

**MINUTES
HAZLETON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2022**

Call to Order: Council met in a Regular Meeting session on Tuesday, February 8, 2022 in Council Chambers and via ZOOM Teleconferencing. The meeting was called to order at 6:09 p.m.

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

Roll Call: Colombo-present; Mundie-present; Ondishin-yes; Sacco-absent; Perry-present

Minutes of Previous Meetings: The minutes of the January 25, 2022 Regular Meeting were approved unanimously.

Presentations/Proclamations/Communications: None

Bid Opening: None

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

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

ORDINANCES:

(1ST READING)

Ordinance 2022-4

Modifying Consolidated Plan for CDBG Program Year
2020 (**1st READING**)

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Colombo.

On the Question:

Perry asked Joe Zeller about this ordinance. Zeller stated the City has the loan program which they set aside funds when the City received CDBG Care Act funds. He said this was in the beginning

when the pandemic first started. Zeller stated there are always a lot of “strings attached” for the CDBG funds. He stated in order for people to participate, in this program, it is more “bothersome” to them for what “it is worth”. He said one City business applied for this, took the paperwork, but he never heard back from them. Zeller said the City received a \$250,000 grant, from DCNR, for the CAN DO Community Park, the former Leader Store site. Zeller said this requires a match. He said they made changes to the CDBG CV allowing these funds to be used for open-air space. Zeller said the City had to come up with the match somewhere. He said this is a good opportunity.

Perry said the City is eligible to receive \$569,000 and are only spending \$218,000. Zeller stated the Environmental Specialist position salary is in there that the City funds. He said there are sanitizing units, also, in there. Perry asked if these are federal funds the City has to move. Zeller said yes. He said because it was attached to the 2020 Action Plan, it needs to be done by ordinance.

Roll Call: Colombo-yes; Mundie-yes; Ondishin-yes; Sacco-absent; Perry- yes.

ORDINANCE PASSES 4-0 ON 1ST READING

(2ND AND 3RD READINGS)

Ordinance 2022-1

Stormwater Ordinance (2nd READING)

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Colombo.

On the Question:

Perry stated they hit this one “pretty” hard already.

Roll Call: Colombo-yes; Mundie-yes; Ondishin-yes; Sacco-absent; Perry- yes.

ORDINANCE PASSES 4-0

Ordinance 2022-2

An Ordinance Authorizing the Vacation of the Portion of “D” Court between East and Mill Streets in the City of Hazleton (**2ND READING**)

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Ondishin.

On the Question:

Atty. Logsdon stated nothing new has come up. He said this was discussed at the last meeting.

Roll Call: Colombo-yes; Mundie-yes; Ondishin-yes; Sacco-absent; Perry- yes.

ORDINANCE PASSES 4-0

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution 2022-10

A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Sign the Signature Page for the Grant Application and Grant Agreement for DCNR CAN DO Community Park- PHASE III

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Colombo.

On the Question:

Perry asked if this is the last phase. Atty. Logsdon said the City already received this grant, but this is a procedural thing the state wanted the City to do. He said they wanted this resolution in this “exact form” and to state this “exact thing”. He said they wanted it this way for their paperwork. Perry asked if this authorized the mayor to sign. Atty. Logsdon said yes. Mayor Cusat said as it is planned, it may be the last phase but is not sure. He said everything designed, up until now, is close to the last phase.

Roll Call: Colombo-yes; Mundie-yes; Ondishin-yes; Sacco-absent; Perry- yes.

RESOLUTION PASSES 4-0

New Business: None.

Old Business: None.

Comments from the Audience: Dee Deakos, 43 West Mine Street, Hazleton, said there are a lot of streetlights going out in town. She said other residents mentioned this to her. Deakos said she saw one on Poplar and James Streets. She said the policemen should be able to notice these, at nighttime, and tell the DPW Department about these. Deakos said these really need to be repaired.

Perry said Frank Vito told him the bucket truck is in for repairs. Mayor Cusat stated it may need to be replaced. Perry said this is why the lights are not being replaced. Mayor Cusat said he received a call about 499 South Poplar's light being out. Ondishin said council was, also, notified of a light out on 22nd Street. The resident said the pole was replaced, recently, by PP&L, in this area. Mayor Cusat said residents need to call the City when they see the lights out. Perry said the city clerk has received a few calls on this. Colombo asked about the streetlight knocked down on Broad and Wilson Streets. He said a few residents are concerned because all that is left is the base of it. Police Chief Schoonmaker said *(inaudible)*. Ondishin said he noticed a streetlight out by Jimmy's Quick Lunch. He said the light on Broad and Coxe Streets has been missing. Mayor Cusat said for about three years. Mayor Cusat stated the black streetlights, downtown, are custom made. He said the City cannot get the matching ones because the company the City dealt with is no longer in business.

Comments from Mayor:

Comments from City Administrator: Lynch stated the City's exit pension audit interview was done today. Lynch said it went well. He stated the City will be receiving additional state aid based on the audit. He said as soon as the audit is available, he will forward it to the city clerk and council members to review.

Comments from Council: Mundie spoke of the murder case of Marise Ann Chiverella. He said the Pennsylvania State Police will be announcing her killer, at a new conference, on February 10, 2022. He said he is looking forward to the closure.

Ondishin commended Police Chief Schoonmaker on a "big" arrest, recently, in the City.

Colombo mentioned city council has been getting calls that there are several tractors parked within the City limits. He asked Police Chief Schoonmaker if he is aware of this. Schoonmaker said *(inaudible)*.

Perry commended all the City departments in keeping up with the ice and snow. He commended the Code Department also.

Colombo thanked Ralph Sharp for keeping the buses clean. Perry asked Sharp how the busing facility process is going. Sharp said, currently, he is waiting for steel to come in, and expecting this in mid-

March. Sharp said, then, they will resume the facility construction. Perry said he noticed the new plane hangar at the airport. He asked when it will be in operation. Ondishin said may be by the end of the Spring, 2022. He said putting the door on is a “bid deal” with the roof almost complete. Mayor Cusat said he got news about an expansion at the airport.

Perry stated Lauren Sacco is okay and will be back shortly.

Comments from Junior Council: None

Adjournment: Perry motioned to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 6:24 p.m.