

# Our ethics ordinance

The Bethlehem Gadfly City government, Ethics December 11, 2019

 *Latest in a series of posts on Ethics and City Government* 

Gadfly mentioned in a previous post that the Council ethics link had not made the migration from the old City web site to the new one.

Business Administrator Eric Evans has acted to remedy that situation. The link will soon be restored on the [Disclosure page](#).

In the meantime, a follower provided the missing link.

## ARTICLE 104

### REQUIREMENTS FOR ETHICS TRAINING FOR CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

#### [104.01 Training Requirements](#)

#### [104.99 Penalty](#)

#### 104.01 Training Requirements

A. The City Council President, in conjunction with the City Clerk's office, shall schedule a Committee of the Whole meeting within six months of the biennial City Council organizational meeting held pursuant to state law, at which the Pennsylvania State Ethics Commission shall present a training seminar on the rules, regulations, penalties, and other pertinent matters relating to ethics guidelines for municipal elected officials and employees. No other business shall be transacted or discussed at the ethics training meeting.

B. All Members of City Council shall be required to attend the ethics training meeting. The meeting shall be open to other City Municipal Elected Officials and employees of the City of Bethlehem, and Council shall provide for and encourage their attendance.

C. The ethics training meeting shall be advertised as provided by general law, and shall be publically announced and posted on the City website 30 days prior to its commencement.

D. If a Member of City Council is unable to attend said meeting due to unforeseen emergency, said Council Member shall be required to seek out and attend equivalent ethics training within the same calendar year at their own expense.

E. Members of Council will obtain a certificate of completion and submit the certificate to the City Clerk within one (1) month of attendance. The certificate shall be forwarded, with signatures redacted, by the Bethlehem City Clerk to the Information Services Bureau of Bethlehem which shall make accessible such certificate on the Bethlehem City website not later than five (5) days after they are received in the Bethlehem City Clerk's Office.

#### 104.99 Penalty

Any Council Member who violates any provision of this Ordinance shall be subject to a fine of \$100.00.

(Ord.2017-16. Passed 5/17/17)

Ordinance passed May 2017.

This was the result of a wider Ethics discussion at that time.

Councilwoman Van Wirt (and others perhaps) talked of returning to that wider discussion during election campaign time earlier this year.

Gadfly would look forward to that conversation.

Recent goings on should have put us in the mood.

How would you like to see our elected officials held accountable if you were drafting a new ordinance?