

Homeless shelter issue resolved: “taking care of the homeless . . . is one of the paramount duties we have”

The Bethlehem Gadfly | Neighborhoods, Northside | November 22, 2019

 Latest in a series of posts about Northside neighborhoods 

Remember that we noted last week in the cold snap that the Bethlehem Emergency Shelter for the homeless at Christ Church United Church of Christ, 72. E. Market St., wanted to open early — before the December 1 date approved by its zoning — but a neighbor complained.

Raising some justified concern among Gadfly followers.

The Mayor announced at City Council last Tuesday that agreement was reached — certain members of Council were involved in the background — for an early opening.

<https://youtu.be/8CuSlfhAWzk>

Louis James, a close neighbor of the BES spoke in support of the early opening, praised BES for responding to neighbor concerns, and hoped that the City would help BES find a permanent home.

<https://youtu.be/ObFgwVJWCKE>

Councilpersons Colon, Reynolds, and Van Wirt spoke in support of the importance and high quality of the BES work, and Gadfly wished he was quick enough on the trigger to have recorded all their comments (but see the [city video](#) of the meeting, beginning at min. 1:41:48), in which, for instance, Councilman Colon mentioned working at the shelter.

But here is audio of Councilwoman Van Wirt in which she states that “taking care of the homeless . . . is one of the paramount duties we have”

and her hope that Council can help make sure these people are cared for 24/7 and 12 months a year.

Audio Player

AUDIO NOT AVAILABLE IN THIS ARCHIVE