

**MINUTES
HAZLETON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2019**

Call to Order: Council met in regular session on Wednesday, November 6, 2019 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 October 23, 2019 Regular Meeting were approved unanimously.

Presentations/Proclamations/Communications: Oath of Office was given to Incoming Junior Council Member (1)

Bid Opening: City View Park Pavilions- Total- (3) . Atty. Sean Logsdon opened and read each bid out loud.

1. **Richard E. Angelo, Inc. Hazleton, PA.** BID- Item 1- \$31,818. Item 2- \$31,818- Pavilion size- (2) 30" x 50" Pavilions. Item 3- \$38,000. Pavilion size- (1) 40" x 24". BID BOND included.
2. **Dutchman Contracting LLC, Reinholds, PA.** BID-Item 1&2- \$22,389- Pavilions size- (2) 30" x 50" Pavilions. Item 3- \$38,356- Pavilion size- (1) 40" x 24". BID BOND included.
3. **Multiscape, Inc., Pittston, PA.** BID- Item 1 & 2- \$62,500- Pavilion size (2) 30" x 50" Pavilions. Item 3- \$48,384. Pavilion size- (1) 40" x 24". BID BOND included.

All bids were given to Tim Sissock, Barry Isett and Associates employee.

Courtesy of the Floor (ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY): Mark Rabo, 1st Street, Hazleton, spoke of Ordinance 2019-15- An Ordinance Approving the Five-Year Consolidated Plan and Action Plan for Fiscal Year 2020. He said he noticed in Section 4, of the ordinance, it states the five-year consolidated plan goals are to remove blight problems in the City's neighborhoods. He said Section 5 breaks down the cost, and states what the money will be utilized for. Rabo said if the City wants to remove blight in the city's neighborhoods, with site remediation of \$100,000, he said he does not see any money allocated for the Blighted Property Review Committee to determine and certify these properties as blighted. He said he discussed this with the City administrator and with the ACT 47 coordinator, Mr. Cross. He said Mr. Cross and the City administrator stated they would discuss this with members of city council at the PEL ACT 47 Financial Recovery Plan's weekly meetings. Rabo asked if this was discussed before this ordinance was put "on the table". He asked how the \$100,000 demolition money would be used if the properties are not determined to be blighted. Rabo stated there can be litigation problems if the wrong property was demolished or the owner was not given a "fair chance" to clear up issues or pay for the code violations. He said this needs to be explored before passing this ordinance.

Rabo offered his condolences to the Hayden family. He wanted to acknowledge Mr. Hayden's contribution to the City. He stated he served in many groups and in many roles. He said he will be "greatly missed".

Rabo also spoke of the \$25,000 arts education program. He asked if this in junction with the other funding or will this be a “separate, stand-alone”.

Dee Deakos, 43 West Mine Street, Hazleton, spoke of the bids read for the City View Park Pavilion Project- Resolution 2019-42. She stated some of the bids are “very high.” Deakos said the Job Corps does do community projects. She said pavilions are not “tricky” in construction using a lot of lumber and labor. She stated the Job Corps looks for projects for their students to perform for non-profit and civic jobs. Deakos said before city council awards the contract for over \$100,000 for pavilions, this needs to be broken down in materials and get the free labor.

Old Business:

ORDINANCES

Ordinance 2019-15 An Ordinance Approving the Five-Year Consolidated Plan and Action Plan for Fiscal Year 2020 (**3rd READING**)

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Barletta.

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

ORDINANCE PASSES 4-0

RESOLUTIONS

None

New Business:

ORDINANCES

None

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2019-42 A Resolution Conditionally Awarding the Contract for the City View Park Pavilion Project

Presented by Gavio. Seconded by Barletta.

On the Question:

Barletta asked Joe Zeller, Community Development Director, the total CD money for the pavilions. Mayor Cusat stated \$68,000 & \$50,000. Zeller concurred. Tim Sissock, Barry Isett and Associates employee, stated Dutchman Contracting, Reinholds, PA, LLC, was the lowest bidder at \$83,134.

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

RESOLUTION PASSES 4-0

Resolution 2019- 44 In Memoriam- George Hayden

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Colombo.

Mr. Gavio read the resolution out loud.

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

RESOLUTION PASSES 4-0

Resolution 2019-45 A Resolution Supporting the Application of a PCA Creative Communities Initiative grant by the Downtown Hazleton Alliance for Progress

Motion to Table

Presented by Gavio. Seconded by Barletta.

Roll Call (To table): Barletta-yes; Colombo-yes; Mope-absent; Perry-yes- Gavio-yes.

Gavio stated the reason this resolution was tabled was at the request of Kristen Schneider, Downtown Alliance for Progress Director.

RESOLUTION TABLED

Comments from the Audience: Mark Rabo, 1st Street, Hazleton, spoke of the issues of the massive double parking and buildings inundated and converted with the City's zoning officer not notified of this. He said there needs to be repercussions on this matter. Rabo said he has cited examples, throughout the past year, with condemned properties having residents "stuffed like sardines". He said there are also structural issues with the properties. He said the landlords also do not state the correct number of residents in a unit. He stated for multiple people renting a unit, under the City's zoning ordinance, there needs to be one parking space for one-half of a unit. He said if there are four people driving and renting one unit, he said this is where the problem lies. He said the City needs to scrutinize the rental registration forms. Rabo said the landlords need to be penalized. He said, under the Rental Registration Ordinance, city council can enact penalties. He said it is not a "hard thing to do" with issuing penalties. He stated this is also a requirement under the ordinance. Rabo said this also needs to be "tied in" with the illegal building conversions. Rabo said this would then tackle "the root of the problem" and not to "cherry pick". He said the City needs to deal with the quality of life issues. He said there is the current Zoning Ordinance that can be enforced by the police department. He said there is a property, near his home, blaring rap music very loudly, from their car. He said the City needs to enforce the Quality of Life Ordinance, Rental Registration Ordinance, and Zoning Ordinances effectively.

Dee Deakos, 43 West Mine Street, Hazleton, said the City's code officers are not staying in their positions because they are not being paid enough. Deakos said one reason is the contract cannot be ratified. She stated the fire and police departments have the ability to conduct code issues. She suggested moving the whole code department to the fire or police department and open their contracts. Deakos said this would then place them at a higher salary. She stated there are quality of life issues because the code is not being taken care of. She said they need to have a separate contract without relying on the contract they have now. She said, hopefully, this should solve the problem.

Comments from Mayor: Mayor Cusat thanked Mr. George Hayden for all his contributions to the City. He said he was a great man. He also congratulated Jack Mundie and Lauren Sacco as the new city council members. He reminded all residents of the Veterans Day Memorial event to be held at City Hall on November 11, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. Mayor Cusat said the annual City Christmas Tree lighting event will take place on December 1, 2019 at City Hall.

Comments from City Administrator: Dan Lynch stated the 2020 City of Hazleton budget will be presented to city council at the next meeting on November 13th, 2019. He stated 2019's budget is still under review by the Pennsylvania Economy League. Lynch said the review should be back before then. Barletta asked if city council can have a "sneak peek". He said if the budget is not plan-compliant, then he needs to go "back into the budget" and make adjustments. He said what is in the plan and what is projected, in the plan; everyone should be pretty happy with the budget.

Comments from Council: Perry offered his condolences to the Hayden family. He said his legacy will be here forever. Perry said he was a great man. He stated his contributions are still "being felt" today. Perry congratulated Mayor Cusat on his victory. He said contrary to the opposition's comments, in the newspaper, the City is not "slimy" and it is safe to walk. He said he does everything in the City- walk, run and drive, and he feels very safe. He also congratulated Jack Mundie and Lauren Sacco as the new city council members. He said, hopefully, all city council members can work together and have a smooth transition.

Colombo also offered his condolences to the Hayden family. He said this resolution was in "much need of being done". He said he never met a truer gentleman than Mr. Hayden. Colombo stated he was a great man. He said he worked with him several times. He said he would put anyone before himself. He said it is a great loss. He congratulated Mayor Cusat on his re-election victory. Colombo also congratulated Jack Mundie and Lauren Sacco on their victories. He said he looks forward to working with them to move the City forward. He reminded all residents of the upcoming Veterans Day Memorial Event at City Hall. He

stated he would like to see city council chambers full. He stated it is a very important day. Colombo thanked everyone for coming.

Barletta extended her condolences to the Hayden family. She stated she met him once and was a wonderful man. She congratulated all the winners in the election held on November 5th, 2019. She thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

Gavio gave his condolences to the Hayden family. He said he was a great man. He said Mr. Hayden raised a nice family. He congratulated all the winners of the election. He also applauded everyone on the ballot. He said this is not an easy thing to do. Gavio stated he hopes everyone can work together to "get things done".

Comments from Junior Council: None.

Adjournment: Gavio motioned to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.