

“Member rant ends meeting”

The Bethlehem Gadfly City government, Serious Issues August 28, 2019

(The latest in a series of posts on City government)

Gadfly thought he was done with this thread on the August 20 City Council meeting.

The purpose of which thread is to give us important information about our city officials when we come time to vote.

Today’s *Bethlehem Press* article doesn’t mince words.

The front-page headline is “Member rant ends meeting.”

We now have three reporter perspectives and Gadfly’s mini-series.

Douglas Graves, “Member rant ends meeting; Zoning issue questioned.” Bethlehem Press, August 28, 2019.

The Bethlehem City Council meeting went off the rails Aug. 23 [20].

Councilman Bryan Callahan started out challenging some comments that he alleged were made by another councilperson to one of Mayor Robert Donchez’s nominees for the Zoning Hearing Board.

At the heart of Callahan’s indignation was the idea that campaign contributions would somehow influence a politician’s vote and thus call into question the civil servant’s integrity.

For more than half an hour, Callahan expressed his grievances to council, while frequently lapsing into charges and complaints leveled directly to individuals on the city council, a violation of council rules.

Callahan repeatedly claimed that his only goal was to introduce open debate on issues as opposed to deciding issues via phone calls and back-room deals.