

MINUTES

HAZLETON CITY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2018

Call to Order: Council met in regular session on Wednesday, September 26, 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-absent; Perry-present; Gavio-present

Minutes of Previous Meetings: The minutes of the September 12, 2018 Regular Meeting were approved unanimously.

Proclamations/Communications: Council President Gavio announced the dollar amounts of the 2019 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) for each of the four pension plans, as follows:

- Police Pension Plan - \$3,397,458
- Firemen Pension Plan - \$2,107,074
- Non-Uniformed Pension Plan - \$401,912
- Public Transit - \$0

Bid Opening: Green Street Excavation Project (Barry Isett & Associates) -

- James T. O'Hara, Inc., Covington Township, PA. Bid- \$145,130. Bid Bond included.
- Franzosa Trucking Inc., Hazle Township, PA. Bid- \$144,200. Bid Bond included.

Courtesy of the Floor (ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY): Mark Rabo, 1st Street, Hazleton, spoke of Ordinance 2018-32- An Ordinance Establishing a Permit Program For the Moving of Household Goods in Bulk in the City. He asked if a resident is moving into the city, from out of state, and using a U-Haul truck, if they need to pay the moving fee. He also spoke of Ordinance 2018-33- An Ordinance of the City of Hazleton to Require Permits for Yard Sales, to Regulate the Number of Yard Sales Permissible to Establish a Time of Removal of Yard Sale Signs, and to Provide Penalties for Violations Thereof. He asked if a resident does not come to city hall for their permit if it would constitute a penalty/fee for violation. He also spoke of Resolution 2018-68- A Resolution Approving the Pennsylvania 2017 "Green Light Go" Transportation Grant Agreement for the Hazleton SR 309 (Church Street) and Fifth Street Comprehensive Signal Upgrade; and Authorizing the City of Hazleton's Economic Development Officer to Execute Said Agreement and All Future Grant Related Documents on Behalf of the City. He stated, the "Economic Development Officer to Execute Agreement and all Future Grant Related Documents" is not allowed under the personnel policy. He said the CD Director executes documents for CD projects. He stated this would need to be an appointment by the mayor and council needs to vote on this. He said the Economic Development Officer does the CD work. He said he needs to apply for CD Director, and council needs to vote on his appointment. He also spoke of Resolution 2018-69- Appointment to the Hazleton Housing Authority. He said the City needs to give new people a chance. He stated Mr. Yannuzzi served as mayor and on council in the past. He said he commends Mr.

Yannuzzi for serving again. He said it is not time for “political patronage”. He said he is only an average, long-time resident of the City.

Dee Deakos, 43 West Mine Street, Hazleton, spoke of Ordinance 2018-33- An Ordinance of the City of Hazleton to Require Permits for Yard Sales, to Regulate the Number of Yard Sales Permissible, to Establish a Time of Removal of Yard Sale Signs, and to Provide Penalties for Violations Thereof. She asked why the City does not attach the Ordinance with the permit on-line. She said there would be a better response. She also said the yard sale signs need to be removed when the sale is done.

Old Business:

ORDINANCES

Ordinance 2018-32 An Ordinance Establishing a Permit Program For The Moving of Household Goods in Bulk in the City (**2nd READING**)

Presented by Barletta. Seconded by Gavio.

Roll Call: Barletta- no; Colombo-yes; Mope-absent; Perry-yes; Gavio-yes

ORDINANCE PASSES ON 2nd READING

Ordinance 2018-32 An Ordinance Establishing a Permit Program For The Moving of Household Goods in Bulk in the City (**3rd READING**)

Presented by Gavio. Seconded by Perry.

Roll Call: Barletta- no; Colombo-yes; Mope-absent; Perry-yes; Gavio-yes

ORDINANCE PASSES 3-1-0

Ordinance 2018-33 An Ordinance of the City of Hazleton to Require Permits for Yard Sales, to Regulate the Number of Yard Sales Permissible, to Establish a Time of Removal of Yard Sale Signs, and to Provide Penalties for Violations Thereof (**2nd READING**)

Presented by Gavio. Seconded by Perry.

On the Question:

Perry said attaching all documents on line would make it a lot easier for residents. Mayor Cusat said the current City website needs to be updated. He said administration is looking to upgrade the website. He said the PDF documents could be saved by administration on-line. He stated he would like the rental registration permits and other documents to be uploaded.

Roll Call: Barletta- no; Colombo-yes; Mope-absent; Perry-yes; Gavio-yes

ORDINANCE PASSES ON 2nd READING

Ordinance 2018-33 An Ordinance of the City of Hazleton to Require Permits for Yard Sales, to Regulate the Number of Yard Sales Permissible, to Establish a Time of Removal of Yard Sale Signs, and to Provide Penalties for Violations Thereof (**3rd READING**)

Presented by Colombo. Seconded by Gavio.

Roll Call: Barletta- no; Colombo-yes; Mope-absent; Perry-yes; Gavio-yes

ORDINANCE PASSES 3-1-0

RESOLUTIONS

None

New Business:

ORDINANCES

None

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2018-68 Resolution Approving the Pennsylvania 2017 “Green Light-Go” Transportation Grant Agreement for the Hazleton SR 309 (Church Street) and Fifth Street Comprehensive Signal Upgrade; and Authorizing the City of Hazleton’s Economic Development Officer to Execute Said Agreement and all Future Grant Related Documents on Behalf of the City.

Presented by Barletta. Seconded by Gavio.

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

RESOLUTION PASSES 4-0

Resolution 2018-69 Appointment to the Hazleton Housing Authority-Joseph Yannuzzi

Presented by Barletta. Seconded by Gavio.

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

RESOLUTION PASSES 4-0

Comments from the Audience: Grace Cuozzo, 948 James Street, Hazleton, said the Right-To-Know form is on the City of Hazleton’s website. She said this can be downloaded. She said the Rental Registration permit can be put on the City’s site. She said a simple form can be attached. She said it can be done on one simple page in PDF.

Mark Rabo, 1st Street, Hazleton, said he read in the Standard Speaker newspaper Mayor Cusat’s comments on alternatives in increasing property taxes. He said he applauds anybody who comes up with ideas for saving the city’s homeowners any additional burden on their properties. He said he welcomes

this. He said some of the ideas will not be implemented because of on-street parking on Diamond Ave, Route 309, Poplar and Church Streets and not being able to rent any on-street parking due to being a state road and in a commercial zone. He asked how PEN DOT will approve this. He stated the Planning and Zoning Commissions would need to contact PENN DOT for their recommendations. He said these streets would need to be re-zoned. He also spoke of the current Rental Registration Ordinance. He said city council adopted the amendments to the rooming and boarding houses. He said the Zoning Ordinance would need to be amended, with the fees, and the inspection process is a "little different".

Comments from Mayor: Mayor Cusat said the Laurel Street project is complete from Diamond Avenue up to 8th Street. He said the asphalt plans are closing very shortly.

Comments from Council: Gavio extended his condolences to Pat Fay on the recent death of his father. Perry extended his condolences to the family of Lou Pilati. He said he was a great man and did a lot for the children. Gavio said Mr. Pilati was involved in many charities.

Adjournment: Gavio motioned to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned