

MINUTES
HAZLETON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MAY 23, 2018

Call to Order: Council met in regular session on Wednesday, May 23, 2018 in Council Chambers. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.

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

Roll Call: Barletta-present; Colombo-present; Mope-present; Perry-present; Gavio-present

Minutes of Previous Meetings: The minutes of the May 9, 2018-Regular Meeting were approved unanimously.

Proclamations/Communications: None.

Bid Opening: Purchase of Real Estate, in the City of Hazleton:

1. 241-247 East Chestnut Street, Hazleton (PIN # 710-T8SW34-002-10A)
2. 57 North Cedar Street, Hazleton (PIN # 71-T8SW31-005-001-000)
3. 298 East Broad Street, Hazleton (PIN # 71-T8SW31-007-002-000)
4. 244 East Mine Street, Hazleton (PIN # 71-T8SW34-002-010B-000)

Mayor Cusat said the bids will be delayed and read at the next city council meeting on June 13, 2018. Zeller said this will need to be re-advertised due to the delay. Daniel Lynch, city administrator, stated it will need to be re-advertised for public bid opening. Zeller said the city needs to allow residents to apply. A resident asked what will happen with the bids already made. Lynch stated the bids will still stand with the public opening scheduled for June 13, 2018. Barletta stated it will be a continuation to open the bids.

Courtesy of the Floor (ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY):

Mark Rabo, 1st Street, Hazleton, spoke of Ordinance 2018-18- Modifying Consolidated Plan for CDBG Program Year 2016 and 2017. He asked if the amount of \$5,300.63 for Housing

Rehabilitation was for the Active Adult Center. Joe Zeller, Director of Community Development, stated it was an individual property that received a new roof and boiler. He said the activity was closed out and completed. Rabo also asked about the Catholic Social Services homeless shelter. He asked if the facility received approval from the state for this shelter. Zeller said this falls under the 2018 action plan and, currently, has not been approved. Rabo stated this needs to be reviewed due to liability insurance. Mope said Catholic Social Services insurance should cover any mishaps. Karen Parrish, Senior Project Manager for Mullin and Lonergan Associates, Inc., stated the city is only covering Catholic Social Services, and not the paying for the building or operations of the shelter. Rabo asked what the amount is for the CDBG funding for demolitions. Zeller stated the amount is \$100,000. Rabo asked if there is still funding for the blighted property committee in the CDBG plan. Zeller said the Community Development department cannot fund the blighted property program. He said this falls under the planning committee. Parrish stated the city could recommend demolition of a property. Rabo asked with the city purchasing properties how it will be determined whether it is blighted before it is demolished. Zeller said the city could not fund the solicitor or any legal advertisements. Rabo stated the costs were covered in the 2017 budget. Gavio stated Rabo could bring his concerns to Mayor Cusat.

Dee Deakos, 43 West Mine Street, Hazleton, spoke of Resolution 2018-51- A Resolution of the City of Hazleton Authorizing the Execution and Recording of a New Deed for Altmiller Park. She said it states, “there should be no encumbrance placed on this property.” She said there is an encumbrance when the city borrowed money for the playgrounds. Zeller said DCNR is aware of this and stated this is not an issue. Zeller said the city could keep the encumbrance.

Old Business:

ORDINANCES

Ordinance 2018-16 An Ordinance of the City of Hazleton, Luzerne County, PA, Replacing Chapter 83 of the Code of Ordinances, Ordinance 95-18 of the City of Hazleton, Entitled “Burglar Alarms”, and Replacing it with “Alarms and Alarm Systems” **(2nd READING)**

Presented by Barletta. Seconded by Mope.

Roll Call: Barletta-yes; Colombo-yes; Mope-yes; Perry-yes; Gavio-yes

ORDINANCE PASSES ON 2nd READING

Ordinance 2018-16 An Ordinance of the City of Hazleton, Luzerne County, PA, Replacing Chapter 83 of the Code of Ordinances, Ordinance 95-18 of the City of Hazleton, Entitled “Burglar Alarms”, and Replacing it with “Alarms and Alarm Systems” **(3rd READING)**

Presented by Mope. Seconded by Gavio.

Roll Call: Barletta-yes; Colombo-yes; Mope-yes; Perry-yes; Gavio-yes

ORDINANCE PASSES

Ordinance 2018-17 Modifying Consolidated Plan for CDBG Program Year 2015-2017 (**2nd READING**)

Presented by Barletta. Seconded by Colombo.

Roll Call: Barletta-yes; Colombo-yes; Mope-yes; Perry-yes; Gavio-yes

ORDINANCE PASSES ON 2nd READING

Ordinance 2018-17 Modifying Consolidated Plan for CDBG Program Year 2015-2017 (**3rd READING**)

Presented by Mope. Seconded by Barletta.

Roll Call: Barletta-yes; Colombo-yes; Mope-yes; Perry-yes; Gavio-yes

ORDINANCE PASSES

Ordinance 2018-18 Modifying Consolidated Plan for CDBG Program Year 2016 and 2017 (**2nd READING**)

Presented by Barletta. Seconded by Gavio.

Roll Call: Barletta-yes; Colombo-yes; Mope-yes; Perry-yes; Gavio-yes

ORDINANCE PASSES ON 2nd READING

Ordinance 2018-18 Modifying Consolidated Plan for CDBG Program Year 2016 and 2017 (**3rd READING**)

Presented by Mope. Seconded by Colombo.

Roll Call: Barletta-yes; Colombo-yes; Mope-yes; Perry-yes; Gavio-yes

ORDINANCE PASSES

RESOLUTIONS

None

New Business:

ORDINANCES

Ordinance 2018-20 An Ordinance Approving the Action Plan for Fiscal Year 2018 (**1st READING**)

Presented by Gavio. Seconded by Barletta.

On the Question:

Perry asked Joe Zeller what the \$138,000 allocated for the administration program will be used for.

Zeller stated it is for staffing, consulting services, Accufund account, rent and cable expenses.

Roll Call: Barletta-yes; Colombo-yes; Mope-yes; Perry-yes; Gavio-yes

ORDINANCE PASSES ON 1st READING

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2018-47 Resolution Supporting Application for Luzerne County CDBG Funds to Benefit the Hazleton Active Adult Center

Presented by Barletta. Seconded by Colombo.

On the Question:

Zeller stated the CDBG funds are not for a specific program year, but are for revolving loan funds the county had invested for many years. He said the state is giving municipalities the opportunity to apply for these funds. He said with the current programs for interest rates, the economic and business development loans have not been attractive as in years past.

Roll Call: Barletta-yes; Colombo-yes; Mope-yes; Perry-yes; Gavio-yes

RESOLUTION PASSES

Resolution 2018-48 Approving Bill of Sale between the City of Hazleton and Sonja Leigh Gentry for Donation of Land at the Hazleton Regional Airport

Presented by Colombo. Seconded by Mope.

Roll Call: Barletta-yes; Colombo-yes; Mope-yes; Perry-yes; Gavio-yes

RESOLUTION PASSES

Resolution 2018-50 Recommendation of Award for Hazleton ARLE Traffic Signal Project Cedar/Seybert Streets and Diamond Avenue

Presented by Barletta. Seconded by Gavio.

Roll Call: Barletta-yes; Colombo-yes; Mope-yes; Perry-yes; Gavio-yes

RESOLUTION PASSES

Resolution 2018-51 A Resolution of the City of Hazleton Authorizing the Execution and Recording of a New Deed for Altmiller Park

Presented by Mope. Seconded by Barletta.

Roll Call: Barletta-yes; Colombo-yes; Mope-yes; Perry-yes; Gavio-yes

RESOLUTION PASSES

Comments from the Audience: Grace Cuzzo, 948 James Street, Hazleton, spoke of Resolution 2018-51-A Resolution of the City of Hazleton Authorizing the Execution and Recording of a New Deed for Altmiller Park. She stated, in the past, there was \$5,800,000 borrowing done for the city. She said the parks were all utilized. Zeller said the state is aware of this and does not have an “issue” because the city provided all the information. Cuzzo asked how council can pass this and if the city received the redevelopment authority’s approval. Gavio said Atty. Logsdon stated that everything was “above board”.

Mark Rabo, 1st Street, Hazleton, thanked the Hazleton Police Department for the “bust” of the illegal nightclub. He stated there is more than one illegal nightclub in the city. He said regarding the ACT 47 plan, the zoning ordinance needs to be updated. He stated the conversions are tied in with this.

Comments from Mayor: None.

Comments from Junior Council: None-absent.

Comments from Council: Gavio gave his condolences to former councilwoman Grace Cuozzo on the passing of her mother.

Perry said there will be a special meeting on June 5th for the first reading of enacting the ACT 47 Recovery Plan. The second and third readings will be held at the regular council meeting on June 13th.

He stated there are 25-days allowed to pass this ordinance.

Colombo reminded all residents to celebrate Memorial Day on May 28th, 2018. He said there will be a service held at St. Gabriel’s cemetery chapel on Memorial Day. He said the Hazleton Fire Department will have a program entitled, “Hazleton Fire Department Remembers”. He said everyone needs to take the time to thank and remember all our veterans.

Mope thanked all residents for coming. She wished everyone a safe and happy Memorial Day. She said ACT 47 is a difficult decision being made, but everyone is working for the benefit of the city and taxpayers. She said something else needs to be done then “go after” the taxpayers on a constant basis for fines and fees. Mope stated there needs to be other revenue coming into the city. She also thanked the fire department for their concessions.

Gavio wished everyone a Happy Memorial Day.

Adjournment: Gavio motioned to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned