

Council passed two bills in late 2015 – one giving council approval of contracts and another prohibiting campaign contributors from entering into non-competitive contracts.

Strengthening whistle blower protections for city workers – protect them if they see and report any violation of charter, ethics code, etc. , educating city employees and giving them an avenue to report potential illegal activities;

Directors signing a pledge to abide by ethics code and charter;

Appoint/provide finances for an investigative officer for the ethics board

Elected officials disclosing any contact they have had with any vendors, etc.

Elected officials disclosing any interference they have in the hiring or appointment process;

Limit gifts and favors – to family, complimentary food and refreshment, tickets, expenses for travel

Disclosure of use/distribution of city tickets and tickets for the arena box – disclosure

Disclose gifts/ethics board review gifts or favors that are over \$500 in value

Limit Campaign contributions

Prevent anyone from a group or related thereto from giving campaign contributions if they receive money of a service from the city.

Limit solicitation for campaign donations/political activity from any group that received city funds.

Prohibited from asking for allocation of money for anyone related to or having a special relationship

Nepotism: direct family member shall be appointed, hired or advanced to a position under the direct jurisdiction or control of the official or employee so related.

Clarify running for Office – can you run for office while an employee of the city?

Training Ethics Session for Councilpersons – passed by Bethlehem – Pa State Ethics Commission will provide the training at a public meeting – open to other officials and public employees as well – members of Council will obtain a certification of completion and submit this to the Clerk within a month of attendance and this will be posted on the website.

Value Based Ethics Code – interesting concept here worth exploring - public officials and employees – Santa Clara — commit to ethical conduct, efficiency, transparency, promote thoughtful innovation, commitment to engage the public, transparency strategy, (Institute for Local Government)

Transparency Strategies – committing to transparency and an open government platform can help protect against corruption – information and website transparency opportunities

Adopting a merit based personnel system which is mandated in the charter..... I will see what else jumps out at me when I look at these notes.

Strengthen the ethics board

Investigative Officer

Education independent third-party education and counsel for officials,
robust disclosure

Investigation of complaints and enforcement of standards.

Bethlehem recently rejected adoption of a sweeping comprehensive ethics law, the majority of council preferring to tackle things in a piecemeal fashion. Council before this adopted a law requiring training on the Pa Ethics Code. It was suggested by the council president, William Reynolds that they look at component parts – like gifts to officials, campaign contributions and city contracts. Robert Trotner was at the meeting when council voted not to have a second meeting on the comprehensive reform – he stood in silence for three minutes because the public comment is not a give and take in Bethlehem. Initial concerns in Bethlehem were a result of campaign contributions from developers to members of council who were going to vote on rezoning the area around Martin Towers that would benefit those developers.

Statutory Control/Ethics Amendment – it has been suggested that you introduce statutory controls relating to contracts, here are some provisions that you might munch on:

- What caps, if any, exist on current employees contributions (political activity)
- Accepting gifts from vendors
- What is the appropriate cap – what would courts uphold – could you go to \$100 rather than \$250

Elected Officials shall maintain the highest ethical standards – any elected official or someone running for office:

- Shall not receive, ask for or in any direct or indirect way receive any contributions from any individual, business or social agency doing business with the City.
- Shall not interfere in the competitive awarding of contracts or service engagement.
- Shall disclose any contact they have had with vendors or principals related to any contracts or services they are approving.
- In approving contracts, shall disclose any contact they had with vendors.
- Shall not receive any gifts, favors or in-kind services from the same.
- Shall not engage the same for any private work.
- Make more secure whistleblower law – making it clear elected officials can't interfere/politicize work environment or engage in retaliation – perhaps note complaint can be filed with ethics board or solicitor?
- Penalty – what are the range of penalties?

Any individual, business, social agencies or entity that has a contacts with the city shall be prohibited from providing campaign contributions to any elected official or official running for office in the City of Allentown.

- Penalties – what are the range of penalties?

Whistleblower protection: employee's obligation to report potential violations to ethics board

Campaign Limits – County Executive Proposal

Wants to cap how much candidates can raise from individual donors and cap campaign expenditures; candidates would not be able to accept more than \$2,500 from a single person or \$7,500 from an individual political action committee; the county executive would face a \$125,000 limit and commissioners \$7,500 (spending limits at this time are legally questionable).

Prohibit Gifts – Bethlehem was in the news on this – Allentown does have a 'gift' and other prohibitions in the ethics ordinance, the section in your ethics code relating to gifts is copied below, the full text is below.

C. Gifts and Favors

No official or employee or associate of either of them shall accept any valuable gift, whether in the form of service, loan, thing, or promise, from any person, firm, corporation or association which to his knowledge is interested, directly or indirectly, in any manner whatsoever, in business dealings with the City; nor shall such official or employee or associate of either of them accept any gift, regardless of value, favor or thing of value that may tend to influence him

in the discharge of his duties or grant in the discharge of his duties any improper favor, service or things. (11821 9/1/70)

(Officials that fill our financial interest statements must claim any gift over \$250.)

Nepotism

- Maintain integrity of the work force
- no interference in hiring, firing, promotions of city employees nor advocate, or vote on

Private work – must disclose private work done by vendor that has a contract – or disclosure must be made

Cabinet members sign pledge

Removal from office