

**MINUTES
HAZLETON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 2023**

Call to Order: Council met in a Regular Meeting session on Tuesday, April 11, 2023 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-absent; Ondishin-present; Perry-present

Minutes of Previous Meetings: The minutes of the March 28, 2023 Regular Meeting were approved unanimously.

Presentations/Proclamations/Communications: None

Bid Opening: None

Courtesy of the Floor (ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY): Dee Deakos, 43 West Mine Street, Hazleton, asked which streets, in the City of Hazleton, are being paved. Perry stated he has a list of them. He said a total of 43 streets are being paved. He told Deakos that City Council will make a copy for her to have.

Mark Rabo, 1st Street, Hazleton, spoke of Resolution 2023-20- A Resolution Awarding the Bid for the Hazleton City ARPA Paving Project. He asked which "pool" of money this is coming from, either the City's or Luzerne County's. Rabo stated the City received \$1,000,000 from Luzerne County.

Rabo, also, spoke of the LSA resolution. He said due to Luzerne County getting the infrastructure loan, for Nanticoke, all other municipalities will be getting \$3,000,000 less to apply for than in previous years.

Rabo asked if there are any neighborhood streets that are going to be paved, and not just the main streets. He said there are certain streets that are in "dire" need of being paved.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

ORDINANCES:

(1ST READING)

None

(2ND AND 3RD READINGS)

None

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Resolution 2023-15

Modifying Consolidated Plan for CDBG-CV Program Year 2020

Presented by Barletta. Seconded by Ondishin.

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

RESOLUTION PASSES 4-0

Resolution 2023-16

A Resolution Approving the Action Plan for Fiscal Year 2023

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Barletta.

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

RESOLUTION PASSES 4-0

Resolution 2023-17

Requesting a Traffic Study be Completed by the City of Hazleton at the Intersection of Laurel Street and 8th Street to Determine if There is a Need for a Stop Sign at this Location

Presented by Colombo. Seconded by Barletta.

On the Question:

Perry stated coming out of 8th Street it is hard to see. Barletta asked how long it takes for a traffic

study to be completed. Police Chief Schoonmaker (*inaudible*).

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

RESOLUTION PASSES 4-0

Resolution 2023-18

Requesting a Traffic Study be Completed by the City of Hazleton at the Intersection of South Hazle Street and East Beech Street to Determine if there is a Need for a Stop Sign at this Location

Presented by Barletta. Seconded by Ondishin.

On the Question:

Barletta stated she put this resolution on the agenda due to this being part of a school zone. She said it is one corner that does not have a stop sign. Schoonmaker (*inaudible*).

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

RESOLUTION PASSES 4-0

Resolution 2023-19

A Resolution Awarding the Bid for the Hazleton City General Fund Paving Project

Presented by Ondishin. Seconded by Barletta.

On the Question:

Perry asked if the list of streets to be paved are broken out into specific streets. Mayor Cusat *(inaudible)*. Ondishin asked if Buttonwood Street would be paved this year. Mayor Cusat *(inaudible)*. Colombo asked if they are going to repair the intersection that always gets flooded. Mayor Cusat *(inaudible)*. Perry stated H&K Group will be doing these paving projects. Perry asked if this would affect the paving when the City does the inlets. Mayor Cusat *(inaudible)*.

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

RESOLUTION PASSES 4-0

Resolution 2023-20

A Resolution Awarding the Bid for the Hazleton City ARPA Paving Project

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Barletta.

On the Question:

Perry asked if these streets will, also, have inlets done. Mayor Cusat *(inaudible)*. Perry asked if the City's or the ARPA money will be used. Mayor Cusat stated the City's money.

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

RESOLUTION PASSES 4-0

Resolution 2023-21

A Resolution Awarding the Bid for the Hazleton City LSA Paving Project

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Barletta.

On the Question:

Perry asked if this is the rest of the paving project. Mayor Cusat (*inaudible*). Perry asked if UGI is done with their work. Mayor Cusat (*inaudible*).

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

RESOLUTION PASSES 4-0

Resolution 2023-22

A Resolution Awarding the Bid for the Hazleton City CDBG Fund Paving Project

Presented by Colombo. Seconded by Barletta.

On the Question:

Perry stated these are the streets that they have not talked about. Mayor Cusat (*inaudible*). Perry stated this paving project has been the most ambitious paving project in the history of our City. He said it did not cost the taxpayers any increase in their taxes. Perry stated there are 43 different streets to be paved.

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

RESOLUTION PASSES 4-0

New Business: None.

Old Business: None.

Comments from the Audience: Mark Rabo, 1st Street, Hazleton, spoke of the line separation for the sewer inlets. He said the City has not gotten Luzerne County's ARP money yet, and asked how the City would do the inlets before the line separation. Mayor Cusat (*inaudible*). Rabo asked how the line separation will be done when the Hazleton Sewer Authority owns and maintains the lines for the City. Mayor Cusat (*inaudible*). Rabo said the Hazleton Sewer Authority received \$2,000,000 from Luzerne County for stormwater projects. Mayor Cusat (*inaudible*). Rabo stated the City could use the money in applying for grants, and use it as "leverage" for the entire project.

Rabo stated the HCA has increased the garbage rate for the City residents. He said the City has a garbage ordinance that the HCA pays \$150,000, out of the \$475,000 to enforce. He stated there are a lot of multi-unit apartments that do not have dumpsters. Rabo asked if the Code Department will be enforcing this if the City is getting more money from the HCA. Mayor Cusat (*inaudible*). Rabo asked why the multi-unit apartments do not have dumpsters.

Ricky DeLuca, Hazleton, asked Mayor Cusat who the interested parties are for the City of Hazleton's towing contract. Mayor Cusat stated there are two interested parties, Paul's Towing and Zenier's Towing, and will be interviewed next week.

Cindee DeLuca, Hazleton, asked if the City got the money returned for the Gottstein building lease in the amount of \$17,500. Mayor Cusat said the Gottstein building is under an agreement to be purchased with a closing date of December 31, 2023.

Comments from Mayor: None

Comments from City Administrator: None

Comments from Council: Colombo thanked the community for the Easter Dinner on Sunday. He stated they delivered 600 meals. He thanked our Junior Council Member, Paul Neyhart, for helping from 6:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. and Allison Barletta's daughter, Madison, did a great job, and gave "125%". He said the DeSantis family also, gave their support.

Colombo reminded all residents to "keep their eyes open" for the children playing in the City and on the streets.

Ondishin asked Mayor Cusat regarding the Hazleton Municipal Airport issues. He asked what the status is with the trees. Mayor Cusat stated the FAA mandated the City to take them down. He said there is work to be done at the airport. Ondishin asked about the area where the Hazleton Transit building is being erected. He asked if it will be fenced in. Mayor Cusat said the whole facility will be fenced in. Ondishin said someone is storing their stuff on City property. He said there is some garbage that needs to be removed.

Colombo asked about the airport noise and dirt. Mayor Cusat said the fence that was put up, at the airport, was chosen by the FAA and BOA. Perry asked if the City took the trees down. Mayor Cusat stated they told the City the trees needed to be removed. Perry said if any resident has any concerns, they need to contact their congressman and the FAA. Perry said the airport manager should control the planes in the "hold" area.

Barletta asked if the City requires a business to have a dumpster. Mayor Cusat said a business needs to have a private hauler. He said the new zoning ordinance does not have anything to require residential or multi-family unit to have a dumpster.

Barletta asked about the issues with the tractor trailers parked in the City. Police Chief Schoonmaker said the police are still ticketing them, but there are still a few left.

Barletta asked Atty. Logsdon if he heard anything about a DEP public hearing regarding the proposed transfer station. Atty. Logsdon said he will reach out, again, to the DEP coordinator. He said the City is still in the comment period of 60 days.

Barletta said City Council is scared of the activity at the Pagnotti Field Baseball Park. She said every year, she cleans up beer bottles and trash there. Mayor Cusat said the league does not have exclusive rights to the field. He said the agreement is that they maintain the field. She said there was a resolution passed, several years ago, for no parking on the one side of the park, but the signs were never put up.

Colombo spoke of the recent increased City garbage fees. Atty. Logsdon said the HCA has the exclusive rights for the City garbage contract.

Perry asked if the City playgrounds will be finished this summer. Mayor Cusat said Pine Street, 12th Ward & City View Park should be done before school is out. He said the workers are ahead of schedule due to the mild winter.

Perry thanked the Hazleton DPW, Code and Fire Departments for all their work in the City.

Barletta stated the signs were never posted in the Heights Section of the City for street sweeping. Mayor Cusat said the workers went up there, but possibly, at the end of their project, the workers may go back up.

Comments from Junior Council: None

Adjournment: Perry motioned to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.