

**MINUTES
HAZLETON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 13, 2023**

Call to Order: Council met in a Regular Meeting session on Tuesday, June 13, 2023 in Council Chambers and via ZOOM Teleconferencing. The meeting was called to order at 6:10 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 May 23, 2023 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 2023-3

An Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Hazleton, Part II, Chapter 312, Noise, Article II, Noise Disturbances, Section 312-14, Violations and Penalties (**1st Reading**)

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Barletta.

On the Question:

Barletta stated she put this on the agenda, especially for the busy summer months. She said she would like to make an amendment, for the first fine- \$150.00, and the second fine to be \$500.00. Barletta stated City Council had over one hundred calls, over the weekend, for noise violations. She said the last time this was "looked at" was in 2013. She said, under Violations, Section A, the City could be doubling the fine for a noise violation, and the second fine would be \$500.00. Atty. Logsdon said Subsection A would be amended to reflect a first and second violation and then Subsection B leaves it open for a summary non-traffic citation. He said the City is capped for what they could file for a summary non-traffic citation. He said the District Magistrate has a certain perimeter they work in.

MOTION TO AMEND:

Presented by Barletta. Seconded by Colombo.

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

MOTION TO AMEND PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Roll Call (AS AMENDED) : Barletta-yes; Colombo-yes; Mundie-yes; Ondishin-yes; Perry-yes.

ORDINANCE PASSES UNANIMOUSLY ON 1ST READING AS AMENDED

(2ND READINGS)

Ordinance 2023-1

An Ordinance Authorizing the Erection of a Stop Sign at the Intersection of South Hazle Street and East Beech Street **(2nd Reading)**

Presented by Barletta. Seconded by Ondishin.

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

ORDINANCE PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Ordinance 2023-2

An Ordinance Authorizing the Erection of a Stop Sign at the Intersection of Laurel Street and 8th Street **(2nd Reading)**

Presented by Barletta. Seconded by Ondishin. _

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

ORDINANCE PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution 2023-29 A Resolution Honoring Reverend Victor Leon

Presented by Barletta. Seconded by Colombo.

On the Question:

Perry read the City Council Proclamation for Reverend Victor Leon.

Reverend Leon said the recognition he received is, also, the feeling of the community. He stated we all want to live in a clean community and all City Council members are doing their best to make sure this happens. Reverend said as a priest, he works with the City, not directly, but indirectly, to meet this goal. Reverend Leon thanked City Council members for this recognition. He never imagined, coming here 14 years ago, that he would be recognized like this. He said one of the main ways to reach success is to put GOD first. He said, "GOD BLESS YOU ALL!"

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

RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Resolution 2023-30 Authorizing the City of Hazleton to make Application for an Act 47 Step
Down Grant

Presented by Perry. Seconded by Colombo.

On the Question:

Perry asked if this is the continuation of PEL. Lynch stated the City would still go through the Request for Proposals (RFP) process. He said in the RFP process, familiarity would be a scoring element. He said it would likely be PEL, and would be for continued assistance. Lynch said this grant was, also, recommended by DCED. Perry asked when it would take place. Lynch said once it is passed, the City could apply in July for assistance.

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

RESOLUTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

New Business: Perry said City Council will discuss Ordinance 95-18, Chapter 134- Fireworks and Firearms and Chapter 174- Curfews. Perry stated there were copies of these printed out for all.

Atty. Logsdon said these are directly out of the Code of Ordinances. He said due to the Fourth of July holiday coming up, there have been several discussions, with City Council, regarding fireworks. Due to Governor Wolf amending the fireworks law, commercial-grade fireworks are available to PA residents, as well. He said this leaves fireworks in the hands of amateurs. He stated the City of Hazleton, in the Code of Ordinances, states, "no selling, keeping, possessing, or discharging fireworks in the City of Hazleton. Atty. Logsdon stated it is even more restrictive on the PA State Police website. He said it states residents cannot be within 150 feet from an occupied or unoccupied vehicle or a structure. Atty. Logsdon said the City has banned the discharging, possession or selling fireworks. He said the City Police Department works hard to enforce this as best they could. He said the City does not allow fireworks discharge in the City of Hazleton. He stated the City is more restrictive in the state of PA. He reminded all to let the professionals handle fireworks. Barletta said the fine would be \$2,000. Colombo said working on the ambulance, he saw people lose eyes, fingers, and hands. Ondishin said the City has professional fireworks at City View Park. Perry reiterated for all City residents not to set off fireworks. Atty. Logsdon said he would not recommend City Council to make any amendments to the ordinance. Ondishin suggested to the residents to save their money and donate to City churches or any organization.

Perry said the second discussion is the Curfew Ordinance. He stated the City adopted a curfew in 1995 know as "City Parks Curfew Ordinance". He said this is between the hours of dusk through dawn. He said this has always been an issue. Atty. Logsdon said they are working with the Recreation Department for better signage to be placed at the parks. He said this will manage the pickle ball, tennis and recreation events at the parks. Perry asked if the cameras are at all the City parks. Atty. Logsdon said the City is, currently, replacing the cameras at Altmiller Playground. He said he does not know if all the City playgrounds are "cameraed" at this point. Mundie asked if the City could put a 10 or 11 o'clock curfew in the ordinance. Perry agreed. Colombo said the complaints to him and Barletta have been that the trees are big at Altmiller Playground. Perry stated the City has ordered speed bumps. Colombo said he would like to see Altmiller fenced in and locked up at night. Atty. Logsdon said it would be nice for the City to have lights at night for residents to play tennis. Perry said, also, they could play pickle ball matches. Perry said they will add some language to the ordinance. Colombo reiterated what Reverend Leon said regarding the City being their community. He stated the residents need to come together and make it what it used to be.

Old Business: None.

Comments from the Audience: Dan Kalinowski, City Resident, asked if City Council will be addressing the issue of the potential trash transfer station. Atty. Logsdon said, currently, the application is with DEP. He said there should be a Land Development plan and Zoning application filed with the City. He said nothing has been filed with the City as of yet. He said the only procedures that are going on, currently, are at the state level with DEP. Kalinowski said he attended the recent public meeting regarding the potential transfer station at the fire company. Perry stated City Council will not vote on this issue. Atty. Logsdon stated the Land Development plan would be reviewed by the City's Planning Commission with engineering members. He said the Planning Commission would approve or disapprove the plans. Atty. Logsdon stated if it is a zoning matter, and this would be in front of the Zoning Hearing Board. Mundie said there will be another hearing on June 21st at the fire hall. He estimated about 300-400 trucks going through the City a day. He stated tractor trailer vehicles would be going through the City as well.

Kalinowski said the City's garbage fees have, also, been increased. He said there are thousands of stripping mines outside the City limits, and would be ideal for a transfer station, and not in the downtown.

Anna Perez, City Resident, Activity Director at St. Luke Manor, thanked City Council members for recognizing Reverend Leon from Holy Annunciation Church. She said his work and dedication is appreciated.

Eugene Babula, Hazleton, (*inaudible*).

Comments from Mayor: None- absent.

Comments from City Administrator: Lynch said in recent City Council meetings, a City resident complained about stray cats in his neighborhood. He said the City, currently, does not trap cats. He said there has always been discussion, at budget time, entering into the budget to set aside money for Vector Control.

Comments from Council: Colombo stated he and Barletta received several calls regarding the new City towing contract. He stated it has been addressed. Colombo said there will be an Executive Session with the towing contractor. He said after the meeting, they will let the public know what was discussed at the meeting.

Mundie congratulated Reverend Victor. He said this proclamation is a testimony of a fantastic job he did. He said he "touched" a lot of people in Hazleton.

Colombo wished Reverend Leon the best. He said, also, Reverend Mariusz will be leaving. He said this will be a tremendous loss to the community.

Colombo wished everyone a Happy Father's Day.

Ondishin wished Reverend Leon the best.

Perry, also, added his sentiments for Reverend Leon. He said the people who came to honor him are a great "group of people".

Adjournment: Perry motioned to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.