

**MINUTES
HAZLETON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 2022**

Call to Order: Council met in a Regular Meeting session on Tuesday, April 26, 2022 in Council Chambers and via ZOOM Teleconferencing. The meeting was called to order at 6:12 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-present; Perry-present

Minutes of Previous Meetings: The minutes of the April 12, 2022 Regular Meeting were approved unanimously.

Presentations/Proclamations/Communications: None

Bid Opening: None

Courtesy of the Floor (ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY): Franklin Nunez, 130 North Wyoming Street, Hazleton, handed out his letter to all Hazleton City Council members and Mayor Cusat, Dan Lynch, and Atty. Sean Logsdon. Nunez spoke of the Quality-of-Life Ordinance. He said they want the City to be a place where people come, not only be a part of the workforce, but, also, to live in a City that provides the standards of comfort, health and happiness that meets the quality-of-life. He said they fully support such an initiative. Nunez said they condemn the insults of Mrs. Sacco regarding Victor Perez, President of the Dominican House. He suggested some amendments, in the ordinance, are arbitrary. Perez said taking governmental positions, in the City, is to improve the lives of the residents in some way. He said some amendments may cause some hardship for some families in the City of Hazleton. He read a few groups that signed the letter.

Nicarol Soto, 206 Berner Ave., Hazleton, said she is here to express her concerns for the Quality-of-Life Ordinance. She gave some suggestions to the new amendments and replacement of the old system.

Michael Matteo, live-long resident of Hazleton, said he operates a barber shop and has been working there for the past 59 years. He stated Hazleton is not the same and has turned into a "slum-like" community. He said there are delapidated buildings, unsightly housing, and garbage lining their streets. He stated they are told that they need to be quiet, and not offend anyone, but they are the ones being offended. Matteo said some of his customers are afraid to come into the City and has lost them. He asked how the Code Department is going to handle the influx of complaints in the City. He said the residents elected them to keep their City safe and their community better. Matteo said it is not about race, but making their City a better place to live.

Robert Childs, 860 Seybert Street, Hazleton, said he hopes the Quality-of-Life Ordinance addresses the public trash issue in the City. He stated there are public parks and playgrounds with debris scattered through the sides of the roads. He asked, "who is going to pick this up". Childs asked if city council will schedule a volunteer "get-together" to clean up the City.

Carol A. Zelinski, owns Faberge Dance and Tumble, and a City resident all her life, said she is here to offer something. She said it is a “pig-pen” behind Faberge Follies. She said she was out “cleaning-up” Spruce Street. She said she is going to clean-up after the “pigs” in the block. Zelinski said she could be a service to the City and they could contact her. She said everyone needs to go out into the community and clean-up.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

ORDINANCES:

(1ST READING)

Ordinance 2022-6 Adopting the Quality-of-Life Ordinance (**1st READING**)

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Sacco.

On the Question:

Atty. Logsdon said there have been no changes since reviewing this at the last WORK SESSION meeting. He spoke of all amendments contained in the ordinance. He said the ticket procedure is what the City wants to get away from. He said the ticket process turned into more of a burden. He said there were issues with citing the right person. Atty. Logsdon said the City wanted to leave the magisterial office with as much discretion, as they could have, with the fees.

Perry stated most of the time it is a neighbor who calls in an incident. He said this ordinance is just basic “decency”. He said he is seeing more issues, in the City, that he wants to see. He said their job is not to make money. Perry stated there are some residents cleaning up on their own. He stated everyone is equal ‘here’.

Perry said all of these rules are in the International Property Maintenance Code. Mayor Cusat agreed.

Colombo stated city council was looking for groups to adopt “one block” in the City. He said if more people, get involved, it will be more successful.

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

ORDINANCE PASSES UNANIMOUSLY ON 1st READING

(2ND AND 3RD READINGS)

ORDINANCE 2022-5 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE BOOK FOR THE City OF Hazleton, COUNTY OF Luzerne, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA (**2ND READING**)

Presented by Sacco. Seconded by Colombo.

On the Question:

Perry said the City is fixing things from many years ago.

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

ORDINANCE PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution 2022-25 Contract for Materials – One Calendar Year

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Ondishin.

On the Question:

Atty. Logsdon stated they opened up the Materials bids at the last council meeting. He said the City Engineer looked over everything, and “re-vamped” the resolution so council could see who the lowest bidder was. He stated the low bidder is at the very end in the resolution.

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

RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Resolution 2022-26 A Resolution Requesting Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) Greenways Trails and Recreation Program Funds for the City of Hazleton's CAN DO Community Park Phase III

Presented by Sacco. Seconded by Perry.

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

RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Resolution 2022-27 Appointment to the Zoning Hearing Board- Ronald Kapuschinsky

Presented by Ondishin. Seconded by Colombo.

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

RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Resolution 2022-28 Appointing Right-To-Know Officer -Christopher Pavlick

Presented by Ondishin. Seconded by Sacco.

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

RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Resolution-2022-29 Resolution Authorizing the Pennsylvania Theatre of Performing Arts to Award Bids for the Facility Improvements Project

Presented by Colombo. Seconded by Sacco.

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

RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Resolution 2022-30 Resolution Approving the City of Hazleton to apply for a Keystone Community Grant through the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development

Presented by Sacco. Seconded by Ondishin.

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

RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

New Business: None.

Old Business: None.

Comments from the Audience:

Comments from Mayor: None

Comments from City Administrator: None

Comments from Council: Perry stated the City received three proposals for the City's Comprehensive Plan. He stated the Comprehensive Plan will look "10-years out", at the City, and Hazle Township is, also, involved with this. Perry said it is a growing community. He said they will pick one company, and then, set up groups.

Colombo said a City resident, Mr. Meshofski, is asking if there is any progress in the issues at the 15th & McKinley Street (12th Ward) playground. Gary Perna, Recreation Director, said, "we are still in the planning and design phase of the park".

Colombo stated another issue are quads in the City. He said on Holy Saturday, there were about 40 parked at the Heritage Market. He said they were going "up and down" Poplar Street, up in their "back wheels" and weaving through traffic. He stated there was a wedding there on Saturday. Colombo said he was there until 2:45 a.m. due to the severe noise throughout the area around the market. He stated, "it is unacceptable and a mess". Colombo said people are working on their trucks at the Heritage Market. He stated this is not a truck stop. Ondishin said this area needs a lot of attention. Perry asked if this is a zoning issue. Mayor Cusat said if they are working on trucks, yes, it is a violation. Atty. Logsdon stated it is not a permitted use. Police Chief Schoonmaker said with any of these violations, at the Heritage Market, people need to still call 911. Perry stated if the facility has a liquor license, citizens could call the LCB. He said the LCB is a very good place to call because they have a bigger "hammer". He suggested residents start a petition. Schoonmaker said residents need to call 911 instead of calling the city council members. Colombo stated the Hazleton police officers have been up there at least five times. Schoonmaker said yes, and these incidents are documented. He said this information could be turned over to the LCB and if they receive enough telephone complaints, this will generate an investigation by them.

Mundie asked how the City is doing with the street sweeping. Frank Vito stated everything is swept and **(inaudible)**. Perry asked Vito if the City is filling and patching potholes. Vito said as the DPW workers are sweeping, the "hot-patch" mixer truck is right behind to patch the potholes. Mayor Cusat said the City sent out the "Code Red" messages, were posted to go through with the microphone, and the street cleaner going through the City with the ticketer right behind them with the pothole truck close behind. Perry thanked Mayor Cusat for this. Mayor Cusat said the City received their VACTOR Truck today that could be utilized to "suck up" some stuff on the City streets. He said the City has been waiting over one year for this truck. Perry asked how many street sweepers the City has. Mayor Cusat stated, currently, four.

Ondishin stated there are a lot of arc lights out in the City, especially on Broad Street, from Route 924 up until the beltway. Vito **(inaudible)**. Perry said the City received a compliment from a 22nd & Alter Street resident with a light out in this area. She thanked DPW workers for putting in an acorn light in the streetlight. Colombo stated the problem with the streetlights, in the past, was due to the City waiting for parts for the relays. Vito **(inaudible)**.

Ondishin said he got complaints about garbage and weeds by Norfolk Southern by South Poplar Street. Vito said the DPW workers will have this area taken care of. Mayor Cusat said it is good for City residents to come to the council meetings and be transparent. He said a lot of residents come to the meeting but leave early.

Comments from Junior Council: None.

Adjournment: Perry motioned to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.