

**MINUTES
HAZLETON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2020**

Call to Order: Council met in regular session on Tuesday, February 25, 2020 in Council Chambers. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

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

Roll Call: Barletta-present; Colombo-present; Mundie-present; Sacco-present; Perry-present

Minutes of Previous Meetings: The minutes of the February 10, 2020 Regular Meetings were approved unanimously.

Presentations/Proclamations/Communications:

1. Tarah Toohill- Pennsylvania State Representative- 116th Legislative District in Luzerne County, presented proclamation in memory of Rocco Colangelo, Jr.

“To my elected colleagues and honorable members of council.” She said she was summoned here by city council vice-president Anthony Colombo. She said she is here tonight with many members, in the audience, who are dear friends of Mr. Colangelo. She read a proclamation, from the State House of Pennsylvania, signed by Ms. Toohill and State Representative Gerald Mullery.

Ms. Toohil said his life was tremendously impactful. She said he was a role model to everyone. She said “when you are tired, continue to give more.” She said he is a hero in our community.

She thanked city council for letting her present the proclamation to his sisters.

2. Hazleton City Council presented proclamation in memory of Rocco Colangelo, Jr.

City Council President Perry read the City of Hazleton’s Proclamation for Mr. Colangelo.

3. Proclamation naming second week in February as National FBLA-PBL Week, in the City of Hazleton, for the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)- Marian Catholic High School group.

Mayor Cusat presented Maxwell Schwabe, Marian Catholic High School FBLA President, with the City of Hazleton’s FBLA Proclamation. City Council President Perry read the FBLA Proclamation.

Bid Opening: None

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

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

(1ST READING)

Ordinance 2020-5 An Ordinance Regulating the Cutting, Opening, or Excavating within the Cartways of the Public Highways within the City of Hazleton, for Newly Paved Streets **(1st READING)**

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Sacco.

On the Question:

Atty. Sean Logsdon stated this ordinance was discussed at the last WORK SESSION. He said he took the old "pave cut" ordinance and took the "good parts" out. Atty. Logsdon stated this is a completely new ordinance for people who do any pave cuts in the City.

Roll Call: Barletta-yes; Colombo-yes; Mundie-yes; Sacco-yes; Perry-yes.

ORDINANCE PASSES ON 1ST READING

Ordinance 2020-8 Amending Ordinance 2006-25, and 2020-1, Regulating the Issuance of Handicapped Parking Spaces and Signs, Providing for Application Review and Procedures for Issuance of Handicapped Parking Spaces and Signs, and Renewal of Handicapped Parking Spaces and Signs in the City of Hazleton **(1st READING)**

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Barletta.

On the Question:

Atty. Sean Logsdon said this came from the code department. The code department notified administration as residents were sending their applications in. He said it did not "seem fair" if a resident was changing "out the sign" rather than the entire pole. He said they were getting charged the \$80.00 fee for replacing the sign. He said this is an "administrative thing". Atty. Logsdon said the suggestion, from the code department, was to reconsider the amount of the fee. He said, in talking with Mayor Cusat, the application for the installation is the same- Subsection 1 is \$85.00. He stated the application and renewal for applications for a normal handicapped parking space is \$5.00. He said the fee to replace the handicapped parking sign with a limited access sign; he added- where there is an existing pole and the City must only change the sign, will

be \$40.00. He stated the suggestion was from \$25.00-\$40.00. He said he put \$40.00. He stated if a pole must be installed along with the replacement sign, the fee is \$80.00. The fee to replace a limited access handicapped sign due to a change in state-issued placard to \$40.00. Atty. Logsdon said Pedri received several requests, from residents, for this. They said every five years their placard number changes and will not match the sign. He said this is the first time, looking at this ordinance, on first reading. He said maybe council would like to charge a \$60.00 fee for installation of the pole, and a \$25.00 fee for the sign installation. He said he "put in \$40.00" to start a discussion with city council.

Perry asked what the cost is for "one of those signs". Mayor Cusat said the green pole costs the City \$35.00. The sign placard blanks cost \$20-22.00. He said the cost for the pole is \$35.00 and \$30-35.00 for the sign itself. He said it would cost more for the pole than the sign. Mayor Cusat said the City has not gotten a cost on a "half-sign". He said the sign will be the regular handicapped sign with a second sign under it, "reserved for" and then the placard number. He stated this will need to be changed out "over and over." Perry asked if this is as big as the regular sign. Mayor Cusat said he will probably get the "half-sign". He said he is "assuming" these signs will cost in the \$15.00 range and until they are printed, will be \$25.00. He said \$60.00 to install the pole, and \$25.00 fee for the sign. Barletta asked if the resident is just putting up a sign, the fee is \$25.00. Mayor Cusat said yes. He said as long as the City does not have to move the green pole and "bring out" the compressor. Barletta asked Mayor Cusat is he has any other input. Mayor Cusat said there will be two signs per pole, for reserved spots, a full and half sign. He said he wanted to explain the cost of the green sign and the time to put in the pole. He said either time an employee would need to go to the spot, there are two employees "sent out" to the job site. He said there maybe signs that need to be moved. He said it may need to be moved ten feet. He said with the current parking situation in the City, every sign will have to be measured and installed properly. He said the City cannot afford losing parking spaces. Sacco asked if the hole would be filled. Mayor Cusat said yes. He said they "cut the old one off at ground level." He stated one of the DPW employees does this. Mayor Cusat suggests \$60.00 and \$25.00 fee for a total of \$85.00, or \$50.00 and \$35.00.

Mayor Cusat said Section D3 & D4 will be amended. He said there is also a "typo" in Section 6. Atty. Logsdon stated the changes will be as follows: The fee to replace a handicapped parking sign with a limited access handicapped parking sign where there is an existing pole, and the City must only change the sign, will be thirty-five (\$35.00) dollars. If a pole must also be installed along with the replacement sign will be \$50.00. Also, the fee to replace a limited access handicapped parking sign due to a change in a state issued placard with new placard number will be thirty-five (\$35.00) dollars. Mayor Cusat said there is a "typo" in Section 6; to change the word ten to five dollars.

Perry said there needs to be an amendment made.

Presented by Barletta. Seconded by Perry.

Roll Call (On Amendment):

Roll Call: Barletta-yes; Colombo-yes; Mundie-yes; Sacco-yes; Perry-yes.

MOTION TO AMEND PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Roll Call: (As Amended):

Roll Call: Barletta-yes; Colombo-yes; Mundie-yes; Sacco-yes; Perry-yes.

ORDINANCE PASSES, AS AMENDED, ON 1st READING

(2ND AND 3RD READINGS)

Ordinance 2020-4 An Ordinance Approving the Application for a HUD Section 108 Loan
(2nd READING)

Presented by Barletta. Seconded by Colombo.

On the Question:

Joe Zeller, Community and Development Director, said this is only for the second reading.

Roll Call: Barletta-yes; Colombo-yes; Mundie-yes; Sacco-yes; Perry-yes.

ORDINANCE PASSES UNANIMOUSLY ON 2nd READING

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2020-19 IN MEMORIAM -ROCCO COLANGELO, JR

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Colombo.

On the Question:

Colombo said he had the privilege of working with Mr. Colangelo at CHIPPS and at Helping Hands. He stated he was truly "Mr. Hazleton". He said he will be missed by many. Perry said everybody does not realize how much he did "behind the scenes". He said he did not want anyone to know. Perry stated he loved the City and cared very much for it. He said his legacy will "live on" because he made everybody better for it. Perry stated Mr. Colangelo never wanted the accolades for anything. He said he was a great guy and awesome human being. He said all he cared about was helping people. Perry said if we can learn anything from Rocco it is to help others, care for others, and do the "right thing". He stated the City will be better off with his memory. Colombo said if Rocco knew that the City was doing this for him, he would not be happy. Colombo said, as Ms. Toohill stated, if anyone is tired, just think of Rocco to give "that extra". He said he is the only resident, in the City, who has the Rocco Colangelo Sr. award twice. He said this is an honor. Perry said there will be many more people getting awards in

Rocco's honor.

Perry presented Mr. Colangelo's sisters with the City of Hazleton's Proclamation.

Roll Call: Barletta-yes; Colombo-yes; Mundie-yes; Sacco-yes; Perry-yes.

RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Resolution 2020-20

Recommendation of Award for Hazleton Center City Park Project- Phase 2

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Barletta.

On the Question:

Atty. Sean Logsdon thanked city council for getting this on the agenda. He said it came a little late to add to the agenda deadline. He said the City engineer had reviewed the bids with Krista Schneider from the Hazleton Downtown Alliance for Progress Director contacting him. He said this is the base bid amount from Champion Builders.

Perry asked if this is for the Center City Park. Atty. Logsdon said yes.

Roll Call: Barletta-yes; Colombo-yes; Mundie-yes; Sacco-yes; Perry-yes.

RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

New Business: None.

Old Business: None.

Comments from the Audience: Dee Deakos, 43 West Mine Street, Hazleton, said she noticed several streetlights that are burnt out. She said it is not even one year since the City had them installed. Deakos stated there is one burnt out in the Center City Park and on Locust and 22nd Streets. She said there should be a mechanism. She said there are police going “up and down the roads”. She said it they note a light is out that would help. Deakos said a lot of residents do not know who to contact for this. She said since they are going “up and down the streets” at nighttime, maybe a policy can be instituted. She said the lights are there for safety. She said it is not that far “out of their duty”.

Perry asked Frank Vito, Highway Department/Public Works Department Director, if anyone calls him about City lights “being out”. Vito said residents need to call the Highway Department. Perry asked if the City replaces the light, and then Smart Watt reimburses the City. Vito said Smart Watt has given the City an inventory of fifteen fixtures and keep replacing them. Perry asked if the residents call him with information. Vito said yes. Barletta asked Vito if a lot of the new lights are out. Vito said no. Deakos said residents do not feel comfortable calling the City because they do not get results. Sacco said nothing makes Deakos happy “at all” but will take this into consideration. Deakos said she pays attention to what is happening in the City and wished more people would. Mundie said when he “sees a light out”, he will call Vito and it is always taken care of. He said there may be some instances when residents call and their issue is not taken care of. Deakos said she called several times to the DPW Department and it was not taken care of, but it was only resolved after calling the mayor’s office. She said she does not trust calling the Streets Department. Perry said she can call the mayor’s office. Mayor Cusat stated it was determined that 22nd Streets lights are part of Hazle Township. He said it is “weird” the way the property is cut off. He said this was before the City signed the contract. Mayor Cusat said the property does not actually “go to the street”. He said they are old fixtures on 22nd Street and not the LED’s. He said if the lights are not LED’s they are not the City’s.

Theodore Sherrock, 67 Franklin Street, Hazleton, thanked city council for passing the street ordinance. He said the administration is doing a great job with working with the authorities with paving streets. Sherrock stated there is a policy at the Greater Hazleton Joint Sewer Authority that if there is a “heads-up” they can raise the manholes and put a ring on them to make them level with the road. He said they work very hard at this. He said sometimes this falls “through the cracks” with Hilltop Road. He said Vito, his team, Mayor Cusat and administration are doing a great job to let the Hazleton Sewer Authority know about the paving. He said under the ACT 537 and partnering with the City, the sewer authority will be using cameras and infrastructure work which may mean putting new pipes in. He said it is not as critical for the sewer as it is with the water department. He just suggested giving the sewer authority a “heads-up” on any paving.

Comments from Mayor: Mayor Cusat said “keep giving me money and I will pave”.

Comments from City Administrator: None- absent.

Comments from Council: Mundie asked Mayor Cusat for the signed towing contract. Atty. Sean Logsdon stated he will circulate this to council.

Colombo extended his and all city council members condolences to Mayor Cusat and his family on a tragic death of his family member. He offered gratitude to the Hazleton Fire Department on Hilltop Road yesterday. Also, the police department for their outstanding work and the DPW Department.

He thanked everyone for coming. He also reminded everyone to keep Rocco Colangelo in their prayers. Colombo said if everyone goes that “extra step” we would all be better people.

Perry thanked the Hazleton Fire Department on their work on Hilltop Road. He said the fire and police departments did a great job. He also extended condolences to Mayor Cusat and his family and the Colangelo family.

Comments from Junior Council: Maxwell Schwabe thanked everyone for giving him the FBLA Proclamation. He said it means a lot to him.

He also asked about a “word” on when the Hazleton Center City Park Project will be done. Atty. Logsdon said he does not have any information, but Krista Schneider would have more information on this. Mayor Cusat stated there is pretty extensive work that needs to be done. He said it needs to be “dug-out”. He said he would expect about 1- ½ years to see some major progress.

Adjournment: Perry motioned to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.