

Bethlehem City Council meeting tomorrow night Tuesday, May 19

The Bethlehem Gadfly City government May 18, 2020

 *Latest in a series of posts on City Government* 

See next post for public comment instructions!

Our next City Council meeting — the “face” of Bethlehem City government — occurs tomorrow night Tuesday, May 19 at 7PM.

The meeting is closed to the public, of course, because of the coronavirus.

The meeting can be viewed LIVE or later at your convenience on the City’s website after the meeting at <https://www.bethlehem-pa.gov/Calendar>.

The YouTube channel for live or archive viewing is “City of Bethlehem Council.”

Note well: we still enjoy **public comment**. See instructions in the next post. Let’s take advantage of the opportunity offered.

Find the Council agenda and supporting documents [here](#).

Gadfly assumes we’ll have another update on the coronavirus situation.

Councilwoman Grace Crampsie Smith will be presenting a **resolution** in support of Pennsylvania General Assembly House Bill 432, amending the Worker’s Compensation Act by providing for compensation for post-traumatic stress injury (P1ST) for first responders.

Currently, employees of the City of Bethlehem are covered under the Pennsylvania Workman’s Compensation Act for PTSI with the exception of firefighters, police, and EMS workers. However, these critical City employees are frequently subjected to traumatic and stressful situations

and are at high risk of suffering from PTSI, especially in the context of the COVID- 19 emergency. First responders suffering from PTSI often go unreported and untreated potentially leading to long term and permanent disability or in extreme cases, suicide.

First responders witness people and their families as they experience the worst moments of their lives and this can trigger mental health problems. Other times, work-related psychological conditions result from cumulative exposure to trauma. Post-traumatic injuries cause real harm that we need to recognize and we need to use the workers' compensation system to assist our first responders in addressing that trauma.

And there's always the unexpected.

As long as he has flutter in his wings, Gadfly urges "attending" City Council.

Participate. Be informed.