



**Borough of
New Bethlehem**
Incorporated February 12, 1853

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
210 Lafayette St. New Bethlehem PA 16242
Phone: 814.275.2003 | Fax: 814.275.4269
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Hon. Rev. Dr. Gordon V. Barrows

October 20, 2026

MAYOR'S REPORT

- **Public Requests/Concerns**
 - **UPDATE:** Broad St./Broadwood Towers noisy manhole; Public Works/Council status?
 - **UPDATE:** Penn St. Bridge closure/construction; public social media updates.
 - **UPDATE:** Washington St. blight; Housing Authority acquisition/demolition pending.
 - Acquisition hoped late Oct./early Nov., pending approvals; demolition date TBD.
 - **DISCUSSION:** Guntown pavilion front sidewalk/French drain proposal.
 - **DISCUSSION:** Penn St. venue; resident seeks noise, parking and event-hour safeguards.
 - **RESOLVED:** Former Rite Aid vegetation/sightline concern cleared.
 - Thanks to Roger and the Public Works Department for addressing this concern.
 - **DISCUSSION:** Nov. 7 Guntown Park chili cook-off request; Council/solicitor review.
 - Jan confirms a contained fire; organizers will follow Council's safeguards.
 - **RESULT:** Evermoore's restaurant preservation; assistance/buyer leads provided.
- **Playground/Park Project (ongoing)**
 - **UPDATE:** Playworld's Gary Pinkerton attending tonight's project work session.
 - **NEXT:** Strategic plan, visuals and quote underway; Gary advising on grant funding.
 - **MILESTONE:** Callenberg/Barrows brief Playground/Park Committee in November.
- **Ordinance Update Committee (ongoing)**
 - **DISCUSSION:** Catering/event venue ordinance approved Sept.; amendment proposed.
 - Solicitor Menchyk to explain the proposed amendment.
 - Dangerous structures/building inspection ordinance amendments under review.
 - **NEXT:** Continue committee review; propose November work-session discussion.
 - President Barrett's suggested new-council training/continuity playbook.
 - **PROGRESS:** Continuity playbook draft targeted for November Council review.
- **Letters/Writing**
 - **COMPLETED:** Penn Street Bridge / Smucker's Letter of Intent.
 - **COMPLETED:** Redbank Township bridge-access agreement.
- **Community**
 - **INFORMATION:** [RV Chamber](#) Halloween Parade, Oct. 29, 6pm, RV High School.
 - **INFORMATION:** [RV Library](#) Shop, Look, & Listen, Nov. 14, 9am–3pm, at library.
 - **UPDATE:** RV Community Center closes year-end; existing rentals/events honored.

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REGIONAL POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

- **RESULT:** 2027 budget submitted; New Bethlehem's share essentially unchanged.
- **GRANT:** LSA application authorized for a new, fully equipped police vehicle.
- **READINESS:** Drone preparations/training continue for 2027 operational launch.
- Meetings set 4th Thursday monthly, 7pm, Windstream/Alltel Building.
 - o Major federal-holiday months: 2nd Thursday at 7pm.

POLICE ASSOCIATION REPORT

- **RESULT:** One vehicle loan paid off; fundraising continues for vehicles/equipment.
- **NEXT:** Proposed 2027 event dates in planning; schedule not yet approved.
- Meetings set 2nd Tuesday monthly, 7pm, New Bethlehem Windstream/Alltel Building.

FIRE COMPANY REPORT

- **GRANTS:** Siren quotes received; confirm site/funding; replacement truck funding sought.
- **READINESS:** Fire Police training Dec. 12 & 19, 8am–4pm; both days required.
- Big Buck: weigh-ins Nov. 28, Dec. 5 & 12; raffle drawing Dec. 14 at 7pm.
- Meetings set 2nd Tuesday monthly, 7pm, New Bethlehem Fire Hall.

RVMA REPORT

- **NEXT:** Waterline financing/contractor coordination; confirm start date (TBD).
- **DISCUSSION:** Borough representative needed; Charles Boozer named Sewage Plant Operator.
- **GRANTS:** \$500,000 EPA planning continues; next LSA application deadline Nov. 30.
- Community outreach: Oct. 30 Trick-or-Treat; Nov. 20 school presentations.
- Meetings set 3rd Thursday of even months, 7pm, Windstream, 212 Lafayette St.

Respectfully,

Gordon V. Barrows

Rev. Dr. Gordon V. Barrows, Ed.D., D.B.A., M.B.A.
The Honorable Mayor of New Bethlehem Pennsylvania



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PENNSYLVANIA**

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