

A simple question about Council votes on the Bethlehem Food Co-Op

The Bethlehem Gadfly Bethlehem Food Co-Op, City government, Co-Op, Bethlehem Food, Serious Issues November 1, 2019

 *The latest in a series of posts on City government* 

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Gadfly:

Let me frame this as a simple question:

Do Members of Bethlehem City Council believe it is ethical for a Council Member to participate in a decision to grant public money (taxpayer dollars) to an entity for which that Council Member is an owner, and, therefore, has a financial interest in the outcome?

Steve

In a previous communication, Steve advises that “owner” is “the word the Co-Op itself uses.” Gadfly had been wondering how membership in BFC differs from membership in, say, the YMCA/YWCA, of which, it is conceivable, some or all Councilpersons are members, and which has been awarded funding too. Should membership in the Y trigger recusal as well? But the idea of ownership, that BFC members benefit financially (discounts, sales, etc.), probably answers Gadfly’s question.