

**MINUTES  
HAZLETON CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 2023**

**Call to Order:** Council met in a Regular Meeting session on Tuesday, April 25, 2023 in Council Chambers and via ZOOM Teleconferencing. The meeting was called to order at 6:18 p.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 April 11, 2023 Regular Meeting were approved unanimously.

**Presentations/Proclamations/Communications:** None

**Bid Opening:** None

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

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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 2023-23**

Appointment to the Planning Commission- Todd Platek

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 2023-24**                      A Resolution Honoring Neil Oberto

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Colombo.

**On the Question:**

Perry read the proclamation. Mundie thanked Oberto for all the work he has done for the City. He stated Oberto made Hazleton what "it is today" through his work.

Perry said it will be hard to replace Oberto. Colombo, also, thanked him for all his work in Hazleton.

Mayor Cusat said Oberto, also, was involved with the Tri-Area Recreation Association for many years. He tried to connect the Rails to Trails through this area. Oberto, also, got Mayor Cusat involved in the foster care program.

Oberto commended all for their City work.

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

### **RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY**

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**Resolution 2023-25**                      A Resolution Authorizing the City of Hazleton to apply for a Greenways, Trails, and Recreation Program (GTRP) grant from the Commonwealth Financing Authority

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Barletta.

**On the Question:**

Barletta asked what the plan is for Columbus Park and Pagnotti Field. Mayor Cusat stated the City is trying to get money for the City plan, and needs funding to get a grant. Barletta stated the parking area needs to improve around the field. Ondishin asked Mayor Cusat if the City owns more property around the park. Mayor Cusat (*inaudible*). Perry stated this is a state grant.

Colombo said he hopes the City corrects the problem at the park, currently, due to a lot of telephone calls received by City Council members with noise complaints.

**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:** None

**Comments from Mayor:** None

**Comments from City Administrator:** None

**Comments from Council:** Mundie asked Mayor Cusat about the streets that need potholes filled. Mayor Cusat said after the City sweeps the streets, DPW will be filling the potholes.

Mayor Cusat stated the City will be spending about \$4,500,000, in 2023, on paving streets. There was \$3,400,000 spent in 2022 and has steadily increased.

Mayor Cusat said the City is working on a City map to show the residents the paving work that has been completed. He stated this will be put on the City's website, hopefully by May, 2023. Perry asked if the City is planning to stripe some streets. He asked if the City "stripes" the streets themselves. Mayor Cusat said yes.

Mundie asked if there is a date for the proposed City transfer station public hearing. Mayor Cusat said no.

Barletta asked where the City is with the stop sign studies. Police Chief Schoonmaker stated the police department is agreeable to do the traffic studies in these areas.

Mundie asked Mayor Cusat about the City towing contract. Mayor Cusat said both companies have given their fee schedules which are identical. Mundie said he hopes the City comes up with reasonable rates to be charged. Atty. Logsdon stated there is a 2-hour minimum on the City fee schedule. Mundie stated there is a \$225.00/hr. charge by the towing company. Mundie asked if this is common in other municipalities. Mayor Cusat (*inaudible*). Barletta stated this charge needs to be looked at in the future.

Atty. Logsdon agreed. Mundie asked if City Council will approve the towing contract. Perry stated this is an administrative issue.

Barletta congratulated the new police officer hired.

Barletta told Deakos that 12 PP&L streetlights, in the City, are fixed. She said DPW jumped "right on it".

Perry thanked the City resident for using the FLOX system to report an alleged dumper in the City. He said this is the way it is supposed to work in the City.

Perry stated City Council would like to start, in either May or June of 2023, for the City department managers to come to the City Council meetings to give a report on their department and state any needs they have.

Colombo asked Chief Schoonmaker if the police department is going to respond to the Altmiller Playground issues. Chief Schoonmaker said the police department increased patrols in the area of the playground. He stated, also, cameras were damaged, and they are replacing them. Colombo asked if the lights, at the playground, could be shut off late at night. Schoonmaker said the reason the lights were left on late is because the neighbors requested the lights to be on late due to the activity there. Barletta asked if the police department has any "leads" on who damaged the cameras at Altmiller Playground. Schoonmaker said the police are working on it with "backtracking" on the camera system. Barletta asked what the cost is for the City to repair the cameras. Schoonmaker stated the cost would be minimal. Perry asked if all City playgrounds have camera systems. Schoonmaker said almost all playgrounds have the camera system.

Colombo said another complaint is a City resident's ash cans, recently, were stolen. Schoonmaker said the police department officers were there yesterday, and working with neighbors to get the video.

Colombo stated there are some complaints at the Heights Plaza with the nice weather.

Colombo said Earth Day has come and gone. He said he would like to get community involvement to pick up garbage in the City. He said City businesses could, also, get involved in cleaning up the City.

Ondishin thanked everyone for cleaning up a "massive" amount of garbage in the City.

**Comments from Junior Council:** Paul Neyhart said it is a big inspiration for Oberto to have worked and served the City of Hazleton for 35 years.

**Adjournment:** Perry motioned to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.