

**MINUTES
HAZLETON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2022**

Call to Order: Council met in a Regular Meeting session on Tuesday, December 20, 2022 in Council Chambers and via ZOOM Teleconferencing. The meeting was called to order at 6:13 p.m.

Silent Meditation and Pledge of Allegiance: A silent moment was taken followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Barletta-present; Colombo-present; Mundie-present; Ondishin-present; Perry-present

Minutes of Previous Meetings: The minutes of the December 6, 2022 Regular Meeting were approved unanimously.

Presentations/Proclamations/Communications: Public Hearing for the City of Hazleton Zoning Ordinance Amendments-

Atty. Sean Logsdon stated the City had a few amendments to the City's Zoning Ordinance, that was presented by the Zoning Department. He said the ordinance amendments were reviewed by the Luzerne County Planning Department, and Luzerne County had no comments. The Hazleton City Planning Commission, also, had no comments. He stated there was a map change that was discussed at the meeting. Atty. Logsdon said there were a few classifications that were reclassified into different zoning districts. He said BYOB clubs were "cleaned up" in this ordinance. Atty. Logsdon stated the BYOB's were being mischaracterized as night clubs. He said there was a section inserted into the ordinance regarding tiny homes. Atty. Logsdon said the general zoning district regulations uses for multi-families were, also, updated.

Atty. Logsdon said, at this time, they will open the meeting to comments from the public, Hazleton City Council, Junior Council or Mayor Cusat.

Perry stated there was a question on the solar panels on homes. He said this was amended and corrected. He said the problem is homes that are close together. Atty. Logsdon said Section 8-E- Energy Related Accessory Uses has been added to the Zoning Ordinance. He said it states, "in all districts, the event from the distance from the principal structure is less than a requisite side yard setback for the applicable district, the rooftop solar panel shall not be installed on any portion of the roof less than six feet from the edge". He said this should prevent any issue from installing a solar panel directly. Perry asked if the six feet means, "all the way around". Atty. Logsdon stated it refers to the roof edge. Perry said this is for safety purposes. Atty. Logsdon agreed. Atty. Logsdon said they discussed the difference between a BYOB and a nightclub. Perry asked if every resident needs to go through the Zoning Department before installing solar panels. Atty. Logsdon said yes. He said when going to the Zoning Department to obtain a zoning permit, they will need to submit a "sketch plan". He said the Zoning officers will make sure no one is in violation of the set-back. He said a BYOB, for a restaurant, is an accessory use. Perry asked if a resident has recourse to go through a zoning hearing. Atty. Logsdon said certainly. He said the City's zoning officer will "walk" the resident through the process.

Atty. Logsdon stated the floor will be open up for public comment.

Mark Rabo, 1st Street, Hazleton, said per the State Planning Code and law, the public is allowed five minutes to speak at the public hearing due to Zoning Hearing for Ordinance amendments.

Rabo spoke of the City's Zoning Ordinance. He asked if this went to Luzerne County Planning then amended. Atty. Logsdon said there were no amendments from the last time the ordinance was read. Rabo asked if this was advertised properly. Atty. Logsdon stated, "this was all taken care of".

Rabo said if there are conversions done, prior to the Zoning Ordinance amendments, all previous conversions done would be "grandfathered in". He asked if the restaurant had a BYOB, would they need to do a "sketch" drawing and go in front of the Zoning board to do that. Atty. Logsdon said the restaurant would be the "use", and the BYOB would be the accessory use. He said, he believes, the City would do this under one zoning application. Rabo said if a resident who already has an existing apartment complex and wanted to rent a room, as a boarding or rooming house, would have to go to the Zoning officer. Atty. Logsdon said certainly. He stated if someone was using the property illegally, and trying to continue the use, it would have to be a pre-existing legal non-conforming use. Rabo stated, in the Zoning Ordinance, Section 503- R1 & R2 zoning states that multi-family is no longer permitted. He said if the resident continues to rent out the rooms, he said the Zoning officer would have to deny them. Atty. Logsdon said, possibly, unless they claim that it was a pre-existing non-conforming legal use.

Dee Deakos, 43 West Mine Street, Hazleton, said she noticed, in the City Zoning Ordinance, that churches were only allowed in a CC or a CH district. She said there are some located in R1 & R2 zones. She asked if a church is closed, for more than one year, would they be able to open again. Atty. Logsdon stated that depends on the circumstances. He said if a special exception was granted, there is a provision, in the ordinance, to cover this. Deakos said if a Catholic Church is sold, and in an R2 zone, would it be able to be a different church if they are closed more than one year. Atty. Logsdon said they would have to argue that it is a pre-existing legal non-conforming use at the Zoning office. He said he could not overrule a Zoning officer's decision. Deakos said the City should not discriminate against religion.

Perry read City Proclamation for Monica Barletta. He presented the proclamation to Monica's family.

Bid Opening: None

Courtesy of the Floor (ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY): Mark Rabo, 1st Street, Hazleton, spoke of Ordinance 2022-20 An Ordinance Authorizing the Execution and Filing of a Declaration of Taking and Proceeding in Accordance with the Applicable Provision of the Eminent Domain Code. He asked if the property owner was notified before this ordinance was in place per the Eminent Domain statute. Atty. Logsdon said this would not happen unless they knew the ordinance would pass. He said they will be informed in the applicable time frame of the Eminent Domain Code. Rabo asked if there was a posting of the notice, by the City, to "take" the property. Atty. Logsdon said it will be, this is just a first reading and presentation. Rabo stated it is for public housing with properties on both sides and the "rear". He asked how this would work unless the City "takes" the whole block.

Rabo spoke of **BUDGET ORDINANCE 2022-16-** An Ordinance Providing for the Appropriation of Specific Amounts Estimated as Required for the Various Departments of the Government of the City of Hazleton, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania for and during the Fiscal Year, dating from January 1, 2023 and Ending December 31, 2023. He asked if there is enough tax revenue from EIT and other fees to cover all

expenses in the City. He said he is confused because he read, in the paper, the City requesting \$853,000 from the HCA. Rabo spoke of the City's codification. He asked when this will be done for 2022.

Ricky DeLucca, Hazleton, spoke of Ordinance 2022-20- **Ordinance 2022-20** An Ordinance Authorizing the Execution and Filing of a Declaration of Taking and Proceeding in Accordance with the Applicable Provision of the Eminent Domain Code. He said he knows the property and its owner. He said the owner is paying taxes for 40 years. He stated the City cannot take people's property with the Land Bank. DeLucca said he will fix his roof when the building in the front is "ripped" down. He said Diane Panzarella is forcing people to sign properties over to the City. DeLucca said this is extorting properties. DeLucca said his property is 630 Hanover Court. The resolution stated Cleveland Street. Mayor Cusat stated the owner resides at 602 Cleveland Street, but the property is 630 Hanover Court. Ondishin asked where the area is. DeLucca said it is in the area of James and Peace Streets, between Sixth & Seven Streets.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

ORDINANCES:

(1ST READING)

Ordinance 2022-20

An Ordinance Authorizing the Execution and Filing of a Declaration of Taking and Proceeding in Accordance with the Applicable Provision of the Eminent Domain Code (**1ST READING**)

Presented by Barletta. Seconded by Ondishin.

On the Question:

Barletta said the resolution states 602 Cleveland Street but should be 630 Hanover Court. The City Clerk stated this was her error, she forgot to take out the ordinance from the city council's packets. Barletta asked why the City is looking to "take" this property. Atty. Logsdon said the City is looking at a larger project in this area. He said the Land Bank owns the old dairy building, which is next door, and is planning to be "raised". Atty. Logsdon said this building is no longer recoverable. He stated the "taking" of the garage, next door, would be a public housing project under the Eminent Domain Code. Barletta asked if the City would do the housing or a private company. Mayor Cusat stated the Hazleton Redevelopment Authority would put up housing, like Green Street housing, and the Housing Corporation has money available for these types of projects. Barletta asked why the Land Bank did not try to take this property. Atty. Logsdon stated the Land Bank does not have Eminent Domain power. Barletta asked if the property is "up-to-date" on their taxes. Atty. Logsdon said yes, but the property is dilapidated. Ondishin concurred, and said the building needs some help. Mayor Cusat said they share a common wall. He said the City cannot "take down" the dairy building until his roof is fixed. He said he is using the building for storage. Barletta said the City should not "take" a property from someone who has paid their taxes. Atty. Logsdon said the City would have to pay for the property. Mundie asked if the owner is, here, objecting. Atty. Logsdon stated the owner has counsel and they have spoken several times. He said the City has been at the City magistrate's office several times on the buildings structure problems. Perry asked if the City would get "fair market" price on this property. Atty. Logsdon said yes. Barletta asked if the City would pay this out of the General Fund. Mayor Cusat said it would come out of the General Fund and then be

reimbursed. Barletta asked what the market value is. Mayor Cusat stated this would be set by the appraisers. Perry asked if this is a big lot. Atty. Logsdon said yes, once the buildings are raised, this is where the public housing would go. Mayor Cusat said the dairy building is big and is in an “L”

shape. Perry asked how long this has been going on. Ondishin stated for a while. He said the City has been to the magistrate numerous times. He said the City Land Bank got the dairy property about 1 ½ years ago. He said the dairy property was in the depository. Ondishin said the owner stated he stored cars in there. Barletta asked when the City heard from his attorney. Atty. Logsdon stated the City informed him, in a letter, and when negotiations were “renigged” on. He said they “backed out”. Mundie asked who the owner is. Atty. Logsdon said Matusick. Mundie asked if time is “of the essence”. Mayor Cusat said it has been a haven for homeless people with a dead body found several months ago. He stated it has been vacant for 15-20 years. Mayor Cusat said they “backed out”, per the City engineers. He said the owner will not sign the agreement with the City. Barletta asked where this is in the court system. Atty. Logsdon stated the City requested another hearing with the District Magistrate to expedite the process. Barletta said this may be a better way. Mundie asked if he was fined. Atty. Logsdon said yes, but the fines will not help repair the building. Mundie said with Eminent Domain, the City takes the property, and it could go to court, if the resident disagrees, and then fight over the costs.

Roll Call: Barletta-no; Colombo-yes; Mundie-yes; Ondishin-yes; Perry-yes

ORDINANCE PASSES 4-1 ON 1ST READING

(2ND AND 3RD READINGS)

Ordinance 2022-13

An Ordinance Amending the City of Hazleton Zoning Ordinance 2023 (2nd READING)

Presented by Barletta. Seconded by Colombo.

On the Question:

Perry asked Atty. Logsdon if this ordinance would take effect immediately. Atty. Logsdon said yes. He said Mayor Cusat has 10 days to veto this.

Roll Call: Barletta-yes; Colombo-yes; Mundie-yes; Ondishin-yes; Perry-yes

ORDINANCE PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

BUDGET ORDINANCE 2022-16

An Ordinance Providing for the Appropriation of Specific Amounts Estimated as Required for the Various Departments of the Government of the City of Hazleton, Luzerne County,

Pennsylvania for and during the Fiscal Year, dating from January 1, 2023 and Ending December 31, 2023 **(2nd READING)**

Presented by Colombo. Seconded by Barletta.

On the Question:

Perry thanked Dan Lynch and Mayor Cusat for all their work on the 2023 budget. He stated PEL has been overseeing all of this. He stated the City was able to raise taxes.

Roll Call: Barletta-yes; Colombo-yes; Mundie-yes; Ondishin-yes; Perry-yes

ORDINANCE PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Ordinance 2022-17

Re-Enacting Ordinance 1931 which Continues in Force and Effect for the Period January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023, Imposing the Real Estate Transfer Tax **(2nd READING)**

Presented by Barletta. Seconded by Ondishin.

Roll Call: Barletta-yes; Colombo-yes; Mundie-yes; Ondishin-yes; Perry-yes

ORDINANCE PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Ordinance 2022-18

An Ordinance of the City of Hazleton Fixing the Tax Rate of Real Estate Located in the City of Hazleton, Pennsylvania, for All City Purposes for the Fiscal Year 2023, Beginning January 1, 2023 and Ending December 31, 2023 **(2nd READING)**

Presented by Barletta. Seconded by Perry.

Roll Call: Barletta-yes; Colombo-yes; Mundie-yes; Ondishin-yes; Perry-yes

ORDINANCE PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Ordinance 2022-19

Re-Enacting Ordinance 2021-24 which Continues in Force and Effect for the Period January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023, Imposing the Payroll Preparation Tax for the City of Hazleton **(2nd READING)**

Presented by Barletta. Seconded by Perry.

On the Question:

Perry asked what the City is bringing in for the Payroll Preparation Tax. Lynch stated as of today, the City has budgeted, for 2022, \$460,000 and have collected \$450,166. Perry said the City is doing better than any other city in this process. He asked what other city, in PA, does this. Lynch said Pittsburgh.

Roll Call: Barletta-yes; Colombo-yes; Mundie-no; Ondishin-yes; Perry-yes

ORDINANCE PASSES 4-1

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution 2022-80

A Resolution Updating the Fee Schedule for the City of Hazleton

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Colombo.

On the Question:

Mayor Cusat said there, also, needs to be six additional amendments. Perry asked what the contracting license fee means. Mayor Cusat said it refers to a contractor business license. Perry said the problem is residents “coming in” and do not know what they are doing. Mayor Cusat said the majority of residents come in for permits. Perry asked Lynch if the City’s user fee is “moving along”. Lynch said yes. Perry stated every resident, with a vacant property, will have a \$100.00 registration fee. Mayor Cusat said the fee, for a City dumpster, to put on the street, in 2022, was \$25.00/year. He said the fee will be \$25.00 per week or \$500.00/year. Perry asked if the recreation fees are to rent a stage and pavilions. He asked what the cost is to rent a whole park. Mayor Cusat said to have “exclusive rights”, the cost is \$1,000/per day and includes police, bathrooms, clean-up fees and maintenance. Perry said there is a playground fee for courts. He asked if this includes pickle ball tournaments. Mayor Cusat said this would include a reservation for a tournament.

Atty. Logsdon stated they wanted to add a couple things to the resolution. He said for City barricades, there would be a fee of \$10.00 per barricade per day, City cones \$5.00 per day, per cone. Mayor Cusat said this refers to a fire situation for blocking off sidewalks. Atty. Logsdon stated police traffic accident reports is \$15.00, non-reportable accident reports are \$25.00, basic incident reports are \$25.00, body cam footage requests are \$175.00, per incident, per camera, plus the cost of the recording devices.

Perry asked Lynch how much of this will be addressed by the user fee study with Matrix. Lynch stated they will look at everything. He said the user fee study will look at the City’s fees at a very intricate level of detail. He said they look at all of the expenses that go into all material and time in the City. Mayor Cusat said the City is basing everything on the Fee Schedule.

Perry stated there is a \$10.00 fee for street closures. Mayor Cusat said this refers to parades.

MOTION TO AMEND:

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Ondishin.

Roll Call: Barletta-yes; Colombo-yes; Mundie-yes; Ondishin-yes; Perry-yes

MOTION TO AMEND PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Roll Call: (**AS AMENDED**): Barletta-yes; Colombo-yes; Mundie-yes; Ondishin-yes; Perry-yes

RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY AS AMENDED

Resolution 2022-81 Appointments to the Recreational Vehicle Board of Appeals

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Ondishin.

Roll Call: Barletta-yes; Colombo-yes; Mundie-yes; Ondishin-yes; Perry-yes

RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Resolution 2022-82 A Resolution Requesting Local Share Account Funds for the Dominican House "La Casa Dominicana De Hazleton"

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Colombo.

Roll Call: Barletta-yes; Colombo-yes; Mundie-yes; Ondishin-yes; Perry-yes

RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Resolution 2022-83 In Memoriam - Monica Barletta

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Barletta.

Roll Call: Barletta-yes; Colombo-yes; Mundie-yes; Ondishin-yes; Perry-yes

RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Resolution 2022-84 Modifying Consolidated Plan for CDBG
Program Year 2022

Presented by Barletta. Seconded by Colombo.

Roll Call: Barletta-yes; Colombo-yes; Mundie-yes; Ondishin-yes; Perry-yes

RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Resolution 2022-85 Council Meeting Schedule for 2023

Presented by Barletta. Seconded by Ondishin.

Roll Call: Barletta-yes; Colombo-yes; Mundie-yes; Ondishin-yes; Perry-yes

RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Resolution 2022-86 Accepting the Proposal of Holman, Frenia, Allison, P.C. for the
Preparation and Completion of the 2019, 2020, and 2021 Annual Audits

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Barletta.

On the Question:

Perry asked the cost of the audit. Atty. Logsdon said the cost is \$50,000 for each year's audit.

Roll Call: Barletta-yes; Colombo-yes; Mundie-yes; Ondishin-yes; Perry-yes

RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Resolution 2022-87 A Resolution Awarding the Bid for the Former Hazleton Post Office Roof
Replacement Project

Presented by Barletta. Seconded by Perry.

On the Question:

Barletta stated she did not know the City owns this building. Mayor Cusat said the City owns this building since 1986 or 1988. He said it is a long-term lease and is subleased out. Ondishin stated work is, currently, being done on the roof. Perry asked if this building will be rented soon when the work gets done. Mayor Cusat said yes.

Roll Call: Barletta-yes; Colombo-yes; Mundie-yes; Ondishin-yes; Perry-yes

RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Resolution 2022-88

A Resolution Authorizing the Greater Hazleton Senior Citizens Services, Inc. to Award Bid for Restroom Improvements at the Hazleton Active Adult Center

Presented by Ondishin. Seconded by Barletta.

Roll Call: Barletta-yes; Colombo-yes; Mundie-yes; Ondishin-yes; Perry-yes

RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Resolution 2022-89

Authorizing an Update to the Code of the City of Hazleton for Legislation passed in 2022 and any Applicable Corrections or Omissions

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Colombo

On the Question:

Perry asked if this will be done in 2023. Atty. Logsdon said yes and will include legislation done in 2022 with any corrections or omissions from when the codification was completed. Barletta asked how often the updates would be done. Mayor Cusat stated it depends on how much has changed. Barletta asked if the City could pick how often this could be done. Mayor Cusat said the City could contract with them at any time. He said it is like a "back and forth" until everyone is satisfied, and should take about six months. Perry asked what the cost is. Atty. Logsdon said the cost is \$4,200.

Roll Call: Barletta-yes; Colombo-yes; Mundie-yes; Ondishin-yes; Perry-yes

RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Resolution 2022-90

Resolution Appointing Med Stat Ambulance, LP, as the City of Hazleton's
Second Due Emergency Medical Service Provider

MOTION TO TABLE:

Presented by Colombo. Seconded by Barletta.

Roll Call: Barletta-yes; Colombo-yes; Mundie-yes; Ondishin-yes; Perry-yes

RESOLUTION TABLED

Resolution 2022- 91

Awarding Contract for 2022-2023 Snowplow Truck and Driver for Winter
Emergency Snow Removal

Presented by Barletta. Seconded by Ondishin.

On the Question:

Perry asked who this contract was awarded to. Atty. Logsdon said this was an emergency add-on to the agenda. He said there is an emergency add-on clause in the PA Sunshine Act. He said this resolution is when the City hires out for winter emergency snow removal. He said the City's Engineer Technician, Josh Esposito, received bids at 12:20 p.m. He said with the winter weather coming, they want to make sure the City is not caught with their "pants down".

Atty. Logsdon said the bids are as follows: **Equipment-** Ten-foot truck with a two-way plow with cellular phone and operator- Franzosa Trucking- \$140,000- Wanick Construction- \$165,000. **Loader-** Rubber and tire mounted articulated with two CY buckets, cellular phone and operator- Franzosa Trucking- \$120.00 hourly, Wanick Construction- \$150.00 hourly. **Loader- Rubber tire mounted articulated 600-T HR snow blower, cellular phone and operator-** Franzosa Trucking- \$150.00 per hour, Wanick Construction- \$200.00 per hour. Atty. Logsdon said these were the only two bids received. He said, historically, the City has not had to use this over the last ten years, but good to have for any significant snowfall. Atty. Logsdon said the lowest bidder is **Franzosa Trucking, Inc.** and this is recommended by the City's Engineer Technician and Atty. Logsdon.

Ondishin asked why this took so long and the reason for the "hold up". Mayor Cusat stated when Alan Wufsus left, and got hurt before retirement, the City was trying to "regroup". Perry said he thinks Josh has learned the "rhythm". Atty. Logsdon said he is learning when the city council meetings are. He said he called, today, the City Clerk to add this onto the agenda.

Roll Call: Barletta-yes; Colombo-yes; Mundie-yes; Ondishin-yes; Perry-yes

RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

New Business: None.

Old Business: None.

Comments from the Audience: Dee Deakos, 43 West Mine Street, stated there are several street lights that are not being repaired. She said there is one on 15th Street, one two blocks before City Hall, one at Broad and Laurel, and the ones on Chestnut, Wyoming and Laurel Streets. She said some Christmas decorations are not lit. She said this shows that the City does not have pride.

Bill Buggy, Broad Street, Hazleton, said he is a salver in the City. He said some salvers have been back and forth, with the City, with the salvage process. He said the problem will be an overflow in the lots and will become a zoning issue. Buggy stated he spoke with Chief Schoonmaker and Atty. Logsdon, in the past, and has gotten nowhere. He said they are becoming "backlogged" with cars. Buggy stated, under Title 75 of the General Assembly PA Vehicle Code, the City is required to do the vehicles of any salver. He said the City has found they are not happy with how the paperwork is written. Buggy stated the whole state of PA uses the paperwork. He said, currently, cars are being salvaged illegally in the City. He said they are being moved out of the City. Buggy said he is paying mercantile taxes and is trying to maintain these cars and keep them out of the public view. He said he came here to ask city council for help.

Donald Mason, Hazleton, distributed documents to city council members. He stated he spent 20 years in the military and law enforcement. Mason said he and all military and law enforcement fight to maintain everyone's constitutional rights. He said there was an incident last month. Mason stated someone saw him taking his legally owned firearm, placing it on his hip and phoned in a complaint. He said he has a federal concealed carrying permit and can carry a firearm where he wants to. He said the Hazleton Police Department "patted" him down. Mason said he had no firearm on him at that time. Mason stated this should have ceased at this time. He said they accused him of having a false document. He said after they were satisfied with the document, they called 911. Mason said they told him they needed to get a letter of No Trespass and held him there. He said they stated it was a conflict of interest when they heard he will run for mayor in the City. He stated Mayor Cusat stated he would let city council know about this incident right away. Mason said he would like retraining done to identify Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act (LEOSA) credentials, Fourth Amendment and the seizure of individuals. Mason said he wanted to meet with Mayor Cusat, Atty. Logsdon and the Hazleton Chief of Police to discuss this. He asked if he needs to file a lawsuit to make sure law enforcement is doing their proper job and get an apology. He wants to know why his Fourth Amendment rights were violated.

Cindy DeLucca, Hazleton, distributed information to city council members- meeting minutes from October and a bill to the City for salvaged vehicles, in her lot, that are not being done.

Mark Rabo, 1st Street, spoke of the 630 Hanover Court property. He asked Atty. Logsdon if the property being taken is due to blighted property. Atty. Logsdon said it is being taken for a public purpose to put up public housing. Atty. Logsdon stated it is a dilapidated property.

Rabo said he read the article, in the newspaper, about the \$853,000 from the HCA for the Eminent Domain and the proceeds that are being requested to go to the City. He said Mayor Cusat stated due to the state taking the land, by Eminent Domain, the proceeds should go to the City. Rabo asked how this justifies the City getting the money from the HCA.

Rabo said the state, through some of their money, are getting their own infrastructure loan program for municipalities. He said this will happen in the New Year.

Rabo wished everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and Happy New Year.

Linda DeAndrea, North Lee Court, asked about the snow, sidewalks and “wanna be” snowplows that are plowing snow onto sidewalks making them unpassable. She stated Susan Martinelli’s husband plowed snow onto the sidewalk that used to belong to Pasco Schiavo. DeAndrea said people need to walk on the roads due to the snow on the sidewalk. She said she walked down here to this meeting, and half of the sidewalks are not shoveled. Barletta asked who DeAndrea needs to contact. Atty. Logsdon said she needs to contact the Code Department. DeAndrea said she has contacted them in the past, and they never call her back. Barletta said she will send an email to the Code Department for her. Barletta stated the City has an ordinance for this.

Efrechia Childs, Hazleton, asked about the new fees for the City parks. She asked how much money will the residents get back when they show the City it is in good condition. Mayor Cusat said for the use of the park, the resident will not get their deposit back. Childs said in Hazle Township, they give the residents their money back and have cheaper fees. Mayor Cusat said these fees are only for exclusive use for the park and private use. He said if a resident wants to go up between Monday and Friday, they would not have to pay. He said only if a resident wants to reserve a pavilion, they would have to pay the fees.

Comments from Mayor: Mayor Cusat said Nadine did send out multiple NOV’s, today, due to sidewalks not being shoveled. He stated she went to some school areas and, also, on Route 309. Barletta said she thought the City did a ticket process for snow removal. She asked Atty. Logsdon to check this out. Mayor Cusat said this got changed with the Quality-of-Life Ordinance and a NOV process.

Mayor Cusat said the New Years Eve Fireworks Event will be at 7 p.m. at City View Park. He said the sole sponsor is DeAngelo Contracting Services. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Comments from City Administrator: Lynch spoke of the issue, brought up by Rabo, for the correlation between the HCA and enough money. He stated there is no correlation between the two and is not part of the City’s 2023 budget. Lynch said they are not related and is a question with the HCA agreement. He said he is confident in the revenues they have projected for the budget.

Lynch wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Perry stated there is a Master Service Agreement between the City and the HCA for 25 years. Mayor Cusat stated there is a section in there that this property was to be turned over to the City, in 2010, and never did. He said this would be coming, directly, from PENN DOT.

Comments from Council: Mundie said Buggy stated he needs his paperwork done. Atty. Logsdon said he met with Buggy and his counsel. He said he sent and received a letter but did not receive a response to his letter. Buggy said he has paperwork that the whole state of PA does.

Mundie said the HCA will be getting garbage bids that will be astronomical. He said this is based on the increasing cost of fuel. He stated McAdoo and Hazle Township tripled their garbage costs. Mundie said the City should review a regional garbage authority that would collect Hazleton, Hazle Township, West Hazleton and McAdoo’s garbage. Mundie said this would keep the costs down. He stated this is something that should be looked at. Mayor Cusat stated the City has no control with negotiations with the garbage contract

He wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Memo Lara, Hazleton, spoke of the fees for the City parks. He asked for Mayor Cusat to define the exclusive use of the parks. Mayor Cusat said the fee includes the resident invited guests only. He said this is for an event at the park, and they want to control the guest list. Lara said they should put in the paper that everyone is welcome. He said the residents would reserve the park with the fees. Lara said it is crazy to pay \$1,000 fee to rent the park. He said this is too much money. Mayor Cusat said it is

different if the resident wants to use one pavilion and use the whole park and put decorations up. Mayor Cusat invited Lara to sit down with him and the Recreation Director next week. Lara said he will come.

Colombo wished Merry Christmas to the entire City. He thanked Mayor Cusat for going around, the City, as Santa Claus, for three days.

Colombo thanked the DPW, Fire, Police and Code Departments for all their good work. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Ondishin reminded all to check their smoke detectors. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Perry thanked Junior Council for coming to the meeting. He also thanked Police Captain White for securing a \$2,500,000 grant for the police department. He thanked Lynch for the 2023 budget. Perry wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Comments from Junior Council: None

Adjournment: Perry motioned to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.