

**MINUTES
HAZLETON CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2022**

Council met for a WORK SESSION on Tuesday, September 13, 2022, in Council Chambers and via ZOOM Teleconferencing. The WORK SESSION began at 7:47 p.m.

In attendance were City Council President James Perry, Anthony Colombo, Allison Barletta, Jack Mundie and Mark Ondishin. City Officials present were Mayor Cusat, Atty. Sean Logsdon, Dan Lynch, and Fire Chief Donald Leshko.

Perry spoke of the recent Amended Fireworks Law, Act 74 of 2022, and possible Ordinance amendment.

Atty. Logsdon said Act 47 of 2022 went into effect on September 9, 2022. He said some dates are “goofy” in allowing fireworks on certain date. He said under Section 1106 of the law, the City could use an application and permitting process for prospective fireworks users. He stated they could allow dense municipalities, like the City of Hazleton, to re-enforce or adopt an amendment, to the City’s ordinance, prohibiting fireworks in the City. Atty. Logsdon said there are a couple different sample ordinances the Pennsylvania Municipal League sent over to them. He said one would allow for a consumer firework permitting process, a consumer fireworks prohibition, and providing for a consumer firework permit by exception process. He said there is language permitted, in the model ordinances, for the permitting of display fireworks- i.e.- professional and fireworks purchased in the stores. Perry stated enforcement is the “key”. Atty. Logsdon agreed. He said the City could never prove that a resident “lit-off” an aerial firework, with large explosives, in a dense area of the City. He said this is another “tool”. Atty. Logsdon said the law was recodified. He stated he needed to bring this to city council’s attention. He said the City is too close together to allow consumer fireworks the way it has been.

Mayor Cusat stated the City’s Fireworks Ordinance is stronger than the Amended Fireworks Ordinance. Barletta stated this year, in the City, it was not bad. Mayor Cusat said he would want to leave ours in place. He said municipalities were having their fireworks shows. Atty. Logsdon stated he will make sure that there is no language conflicting, with the City Fireworks Ordinance, with ACT 74.

Colombo said he and Fire Chief Leshko have been getting several calls about fire pits. He said one resident has two fire pits, and her neighbors are upset. Leshko (*inaudible*). Perry asked if there is a citation that could be given. Leshko (*inaudible*). Ondishin asked if the residents are making food late at night. Ondishin said the residents need to go back to the gas grill, and not use the open fire pit.

Atty. Logsdon stated the second item, on the WORK SESSION agenda, is truck parking in the City. He said he circulated, to council, a draft of a comprehensive No Truck Parking Ordinance. He said the City is trying to make the ordinance as comprehensive as possible. He said this would include anything that is oversized and a hazard, i.e.- buses and trucks. He said the ordinance, also, includes exceptions, which includes deliveries in the City. He said he may make some changes, to the ordinance, before the next meeting, to make sure they have the proper definitions. Perry asked if the police department has approved this. Atty. Logsdon said this is still in “the works”. Mayor Cusat said it was reviewed with Police Officer Anthony White. Barletta asked what the ticket price is for tractor trailers parked in the City. Mayor Cusat said, currently, the ticket fee is \$100.00. He stated all the fees are on one schedule. He said after it is passed on first reading, they will need to bring back the fee schedule and the fine schedule for amendment. He said this is adjustable by resolution. Perry asked if the City needs to change the tickets. Mayor Cusat said the City is almost out of tickets.

Perry adjourned the WORK SESSION meeting at 8:02 p.m.