Easton, Pennsylvania  

September 21, 2017

A regular meeting of the Northampton County Council was held on the above date with the following present: John Cusick, President; Glenn A. Geissinger, Vice President; Mathew M. Benol; Matthew H. Dietz; Kenneth M. Kraft; Hayden Phillips; Seth Vaughn; Robert F. Werner; Linda M. Zembo, Clerk to Council and Phil D. Lauer, Solicitor to Council. Absent was Margaret L. Ferraro.

Prayer

Mr. Cusick led County Council in a moment of silence.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Dietz led County Council in the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Werner made the following motion:

Be It Moved By the Northampton County Council that the minutes of the September 7, 2017 meeting shall be approved.

Mr. Benol seconded the motion.

The minutes were approved by voice acclamation with Mr. Kraft abstaining.

Courtesy of the Floor

Mr. Jeff Fox, Pen Argyl, PA - stated he believed after attending one of the Science Center (DaVinci) project forums and being informed by others who attended other forums that Ms. Lin Erickson, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer, was not forthcoming with the public about the project. He further stated he asked Ms. Erickson how much money DaVinci requested from Northampton County for the project and she did not specifically answer the question.
Mr. Fox advised he sat on a couple of the committees of Slate Belt Rising and now that there were initiatives going on in the Slate Belt he did not want to see any of their potential funding to be given to DaVinci. He further advised the forums were to get people excited about the project and to put their names on a letter in support of it to be presented to County Council.

Mr. Fox stated a year ago County Council met at SteelStacks and indicated they would be visiting other areas on a regular basis, but it never happened so he would urge County Council to reconsider holding meetings around the County to make them more accessible to the public.

Mr. J. William Reynolds, 34 West Elizabeth Avenue, Bethlehem, PA - advised the Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance (LERTA) would provide a great opportunity for Bethlehem and the County to show what could happen when local government partnerships were formed.

Controller’s Report

Mr. Stephen Barron, Controller, was not present at the meeting.

County Executive Report

Mr. John A. Brown, County Executive, stated the State budget was still not finalized and they were not paying certain bills; however, the County was well prepared to ride out the storm and take care of its obligations.

In answer to Mr. Cusick’s question as to whether there were any payments that did not come in, Mr. Brown advised there were some reimbursements for Children, Youth and Families and he would provide a more detailed report at the next meeting.

Public Hearing on the Ordinance Entitled, "AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR AN AMENDMENT TO THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY HOME RULE CHARTER, ARTICLE III COUNTY EXECUTIVE SECTION 304. SPECIAL PROHIBITION TO PROVIDE FOR TERM LIMITS FOR THE OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE OF THE COUNTY OF NORTHAMPTON, EASTON, PENNSYLVANIA"
Mr. Cusick stated the following ordinance was introduced by he and Mr. Benol at the meeting held on September 7, 2017:

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR AN AMENDMENT TO THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY HOME RULE CHARTER, ARTICLE III COUNTY EXECUTIVE SECTION 304. SPECIAL PROHIBITION TO PROVIDE FOR TERM LIMITS FOR THE OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE OF THE COUNTY OF NORTHAMPTON, EASTON, PENNSYLVANIA

BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED AND ENACTED, by the Northampton County Council that:

SECTION I - PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY HOME RULE CHARTER

A. A proposed amendment to the Northampton County Home Rule Charter shall be prepared for presentation as a referendum question at the May 15, 2018 Primary Election, said referendum question shall be prepared and acted upon in accordance with the Northampton County Home Rule Charter, Article XI, and all applicable laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

B. The proposed question is:

Shall the electorate of Northampton County approve a change in the Northampton County Home Rule Charter Article III County Executive, Section 304. Special Prohibitions, to impose term limits on the Executive of the County of Northampton, Easton, Pennsylvania, commencing with the term of office beginning January 2022.

Article III Executive, Section 304. Special Prohibition, shall be amended to read as follows:

Section 304. Special Prohibitions

(1) During his term of office, the County Executive shall not actively engage in any other business or occupation.

(2) No person shall be elected to the office of County Executive more than twice and no person, who has held the office of County Executive or acted as County Executive for more than two years of a term to which some other person was elected County Executive, shall be elected to the office of County Executive more than once.
SECTION II - EFFECTIVE DATE

A. This ordinance shall become effective thirty days after the date of enactment.

Public Hearing

Mr. Jeff Fox, Pen Argyl, PA - commented this ordinance was not necessary and felt a study commission would be the way to go.

Mr. Cusick advised the Governance Committee met yesterday and after significant discussions a recommendation was made to table this ordinance and have Messrs. Werner and Phillips introduce an ordinance at the next meeting requesting a government study committee be formed to address this and other issues.

Mr. Kraft made a motion to table this ordinance.

Mr. Phillips seconded the motion.

Mr. Cusick called for the vote on the motion to table this ordinance.

The vote: Kraft, "yes"; Phillips, "yes"; Dietz, "yes"; Geissinger, "yes"; Vaughn, "no"; Werner, "yes"; Benol, "yes" and Cusick, "yes".

The ordinance was tabled by a vote of 7-1.

Mr. Cusick stated the following ordinance was introduced by Mr. Werner, Mrs. Ferraro and Mr. Kraft at the meeting held on September 7, 2017:


WHEREAS, the General Assembly of Pennsylvania passed Act 76 of 1977, known as the Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance Law (LERTA), which authorizes local taxing authorities to provide for tax exemption for certain deteriorated industrial, commercial and other business property; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly of Pennsylvania passed Act 42 of 1977, known as the Improvement of Deteriorating Real Property or Areas Tax Exemption Act (Residential LERTA), which authorizes local taxing authorities to provide for tax exemption for certain deteriorated residential property; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bethlehem and the Bethlehem Area School District have approved an amendment to the area defined in the City of Bethlehem Codified Ordinance #342; and

WHEREAS, the County Council of Northampton County, in accordance with said Act, have held a public hearing; and

WHEREAS, at said public hearing the City of Bethlehem having jurisdiction in and about the County of Northampton and its subordinate governmental units and other public and private agencies and individuals presented to the Northampton County Council their recommendations concerning the location of the boundaries of deteriorated neighborhoods in deteriorating areas.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDEIGNED, by the County Council of Northampton County:

I. DEFINITIONS

As used in this Ordinance, the following words and phrases shall have the meaning set forth below:

A. "Deteriorated area" means that portion of the City which City Council has determined to be physically blighted in Resolution No. 2017-103 pursuant to Ordinance 2017-13 and Act 76 of 1977 of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, as amended (72 P.S. 4722 et seq.), passed April 18, 2017, which amends Ordinance 2016-23, and Act 42 of 1977 of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, as Amended (72 P.S. § 4711-101, et seq.).

(a) This ordinance shall terminate on December 31, 2022 for the deteriorated area(s) adopted April 18, 2017 pursuant to City of Bethlehem Resolution No. 2017-13 and City Ordinance 2017-103.

(b) No later than August 1, 2022, the Mayor of the City of Bethlehem shall submit a written report to the Northampton County Council which shall inform the Northampton County Council as to how this Ordinance has been administered, the effects of this Ordinance on the community and include any suggestions or recommendations for this Ordinance's re-enactment, modification or repeal.

(c) Any property tax exemptions granted under the provisions of this Ordinance shall be permitted to continue according to the exemption schedule found in Section 342.03, unless any such property tax exemption is rescinded in accordance with the default provisions of this Ordinance, even if this Ordinance expires or is repealed.

B. "Becomes assessable" means immediately following issuance of the state and local occupancy permits.
II. **ELIGIBLE AREAS**

The Northampton County Council hereby determines that the following areas of the City of Bethlehem, Northampton County Pennsylvania, contain "deteriorated" areas as defined in Act 76 of 1977, 72 P.S. §4722, et seq. and act 42 of 1977, 72 P.S. § 4711-101, et seq. and are eligible for tax exemption under this Act:

**PART I:**

BEGINNING AT A POINT SAID POINT BEING THE INTERSECTION OF THE LEHIGH COUNTY AND NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BOUNDARIES WITH THE NORTHERN MOST CORNER OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL N6SW3C 1 6 0204E AND THE WESTERN MOST CORNER OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL N6SW3B 7 2 0204. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2623949.283 FEET EAST AND 481245.886 FEET NORTH.

THENCE SOUTHEAST IN TWO COURSES ALONG THE WESTERN AND SOUTHERN PERIMETER OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL N6SW3B 7 2 0204. FIRST SOUTH ALONG THE WESTERN BOUNDARY LINE TO A POINT LOCATED AT 2624089.750 FEET EAST AND 480749.156 FEET NORTH. SECOND, EAST FOLLOWING THE SOUTHERN BOUNDARY TO A POINT BEING THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL N6SW3B 7 2 0204. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2624211.250 FEET EAST AND 480745.407 FEET NORTH.

THENCE IN A STRAIGHT LINE, IN AN EASTERLY DIRECTION TO THE INTERSECTION OF THE STREET CENTERLINES OF W LAUREL ST AND MAUCH CHUNK RD. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2624220.303 FEET EAST 480760.896 FEET NORTH.

CONTINUING IN AN EASTERLY DIRECTION ALONG THE CENTERLINE OF W LAUREL ST TO A POINT BEING THE INTERSECTION OF THE CENTERLINES OF W LAUREL ST AND MASSLICH ST. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2625997.619 FEET EAST AND 4810799.964 FEET NORTH.

THENCE ALONG THE CENTERLINE OF MASSLICH ST, NORTH TO A POINT BEING THE INTERSECTION OF THE CENTERLINES OF MASSLICH ST AND W DURHAM ST. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2626002.056 FEET EAST AND 481025.339 FEET NORTH.

THENCE ALONG THE CENTERLINE OF W DURHAM ST, EAST TO A POINT BEING THE INTERSECTION OF THE CENTERLINES OF W DURHAM ST AND RADLEY ST. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2626587.524 FEET EAST AND 481023.355 FEET NORTH.

THENCE ALONG THE CENTERLINE OF RADLEY ST, SOUTH TO A POINT
BEING THE INTERSECTION OF THE CENTERLINES OF RADLEY ST AND W LAUREL ST. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2626587.524 FEET EAST AND 480798.372 FEET NORTH.


THENCE SOUTH ALONG THE CENTERLINE OF GRENADIER BLVD TO THE INTERSECTION OF THE CENTERLINES OF GRENADIER BLVD AND E FAIRVIEW ST. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2627851.786 FEET EAST AND 480353.521 FEET NORTH.

THENCE ALONG THE CENTERLINE OF E FAIRVIEW ST, EAST TO A POINT BEING THE INTERSECTION OF THE CENTERLINES OF E FAIRVIEW ST AND LINDEN ST. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2628933.053 FEET EAST AND 480359.273 FEET NORTH.

THENCE ALONG THE CENTERLINE OF LINDEN ST, NORTH TO A POINT BEING THE INTERSECTION OF THE CENTERLINE OF LINDEN ST AND AN EXTENSION OF THE SOUTHERN BOUNDARY LINE OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL N6SE4C 17 1 0204. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2628932.322 FEET EAST AND 480473.098 FEET NORTH.

THENCE EAST, FOLLOWING THE SOUTHERN BOUNDARY LINE OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL N6SE4C 17 1 0204, TO THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL N6SE4C 17 1 0204. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2629150.337 FEET EAST AND 480475.375 FEET NORTH.

THENCE IN A STRAIGHT LINE EAST, CROSSING THE RIGHT-OF-WAY OF PULASKI ST TO THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL N6SE3D 19 5 0204. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2629169.087 FEET EAST AND 480475.469 FEET NORTH.

THENCE SOUTH ALONG THE CENTERLINE OF MAPLE ST TO A POINT BEING THE INTERSECTION OF THE CENTERLINES OF MAPLE ST AND AN EXTENSION OF THE NORTHERN BOUNDARY LINE OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL P6NE2A 8 13 0204. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2629387.704 FEET EAST AND 479713.514 FEET NORTH.

THENCE EAST ALONG THE NORTHERN BOUNDARY LINE OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL P6NE2A 8 13 0204 AND EXTENSIONS THEREOF, TO A POINT BEING THE INTERSECTION OF THE BOUNDARY LINE EXTENSION WITH THE INTERSECTION OF THE EASTERN BOUNDARY LINE EXTENSION WITH THE CENTERLINE OF EDGE ST. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2629557.087 FEET EAST AND 479714.219 FEET NORTH.

THENCE IN A SOUTHERLY DIRECTION ALONG THE CENTERLINE OF EDGE ST TO THE INTERSECTION OF THE CENTERLINES OF EDGE ST AND E NORTH ST. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2629561.822 FEET EAST AND 478886.002 FEET NORTH.

THENCE WEST ALONG THE CENTERLINE OF E NORTH ST TO A POINT BEING THE INTERSECTION OF THE CENTERLINES OF E NORTH ST AND MAPLE ST. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2629561.822 FEET EAST AND 478885.155 FEET NORTH.

THENCE AGAIN ALONG THE CENTERLINE OF MAPLE ST, SOUTH TO A POINT BEING THE INTERSECTION OF THE CENTERLINES OF MAPLE ST AND E BROAD ST. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2629395.575 FEET EAST AND 478405.729 FEET NORTH.

THENCE WEST ALONG THE CENTERLINE OF E BROAD ST TO A POINT BEING THE INTERSECTION OF THE CENTERLINE OF E BROAD ST AND AN EXTENSION OF THE WESTERN BOUNDARY LINE OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL P6NE2D 10 3 0204E. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2629552.587 FEET EAST AND 478406.909 FEET NORTH.

THENCE SOUTH ALONG THE WESTERN BOUNDARY LINE OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL P6NE2D 10 3 0204E TO A POINT BEING THE COMMON POINT OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL P6NE2D 10 3 0204E WITH THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL P6NE2D 10 10 0204. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2629556.197 FEET EAST AND 478120.956 FEET NORTH.

THENCE WEST ALONG THE SOUTHERN BOUNDARY LINE OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL P6NE2D 10 10 0204 TO THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL P6NE2D 10 10 0204 AND IN A STRAIGHT LINE IN A WESTERLY DIRECTION TO A POINT BEING THE INTERSECTION OF THE CENTERLINES OF MAPLE ST AND E WALNUT ST. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2629396.342 FEET EAST AND 478123.464 FEET NORTH.
THENCE CONTINUING WEST ALONG THE CENTERLINE OF E WALNUT ST TO A POINT BEING THE INTERSECTION OF THE CENTERLINE OF E WALNUT ST AND PULASKI ST. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2629170.495 FEET EAST AND 478121.567 FEET NORTH.

THENCE NORTH ALONG THE CENTERLINE OF PULASKI ST TO A POINT BEING THE INTERSECTION OF THE CENTERLINE OF PULASKI ST AND AN EXTENSION OF THE SOUTHERN BOUNDARY LINE OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL P6NE1C 18 7 0204. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2629169.552 FEET EAST AND 478290.489 FEET NORTH.

THENCE SOUTHWEST ALONG THE EXTENSION OF THE SOUTHERN BOUNDARY LINE OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL P6NE1C 18 7 0204 AND SOUTHERN CONNECTING BOUNDARY LINES OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCELS P6NE1C 18 7 0204, P6NE1C 18 6 0204, P6NE1C 18 5 0204, P6NE1C 18 4 0204, P6NE1C 18 3 0204, P6NE1C 18 2 0204 AND P6NE1C 18 1 0204. TO THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL P6NE1C 18 1 0204. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2628985.837 FEET EAST AND 478249.156 FEET NORTH.

THENCE IN A STRAIGHT LINE, CROSSING THE RIGHT-OF-WAY OF LINDEN ST TO A POINT BEING THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL P6NE1C 17 7 0204. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2628914.337 FEET EAST AND 478217.531 FEET NORTH.

THENCE CONTINUING IN A SOUTHWESTERLY DIRECTION ALONG THE SOUTHERN BOUNDARY LINES OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCELS P6NE1C 17 7 0204 AND P6NE1C 17 6 0204E. TO A POINT ALONG THE EASTERN BOUNDARY LINE OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL P6NE1C 17 5 0204 AND BEING THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL P6NE1C 17 6 0204E. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2628762.837 FEET EAST AND 478195.625 FEET NORTH.

THENCE SOUTH ALONG THE EASTERN BOUNDARY LINE OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL P6NE1C 17 5 0204 AND AN EXTENSION THEREOF, TO A POINT BEING THE INTERSECTION OF THE EXTENSION OF THE EASTERN BOUNDARY LINE OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL P6NE1C 17 5 0204 AND THE CENTERLINE OF E WALNUT ST. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2628763.133 FEET EAST AND 478119.457 FEET NORTH.

THENCE ALONG THE CENTERLINE OF E WALNUT ST AGAIN, WEST TO A POINT BEING THE INTERSECTION OF THE CENTERLINE OF E WALNUT ST AND AN EXTENSION OF THE WESTERN BOUNDARY OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL P6NE1C 17 3 0204. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2628493.612 FEET EAST AND 478117.829 FEET NORTH.
THENCE NORTH ALONG THE EXTENSION OF THE WESTERN BOUNDARY AND THE WESTERN BOUNDARY OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL P6NE1C 17 3 0204 TO A POINT BEING THE COMMON POINT WITH THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL P6NE1C 17 2 0204. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2628492.587 FEET EAST AND 478250.406 FEET NORTH.

THENCE WEST ALONG THE SOUTHERN BOUNDARIES OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCELS P6NE1C 17 2 0204 AND P6NE1C 17 1 0204, TO THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL P6NE1C 17 1 0204. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2628431.587 FEET EAST AND 478249.750 FEET NORTH.

THENCE IN A STRAIGHT LINE IN A NORTHWESTERLY DIRECTION, CROSSING THE RIGHT-OF-WAY OF PENN ST TO A POINT BEING THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL P6NE1C 16 4 0204. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2628411.087 FEET EAST AND 478260.438 FEET NORTH.

THENCE WEST ALONG THE SOUTHERN BOUNDARIES OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCELS P6NE1C 16 4 0204, P6NE1C 16 3 0204E, P6NE1C 16 2 0204, P6NE1C 16 1 0204, P6NE1C 16 1A 0204 AND P6NE1C 16 9 0204, TO THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL P6NE1C 16 9 0204. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2628232.587 FEET EAST AND 478260.500 FEET NORTH.

THENCE IN A STRAIGHT LINE IN A SOUTHWESTERLY DIRECTION, CROSSING THE RIGHT-OF-WAY OF HIGH ST TO A POINT BEING THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL P6NE1C 15 8 0204. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2628153.087 FEET EAST AND 478235.125 FEET NORTH.

THENCE WEST ALONG THE SOUTHERN BOUNDARIES OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCELS P6NE1C 15 8 0204, P6NE1C 15 7 0204, P6NE1C 15 6 0204, P6NE1C 15 5 0204, P6NE1C 15 4 0204E, P6NE1C 15 3 0204 AND P6NE1C 15 2 0204, TO THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL P6NE1C 15 2 0204 ALONG THE EASTERN BOUNDARY LINE OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL P6NE1C 15 1 0204. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2627911.587 FEET EAST AND 478223.531 FEET NORTH.

THENCE SOUTH ALONG THE EASTERN BOUNDARY LINE OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL P6NE1C 15 1 0204 AND AN EXTENSION THEREOF, TO A POINT BEING THE INTERSECTION OF THE EXTENSION OF THE EASTERN BOUNDARY LINE OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL P6NE1C 15 1 0204 AND THE CENTERLINE OF E WALNUT ST. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2627911.875 FEET EAST AND 478114.210 FEET NORTH.
THENCE AGAIN ALONG THE CENTERLINE OF E WALNUT ST, WEST TO A
POINT BEING THE INTERSECTION OF THE CENTERLINES OF E WALNUT ST
AND PINE ST. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2627835.277 FEET EAST AND
478113.492 FEET NORTH.

THENCE NORTH ALONG THE CENTERLINE OF PINE ST TO A POINT
BEING THE INTERSECTION OF THE CENTERLINE OF PINE ST AND AN
EXTENSION OF THE SOUTHERN BOUNDARY OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL
P6NE1C 14 5 0204. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2627835.219 FEET EAST
AND 478232.652 FEET NORTH.

THENCE NORTHWEST ALONG THE EXTENSION OF THE SOUTHERN
BOUNDARY OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL P6NE1C 14 5 0204 AND THE
SOUTHERN BOUNDARIES OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCELS P6NE1C 14 5
0204, P6NE1C 14 4 0204, P6NE1C 14 3 0204, P6NE1C 14 2 0204 AND
P6NE1C 14 1 0204. TO THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
PARCEL P6NE1C 14 1 0204. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2627651.587 FEET
EAST AND 478267.000 FEET NORTH.

THENCE IN A STRAIGHT LINE IN A SOUTHWESTERLY DIRECTION
CROSSING THE RIGHT-OF-WAY OF CENTER ST TO THE SOUTHEAST CORNER
OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL P6NE1C 13 5 0204. SAID POINT
LOCATED AT 2627571.587 FEET EAST AND 478229.969 FEET NORTH.

THENCE WEST ALONG THE SOUTHERN BOUNDARIES OF NORTHAMPTON
COUNTY PARCELS P6NE1C 13 5 0204, P6NE1C 13 2 0204, P6NE1C 13 1
0204E AND AN EXTENSION THEREOF, TO A POINT BEING THE
INTERSECTION OF THE EXTENSION OF THE SOUTHERN BOUNDARY LINE OF
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL P6NE1C 13 1 0204E AND THE CENTERLINE
OF SCHOOL ST. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2627376.576 FEET EAST AND
478227.194 FEET NORTH.

THENCE SOUTH ALONG THE CENTERLINE OF SCHOOL ST TO A POINT
BEING THE INTERSECTION OF THE CENTERLINES OF SCHOOL ST AND E
WALNUT ST. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2627377.705 FEET EAST AND
478111.165 FEET NORTH.

THENCE ALONG THE CENTERLINE OF E WALNUT ST AGAIN, WEST TO A
POINT BEING THE INTERSECTION OF THE CENTERLINE OF E WALNUT ST
AND AN EXTENSION OF THE EASTERN BOUNDARY OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
PARCEL P6NE1D 13 11 0204. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2627067.852 FEET
EAST AND 478110.003 FEET NORTH.

THENCE IN TWO COURSES ALONG THE EASTERN AND NORTHERN
PERIMETER OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL P6NE1D 13 11 0204. FIRST,
NORTH ALONG THE EXTENSION OF THE EASTERN BOUNDARY AND FOLLOWING
THE EASTERN BOUNDARY LINE TO A POINT LOCATED AT 2627067.087 FEET
EAST AND 478195.531 FEET NORTH. SECOND, WEST FOLLOWING THE
NORTHERN BOUNDARY TO A POINT BEING THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL P6NE1D 13 11 0204. SAID POINT LOCATED
AT 2627008.087 FEET EAST AND 478195.375 FEET NORTH.

THENCE IN A STRAIGHT LINE IN A NORTHWesterLY DIRECTION,
CROSSING THE RIGHT-OF-WAY OF LONG ST TO THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL P6NE1D 12 4 0204. SAID POINT LOCATED
AT 2626989.337 FEET EAST AND 478226.781 FEET NORTH.

THENCE NORTHWEST ALONG THE SOUTHERN BOUNDARIES OF
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCELS P6NE1D 12 4 0204, P6NE1D 12 3 0204,
P6NE1D 12 2 0204, P6NE1D 12 1B 0204, P6NE1D 12 1A 0204 AND AN
EXTENSION THEREOF, TO A POINT BEING THE INTERSECTION OF THE
EXTENSION OF THE SOUTHERN BOUNDARY LINE OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
PARCEL P6NE1D 12 1A 0204 AND THE CENTERLINE OF N NEW ST. SAID
POINT LOCATED AT 2626750.570 FEET EAST AND 478284.501 FEET
NORTH.

THENCE NORTH ALONG THE CENTERLINE OF N NEW ST TO A POINT
BEING THE INTERSECTION OF THE CENTERLINE OF N NEW ST, E BROAD ST
AND W BROAD ST. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2626750.839 FEET EAST AND
478393.538 FEET NORTH.

THENCE WEST ALONG THE CENTERLINE OF W BROAD ST TO A POINT
BEING THE INTERSECTION OF THE CENTERLINE OF W BROAD ST AND MAIN
ST. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2625779.886 FEET EAST AND 478403.051
FEET NORTH.

THENCE NORTH ALONG THE CENTERLINE OF MAIN ST TO A POINT
BEING THE INTERSECTION OF THE CENTERLINE OF MAIN ST AND W UNION
BLVD. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2625785.339 FEET EAST AND 479401.762
FEET NORTH.

THENCE WEST ALONG THE CENTERLINE OF W UNION BLVD TO A POINT
BEING THE INTERSECTION OF THE CENTERLINE OF W UNION BLVD AND THE
LEHIGH COUNTY AND NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BOUNDARIES. SAID POINT
LOCATED AT 2624923.344 FEET EAST AND 479397.980 FEET NORTH.

THENCE NORTHWARD, FOLLOWING THE LEHIGH COUNTY AND
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BOUNDARIES TO A POINT AT INTERSECTION OF THE
LEHIGH COUNTY AND NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BOUNDARIES WITH THE
NORTHERN MOST CORNER OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL N6SW3C 1 6
0204E AND THE WESTERN MOST CORNER OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL
N6SW3B 7 2 0204. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2623949.283 FEET EAST
AND 481245.886 FEET NORTH AND SAID POINT BEING THE PLACE OF
BEGINNING.
III. **EXEMPTION AMOUNT**

A. The amount to be exempted shall be limited to that portion of the additional assessment attributable to the actual cost of improvements.

B. The exemption shall be limited to that improvement for which an exemption has been requested in the manner set forth below, and for which a separate assessment has been made by the Assessment Division of the Department of Fiscal Affairs of Northampton County (hereafter referred to as Assessment Division).

IV. **EXEMPTION SCHEDULE**

Subject to the conditions, requirements and limitations set forth in this Ordinance, taxpayers making assessable improvements to deteriorated property located in the deteriorating area may apply for and may be granted a real estate tax exemption limited to the amounts in Sections II (A), (B) and (C) as set forth above, subject to the following schedule:

A. **Subject to Paragraph C., New Construction Improvements**

(1) For the first year immediately following the date upon which the improvement becomes assessable, 50% of the eligible assessment shall be exempted.

(2) For the second year immediately following the date upon which the improvement becomes assessable, 50% of the eligible assessment shall be exempted.

(3) For the third year immediately following the date upon which the improvement becomes assessable, 50% of the eligible assessment shall be exempted.

(4) For the fourth year immediately following the date upon which the improvement becomes assessable, 50% of the eligible assessment shall be exempted.
(5) For the fifth year immediately following the date upon which the improvement becomes assessable, 50% of the eligible assessment shall be exempted.

(6) For the sixth year immediately following the date upon which the improvement becomes assessable, 50% of the eligible assessment shall be exempted.

(7) For the seventh year immediately following the date upon which the improvement becomes assessable, 50% of the eligible assessment shall be exempted.

(8) For the eighth year immediately following the date upon which the improvement becomes assessable, 50% of the eligible assessment shall be exempted.

(9) For the ninth year immediately following the date upon which the improvement becomes assessable, 50% of the eligible assessment shall be exempted.

(10) For the tenth year immediately following the date upon which the improvement becomes assessable, 50% of the eligible assessment shall be exempted.

(11) After the tenth year the exemption shall terminate.

(12) The exemption from taxes granted under this Ordinance shall be upon the property and shall not terminate upon the sale or exchange of the property.

B. Subject to Paragraph C., Substantial Rehabilitation Improvements

(1) For the first year immediately following the date upon which the improvement becomes assessable, 50% of the eligible assessment shall be exempted.
(2) For the second year immediately following the date upon which the improvement becomes assessable, 50% of the eligible assessment shall be exempted.

(3) For the third year immediately following the date upon which the improvement becomes assessable, 50% of the eligible assessment shall be exempted.

(4) For the fourth year immediately following the date upon which the improvement becomes assessable, 50% of the eligible assessment shall be exempted.

(5) For the fifth year immediately following the date upon which the improvement becomes assessable, 50% of the eligible assessment shall be exempted.

(6) For the sixth year immediately following the date upon which the improvement becomes assessable, 50% of the eligible assessment shall be exempted.

(7) For the seventh year immediately following the date upon which the improvement becomes assessable, 50% of the eligible assessment shall be exempted.

(8) For the eighth year immediately following the date upon which the improvement becomes assessable, 50% of the eligible assessment shall be exempted.

(9) For the ninth year immediately following the date upon which the improvement becomes assessable, 50% of the eligible assessment shall be exempted.

(10) For the tenth year immediately following the date upon which the improvement becomes assessable, 50% of the eligible assessment shall be exempted.

(11) After the tenth year the exemption shall terminate.
(12) The exemption from taxes granted under this Ordinance shall be upon the property and shall not terminate upon the sale or exchange of the property.

C. County’s Fifty Percent (50%) Exemption is Contingent Upon Annual Payments by City of Bethlehem

(1) The 50% exemption set forth in Sections II (A) and (B) above, are contingent upon the City of Bethlehem’s annual contribution of Fifty Thousand Dollars ($50,000.00) to the defined deteriorated area to improve generally the conditions of said area. County Council recognizes that the City’s annual payment of Fifty Thousand Dollars ($50,000.00) justifies its ten percent (10%) abatement under this portion of the LERTA program as opposed to the fifty percent (50%) abatement provided for by both the Bethlehem Area School District and the County of Northampton.

(2) In the event the City of Bethlehem fails to make the above said Fifty Thousand Dollar ($50,000.00) payment in any calendar year then, in that event the eligible real estate tax exemption set forth in Sections II (A) and (B) above shall be reduced to an abatement of ten percent (10%) for the remaining duration of the effective period of this ordinance.

V. PROCEDURES FOR OBTAINING EXEMPTIONS

A copy of the request for exemption, on forms prescribed by the Northampton County Director of Fiscal Affairs, shall be forwarded to the Assessment Division, the Lehigh County Board of Assessment Appeals and the Bethlehem Area School District by the City. Upon completion of the improvement, the taxpayer shall notify the City and the Assessment Division so that the Assessment Division may assess the improvements separately for the purpose of calculating the amount of assessment eligible for tax exemption in accordance with the limits established in this Ordinance. The City will then obtain from the Assessment Division the amount of the assessment eligible for exemption and will notify the taxpayer. The Director
of the Department of Fiscal Affairs is authorized to make refunds, if applicable, only after the Assessment Division has notified the Director of Fiscal Affairs of its separate assessment upon the improvement for which an exemption is requested. Appeals from the reassessment and the amount eligible for the exemption may be taken by the taxpayer of the City as provided by law.

VI. TERMINATION

Unless otherwise repealed by the Northampton County Council, this Ordinance shall terminate on December 31, 2022. No later than August 1, 2022, the Mayor of the City of Bethlehem shall submit a written report to the Northampton County Council which shall inform the Northampton County Council as to how this Ordinance has been administered, the effects of this Ordinance on the community and include any suggestions or recommendations for this Ordinance’s re-enactment, modification or repeal. Nothing contained herein shall act to prohibit the Northampton County Council from enacting a similar ordinance after December 31, 2022. Any property tax exemptions granted under the provisions of this Ordinance shall be permitted to continue according to the exemption schedule found in Section IV even if this Ordinance expires or is repealed.

VII. HEARING BOARD

A Tax Abatement Hearing Board (hereafter referred to as Board) shall consist of the Business Administrator of the City of Bethlehem, the Director of Fiscal Affairs of the County of Northampton, the Director of Fiscal Affairs of Lehigh County and the Business Administrator of the Bethlehem Area School District, for resolution of differences between the approving authority and the owner-taxpayer of the improved property on matters concerning interpretation and execution of the provisions of this Ordinance.

Three members shall be selected at large for their interest in accomplishing the objectives of this Ordinance and shall serve until December 31, 2004.
VIII. RULES AND REGULATIONS

In accordance with the provisions of the Northampton County Home Rule Charter, Section 302, the County Executive of Northampton County is authorized and empowered to prepare, promulgate, execute and enforce rules and regulations made pursuant to the provisions of this Ordinance.

IX. SEVERABILITY

The provisions of this Ordinance are severable and if any of its sections, clauses or sentences shall be held illegal, invalid or unconstitutional, such provisions shall not affect or impair any of the remaining sections, clauses or sentences. It is hereby declared to be the intent of the Northampton County Council that this Ordinance would have been adopted if such illegal, invalid or unconstitutional sections, clauses or sentences had not been included herein.

X. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Ordinance shall take effect on thirty (30) days after the date of enactment and shall remain in effect thereafter from year to year, unless repealed, until December 31, 2022.

XI. All ordinances, and parts of ordinances, inconsistent herewith be, and the same are hereby repealed.

Public Hearing

Mr. Cusick asked if there were any questions or comments from the public regarding this ordinance.

There were no respondents.

Mr. Cusick advised that the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) recently submitted significant amendments to this ordinance. He then read the amendments that were being presented for consideration (sections marked with strikeout have been deleted and sections marked with **bold underline** have been added):
I. DEFINITIONS

a) As used in this Ordinance, the following words and phrases shall have the meaning set forth below:

(1) "Becomes assessable" means immediately following issuance of the state and local occupancy permits.

(2) "Deteriorated area" means that portion of the City which Bethlehem City Council has determined to be physically blighted pursuant to Act 76 of 1977 of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, as amended (72 P.S. 4722 et seq.) and Act 42 of 1977 of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, as Amended (72 P.S. § 4711-101, et seq.).

(3) "Deteriorated property" means any industrial, commercial or other business property owned by an individual, association or corporation, and located in a deteriorating area, as provided by Resolution of Council, or any such property which has been the subject of an order by the City requiring the unit to be vacated, condemned or demolished by reason of noncompliance with laws, ordinance or regulations. Buildings wherein at least 30% of the usable gross floor area is utilized for industrial, commercial, or business use shall, if otherwise qualified, be considered a "deteriorated property" within this Article.

(4) "Improvement" means the construction of new building structures, new additions to existing structures or substantial renovations to existing structures which result in an increase in assessed valuation of the deteriorated property. Such improvements shall have the effect of rehabilitating a deteriorated property so that it becomes habitable or attains higher standards of safety, health, economic use or amenity or is brought into compliance with laws, ordinances or regulations governing such standards. Ordinary upkeep and maintenance shall not be deemed an improvement.

(5) "Local taxing authority" means the City of Bethlehem, the Bethlehem Area School District, the County of Northampton, or any other governmental entity having the authority to levy real property taxes within the City of Bethlehem.

(6) "Municipal governing body" means Northampton County.
(7) "Becomes assessable" means immediately following issuance of the state and local occupancy permits.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDIANED, by the County Council of Northampton County:

I. DEFINITIONS

As used in this Ordinance, the following words and phrases shall have the meaning set forth below:

A. "Deteriorated area" means that portion of the City which City Council has determined to be physically blighted in Resolution No. 2017-103 pursuant to Ordinance 2017-13 and Act 76 of 1977 of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, as amended (72 P.S. 4722 et seq.), passed April 18, 2017, which amends Ordinance 2016-23, and Act 42 of 1977 of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, as Amended (72 P.S. § 4711-101, et seq.).

(a) This ordinance shall terminate on December 31, 2022 for the deteriorated area(s) adopted April 18, 2017 pursuant to City of Bethlehem Resolution No. 2017-13 and City Ordinance 2017-103.

(b) No later than August 1, 2022, the Mayor of the City of Bethlehem shall submit a written report to the Northampton County Council which shall inform the Northampton County Council as to how this Ordinance has been administered, the effects of this Ordinance on the community and include any suggestions or recommendations for this Ordinance's re-enactment, modification or repeal.

(c) Any property tax exemptions granted under the provisions of this Ordinance shall be permitted to continue according to the exemption schedule found in Section 342.03, unless any such property tax exemption is rescinded in accordance with the default provisions of this Ordinance, even if this Ordinance expires or is repealed.

B. "Becomes assessable" means immediately following issuance of the state and local occupancy permits.
II. ELIGIBLE AREAS

The Northampton County Council hereby determines that the following areas of the City of Bethlehem, Northampton County Pennsylvania, contain "deteriorated" areas as defined in Act 76 of 1977, 72 P.S. §§4722, et seq. and act 42 of 1977, 72 P.S. § 4711-101, et seq. and are eligible for tax exemption under this Act:

PART I+ (there were no changes to the designated area)

IV. EXEMPTION SCHEDULE

Subject to the conditions, requirements and limitations set forth in this Ordinance, taxpayers making assessable improvements to deteriorated property located in the deteriorating area may apply for and may be granted a real estate tax exemption limited to the amounts in Sections III (A), and (B) and—(C) as set forth above, subject to the following schedule:

C. County’s Fifty Percent (50%) Exemption is Contingent Upon Annual Payments by City of Bethlehem

(1) The 50% exemption set forth in Sections II IV (A) and (B) above, are contingent upon the City of Bethlehem’s annual contribution of Fifty Thousand Dollars ($50,000.00) to the defined deteriorated area to improve generally the conditions of said area. County Council recognizes that the City’s annual payment of Fifty Thousand Dollars ($50,000.00) justifies its ten percent (10%) abatement under this portion of the LERTA program as opposed to the fifty percent (50%) abatement provided for by both the Bethlehem Area School District and the County of Northampton.

(2) In the event the City of Bethlehem fails to make the above said Fifty Thousand Dollar ($50,000.00) payment in any calendar year then, in that event the eligible real estate tax exemption set forth in Sections II IV (A) and (B) above shall be reduced to an abatement of ten percent (10%) for the remaining duration of the effective period of this ordinance.
V. NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS

(a) There shall be placed on the form application for building, zoning and alteration permits the following:

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS

Under the provisions of City Ordinance No. 2959, as amended, you may be entitled to a property tax exemption on your contemplated new construction. An application for exemption may be secured from the City of Bethlehem and must be filed with the City at the time a building permit is secured.

(b) At the time a building permit is secured for construction upon an existing deteriorated property for which an exemption is requested, the taxpayer shall apply to the City of Bethlehem or any successor agency thereto for the exemption provided for in this Ordinance. The taxpayer shall be permitted to apply for the exemption provided in this Ordinance up to a period of sixty (60) days from the date a final executed building permit is secured. Request for the exemption must be in writing certified in full as prescribed by the City setting forth the following information:

(1) The date a final executed building permit was issued for said improvement.

(2) The type of improvement.

(3) The summary of the plan of the improvement.

(4) The cost of the improvement.

(5) That the property has been inspected and verified by the City of Bethlehem, Bureau of Inspections.

(6) Any or all such additional information the City may require.

VI. PROCEDURES FOR OBTAINING EXEMPTIONS

A copy of the request for exemption, on forms prescribed by the Northampton Lehigh County Director of Fiscal Affairs, shall be forwarded to the Assessment Division, the Northampton County Board of Assessment Appeals and
the Bethlehem Area School District by the City. Upon completion of the improvement, the taxpayer shall notify the City and the Assessment Division so that the Assessment Division may assess the improvements separately for the purpose of calculating the amount of assessment eligible for tax exemption in accordance with the limits established in this Ordinance. The City will then obtain from the Assessment Division the amount of the assessment eligible for exemption and will notify the taxpayer. The Director of the Department of Fiscal Affairs is authorized to make refunds, if applicable, only after the Assessment Division has notified the Director of Fiscal Affairs of its separate assessment upon the improvement for which an exemption is requested. Appeals from the reassessment and the amount eligible for the exemption may be taken by the taxpayer of the City as provided by law.

VII. TERMINATION

Unless otherwise repealed by the Northampton County Council, this Ordinance shall terminate on December 31, 2023. No later than August 1, 2022 December 31, 2023, the Mayor of the City of Bethlehem shall submit a written report to the Northampton County Council which shall inform the Northampton County Council as to how this Ordinance has been administered, the effects of this Ordinance on the community and include any suggestions or recommendations for this Ordinance’s re-enactment, modification or repeal. Nothing contained herein shall act to prohibit the Northampton County Council from enacting a similar ordinance after December 31, 2023. Any property tax exemptions granted under the provisions of this Ordinance shall be permitted to continue according to the exemption schedule found in Section IV unless any such property tax exemption is rescinded in accordance with the default provisions of this Ordinance, even if this Ordinance expires or is repealed. even if this Ordinance expires or is repealed.

VIII. HEARING BOARD

A Tax Abatement Hearing Board (hereafter referred to as Board) shall consist of the Business Administrator of the City of Bethlehem, the Director of Fiscal Affairs of the
County of Northampton the Director of Fiscal Affairs of
Lehigh County and the Business Administrator of the
Bethlehem Area School District, for resolution of
differences between the approving authority and the
owner-taxpayer of the improved property on matters
concerning interpretation and execution of the provisions
of this Ordinance.

Three members shall be selected at large for their
interest in accomplishing the objectives of this
Ordinance and shall serve until December 31, 2004 2023.

The Hearing Board shall have the following powers:

(1) To hear appeals from any person aggrieved by the
application of this Ordinance.

(2) To make rules with regard to conducting its hearings.

(3) To make such findings of fact as may be required by the
application of this Ordinance.

(4) To decide questions presented to the Board.

(5) To affirm, revoke or modify the decision of the City of
Bethlehem as to the eligibility of a particular property
for the Property Tax Abatement as provided for in this
Ordinance.

(6) The Board shall meet upon notice of the Chairman within
thirty (30) days of the filing of an appeal and shall
render its decision within thirty (30) days after the
appeal hearing.

(7) Every action of the Board shall be by resolution and
certified copies furnished to the appellant.

(8) All hearings shall be public; and the appellant or any
other person whose interests may be affected by the
matter on appeal shall be given an opportunity to be
heard.

(9) For the purposes of this Ordinance, every action of the
Board shall require a simple majority of the members in
attendance. Attendance at the hearing by three (3)
members of the Board shall be required to constitute a
quorum for a meeting and for action on an appeal.
IX. VIII. RULES AND REGULATIONS

In accordance with the provisions of the Northampton County Home Rule Charter, Section 302, the County Executive of Northampton County is authorized and empowered to prepare, promulgate, execute and enforce rules and regulations made pursuant to the provisions of this Ordinance.

IX. SEVERABILITY

The provisions of this Ordinance are severable and if any of its sections, clauses or sentences shall be held illegal, invalid or unconstitutional, such provisions shall not affect or impair any of the remaining sections, clauses or sentences. It is hereby declared to be the intent of the Northampton County Council that this Ordinance would have been adopted if such illegal, invalid or unconstitutional sections, clauses or sentences had not been included herein.

XI. DEFAULT

Tax abatement under this ordinance shall be available only for those properties for which real estate taxes are promptly paid and discharged when due. Any property that is declared delinquent as established by the statutes of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania shall lose the LERTA benefits and any and all currently due and future taxes shall be due and payable at the full unabated assessment and tax rate.

342.12 APPEAL OF DEFAULT

Properties that have been declared delinquent may appeal the rescission of the LERTA benefits by providing a written request to the Hearing Board providing a basis for the appeal and the justification for the waiver of the requirements of Section X.
XII. **EFFECTIVE DATE**

This Ordinance shall take effect on thirty (30) days after the date of enactment and shall remain in effect thereafter from year to year, unless repealed, until December 31, 2022. 2023.

XIII. All ordinances, and parts of ordinances, inconsistent herewith be, and the same are hereby repealed.

Mr. Cusick made a motion to amend this ordinance as indicated.

Mr. Werner seconded the motion.

In response to Mr. Phillips' question as to why there were such substantial changes, Mr. Herrlinger replied the County's Solicitor's Office reviewed the ordinance when it was submitted and deemed it appropriate, but then Bethlehem requested additional changes that did not change the intent of the LERTA, but would be beneficial to the taxpayers.

In answer to Mr. Cusick's question as to whether these changes substantially changed the ordinance as it was introduced, Mr. Lauer stated the purpose of the changes were to redefine the area that would be subject to the benefits of the LERTA; however, under Definitions, number one and number seven were the same. He further stated that under the removed Definition section there was no definition of deteriorated property, but there was one for deteriorated area. He added the new definition of deteriorated property referred to any industrial, commercial or other business property owned by an individual, association or corporation.

Mr. Lauer advised Act 76 (72 P.S. Section 4722) indicated the LERTA applied only to industrial, commercial or other business property and did not apply to residential properties, but in August of 2016, Bethlehem interpreted that to include residential properties. He further advised at that time he wrote an opinion and pointed out that LERTA only applied to industrial, commercial or other business property, but there was another statute known as the Improvement of Deteriorating Real Property or Areas Tax Exemption Act that did authorize improvements to residential properties and both of those were referenced in the ordinance.
Mr. Kraft made a motion to remove number 7 under definitions.

Mr. Benol seconded the motion.

Mr. Cusick called for a vote on the motion.

The vote: Kraft, "yes"; Benol, "yes" Cusick, "yes"; Dietz, "yes"; Geissinger, "yes"; Phillips, "no"; Vaughn, "yes" and Werner, "yes".

The motion passed by a vote of 7-1.

Mr. Kraft made a motion to add the word residential to number three under Definitions after the word industrial.

Mr. Werner seconded the motion.

Mr. Cusick called for a vote on the motion.

The vote: Kraft, "yes"; Werner, "yes"; Dietz, "yes"; Geissinger, "yes"; Phillips, "no"; Vaughn, "yes"; Benol, "yes" and Cusick, "yes".

The motion passed by a vote of 7-1.

Mr. Kraft made a motion to amend the ordinance as indicated.

Mr. Werner seconded the motion.

Mr. Cusick called for a vote on the motion.

The vote: Kraft, "yes"; Werner, "yes"; Geissinger, "yes"; Phillips, "no"; Vaughn, "yes"; Benol, "yes"; Cusick, "yes" and Dietz, "yes".

The motion passed by a vote of 7-1.

Mr. Benol stated when he first came on County Council he asked Mr. Lauer to look at capping taxes for senior citizens and he was informed that a specific group could not be targeted so he wondered how specific property owners could be exempt from taxes.

Mr. Lauer advised the question had to do with the ability to make taxing decisions based on age or other types of
differences between taxpayers and the answer was that taxpayers had to be treated equally. He further stated in this case there was intercession of legislators that adopted these two statutes.

Mr. Cusick stated he felt the goal of Bethlehem was admirable, but he thought this project could have been handled through a number of grants. He further stated he would have been more supportive of it if the city went in with the same percentage as the County and school district instead of a 10/50/50 split.

Mr. Cusick advised County properties have not been reassessed in a quarter century and if these older neighborhoods were reassessed, the property owners would benefit that way.

Mr. Dietz stated he also felt this could have been handled in a different manner so he could not support it.

Mr. Phillips advised he did not like the idea that there would be winners and losers, thought the LERTA in Easton was not that beneficial and felt Senate Bill 76 (Property Tax Independence Act) would take these types of matters out of County Council’s hand so he would not be voting for it.

Mr. Kraft stated he did not think anyone would complain about someone being able to improve their home and once the improvements were made a reassessment would probably bring in more taxes. He further stated the city was going to take a more active approach to get more people to participate.

Mr. Vaughn advised he purchased his first home in this area and could see how it had deteriorated over the years. He further advised when someone improved their homes it was likely their neighbors would follow suit.

Mr. Benol stated a blighted area usually began with the first broken window and it could either be let go or have programs like this to improve it. He commended the city for doing this and it was up to them to make sure it was implemented properly.

Mr. Werner advised he would like to see more redevelopment in areas like this so he would support it.

Mr. Cusick called for the vote on the following amended ordinance:

I. DEFINITIONS

(a) As used in this Ordinance, the following words and phrases shall have the meaning set forth below:

(1) "Becomes assessable" means immediately following issuance of the state and local occupancy permits.

(2) "Deteriorated area" means that portion of the City which Bethlehem City Council has determined to be physically blighted pursuant to Act 76 of 1977 of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, as amended (72 P.S. 4722 et seq.) and Act 42 of 1977 of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, as Amended (72 P.S. § 4711-101, et seq.).

(3) "Deteriorated property" means any industrial, residential, commercial or other business property owned by an individual, association or corporation, and located in a deteriorating area, as provided by Resolution of Council, or any such property which has been the subject of an order by the City requiring the unit to be vacated, condemned or demolished by reason of noncompliance with laws, ordinance or regulations. Buildings wherein at least 30% of the usable gross floor area is utilized for industrial, residential, commercial, or business use shall, if otherwise qualified, be considered a "deteriorated property" within this Article.
(4) "Improvement" means the construction of new building structures, new additions to existing structures or substantial renovations to existing structures which result in an increase in assessed valuation of the deteriorated property. Such improvements shall have the effect of rehabilitating a deteriorated property so that it becomes habitable or attains higher standards of safety, health, economic use or amenity or is brought into compliance with laws, ordinances or regulations governing such standards. Ordinary upkeep and maintenance shall not be deemed an improvement.

(5) "Local taxing authority" means the City of Bethlehem, the Bethlehem Area School District, the County of Northampton, or any other governmental entity having the authority to levy real property taxes within the City of Bethlehem.

(6) "Municipal governing body" means Northampton County.

WHEREAS, the General Assembly of Pennsylvania passed Act 76 of 1977, known as the Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance Law (LERTA), which authorizes local taxing authorities to provide for tax exemption for certain deteriorated industrial, commercial and other business property; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly of Pennsylvania passed Act 42 of 1977, known as the Improvement of Deteriorating Real Property or Areas Tax Exemption Act (Residential LERTA), which authorizes local taxing authorities to provide for tax exemption for certain deteriorated residential property; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bethlehem and the Bethlehem Area School District have approved an amendment to the area defined in the City of Bethlehem Codified Ordinance #342; and

WHEREAS, the County Council of Northampton County, in accordance with said Act, have held a public hearing; and

WHEREAS, at said public hearing the City of Bethlehem having jurisdiction in and about the County of Northampton and its subordinate governmental units and other public and private agencies and individuals presented to the Northampton County Council their recommendations concerning the location of the
boundaries of deteriorated neighborhoods in deteriorating areas.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the County Council of Northampton County:

II. ELIGIBLE AREAS

The Northampton County Council hereby determines that the following areas of the City of Bethlehem, Northampton County, Pennsylvania, contain "deteriorated" areas as defined in Act 76 of 1977, 72 P.S. §4722, et seq. and act 42 of 1977, 72 P.S. § 4711-101, et seq., and are eligible for tax exemption under this Act:

BEGINNING AT A POINT SAID POINT BEING THE INTERSECTION OF THE LEHIGH COUNTY AND NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BOUNDARIES WITH THE NORTHERN MOST CORNER OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL N6SW3C 1 5 0204E AND THE WESTERN MOST CORNER OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL N6SW3B 7 2 0204. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2623949.283 FEET EAST AND 481245.886 FEET NORTH.

THENCE SOUTHEAST IN TWO COURSES ALONG THE WESTERN AND SOUTHERN PERIMETER OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL N6SW3B 7 2 0204. FIRST SOUTH ALONG THE WESTERN BOUNDARY LINE TO A POINT LOCATED AT 2624089.750 FEET EAST AND 480749.156 FEET NORTH. SECOND, EAST FOLLOWING THE SOUTHERN BOUNDARY TO A POINT BEING THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL N6SW3B 7 2 0204. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2624211.250 FEET EAST AND 480745.407 FEET NORTH.

THENCE IN A STRAIGHT LINE, IN AN EASTERLY DIRECTION TO THE INTERSECTION OF THE STREET CENTERLINES OF W LAUREL ST AND MAUCH CHUNK RD. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2624220.303 FEET EAST 480760.896 FEET NORTH.

CONTINUING IN AN EASTERLY DIRECTION ALONG THE CENTERLINE OF W LAUREL ST TO A POINT BEING THE INTERSECTION OF THE CENTERLINES OF W LAUREL ST AND MASSLICH ST. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2625997.619 FEET EAST AND 480799.964 FEET NORTH.

THENCE ALONG THE CENTERLINE OF MASSLICH ST, NORTH TO A POINT BEING THE INTERSECTION OF THE CENTERLINES OF MASSLICH ST AND W DURHAM ST. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2626002.056 FEET EAST AND 481025.339 FEET NORTH.

THENCE ALONG THE CENTERLINE OF W DURHAM ST, EAST TO A POINT BEING THE INTERSECTION OF THE CENTERLINES OF W DURHAM ST AND RADLEY ST. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2626587.524 FEET EAST AND 481023.355 FEET NORTH.
THENCE ALONG THE CENTERLINE OF RADLEY ST, SOUTH TO A POINT BEING THE INTERSECTION OF THE CENTERLINES OF RADLEY ST AND W LAUREL ST. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2626587.524 FEET EAST AND 480798.372 FEET NORTH.


THENCE SOUTH ALONG THE CENTERLINE OF GRENADIER BLVD TO THE INTERSECTION OF THE CENTERLINES OF GRENADIER BLVD AND E FAIRVIEW ST. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2627851.786 FEET EAST AND 480353.521 FEET NORTH.

THENCE ALONG THE CENTERLINE OF E FAIRVIEW ST, EAST TO A POINT BEING THE INTERSECTION OF THE CENTERLINES OF E FAIRVIEW ST AND LINDEN ST. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2628933.053 FEET EAST AND 480359.273 FEET NORTH.

THENCE ALONG THE CENTERLINE OF LINDEN ST, NORTH TO A POINT BEING THE INTERSECTION OF THE CENTERLINE OF LINDEN ST AND AN EXTENSION OF THE SOUTHERN BOUNDARY LINE OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL N6SE4C 17 1 0204. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2628932.322 FEET EAST AND 480473.098 FEET NORTH.

THENCE EAST, FOLLOWING THE SOUTHERN BOUNDARY LINE OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL N6SE4C 17 1 0204, TO THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL N6SE4C 17 1 0204. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2629150.337 FEET EAST AND 480475.375 FEET NORTH.

THENCE IN A STRAIGHT LINE EAST, CROSSING THE RIGHT-OF-WAY OF PULASKI ST TO THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL N6SE3D 19 5 0204. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2629169.087 FEET EAST AND 480475.469 FEET NORTH.

THENCE SOUTH ALONG THE CENTERLINE OF MAPLE ST TO A POINT BEING THE INTERSECTION OF THE CENTERLINES OF MAPLE ST AND AN EXTENSION OF THE NORTHERN BOUNDARY LINE OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL P6NE2A 8 13 0204. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2629387.704 FEET EAST AND 479713.514 FEET NORTH.

THENCE EAST ALONG THE NORTHERN BOUNDARY LINE OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL P6NE2A 8 13 0204 AND EXTENSIONS THEREOF, TO A POINT BEING THE INTERSECTION OF THE BOUNDARY LINE EXTENSION WITH THE INTERSECTION OF THE EASTERN BOUNDARY LINE EXTENSION WITH THE CENTERLINE OF EDGE ST. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2629557.087 FEET EAST AND 479714.219 FEET NORTH.

THENCE IN A SOUTHERLY DIRECTION ALONG THE CENTERLINE OF EDGE ST TO THE INTERSECTION OF THE CENTERLINES OF EDGE ST AND E NORTH ST. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2629561.822 FEET EAST AND 478886.002 FEET NORTH.

THENCE WEST ALONG THE CENTERLINE OF E NORTH ST TO A POINT BEING THE INTERSECTION OF THE CENTERLINES OF E NORTH ST AND MAPLE ST. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2629561.822 FEET EAST AND 478885.155 FEET NORTH.

THENCE AGAIN ALONG THE CENTERLINE OF MAPLE ST, SOUTH TO A POINT BEING THE INTERSECTION OF THE CENTERLINES OF MAPLE ST AND E BROAD ST. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2629395.575 FEET EAST AND 478405.729 FEET NORTH.

THENCE WEST ALONG THE CENTERLINE OF E BROAD ST TO A POINT BEING THE INTERSECTION OF THE CENTERLINE OF E BROAD ST AND AN EXTENSION OF THE WESTERN BOUNDARY LINE OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL P6NE2D 10 3 0204E. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2629552.587 FEET EAST AND 478406.909 FEET NORTH.

THENCE SOUTH ALONG THE WESTERN BOUNDARY LINE OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL P6NE2D 10 3 0204E TO A POINT BEING THE COMMON POINT OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL P6NE2D 10 3 0204E WITH THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL P6NE2D 10 10 0204. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2629556.197 FEET EAST AND 478120.956 FEET NORTH.

THENCE WEST ALONG THE SOUTHERN BOUNDARY LINE OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL P6NE2D 10 10 0204 TO THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL P6NE2D 10 10 0204 AND IN A STRAIGHT LINE IN A WESTERLY DIRECTION TO A POINT BEING THE INTERSECTION OF THE CENTERLINES OF MAPLE ST AND E WALNUT ST. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2629396.342 FEET EAST AND 478123.464 FEET NORTH.
THENCE CONTINUING WEST ALONG THE CENTERLINE OF E WALNUT ST TO A POINT BEING THE INTERSECTION OF THE CENTERLINE OF E WALNUT ST AND PULASKI ST. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2629170.495 FEET EAST AND 478121.567 FEET NORTH.

THENCE NORTH ALONG THE CENTERLINE OF PULASKI ST TO A POINT BEING THE INTERSECTION OF THE CENTERLINE OF PULASKI ST AND AN EXTENSION OF THE SOUTHERN BOUNDARY LINE OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL P6NE1C 18 7 0204. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2629169.552 FEET EAST AND 478290.489 FEET NORTH.

THENCE SOUTHWEST ALONG THE EXTENSION OF THE SOUTHERN BOUNDARY LINE OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL P6NE1C 18 7 0204 AND SOUTHERN CONNECTING BOUNDARY LINES OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCELS P6NE1C 18 7 0204, P6NE1C 18 6 0204, P6NE1C 18 5 0204, P6NE1C 18 4 0204, P6NE1C 18 3 0204, P6NE1C 18 2 0204 AND P6NE1C 18 1 0204. TO THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL P6NE1C 18 1 0204. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2628985.837 FEET EAST AND 478249.156 FEET NORTH.

THENCE IN A STRAIGHT LINE, CROSSING THE RIGHT-OF-WAY OF LINDEN ST TO A POINT BEING THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL P6NE1C 17 7 0204. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2628914.337 FEET EAST AND 478217.531 FEET NORTH.

THENCE CONTINUING IN A SOUTHWESTERLY DIRECTION ALONG THE SOUTHERN BOUNDARY LINES OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCELS P6NE1C 17 7 0204 AND P6NE1C 17 6 0204E. TO A POINT ALONG THE EASTERN BOUNDARY LINE OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL P6NE1C 17 5 0204 AND BEING THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL P6NE1C 17 6 0204E. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2628762.837 FEET EAST AND 478195.625 FEET NORTH.

THENCE SOUTH ALONG THE EASTERN BOUNDARY LINE OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL P6NE1C 17 5 0204 AND AN EXTENSION THEREOF, TO A POINT BEING THE INTERSECTION OF THE EXTENSION OF THE EASTERN BOUNDARY LINE OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL P6NE1C 17 5 0204 AND THE CENTERLINE OF E WALNUT ST. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2628763.133 FEET EAST AND 478119.457 FEET NORTH.

THENCE ALONG THE CENTERLINE OF E WALNUT ST AGAIN, WEST TO A POINT BEING THE INTERSECTION OF THE CENTERLINE OF E WALNUT ST AND AN EXTENSION OF THE WESTERN BOUNDARY OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL P6NE1C 17 3 0204. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2628493.612 FEET EAST AND 478117.829 FEET NORTH.
THENCE NORTH ALONG THE EXTENSION OF THE WESTERN BOUNDARY AND THE WESTERN BOUNDARY OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL P6NE1C 17 3 0204 TO A POINT BEING THE COMMON POINT WITH THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL P6NE1C 17 2 0204. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2628492.587 FEET EAST AND 478250.406 FEET NORTH.

THENCE WEST ALONG THE SOUTHERN BOUNDARIES OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCELS P6NE1C 17 2 0204 AND P6NE1C 17 1 0204, TO THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL P6NE1C 17 1 0204. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2628431.587 FEET EAST AND 478249.750 FEET NORTH.

THENCE IN A STRAIGHT LINE IN A NORTHWESTERLY DIRECTION, CROSSING THE RIGHT-OF-WAY OF PENN ST TO A POINT BEING THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL P6NE1C 16 4 0204. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2628411.087 FEET EAST AND 478260.438 FEET NORTH.

THENCE WEST ALONG THE SOUTHERN BOUNDARIES OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCELS P6NE1C 16 4 0204, P6NE1C 16 3 0204E, P6NE1C 16 2 0204, P6NE1C 16 1 0204, P6NE1C 16 1A 0204 AND P6NE1C 16 9 0204. TO THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL P6NE1C 16 9 0204. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2628232.587 FEET EAST AND 478260.500 FEET NORTH.

THENCE IN A STRAIGHT LINE IN A SOUTHWESTERLY DIRECTION, CROSSING THE RIGHT-OF-WAY OF HIGH ST TO A POINT BEING THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL P6NE1C 15 8 0204. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2628153.087 FEET EAST AND 478235.125 FEET NORTH.

THENCE WEST ALONG THE SOUTHERN BOUNDARIES OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCELS P6NE1C 15 8 0204, P6NE1C 15 7 0204, P6NE1C 15 6 0204, P6NE1C 15 5 0204, P6NE1C 15 4 0204E, P6NE1C 15 3 0204 AND P6NE1C 15 2 0204. TO THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL P6NE1C 15 2 0204 ALONG THE EASTERN BOUNDARY LINE OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL P6NE1C 15 1 0204. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2627911.587 FEET EAST AND 478223.531 FEET NORTH.

THENCE SOUTH ALONG THE EASTERN BOUNDARY LINE OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL P6NE1C 15 1 0204 AND AN EXTENSION THEREOF, TO A POINT BEING THE INTERSECTION OF THE EXTENSION OF THE EASTERN BOUNDARY LINE OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL P6NE1C 15 1 0204 AND THE CENTERLINE OF E WALNUT ST. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2627911.875 FEET EAST AND 478114.210 FEET NORTH.
THENCE AGAIN ALONG THE CENTERLINE OF E WALNUT ST, WEST TO A POINT BEING THE INTERSECTION OF THE CENTERLINES OF E WALNUT ST AND PINE ST. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2627835.277 FEET EAST AND 478113.492 FEET NORTH.

THENCE NORTH ALONG THE CENTERLINE OF PINE ST TO A POINT BEING THE INTERSECTION OF THE CENTERLINE OF PINE ST AND AN EXTENSION OF THE SOUTHERN BOUNDARY OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL P6NE1C 14 5 0204. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2627835.219 FEET EAST AND 478232.652 FEET NORTH.

THENCE NORTHWEST ALONG THE EXTENSION OF THE SOUTHERN BOUNDARY OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL P6NE1C 14 5 0204 AND THE SOUTHERN BOUNDARIES OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCELS P6NE1C 14 5 0204, P6NE1C 14 4 0204, P6NE1C 14 3 0204, P6NE1C 14 2 0204 AND P6NE1C 14 1 0204. TO THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL P6NE1C 14 1 0204. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2627651.587 FEET EAST AND 478267.000 FEET NORTH.

THENCE IN A STRAIGHT LINE IN A SOUTHWESTERLY DIRECTION CROSSING THE RIGHT-OF-WAY OF CENTER ST TO THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL P6NE1C 13 5 0204. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2627571.587 FEET EAST AND 478229.969 FEET NORTH.

THENCE WEST ALONG THE SOUTHERN BOUNDARIES OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCELS P6NE1C 13 5 0204, P6NE1C 13 2 0204, P6NE1C 13 1 0204 AND AN EXTENSION THEREOF, TO A POINT BEING THE INTERSECTION OF THE EXTENSION OF THE SOUTHERN BOUNDARY LINE OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL P6NE1C 13 1 0204 AND THE CENTERLINE OF SCHOOL ST. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2627376.576 FEET EAST AND 478227.194 FEET NORTH.

THENCE SOUTH ALONG THE CENTERLINE OF SCHOOL ST TO A POINT BEING THE INTERSECTION OF THE CENTERLINES OF SCHOOL ST AND E WALNUT ST. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2627377.706 FEET EAST AND 478111.165 FEET NORTH.

THENCE ALONG THE CENTERLINE OF E WALNUT ST AGAIN, WEST TO A POINT BEING THE INTERSECTION OF THE CENTERLINE OF E WALNUT ST AND AN EXTENSION OF THE EASTERN BOUNDARY OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL P6NE1D 13 11 0204. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2627067.852 FEET EAST AND 478110.003 FEET NORTH.

THENCE IN TWO COURSES ALONG THE EASTERN AND NORTHERN PERIMETER OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL P6NE1D 13 11 0204. FIRST, NORTH ALONG THE EXTENSION OF THE EASTERN BOUNDARY AND FOLLOWING THE EASTERN BOUNDARY LINE TO A POINT LOCATED AT 2627067.087 FEET
EAST AND 478195.531 FEET NORTH. SECOND, WEST FOLLOWING THE
NORTHERN BOUNDARY TO A POINT BEING THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL P6NE1D 13 11 0204. SAID POINT LOCATED
AT 2627008.087 FEET EAST AND 478195.375 FEET NORTH.

THENCE IN A STRAIGHT LINE IN A NORTHWESTERLY DIRECTION,
CROSSING THE RIGHT-OF-WAY OF LONG ST TO THE SOUTEAST CORNER OF
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL P6NE1D 12 4 0204. SAID POINT LOCATED
AT 2626989.337 FEET EAST AND 478226.781 FEET NORTH.

THENCE NORTHWEST ALONG THE SOUTHERN BOUNDARIES OF
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCELS P6NE1D 12 4 0204, P6NE1D 12 3 0204,
P6NE1D 12 2 0204, P6NE1D 12 1B 0204, P6NE1D 12 1A 0204 AND AN
EXTENSION THEREOF, TO A POINT BEING THE INTERSECTION OF THE
EXTENSION OF THE SOUTHERN BOUNDARY LINE OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
PARCEL P6NE1D 12 1A 0204 AND THE CENTERLINE OF N NEW ST. SAID
POINT LOCATED AT 2626750.570 FEET EAST AND 478284.501 FEET
NORTH.

THENCE NORTH ALONG THE CENTERLINE OF N NEW ST TO A POINT
BEING THE INTERSECTION OF THE CENTERLINE OF N NEW ST, E BROAD ST
AND W BROAD ST. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2626750.839 FEET EAST AND
478393.538 FEET NORTH.

THENCE WEST ALONG THE CENTERLINE OF W BROAD ST TO A POINT
BEING THE INTERSECTION OF THE CENTERLINE OF W BROAD ST AND MAIN
ST. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2625779.886 FEET EAST AND 478403.051
FEET NORTH.

THENCE NORTH ALONG THE CENTERLINE OF MAIN ST TO A POINT
BEING THE INTERSECTION OF THE CENTERLINE OF MAIN ST AND W UNION
BLVD. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2625785.339 FEET EAST AND 479401.762
FEET NORTH.

THENCE WEST ALONG THE CENTERLINE OF W UNION BLVD TO A POINT
BEING THE INTERSECTION OF THE CENTERLINE OF W UNION BLVD AND THE
LEHIGH COUNTY AND NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BOUNDARIES. SAID POINT
LOCATED AT 2624923.344 FEET EAST AND 479397.980 FEET NORTH.

THENCE NORTHWARD, FOLLOWING THE LEHIGH COUNTY AND
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BOUNDARIES TO A POINT AT INTERSECTION OF THE
LEHIGH COUNTY AND NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BOUNDARIES WITH THE
NORTHERN MOST CORNER OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL N6SW3C 1 6
0204E AND THE WESTERN MOST CORNER OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PARCEL
N6SW3B 7 2 0204. SAID POINT LOCATED AT 2623949.283 FEET EAST AND
481245.886 FEET NORTH AND SAID POINT BEING THE PLACE OF
BEGINNING.
III. EXEMPTION AMOUNT

A. The amount to be exempted shall be limited to that portion of the additional assessment attributable to the actual cost of improvements.

B. The exemption shall be limited to that improvement for which an exemption has been requested in the manner set forth below, and for which a separate assessment has been made by the Assessment Division of the Department of Fiscal Affairs of Northampton County (hereafter referred to as Assessment Division).

IV. EXEMPTION SCHEDULE

Subject to the conditions, requirements and limitations set forth in this Ordinance, taxpayers making assessable improvements to deteriorated property located in the deteriorating area may apply for and may be granted a real estate tax exemption limited to the amounts in Sections III (A) and (B) as set forth above, subject to the following schedule:

A. Subject to Paragraph C., New Construction Improvements

(1) For the first year immediately following the date upon which the improvement becomes assessable, 50% of the eligible assessment shall be exempted.

(2) For the second year immediately following the date upon which the improvement becomes assessable, 50% of the eligible assessment shall be exempted.

(3) For the third year immediately following the date upon which the improvement becomes assessable, 50% of the eligible assessment shall be exempted.

(4) For the fourth year immediately following the date upon which the improvement becomes assessable, 50% of the eligible assessment shall be exempted.
(5) For the fifth year immediately following the date upon which the improvement becomes assessable, 50% of the eligible assessment shall be exempted.

(6) For the sixth year immediately following the date upon which the improvement becomes assessable, 50% of the eligible assessment shall be exempted.

(7) For the seventh year immediately following the date upon which the improvement becomes assessable, 50% of the eligible assessment shall be exempted.

(8) For the eighth year immediately following the date upon which the improvement becomes assessable, 50% of the eligible assessment shall be exempted.

(9) For the ninth year immediately following the date upon which the improvement becomes assessable, 50% of the eligible assessment shall be exempted.

(10) For the tenth year immediately following the date upon which the improvement becomes assessable, 50% of the eligible assessment shall be exempted.

(11) After the tenth year the exemption shall terminate.

(12) The exemption from taxes granted under this Ordinance shall be upon the property and shall not terminate upon the sale or exchange of the property.

B. Subject to Paragraph C., Substantial Rehabilitation Improvements

(1) For the first year immediately following the date upon which the improvement becomes assessable, 50% of the eligible assessment shall be exempted.
(2) For the second year immediately following the date upon which the improvement becomes assessable, 50% of the eligible assessment shall be exempted.

(3) For the third year immediately following the date upon which the improvement becomes assessable, 50% of the eligible assessment shall be exempted.

(4) For the fourth year immediately following the date upon which the improvement becomes assessable, 50% of the eligible assessment shall be exempted.

(5) For the fifth year immediately following the date upon which the improvement becomes assessable, 50% of the eligible assessment shall be exempted.

(6) For the sixth year immediately following the date upon which the improvement becomes assessable, 50% of the eligible assessment shall be exempted.

(7) For the seventh year immediately following the date upon which the improvement becomes assessable, 50% of the eligible assessment shall be exempted.

(8) For the eighth year immediately following the date upon which the improvement becomes assessable, 50% of the eligible assessment shall be exempted.

(9) For the ninth year immediately following the date upon which the improvement becomes assessable, 50% of the eligible assessment shall be exempted.

(10) For the tenth year immediately following the date upon which the improvement becomes assessable, 50% of the eligible assessment shall be exempted.

(11) After the tenth year the exemption shall terminate.
(12) The exemption from taxes granted under this Ordinance shall be upon the property and shall not terminate upon the sale or exchange of the property.

C. County’s Fifty Percent (50%) Exemption is Contingent Upon Annual Payments by City of Bethlehem

(1) The 50% exemption set forth in Sections IV (A) and (B) above, are contingent upon the City of Bethlehem’s annual contribution of Fifty Thousand Dollars ($50,000.00) to the defined deteriorated area to improve generally the conditions of said area. County Council recognizes that the City’s annual payment of Fifty Thousand Dollars ($50,000.00) justifies its ten percent (10%) abatement under this portion of the LERTA program as opposed to the fifty percent (50%) abatement provided for by both the Bethlehem Area School District and the County of Northampton.

(2) In the event the City of Bethlehem fails to make the above said Fifty Thousand Dollar ($50,000.00) payment in any calendar year then, in that event the eligible real estate tax exemption set forth in Sections IV (A) and (B) above shall be reduced to an abatement of ten percent (10%) for the remaining duration of the effective period of this ordinance.

V. NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS

(a) There shall be placed on the form application for building, zoning and alteration permits the following:

**NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS**

Under the provisions of City Ordinance No. 2959, as amended, you may be entitled to a property tax exemption on your contemplated new construction. An application for exemption may be secured from the City of Bethlehem and must be filed with the City at the time a building permit is secured.
(b) At the time a building permit is secured for construction upon an existing deteriorated property for which an exemption is requested, the taxpayer shall apply to the City of Bethlehem or any successor agency thereto for the exemption provided for in this Ordinance. The taxpayer shall be permitted to apply for the exemption provided in this Ordinance up to a period of sixty (60) days from the date a final executed building permit is secured. Request for the exemption must be in writing certified in full as prescribed by the City setting forth the following information:

(1) The date a final executed building permit was issued for said improvement.

(2) The type of improvement.

(3) The summary of the plan of the improvement.

(4) The cost of the improvement.

(5) That the property has been inspected and verified by the City of Bethlehem, Bureau of Inspections.

(6) Any or all such additional information the City may require.

VI. PROCEDURES FOR OBTAINING EXEMPTIONS

A copy of the request for exemption, on forms prescribed by the Northampton County Director of Fiscal Affairs, shall be forwarded to the Assessment Division, the Northampton County Board of Assessment Appeals and the Bethlehem Area School District by the City. Upon completion of the improvement, the taxpayer shall notify the City and the Assessment Division so that the Assessment Division may assess the improvements separately for the purpose of calculating the amount of assessment eligible for tax exemption in accordance with the limits established in this Ordinance. The City will then obtain from the Assessment Division the amount of the assessment eligible for exemption and will notify the taxpayer. The Director of the Department of Fiscal Affairs is authorized to make refunds, if applicable, only after the Assessment Division has notified the Director of Fiscal Affairs of its separate assessment upon the improvement for which an exemption is requested. Appeals from the reassessment and the amount eligible for the
exemption may be taken by the taxpayer of the City as provided by law.

VII. TERMINATION

Unless otherwise repealed by the Northampton County Council, this Ordinance shall terminate on December 31, 2023. No later than December 31, 2023, the Mayor of the City of Bethlehem shall submit a written report to the Northampton County Council which shall inform the Northampton County Council as to how this Ordinance has been administered, the effects of this Ordinance on the community and include any suggestions or recommendations for this Ordinance's re-enactment, modification or repeal. Nothing contained herein shall act to prohibit the Northampton County Council from enacting a similar ordinance after December 31, 2023. Any property tax exemptions granted under the provisions of this Ordinance shall be permitted to continue according to the exemption schedule found in Section IV unless any such property tax exemption is rescinded in accordance with the default provisions of this Ordinance, even if this Ordinance expires or is repealed.

VIII. HEARING BOARD

A Tax Abatement Hearing Board (hereafter referred to as Board) shall consist of the Business Administrator of the City of Bethlehem, the Director of Fiscal Affairs of the County of Northampton and the Business Administrator of the Bethlehem Area School District, for resolution of differences between the approving authority and the owner-taxpayer of the improved property on matters concerning interpretation and execution of the provisions of this Ordinance.

Three members shall be selected at large for their interest in accomplishing the objectives of this Ordinance and shall serve until December 31, 2023.

The Hearing Board shall have the following powers:

(1) To hear appeals from any person aggrieved by the application of this Ordinance.
(2) To make rules with regard to conducting its hearings.

(3) To make such findings of fact as may be required by the application of this Ordinance.

(4) To decide questions presented to the Board.

(5) To affirm, revoke or modify the decision of the City of Bethlehem as to the eligibility of a particular property for the Property Tax Abatement as provided for in this Ordinance.

(6) The Board shall meet upon notice of the Chairman within thirty (30) days of the filing of an appeal and shall render its decision within thirty (30) days after the appeal hearing.

(7) Every action of the Board shall be by resolution and certified copies furnished to the appellant.

(8) All hearings shall be public; and the appellant or any other person whose interests may be affected by the matter on appeal shall be given an opportunity to be heard.

(9) For the purposes of this Ordinance, every action of the Board shall require a simple majority of the members in attendance. Attendance at the hearing by three (3) members of the Board shall be required to constitute a quorum for a meeting and for action on an appeal.

IX. RULES AND REGULATIONS

In accordance with the provisions of the Northampton County Home Rule Charter, Section 302, the County Executive of Northampton County is authorized and empowered to prepare, promulgate, execute and enforce rules and regulations made pursuant to the provisions of this Ordinance.

X. SEVERABILITY

The provisions of this Ordinance are severable and if any of its sections, clauses or sentences shall be held illegal, invalid or unconstitutional, such provisions shall not affect or impair any of the remaining sections, clauses
or sentences. It is hereby declared to be the intent of the Northampton County Council that this Ordinance would have been adopted if such illegal, invalid or unconstitutional sections, clauses or sentences had not been included herein.

XI. **DEFAULT**

Tax abatement under this ordinance shall be available only for those properties for which real estate taxes are promptly paid and discharged when due. Any property that is declared delinquent as established by the statutes of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania shall lose the LERTA benefits and any and all currently due and future taxes shall be due and payable at the full unabated assessment and tax rate.

342.12 **APPEAL OF DEFAULT**

Properties that have been declared delinquent may appeal the rescission of the LERTA benefits by providing a written request to the Hearing Board providing a basis for the appeal and the justification for the waiver of the requirements of Section X.

XII. **EFFECTIVE DATE**

This Ordinance shall take effect on thirty (30) days after the date of enactment and shall remain in effect thereafter from year to year, unless repealed, until December 31, 2023.

XIII. All ordinances, and parts of ordinances, inconsistent herewith be, and the same are hereby repealed.

The vote: Werner, "yes"; Kraft, "yes"; Geissinger, "yes"; Phillips, "no"; Vaughn, "yes"; Benol, "yes"; Cusick, "no" and Dietz, "no".

The ordinance was adopted by a vote of 5-3.
Children, Youth and Families

Mr. Werner stated he met with Auditor General Eugene DePasquale, who presented an 80-page positive report to the issues affecting Children, Youth and Families Divisions. He further stated he responded directly to Mr. Kevin Dolan, Director of Children, Youth and Families, that issues regarding the paperwork involved and requirements for the Kinship Care Program was being looked into.

Consideration of a Gracedale Donation Resolution

Mr. Vaughn introduced the following resolution:

R. 90-2017 WHEREAS, Northampton County Home Rule Charter Section 202 (10) provides that County Council shall have, among others, the following powers: "to accept on behalf of the County any gifts of real property and to provide for the acceptance by any agency on behalf of the County of other gifts;"

WHEREAS, Environmental Strategies & Applications, Inc. is donating $600 to help fund an active Eagle Scout project at Gracedale which is being worked on by local student Peter Gladstone of Troop 44.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Northampton County Council that it does hereby accept the donation of $600 on behalf of the Eagle Scout project at Gracedale.

As there were no questions or comments, Mr. Cusick called for the vote.

The vote: Vaughn, "yes"; Geissinger, "yes"; Kraft, "yes"; Phillips, "yes"; Werner, "yes"; Benol, "yes"; Cusick, "yes" and Dietz, "yes".

The resolution was adopted by a vote of 8-0.

Consideration of Parks and Open Space Project Resolutions: a) Delaware & Lehigh Trail – Dry Run Bridge Project; b) Walnutport Trail Town Signage Project; c) Amending Resolution No. 55-2015
Delaware & Lehigh Trail - Dry Run Bridge Project

Mr. Dietz introduced the following resolution:

R. 91-2017  WHEREAS, the County of Northampton adopted Ordinance #603-2015, titled, "AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING "THE LIVABLE LANDSCAPES - AN OPEN SPACE PLAN PROGRAM FOR NORTHAMPTON COUNTY AND FURTHER PROVIDING FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE 21ST CENTURY OPEN SPACE INITIATIVE" on January 7, 2016; and

WHEREAS, the Delaware & Lehigh Trail (D&L Trail) is a 160-mile trail that runs within Northampton County for the main route and the D&L Trail will serve bicyclists, walkers, the physically challenged and other non-motorized and motorized users, both local residents and long-distance travelers; and

WHEREAS, the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission has identified this section of trail as a key trail gap within the Lehigh Valley Trail Inventory 2013; and

WHEREAS, the D&L Trail by offering tourists and shoppers access to natural, cultural and historical sites will bring economic benefits to municipalities and businesses along the route; and

WHEREAS, Northampton County has supported trail development within this corridor through Resolution No. 55-2015 for the construction of the Nor-Bath Trail to the D&L Trail; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Northampton has completed all construction and amenities related to Resolution No. 55-2015 for the construction of the Nor-Bath Trail to the D&L Trail; and

WHEREAS, the D&L National Heritage Corridor has secured funds to match the County funds for the construction of the Dry Run Bridge.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that Northampton County supports:

(1) The funding for the construction of the Dry Run Bridge along the D&L Trail within the Borough of Northampton not to exceed $130,000.

(2) The use of Act 13 - Marcellus Shale Legacy Funding for the construction of the Dry Run Bridge project.
As there were no questions or comments, Mr. Cusick called for the vote.

The vote: Dietz, "yes"; Kraft, "yes"; Phillips, "yes"; Vaughn, "yes"; Werner, "yes"; Benol, "yes"; Cusick, "yes" and Geissinger, "yes".

The resolution was adopted by a vote of 8-0.

Walnutport Trail Town Signage Project

R. 92-2017  WHEREAS, the County of Northampton adopted Ordinance #603-2015, titled, "AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING "THE LIVABLE LANDSCAPES - AN OPEN SPACE PLAN PROGRAM FOR NORTHAMPTON COUNTY AND FURTHER PROVIDING FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE 21ST CENTURY OPEN SPACE INITIATIVE" on January 7, 2016; and

WHEREAS, the Delaware & Lehigh Trail (D&L Trail) is a 160-mile trail that runs within Northampton County for the main route and the D&L Trail will serve bicyclists, walkers, the physically challenged and other non-motorized and motorized users, both local residents and long-distance travelers; and

WHEREAS, Lehigh River Water Trail is a 72-mile water trail that allows users to boat, fish and recreate through a system of trailheads and boat launches, with one of these launches being located within the Borough of Walnutport; and

WHEREAS, the D&L Trail and Lehigh River Water Trail by offering tourists and shoppers access to natural, cultural and historical sites will bring economic benefits to municipalities and businesses along the route; and

WHEREAS, the D&L National Heritage Corridor and Northern Lehigh Recreation Authority (NLRA) have developed recommendations and projects for a "Trail Town" designation in the Borough of Walnutport, Northampton County and Borough of Slaton, Lehigh County; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Trail Town designation is to promote and capture trail based tourism by enticing trail users to get off the trail and into local downtowns by welcoming and making information readily available; and

WHEREAS, the D&L and NLRA have secured funds through grants and foundations to develop a signage program in Borough of
Walnutport, Northampton County and Borough of Slatington, Lehigh County.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that Northampton County supports:

(1) The funding of $2,000 for the construction of the Northern Lehigh Trail Town - Walnutport Trailhead Project along the D&L Trail within the Borough of Walnutport to the Northern Lehigh Recreation Authority.

(2) The use of Livable Landscapes Funding for the improvements needed at Walnutport Trailhead.

As there were no questions or comments, Mr. Cusick called for the vote.

The vote: Dietz, "yes"; Phillips, "yes"; Vaughn, "yes"; Werner, "yes"; Benol, "yes"; Cusick, "yes"; Geissinger, "yes" and Kraft, "yes".

The resolution was adopted by a vote of 8-0.

Amending Resolution No. 55-2015

R. 93-2017 RESOLVED, By the Northampton County Council that resolution No. 55-2015 shall be amended as indicated hereafter (sections marked with strikethrough have been deleted and sections marked with bold underline have been added):

Number 55-2015

WHEREAS, the County of Northampton implemented the Northampton County Open Space Initiative enacting the Northampton County Open Space Ordinance #423-2004 on November 5, 2004; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Northampton has agreed to install the Nor-Bath Trail to D&L Connection, a 10 foot wide paved asphalt trail and "Share the Road" section of South 10th Street; and

WHEREAS, in constructing this section of trail it will also connect to the existing Nor-Bath/D&L
Trailhead at Northampton's Canal Park and a new trailhead to be constructed at the Northampton Recreation Center; and

WHEREAS, this project will also include signage directing people from the trail into the local business community and detailing the rich history of the Borough of Northampton; and

WHEREAS, the County of Northampton's matching grant funding of $200,000 $72,667.03 would be taken out of Act 13 Marcellus Shale Legacy Funding, which the County has already incorporated into the 2015 Budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Northampton County Council supports the use of Act 13 Marcellus Shale Legacy Funding for the Borough of Northampton to complete this project.

Mr. Cusick advised because the Borough of Northampton did a great job in coming in so much under budget for this project.

Mr. Dietz stated Borough of Northampton used their Department of Public Works to do some of the work and that allowed them to come in under budget. He further stated the unused portion of these funds would be used for the Dry Run Bridge project.

As there were no further questions or comments, Mr. Cusick called for the vote.

The vote: Dietz, "yes"; Vaughn, "yes"; Werner, "yes"; Benol, "yes"; Cusick, "yes"; Geissinger, "yes"; Kraft, "yes" and Phillips, "yes".

The resolution was adopted by a vote of 8-0.

Arris Engineering Group, Ltd.

R. 94-2017 WHEREAS, Northampton County Administrative Code Article XIII Procurement and Disposition of County Property, Section 13.16 Contracts and Agreements c.(2) requires approval of County Council for "any contract where costs are to be funded with monies outside of the County's General Fund, such as those funded through bonded indebtedness."

WHEREAS, on August 25, 2017, the Northampton County Council received a request from the County Executive for County Council to adopt a resolution approving a 60 day contract in the amount of $27,000 with Arris Engineering Group, Ltd. for Short Circuit Study, Protective Device Coordination Study and Arc Flash Analysis for the Courthouse Electrical System.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Northampton County Council does hereby concur with the recommendation of the County Executive, as set forth in the attached documentation to approve a contract with Arris Engineering Group, Ltd. for Short Circuit Study, Protective Device Coordination Study and Arc Flash Analysis for the Courthouse Electrical System.

As there were no questions or comments, Mr. Cusick called for the vote.

The vote: Geissinger, "yes"; Werner, "yes"; Benol, "yes"; Cusick, "yes"; Dietz, "yes"; Kraft, "yes"; Phillips, "yes" and Vaughn, "yes".

The resolution was adopted by a vote of 8-0.

BSI Corporate Benefits

R. 95-2017 WHEREAS, Northampton County Administrative Code Article XIII Procurement and Disposition of County Property, Section 13.16 Contracts and Agreements c. (1) requires approval of County Council for "...any contract exceeding $100,000, which was awarded using the Competitive Negotiation, Negotiation After Competitive Sealed Bidding, and Non-Competitive Negotiation source selection methods. For contracts with renewal clauses, the entire potential payout if all renewal clauses are exercised under the terms of the
contract must be considered when determining if Council approval is necessary"; and

WHEREAS, on September 13, 2017, the Northampton County Council received a request from the County Executive for County Council to adopt a resolution approving a contract at an estimated cost of $78,015.60 per year for a three year total of $234,046.80 with BSI Corporate Benefits for brokerage services for health and ancillary benefits for a term of three years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Northampton County Council does hereby concur with the recommendation of the County Executive as set forth in the attached documentation to approve a contract with BSI Corporate Benefits for brokerage services for health and ancillary benefits.

As there were no questions or comments, Mr. Cusick called for the vote.

The vote: Geissinger, "yes"; Benol, "yes"; Cusick, "yes"; Dietz, "yes"; Kraft, "yes"; Phillips, "yes"; Vaughn, "yes"; and Werner, "yes".

The resolution was adopted by a vote of 8-0.


Mr. Geissinger introduced the following resolution:

R. 96-2017 WHEREAS, Northampton County Administrative Code Article XIII Procurement and Disposition of County Property, Section 13.16 Contracts and Agreements c.(2) requires approval of County Council for “any contract where costs are to be funded with monies outside of the County’s General Fund, such as those funded through bonded indebtedness.”

WHEREAS, on September 15, 2017, the Northampton County Council received a request from the County Executive for County Council to adopt a resolution approving a one year contract with Weiss Construction for general construction for $549,128; Shannon A. Smith, Inc. for electrical construction for $194,650; K.C. Mechanical Services, Inc. for plumbing construction for
$64,000 and heating, ventilation and air conditioning for $191,000 for a grand total of $998,778.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Northampton County Council does hereby concur with the recommendation of the County Executive, as set forth in the attached documentation to approve a contract with Weiss Construction, Shannon A. Smith, Inc. and K.C. Mechanical Services, Inc.

As there were no questions or comments, Mr. Cusick called for the vote.

The vote: Geissinger, "yes"; Cusick, "yes"; Dietz, "yes"; Kraft, "no"; Phillips, "yes"; Vaughn, "yes"; Werner, "yes" and Benol, "yes".

The resolution was adopted by a vote of 7-1.

**Governance Committee Report**

Mr. Cusick advised they met yesterday and after discussions regarding Home Rule Charter changes, Messrs. Werner and Phillips indicated they would sponsor an ordinance to put a referendum on the ballot in May for a government study committee.

**Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corporation Liaison Report**

Mr. Vaughn stated he attended the meeting on Tuesday where their strategic plan was adopted. He further stated the private investment report showed it was way above normal and they were prospecting many new potential donors.

Mr. Vaughn advised that some of the grant programs could be cut off if the current State budget was adopted.

**Retirement Board Liaison Report**

Mr. Cusick advised the Retirement Board met last week and they approved their advisory transition from Marquette Associates to PFM.
Adjournment

Mr. Benol made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Kraft seconded the motion.

The motion to adjourn passed unanimously by acclamation.

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Linda M. Zembo
Clerk to Council