



City of Hazleton

2021 Year in Review



Administration Department

- In 2021, The City of Hazleton continued to realize steady improvement in the financial health and stability of the city. The city continued the trend of revenues exceeding expenditures. In 2021, the city's revenues exceeded budgeted forecasts by 3.8% while expenses were under overall budgeted expenses by about 1.5%.
- The city has also seen steady growth in its general fund balance. This growth trend has allowed the city to enter 2022 with the ability to pay down debt service debt and thus redirect incoming tax revenue to be used for current city services and not to pay debts and interest.
- Since entering ACT 47 in June of 2018, the city has increased taxes by less than 1 mil, .93 mils to be exact while the minimum baseline projections in the City's ACT 47 plan projected tax increases totaling 1.6 mils by the year 2022.

Airport



- Transient hanger rent collected \$136,000 (increase of \$27,225 from 2020)
- New 16,000 square foot hanger being built (Olympus Air) This will bring Global air charters to Hazleton on a permanent bases)
- New leases signed in 2021 bringing in addition revenue
- New SRE Equipment (Snowplow and Air blaster for Ice)
- Perimeter fencing updated
- Fuel Farm upgrades to pumping system and filtration (Starting Soon)

Building Inspection Department



PERMITS ISSUED
556



INSPECTIONS
547



FEEES COLLECTED
\$841,387.50

Code Enforcement Department

- Complaints handled 554 (750 in 2020)
 - Citations Issued and Court appearances for code violations: **approximately 170 citations issued and submitted to magistrates.**
 - Rental Registration Applications 2,600 (2,247 in 2020)
 - Business Licenses 1,164 (1,275 in 2020)
 - Rental Unit Safety Inspections 1,408 (1,081 in 2020)
 - Handicap Signs 314 (214 issues in 2020)
 - Building and Work Authorization Permits issued 1,356
 - Call out by Police or Fire Departments for emergencies 35
 - New for 2022 A Restitution fee of \$60.00 for each time the code officer needed to revisit the property.
- 1 Supervisor
 - 1 Office Manager
 - 3 Code Officers
 - 3 Clerks

Community Development

→ CDBG funds were utilized for the on-going street reconstruction project in the city. Remaining CDBG Section 108 funds were used to mill and pave Wyoming Street from Diamond Avenue to Broad Street. In anticipation of changes to low to moderate income area designation more than \$300,000 in CDBG funds were utilized to reconstruct streets on the west side of Poplar Street in the Heights section of the city. Additionally, 1st through 4th streets were repaired with CDBG funds. \$20,000 to Catholic Social Services to aid in the operation of a homeless shelter in the city. \$33,280 to the Hazleton Housing Authority for the expansion of the parking lot at the Mine and Vine location to alleviate excessive parking on nearby streets where multiple businesses are located.

→ A DCNR grant in the amount of \$250,000 for CAN DO Community Park Phase 3 Development

→ Automated Red Light Enforcement Grant (ARLE) - \$1,024,006 to make traffic signal upgrades on Route 309 (Church Street) at Diamond Avenue, 15th Street and 22nd Street.

→ Green-Light-Go grant for the modernization of the Diamond Avenue and Vine Street traffic signal in the amount of \$305,677

→ The Office of Community Development is administering the American Rescue Plan Account funds.

LSA grants received in 2021

Pennsylvania Theatre of performing Arts. \$244,176

City of Hazleton Street improvement Project - \$449,125

Hazleton YWCA pool restoration and wellness center upgrades \$300,000

Saint Paul's church Stabilization project – phase one \$327,895

Hazleton Regional Airport \$20,966

Hazleton Active Adult Center - \$57,000

Hazleton City Hall improvements \$293,000

Total \$1,692,162

American Rescue Plan Funding

Reimbursement
to City -
\$2,797,440.00

Employees
Premium Pay -
\$800,000.00

Utility & Storm
Water
Infrastructure -
\$9,856,000.00

Storm Water
Work -
\$2,065,000.00

Open Air Space -
\$1,100,00.00

Preventing Gun
Violence -
\$1,058,933.00

Administration
Costs -
\$325,000.00

Fire Department of Hazleton

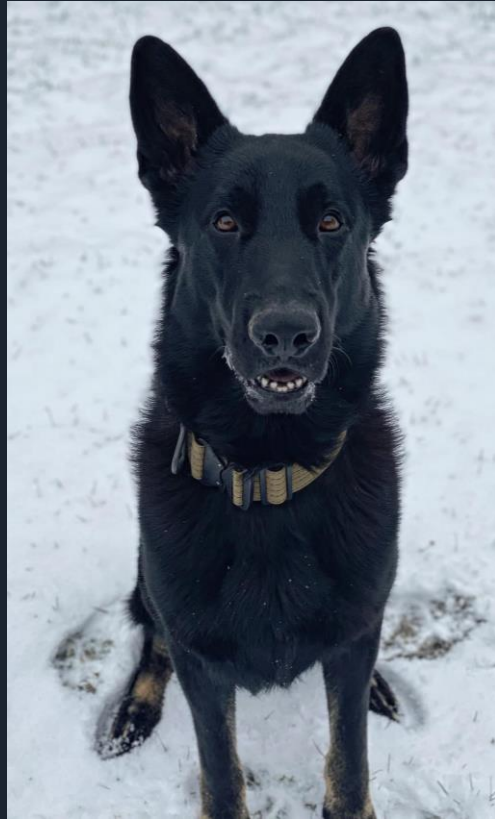
- New Hires (Scot Corbett and Shawn McArdle)
- 3 new vehicles (1 tower ladder and 2 pumper are currently being built)
- 1,042 Total Calls for 2021 (increase of 66 calls from 2020)
- 89 different types of incidents (Fires, MVA, Investigations)
- Installed new SCBA Compressor (FEMA Grant)
- Implemented the CODE RED notification system
- All paid firefighters received COVID-19 vaccine
- Administration, Chiefs Office & Union worked on sound and fiscally responsible contract for the next 6 years



Building / Land Developments

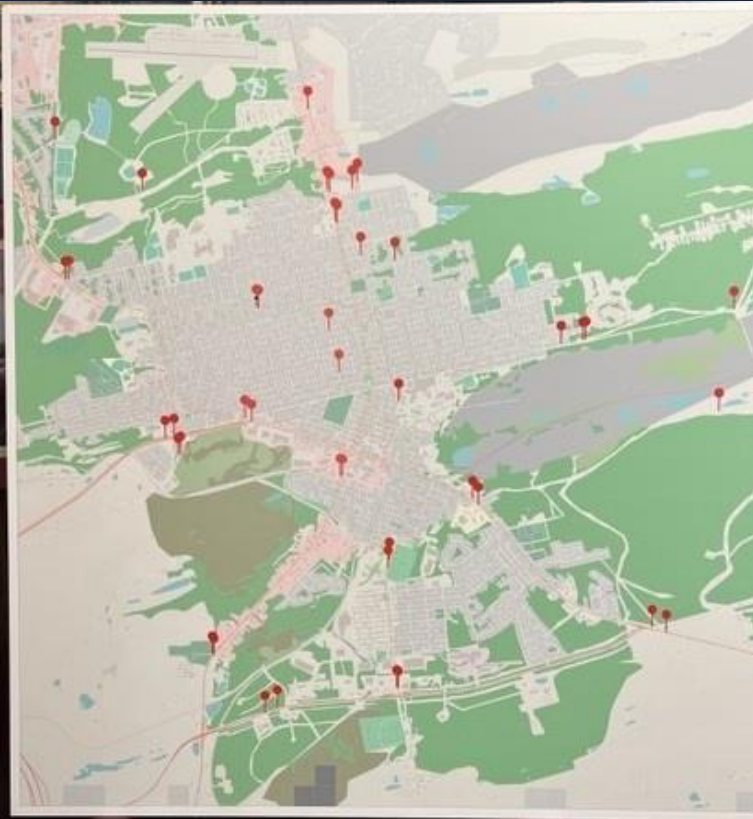
- Blue Rock (South 309) Building to be completed shortly
- Nexii: Plant is up and running, Ribbon Cutting coming this year
- Route 424: Developers are eyeing open land on south side of road

Police Department of Hazleton



- New Hires (10 New Officers hired)
- New vehicles (4 new patrol cars)
- New K-9 (Welcomed A'Sheriden)
- 21,758 calls for service in 2021

Flock Safety



- 44 Cameras in and around Hazleton City
- Since installed, system read 2.3 MILLION plates
- 170 Hits (found stolen cars, warrants, etc.)
- 401 Searches done by law enforcement

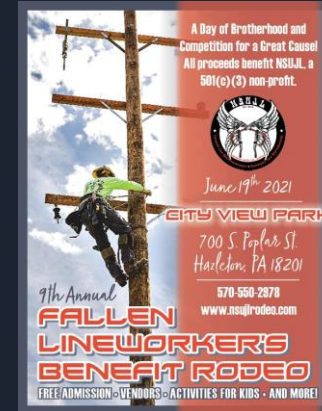
Public Transit Department

- Purchased (3) new buses using CMAQ grant funds that were obtained. This brings our fleet up to (7) Compressed Natural Gas Buses:
 - a. (2) 30ft Gillig Compressed Natural Gas Buses
 - b. (1) 26ft Ford E450 cutaway
- Hazleton Public Transit also purchase (2) new ADA buses using C.A.R.E.S. grant funds and 1517 State funds:
 - a. (2) Ford E350 ADA buses
- Hazleton Public Transit purchased (1) service vehicle:
 - a. (1) 2021 Chevy Blazer
- Hazleton Public Transit also installed a large outside digital display sign to inform the public of emergency notifications, federal & state transit notifications and city events in addition to selling advertising for local businesses.
- Hazleton Public Transit New Bus storage and Maintenance facility construction has been underway since the groundbreaking June 2021 and the proposed completion date is estimated for January 2023.



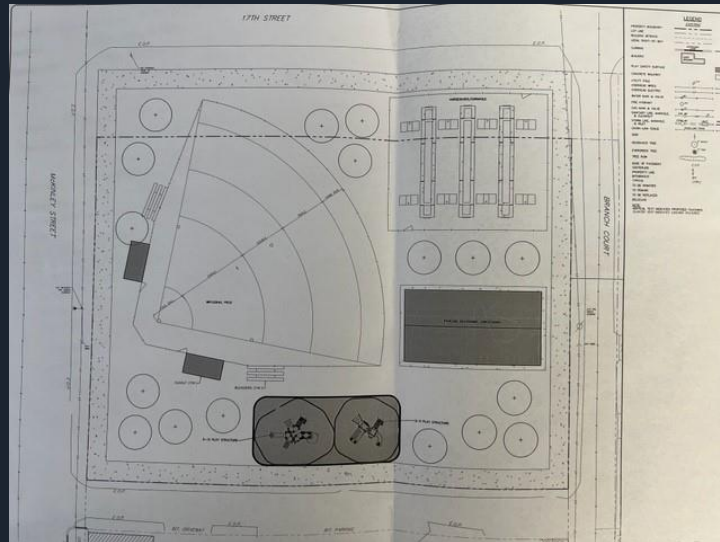
Recreation Department

- Easter Bunny Trail
- Pole Climber Event at City View Park
- Independence Day Celebration
- Wine and Beer Festival at City View Park
- Trail of Treats
- Christmas (Tree Lighting and Santa Parade)



Parks / Playground Updates

- Saint Stans Park (6 new pickleball courts)
- City View Park (Paved Walking Trail)
- Beech Street (Tennis courts / new signs)
- James Street (resurface basketball court)
- Plans to update 12th Ward Park (wiffle ball field, play areas)



*Streets
Department*

Over 2,000 tons of tar
used on city streets

New Sanitation
connections

Construction on
restrooms at City View
Park

Repaired or
reconstructed several
storm drains throughout
the city (saving city
\$1,500 per unit)

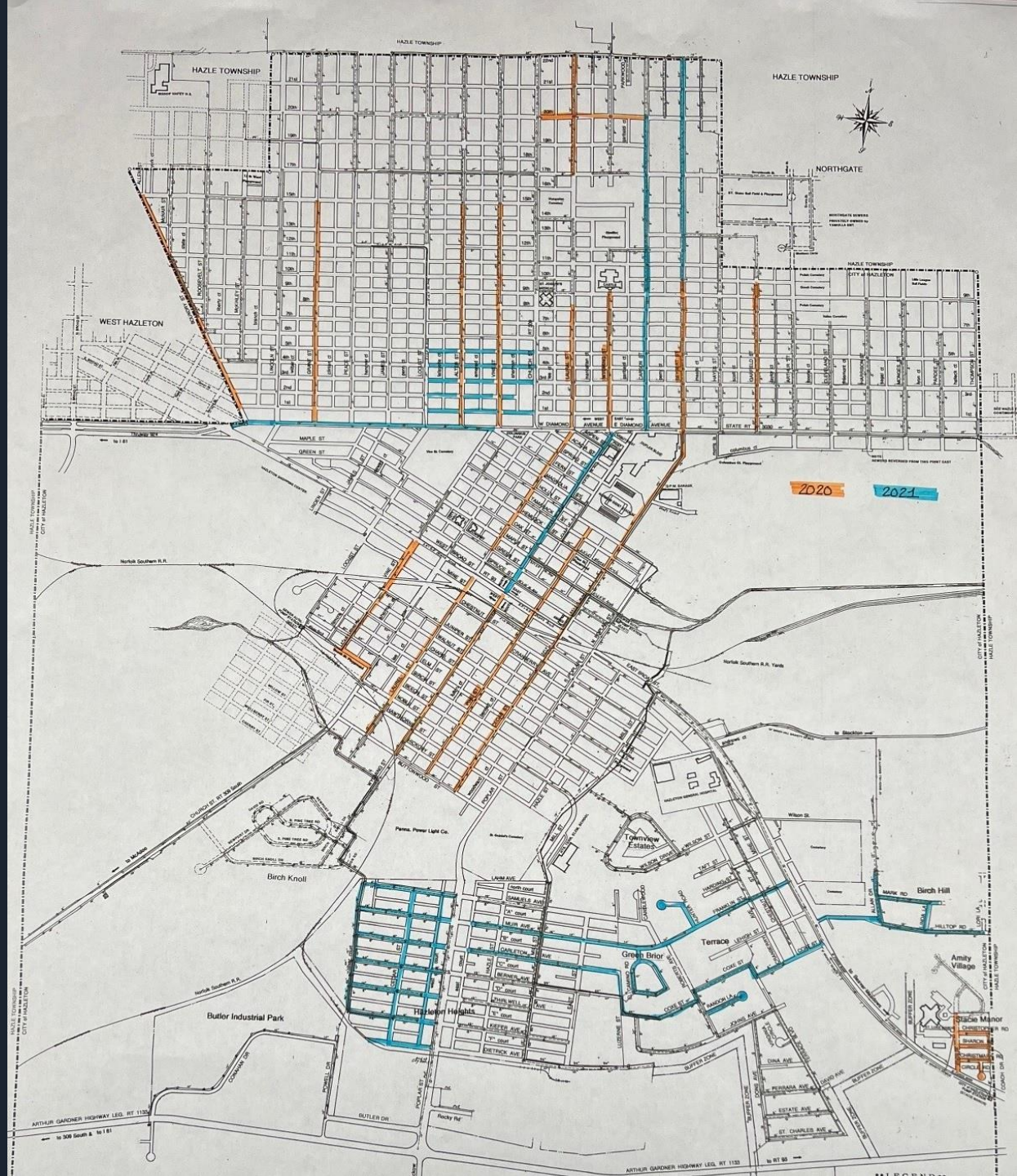
Repaved or fixed several
courts and alleys in the
city in 2021

Maintained all city parks
and playgrounds

2021 Street Improvements (Grant or Federal Money)

- 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, & 5th Streets (Church to Locust St)
- Wyoming Street (Broad to Diamond Ave.)
- Samuels Ave (Poplar to Fulton Court)
- Muir, Carleton, Berner, Thirwell, Kiefer (Poplar to Oliver Ct.)
- South Cedar, & Oliver Ct. (Samuels to Dietrich Ave.)
- Dietrich Ave (Poplar to West Ct)
- Muir Ave (Poplar to Broad St)
- Carleton Ave (Poplar to Cox St)
- Hilltop Road / Allen Dr. / Mark Rd. / Linda Ln.
- Diamond Ave (Vine to Broad St)
- Carson Street (Diamond to 20th)
- Seybert Street (9th to 20th Street)
- Coxe Street
- Franklin Street (Broad to Poplar St)
- West Court (Dietrich to Samuels Ave)
- Fulton Court (Muir to Samuels Ave)
- Randon Lane
- El Camino Court
- Hunter Road

Paving Map



Zoning / Planning Department



343 Zoning matters
handled increase of 33%
from 2021



8 Zoning enforcements
notices, 3 are before
magistrate



18 Zoning board
hearings held; 76 cases
handled



Planning Department
had two hearing on new
developments

Mayor's Office

- Repealed Mercantile Tax
- Repealed Resident Tax
- Repealed Per Capita Tax
- Imposed Payroll Preparation Tax
- Negotiated new Police and City Hall Contracts for workers
- 42 Weddings
- 2 Paper Shredding and 1 Electronic Recycling Events

Parade honors hero who saved baby sister's life



DAVE BUTCHER / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

A parade was held and other honors were awarded to Jaxson Dempsey on Tuesday night. Jaxson, 8, Hazleton, is credited with saving the life of his 18-month-old sister, Leila, last week when she started choking on food. Jaxson was in the back seat of a family car with his sister when she began to choke. He used what he learned from watching an episode of "The Substitute" featuring WWE superstar John Cena. In it, Cena gave a lesson on CPR and the Heimlich maneuver. The parade on Tuesday night consisted of fire departments from Hazleton, West Hazleton, Hazle Twp., Harwood, McAdoo, and Meadows and Trescow. Hazleton Mayor Jeff Cusat and state Representative Tarah Toohil honored Jaxson with awards for his heroic efforts. A number of local fire departments presented Jaxson with shirts from their respective departments. The parade was organized by McAdoo firefighter Richard Kott. PHOTO: Local first responders gather to honor Jaxson for saving his sister. TOP PHOTO: Cusat, right, shakes Jaxson's hand before presenting him with an award for his actions while his father, Matt Dempsey, left, looks on. BOTTOM PHOTO: Jaxson and Matt Dempsey, right, shake hands with Toohil, left, and Cusat while receiving his award from the city.



Hanukkah menorah lighting at City Hall



JOHN HAEGER / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Members of the Jewish community are celebrating Hanukkah, the "festival of lights," with the lighting of the menorah at Hazleton's City Hall. Attending Monday's event are, from left: Christina Ferry, Harriet Douglass, David Douglass, Bob Supowit, Dr. Carl Frankel, Marlene Leonard, Debbie Walko, Rabbi Yossi Zylberberg of Beth Israel Temple, Leonard Trattner, Hazleton Mayor Jeff Cusat, Helene Kline and Richard Kline.



Mayor's Fund

- Donated to Recreation Department for Events
- Help purchase Gym equipment for city fitness center



2022 Look Ahead



City is on steady financial ground, preparing to exit Act 47 in 2023



Awaiting new fire trucks



Hired a full time Recreation Director (first time in many years)



Steady growth in all departments (hiring additional people to help with workload)



New programs to be announced in 2022