

MINUTES

HAZLETON CITY COUNCIL

WORK SESSION

WEDNESDAY, JULY 11, 2018

Council met for a work session on Wednesday, July 11, 2018 in Council Chambers. The work session began at 7:55 p.m.

In attendance were Council President Bob Gavio, Vice-President Allison Barletta, Jean Mope, Anthony Colombo, and James Perry.

Gavio suggested having a special meeting for opening bids. He stated in a case where the bid proposals deadline is extended and occurs in the summer months with once a month city council meetings. He said it needs to be awarded in a certain time frame. Lynch stated the bids can be opened at any time, and does not have to be at a city council meeting. Mope disagreed. She said a few past experiences resulted in bid openings being thrown away.

Atty. Logsdon asked if the pawn shop ordinance should be “tied-in” with the yard sales ordinance. Mope and Mayor Cusat said it should be separate. They said it becomes confusing.

Atty. Logsdon stated he will make sure all ordinances and resolutions are in for the next city council meeting agenda deadline.

Atty. Sean Logsdon spoke of Ordinance 2018-26- Amending Ordinance 2012-25 Establishing a Registration and Licensure Program for All Residential Rental Properties, All Institutional Occupancies, and Daycare Facilities, Section 7, Subsection b (Fees). He said a few years ago, the fees were being amended and was tabled in 2017. He said the original penalty was 100% after 90 days. Logsdon said he switched them to \$10.00/ \$25.00/ \$50.00/\$75.00. Mayor Cusat said every building is different. He said some buildings have two units. He said the rental inspection fee was \$50.00. For a three unit building, the fee was \$75.00. He said former council woman Cuzzo started this ordinance, but was never finished. Mope said the fees are very reasonable. Mayor Cusat said the resident also needs to pay \$25.00/per unit for all the necessary paperwork. Mayor Cusat said there will be a \$100.00 charge for a four-unit building. There is a \$10.00 fee if the building owner does not register in time.

Mayor Cusat spoke of Ordinance 2018-27- An Ordinance of the City of Hazleton, County of Luzerne, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Establishing an Ordinance that defines Nuisance Properties and Provides a Process for Enforcement and Abatement. He said nuisance is a part of the quality of life ordinance. Mayor Cusat said he is reviewing the current borough of Freeland’s ordinance. Mope asked if the quality of life ordinance can be separated. Mayor Cusat said no. He said the quality of life ordinance is still in effect. Mayor Cusat said Freeland will condemn a house after three violations. Mope said there are several complaints, in the Heights area, with animal infestations. Mayor Cusat stated the notice of violation will be changed to five

days from twenty days. He said if the grass is not cut or property is not maintained, the city will send a bill to the property owner for the cost of a worker or police officer at \$95.00/hr, a minimum of one hour, to cut the grass. Mayor Cusat said if the owner is unable to cut their grass, the city can send a police officer and a grass cutter. He said this will be done once a week. Mayor Cusat said he is still working on sending a code officer to cut the grass. Mayor Cusat said the city needs to gather information on who is living in these properties. Mayor Cusat said the normal fee for a citation is \$300.00. He stated these cases will go before a judge. He said this is part of the rental registration agreement.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.