work experience is military so she very much understands that something that can be just part of your uniform can become symbolic of sacrifices made and time spent away from family. She wanted to clarify that it is for officers that are retiring, that they buy their service pistols.

Chief Kott stated yes. If there was an individual that spend 6 years in the service of the Bethlehem Police Department and decided this field was not for them but they wanted to purchase their service firearm they would not be able to.

Ms. Leon asked Fire Chief Achey if they get to do anything like that in the Fire Department, if you keep your helmet or your boots.

Chief Achey stated they allow helmets.

Dr. Van Wirt thanked Chief Kott and noted this gives her a lot to think about. She has traditionally voted for this in all pragmatism it seems like if you did not give them their weapon they would probably go buy one anyway. But she would be more comfortable with this if we could donate the proceeds to Cease Fire PA annually. She asked if that is something that is underway as a potential.

Mayor Reynolds does not want to speak for Chief Kott, because that was not under her leadership but he is disappointed this did not happen a few years ago when he spoke about this. He was told this was going to be done. This is not on Chief Kott because this is something we have talked about, the best use of that money, whether it would be going to an organization like Cease Fire PA or anti-gun violence events or anti-gun violence education, we had not talked about that. Whatever dollars there will be, we will see it goes to a place dedicated to anti-gun violence. Mayor Reynolds does believe this is a balancing act, between the symbolism of it versus the value of whatever that \$300 dollars is. This is up to City Council and whatever Council decided, there will be no disagreement from him.

Ms. Crampsie Smith asked if most officers when they retire purchase their duty weapon.

Chief Kott stated honestly it depends, like the reasons why, the sentimental value of why an officer would want it. Recently with the amount of individuals we had retiring just looking at the numbers in front of her it would seem statistically yes, more individuals are taking advantage of it than not.

Ms. Crampsie Smith remarked prior to 2010 when they did not purchase, did the guns go back to the wholesaler.

Chief Kott explained the records that she was able to find with her staff, we were able to find evidence that the service weapons were being bought back to 2010, she has not gone down into the basement to the other records. She thanked Chief Kott for the information. Contrary to what some people in the public may say, she is the daughter of a Police Chief and the Aunt of

three nephews who are in law enforcement so she is familiar with this and understands the sentimental value of the handguns to the officers. At the same time personally she is anti-gun and is concerned about the gun violence in our country. She thanks Councilwoman Kwiatek for bringing up a good point. We have had good dialogue about it and she does agree with Dr. Van Wirt and Mayor Reynolds if we could give some of the funds toward anti-gun violence. Thank you for this information.

Ms. Kwiatek thanked everyone for engaging in this conversation tonight. One of the things that did concern her was the unsold guns going back because that does mean we are potentially putting a gun in the hands of someone that could use it for bad things and it is our gun. She would like to suggest that we have a conversation in the future about that procedure and whether or not that needs to be looked at. She stated thank you for that information but it does not change her vote, but she does appreciate the information.

Mayor Reynolds added he does not believe going back to 2010 that Council has voted on these, he believes it has only been a recent thing in the past few years so it was not something by which 2010 that Council was voting on this without this conversation. For a while it was thought that it did not need to come to City Council and then at some point it was determined which was when Council had that first conversation maybe 3 years ago. He wanted to make that clear, that we were not voting on these since 2010 without having this conversation.

President Colón does not have the minutes from all of those meetings but he does remember the first time this came before Council, it was Mr. Reynolds who questioned if this had been a practice of the city because these resolutions were not coming before City Council. This policy was going on within the Administration within whatever function. He appreciates the background given by Chief Kott of what happened related to the fact that it is only for officers who are retiring and what would happen to that weapon otherwise if it was not purchased. Because it is in the single digits of occurrences we have adequate time following tonight to further these discussions between now and potentially the next time a resolution similar to this one is before Council or at the next Council Meeting he will have an opportunity to announce our committees. That is something that if the Public Safety Committee chooses to hold a meeting about, that will fall on the members of that committee. President Colón stated he will be supporting this tonight. He understands the significance for the individual officers and the sentimental value of their service weapon that they dutifully carried throughout their career. There are many reasons to continue this conversation and we have adequate opportunity whether through a committee meeting or the Mayor sharing with us the Administration's ideas by the time before this comes to Council again for what could be done with those dollars. He thanked Chief Kott for her feedback and background on this.

Voting AYE: Ms. Leon, Dr. Van Wirt, Ms. Wilhelm, Ms. Crampsie Smith, and Mr. Colón, 5.
Voting NAY: Ms. Kwiatek, 1. The Resolution passed.

C. *Approve Lease Agreement – Winning Touch Tennis*

Ms. Leon and Mr. Colón sponsored Resolution No. 2022-020 that authorized to execute a lease agreement and other necessary documents with the Winning Touch Tennis, Inc. for the operation of the tennis facility located on Sand Island at River Street.

President Colón then asked the Administration for a bit of a background on what this lease entails and the plan for the tennis courts.

Mr. Alkhal remarked that Council is probably aware that the Tennis Courts at Sand Island have somewhat of a special surface. They require a little more intensive annual maintenance and operations. Especially in recent years we have had challenges staffing the Tennis Courts. More recently last year that was even more difficult for various reasons including the pandemic. We also had some maintenance issues there, the facilities are getting older and they could use an upgrade. This agreement is a short term lease for this upcoming season. This may be used as a way to evaluate whether this is something we want to continue to do long term or go back to the way we managed the court as we did before. It will help solve the challenge of staffing the upcoming season where we think we will have more difficulties with. The lease does include them making some improvements specifically to the locker rooms. They are a reputable outfit that does this for a living so the management and running of the programs and the services will be improved. If we decide to continue we could possibly change the arrangement depending on the experience we have. If we do not continue with it, this is budget neutral for this upcoming season. At the end of the day if we do not move forward with it we will still have gotten some improvements out of the process.

Ms. Kwiatek thanked our Recreation Director Jodi Evans for giving her very thorough answers to her questions. She had sent her 7 questions and she answered with a lot of data and information. This is a good experiment. The concerns she had were about accessibility to the courts by the public and she felt that even with some of the courts that have become pickle ball courts also with some of our other parks and that reduces some of the courts we have that are just for tennis. This is our only larger court surface in the city so she was concerned about that. She felt that there would be adequate resources for people to be able to partake of tennis in the other parks. In the lease it states you have a tennis instructor who is not a tennis instructor of the lessee, you cannot have your lessons on those courts with that instructor. That was one of her questions but even given that the potential for the upgrades to the locker rooms and staffing issues, she thinks this is worthwhile.

Dr. Van Wirt remarked she has a few questions and some of it this is put against the highlight of our intensive discussions a few years ago about the same financial difficulties that the golf course was in. The golf course is a little bit different than our tennis courts, the golf course is in its own enterprise fund and it has its own bookkeeping and bottom line and investment from the city. We have been putting a lot of money into the golf course and have been getting grants from the county under economic development; we have been buying them mowers. She would argue that it is not fully self-sustaining yet but it is clearly an important part of Bethlehem. Where the tennis courts are a little more diffused but this is the main cluster of tennis courts that the city owns.

Mr. Alkhal stated yes, although we have others.

Dr. Van Wirt remarked one of the reasons we opted not to go with the lease for the golf course, one of the main arguments was the loss of control we would have over the quality of the course. Yet, this is something we are seeking readily here. She does understand this is a tough time and it is hard to maintain those courts and it is better to have, in her mind, a privately leased outfit maintaining the courts so they do not fall in disrepair and not being able to be used at all.

But she had some concerns about the track record of the lessee. She does not know anything about them. She queried where else they have done this.

Mr. Alkhal explained we have had extensive discussions with them and Ms. Evans had done research on them. She can get more specifics as to where else they have done this but the feedback we have gotten is that they are very reputable and a class operation and we are confident they will run a good operation.

Dr. Van Wirt was worried about the accessibility part and she was unclear if there is any current in the last year's kids programs there and if those would be continued if there were children summer programs there.

Mr. Alkhal noted in the lease we spell out certain programs that would be run that would be required to be run there.

Dr. Van Wirt noted she read the lease pretty thoroughly and she did not see that.

Mr. Alkhal stated he can follow up on that and see specifically if that came up or if that needs to be incorporated.

Dr. Van Wirt would hate to have a program that is there and lose that access for the kids at the courts. That was another argument that we did not want to lease out the golf course because there were kids who use the golf course. She is just trying to be consistent in how we determine the use of our public facilities.

Mr. Alkhal stressed there was definitely an effort to try to be sure to the best extent possible and reasonable providing very similar accommodations to the users at that facility that current exists. He will specifically inquire about that.

Dr. Van Wirt asked who would be responsible for actually looking at the comp fees for how they set their fees so we know this is something that is really truly still accessible to the public. Who will be looking at this?

Mr. Alkhal informed that he and the Recreation Director would be looking at this and that is called out in the lease that it has to be competitive.

Dr. Van Wirt is somewhat reassured by the short term nature of this. She asked if you will all be sitting down in October to say if it was a success or a failure or where can we do better.

Mr. Alkhal stated yes that is one of the main things, it is a short term arrangement that will be evaluated.

Mayor Reynolds asked if we opened last year.

Mr. Alkhal stated yes.

Mayor Reynolds thought it was delayed.

Mr. Alkhal remarked that we had difficulty staffing.

Mayor Reynolds pointed out it was when Mr. Alkhal and Ms. Evans had come and had this conversation and talked about the previous difficulties with the particular maintenance that is needed with the court and expertise with current city workers. There were struggles in the past. For himself, when he was on Council part of the reticence about long term leases with the golf course was when you look at other golf courses that become privatized they do not put the money into it. Which then when you get the asset back after 10 or 15 years you have a depreciated asset. That was one of the first questions he asked Mr. Alkhal and Ms. Evans, what are they doing for us this year that we do not get back a depreciated asset. What he heard as far as the investments they are making into the infrastructure is not things you can take away and for him he looks at this as a not risky investment for one year's considering some of the problems. Then in the fall we will have a conversation.

Ms. Crampsie Smith remarked it says that if they do not have at least 100 memberships by April 15th the lease will be terminated. She asked what the cost is for a membership.

Mr. Alkhal stated he does not know what the exact numbers are. We did look at them.

Ms. Crampsie Smith is wondering about the usage and accessibility for the public in general. It looks like this will be private memberships and costly. She asked if there are scholarships available especially for children.

Mr. Alkhal stated they had that discussion and the numbers that they were throwing around in terms of what the cost would be looked competitive with other local costs. They were very confident that they will achieve the required memberships to move forward. Of course that had to be put in the lease in the unlikely event that does not happen. At the same time we are making arrangements that if it does fall through, which we do not expect, we are confident it will move forward, that we would be prepared to operate the courts as we always had. We think it would be tough but we are not sitting waiting around, we do not want to be surprised at the last minute and not be able to react to it.

Ms. Crampsie Smith remarked for equity for all that we consider this year or at least next year looking at scholarships for those that would like to participate in the tennis program but cannot afford to.

President Colón informed he will be supporting this tonight. It is a good opportunity to partner up with Winning Touch Tennis and as they manage our facility, he is not the biggest tennis player but last summer there were a lot of conversations within the community about the future of Sand Island due to the maintenance and upkeep that is necessary. He asked what the name of the surface is.

Mr. Alkhal stated it is Har-Tru.

President Colón mentioned because it is a unique and uncommon special surface that special attention needs to go into it versus what is at West Side Park or over on Illick's Mill. There were leagues there to break even as a city. He does understand that the lease is tied to their membership and they have a facility in East Allentown off of Union Boulevard that some of

members of the community play there and had referenced to him. The short term lease gives us ample opportunity to take advantage of the investment they are willing to put into it. We are guaranteed to get that out of the partnership and then reevaluate at the end of the season where we are. He will be definitely supporting this tonight. He thanked Mr. Alkhal.

Voting AYE: Ms. Kwiatek, Ms. Leon, Dr. Van Wirt, Ms. Wilhelm, Ms. Crampsie Smith, and Mr. Colón, 6. The Resolution passed.

D. Certificate of Appropriateness – 508 East Fourth Street

Ms. Leon and Mr. Colón sponsored Resolution No. 2022-021 that granted a Certificate of Appropriateness to remove all roofing materials on the main roof and front porch of the house (excluding rubber roof on rear first floor) and install one row of ice shield at the bottom of roof, synthetic paper and slate line shingles (GAF or equivalent).

Voting AYE: Ms. Kwiatek, Ms. Leon, Dr. Van Wirt, Ms. Wilhelm, Ms. Crampsie Smith, and Mr. Colón, 6. The Resolution passed.

E. Approve Council Vacancy Appointment – Approval Resolution

President Colón thanked everyone for coming to this meeting as you observed some of the less exciting city business. Just for a little bit of a background, having heard from some of the candidates earlier we will move onto the filling of the City Council vacancy which was created when Mayor Reynolds resigned from Council to take office as the Mayor. Whoever is appointed this evening will fill the rest of Mayor Reynolds term when he left Council and that will be until January 2, 2024. They will serve the remaining balance of this year and next year. Before we get started he wanted to summarize some of the process for filling the vacancy. First he wanted to make some general comments on the selection process and then open the floor for general discussion and input among Council Members if any Council Members have comments. Following our general discussion each Member of Council will have the opportunity to nominate one or more candidates to fill the vacancy. Any individual Member of Council can nominate as many applicants as they choose and not every Member of Council has to nominate someone. So an applicant only has to be nominated one time. After we close nominations the Clerk will read the list of nominees and we will then hold a roll call vote where each Member of Council will state the name of the one individual they wish to vote for to fill the vacancy. We may need additional rounds of voting depending on how the first votes play out but the process will be if any single candidate receives 4 votes from Members of Council or more that candidate wins the Council vacancy. If a candidate receives 3 votes and those 3 votes are more than any other candidate then that individual will win the election and be the new Council Member. In the event of a 3-3 tie we can have further discussion as Members of Council or he can then turn to the Mayor to be the tie breaking vote, only in the event of a 3-3 tie. If no candidate receives at least 3 votes here in the first round we will take it back to the floor for debate and after that debate we will hold additional roll call votes as needed. That is just a little background on when we are counting the votes once we all start voting. President Colón informed if some reason no candidate is selected tonight the Northampton County Court of Common Pleas will fill the vacancy in the event we cannot agree on a candidate this evening. If a nominee receives sufficient votes their name will be incorporated into the blank that is listed in the materials for tonight's meeting for agenda item 10 E, for that resolution. The Clerk will then read the appointment resolution incorporating the name of the individual selected for that successful candidate and

then we will hold a separate roll call vote on that resolution. We will vote on who we want to fill the vacancy and then we will have a vote on the resolution with their name in there. Assuming someone is appointed tonight the appointee will be sworn into office at the beginning of our next Council Meeting on Tuesday, February 15, 2022 and that member will begin voting on legislation that same night. The new Council Member will serve out their partial term until a successor is sworn in, as he has mentioned. If the new Council Member decides to run for election in 2023 they have the opportunity to be elected to a full 4 year term on City Council. President Colón stated before we move into nominations he will open the floor to general discussion amongst Council Members. He wanted to start with a few comments about the process before he turned to his colleagues.

President Colón thanked everybody who put their name forward, whether they were here tonight and whether they spoke, whether they withdrew their name or spoke for another candidate. It takes a lot of courage in opening yourself up to this process to put your name forward. Everyone's cover letter and resume were made public and everyone shared a lot with us before everyone in this room this evening and opened themselves up to feedback and potential scrutiny but he appreciates everyone being open to this process. He had the fortunate opportunity of speaking to just about everyone who applied one on one, and if for nothing else just to touch base. One of the things he has shared and for anyone who has followed city politics for the last 8 years or so he personally went through this process two times himself. He had applied for 2 Council vacancies as they had opened up when Mayor Donchez resigned from Council to become Mayor and then when there was another Council opening shortly thereafter. Between those 2 vacancies when he put in his name he got zero votes from Members of Council to be appointed to City Council. Then he put his name on the ballot twice and here he is. President Colón shares that just to encourage everybody that just because you may not be selected tonight, does not mean you will not have the opportunity to serve on City Council should you pursue a Council seat in next year's election or in future elections when the community gets to cast their vote. While he appreciates the words of Mayor Reynolds about the difficult decision we have to make, this is harder than Election Day because on Election Day you get to choose 3 or 4 names when you vote for City Council. Tonight we only get to choose one name. He cannot be more sincere in his appreciation for everyone who put their name forward and equally sincere when he says he encourages everyone who felt the need to be a part of this process tonight to take time to consider if this is something you wish to do in the future that this does not have to be the end of that opportunity. Before we open it up to nominations he will be supporting Dr. Wandalyn Enix tonight when it is time for us to cast our votes. While he appreciates everyone who came out tonight and spoke whether it was for Dr. Enix or for others, he had the opportunity to speak to everyone briefly and review everyone's materials submitted. He has known Dr. Enix, we met prior to him sitting up here, it was in the audience where we had an opportunity to meet and engage each other about 8 years ago. Ever since then she has been someone he has known in a certain capacity and he has a great deal of respect for her. He also did develop a lot of respect for other applicants who he did not know prior to this process but who he agrees that there is a great deal of diversity amongst background, experience, perspective, any other category. He hopes that even if it is not pursuing a Council seat that everyone stays engaged in whatever capacity they feel comfortable, whether serving on a City Authority, Board or Commission, or being part of other city endeavors, not only sponsored by the city but by our neighborhoods and communities. Also, non-profits are always looking for different volunteers and board members. President Colón remarked while he understands that all but one person will leave tonight

disappointed, he does sympathize but he also speaks as the example that this is not your only opportunity to be seated up here and represent this community.

Ms. Crampsie Smith remarked this process has really renewed his faith in civic responsibility. She was thrilled to see so many very, very well qualified community members come forth with the desire to serve our city on City Council. She thanks everyone for applying and going through this process and she hopes that everyone continues to be engaged in city affairs. We do have the Authorities, Boards, and Commissions where we are always looking for qualified people for. She took this process seriously and thoroughly reviewed all the cover letters, resumes, and responses to the questions. After much contemplation she will be supporting Dr. Wandalyn Enix. Her resume is remarkable to say the least. She has received a Bachelor's, Master's, and PHD from the best schools in the country as well as post-doctoral work across the world. She has developed and implemented policies for best practices and best resources and supports for our inner city youths. She has served and has been honored by many entities in Bethlehem and beyond and continues to serve on many boards. She is a true role model for Bethlehem, she is Bethlehem. Her family has been here for over 100 years. Ms. Crampsie Smith did not know her father but she knows many people who did and who spoke well of her father Bubbles. He was a steelworker with the United Steelworkers in Bethlehem and he rose to the position of a Union Leader. Her mother was also a member of the Steelworkers Union so she comes from a true steelworker's family. Appropriately, there is a park on the south side named after her father. Dr. Enix's credentials are impeccable and she will be a valuable asset to City Council in the City of Bethlehem. While the fact that she is Black and Native American did not decide her vote, it is certainly an additional bonus that this exceptionally qualified woman will bring the Black and Native American heritage to City Council and our great city and for that reason she supports Dr. Enix.

Dr. Van Wirt wanted to speak a little bit to the general nature. Like, Ms. Crampsie Smith and President Colón said, it takes so much courage to apply for a seat on City Council and put yourself out there. She respects that. A few years ago there was nobody running against any of the incumbents in the Primary and she could not believe it. That seemed like a sign of a dying democracy so she ran a write in campaign and ultimately lost and she went through the same application process as you did. What she would say is that your involvement, she hopes it does not end here. Consider this an open offer to help anybody who wants to run for Council. She will help you and give you advice, even if we do not agree on the same thing, even if you are a Republican. It is important; she respects the effort and heart that was put into this process by all of you. She also is going to support Dr. Enix. She does not know her but she was deeply moved by the answers to the questions that she wrote. She felt like she knew her through her writing which it was clear that she put her whole heart into it. Dr. Van Wirt noted she seemed to have a characteristic of people she admires the most which is that they get down in the mud and the muck and they strain with great patience to get stuff done. It takes a lot of persistence and courage and she admires what Dr. Enix has done through her live and in her lived experience. She welcomes that to Council.

Ms. Wilhelm thanked everyone who came out to support candidates and all of you who are watching from home. It has been inspiring to have this sense of engagement around this process. Thank you so much for being involved. She wanted to take a moment to properly thank all of the candidates who put their names forward. Committing to this process was a huge task; it is an intense experience and a vulnerable experience. As someone who recently campaigned for

this very seat, she appreciates the magnitude of deciding to put oneself forward in this way for this work. After reading through and considering your applications, in particular your responses to the questions that were put forth, she was filled with a sense of gratitude. First that was for your efforts, as for so many of you your words reflected an extraordinary amount of thought, heart, and experience and character. Second, she was grateful for a reminder that this city is in so many loving hands. Many of you are already doing the work of serving and supporting the city in so many ways, she was inspired by your collective record of service to care for an investment in our community. You have demonstrated exceptional civic engagement, you have educated young people as teacher and professors, you are multi-lingual, world traveled. Some were born and raised here and some chose Bethlehem as your home. You are and have been inspiring leaders of non-profits and some of you have founded your own non-profits. You have helped build schools and served our country in the military and have an extraordinary history and track record of volunteer service, and that just scratches the surface. It is clear that you all love Bethlehem and are deeply and truly invested in the continued growing success of our city and all of its residents. Ms. Wilhelm thanks you all for your commitment to our community, for your willingness to serve on Council, and for your efforts over the last two weeks as you put yourself forward with this process. She hopes your involvement will not end here. She did not intend to make a statement in advance of a nomination but she will add for all the reasons stated already she will be supporting Dr. Wandalyn Enix as well.

Ms. Leon remarked our service is very important and she wanted to thank Mr. Cunningham for his service to this country, she appreciates it.

Ms. Kwiatek cannot say it any better than Ms. Wilhelm did as she described all of the folks who put their names forward and put their heart and soul into the answers. She spent her weekend reading the answers to the questions. There were so many great ideas and many different perspectives. She ran for office for the first time in 2009 and she lost. She ran for County Commissioner. It was heartbreaking and it took her 12 years to get over it and run again. She hopes for Bethlehem's sake that it will not take all of you 12 years to decide to put yourselves out there again. She looks forward to getting to know all of you better as we serve here and try to move things forward in our city. She hopes all of you will continue to be involved and join our Authorities, Boards, and Commissions and other ways to help Bethlehem and City Council because we need you.

President Colón stated nominations are in order. If you would like to nominate a candidate simply raise your hand and say who you nominate for the vacant City Council seat. Again, a member may nominate more than one candidate if they so choose. It will require two different nomination statements and not every Member of Council has to make a nomination.

Ms. Kwiatek nominated Dr. Wandalyn Enix for the vacancy on City Council.

President Colón stated Dr. Wandalyn Enix is nominated.

Ms. Leon nominated John Marquette for the vacancy on City Council.

President Colón stated John Marquette is nominated.

Ms. Leon nominated Michael Cunningham for the vacancy on City Council.

President Colón stated Michael Cunningham is nominated.

President Colón stated with no other nominations for the vacancy he will now consider nominations closed. He asked the Clerk to read the names of the individuals who have been nominated to fill the vacancy.

The Clerk stated the following individuals have been nominated to fill the Council vacancy: Dr. Enix, Mr. Marquette, and Mr. Cunningham.

President Colón stated we will proceed with the roll call vote. When the Clerk calls your name for the vote please state the name of the one candidate you wish to vote for on our first ballot. You may only give one name at this time for a vote.

Ms. Kwiatek voted for Dr. Wandalyn Enix.

Ms. Leon voted for Dr. Wandalyn Enix.

Dr. Van Wirt voted for Dr. Wandalyn Enix.

Ms. Wilhelm voted for Dr. Wandalyn Enix.

Ms. Crampsie Smith voted for Dr. Wandalyn Enix.

Mr. Colón voted for Dr. Wandalyn Enix.

President Colón advised that the Clerk will read the Resolution with the name of the individual sponsored by Ms. Leon and Mr. Colón.

The Clerk read the Resolution as follows: BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Bethlehem that pursuant to Third Class City Charter Law Sec. 406 (a) (53 P.S. Sec. 41406 (a) **Dr. Wandalyn J. Enix** is hereby appointed to fill the vacancy on Bethlehem City Council, as a result of the resignation of J. William Reynolds on January 3, 2022, and who shall so serve until their successor Council member is elected and duly sworn into office on January 2, 2024.

Voting AYE: Ms. Kwiatek, Ms. Leon, Dr. Van Wirt, Ms. Wilhelm, Ms. Crampsie Smith, and Mr. Colón, 6. Resolution 2022-022 was passed 6-0.

President Colón congratulated Dr. Enix and welcomed her to City Council. He pointed out that Dr. Wandalyn Enix has been appointed to City Council and will be a voting member beginning Tuesday, February 15, 2022 at our next City Council Meeting.

11. NEW BUSINESS

Swearing In/Phone in Public Comment

President Colón explained we will hold the swearing in ceremony for Dr. Wandalyn Enix at the beginning of the February 15, 2022 Council Meeting and then she will be seated up here at the dais and begin voting that same night. He reminded everyone that beginning at the next

Council Meeting we will be opening up the phone lines for public comment for individuals who want to comment from home. We will be putting information on the city's website this week with information about how to reach Council remotely for future Council Meetings.

Congratulations

Mayor Reynolds congratulated Dr. Enix. This is an historic day in the City of Bethlehem. He knows that Dr. Enix has been a part of many committees and he has made that long walk down to the second floor to the Mayor's conference room and walked past the wall of pictures of all the people who have been on City Council. We think there have been 75 members of Council with the pictures still to come with the new members and now your picture will be put up there also. So the next time you walk down to talk to us your picture will be up there. Congratulations.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 pm.

ATTEST:

Robert G. Vidoni, Esq.
City Clerk