

BETHLEHEM CITY COUNCIL MEETING
10 East Church Street - Town Hall
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania
Tuesday, August 18, 2020 - 7:00 PM

INVOCATION

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

1. ROLL CALL

President Waldron called the meeting to order. Present were Bryan G. Callahan, Michael G. Colón, Grace Crampsie Smith, Olga Negrón, J. William Reynolds, Paige Van Wirt, and Adam R. Waldron, 7.

President Waldron related for those that are joining us at home this evening we have a new look to tonight's meeting comparatively to previous meetings where you are seeing the direct GoToMeeting stream. After our Public Safety Committee Meeting last week we were having some trouble with the YouTube stream and that problem was ongoing. Our Information Support staff, Jonathan Palsi patched the GoToMeeting stream directly onto the YouTube feed so you will have the opportunity to peer into Council Members lives and their homes. President Waldron is not sure what the future of our meetings will look like as far as the technology and the layout but we are going to stay flexible just as everyone else has over the past few months and do our best to work through any hiccups that we may have.

President Waldron noted our public comment will be the same as it has been through the phone line for the folks who have signed up as well as anyone who wants to call in, that will be the same procedure we have been doing.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

July 7, 2020.

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

Christopher Columbus Statue Removal Request

Elena FitzPatrick Sifford and Mr. Sifford, 530 13th Avenue, related their comments are in regards to the letter they sent to both City Council and Mayor Donchez calling for the removal of the Christopher Columbus monument in the Rose Garden. They are calling to see if the City Council has received and read the letter and what the next steps will be in the process.

President Waldron informed Council did get the letter and currently the Administration is reviewing that for their next step in the process.

Ms. Sifford queried what the process is and if the next step would be that it will be voted on and are there other community members involved? She is looking for more transparency for the response to our letter. The letter has over 100 signatures at this point.

President Waldron remarked he does not have an answer for that, what the process will be and what it will look like. It is now in the hands of the Administration as they handle the day-to-day logistics of what is happening in the city. If they ask us to host a meeting he will be happy to do that or have a conversation. Typically under courtesy of the floor which we are doing right now, it is an opportunity for members of the public to make comments to Council as opposed to having a dialogue at this point.

Ms. Sifford noted her comments will be to follow up that we are still waiting to hear a response to our letter from the Council.

President Waldron explained he cannot speak for all of Council or the Administration but he did get her email and did reply to that. He does know that her letter was received by all of Council and the Mayor.

Mr. Sifford remarked that it was said that the Administration will handle this but which department should we follow up with.

President Waldron stated they should reach out to the Mayor's office.

Mr. Sifford informed they were told to reach out to a Ms. Martinelli but they will follow up with the Mayor's office and ask them to call another meeting to the Council in regards to this.

Ms. Sifford added they look forward to hearing back from Council.

Accident

Arthur Curatola, 813 Laufer Street, explained he has a situation that does not make our city look too good when our police department and other city entities may be messing up on different things. They made $0 + 0 =$ over \$2500.00 to a woman who committed insurance fraud and abused her child to "get paid" money that she was not entitled to. On March 26, 2020 he got a bit too close to a young woman's car as he was attempting to pull out of a tight spot that she placed him in. After he nodded and smiled at her little four year old boy who was looking at him from out the window, he took the time to warm up his vehicle. He carefully viewed the situation to be sure that he could get out of the spot without causing any damage with plenty of time to come out of her house on 426 Hayes Street in Bethlehem, PA and say, "Let me move my car back so that you can get out easier." Instead, she waited until he backed up very close to her vehicle. Then she comes out waving her hands & phone in the air screaming, "YOU just hit my car! I got a picture!" He got out of his van and carefully looked and said, "Mam, close but no cigar, I didn't hit your car. If you look, you can clearly see that you can place a piece of cardboard between your car & my van." She said, "I don't have to look. I got a picture. I'll let the cops see." She calls the police then immediately gets in her car saying, "Let me move back so you can get out!" I said, "No! Don't move! I'm not getting a citation for leaving the scene of an accident. The police need to see the vehicles how they are." She moves back anyway from the point of the alleged impact of the alleged accident. When the police arrived, they only had her picture for evidence & no marks on

her car or my van by the alleged point of impact. After over an hour, both officers agreed to side with the woman & write it up as an accident. He complained upon this situation to deaf ears. He got a message from a Captain Michelle Kott of The Bethlehem Police Department who basically stated that the police did a just job by granting the claim of an accident to the young black woman. There was no accident or any sign of damage. The prefabricated scheme became a reality. The facts are you have a woman who parked her vehicle approximately one foot behind a vehicle that had little room in the front. She set up a situation to collect money from an insurance company. She abused a four year old child by having him perched looking out of a window for over a week to alert her when someone went into the vehicle in front of her car. I wouldn't put it past her that she had him eat breakfast, dinner & supper and sleep on that couch by the window and pee in a bottle for over a week without taking a bath. To me; that's child abuse. Also she and the police ignored the little boy running around on the sidewalk of Hayes Street which is a well-traveled street and is a snow removal route. There is no way that she could have been ready by mere coincidence when my vehicle was way too close to hers so that she could snap a picture at that particular point in time unless she ordered the child to be looking out the window for over a week. The child most likely said something like, "Mommy, a man's getting in the car". He is sure that everyone who viewed those police videos at the scene, if they looked, saw that child outside with no mask or gloves on as he was touching her vehicle and my vehicle and the ground of Hayes Street. The woman never once told her child to go inside or was it suggested by any of the police officers. He suggested it to the woman in front of the officers and his suggestion was ignored by Officer Banks and Officer Rimmer. It appears that the two police officers aided in child abuse by neglecting this action. Things like this don't make our police department & city look good. I cannot understand why the police officers didn't ask the woman, "Mam, why did you back your vehicle away from Mr. Curatola's van, moving it away from the scene of the accident when you knew that we were on our way?" She purposelessly tampered with the evidence by eliminating it and got money for doing a wrongful deed. She knew that if she would have left her vehicle where it should have remained at the "alleged point of impact", the officers would have clearly saw that there was enough space between her car and my van to place a piece of cardboard in between that, there was no accident. Unfortunately the officers couldn't clearly see that because she took it upon herself to move her vehicle away from the scene of the accident and yet she was awarded for her wrongful actions. Mr. Curatola informed he is a US military veteran since 1968 and did not collect any benefits from the VA until June of 2015 although he was entitled. He pays his taxes and this is the thanks he gets. He also did not lie back smoking crack and collecting from the government nor was he excessively drinking alcohol and/or smoking weed and/or nicotine. What he was doing was working hard to survive. Let's be respectful and stop insulting the integrity of us senior citizens who served in this country's armed forces. Let us view this incident for what it is. In our country they try to cover this and many things up with a lot of propaganda. Let us stop covering things up and start bringing all wrongs to light so that our country can be great again. This decision making implication needs to be rectified and corrected with the insurance company. It is situations like this that make you pay hundreds of dollars more each year for your car insurance. This needs to be corrected.

Short Term Lodging/Vehicle Noise on Main Street

Bruce Haines, 63 W. Church Street, informed he wanted to speak about the short term lodging (STL) discussion that took place at the last City Council Meeting. He did not call in advance but he knows there was a point in the discussion where Darlene Heller, Director of Planning and Zoning was asked whether the residents supported the STL that was there and he

wanted to go on the record that we very much supported this. Obviously we are disappointed that it did not get passed at the last meeting even though he thinks the majority of you were actually were in sync with the fact that with Ms. Heller's suggestion to pass the STL and come back with an amendment to allow full time residents to rent out their house for up to 30 days which is the same thing in the current housing ordinance. He knows that is not in the STL but there was discussion about it and it appears that virtually everyone agreed that you did not want commercial investors buying up homes and creating essentially hotels in neighborhoods. Mr. Haines believes he heard most of Council perhaps with the exception of Mr. Waldron say that you did not want that and therefore that is what this STL does. He also heard a few on Council want the ability for a resident to be able to rent their house out when they go on vacation for 30 days. We had no problem with that and he thinks Ms. Heller was prepared to come back with an amendment. The point is that we really need to get this ordinance passed pronto and he does not know if there is any way to bring it back up again tonight for a vote. But the three items that Ms. Heller presented at the last meeting really established the basis to preclude commercial developers from coming into Bethlehem and buying up homes in neighborhoods. He believes that Ms. Negrón stated that Bethlehem is about neighborhoods and preserving our neighborhoods and what is going on with the commercial investors creating Airbnb's in neighborhoods means you are losing housing stock, neighbors. Therefore, you are losing neighborhoods. Instead you have transient visitors coming in for one and two night stays. Mr. Haines explained it is very important that this get put in place to preclude additional houses from being scooped up by commercial investors. He added there is another one pending right now. You all know that there are four commercial hotels in the middle of Market Street and on Church Street right now and there is about to be a fifth and if we do not pass this ordinance it will just open the door for a sixth and a seventh. It will not only be in the historic district, it will be in the west end and in other neighborhoods of the city because investors will swoop in here. That is what is happening in other cities, we will lose our neighborhoods. This is not unlike commercial investors buying homes on the south side near Lehigh University and turning those into commercial student housing which again destroys neighborhoods. Mr. Haines believes all on Council were pretty much in agreement. He knows that Mr. Waldron wants this to be the Jersey Shore but this is not the Jersey Shore, this is neighborhoods. What was discussed by Ms. Heller, the coming back with an amendment later was a good solution and he thought it met the needs of everyone. Somehow the deadlock was at 3-3. Mr. Haines wishes Council would perhaps take the opportunity to review that again tonight and get this passed and then come back with through the process. The problem is if you try to amend this ordinance as it is we will lose another couple of months and it is very important that we not lose any more time. Mr. Haines implores Council to bring this back up although he does not know what can be done to bring it back up. He is asking Council to try and revote on this tonight. Mr. Haines added he wanted to reinforce that the noise issue on Main Street and the speed of cars is getting worse by the day. He did raise the issue of getting speed bumps in each block. He knows that the Downtown Bethlehem Association discussed that this morning and endorsed that as well. It is ridiculous that the motorcycles are going through and cars are going through fast and loud. There is no way we can afford police to be there to stand there and ticket everyone. To him the only solution is speed bumps and that will keep the cruisers from cruising on Main Street and so he implores Council to continue to push Police Chief Mark DiLuzio and the City to deal with this excessive speed and noise in our downtown.

South Side Little League Flooding

Rogelio Ortiz, 801 Argus Street, informed Council he is a former School Board Director and he is also a Commissioner at the BHA Houses for over 8 years. His concern is that he just became the President of the South Side Little League this year and we just were flooded a few weeks ago. The problem that he is having is that this is an ongoing situation and he believes the city is just wasting money every time they want to fix up the fields. He was supposed to meet Jodi Evans, Recreation Director and every three times he wanted her to come and visit him there at the fields they did not meet, she went there on her own but he really wanted to give her a walk through. This is an ongoing problem and we cannot just put a band aid on it. The whole park should be condemned; it is not up to code. We have debris that comes from the creek and he is really trying to find if they can be relocated because the former President of the South Side Little League, Jose Gonzalez always took it upon himself to fix the fields. Mr. Ortiz believes that we need to be relocated for our kids on the south side. There are six little leagues in the City of Bethlehem and we are the league that does not have much, we seem to get the short end of the stick. If he is going to be the President of the South Side Little League he wants to make sure that the City of Bethlehem is aware that we have a flood problem because of the new buildings being built and new companies across the street from the park. All that water that flushes out of the drainage goes into the creek and a few weeks ago the water was up to about three feet. They are saying that FEMA will cut a check but he does not feel that is the issue, that park should be condemned. Council should go down there and see for them, he does have pictures. The sad part is that our kids do not deserve this. He is looking to see if they could be relocated at the Saucon Fields which is up the hill where there are three baseball fields that we could utilize. They used to have softball tournaments there but they do not have that anymore. We would greatly appreciate this. He stated he has requested several meetings with Ms. Evans. He noted that Ms. Evans is stating we should merge with Fountain Hill. He spoke to the Fountain Hill President and he said that he was never notified. Mr. Ortiz noted they feel like they are being swept under the rug. The south side is proud; we want to represent the south side with our own league. He added that Ms. Evans had also said that the little league is depleting throughout the city but that is not a positive sign for our people on the south side. The people on this Council know him very well. Mr. Ortiz pointed out he has been fighting for the south side for 20 years, we have our own community center, we work with community action and all local churches. We do not want to be displaced and go to Fountain Hill which is a different city; they have their own police department. The fact is that we never bothered the City Council or the city. He added that the Mayor, Ms. Negrón, Mr. Colón, and Mr. Reynolds know him from the beginning of their political careers. He reiterated that our kids deserve better. He will not allow the City of Bethlehem to fall on deaf ears on the South Side Little League. He would appreciate if Council would take time to think about everything that he and his wife and the south side has done for the City of Bethlehem. They would like to be relocated. He added that he has done a lot of work, the concession stand is a hazard, it is full of mold and does not even have a ventilation system and they cannot even fry burgers or hot dogs. Mr. Ortiz reiterated that he believes the south side little league is getting the short end of the stick compared to other city little leagues. This is the first time he has spoken at a Council Meeting for the south side.

President Waldron thanked Mr. Ortiz for his comments. He will turn to the Administration and hopefully they will reach out to you to try to have some kind of short term or long term solution.

Mr. Ortiz added that three times he has reached out and three times he was supposed to meet Ms. Evans at the field and those three times she went on her own. He knows she is new at this job; he is not putting her down. His concern is that he does not want this to fall on deaf ears for our kids. Since March we have been serving breakfast and lunch at the community center, we have school board parent teacher conferences; we have all kind of programs at the center, so they can interact with troubled kids. When there is a problem they come to us and we use the center as a platform to make sure the relations are good.

President Waldron remarked we appreciate all the work you have done for Bethlehem and for the little league and someone from Council will follow up with you if a member of the Administration does not reach out.

Mayor Donchez related that Ms. Evans will reach out to Mr. Ortiz and follow up with him.

Mr. Ortiz stated he appreciates the time and efforts.

Mr. Callahan informed Mr. Ortiz should reach out to him for help with this.

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

None.

5. OLD BUSINESS

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

6. COMMUNICATIONS

A. *Director of Water and Sewer Resources – Van Cleef Engineering Associates, Inc. – Minsi Trail Sanitary Sewer Siphon Access Improvement*

The Clerk read a memorandum dated August 13, 2020 from Edward Boscola, Director of Water and Sewer Resources recommending a contract with Van Cleef Engineering Associates, Inc. for work related to the Minsi Trail Sanitary Sewer Siphon Access Improvement. The term of the contract runs three (3) months from the Notice to Proceed. The cost is \$24,500 and there are no renewals.

President Waldron stated Resolution 10 C is on the agenda.

7. REPORTS

A. *President of Council*

B. *Mayor*

1. *Administrative Order – Denise A. Stangl – Fine Arts Commission*

Mayor Donchez appointed Denise A. Stangl to membership on the Fine Arts Commission to fill the position held by Beverly Hoover whose term expired April 2020. This appointment is effective through April, 2023. Mr. Colón and Ms. Crampsie Smith sponsored Resolution No. 2020-131 to confirm the appointment.

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

2. *Administrative Order – Stacie Elyse Brennan – Fine Arts Commission*

Mayor Donchez appointed Stacie Elyse Brennan to membership on the Fine Arts Commission to fill the unexpired term of Robert Blum. This appointment is effective through November, 2020. Mr. Colón and Ms. Crampsie Smith sponsored Resolution No. 2020-132 to confirm the appointment.

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

Speed Bumps on Main Street

Mayor Donchez related they did discuss this morning the issue of speed bumps on Main Street. He did ask Alicia Karner, Director of Community and Economic Development and Amy Burkhardt, Deputy Director of Community and Economic Development to reach out to the Downtown Bethlehem Association and the Chamber to get their pulse on the issue. He did give a directive to Michael Alkhal, Director of Public Works this morning to purchase two traffic calming devices, one that would be go between Moravian Church and Market Street and then a second between Market Street and Broad Street. These would be portable and probably placed in there from April through October and then removed for the winter time. Mayor Donchez added Mr. Alkhal will be moving forward with purchasing two portable traffic calming devices.

Columbus Monument in Rose Garden

Mayor Donchez reported he did speak to Professor Sifford the other day and he will be following up a phone call with her within the next few days. We did discuss the issue internally today and we will be discussing it again tomorrow and then he will reach out to her and give his point of view as far as what the process is, etc.

Proclamation

Mayor Donchez pointed out they had a feel good story today, they issued a proclamation to Kevin Conklin, a student at Liberty High School who was very heroic during the storm a week and a half ago by going into the storm sewer and saving a young individual. Mayor Donchez added he and Dr. Roy made two presentations today. He was a very nice young man from a wonderful family; this is just one of those good stories.

Halloween Parade Announcement in a few days

Mayor Donchez reported they will be making an announcement this week regarding the Halloween Parade. He knows it is a few months away but we will be making an announcement on that within the next day or two.

C. *Public Safety Committee Meeting*

Chairman Colón stated the Public Safety Committee met on Tuesday, August 11, 2020 in Town Hall and held a virtual meeting. There were two main agenda items. The first was discussion of City Police Department use of force polices and enforcement statistics and we reviewed several related reports. Second, we discussed the proposed Community Engagement Initiative set out in City Council Resolution No. 2020-105. The meeting was solely for informational purposes and no legislative actions were taken. City Council will discuss next steps and make sure that anything coming forward in the future will be communicated to the public.

Noise Ordinance

Mr. Callahan thanked Mayor Donchez for those speed bumps on Main Street. He had sent him a video of a very loud presence of motorcycles with mufflers that are changed to sound louder. He has talked with Councilwoman Grace Crampsie Smith and we will be coming forward with a noise ordinance in the future.

8. ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE

None.

9. NEW ORDINANCES

A. *Bill No. 19-2020 – Amending Article 721 Titled Streets and Sidewalks – Wireless Installations*

The Clerk read Bill No. 19-2020 – Amending Article 721 Titled Streets and Sidewalks – Wireless Installations, sponsored by Mr. Colón and Ms. Crampsie Smith and titled:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM,
COUNTIES OF LEHIGH AND NORTHAMPTON,
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING
ARTICLE 721 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF
BETHLEHEM, TITLED “STREETS AND SIDEWALKS”

Voting AYE: Ms. Negrón, Mr. Reynolds, Dr. Van Wirt, Mr. Callahan, Mr. Colón, Ms. Crampsie Smith, and Mr. Waldron, 7. Bill No. 19-2020 was passed on First Reading.

10. RESOLUTIONS

A. *Approve Alternative Land Sale Resolution – Four (4) Parcels – Minsi Trail Street and East Washington Avenue, Salters Street and East Washington Avenue, Center Street and Illick’s Mill (north side), and Center Street and Illick’s Mill (south side)*

Mr. Colón and Ms. Crampsie Smith sponsored Resolution No. 2020-133 that authorized an agreement of sale for real estate between the City of Bethlehem and the respective abutting

property owners identified in Section 8 of this resolution that include the four (4) parcels of land located at:

- Minsi Trail Street and E. Washington Avenue
- Walters Street and E. Washington Avenue
- Center Street and Illick's Mill (north side)
- Center Street and Illick's Mill (south side)

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

B. Approve Alternative Land Sale Resolution – Tavaréz-Austin Auto – 1852 West Market Street

Mr. Colón and Ms. Crampsie Smith sponsored Resolution No. 2020-134 that authorized to execute an agreement of sale for a parcel of land located at 1852 W. Market Street for real estate between the City of Bethlehem and the property owners identified in Section 8 of this resolution.

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

C. Approve Contract – Van Cleef Engineering Associates, Inc. – Minsi Trail Sanitary Sewer Siphon Access Improvement

Mr. Colón and Ms. Crampsie Smith sponsored Resolution No. 2020-135 that authorized to execute an agreement with Van Cleef Engineering Associates, Inc. for the Minsi Trail Sanitary Sewer Siphon Access Improvement.

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

D. Certificate of Appropriateness – 404 Center Street

Mr. Colón and Ms. Crampsie Smith sponsored Resolution No. 2020-136 that granted a Certificate of Appropriateness to replace an existing wood fence with an Azek solid composite material at 404 Center Street.

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

E. Certificate of Appropriateness – 564 Main Street (Sun Inn)

Mr. Colón and Ms. Crampsie Smith sponsored Resolution No. 2020-137 that granted a Certificate of Appropriateness to install a temporary pergola type structure on top of the existing trash corral at 564 Main Street (Sun Inn).

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

11. NEW BUSINESS

Committee of the Whole Meeting

President Waldron announced there will be a Committee of the Whole Meeting on Thursday, August 27, 2020 at 6:00 pm in Town Hall. City Council will be meeting as a Committee of the Whole for Council Ethics Training which is required for every two years based on our own city ordinance that was passed. We last did training a bit over two years ago. We were delayed in scheduling this meeting because of COVID. This meeting will be taking place virtually hosted by the Pennsylvania Ethics Commission. We will be interacting with them through the GoToMeeting in a similar format to our typical meetings. There will be the opportunity for members of the public to view as well as make public comment.

Mayor Donchez reported he has asked all his Department Heads to participate also.

President Waldron related all of the Department Heads will be joining us at the request of the Mayor as well as open to any members of the public or anyone else on an Authority, Board, or Commission within the city to join and take in that information.

Finance Committee Meeting

Chairman Reynolds announced the Finance Committee will be meeting on Tuesday, August 25, 2020 at 6:00 pm in Town Hall and the subject will be Budget Adjustments.

Noise Ordinance/100th Anniversary 19th Amendment-Women's Right to Vote

Ms. Crampsie Smith thanked the Mayor and Administration for purchasing the street calming devices. She had been downtown several times trying to support the restaurants and between downtown and throughout the whole city the noise issue is becoming much more of an issue than it has been in the past. She is getting a lot of complaints from citizens as well as business owners. It is a combination of cars driving fast with mufflers not working very well as well as motorcycles. She was down on Saturday and there were probably about 100 if not 200 motorcycles that went down Main Street which caused a real commotion. Ms. Crampsie Smith did speak to the Mayor about a noise ordinance, she was not sure if we had one, but we do have a noise ordinance. It is great that we are buying the speed calming devices but it would be good if we can look at our noise ordinance and see if we need to make any revisions or adjustments. Also it may be a matter of whether greater enforcement is needed. She is getting a lot of complaints about noise especially after 9:00 pm. She has experienced it herself. Ms. Crampsie Smith remarked that she wanted to acknowledge that today is the 100th Anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment which gave women the right to vote. So kudos to all the females in Bethlehem who do vote, she encourages everyone to exercise their right to vote and kudos to her fellow female Councilwomen for working to make the city a better place to live.

Noise Ordinance/Wage Equity Ordinance

Mr. Callahan thanked Councilwoman Crampsie Smith for the conversation they had about the noise and we will also be bringing forth to Council in the next few weeks a noise ordinance. He would also like to ask that we move the Wage Equity Ordinance that was moved from full Council to his Human and Environmental Committee back to full Council and put it on the agenda for the next meeting.

President Waldron understands the process to do that would be much like a communication so that can be listed on the next Council agenda as an ordinance for first reading. It will require a motion and a second for discussion and then we will have the opportunity to discuss and vote on it.

South Side Little League

Mr. Colón remarked in relation to the call we received earlier in regards to the South Side Little League, he was texted the photographs and he will forward them to the Clerk's Office so they can send them to all of Council. He remembers back when we had a Director of Parks and Recreation, Ralph Carp, and when he was in that role he had showed some attention to that little league after he found out there were no students from south Bethlehem on either baseball team, either Liberty or Freedom. They had done a project and Mr. Colón informed this predates his time on Council, to renovate and clean that up a little bit. But as Mr. Ortiz has stated in his comments, that field has had issues for many years with the flooding of the creek. He is not sure of the solution but this is something we can look at to support the little league or give them adequate playing space. After tonight's meeting he will forward the photos to the Clerk to distribute to Council for reference.

Ms. Negrón remarked she wanted to speak also about the South Side Little League. She recalls every time there is rain there is flooding and the city has spent a lot of money trying to stop the creek from overflowing the fields. There is nothing else that can be done. She has been there many times and has seen the mold, every time it rains that place is a disaster. She agrees with Mr. Ortiz that we need to move them. She cannot find the words when it comes to the insinuation that they should get together with Fountain Hill, it is not even in our municipality so why would we want to do that. This group has been in there for years, they just need to be moved. There is plenty of space in the upper field. Last night was the meeting with the NAACP Task Force and Dr. Roy did a very eloquent presentation that was about education but the bottom line is that it is always the problem that the lower income community, the black and brown community is always left behind. That is wrong, so it is about time to right the wrong. This is one wrong that needs to be fixed. How much money has the city spent in trying to mitigate the problem in the South Side Little League space? It is not the city's fault that it continues to flood but we just need to move them, it is only fair. There is plenty of space in the upper baseball field; there is a small space for the concession stand to be created in there. So instead of spending more money fixing something that will go through the same trouble with the flooding, we should just move them, it is the right thing to do. Ms. Negrón knows it will cost money but fixing it all over again will only be putting a band aid on it. Let's find appropriate money, they need to be moved to higher ground so there is no more flooding and they can play without worrying about it.

South Side Little League/CALEA Accreditation

Mr. Reynolds echoed the comments he has heard, the South Side Little League has had a problem with those fields for a long time. He remembers before he got on City Council they had a problem with geese. One of the hesitations in the past has been how often those fields which are on a hill a little bit higher up there on Williams Street, those three city fields, how often they are used by various soft ball leagues. Those fields are in great shape. One of the questions would just be to start, are any of those fields being used by South Side Little League. The most natural place is to use the Saucon Fields that are further up on Williams Street on the south side. He does not think there is another place by which they could locate on the south side where we would

find space. Mr. Reynolds hopes that would be done for them. His other comment is to the Mayor and the Administration. A few people have mentioned to him about the public comment portion of the Police Department CALEA accreditation process which he believes was yesterday or the day before and it was simply a two hour period by which people were able to call in. He does not think the city came up with that, it was probably the people who do the accreditation. He did see something that was put out by the Police Department earlier about if people wanted to submit written comments that there was an email address. That is good but he would encourage us to try to keep open that comment period as long as possible for people no matter what their feelings are on the Bethlehem Police Department. We had that Public Safety Meeting last Tuesday that was six hours long and if we had done the meeting differently, although Mr. Colón ran a great meeting, but for the purpose of how many people wanted to speak he can guarantee there would be more than two hours of people calling in to speak on all sides of this issue. He would encourage us as a city to extend that CALEA comment time period as long as we can. Mr. Reynolds does not know exactly how these things work, the formula or whoever is doing it. He does not think we were the ones who manage the accreditation process but it is important that we make sure we keep open that comment period as long as possible. He can guarantee that there were not as many comments probably submitted just basically because there was not the same amount of enthusiasm on all sides of the conversation we had last week. Mr. Reynolds believes we need to make sure that we allow people to speak during that accreditation process and give them more opportunities to weigh in.

Dr. Van Wirt echoed what Mr. Reynolds just said. She had read on social media from citizens who were having trouble getting through to the CALEA comment line and they just got an answering machine that said, "Hi, this is so and so's name, I am not here right now, please leave a message." This was during this very short two hour phone in period which she felt to begin with was not enough time to allow every one of our citizens, some who work during that time period and cannot get to a phone to be able to call in. Dr. Van Wirt was able to call in and get through to her about five minutes before the window closed. She asked her why there was an answering machine. She said that there was supposed to be two of us but the other one had an appointment so she could not make it. She does not know who arranged all of this but with ten minutes to call that potentially could have been a total of twelve callers for that two hour period for a city of 78,000. She felt it was not reflective of a real opportunity for discourse in hearing what our citizens have to say. She asked Mayor Donchez to take something back to Police Chief Mark DiLuzio. She read there is a public hearing coming up on September 1, 2020 and the Chief sent out a notice on social media of that public hearing to discuss the proposed use of funds received under the 2020 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG). This is a public hearing so our citizens can come forward and talk about what this grant will be used for but the notice does not say how much it is, what is the timeframe for when it needs to be used and what is the police department proposing to use it for. Dr. Van Wirt believes in order to have meaningful dialogue with our citizens and have input from our citizens on how these types of monies are appropriated it is important to have that information put out there prior to the public meeting. So then they can know what the police department is using this money for. Maybe in the past there has not been as much scrutiny on these decisions but there is now. She would ask that the Chief put that information out now way before the public meeting so our citizens know what the grant is all about, where it came from, what is its traditional use and purpose and what is the police department proposing to use it for now.

Mr. Callahan stated he is all for providing more money for training for the police department. He then asked Dr. Van Wirt if she is for defunding the police department.

President Waldron remarked according to Robert's Rules he should address the Chair and individual members of Council.

Mr. Callahan informed he was operating under the rule of Solicitor Spirk in that we were allowed to ask each other questions in small situations as this.

President Waldron noted Mr. Callahan can ask the question but he does not believe that Dr. Van Wirt has the intention to answer it and get into a dialogue back and forth with him.

Mr. Callahan pointed out he is not asking for a dialogue, he is just asking her a simple question. He asked Dr. Van Wirt if she is for defunding the police department.

President Waldron does not think she will answer.

Mr. Callahan reported he is allowed according to Council Rules and Solicitor Spirk to ask questions and we are allowed to ask each other questions. He is asking Councilwoman Dr. Van Wirt if she is for defunding the police department.

President Waldron pointed out that Dr. Van Wirt has not unmuted her microphone so by that indication he does not believe she intends to answer that question.

Mr. Callahan would assume that Dr. Van Wirt's question is answered because she refuses to answer.

President Waldron noted that is not the case because she did not answer your question.

Mr. Callahan stated that is correct and as he is saying he is allowed under Council Rules to ask a question, according to Solicitor Spirk so he is asking her plain and simple if she is for defunding the police department.

President Waldron noted the question has been asked, Dr. Van Wirt has not answered it.

Mr. Callahan appreciates the opportunity and added that he appreciates Dr. Van Wirt's opportunity to not answer the question.

President Waldron noted to circle back to the Police Department CALEA accreditation; he was one of the members of the public that was scheduled through Captain Kott that the accreditors would reach out to as President of Council. He had a time scheduled and phone call today and talked for more than ten minutes about his views on the police department and what the policies are within the department and how he felt about those. He did have the opportunity to have the discussion with one of the interviewers. President Waldron did talk to Chief DiLuzio this afternoon as well because there was feedback similar to what Mr. Reynolds and Dr. Van Wirt had talked about where not enough people who wanted to make comment were able to do so. President Waldron informed the Chief told him that he had heard that 28 people were able to make comments through that phone period of two hours. He stated that clearly not everyone

spoke for that ten minute time frame that was allotted. Similarly some people went over that ten minute time limit and that was the problem where things got backed up. The city and the police department are not part of the scheduling the timeframe or the amount of opportunity for people to call in, that is up to the CALEA accreditation group. He was also told that if anyone wanted to make comment they could do so through email. That is a great opportunity for as many people who want to make comment to the CALEA accreditation group, to let them know their feelings on the Bethlehem Police Department. That information can be found on the Bethlehem Police Department Facebook page, there is a link there to an email to make comments. If you are not able to find that he is sure anyone could reach out to the City Clerk's Office and we can get that information and forward that to anyone who wants to make comment as well.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.

ATTEST:

Robert G. Vidoni, Esq.
City Clerk