

**MINUTES  
HAZLETON CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2023**

**Call to Order:** Council met in a Regular Meeting session on Tuesday, February 28, 2023 in Council Chambers and via ZOOM Teleconferencing. The meeting was called to order at 6:07p.m.

**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; Ondishin-present; Perry-present

**Minutes of Previous Meetings:** The minutes of the January 24, 2023 Regular Meeting were approved unanimously.

**Presentations/Proclamations/Communications:** Atty. CHRISTOPHER H. SCHUBERT – Discussing proposed AT&T tower for Louis Schiavo Park.

Atty. Christopher Schubert, Attorney for ATT&T, along with Bill Leonard, Representative for AT&T, spoke of a proposed AT&T telecommunications facility at Louis Schiavo Park. Atty. Schubert stated it would improve wireless coverage in this area of the City. Atty. Schubert noted that City Council needs to give direction to the City Solicitor to move ahead with the legal matters.

Atty. Schubert stated it will be a total of 3,600 square feet, fenced in, and at the southern entrance of the park. It will not interfere with City View Park and the tower will be in the area removed from the public. The height of the tower will be 150 feet and will have 5-G coverage. Atty. Schubert noted T-Mobile, Verizon and Dish Wireless would be able to put up their pole for service. There will be up to four weeks of installation before cell service would be available. There is a twenty-five-year lease with an automatic renewal after five years.

**Bid Opening:** None

**Courtesy of the Floor (ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY):** Dee Deakos, 43 West Mine Street, Hazleton, spoke of Resolution 2023-10- A Resolution Updating the Fee Schedule for the City of Hazleton. She stated it would be better if the City would purchase some of the equipment versus renting it. Deakos noted it would be much cheaper.

Tyra Ferreras, Beaver Brook, asked if there was any information regarding the projects on Route 93 and near Lehigh Valley Hospital with the proposed weigh station. Ondishin noted there will be a public forum on this matter. Atty. Logsdon stated it is in the early stages. He noted DEP has a set process for the application for the transfer station. He said the City is involved in the zoning, planning and land development aspect of this transfer station. Ferreras noted that the information needs to be sent, also, in Spanish.

Ferreras asked if the proposed transfer facility was not denied because he is a property owner. Perry stated DEP will explain their position along with the applicant for this facility. He said Hazle Township and the Borough of West Hazleton could, also, be present at the meeting.

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**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:**

**ORDINANCES:**

**(1<sup>ST</sup> READING)**

None

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**(2<sup>ND</sup> AND 3<sup>RD</sup> READINGS)**

None

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**RESOLUTIONS:**

**Resolution 2023-5**

Rescinding and Replacing Resolution 2022-60-Approving the Request of El Mariachi Juarez LLC to Transfer Liquor License

Presented by Barletta. Seconded by Colombo.

**On the Question:**

Atty. Logsdon noted the Liquor License Transfer hearing was done for El Mariachi.

It was asked that City Council pass a new resolution with the correct address.

**Roll Call:** Barletta-yes; Colombo-yes; Mundie-yes; Ondishin-yes; Perry-yes.

**RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY**

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**Resolution 2023-6**

Honoring Jimmy's Quick Lunch on their 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Presented by Barletta. Seconded by Colombo.

**On the Question:**

Perry read the City Proclamation for Jimmy's Quick Lunch.

**Roll Call:** Barletta- yes; Colombo-yes; Mundie-yes; Ondishin-yes; Perry-yes.

**RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY**

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**Resolution 2023-7** Honoring John J. Pusti's Funeral Home, Inc. on their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

**On the Question:**

Perry read the City Proclamation for Pusti's Funeral Home, Inc.

Presented by Barletta. Seconded by Ondishin.

**Roll Call:** Barletta- yes; Colombo-yes; Mundie-yes; Ondishin-yes; Perry-yes.

**RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY**

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**Resolution 2023-8** A Resolution Awarding the Diamond and Vine Street ADA Ramp Project

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Barletta.

**Roll Call:** Barletta- yes; Colombo-yes; Mundie-yes; Ondishin-yes; Perry-yes.

**RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY**

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**Resolution 2023-9** A Resolution Awarding the Diamond and Vine Street Traffic Signal Project

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Barletta.

**Roll Call:** Barletta- yes; Colombo-yes; Mundie-yes; Ondishin-yes; Perry-yes.

**RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY**

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**Resolution 2023-10**

A Resolution Updating the Fee Schedule for the City of Hazleton

Presented by Barletta. Seconded by Colombo.

**On the Question:**

Barletta asked what the City is using these fees for. Atty. Logsdon stated it would be for some entity that would have to use the City pieces of equipment on the fee sheet. Barletta suggested it should be worded, "to be used as an emergency". Atty. Logsdon agreed. Barletta stated she wants to make sure the City is covered. Atty. Logsdon stated when the City adds these fees, to the City Code Book, it could be included as an emergency contingency.

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**Roll Call:** Barletta- yes; Colombo-yes; Mundie-yes; Ondishin-yes; Perry-yes.

**RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY**

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**New Business:** None

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**Old Business:** None

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**Comments from the Audience:** Bob Yevak, 1011 North Locust Street, Hazleton, spoke of the proposed City transfer station. He stated, in the past, they were dumping behind the Hazleton Shopping Center. He spoke of several dumping instances in the City in the past.

Dee Deakos, 43 West Mine Street, Hazleton, spoke of the new car drivers using their "blinding" high beam headlights. She noted the City should have an ordinance stating if a person is driving with their high beams on, they should get a ticket. Deakos stated it is dangerous.

Deakos, also, spoke of the City's weight scales that were brought several years ago. She noted these are not being used. She said at the dredge area, there is a weigh station. This could be a way to deter overweight trucks from destroying City roads.

Jerline Rodriguez, 441 Allen Street, West Hazleton, spoke of the proposed transfer station coming to Hazleton. She stated her family has a business, about three blocks away, from the proposed site. She is concerned about the noise and dust this would produce.

Barletta said what the City residents know is as much as City Council knows. She suggested all residents attend the DEP informative meeting.

Ferman Diaz, West Hazleton, spoke of the proposed City transfer station. He stated he read a story about how the City resident's properties would be reduced due to this facility. He said the City residents only have 60 days to comment to DEP. He stated the full DEP application is online.

Barletta stated the 60-day time frame does not end until April. Atty. Logsdon stated the DEP meetings are scheduled for March. Barletta noted the meetings would, probably, be held at Hazleton City Hall.

Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Eberle, 433 Dietrich Ave., spoke of the Terrace Plaza. Mrs. Eberle said there is garbage by the Terrace Plaza. She noted there is music playing until 3 a.m. She asked for something to be done in this matter. Mr. Eberle stated there are bottles of urine, in this area, from the truckers.

Barletta said she spoke to the City's Code Department. She noted they are working on the trash and the tractors in this area. Perry noted that DEP could, also, work on this matter. Atty. Logsdon stated he will make DEP representatives aware of this issue.

John Shelley, 1351 South Church Street, Hazle Township, spoke of the dredge in the area. He asked where the accountability to Rinaldi is. Shelley is worried about his and everyone's quality of life. Shelley asked why nothing is being done about the dredge and the roadway. He noted it is a safety issue. Perry stated DEP is in charge of this due to being a private roadway. Ondishin stated he called the state with their complaints. Barletta suggested Shelley reach out to the state.

Cindee DeLucca, Hazleton, spoke of the Route 309 dredge. She stated the City is responsible for removing a vehicle parked in this area that had no license plate. Ondishin noted this is a state issue. DeLucca stated nothing is being done in this area.

Manases Ulloa, Hazle Township, spoke of the proposed construction site and dumping. Ulloa asked where the City's jurisdiction is for the transfer station. Atty. Logsdon stated the applicant would need to go to the Zoning Department. If there is a zoning permitted use, they would get a zoning permit, and then start land development. For a special exception, the Zoning Hearing Board would hear the case. If it is not a permitted use, they would need to go to the Zoning Hearing Board and get a variance. Atty. Logsdon stated the City does not know if the transfer station is in a permitted use area.

Ricky DeLucca, Hazleton, spoke of the proposed transfer station. DeLucca stated there are certain "players" in this transfer facility. He stated there are overweight trucks coming on Route 309 by the dredge area.

Mundie stated City Council is limited on what they could do about the transfer facility. He noted this needs to go through the Zoning Hearing Board. Mundie stated all concerned residents need to come to the DEP meeting.

Gene Babula, Hazleton, spoke of the proposed transfer station. He asked City Council if they want this in the City. Ondishin said this is, supposedly, an indoor facility.

Barletta stated there is no set DEP information meeting date yet. Atty. Logsdon stated the City needs to use the process.

Babula spoke of the recent snowstorm and the parking snow ban. He stated the City could have made a lot of money by ticketing cars parked on the wrong side of the street. Perry stated the police department did give parking tickets out.

A Hazleton Police Officer stated they were giving snow ban parking tickets out. He noted they try to get to all areas. He stated the police, also, need to respond to police calls and traffic accidents.

Babula suggested the City give the authority to the DPW Department snow plowers to give parking tickets out.

**Comments from Mayor:** None

**Comments from City Administrator:** None-absent.

**Comments from Council:** Mundie congratulated John Pusti Funeral Home. He noted 100 years is an accomplishment. He, also, congratulated Jimmys' Quick Lunch on their 85 years of service.

Mundie stated City residents are receiving letters regarding classifying rentals as a business, charging fees for empty properties and garages that are not on the same deed. He stated the City residents need to contact City Hall about these issues.

Barletta also congratulated Pusti Funeral Home and Jimmy's.

Barletta thanked all residents for attending this meeting and voicing their concerns.

Ondishin, also, congratulated Pusti Funeral Home and Jimmy's.

Colombo, also, congratulated the Pusti Funeral Home and Jimmy's. He thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

Perry stated the City needs to let the process happen. He congratulated Pusti Funeral Home & Jimmy's. He said DEP needs to hear the City's concerns.

Perry noted Hazle Creek Properties, when finished, will be a total of 5.5 million square feet of warehousing.

Perry thanked Hazleton Housing Authority for giving the City \$50,000 in lieu of their taxes.

**Comments from Junior Council:** None

**Adjournment:** Perry motioned to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.