

**MINUTES  
HAZLETON CITY COUNCIL  
INAUGURATION/ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2024**

**Call to Order:** Council met for the Inauguration Ceremony and Reorganization Meeting on Tuesday, January 2, 2024 in Council Chambers. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Mayor Jeff Cusat.

**Invocation:** The Invocation was given by Reverend Michael Piccola of St. Cyril & Methodius Church.

This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call of Outgoing Council:** Barletta-present; Colombo-present; Mundie-present; Ondishin-present; Perry-present

**Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting:** The minutes of the December 19, 2023 Regular Meeting were approved unanimously.

**Remarks by Audience Members:** None

**Remarks of Outgoing/Current City Council members and other City Officials:** Jack Mundie thanked all the residents and voters of Hazleton. He said he knows the City will be in good shape. He wished the two new council member's luck. He said he was on council for five terms, a total of 20 years. He stated he worked with former mayors Lou Barletta, Joe Yannuzzi, and current mayor Jeff Cusat. Mundie said the City has the best police and fire departments in the state. He said it was a "long ride" but enjoyed every term.

Allison Barletta thanked the City residents for giving her the opportunity to serve, in the past, and serving out Lauren Sacco's term. She said City administration and council members always put the residents first. Barletta congratulated re-elected Mayor Cusat.

Thomas Bruno was given the Hazleton City Council Oath of Office by Judge Correale Stevens.  
John Nilles was given the Hazleton City Council Oath of Office by Judge Correale Stevens.

**Roll Call of New Council:** Bruno-present; Colombo-present; Nilles-present; Ondishin-present; Perry-present.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY:** None

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At this point, Perry announced that Council will now appoint the Council President and Vice President for the year 2024.

**Resolution 2024-1** Appointment of President of Council

Presented by Ondishin. Seconded by Colombo.

**On the Question:**

Ondishin nominated Jim Perry for City Council President. Colombo seconded the motion.

Perry stated he is just an organizer. He said all City Council members work together.  
**Roll Call:** Bruno-yes; Colombo-yes; Nilles-yes; Ondishin-yes; Perry-yes.

**RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY**

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**Resolution 2024-2** Appointment of Vice President of Council

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Ondishin.

**On the Question:**

Nilles nominated Mark Ondishin. Bruno seconded the motion.

**Roll Call:** Bruno-yes; Colombo-yes; Nilles-yes; Ondishin-yes; Perry-yes.

**RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY**

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**Resolution 2024-3** Confirming the 2024 Meeting Schedule

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Nilles.

**Roll Call:** Bruno-yes; Colombo-yes; Nilles-yes; Ondishin-yes; Perry-yes.

**RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY**

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**Old Business: None**

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**ORDINANCES**

None.

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**RESOLUTIONS**

None.

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**New Business:**

**ORDINANCES**

None

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**RESOLUTIONS**

None

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**Comments from the Audience:** None

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**Comments from Junior Council:** Paul Neyhart congratulated Mayor Cusat and two new City Council members.

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**Comments from City Administrator:** None

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**Comments from Mayor Cusat:** Mayor Cusat thanked all the outgoing council members, and the new council members. He said it is not an easy job. Mayor Cusat said he hopes the council members are ready to start to work next Tuesday at the City Council meeting.

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**Comments from New City Council Members:** Tom Bruno thanked all City residents who voted for him. He said he believes in the City. He stated, in the 1990's, when everyone was leaving the City, he started buying property. Bruno said he believes the City is going in a positive direction. He said there are, also, people coming from other areas realizing the value in the City.

Bruno stated he wants to improve the City streets. He said he wants to focus more money on the streets. Bruno said, in the "long run" for him, he wants to help build a better tax base where the taxes could be lowered and residents could have a better quality of life.

John Nilles stated this is his first public meeting. He thanked Mundie for his twenty years of service, and Barletta for her six years on council. He said it is "heartwarming" for Nilles to be able to sit in his father's council seat. He said the City is one of the fastest growing cities in the state with a lot of industrial plants being built. He thinks there will be an influx of about 15,000-20,000 people, daily, by 2030. Nilles said the City Council members may do some things the residents will like or dislike but, will maintain everything in an even "flow". He said they need to continue to do things the previous administration has done.

Nilles said he could be the first father and son who has served on City Council but takes pride in this.

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**Comments from City Council Members:** Ondishin said it was a pleasure to work with Mundie and Barletta. He stated they did a lot for the City. He said it is a tough job and applauds the new City Council members.

Ondishin congratulated Mayor Cusat on his re-election. He thinks the City is going in the right direction.

Colombo congratulated Mayor Cusat on his third term and welcomed Bruno and Nilles as new City Council members.

Colombo said Mundie dedicated twenty years of his life to the City. He stated Barletta went “above and beyond” in putting the City before her family. He thanked Barletta for finishing out Sacco’s term.

Perry thanked Mundie and Barletta for their service. He said he worked a long time with them. He said the City is one of the most diverse communities in the state. Perry said he has seen great strides over the years. He said the City was in financial distress, but now the City is growing.

Perry congratulated Mayor Cusat.

Perry thanked all the City departments for all their great work, and all the work they continue to do.

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**Benediction:** Reverend Kevin Miller, Holy Annunciation Church, gave the benediction.

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**Adjournment:** Perry motioned to adjourn the Inauguration/Organizational meeting at 10:23 a.m. The meeting was adjourned.