Borough of New Bethlehem
Incorporated February 12, 1853

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
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Hon. Rev. Dr. Gordon V. Barrows — November 17, 2026

MAYOR'S REPORT

Public Requests and Borough Projects

- **UPDATE:** Penn Street Bridge is open to trucks, cars and the public; finishing work continues.
- **UPDATE:** Broadwood Towers reports relief after manhole-cover repair; long-term solutions remain under review.
- **PLANNED:** Sinkhole work is expected around early December; completion is not yet confirmed.
- **THIS WEEK:** Construction begins on the four-foot Gumtown pavilion pad extension with drainage along the Water Street side. Council's approval is contingent on no Borough cost.
- **UPDATE:** Contractor contacts and a funding-support letter were prepared for the Housing Authority's proposed demolition at 230 Washington Street.
- **UPDATE:** UK gas station demolition and Hayes Machine Shop work are advancing. Site cleanup is expected by year-end; new construction is anticipated in late summer/early fall 2027.

Playground and Park Project

- **ONGOING:** Shared 2027 DCNR C2P2 resources with Dawn Callenburg and Council for park planning.
- **FOLLOW-UP:** Park safety, signage and walkways referred for 2027 budget review; funding and work unconfirmed.
- **CHAMBER REQUEST:** A separate meeting is requested to discuss park and Peanut Butter Festival fees, preferably with a majority of Council attending. A formal Chamber letter is forthcoming.

Ordinance and Council Follow-Up

- **ORDINANCE REVIEW:** Review Chapter 444 dangerous-structures/building-inspection amendments and the tabled demolition draft with Solicitor Menchyk, including enforcement and nuisance provisions.
- **VENUE:** Advertised "Facility" definition amendment expected before Council today; adoption pending.
- **2027 REVIEW:** Committee to review proposed parking, weapons-discharge and obsolete-meter provisions.
- **CONTINUITY:** At President Scott Barrett's request, I drafted separate initial mayor and secretary operational playbooks. Rich will review and add feedback; these working documents should be updated at least annually.
- **UPCOMING:** Leisure Run flood-mitigation discussion with the Conservation District, Porter and Redbank Townships is planned for November 20; time and location remain to be confirmed.

Letters and Community Improvements

- **COMPLETED:** PHARE support letter for Rapp Holdings' proposed apartments at 235 Wood Street and community green space/parking at 238 Broad Street. Grant awards and project approvals remain pending.
- **COMPLETED:** Redbank Dam history sign and water-plant recognition plaque installed at the parklet. Thank you to Will Rupert and Snuffy and Sons for installing both signs.

Community Dates

- **NOVEMBER:** Thanksgiving service November 22, 7 p.m., New Bethlehem Presbyterian Church; Cookie Crawl November 28, 9 a.m.–noon, drawing 12:15 p.m. at the Community Center.
- **DECEMBER 5:** Christmas Parade, 6 p.m., Broad Street; Snack with Santa follows at the fire hall.

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DEPARTMENT AND COMMUNITY REPORTS

Regional Police Department Report

- **UPDATE:** Derek Oberlander is serving as Board President. Publication of the department's presidential-transition press release is confirmed for this week.
- **REVIEW:** Potential funding resources for speed-enforcement equipment and ballistic shields were shared after the November 12 meeting. Eligibility, sponsorship and approvals remain to be confirmed.
- **APPROVED:** Corrected October 22 minutes record unanimous adoption of LSA Resolution 2026-2. Equipment purchases remain subject to the Chief's chain of command.
- **NEXT MEETING:** December 10, 7 p.m., Alltel/Windstream Building, 212 Lafayette Street.

Southern Clarion Police Association Report

- **COMPLETED:** Association website refreshed with current information.
- **DISCUSSION:** 2027 technology estimates are being considered for possible Association support; no funding commitment is confirmed.
- **PLANNING:** 2027 fundraising and outreach plans include raffles, Cops 'N Bobbers, County Fair outreach, a car cruise and fall bash. Dates, locations and event leaders remain to be finalized.
- **NEXT MEETING:** December 8, 7 p.m., Alltel/Windstream Building, 212 Lafayette Street.

New Bethlehem Volunteer Fire Company Report

- **UPDATE:** Updated emergency-siren quotes are in hand; final site and funding remain under review. A grant-committee meeting is needed to review next steps; truck and rescue-equipment funding efforts continue.
- **SCHEDULED:** Turkey Bingo Nov. 20th & 23rd | Big Buck Tickets On Sale now | Purse/Cash Bingo Feb 2027
- **DISCUSSION:** Clarion County EMS Task Force requested municipal support and regional cooperation. No Borough contribution is assumed; next meeting is planned January 18, 2027.

Redbank Valley Municipal Authority Report

- **SCHEDULED:** Cottage Hill waterline work was planned to resume November 17, with completion hoped for before Thanksgiving. Actual completion remains unconfirmed.
- **PLANNING:** Tank repairs are not included in November work and depend on installation/testing of the supporting waterline; the engineer anticipates work next summer.
- **TRANSITION:** A replacement Borough representative is needed for the year-end transition; appointment remains for Council action.

Respectfully,

Gordon V. Barrows

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

MAYOR OF
NEW BETHLEHEM
PENNSYLVANIA

New Bethlehem Borough fosters business, community, and personal growth within the borough while maintaining the small town appeal and family friendly environment that makes New Bethlehem a great place to work, live and raise a family.