

**MINUTES
HAZLETON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2019**

Call to Order: Council met in regular session on Wednesday, May 22, 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-absent; Colombo-present; Mope-absent; Perry-present; Gavio-present

Minutes of Previous Meetings: The minutes of the May 8, 2019 Regular Meeting were approved unanimously.

Presentations/Proclamations/Communications: None

Bid Opening: Hazleton Center City Park Project- Phase II-

1. Bognet, Inc., Hazle Township, PA. BASE BID- \$1,126,000. Also, total for allowances, total for deductions and BID BOND were included.
2. Multiscape, Inc., Pittston, PA. BASE BID- \$1,188,000. Also, total for allowances, total for deductions and BID BOND were included.

ALL BIDS WERE OPENED AND READ BY ATTY. SEAN LOGSDON.

ALL BIDS WERE REVIEWED BY KRISTA SCHNEIDER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, HAZLETON ALLIANCE FOR PROGRESS.

Courtesy of the Floor (ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY): None

Old Business:

ORDINANCES

Ordinance 2019-4

An Ordinance Allowing On-Street Parking on the West Side of Laurel Street (**2nd READING**)

Presented by Colombo. Seconded by Gavio.

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

ORDINANCE PASSES 3-0 ON 2nd READING

Ordinance 2019-4 An Ordinance Allowing On-Street Parking on the West
Side of Laurel Street (**3rd READING**)

Presented by Gavio. Seconded by Perry.

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

ORDINANCE PASSES 3-0

RESOLUTIONS

None

New Business:

ORDINANCES

Ordinance 2019-5 An Ordinance Requiring Owners of Real Property to Obtain a No-
Lien Letter from the City of Hazleton, Prior to the Sale of Real Estate
(**1st READING**)

Presented by Gavio. Seconded by Colombo.

On the Question:

Atty. Sean Logsdon stated he wanted to introduce this ordinance to council as it was discussed with them. He stated some municipalities already do this, not only in Pennsylvania, but other states, where it is often used for realtors, closings and title companies. Atty. Logsdon said when a resident comes to the closing table and a property is sold, this is used as there is no "surprise" telephone call, from the City the next day, stating there are major code violations for the property purchased or any outstanding violations. He said then there would be a municipal lien filed against the property. He stated what this aims to do is this can be applied for and requested by a resident. He said he needs to work with Dan Lynch, city administrator, and Mayor Cusat to properly administer this. He stated a resident can make a request and use the application. Atty. Logsdon said Charlie Pedri, Code Enforcement Director, would also be involved with this process. He said using the term No-Lien Letter is a nickname for this. He said this can also be called a consent letter or could have been called anything. Atty. Logsdon stated the ordinance requires a resident to contact the Hazleton City Authority or the Greater Hazleton Joint Sewer Authority. He said, he believes, these entities already have these mechanisms in place. He said this helps when at closing time the main municipality is notified and do not bother looking for authorities. He said he knows the Hazleton City Authority handles the garbage contract and water for the City of Hazleton. He said this is a "way" for the City to notify them there is an ordinance, and to check with them, but residents also need to check with the City. Atty. Logsdon stated there is a small fee involved. He said, hopefully, when the property gets to the closing table, there are no surprises, and there is no one buying dilapidated properties that has liens against it. He said this protects everyone, and certainly protects realtors who are going to closing. He stated they will not get sued when they close on the property.

He said this is a background and a narrative as to what the City is doing with this ordinance. Atty. Logsdon stated he can answer any questions regarding this ordinance.

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

ORDINANCE PASSES 3-0 ON 1st READING

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2019-26 Recommendation of Award for Hazleton Center City Park Project-Phase II

NO MOTION TO REMOVE FROM TABLE- RESOLUTION DIES

Resolution 2019-27 Resolution Permitting the City of Hazleton to Apply for a Greenways, Trails, and Recreation Program Grant

Presented by Gavio. Seconded by Perry.

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

RESOLUTION PASSES 3-0

Comments from the Audience: None.

Comments from Mayor: He said many residents were wondering why there was a lot of police presence on Peace and James Streets today. Mayor Cusat stated there was a bank robbery in Hanover Township. He said the potential suspects were located and apprehended in the City.

He also said there is a brush fire behind Giant Food Market.

Mayor Cusat wished everyone a Happy Memorial Day.

Comments from Council: Perry wished everyone a Happy Memorial Day. He said it was good to see everyone come out to vote. He said this is a good thing with people caring about our City. He stated a lot of people voted.

Colombo said on Memorial Day, May 27th, 2019, everyone is invited to a Hazleton City Remembers at St. Gabriel's Cemetery. He stated mass is at 10:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. is the Hazleton Fire Department service with American Legion presence. He said George Kiefer, American Korean War Veteran, will be the main speaker.

He said he wanted to talk about something "close to his heart". He said there was another incident in the City. He said a 45-year-old female passed away on Sunday, May 19th, 2019, at home. He said the Hazleton Police Department were called and sent to the home. They got there with a situation and CPR was in progress. The officers called the county and were told "35 minute ETA for an ambulance." Colombo stated this cannot be tolerated. He said Mayor Cusat is working with Lehigh Valley Hospital.

He said they need to step “to the plate”. He said this is “uncalled for.” He said the Chief of Police got “into it” with them, and it got ugly. Colombo stated the family was very upset. Colombo stated Mayor Cusat is looking into this. He said he wanted it noted this cannot be tolerated. He said we are losing residents because of this. He said he has had many years of experience on the ambulance. He stated there is no excuse for this.

He wished everyone a Happy Memorial Day. He wished Jean Mope condolences on the death of her family member. He also wished Allison Barletta a speedy recovery.

He congratulated all the candidates from the election held on May 21st, 2019. He wished them good luck in November.

Gavio also congratulated all the candidates in the recent election, and everyone who ran. He said this is not an easy thing to do, and applauds everyone. He said it is good to get involved in the City. He wished more people would get involved.

He also noted there was a great crowd at the recent Hazleton High School prom.

Gavio wished everyone a Happy Memorial Day.

Comments from Junior Council: None.

Adjournment: Gavio motioned to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.